

Explore

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

Big Sky

March 17 - 30, 2017
Volume 8 // Issue #6

'Penny for Housing' hearing draws crowd to Capitol

Freeride juniors leave their mark on Headwaters

Arts Council auction showcases heavy-hitters

LPHS basketball players recognized for excellence

Big Sky PBR dates, music announced



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Big Sky Freeride skier Howie Robin goes huge on his way to a fourth-place finish in the 15-18 male ski division, during the Headwater's IFSA Junior Freeride at Big Sky Resort on March 11. PHOTO BY GABE PRIESTLEY

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for excellence



49 Big Sky PBR dates, music announced



OPENING SHOT

A ruffed grouse found eating fruit from this tree on Dec. 9, 2016, in Jackson, Wyoming. PHOTO BY ANDREW WELLS

Do you want to see your photography in the pages of EBS? Submit a maximum of three images via email to carie@outlaw.partners or use #explorebigsky on social media to be eligible. One photo per issue will be chosen for the opening shot.



Candace Carr Strauss named Big Sky Chamber CEO

BIG SKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

On June 1, Candace Carr Strauss will take the reins as the new CEO of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce. Her experience over the past 20 years, in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors, has primarily been focused in the experiential economy.

Strauss directed emergency fundraising efforts to bring people back to Washington, D.C., immediately following the events of 9/11; led a team at Bozeman's Museum of the Rockies as the director of development; and most recently, has been auditing and assessing Wonderful Copenhagen's funding model.

"We're tremendously excited to have Candace on board," said David O'Connor, the chair of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. "She brings a wide-ranging perspective to the role and maintains strong relationships throughout Montana. As Big Sky rapidly grows into the world-class resort community it's destined to be, Candace and her team will ensure the Chamber is front and center of the many issues that affect the business community."

"I am truly humbled to have been selected to be the next CEO of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce/Convention and Visitor Bureau," Strauss said. "The business of Big Sky, and the foundation for its economic development, is a healthy tourism industry. Right now, this industry is experiencing a period of unprecedented growth, which also means growing pains. To be the individual chosen to speak on behalf of the chamber's members and their employees, tourism stakeholders, our visitors, our residents and our community as a whole, working in collaboration with our public partners during this transformation is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for me."

Pie Auction to benefit Big Sky schools returns March 24

EBS STAFF

The annual Big Sky PTO Pie Auction returns Friday, March 24, as one of the longest running events in Big Sky. What started 37 years ago, with families baking and then buying each other's treats in order to support the school, has become a yearly live and silent auction that raises nearly \$100,000 annually.

The funds raised from the Pie Auction support extended education and enrichment opportunities for students and teachers at Ophir Elementary and Middle schools, as well as Lone Peak High School. They are dispersed throughout the school year for field trips, specialized classroom supplies, the Expedition Yellowstone program for fourth graders, the Washington D.C. trip for eighth graders, High School Musical and K-12 downhill and cross country ski programs.

The 37th annual Pie Auction to benefit the Big Sky PTO will be held at Buck's T-4 Lodge Friday, March 24, from 6 to 10 p.m.

Give Big Gallatin Valley nonprofit registration deadline April 1

BOZEMAN AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

On May 4 and May 5, from 6 p.m. to 6 p.m., the Bozeman Area Community Foundation will host the third annual Give Big Gallatin Valley day, a 24-hour celebration of giving to local nonprofits in Gallatin County. This year, the Community Foundation's goal is to help raise \$500,000 in 24 hours for 150 local nonprofits through 2,000 donors.

Give Big is designed to connect new donors to local causes and to raise unrestricted money to support their work. In only two years, our community has raised \$671,647 in funding through 6,370 gifts for over 130 local nonprofits during Give Big. Give Big has selected a new donation day platform, GiveGab, to host this year's event.

The deadline for nonprofit registration to participate in Give Big 2017 is Saturday, April 1. Nonprofits located in and serving Gallatin County can register online at givebiggv.org. The Bozeman Area Community Foundation will be hosting free webinars and in-person trainings for registered Give Big nonprofit participants leading up to the event.

"With a minimum gift of \$10 during Give Big, anyone can be a philanthropist for causes they care about in our community," said Bridget Wilkinson, Bozeman Area Community Foundation executive director. "The goal is simple—inspire neighbors to come together, show their pride in their communities, and contribute to support the life-changing work of local nonprofit organizations. We are thrilled to see the impact Give Big Gallatin Valley will make in Gallatin County this year—and in years to come!"

For more information about the Bozeman Area Community Foundation and Give Big Gallatin Valley, contact Bridget Wilkinson at (406) 587-6262 or bridget@bozemanfoundation.org; or visit givebiggu.org.

Snowy February improves snowpack and streamflow prospects for spring

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

February brought a notable change to the weather patterns that were experienced during the month of January according to snowpack data collected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, Montana.

Record breaking snowfall for the month of February was experienced in northern and southern river basins of the state during the first two weeks of the month. Snow blanketed the Rocky Mountain Front at the beginning of the month, with low elevations and valleys receiving more than 3 feet of snow.

Flatop Mountain SNOTEL (snow telemetry) site in Glacier National Park set a new record for February snowfall, and received 12.5 inches of snow water during the month, well above the February normal of 5.3 inches. Further south, Cooke City received copious amounts of snow, prompting the first ever "extreme" avalanche warning for the area when Fisher Creek SNOTEL received 10.9 inches of snow water equivalent between Jan. 31 and Feb. 11.

Lucas Zukiewicz, NRCS water supply specialist for Montana, said all basins experienced substantial improvements over the month with many now at near to above normal for March 1, and most basins are also near to above last year at this time.

"Near normal conditions on this date is great news, but there is still a month to a month and a half before snowpack generally peaks in the mountains of Montana," Zukiewicz said. "The coming months and their weather patterns will play a critical role in the timing and magnitudes of water in the rivers this coming spring and summer."

Streamflow forecasts across the state reflect the near to above normal snowpack in many basins, and above average water year-to-date precipitation. Many forecast points are near to above average for many rivers and streams for April through July, but some remain below average due to lack of seasonal snowpack in some central Montana basins.

Detailed forecasts for 98 streams in Montana can be found in the March 1 Water Supply Outlook Report at nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/mt/snow/waterproducts/basin/.



News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

Artistically inclined wordsmith joins Outlaw’s editorial team

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

Sarah Gianelli, who recently joined the Outlaw Partners staff as a full-time associate editor, said her journalism ambitions were sparked by an early love of “Harriet the Spy,” a children’s book about the exploits of an 11-year-old girl with detective ambitions and a journalist’s tendencies.

Harriet’s adventures and observation-rich approach to life prompted the purchase of Gianelli’s first diary, in fourth grade. And she still has it, a little lock-and-key affair.



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Gianelli’s love of writing followed her through multiple locations and undertakings, including degrees in art history and English literature from Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania; a marketing and promotions position at a Broadway production company in New York City; and the launch of the Jerome Supper Club Experiment, a five-course underground supper club Gianelli opened in Jerome, Arizona.

Gianelli, an inveterate foodie with an appreciation for detail, would set her made-from-scratch meals atop a table with vintage linen and freshly polished silver.

Through all of those endeavors, the 40-year-old Long Island, New York, native has continued scribing away. She estimates her first journal has been joined by 60 others. Writing is something she loves and she’s simply compelled to do—“I don’t know what else I would do,” she says.

“My parents were always trying to push me into something more practical, but I always came back to writing and the arts in some form or another,” said Gianelli, who attributes her love of food, wine and passionate discourse to her Italian upbringing.

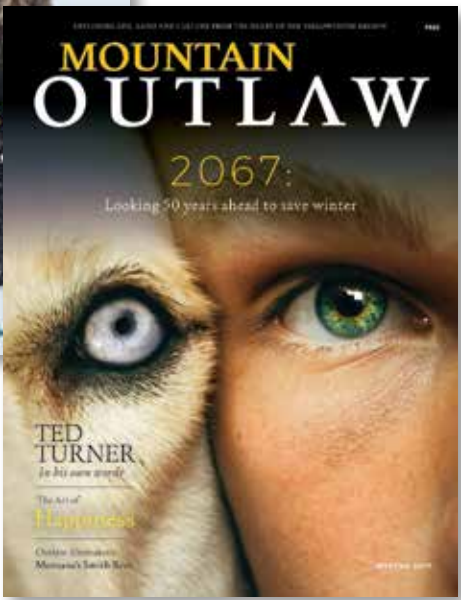
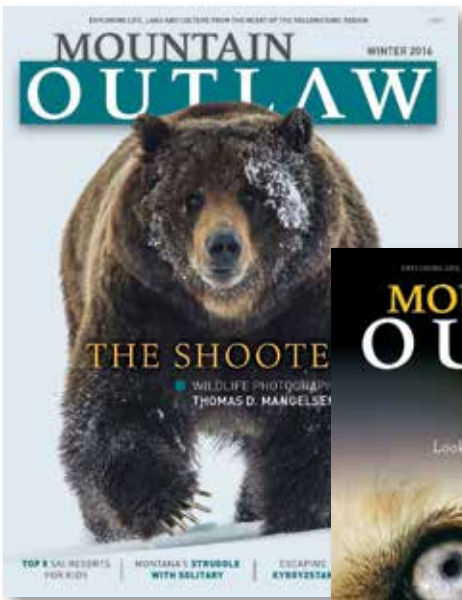
For a while, Gianelli entertained the idea of writing fiction, but she said reality has given her plenty of material to use. “I find that real life is so interesting and fascinating that I don’t see any need to make anything up.”

While pursuing a master’s degree in journalism at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Gianelli wrote long-form literary nonfiction pieces about a vigilante motorcycle gang and a nudist colony. The latter presented unique challenges—she said her subjects kept attempting to recruit her in an effort to bolster their colony’s aging ranks—but the story spoke to her love of finding out what makes people tick and bringing their unique contributions to a broader audience.

“I look at [journalism] as a passport into any world, or culture or subculture,” she said. “It’s like a green card into [a different] world.”

Last February marks the one-year anniversary of her first assignment with Outlaw Partners, and she’s been editing the Arts and Entertainment section of Explore Big Sky since last July.

We hope EBS readers will continue to enjoy Gianelli’s creative, one-of-a kind writing.



MOUNTAIN OUTLAW

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In 2016 Gallatin County Search and Rescue responded to 132 incidents.
When you recreate in the backcountry, what is something you always do or bring to make sure you're prepared? Why?



Cassandra Werner
Big Sky, Montana

"I always carry a pack to have [extra] layers ... the weather changes so quickly out here. My ski pack goes with me even in the summer."



Travis Garrison
Abingdon, Virginia

"Usually it is white water for me, so basic safety gear... [personal flotation devices], helmets ... a basic first aid kit. Water and snacks in case you wind up spending more time than you were expecting."



Cameron Lawrence
Big Sky, Montana

"[I] always try to have a first aid kit, a hat, a good shell, and prior to going in, I always try to have a good idea of where I'm going. I periodically think about how I would get out [of a situation]. If something goes down, how would I get out?"



Jody Dan
Chicago, Illinois

"I always have my bear spray and water, to keep away the bears and prevent dehydration. And I have a little first aid kit."

It's time now to meet the candidates for Montana's next Congressman. The Democrats have chosen musician Rob Quist and the Republicans have decided on billionaire businessman Greg Gianforte.



Letter: Support ‘Penny for Housing’

I am writing today in support of the “Penny for Housing” legislative bill under consideration for our unincorporated town of Big Sky. My husband and I have been fortunate to own property in Big Sky for over 12 years now and like many residents, have watched our area grow and change. One of the aspects we most liked about Big Sky when we first visited was the great mix of people living and working here, young and old, from many walks of life, making for a vibrant and interesting mix of residents and neighbors.

Our youngest son came to Big Sky after college and worked and lived here for a year. He loved the area and through him, we met a nice group of young people who were also working and living here. Primarily, because of the high cost of housing, our son left to take a job elsewhere and we have watched many of his hard-working, bright young friends move away over the years for similar reasons.

None of us like to pay taxes we don’t need, but I urge you to consider voting “yes,” if we get the opportunity to vote, for this extra penny toward more affordable housing, so that people who work in our community can afford to also live here. I for one would hate to see our wonderful town become a place where only the wealthy can afford to live.

Kathy Dudley
Big Sky, Montana

Letter: Support ‘Penny for Housing’

“Penny For Housing” legislation will enable Big Sky to vote on a potential solution to affordable housing. Over a quarter of a century of discussion about the problem has not resulted in solutions or opportunities to vote. Forums and polls are not valid measures to determine the “will of the people.”

Recent history illustrates this. Before 2007, a highly vocal minority gave the impression that our community did not want a local high school. After the 2007 state legislature granted permission to vote, results of three required ballots demonstrated our overwhelming support of a local high school.

Retired from our school district for merely six years, I can speak mainly about how housing affects our teachers. In the last six years, over 75 percent of BSSD teachers have left! This teacher transience rate is not healthy, particularly in a small community. We want our teachers to put down roots here—not in Bozeman.

Some think that teachers can afford to purchase houses here. As superintendent, I worked with local realtors, finding second homeowners who wanted teachers for live-in caretakers. Some teachers’ parents subsidized their housing. Others, whether married or single, bought condos and piled tenants into spare bedrooms.

Some believe the school board should increase teacher salaries. But salary increases commensurate with local home prices would exceed taxation permitted by Montana educational funding statutes.

If state legislators give us the opportunity to vote by passing LC0743, please remember the important role teachers play in community culture when you vote.

Anne Marie Mistretta
Big Sky, Montana



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‘Penny for Housing’ bill hearing draws crowd to Helena

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

HELENA – Proponents and opponents of Senate Bill 343, which would allow resort tax communities to vote on a 1-percent increase on collections for affordable housing efforts, came out in force at the bill’s March 14 public hearing.

The Senate Taxation Committee met in a fourth-floor room of the Montana State Capitol building that was too small to accommodate robust public comment on the legislation, forcing most of those who turned out to follow the proceedings via video feed in an overflow hallway.

This was the public’s only opportunity to participate in a hearing on the bill, which was introduced by Sen. Jeffrey Welborn, a Republican from Dillon.

A total of 18 people spoke in favor of the bill, with seven advocates giving longer, in-depth commentary, and the remainder keeping their comments brief due to the 40-minute time restriction.

Proponents expounded on the need for housing, touted the bill’s local option component and attempted to dispel concerns about existing resort tax collections.



Mona Jamison, center, addresses the Senate Tax Committee in Helena on March 14 to advocate for Senate Bill 343, which would revise the resort tax law. PHOTO BY AMANDA EGGERT

The bill has the support of commissioners from Gallatin and Madison counties, three members of the Big Sky Resort Area District Tax Board, and mayors and city managers from other resort areas in the state.

Mona Jamison, who serves as the Big Sky Resort Area District’s legal counsel and has been lobbying on behalf of the bill, said Montana voters who’ve had the opportunity to implement a resort tax in their community have chosen to do so. “In those 10 [resort communities], from Big Sky to St. Regis, the qualified voters have approved it. That says something.”

If passed, SB 343 would expand existing taxing ability. Big Sky voters could increase resort tax collections from 3 percent—the current tax rate on “luxury” goods and services—to 4 percent, but only if qualified voters approve it.

West Yellowstone’s Town Manager Daniel Sabolsky said his community is struggling to stem the loss of young professionals due to housing issues. “We have a constant turnover in school teachers, paramedics, dispatchers [and] police officers,” Sabolsky said. “It’s not a good way to run a government or a business.”

One of the most impassioned testimonies came from Paulina Hazen, who said Big Sky workers are regularly forced out of their homes to make room for vacation property rentals. She said the “Penny for Housing” bill represents a “defining moment” in Big Sky’s trajectory.

“[Big Sky] is not able to support people like myself who operate key community and business roles,” said Hazen, adding that the three-bedroom unit she lives in just went under contract for \$409,000. Even if Hazen and her three roommates combined all of their incomes, they would not qualify to purchase the condo at the asking price, she said.

She said people like herself are considering leaving Big Sky for areas with more affordable and stable housing options—and they’ll take their knowledge bases, tax dollars and community leadership roles with them if they leave.

Opponents were also given 40 minutes to make their case, and four people—all of whom live in Big Sky—spoke against the bill. Their concerns ranged from the broad language of the bill to the question of whether or not Big Sky’s housing issue would be better served by an incorporation effort.

Lisa Knorr expressed concern that the bill would place an undue financial burden on the community. “We must live within our means,” Knorr said. “[SB 343] puts a bigger burden on those already collecting the tax, as well as the community as a whole.”

Alan Shaw said he feared the increased tax would drive Big Sky shoppers 40 miles north to Bozeman where there is no resort tax.

Shaw also said the largest employers in Big Sky should be responsible for housing their workers, and pointed to Big Sky Resort as one entity that’s doing just that. He expressed frustration that the Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and Moonlight Basin don’t house more employees on their property. “Why do they not do more? They have the property to do exactly what Big Sky and Boyne are doing at their own expense,” he said.

Shaw also questioned some of the BSRAD tax board’s recent funding projects and recipients, arguing that the community has not done enough to prioritize its needs. Specifically, he called into question funding for the Gallatin Valley Snowmobile Association, a skating rink in Big Sky Town Center, the Gallatin-Big Sky Weed Committee and Montana Land Reliance.

Mike Scholz, a BSRAD tax board member, addressed that concern during the Q-and-A segment of the hearing, saying that the tax board funds projects that would be covered by a municipality in an incorporated community. “If we don’t do it as a resort tax [board], it wouldn’t get done,” Scholz said.

Jerry Scott said the bill doesn’t adequately specify what constitutes affordable housing, and community development is too broad and could be used for projects of dubious merit.

Brian Guyer, the acting director of the Big Sky Community Housing Trust, said the language is intentionally broad so each resort community can adapt the law to reflect their needs when they put it before voters.

Tallie Lancey, another longtime Big Sky resident, argued that the area’s affordable housing shortage would be best addressed by incorporating as a community, which would open up other resources. “We cannot tax our way out of this problem,” Lancey said. “If we are going to be serious about our housing, we in Big Sky need to be serious about the feasibility of incorporation.”

David O’Connor, chair of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, said incorporating across county lines to include both the Gallatin County and Madison County areas of Big Sky would require a change in the law—an effort that was unsuccessful when it was attempted about a decade ago. He said he supports incorporation, but he’s worried that even if it’s successful, it will delay affordable housing by up to 10 years. “As a father and a neighbor and a mentor ... I fear it will be too late,” he said.

The committee did not immediately take action on SB 343. If it makes it out of the taxation committee, it will go before a vote on the Senate floor. If it makes it through the Senate, it would still require approval from the House to make it into law.

Tell me, Tallie

Is anyone actually from Big Sky?



BY TALLIE LANCEY
EBS COLUMNIST

All Big Sky locals are transplants, right? Wrong. Well, that’s mostly true; nearly everyone who lives here came from somewhere else. But there are a few among us who took their very first steps in the shadow of Lone Mountain or along the banks of the Gallatin River.

When my real estate clients begin envisioning life here, they often ask me if there are people fortunate enough to have been locally born and raised. They wonder how amazing it would be to have spent not just their young adult years, or retirement, but their entire life in these mountains, forests and streams.

Ed Hake is one of the rare living fellows who saw Big Sky before it even existed. His family moved into the southernmost reaches of the Gallatin Canyon when he was a child in the mid-1960s. While I’m not divulging his exact age, let’s just say much has changed here in his lifetime.

Back in the day, he says, he shot his fair share of gophers on the Big Sky Community Park grounds where we now play softball and soccer. When I asked him what he sees in Big Sky’s future, he made a distinction between Big Sky and where he lives ... adding that he’s never leaving the Gallatin Canyon.

When the high school opened in 2009, families didn’t have to send their teens to Bozeman High anymore. The prospect of a continuous K-12 experience in Big Sky inspired a baby boom. Now, plenty of kiddos can claim they’re from Big Sky. Since 2009, more than 220 babies have been welcomed into Big Sky families,

according to an estimate by Morningstar Learning Center (this information is difficult to track).

Not many babies have truly been born here but at least two of them were delivered en route to the hospital in Bozeman, into the steady hands of wide-eyed dads.

I spoke with a few of the youngsters who are indeed from around these here parts. Their reflections on growing up in Big Sky were colorful and they seemed barely aware of how lucky they are. They recounted unabashed tales of wildlife encounters, skiing on Fridays with their teachers and field trips to Yellowstone National Park.

Jillian Blakeley has lived here her entire life, nearly 10 whole years, and she appreciates being only a few miles from the ski hill, “because most people have to get on a plane to ski.” One of her favorite things about being born and raised here is that “at recess, the slides are extra fast when they have snow on them.”

Are you wondering why something is particularly unique to our community? You want to know and I’m eager to learn. This column commits to answering your burning questions about why Big Sky exists the way it does. Ask me at tallie@reallybigsky.com.

Tallie Lancey is a broker with Big Sky Sotheby’s International Realty and serves on the boards of Big Sky Community Organization, Top Shelf Toastmasters, and the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.

Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



Our clocks have been sprung forward, the first day of spring is March 20th and if you haven’t purchased a new Montana fishing license it’s about time you do. The new season started March 1st and it’s off with a bang.

What a great time for fishing! Water temperatures have warmed up considerably, dry fly season is right around the corner and you can still hit the slopes in the morning and fish in the afternoon. Might even have some time left to hit the golf courses down in the valley...if you’re into that sort of thing. And folks are starting to dust off their drift boats.

SW Montana is your oyster this time of year. So many great places to fish, it’s just a matter of deciding which direction to drive and what sort of experience you’re looking for.

For the best walk wade fishing we recommend the canyon of the Gallatin downstream to about Manhattan, the upper Madison just about anywhere between Yellowstone National Park and Ennis frankly, the lower Madison in Beartrap Canyon and just below, Paradise Valley spring creeks, and more.

If you want a shot at some good float fishing the upper Madison is one of the best bets around, but there may still be some ice left at some of the boat ramps, so do your homework. The Yellowstone is one to consider, but there is still some major ice in certain sections that could potentially be hazardous when it lets go. The Missouri and Bighorn rivers, although a bit of a hike, also fish well this time of year. Mostly subsurface, but some shots at midge fishing and baetis are right around the corner.

We’ve had intermittent shots at dry fly fishing all winter, but those opportunities are about to increase. Spring baetis have already shown themselves in some warmer bodies of water in the area and will start soon on our major rivers. For you meat huckers or swingers this is a great time to break out the two-hander or streamer rod.

The GRG crew love to fish this time of year and for good reason. Happy fishing and don’t forget to join us for Thursday Night Fly Tying. It’s free!

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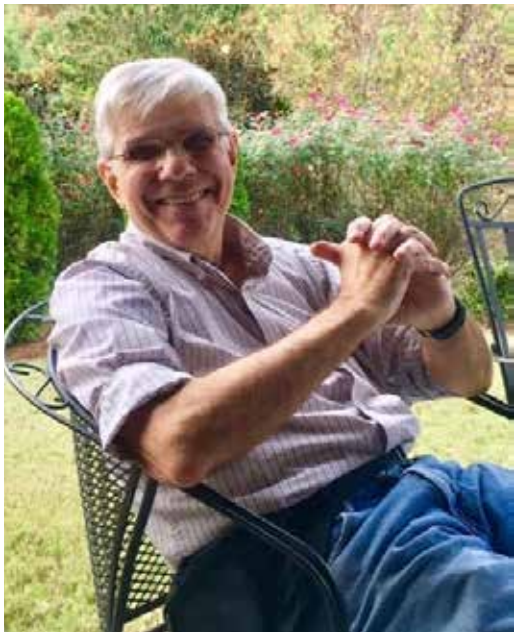
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Obit: James Arthur Schafer

James Arthur Schafer died peacefully on the morning of March 5, 2017 in Big Sky, Montana. He was diagnosed with inoperable pancreatic cancer in October 2016, and fought bravely these last five months. His condition worsened on Feb. 28 and he began hospice on March 2. Throughout his ordeal, he displayed the utmost courage, compassion, and pragmatism for which he was known and admired.

Known as “Jim” to his friends and family, he was born Oct. 10, 1941 in Buffalo, New York to Joseph James Schafer and Gladys Lighty Schafer. He attended the University of Michigan, earning his Bachelor of Science in Biophysics in 1963 and doctorate in Physiology in 1968.

While a junior in college, he fell in love with Margaret (Margy) Anne Schiefer, and they married August 16, 1964. In 1970, Jim accepted a professorship at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Medicine, where he remained for the rest of his distinguished career.

Jim enjoyed hiking, skiing, and being in the mountains. After retiring, Jim and Margy began to spend more time in their favorite vacation spot—Big Sky, Montana. One of Jim’s final wishes was to end his days in Big Sky. He spent his final hours at home, in the arms of his loving wife, looking at the mountains.

Jim is survived by his wife, Margy; his sister, Joan Schafer Ringheim; his two children, James Arthur Schafer, Jr. and Kirsten Schafer Smith; their spouses, Jane Ernestine Lesnick and John “Sage” Vinson Smith; and four grandchildren, Julius James Lesnick Schafer, Willow Rose Smith, Hazel Rain Smith, and Jacob Alessandro Lesnick Schafer.

A memorial service was held in Big Sky on March 7, and an additional service will be held in Birmingham later this spring.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that any contributions be made to the UAB Dr. James A. Schafer NRTC Endowed Professorship, c/o Christian Smith, UAB Department of Medicine, 1808 7th Ave. South, Birmingham, AL 35294-0012.

Arrangements are in the care of Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service. Dokkennelson.com

Obit: Mark E. Nelson

Sixty-year-old Mark E. Nelson, affectionately known as “Nels,” passed away from natural causes on Wednesday, Feb. 22 at his home in Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

Mark was a longtime southwest Montana resident and fishing guide, including at West Yellowstone’s Firehole Ranch before returning to Minnesota in 2008 to care for his ailing parents.

Mark was know for his lifelong passion for fishing, hunting, camping and cooking for friends. An area friend of the deceased, Dan Pluth, suggested in lieu of sending a card, spend the day outdoors. “He would have liked that more,” Pluth said. “He will be missed.”

A memorial service will be held 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 22 at Johnson Funeral Service in Thief River Falls, Minnesota followed by a burial at St. Bernard’s Catholic Cemetery. Visitation will be held on Friday, April 21 at 8 p.m. with a 7 p.m. prayer service at Johnson Funeral Service and again one hour prior to the service on Saturday.





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Inside the Big Sky

By Derek Lennon

Five reasons to try fat biking in Big Sky

BY DEREK LENNON
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Do you know how to ride a bike? Then you need to try fat biking. Fat bikes are “the hottest trend in cycling,” according to outsideonline.com. They’re revolutionizing the biking industry and Big Sky is the perfect place to take a fat bike for a spin.

If you’ve never seen a fat bike in action, you’ll probably scratch your head and wonder, “What in the world is that thing?” Fat bikes come with oversized tires with lower air pressure that can handle snow, sand, mud, dirt and anything else you’ll throw in its path. It’s kind of like a monster truck because it will go just about anywhere.

Everyone needs to give it a try and here are five great reasons to try fat biking in Big Sky:

1. Bike season really does last 12 months: Fat bikes will ride on snowy trails, meaning that you can get outside for a ride in any type of weather, in any season. Don’t be a couch potato, be a fat biker.

2. Explore new places: Since fat bikes charge over uneven terrain, offer excellent traction and improve flotation you can ride your bike to new places. There are some spots that traditional mountain bikes just can’t travel, but with a fat bike there are so many more options – sandy deserts, icy roads, snow covered trails, muddy fields, etc. With a fat bike, you can choose your own adventure.

3. Fun for everyone: Fat biking is good old-fashioned fun and anyone who can ride a bike can also ride a fat bike. Grab a bike, a crew of friends and go for a ride; it’s a great way to get outside and socialize.

4. Try something new: When was the last time you tried something new? Whether you’ve been missing “bike season” or you just need a new way to recreate in Big Sky’s backyard, a fat bike will put a smile on your face.

5. Get a workout: Fat biking is a great workout. If you want to get in shape a fat bike will help you achieve your goals.

The U.S. Forest Service only allows fat bikes on certain trails in the Gallatin National Forest. Stop by Gallatin Alpine Sports—where you can also rent fat bikes—or other local outdoor gear shops to chat with their knowledgeable staffs about the sport. Find out about the best fat bikes on the market or discover the coolest trails for fat biking in Big Sky Country.

If you like having fun, try fat biking in Big Sky. If fun isn’t really your thing, then you definitely won’t like fat biking either.

Derek Lennon is a skier and writer who lives, works, and plays in the mountains of the world. He is based in Big Sky, Montana, where he lives with his wife Mia and two dogs.

A version of this story was originally published on the Visit Big Sky blog at <https://visitbig-sky.com/fat-biking-big-sky/>. Read more interesting content about the area on Visit Big Sky’s blog at <https://visitbigsky.com/category/blog/>.



Fat biking takes center stage during the annual Mad Wolf Relay held at Lone Mountain Ranch and Big Sky Resort. PHOTOS COURTESY OF LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH



When a good day turns bad: Big Sky Search and Rescue

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – At 9:45 p.m. on March 9, Big Sky Search and Rescue received a page. A concerned father had reported that his adult son went hiking in the Beehive Basin area around noon and had not returned. The son had spoken to his father earlier in the evening, saying he was tired, very cold, unable to start a fire and his light had stopped working.

As wet snow fell from the sky, 12 Big Sky SAR members responded to the page, meeting at the SAR building near the Big Sky Community Park. The members gathered at the building for the second time that night; an hour and a half earlier, they’d finished a monthly member meeting at the same location.



Missions range from finding lost skiers and snowmobilers, recovering bodies and responding to backcountry medical emergencies. Pictured here, SAR members package an injured snowmobiler. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BIG SKY SEARCH AND RESCUE

With a Gallatin County deputy sheriff serving as incident commander, SAR formed a hasty team that would immediately go to the trailhead to begin a search by ski. Additional teams were organized and placed on standby.

As the first wave of SAR personnel arrived at the trailhead, the hiker walked down the trail and into the parking lot, tired and hungry, but in good condition.

“Although this individual walked out on his own, we were prepared to go in and search for him all night if need be,” Big Sky SAR Secretary Heather Walker said. “We take each call very seriously because there are plenty of times the person does not walk out on their own. In the case of this hiker, it

could have cost him his life. Being lost at night without proper gear in the winter can be deadly and we all know that.”

The 32-member, all-volunteer Big Sky SAR team is one of three regional SAR groups in Gallatin County, which includes Gallatin Valley, Big Sky and West Yellowstone. Following a record number of incidents in 2016, the Big Sky area has remained relatively slow this winter, with the March 9 incident counting as the fourth SAR call in Big Sky since November. Big Sky SAR also provided two days of medical support at the 320 Guest Ranch Skijoring competition in February.

“Although this winter has been quiet we never know when that will change,” Walker said. “In 2016, the winter was equally as quiet and became one of our busiest years.”

Big Sky volunteers responded to 23 search and rescues in 2016, an increase of nine from the previous year. Gallatin County as a whole also saw noticeable increases in the number of incidents last year, responding to 69 rescues and 63 searches, for a total of 132 incidents, largely comprised of snowmobiling, hiking, hunting and skiing activities. This compares with 103 SAR events in 2015.

According to Gallatin County Sergeant Brandon Kelly, most of the incidents in the Big Sky area are responses to area visitors.

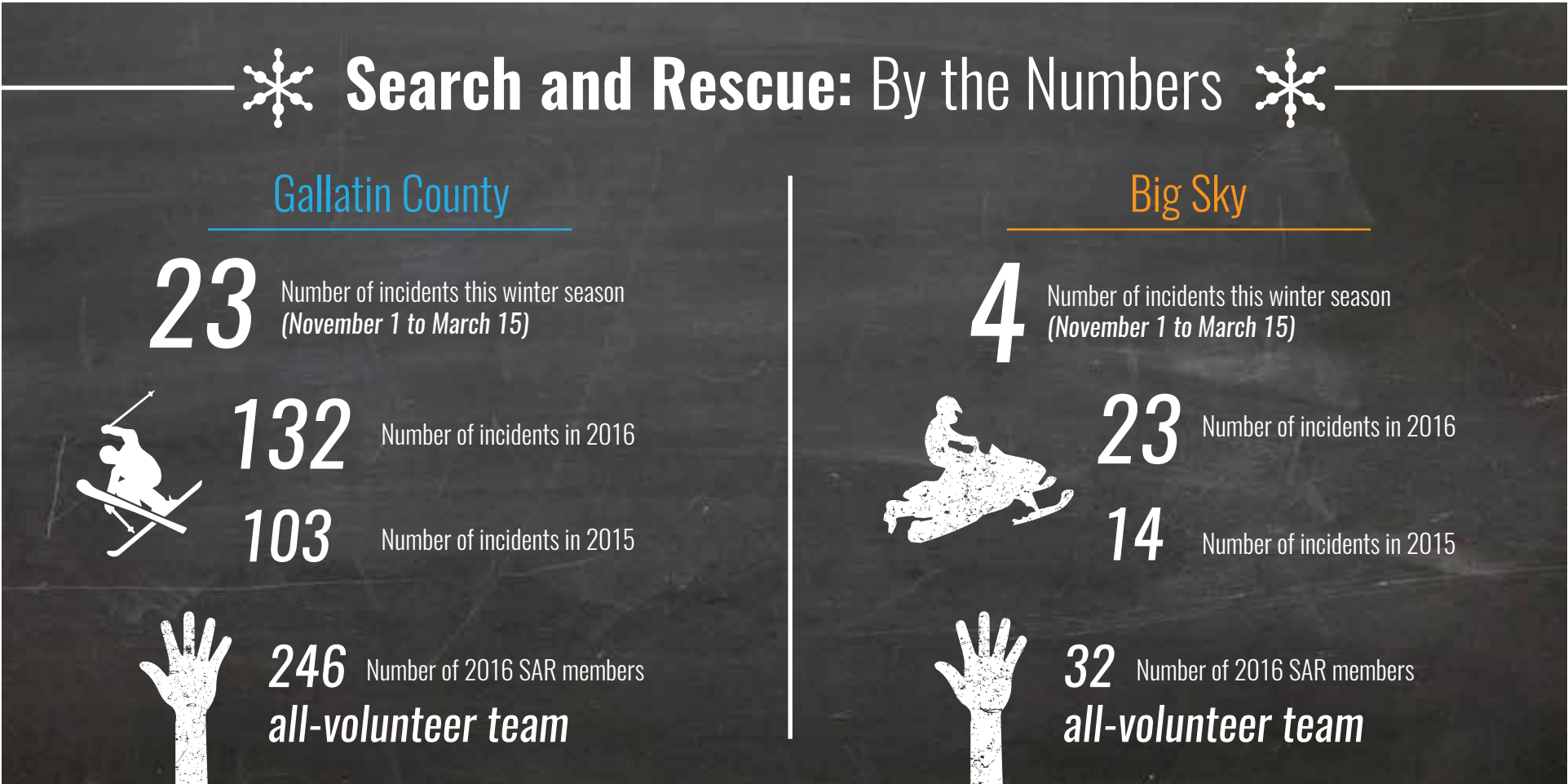
“Usually the locals in the Big Sky area have a better understanding of the terrain they are in and are better prepared,” Kelly said. “The majority of people snowmobiling are from here, they know where they’re at ... or they have a guide.”

Visitors comprise the larger portion of rescues in West Yellowstone as well, Kelly said. SAR responded to six snowmobile rescues in a matter of seven days in West Yellowstone in February, amidst a winter-long total of 10.

“The majority of the people that are visiting our area are at the resort,” Kelly said in response to the lower number of calls in Big Sky. When something goes wrong for visitors, Big Sky Ski Patrol is usually able to handle the situation, he said.

Overall, the most important thing for any backcountry recreationist to remember is preparation.

“The challenge is that people go out there unprepared,” said Ed Hake, who founded Big Sky SAR in 1992. “You need to be able to stay put [in the event something goes wrong].” That might mean packing a fire starting kit, water and food, he said.



SAR sends out teams that sweep through an area on a grid-based ground search, and Hake said the more an individual moves, the harder it becomes to find them.

“If this becomes any kind of extended search, you go in bigger and bigger circles. If [the individual] moves into the area you’ve already searched, you’ll be moving farther away from them,” he said. “Once you’ve searched an area, it’s quite a while before you search it again.”

SAR has the capability of retrieving GPS coordinates from a cell phone that is communicating with a cell tower, however the Big Sky area terrain often causes inaccurate coordinates, Kelly said. “It just gives a vague idea of the phone location, usually about a 10-mile radius,” he said. “It confirms that they are in the area.”

Therefore, knowledge of the area and situation is critical.



SAR members participate in regular trainings, which include mock missions such as the avalanche victim recovery training pictured here.

“I think our expertise is the most important thing we have,” Walker said.

Every member of the Big Sky SAR team is certified as a Wilderness First Responder, and many have additional certifications, such as EMT or avalanche certificates. Members also participate in monthly trainings and meetings, which include mock missions and area familiarizations. This month, Big Sky SAR will participate in a multi-agency training on March 19 in the Lone Lake Cirque, west of the Big Sky Resort boundary.

Beyond certifications and trainings, SAR volunteers have a lifetime of experiences that are critical for their missions as well.

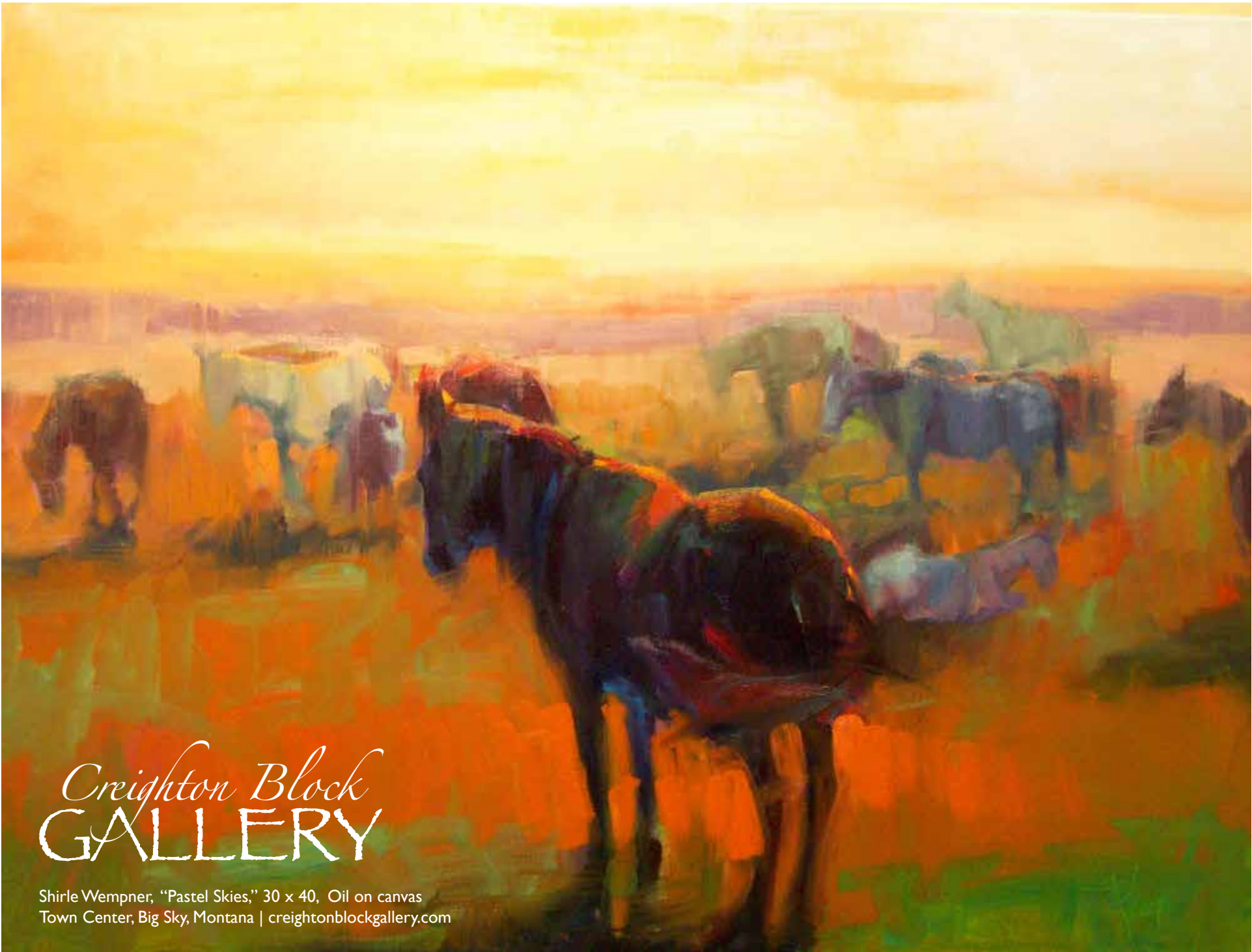
“We have some guys who are experts in backcountry skiing, others were born on snowmobiles,” Kelly said.

Gallatin County SAR is supported by a self-imposed tax levy, so there is no charge for a search or rescue. Big Sky SAR also receives funding from the Big Sky Resort Area District tax, which is used to pay for member trainings and equipment. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the resort tax board appropriated Big Sky SAR \$16,000.

“The community has invested in us,” Hake said, noting that some SAR teams don’t have the kind of monetary support Big Sky’s organization has experienced. “The community is taking care of SAR and we are taking care of the community,” he said.

“[Funding through the resort tax] ensure[s] we have the proper equipment to do our jobs effectively,” Walker said. “Furthermore it means a lot to the volunteers of BSSAR to know the community supports their efforts.”

With the snow melting and spring just around the corner, Big Sky SAR is preparing for a seasonal transition in equipment in order to deal with the mud and wet conditions of March, April and May, and the team encourages backcountry recreationists to go out well-prepared, tell someone before going and to never go alone.



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Legislature back to business after special election nominations

BY MICHAEL SIEBERT
UM COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

HELENA - After uncertainty about how the upcoming special congressional election would change the makeup of the Montana Legislature, the nomination of Democrat Rob Quist and Republican Greg Gianforte means it's back to business as usual at the state Capitol.

Multiple legislators had announced their intention to run for the vacant congressional seat after former Rep. Ryan Zinke was nominated and then confirmed as U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

Sen. Ed Buttrely, R-Great Falls, and Reps. Amanda Curtis, D-Butte and Kelly McCarthy, D-Billings all vied for the nomination of their respective parties.

The Democratic nomination ultimately went to Rob Quist, a country musician from Cut Bank, while the Republican nomination went to Greg Gianforte, who unsuccessfully ran for governor against Gov. Steve Bullock last year.

With the legislature intact after transmittal break, lawmakers will now focus on closing out the remaining half of the session, amending the state budget, and making decisions about all surviving bills.

Bill to establish child abuse committee passes House

With thousands of child abuse investigations occurring every year in Montana, and abuse-related deaths occurring across the state, the Montana House of Representatives passed a bill last week that would create a review commission for cases of child abuse and neglect.

House Bill 303, introduced by Rep. Kathy Kelker, D-Billings, would establish a committee consisting of 14 people appointed by both the state attorney general and the governor.

"A review commission would provide basic information about the facts of real cases," Kelker said. She said the commission would examine child abuse trends and provide education about abuse prevention and intervention.

She said the program would be funded through federal grant money.

The bill earned bipartisan support. Rep. Nancy Ballance, R-Hamilton and Rep. Jenny Eck, D-Helena, both said the bill was an important priority.

"We couldn't get it out of committee last session," Eck said. "I'm relieved that we've gotten it out now this time."

The bill drew no opposition during its committee hearing in late January.

The bill passed the House 96-3. It now moves to the Senate.

Proposed bed tax would help fund invasive species cleanup

The House Taxation Committee heard a bill last week that would raise a tax on hotels, in part to help fund the emergency response against invasive species in Montana's waterways.

Introduced by Rep. Mary Ann Dunwell, D-Helena, House Bill 567 would increase the sales tax on for-profit campgrounds and hotel accommodations from 3 percent to 6 percent. Half of one percent of the revenue generated would go toward the invasive species response.

"This makes sense to me, as a revenue source," Dunwell said.

Dunwell said 40 percent of individuals who utilize Montana's hotels and campgrounds are from out of state. She said because the invasive mussels also came from out-of-state boats, it makes sense to tax an industry heavily used by people who don't live in Montana.

Dunwell said the Aquatic Invasive Species Response team informed her that the six-figure allotment from this tax would be enough to match federal dollars for cleanup. She also said the tax would generate an additional \$33 million by Fiscal Year 2021, which she said would help generate revenue to fund programs facing cuts in this year's proposed budget.

"This bill is an opportunity to invest in Montana families and communities, and restore the extreme cuts that are being made to our budget right down the hall in House appropriations," Dunwell said.

Sen. Sue Malek, D-Missoula, supported the bill, saying she understands the lodging industry may feel singled out by HB 567, but that the increase in revenue could help aid everything from Medicaid to long-term care.

Opponents of the bill argued that because the bill would put revenue into the general fund, there was no guarantee it would go toward funding the programs Dunwell cited as critical.

"I want to see money come into the aquatic invasive species, but I don't want to see it being used to help a huge increase into the general fund," said Bob Gilbert, representing Walleyes Unlimited of Montana.

Others said increases in taxes were unnecessary due to projected revenue increases.

"This is a permanent solution to what appears to be a short-term problem," said Mark Baker, representing the Kalispell Chamber of Commerce. "With revenues improving, any of these selective sales tax measures may not be needed at all."

The committee did not take immediate action on the bill.



Rep. Kathy Kelker, D-Billings, introduced a bill to establish a child abuse commission. Kelker said the bill was especially important to her because of an experience she had as the Director of Head Start in Billings, when she met a suicidal 4-year-old girl who was later found to have been severely abused. PHOTO BY FREDDY MONARES/UM COMMUNITY NEWS SERVICE

Montana House debates right to shop for healthcare

A bill that would incentivize shopping for health care services and provide increased transparency in pricing drew testimony in the House Human Services Committee last week.

The Senate passed Senate Bill 96, introduced by Sen. Cary Smith, R-Billings, 34-16 in late February. It would require health care providers and insurers to tell a patient the cost of a treatment beforehand. It would also give patients a financial incentive to find cheaper treatments.

Four people supported the bill at the House hearing last week, all of whom said transparency was necessary in the face of rising health care costs.

"The bill empowers consumers with the transparent information they need," said State Auditor Matt Rosendale.

Rosendale admitted he thinks the bill "doesn't go far enough," but added that he was willing to make concessions.

"I think they should be able to go online and get that information," Rosendale said.

The bill also drew 15 opponents.

"It actually incentivizes care fragmentation, which has been proven to drive up the cost of health care," said Jessica Rhoades, Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock's health policy advisor. Rhoades said it is more important for hospitals and insurance agents to pursue joint partnerships to prevent errors that come from referrals and other forms of fragmentation.

Other opponents said they did not take issue with the notion of transparency, but had problems with certain language issues in the bill.

"This is a little bit of a work in progress," Smith said, suggesting that further amendments would be made to the bill.

The House committee didn't take immediate action on the bill.

Michael Siebert is a reporter with the UM Community News Service, a partnership of the University of Montana School of Journalism and the Montana Newspaper Association.



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Section 2: ENVIRONMENT, SPORTS, HEALTH & DINING



The New West: Retracing William Henry Jackson: Boner's book is a visual marvel



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

I had been waiting months for Bradly Boner's book to arrive, after making a contribution to his successful Kickstarter campaign a while back. When "Yellowstone National Park: Through the Lens of Time," finally landed in our living room recently, I was more than pleasantly surprised.

The book has spurred a lot of thinking about the rate of change in Greater Yellowstone's landscapes; not so much about natural landmarks that weather the elements well and are the primary objects of Boner's fascination; rather, change associated with how record numbers of people now are swarming the national parks during high tourist season, inundating front-country areas both inside and outside of Yellowstone and Grand Teton, and being accompanied by a rapidly expanding exurban footprint as people move here from other regions.

On March 10, I gave a talk on what the future could look like in Greater Yellowstone 25 and 50 years hence, based on data from demographers. It was delivered at the Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative's 2017 wildlife symposium that was well attended and held at the Jackson Hole Center for the Arts.

While the pace and scale of landscape transformation occurring in Greater Yellowstone's human-built environment are among the swiftest in rural America, and likely to rapidly accelerate—with climate change potentially spurring even more inward migration—Boner's book is a stunning reminder of what's at stake.

Boner, a staffer at the Jackson Hole News & Guide, follows in a long line of photographers who have distinguished themselves in Greater Yellowstone. Beginning with pioneering shooters like Civil War veteran William Henry Jackson in 1871, photography has played an important role in advancing conservation of the region, sometimes making visible things that often go unseen or unappreciated.

Together with the romantic and exaggerated paintings of Thomas Moran, Jackson's images helped convince Congress to set aside Yellowstone as the first national park in the world in March of 1872.

Like Boner and Jackson, many photographers have descended upon the ecosystem, including Ansel Adams and an esteemed fold of mostly nature-oriented lens people.

I could offer a list of notable camera artisans, especially were it to include recent transplants doing work for National Geographic and photojournalists who have served on the staffs of local newspapers.

Among them all, however, Boner deserves high praise for innovatively reinterpreting scenes courted by a personal hero. The idea behind his project was simple: revisit locations where W.H. Jackson made many of his historic photographs, take comparison shots and allow the contrasts between then and now to serve as muses for reflection.

As the eminent historian Robert Righter, a part-time resident of Moose, Wyoming, notes in his foreword, the book highlights the difference between how landmarks are faring outside protected areas like the national parks versus those found within them.

"Jackson's record scenes along the Yellowstone River in Paradise Valley in 1871 give an idea of a pristine country. One hundred and forty years later, buildings and roads—the artifices of human occupation—dot the landscape, intruding on our sense of the bucolic. But we are quick to note that Paradise Valley is not inside the boundaries of the park," Righter writes.

He then adds, "By contrast, there appears to be minimal change in a great deal of the photographs taken within Yellowstone's borders. This will be a happy revelation, for we environmental historians are, in the main, declensionists—believing that the world is 'going to hell in a handbasket' and humans are the reason. Some of the Jackson/Boner comparisons tell us that change is not endemic and that a 'climax' ecology is possible as long as we humans keep out of the way."

Boner notes that the book contains all but one of the 109 8-by-10 photographs Jackson produced in Paradise Valley, Montana, and Yellowstone in 1871.

Not only is Boner a damned fine photographer, it turns out he's a decent writer and storyteller, who treats us to how photography came to Yellowstone and why and how he retraced Jackson's path. The sweetest visual rewards come with Jackson's black and white nature portraits, made via the collodian wet-plate process, placed side by side against Boner's own color counterpoints.

As intriguing as the seeming impermanence of mountains, waterfalls and canyons, Yellowstone's famed geyser fields and travertine terraces have shape-shifted over the last century, some going dormant and in other places the life forces of the Yellowstone geologic hotspot giving rise to new features.

Boner's account is a rich contribution to the canon of Yellowstone books that deserve a place in your library and makes for a handsome addition to the coffee table. He deserves our congratulations and praise.

Todd Wilkinson is an award-winning journalist who has been writing about the West for more than 30 years and his column the New West has been widely read in the Greater Yellowstone region for nearly as long. He writes his column every week, and it's published on explorebigsky.com on EBS off weeks. You can also read his latest book, "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek," a story about famous Greater Yellowstone grizzly 399 featuring photographs by Thomas Mangelsen.



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Teton County travels down ‘Road to Zero Waste’

TETON COUNTY

The road to zero waste is not a straight one. In Teton County, Wyoming, it involves creativity, community dedication and an innovative mix of ways to reduce, reuse and recycle.

County staff presented the Teton County Board of County Commissioners with a slew of strategies on Feb. 13 that will enable the community to move forward on the “Road to Zero Waste” (R2ZW). The Teton County Zero Waste Resolution was adopted in 2014, establishing the goal of 60 percent diversion, or an additional 12,000 tons of waste diverted from landfill per year, by 2030.

R2ZW strategies are derived from reports by industry experts, analyses of existing programs and operations and comparison with other zero waste communities throughout the Rocky Mountain West region. The result is a comprehensive list of options that could be implemented over a 15-year period in cooperation with local government, businesses, residents and organizations.

“Within five years, the community can look forward to the implementation of commercial food waste composting, collection and disposal fees that reward diversion and expanded recognition of zero waste events and initiatives,” said Heather Overholser, superintendent of Solid Waste and Recycling. “Some exciting first steps planned for this summer include a food waste collection pilot project with Grand Teton National Park and improvements to composting infrastructure at the trash transfer station.”

Beyond the short term, the Integrated Solid Waste and Recycling department expects to install a sorting system to accommodate a more commingled stream of recyclables.

“At this point, we expect that the program will likely be dual stream, potentially with containers grouped together in one bin and paper grouped in another,” Overholser said. “Requiring less separation of recyclables will pave the way for increased curbside collection and variable rate trash disposal, also known as pay-as-you-throw.”

Commissioners responded with support as well as some questions. “What can we do about plastics?” Commissioner Greg Epstein asked. “They appear to be low hanging fruit.” The answer to plastics, according to the proposed strategies, is to use less. ISWR targets the reduction of plastic water bottle use through its JH20 project water bottle refilling stations. Also on the list is an effort to promote reusable shopping bags over single use plastic bags.

The workshop was intended to showcase strategic options for increased waste diversion. Approval of individual R2ZW measures for implementation will occur through the annual budgeting process.

“Thank you for the presentations,” Chairman Mark Newcomb said. “You and your staff have put a lot of excellent work into the program.”

For more information about the “Road to Zero Waste” in Teton County, including zero waste tips for households and businesses, visit tetonwyo.org/recycle/.

RECYCLE



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EYE ON THE BALL

Best 5 early NFL free agent signings



BY BRANDON NILES
EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

Free agency began in the NFL on March 9, and a flurry of activity dominated the headlines as teams rushed to sign their favorite available players. I love free agency.

As part of the 12-month NFL season, it brings hope to fans of every team, regardless of how badly they may have done the year before. Coupled with the draft,

the NFL offseason is like no other because the rapid turnover can help bad teams improve quickly.

During just the first couple of days of free agency, we saw big names sign with new teams. Former Chicago Bears standout wide receiver Alshon Jeffery will be taking his talents to Philadelphia, while star defensive lineman Calais Campbell will be leaving Arizona after signing a four-year deal with the Jacksonville Jaguars worth \$60 million.

Big stars are going to get paid, but I prefer to look at free agency from both a talent acquisition and a dollar-value perspective. I took a look at several deals around the league, some big and some small, to come up with my favorite early free agent signings.

Brandon Marshall

The veteran receiver signed a new deal with the New York Giants worth \$12 million over two years after being released by the New York Jets. Marshall is definitely on the downside of his career, but he’s only two years removed from catching 109 passes for 1,502 yards with Ryan Fitzpatrick as his quarterback. He should be a welcome addition for Giants quarterback Eli Manning and should take some pressure off of star receiver Odell Beckham Jr.

Prince Amukamara

This talented cornerback has struggled to stay healthy throughout his career, but when he’s on the field he’s an above average starter. After one year in Jacksonville, Amukamara signed a new one-year deal with the Chicago Bears. The Bears get

a quality starting defensive back on a short-term deal that mitigates the risk of signing an injury-prone player. Amukamara gets another chance to show he can make it through a season without ending up on the injury report.

Torrey Smith

Smith was happily released by the San Francisco 49ers, as the speedy receiver was ready for a change of scenery. Smith signed a three-year deal with the Philadelphia Eagles, and should benefit from playing with quarterback Carson Wentz and going back to a sub-package role behind Alshon Jeffery and Jordan Matthews. Smith has always had speed to burn and the Eagles got a bargain for a legitimate playmaker at an average of \$5 million per season.

Kevin Zeitler

The Cleveland Browns not only re-signed their own star guard Joel Bitonio this offseason, they also plucked the talented Zeitler from the division rival Cincinnati Bengals. Zeitler is one of the best guards in the league, and his addition at an average of about \$12 million per year over the next five seasons solidifies an offensive line that gave up the most sacks in the league last year.

Alan Branch

The New England Patriots were wise to re-sign their talented defensive lineman. Branch will return to New England on a team-friendly two-year deal worth up to \$12 million. Branch was a consistent force on the league’s best defense last year, and to get him to remain a Patriot at such a bargain price was a big win for the Super Bowl champions.

I’m certain that more valuable signings will happen as we get closer to the draft beginning April 27, but for my money, the above five guys represent the best value and talent to help their teams in the roles they were signed for. It’s rare when a big free agent signing makes a huge splash, but the kind of shrewd deals outlined above often can be the difference between a borderline playoff team and viable Super Bowl contender.

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.



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Blazing PBR star does a different dance

Bonner Bolton to compete on ‘Dancing with the Stars’

BY ANDREW GIANGOLA
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

MILLSAP, Texas - The first piece of very good news was that he wasn't going to die.

Then Bonner Bolton, temporarily paralyzed after a bad fall at the 2016 Professional Bull Riders season opener in Chicago, found out that one day, he'd be back on his feet.

"The minute the doctor said I would walk again, I wanted to jump right out of that hospital bed and dance," Bolton said.

And boogey he will, on ABC's hit series "Dancing with the Stars," paired with veteran dancer Sharna Burgess.

Since pile driving into the dirt at Allstate Arena, Bolton's life has taken sharp turns onto paths typically not taken by cowboys raised on ranches and making a living barnstorming the country to ride bucking bulls. Fourteen months after nearly purchasing the farm, Bolton is embracing his cosmic reprieve.

While flat on his back in a neck brace, Bolton was signed to global representation by IMG Models, PBR's sister company in the WME | IMG family and the world's largest star-making factory. He was named one of Us Weekly's Hot Bodies, sat front row at a Victoria's Secret show, posed for world-renowned photographer Mario Testino, and landed on the front page of the Wall Street Journal.

Now one of PBR's own, who has spent his whole life ripping muscles and breaking bones in a quest for a World Championship buckle, will tango and twist as a contestant on "Dancing with the Stars." The new season premieres on ABC on Monday, March 20 at 7 p.m. Mountain time.

"I'm up for the challenge," Bolton said. "Physically, I feel good, and I'm in it to win it. I want to be an inspiration to others. I'm thankful for what I've overcome, and I hope to help motivate others who have challenges."

ABC let Bolton submit three picks for his ideal dance partner. To get to know the dancers, he and his mother pored over past seasons of the show and Googled up a storm.

At the show's first taping at his great grandfather's spectacular 4,000-acre ranch in Millsap, Texas, Bolton would finally meet his mystery partner who was stationed at a nearby hotel under stand-by instructions. The crew waited for the late-day golden sun to make the call. Bolton walked a horse named Cedar up a gravel path and spotted a fit girl with flaming red hair.

She was his No. 1 choice, Sharna Burgess, a veteran dancer who has finished as a DWTS runner-up several times.

Burgess sauntered in stiletto heels toward the cowboy. Despite the footwear—she was unaware of her destination that afternoon—and with Bolton's help, the spunky Australian was riding Cedar.

In researching potential partners, Bolton was impressed with how Burgess worked with Noah Galloway, a disabled war veteran performing on one leg. The PBR rider's physical challenges, though in no way comparable, can't be discounted. After splitting his C2 vertebra—the same injury suffered by actor Christopher Reeve—Bolton was given a 1 to 5 percent chance to walk. Although he's now doing yoga and pulling his full body weight in chin-ups, hoping to get back to the PBR, he's yet to be cleared for competition.

A metal clamp fusing his C2 and C3 vertebrae sits precariously close to a vital artery, and 8 inches of metal in his shoulder holds together a collarbone shattered in four places by a bull's horn.

"I know I'm going to have to baby my neck and avoid certain dance moves," Bolton said. "I'm putting my faith in Sharna."

"He's had a massive injury, and dancing puts a lot of strain on the body," Burgess said. "But I love a challenge. With Noah, we worked our way around it, and I expect to do the same with Bonner. I love people with depth and truth and stories, who are willing to bare their soul."

With the help of WME | IMG, Bolton has a support system not available to rodeo and bull riding legend Ty Murray when he competed on the popular dance show in 2008.

Murray remembers an important prep call with the network. Toward the end, the talent booker asked for questions. Murray had none.

"She burst out laughing," Murray recalled. "She said, 'You have absolutely no idea what you are getting yourself into!'"

She was right. Each day after grueling dance training sessions, Murray would wake up feeling like an 80-year old man.

"Muscles I didn't know I had hurt," he said. "You're dancing for six hours in these weird little shoes. It felt like every bone in my foot was broken." Murray wasn't much of a dancer, and he knew as much. He trained so hard that he wound up eating a bucket of ice cream every day just to keep his weight.

"There is no way faking your way through that show," he said. "Dancing is an art form that takes a whole life to learn. The pros have spent years of disciplined practice to get where they are. And now you're attempting what they're doing."



"Dancing with the Stars" partners Sharna Burgess and bull rider Bonner Bolton, shortly after they met at Bolton's great-grandfather's ranch in Millsap, Texas. PHOTO BY ANDREW GIANGOLA

Sidelined from any competition since his fall, Bolton is chomping at the bit to compete again. He's more nervous doing the tango than getting on Rango, an ornery bull he rode as Scott Eastwood's stunt double during a pressure-packed midnight shoot for a key scene in the film, "The Longest Ride."

The show's mix of athletes and show-biz veterans, who include Mr. T, Nancy Kerrigan and Chris Kattan, are hardened competitors Bolton describes as "hungry wolves."

Yet Murray, who made it to the fourth round, says the bull rider has a chance to win the high-stakes dance competition.

"Bonner is a much better dancer than I was," Murray said. "He's got the right attitude and is preparing mentally and physically. He's a legitimate cowboy and has the support of the entire western sports community. Bonner is going to be a tremendous ambassador for PBR and all cowboys."

The first taping at his great-grandfather's ranch lasted until the sun went down. Darkness descended, and a shooting star burst across the clear sky like a flaming pearl. The Australian dancer and Texas cowboy who had first met that afternoon shared a knowing look. You'd have to be a hardened cynic not to sense fateful chemistry.

"I saw that blazing star and made a quick wish," Bolton said. "I'm pretty sure Sharna did, too."

Andrew Giangola is Vice President of Strategic Communications for WME | IMG, a leading global sports, entertainment and fashion agency. He is the author of the sports book "The Weekend Starts on Wednesday." He cannot dance very well.

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Four Lone Peak basketball players earn All-Conference honors

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY - Two Lone Peak High School basketball players have been named to the All-State team, a first for both the Big Horn and Lady Big Horn programs.

Senior point guard Luisa Locker and senior guard Eddie Starz were voted to All-State, recognition bestowed to the top players in the Western C Division.



Junior KP Hoffman led the Lady Big Horns in scoring this season, averaging 11.2 points per game. PHOTO BY RICH ADDICKS

1,038. Her determination and relentless commitment to winning made a strong impression on Allen, who's coached the Lady Big Horns for the past three seasons.

"I've played basketball since I was 9 years old and I've never met someone who goes as hard as she does in every drill. She sets the tone," Allen said. "She put everything on the line for me in practice and in games."

Bough was named a team captain three seasons in a row, and Locker and Hoffman were also voted team captains for the 2016-2017 season.

Coming off a particularly strong postseason performance, Hoffman led the Lady Big Horns in scoring, averaging 11.2 points per game. She also led the team in rebounding, averaging 6.2 per game.

This is the first year Hoffman earned All-Conference honors. "She has improved so much this year and it's all [due to] her work ethic," Allen said. "She goes the extra mile to become better." Allen said Hoffman would stay after practice for one-on-one coaching—part of her plan to play college basketball.

"I think if she keeps working at it, she's going to reach that goal," Allen said.

Starz, who was an undeniable—and virtually unstoppable—scoring phenomenon for the Big Horns, holds most of Lone Peak's scoring records. Those records include most career points (1,334), points in a season (507), average points per game (23), and most points in a game (39).

This is the third time Starz has been recognized with All-Conference honors. "One of the goals [of Lone Peak's basketball program] is to establish a culture, and it certainly isn't something that happens overnight. I think we've had many players who've helped build that culture, but I think Eddie, without question, brought a mindset,

In addition, senior guard Dasha Bough was named First Team All-Conference, and junior post KP Hoffman was named Second Team All-Conference.

This is the fourth consecutive year Locker was chosen for an All-Conference award. All-Conference honors are voted on by coaches in the same district at the end of the regular season; All-State honors are given to the top 14 players in each division.

Lone Peak head coach Nubia Allen said Locker is a player with a high basketball IQ. She was a consistent scorer this past season and holds the school record for free throws made (307) and averaged 3.2 assists and 3.1 steals per game.

Locker is also a sharp ball-handler. "She has a killer crossover," Allen said of the senior's dribbling prowess. "She makes a lot of good defenders look not-so-good."

This is the second time Bough earned All-Conference honors. She holds the school record for 3-pointers with 106 and career points with



Senior Dasha Bough, Lone Peak's leading 3-point shooter, was named First Team All-Conference. PHOTO BY MILOSZ SHIPMAN



Senior Luisa Locker was named to the All-State team, a first for the Lady Big Horns' basketball program. PHOTO BY MILOSZ SHIPMAN

a focus, and a desire to [succeed] to the program that gave some of the younger players something to look up to," said Lone Peak head coach Al Malinowski.

Starz is headed to Helena this fall to play football for Carrol College. Barb Rooney, Starz's mother, said the quarterback standout was recruited by three other college football programs. "He loves the state of Montana and loves [the Carroll] coaches, so I think he made a great choice," Rooney said.

Malinowski is quick to point out that Starz's strong performance on the basketball court this year was supported by the efforts of his teammates. "It's an individual award, but it's also a team award because if your team doesn't play well and isn't successful, [other coaches] don't recognize individuals at the end of the season for that success."



Senior Eddie Starz was invited to play in the Montana Senior Classic basketball tournament, making him just the second Lone Peak player selected for that honor. PHOTO BY MILOSZ SHIPMAN



From Jackie *with love*

Need a miracle?



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

Are you in need of a miracle? If so, try this: put all of your heart into repeating these four simple sentences: “I’m sorry. Please forgive me. Thank you. I love you.” Say them out loud or to yourself. But say them with intention and watch the magic unfold.

Whether you’re dealing with a difficult person, your own feelings of guilt and shame, or forces that seem beyond your control like sickness or crisis, these mighty words have the potential to shift energy and vibration in powerful and positive ways.

The first time I learned about this ancient healing Hawaiian prayer called Ho’oponopono (to pronounce it, break it down to hō-ō, pōnō, pōnō) was from a wise and spiritual friend. He witnessed an angry woman yelling at me at my workplace. As she stormed away, he told me to repeat the four phrases, “I’m sorry. Please forgive me. Thank you. I love you,” until the anger in me subsided and I felt more at peace.

I was shocked and confused. Why was he suggesting that I apologize and ask forgiveness from someone who had just publicly humiliated me? And send her gratitude and love? It seemed absurd. But I trusted him so I gave it a try. At first it felt false and uncomfortable but by the second round my mind and body began relaxing.

Many scientific studies have proven that forgiveness, gratitude, love and prayer have legitimate effects on the mind and body. They can improve mood, sleep, energy and even lower levels of inflammatory biomarkers related to cardiac health. The Stanford Forgiveness Project has shown that participants who are

trained in forgiveness experience decreased blood pressure, less muscle tension, lower heart rates, and fewer illnesses and chronic health conditions.

While it makes sense that the person doing the praying would experience benefits, the miraculous part of my encounter with the angry woman was that she had a radical energy shift as well. When I approached her about 10 minutes later, she was exponentially calmer, kinder and open to discussion.

The Hawaiian Dictionary defines Ho’oponopono as “mental cleansing.” Traditionally a senior member of the family performs the prayer during a structured ceremony in order to right wrongs and heal sickness and relationships. In the 1970s, it was adapted into modern practices and its use expanded to include individuals looking for a general problem solving process. If you search it on YouTube, you will find videos that put the prayer into song accompanied by stirring images.

This string of phrases takes us out of a defenseless victim mode and puts us in an empowered hero position. The key ingredients, forgiveness, gratitude and love, are each great healing forces but when combined they become transcendent.

Give it a try. You have nothing to lose. It’s free and there are no harmful side effects. If you want to start small, the next time someone is driving poorly, rather than reaching for an arsenal of profanities, repeat, “I’m sorry. Please forgive me. Thank you. I love you.” While this won’t make them a better driver, it will make you a healthier and happier person and your passengers will feel better too.

Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach, culture consultant and public speaker. Contact her at jackie@corehealthmt.com.

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DOCTOR'S NOTE

Powder days can be tough on skiers' knees



BY DR. JEFF DANIELS
EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Recently, we received a burst of snow that brought many skiers out to enjoy the fresh powder. Some of those who were not used to powder skiing found out that it isn't as easy as Warren Miller makes it look.

What I hear from patients when they describe their injuries—be it a torn anterior cruciate ligament (ACL), broken shoulder or fractured wrist—is that one ski didn't want to follow the other as a turn was being made through the powder. I'm sure there are lots of reasons for that, ranging from inexperience to using the wrong type of ski. I've also noticed that snowboarders fare a lot better on powder days than skiers. I imagine that's because a person's legs can't move in opposite directions when tethered to a snowboard.

Twisting injuries to the knee do predominate on powder days. In my experience, the ACL is the part of the knee that's most vulnerable to injury resulting from strain on the downhill knee. Most people who injure their ACL while skiing will either hear or feel a pop. Pain ranges from mild and short-lived to excruciating, which raises the possibility of a fracture in the knee. If one is daring enough to stand up and try to ski, the injured knee will invariably feel unstable and often collapses, which can produce further injuries.

Over the years, I've watched the Big Sky Ski Patrol take many people with knee injuries down the hill in a toboggan. Most will come in for an evaluation. A few bypass the Medical Clinic to seek care elsewhere, or because they're in denial mode. On occasion, they immediately return to the Medical Clinic when their knee buckles as they try to get into their car.

There are some very unusual reasons why patients with knee injuries don't want us to evaluate them immediately. I still remember a woman who was brought in by the Ski Patrol many years ago with an immobilizer around each knee. She waited for her family, who carried her out and back to their hotel room.

The next day, they carried her back in to see me for an evaluation, and the first thing I asked was why she hadn't let me check her knees the day before. My jaw dropped when she said, "But Doctor, I hadn't shaved my legs!"

This year, we've seen some unusual injuries where our suspicions have been borne out by getting a CT scan or an MRI on the same day of the injury, or very shortly thereafter. That's because of the availability of CT and MRI at the Big Sky Medical Center. In most major cities, getting scans like that could take days or weeks, but for now, Big Sky's new hospital allows for quick access to these incredible ways of imaging many injured parts of the body.

Since many of my patients have sent me MRI results, I know that I'm very accurate at diagnosing torn ACLs. I'm also amazed at how many significant ankle and foot fractures we see where the X-rays don't reveal an injury. Clinically, we know something is wrong, and we're now relying on a CT scan of the ankle and forefoot to confirm the diagnosis.

On another note, while watching the opening of "Saturday Night Live" on March 4, I was struck by a line delivered by Kate McKinnon, who was portraying Attorney General Jeff Sessions as Forrest Gump. When it was revealed that he lied to Congress, his attorney admonished him to "Run, Jeffrey, Run!"

Well, taking that to another dimension, I've decided to begin seriously training to run another marathon. You never know how current events might affect you!

Dr. Jeff Daniels was the recipient of the 2016 Big Sky Chamber of Commerce Chet Huntley Lifetime Achievement Award and has been practicing medicine in Big Sky since 1994, when he and his family moved here from New York City. A unique program he implements has attracted more than 700 medical students and young doctors to train with the Medical Clinic of Big Sky.

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Luminous: Big Sky’s local audio-visual store has bright future

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

BIG SKY - Luminous Audio and Visual has been providing home entertainment solutions to local residents for over two years now with a “try before you buy” approach that encourages movie enthusiasts to settle into their home theatre showroom for an immersive cinema experience.

Located on the second floor above The Cave Spirits & Gifts in the heart of the Big Sky Town Center, Luminous is a full-service, locally owned A/V company that designs and installs custom solutions—“from seating to sound,” said owner Austin Pettit.

Originally from San Antonio, Texas, Pettit admits to being “a bit of a tech geek,” and used his knowledge of and passion for electronics to help friends and family improve their entertainment systems. “Opening a shop was the next logical step,” said Pettit’s wife Stacy, “and it helped clear up a lot of space in our garage.”

Bringing together the components of audio, visual, lighting, spacing and even window coverings, the service team from Luminous has helped come up with individualized solutions and transformed many home spaces into unique theatre rooms.

Pettit also operates in a fix-it capacity. “We’re almost always able to fix glitches and solve problems in a timely fashion,” he said.

Sales representative Kinga Wilson said customers are invited to sample the wares and she’s always happy to show off her favorite subwoofers, especially one she nicknamed “Big Brother.”

Luminous also offers in-store demos of speakers, TVs, receivers, headphones and more. The home theater showroom offers patrons a first-hand look at cutting

edge technology, including thousands of movie selections from the Kaleidescape Movie System with pristine ultra HD 4K images and Dolby Atmos surround-sound audio. It’s not exactly watching Netflix on your laptop.

Business is steadily increasing at the shop, and Luminous is looking to hire more A/V technicians to join their team to help meet the demand for high-end A/V equipment and home entertainment solutions in the Big Sky and surrounding areas.

For more information, stop by Luminous Audio and Video’s retail showroom at 33 Lone Peak Drive, Suite 203 in Big Sky Town Center, or visit luminousav.com.



Luminous offers high end audio and visual equipment and provides customized solutions for home entertainment systems. Here, their storefront in Big Sky Town Center showcases their selection of upscale headphones. PHOTO BY DOUG HARE

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AMUSE-BOUCHE

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

Third time’s a charm, well actually all three times



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

There are times in our careers, as well as in our personal lives, when we hesitantly get involved with a project—hesitant because it’s a strain on our already busy life or schedule. But we do it because it’s the right thing to do. Then, as its full magnitude is felt, we can’t imagine ever not being a part of it.

A few weeks ago, representatives from Buck’s T-4 Lodge attended their third consecutive Democratic Governors Association event in Washington D.C. It was the annual DGA gala in conjunction with Share Our Strength and No Kid Hungry.

Our attendance this year was significant for two reasons: One, because unofficially, inviting a restaurant three years in a row has never happened before. From thousands of restaurants across the country for NKH to choose from, inviting little old Buck’s from Big Sky, Montana, makes all of us very proud and honored.

Secondly, it’s significant because this cause has grown increasingly near and dear to our hearts at Buck’s T-4 Lodge.

During the first year of the event, our management team all agreed that No Kid Hungry Montana should be one of the charities we chose for Round It Up Montana, a program that allows patrons to round up cents on their bill to the nearest whole dollar in support of a good cause.

The second year, after returning from Washington D.C., we decided to host our own NKH Montana fundraising event and it was well received. The NKH Montana team attended the event, as well as Lt. Gov. Mike Cooney. He was moved enough by our event and efforts that he promised continued support and attendance at future events hosted at Buck’s.

This year, we were met with many familiar faces in Washington. Truthfully, it felt good to show up among far better known restaurants, chefs and mixologists and be received with such warmth and familiarity. It was great to see the “who are those guys” faces from the other invitees.

It was, of course, a tremendous event. Anytime you get a group of chefs and mixologists together for an evening, it’s nothing short of entertaining. And we also got our annual photo with Montana Gov. Steve Bullock.

Sure, the kitchen we catered out of was a total disaster—it has not been operational for five years—and sure some of the chefs began cocktailing before the event even started. Some of them even decided that a T-shirt and backwards hat was sufficient attire, but in the end they all produced a wonderful, heartfelt product.

Our weekend concluded with a visit to the national Share Our Strength headquarters and we had the opportunity to meet Bill Shore who founded the nonprofit with his sister Debbie Shore.

So what came out of this year’s attendance at the DGA? Both Lisa Lee, the NKH Montana director, and Gov. Bullock’s wife, Lisa Bullock, have expressed a strong interest in hosting a statewide No Kid Hungry event at Buck’s this summer, and we couldn’t be more proud to host it. There is a belief at NKH Montana that we could be the first state to end child hunger.

While there is certainly no guarantee that Buck’s will be invited for a fourth consecutive appearance in our nation’s capital, words cannot describe how proud we would be to accept the honor.

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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MIX IT UP

Sunchokes: Tasty and versatile

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The sunchoke, more technically referred to as a Jerusalem artichoke, has nothing to do with the city of Jerusalem, nor do they taste similar to or resemble an artichoke.

The sunchoke plant is more closely related to the sunflower, but produces edible tubers, or roots. The skin of the root has a knobby texture, similar to that of a piece of ginger, but is more tubular shaped. It is a resilient species and grows well in cold climates, allowing it to be harvested through the winter. The peak of the sunchoke season is late fall through early spring.

Sunchokes contain high amounts of inulin, a form of fiber not to be confused with insulin. While the plant is growing, this fiber provides a means for storing energy, as well as regulating the plant's temperature. This allows it to withstand cold temperatures and survive the winter months. When we eat a sunchoke, this same fiber acts as a prebiotic in our digestive tract, providing a food source for probiotics, which aid in digestion and live in our gut.



The skin of a sunchoke is rough like a piece of ginger, but the root is more regularly shaped. CC PHOTO

The sunchoke is known for its trademark earthy and nutty flavor. They are one of many vegetables that lend themselves to a variety of cooking methods and flavor profiles. You can use them in many of the same applications as other root vegetables, but their texture works particularly well pureed or mashed. Equally delicious when left raw, they can add complexity to a salad's flavor—but be sure to slice them thinly to avoid adding too much fibrous material to your salad.

Sunchokes have gained attention in recent years in dining establishments as well as farmers' markets across the country, probably due to their low cost, health benefits and versatility. They are a great option because they can take the place of other starches on your plate, but are a low-carb, low-calorie, high-fiber option. If your grocer carries some of these odd-looking root veggies, don't be afraid to give them a try!

Sunchoke & Wild Mushroom Bisque


- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 3 medium sunchoke, peeled and diced
- 1 russet potato, peeled and diced
- 1 cup wild mushrooms, cleaned and roughly chopped
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 3 cups vegetable stock
- 2 tablespoons fresh thyme, minced
- salt and pepper, to taste

In a medium pot, sauté onions, garlic and mushrooms in olive oil over medium heat until soft. Add wine and cook until wine is absorbed, about three minutes.

Add all remaining ingredients except thyme and cook until sunchoke and potatoes are soft, about 20 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in thyme.

Puree the mixture with an immersion blender, or carefully in a regular blender. If using a regular blender, leave the lid cracked open to allow heat to escape.

Taste the mixture, season with salt and pepper as necessary, and garnish with a drizzle of olive oil.





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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Planning and Zoning Commission are accepting applications for the following:

Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Zoning District Advisory Committee

Applications can be picked up at the Gallatin County Planning Department, 311 W. Main, Room 108, Bozeman, MT 59715. Applications can also be found on our website at www.gallatin.mt.gov/planning.

For more information, please contact Gallatin County Planning Department, 311 W. Main, Room 108, Bozeman, MT 59715, 406-582-3130. Applications must be received in the Planning Office by 5:00 p.m. on April 5, 2017.

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48784 GALLATIN ROAD

\$7,100,000 | #215673 | Call Don

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TIMBERLOFT ROAD

\$2,750,000 | #208466 | Call Don

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SILVERADO TRAIL

\$1,995,000 | #202031 | Call Stacy or Eric

5 Bd, 6 ba, 6,663± sf., on 4.7± wooded acres, views of the Spanish Peaks and Lone Mountain. Attention to detail with carved mantels and wood floors, 6 fireplaces, 3 car heated garage.



NORTHFORK ROAD

\$1,800,000 | #209944 | Call Don

216± Acres, heavily forested with meadows, approx. ¾ mile of Northfork flows through. Borders public land, great cross country ski property.



ULREY'S LAKE ROAD

\$1,350,000 | #215952 | Call Stacy or Eric

20± acre lot with stunning views of Lone Mountain and Ulrey's Lake in the foreground! Ownership of approx. 1/2 of the Lake and shoreline. 500 acres of private community with mature tree stands, secluded home sites and great views!



LOT 4 LOST TRAILS

\$480,000 | #215955 | Call Stacy or Eric

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TIMBERLOFT DRIVE RECREATIONAL

\$475,000 #206525 | \$425,000 #206527 | Call Don

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\$455,000 | #214881 | Call Eric

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MEADOW VILLAGE DRIVE

\$395,000 | #218809 | Call Don

Commercial Condo in Big Sky Meadow Village! Nice 1,000± sf office condo in the First Security Bank Building. Lease option available, co-listed with Fred Bell Real Estate.



SUMMIT CONDO 405 & 406

\$315,000 | #217952 | Call Stacy or Eric

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SHOSHONE CONDO #1942

\$315,000 | #218508 | Call Don

1br/1.5ba condo sleeps up to 6 people; beautiful views of Lone Mountain and the Spanish Peaks. Full service Shoshone Hotel offers pool, exercise room, steam room, room service, valet, ski-in-ski-out! Hotel is scheduled for upgrading.

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Section 3:
OUTDOORS, FUN
& BACK 40



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Eddy Line: Fly fishing boats pg. 39



Smokin' Aces to feature Rail Jam pg. 46

INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



Winners of Yellowstone Forever photo contest announced

YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

Yellowstone Forever and Nature's Best Photography magazine have announced the winners of a competition documenting and celebrating the world's first national park through photography and public participation.

The second annual Yellowstone Forever Photo Contest was comprised of three divisions—professional, amateur and youth—and entrants submitted their best wildlife and landscape images of Yellowstone. A judging panel comprised of experts in photography, publishing, education and conservation selected the winners based on technical quality, originality, artistic merit and overall appeal.

Below are a few of the top 100 images from the contest with details about how they were made.



(ABOVE) WILDLIFE HONORABLE MENTION: AMATEUR Greig Huggins of Sandy, Utah, took this image of a fox with a muskrat above LeHardy Rapids on a late October day. "This was one of my most magical and memorable days in Yellowstone Park!" he said.



(LEFT) WILDLIFE THIRD PLACE: AMATEUR John Winnie Jr. of Bozeman said it took more than 300 attempts to get this image of a spawning Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout. It was taken at Trout Lake.

(BELOW) LANDSCAPES FIRST PLACE: AMATEUR "The timing was key, resulting in this image where you may also see coyote foot prints leading to and from the snow circle," said photographer Tim Auer of Mountain View, California. Depicted is Sawmill Geyser at sunset in the Upper Geyser Basin.



(ABOVE) LANDSCAPES HIGHLY HONORED: PROFESSIONAL Garret Surie of Los Angeles, California, climbed a bluff overlooking Grand Prismatic Spring to capture this image. "At sunrise, I witnessed a 22 degree halo, a phenomenon in which light refracted in suspended ice particles creates a ring around the sun," he said.

(RIGHT) WILDLIFE HONORABLE MENTION: AMATEUR Nancy McKenzie of Martin, Tennessee, took this image at Grand Prismatic Spring. She reached the spring on a foggy and chilly September morning and found four bison trotting around. "They stood still for about 30 seconds, then abruptly turned and went back the way they came," she said.





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TOWN CENTER
MONTANA



DINE



GATHER



SHOP

WHERE BIG SKY COMES TOGETHER

Town Center to Mountain Village Bus Schedule *Heading Up*

DEPARTING TOWN CENTER

8:20a / 8:35a / 9:35a / 10:35a / 11:35a / 12:35p
1:35p / 2:35p / 3:35p / 4:35p / 5:35p / 6:35p
7:35p / 8:35p / 9:45p / 10:35p / 11:35p / 1:35a

ARRIVING MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

8:35a / 9:00a / 10:00a / 10:55a / 12:00p / 12:55p
2:00p / 2:55p / 4:00p / 4:55p / 5:55p / 6:55p
7:55p / 8:55p / 10:15p / 10:55p / 11:55p / 1:55a

Mountain Village to Town Center Bus Schedule *Heading Down*

DEPARTING MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

7:10a / 8:35a / 9:10a / 10:10a / 11:10a
12:10p / 1:10p / 2:10p / 3:10p / 4:10p
5:10p / 6:10p / 7:10p / 8:10p / 9:10p
10:15p / 11:15p / 12:15a / 2:15a

ARRIVING TOWN CENTER

7:25a / 8:50a *w / 9:35a / 10:35a / 11:35a / 12:35p
1:35p / 2:35p / 3:35p / 4:35p / 5:35p / 6:35p / 7:35p
8:35p / 9:35p / 10:35p / 11:35p / 12:35a / 2:35a

*w = whistle stop

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All roads in Yellowstone closed to oversnow travel

Roads projected to reopen to vehicle traffic April 15

EBS STAFF

Oversnow travel in Yellowstone National Park ended on March 15 and spring plowing was scheduled to begin shortly thereafter.

According to a press release from the park, roads through the park that are closed to vehicle traffic during the winter will likely reopen on Friday, April 15, weather permitting.

Some facilities remain open through the winter. In Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyoming, the Mammoth Campground, Yellowstone General Store, Post Office, Medical Clinic, Albright Visitor Center and self-serve fuel pumps are available

year-round. The road connecting Yellowstone’s north entrance just outside of Gardiner, Montana, to Mammoth Hot Springs and Cooke City, Montana, is open to vehicles year-round and self-serve fuel pumps are available all year at Tower Junction, Wyoming.

The National Park Service advises visitors to keep their spring travel plans flexible and be prepared for changing weather conditions. Temporary travel restrictions or closures can occur at any time.

The most current information on road conditions and closures is available at gp.nps.gov/YellRoads or (307) 344-2117.

Parts of Yellowstone close in anticipation of seasonal bear activity


NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

As of March 10, parts of Yellowstone National Park are closed to minimize potential conflicts between bears and humans.


The park’s bear management areas are located in areas where there is a high density of elk and bison carcasses and considerable bear activity.

According to a press release from the Yellowstone National Park public affairs office, the first confirmed grizzly bear sightings occurred March 15 in the northern part of the park.


There are a total of 16 bear management areas in Yellowstone. Restrictions and closing dates vary widely by area. Visit nps.gov/yell/learn/management/bearclosures.htm for more information about closures in specific areas.



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On the Trail: Tree Farm

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

BY CIARA WOLFE
BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Since I was born and raised in Oregon, when I hear the name “Tree Farm,” I immediately envision a place my family visited every December. Amidst rows of perfectly pruned evergreen trees lined in a grid across a piece of farmland, we would garner our full, beautifully manicured Christmas tree. Although that memory is far from the experience of cross-country skiing Tree Farm at Lone Mountain Ranch, they both invite fond memories of beautiful trees.

Starting from the Lone Mountain Ranch’s outdoor shop found on the northwest side of the parking lot, you’ll start your 3.5-kilometer cross-country ski by heading south for 1 kilometer on Creekside, a flat trail that meanders along the creek bed toward the entrance to the ranch.

As you approach Highway 64, you’ll ski underneath the road in a metal culvert tunnel, an interesting experience in and of itself. After crossing under the road, you’ll reach your first intersection, well signed with directions to various Nordic trails you can access.

Tree Farm, an intermediate 1.5-kilometer Nordic trail, can be skied either direction and ultimately ends back at this point. Knowing the area, I chose to take a left and tackle the steep hills first since I already had a nice 1-kilometer warm-up on Creekside. I skied up a hill and across the creek and around a large curve before reaching Moosewood Road.

At that point I took off my skis, crossed the road and stayed on the trail running west of Andesite Road, rather than crossing Andesite Road to continue on the longer and more difficult Andesite Loop. I continued to ski for 0.3 kilometer with one long downhill before coming to my next intersection.

This section of the trail is definitely where the name comes from. I skied through a small creekbed with trees of varying species and size. From wooded areas to wetlands filled with willows, the scenery is beautiful and peaceful throughout the entire loop. Once I reached the tunnel, I continued a nice 1-kilometer ski on Creekside back up to the outdoor shop and parking lot.

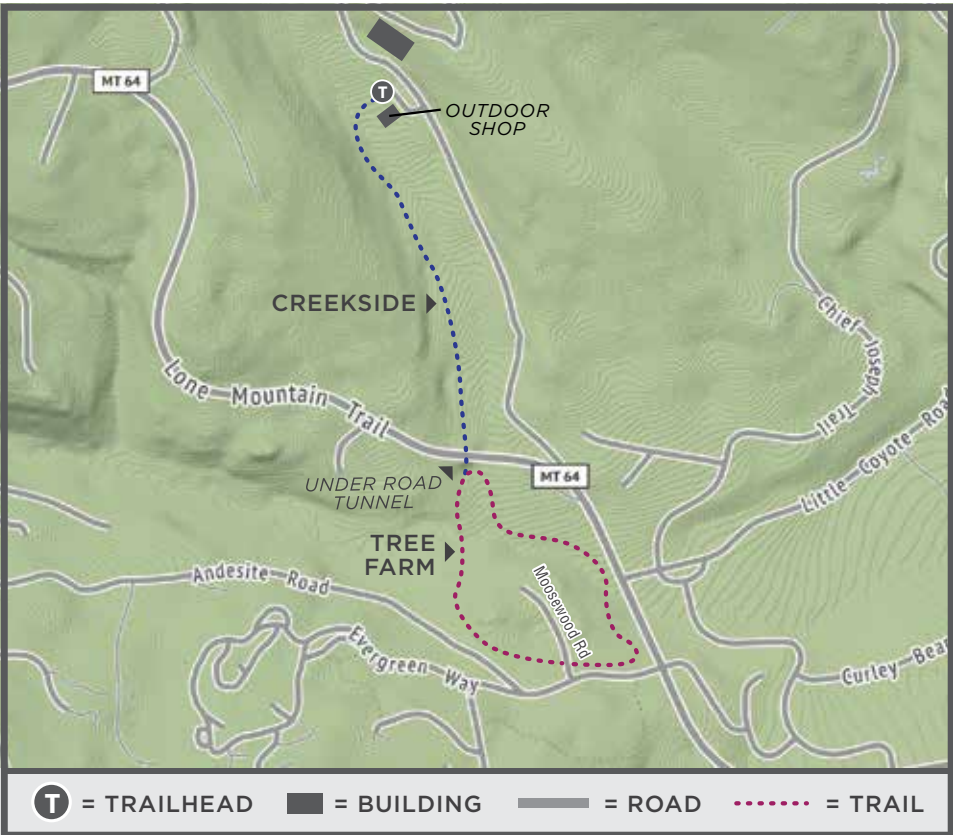
Skis stowed away, you can follow your excursion with a visit to LMR’s newly opened Horn and Cantle restaurant for a bite to eat, meal with friends or warm drink by the fire.



Olive Wolfe skis Creekside, a popular and beginner-friendly trail that’s part of the Lone Mountain Ranch cross-country trail system. PHOTO BY CIARA WOLFE

An annual season pass or day pass (\$20/day) can be purchased at the Outdoor Shop. All proceeds from pass sales go toward the cost of grooming our winter Nordic trail system. For a complete map of Big Sky’s 85 kilometers of groomed Nordic trails, visit lonemountainranch.com/winter-things-to-do/nordic-skiing/.

For more information about Big Sky’s parks, trails and recreation programs, visit bscomt.org. The Big Sky Community Organization is a local nonprofit that connects people to recreational opportunities by acquiring, promoting and preserving sustainable places and programs for all.



BIG SKY
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

TRAIL STATS

Distance	Uses	Difficulty	Elevation Gain	Surface
3.5 K	cross-country skiing	Intermediate	100 ft.	classic track includes both skate and classic groomed trails

Directions: From the Canyon, take Highway 64 west from Highway 191. Turn left at the Lone Mountain Ranch sign approximately 4.5 miles up. The parking lot is located another half of a mile up the road.



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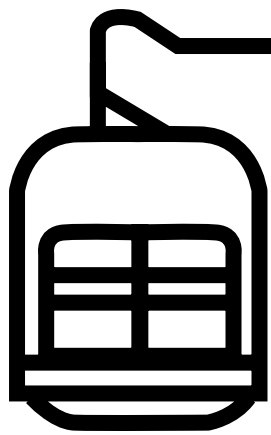
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WORD FROM THE RESORTS

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

BY CHELSI MOY
BIG SKY RESORT PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER

The good times just keep on rollin' with a number of adrenaline-inducing, high-flying and jaw-dropping events hitting Big Sky Resort the next few weeks.

It's time to get your muscles loose for the third annual Shedhorn SkiMo race, brought to you by the Big Sky Ski Patrol and the COSMIC series out of Colorado. This March 18 ski mountaineering race is the ultimate endurance test. Athletes will ascend more than 8,600 vertical feet and trek about 18 miles, twice over the summit of Lone Peak. Come out and cheer on these racers as they make their way across the ridges and high-alpine terrain of Big Sky Resort.

The 2017 Smokin' Aces Tour is making its way back to Big Sky Resort March 24-26. The weekend will kick off on Friday evening with a rail jam in Swifty 2.0. The Montana Slopestyle Championship will take place the following day in the Swifty terrain park. These athletes don't hold back, so don't miss out as they throw their best tricks with creativity and style.

A new, must-see event is the Sam Adams 3D Big Air & Après Show on Saturday, April 1. Picture 3D projections on a 40-foot tall jump and Olympic athletes throwing huge tricks. Don't miss this spectacular snow, lights and big air performance. I think folks will be talking about it for some time.

In addition to these many events, the snow is abundant at Big Sky Resort. We're far from the end of our season, so come out and enjoy winter!

Visit bigskyresort.com for more information.



BY DAVID JOHNSON
MARKETING AT JACKSON HOLE MOUNTAIN RESORT



For all those watching the needle move forward, March 5 brought excitement throughout the valley of Jackson Hole. We officially surpassed the benchmark of 500 inches of snowfall and haven't looked back since. As of March 9, we are on a record pace for snowfall with 525 inches and we experienced our snowiest month in Jackson Hole history this February with 160 inches. The powder train rolls on here at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort and the next stop is 600 inches!

With spring creeping closer, we have started our famous Music Under the Tram lineup. Beginning March 4 and running every Saturday through the end of the season we'll have local talent playing tunes from 3-6 p.m. This is a favorite of Jackson locals and there isn't a better way to spend a potentially (you never know) sunny day après-ing into the sunset! Join us for March radness and embrace our motto: "Party. Shred. Repeat."

The biggest remaining date on the JHMR calendar is the Rendezvous Spring Festival, and the Zac Brown Band will headline it once again. The weekend of March 18 will bring acts such as Jamestown Revival, Samantha Fish, Yonder Mountain String Band and Iratton to the Tetons. Most of these concerts are free, except for the Yonder Mountain String Band and the Zac Brown Band show on Saturday, March 18.

For tickets and other questions, check out jacksonhole.com/rendezvous.



Bridger Bowl reached the 200-inch mark for seasonal snowfall during the third week of March and diehard locals made the most of spring-like conditions.

The annual Point and Chute film festival returns Saturday, March 18, featuring short videos shot entirely within the Bridger Bowl boundaries. A public screening will be held at 4:30 p.m. in the Jim

Bridger Lodge and films will be judged on storyline, creativity, soundtrack, editing and overall impression.

BY JENNIE WHITE
GRAND TARGHEE MARKETING AND SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER



Do you have plans for spring break? You'll find great conditions at Grand Targhee Resort, as well as a jam-packed calendar. Don't miss the International Freeskiing and Snowboarding Association competitions, the Rubber Legs banked slalom, a sick trick comp, the annual cardboard box derby and the sink or swim pond skim! You'll also find the best après music in Alta, Wyoming, at the Trap Bar and Grill. With tunes from the Hooligans, Clusterpluck, The Last Revel, DJ Cut la Wat, Nate Robison, Wildflower Moon, Lazy Suzy, Swagger and Lazy Eyes, your afternoons will be rocking!

Mark your calendars for the annual Brewer's Dinner at the Branding Iron on April 9. Chef David Hugo and Grand Teton brew master Max Schaefer will craft an exciting culinary evening featuring seven courses with different beer pairings.

Don't forget about our bonus weekend, April 22 and 23. Enjoy a weekend packed with throttle excitement at the Crazy Horse Snowmobile Hill Climb and enjoy two more days of skiing and snowboarding. It's the final, final celebration that is not to be missed. We'll see you on the mountain!

Visit grandtarghee.com or call 1-800-TARGHEE for details and lodging specials.



BY DENISE WADE
LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH DIRECTOR OF GUEST OPERATIONS

Ah, March. Is it in like a lion and out like a lamb, or in like a lamb and out like a lion? Either way, here in snow country it's all good. Snowy, stormy days mixed with bright sunny days make for tough decisions in choosing your ski for the day. Skate skiing is stellar, especially early in the day on the firm and fast groomed trails. For those snowy days, pull out the classic skis to enjoy the silky quietness as you wind through the forest. All our trails are in great shape with good coverage, although warm, springtime sun affects the snow quickly. I call it the grip and go snow. As you ski from sun to shade, the consistency of the snow might change from slow to fast, or visa versa. Keep centered, stay loose in the knees and ankles, and enjoy the ride.

This is also a great time to try fat biking. We have been able to open up an additional 10 kilometers of ski and snowshoe trails to fat bikes. In addition to the Town Center trails and Far East Loop, three LMR trails are open to fat bikes: lower Tree Farm, Creekside and Carlin's. They may have time of day restrictions based on snow conditions, so visit our website for details. Bikers: please yield to skiers and snowshoers, and follow trail etiquette.

Feeling spring fever? Need to give your ski legs a break? Both the Madison and the Gallatin have been fishing great with recent warmer temperatures. And the super-secret spot to go ... well, I don't know if I can reveal that, but I will give you a hint: look for places where the ice is just starting to open a hole.

March is the middle of the snow data collection for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. LMR has been monitoring a site up the North Fork for 30 years and measuring the moisture content in the snowpack. The Bear Basin site is one of many that's used to evaluate the water levels in the upper Gallatin watershed important for fisheries, wildlife and recreationalists. As of March 10, the North Fork site is sitting at 85 percent of normal for water content.

Get ready for the last 5@5 citizen race of the season on March 23, scheduled to take place in Town Center. Come challenge your friends to a 5-kilometer race starting at 5 p.m. for only \$5 registration. Juniors can join the 3-kilometer race, and younger kids can compete in a 1-kilometer race. Registration starts at 4 p.m.

See you out there!

Call (406) 995-4734 or email shop@lonemountainranch.com for more information.

MSU Bobcat Ski Day is Friday, March 24, when skiers and riders who carpool in groups of three or more receive discounted lift tickets, and Bridger donates 20 percent of each promotional ticket to the Montana State alpine ski team. On March 25, the fifth annual Carve Out Hunger food drive is held to support the Gallatin Valley Food Bank, and for every 15 cans or 15 pounds of bulk food donated, Bridger will exchange a discounted lift ticket voucher. Last year more than 6,600 pounds were collected to help hungry families in the Gallatin Valley. - Tyler Allen

Visit bridgerbowl.com for more information.



EDDY Line

Fly fishing boats: the best boat for you



BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

One of our customers the other day asked about shuttle services on the Yellowstone River. I was fresh off the slopes on a powder day—floating a trout river was the last thing on my thawing-out mind—but I also found three of our guides in the shop replaying the previous day's float on the Upper Madison. Ready or not, it's the time of year to consider floating.

Take a map and draw a 100-mile radius from our trout-centric home and opportunities to float number in the dozens. Increase that radius 50 miles and that number triples—and floatable rivers are as varied as the watercraft available to float them. Here's a little help deciphering what is the best choice for you.

Know your needs and wants. The best way to be happy with your boat is to have realistic expectations for its use. Brainstorm where you'll use your boat, when you'll take it out and who will be using it. If you'll be the only one casting a line and you only fish in summer, you might consider a single-person float tube or pontoon. If you have a family or know your fishing buddies will come along and be willing to pay for gas and shuttles, consider a larger boat. There is an ideal boat out there for you, but an honest look in the mirror is the first step to boat-owning happiness.

Single-person float tubes, rafts or pontoons. These small boats can be easily carried by one person, and are often packable. Float tubes and single-person pontoon boats are ideal if you plan to fish smaller ponds, lakes and slow-flowing rivers. On ponds and lakes, fishing and floating can be done simultaneously, but on a river with heavy currents and obstructions like the Upper Madison, these boats are best used for transportation—getting from one spot to the next to wade-fish.

Larger rafts and pontoons. For floating and fishing, a raft is more desirable than a pontoon because it tracks better. In our area the most common lengths for a fishing-first raft range from 14 to 16 feet. Any less and the boat becomes more specialized, any longer and it gravitates to a family float boat for use on larger rivers. Where your raft falls in the range is up to you and where you plan to fish and who you plan to take. A 14-foot boat is best used by two anglers and a rower. You can get another person in it but depending on the width of the boat and the water you're floating, it's probably not comfortable or safe. A 15-foot raft will handle two anglers, a rower, a dog or two and perhaps a kiddo or two. A 16-footer gives a lot space for anglers, ride-alongs and gear but you sacrifice maneuverability for comfort.

Hard-sided skiffs. The term skiff originated from saltwater boats and it made its way to trout waters with the original South Fork Skiff back in the 1980s. The genesis was the need to navigate smaller waters. Today skiffs are seen on nearly every float in the area and have exploded in popularity. A skiff is best defined as a low-sided fiberglass or aluminum drift boat designed for non-whitewater rivers. Most skiffs incorporate rod holders, a wider footprint allowing less draft and an interior designed for ease of mobility and lack of line tangling. Such features include pedestal seating rather than a boat-wide bench seat, for example. On rivers known for wind, the lower-sided skiff is less likely to be affected; yet on larger rivers with big wave trains or deep drops an intermediate level rower may take on some water or worse.

Traditional high-sided drift boats. Drift boats can be divided into two categories: high-sided and low-sided. High-sided boats have been around a long time and incorporate a pointed bow that is taller than any other part of the boat. A high-sided drift boat is ideal for big water and big loads. This boat works well in the Yellowstone when it's running high, and is a popular choice for experienced anglers rowing through the turbulent water of Yankee Jim Canyon. Wind is an enemy of this boat as the higher bow is easily affected, making rowing difficult. A high-sided drift boat is less versatile than a skiff and a little harder to find these days, but if safety and big water are your goals this could be the boat for you.

Low-sided driftboats. With a substantially lower bow, sides and stern than a high-sided drift boat, these boats combine the safety of a high-sided boat with the tactical nature of a skiff. If a skiff is a sport coupe and a high-sided drift boat is an SUV, a low-sided boat is a crossover. The most common low-sided drift boats are 15- and 16-feet long. Either length is ideal for every float in our area. The pointed bow cuts through bigger waves more safely than a skiff, yet the lower-profile isn't pushed around by the wind as much as the high-sided boat. A low-sided drift boat is the most versatile boat on the water today. With the exception of most Class III rapids, there isn't anything these boats won't do well enough for you to feel good about owning one.

A longtime local guide said he loved his boat 80 percent of the time. That is the best way to sum up owning a boat in our area. Because our waters are so varied, no single boat is going to match all situations. The best way to get the most out of your boat-owning experience is to research before you buy, purchase with confidence and then simply enjoy it.

Pat Straub is the co-founder of the Montana Fishing Guide School and the author of six books, including "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Fly Fishing." He and his wife own Gallatin River Guides in Big Sky and he co-owns Montana Fishing Outfitters.



There are a variety of options for fishing and floating boats, and each has pros and cons. Research and row before you buy. From left to right: a Clackacraft skiff, a Hyde low profile and a RO skiff. PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTANA FISHING GUIDE SCHOOL

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Headwaters Spring Runoff showcases local junior freeride talent

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – During the 12th annual Headwaters Spring Runoff at Big Sky Resort on March 10-12, freestyle skiers and snowboarders from near and far demonstrated their technical abilities on the difficult, tight lines of some of Big Sky Resort’s steepest terrain.

Divisions for the junior event were broken down into girls and boys, skier and snowboarder sections in three separate age groups: 10-12, 12-14 and 15-18 year-olds.

Big Sky athletes came out in force. Riley Becker and Nehalem Manka took home first place in the girls 15-18 year-old division and 12-14 year-old division respectively. Skylar Manka claimed first in the 10-12 girls ski division, and Maria Lovely took third in the 15-18 girls ski division.

Holden Samuels, last year’s North American champion for 15-18 year-old snowboarders, had the highest-scoring run in his division on Sunday, but finished in third place. Big Sky Freeride athlete Isaac Singer took home first place in the 12-14 boys snowboard division; followed by Duncan Gentry, another Big Sky Freeride athlete, in third place. Elijah Singer won the 10-12 boys snowboard division.

The under-12 competition kicked off March 10 on the Obsidian terrain. The following day, the older divisions began competing on the cliffs, gullies and couloirs of the Headwaters cirque. The unique topography and steep terrain allowed riders to showcase their creativity and imagination while skiing technical, high-consequence lines.

Spectators were gathered in Stillwater Bowl to cheer on the athletes all weekend as they watched from an amphitheatre-like venue. On Sunday, most of the highest scorers from the older divisions had a chance to impress judges with lines down Hell Roaring and Firehole, which have some slopes approaching 55 degrees. The older sections were judged based on the cumulative score of two runs, one from each day.

“We were kind of worried about the conditions. It got warm and kind of rained a little bit on Friday, which was inspection day. But the temperatures cooled off, we got a little bit of fresh snow, and the venues were in great condition both days,” said Big Sky local Peter Manka, whose daughters cleaned up in the competition. “The Hellroaring venue on Sunday was wind-buffed and smooth and the kids were skiing very fast and fluid.”

The event was sanctioned by the International Freeskiers and Snowboarders Association and freeriders earned points toward national IFSA standings. Riders are judged based on line choice, control, fluidity, technique, style and energy. Cash prizes were awarded to the top three finishers from each section.

Manka said the IFSA tour is slated to wrap up in early April.



Jake Hultberg from Team Park City United demonstrates solid technique while ripping down Headwaters terrain.
PHOTO BY GABE PRIESTLEY

RESULTS

U-12 • GIRLS SKIING

Skylar Manka, Independent Final Score: 28.43
Ashley Dominick, Independent Final Score: 0

U-12 • BOYS SKIING

Kai Jones, Teton Valley Final Score: 29.5
Miles Coleman, Teton Valley Final Score: 27.93
Slader Rodman, Park City Final Score: 27.3

U-12 • BOYS SNOWBOARD

Elijah Singer, Independent Final Score: 27.1

12 – 14 • GIRLS SKIING

Nehalem Manka, Independent Final Score: 56.87
Morgan Kilmain, Jackson Hole Final Score: 56.17
Sarah Shenk, Independent Final Score: 26.27

AGES 12- 14 • BOYS SKIING

Carver Rodman, Park City Final Score: 63.27
Felix Hahn, Independent Final Score: 60.40
Gardner Dominick, Whitefish Mountain Final Score: 59.77

12-14 • BOYS SNOWBOARD

Isaac Singer, Big Sky Freeride Final Score: 52.50
Leo Zolik, Jackson Hole Final Score: 40.43
Duncan Gentry, Big Sky Freeride Final Score: 36.80

15-18 • GIRLS SKIING

Riley Becker, Big Sky Final Score: 57.30
Eliza Rohrer, Independent Final Score: 56.80
Maria Lovely, Independent Final Score: 30.03

15- 18 • BOYS SKIING

Alex Lundstrom, Park City Final Score: 66.20
Niko Hinz, Bridger Bowl Final Score: 64.63
Sidney Simard, Bridger Bowl Final Score: 64.63

15-18 • BOYS SNOWBOARD

Will Mercer, Jackson Hole Final Score: 56.63
Jesper Koski, NA Final Score: 53.47
Holden Samuels, Big Sky Final Score: 49.20



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Montana considers options to lure outdoor retailer expo

BY BOBBY CAINA CALVAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA— Montana Gov. Steve Bullock convened an outdoor recreation summit in the Capitol on March 9 as state officials explore a bid for one of the country’s largest outdoor trade expos.

The Outdoor Retailer Show could be held this summer in Salt Lake City for the last time. Organizers have said they would look for a new home for the event because of Utah’s political climate over public lands.

Colorado, Oregon and Montana have been mentioned as options.

Bullock invited representatives from 30 Montana-based outdoor companies to the Capitol on Thursday to talk about strengthening business opportunities. But they are also expected to talk about hosting the show.

Montana might not have the necessary facilities to host such a huge event, but officials said they were looking at their options.



Montana Gov. Steve Bullock outlines his public land platform at the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce annual dinner on June 15, 2016, at Big Sky Resort’s Huntley Lodge. PHOTO BY TYLER ALLEN

Forest Service looking for volunteer camp hosts

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

The U.S. Forest Service is looking for volunteer camp hosts to help manage several campgrounds throughout the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest for the upcoming 2017 camping season.

“We are looking for people who enjoy spending time outdoors, camping and meeting new people,” recreation program manager Noelle Meier said. “The services the camp hosts provide are invaluable to our visitors and us.”

Camp hosts help forest visitors by providing information, cleaning amenities and doing light facility maintenance. The hosts for Grasshopper Creek and Price Creek will also help with the administration and maintenance of the Crystal Park Day Use Site. All supplies and equipment needed for the cleaning and maintenance tasks are provided. Hosts are needed Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Hosting opportunities are available at the following Beaverhead-Deerlodge campsites:

- Near Butte: Beaverdam, Lowland, Sheepshead and Delmoe Lake. Contact Jocelyn Dodge at (406) 494-0246.
- Near Philipsburg: East Fork Reservoir or Spillway Campground. Contact Otto Lehman at (406) 494-0246, ext. 217.
- In the Big Hole and northern Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway area: Mussigbrod, Little Joe and Boulder Campgrounds. Contact John Ericson at (406) 832-3178.
- Along the Southern Pioneer Mountains Byway: Grasshopper Creek and Price Creek Campgrounds. Contact Matt Walter at (406) 683-3958.

If you’re interested in hosting, contact one of the employees listed above, or visit fs.usda.gov/bdnf or volunteer.gov.



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Smokin’ Aces competition to feature evening rail jam

SMOKIN’ ACES TOUR

Big Sky Resort will host the Montana Slopestyle Championship, a festival-style skiing and snowboarding competition held the weekend of March 25 in the Swifty and Swifty 2.0 terrain parks. This year the event will kick off with a rail jam in the Swifty 2.0 park the evening of Friday, March 24 and the Slopestyle Championship event will follow on Saturday.

This is the fourth year Big Sky has hosted a Smokin’ Aces event, and event director Billy Marcial expects more than 70 competitors to turn out. “The terrain park crew at Big Sky does an outstanding job and we are excited to kick off our event with a rail jam Friday,” Marcial said.

Last winter Schweitzer Mountain Resort, Whitefish Mountain Resort and Big Sky Resort hosted the 2016 Smokin’ Aces Tour, a three-stop freestyle competition series. This winter the events have been narrowed down to two state championship events, one at Big Sky Resort and another at Schweitzer Mountain Resort in Idaho.

Marcial said the switch to a festival-style event helps increase sponsor interest and allows more skiers and snowboarders to compete. “The first year we started there were very few competitions in the region so it made sense to spread the events over the winter. Now there are more sanctioned events being organized, which is a great sign of the growth in the sport, so it makes sense for us to have a one-stop state championship style event.”

The Montana Championship is open to all athletes, with no license or membership fees. “These events are open to all skiers and snowboarders and spectators are welcome,” Marcial said, adding that Smokin’ Aces events are among the most well attended freestyle competitions in the region.



PHOTO BY CRAIG MOORE/GLACIER WORLD

Preregistration for the event is available online and competitors can register the day of the event in the Mammoth Room of Mountain Mall from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Training will take place Saturday morning with the event scheduled to begin at 12 p.m.

The rail jam will include three divisions in both skiing and snowboarding: amateurs, open and women. Registration for the Rail Jam takes place at the bottom of Swifty 2.0 terrain park on Friday from 3:30-4:30 p.m.

For more information, visit smokingacestour.com.

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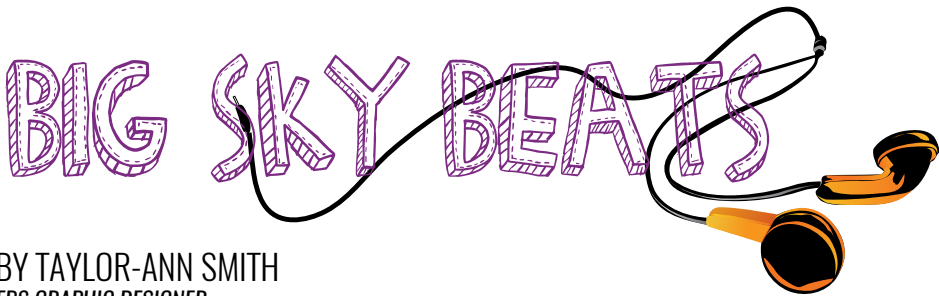
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BY TAYLOR-ANN SMITH
EBS GRAPHIC DESIGNER

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 a powder day, we’ve got you covered.

I absolutely love breakfast. And I love it even more when I get to enjoy it with my friends during a buffet-style brunch filled with mimosas, French toast, hash browns and over-stuffed omelets.

While Bozeman is known for having amazing breakfast joints, it’s fun to switch it up and host a brunch at home. My friends and I will each bring a dish and dine for hours while enjoying each other’s company—and sometimes while healing our hangovers from the night before. Hence why someone is always designated to bring a greasy, bacon-filled dish.

If you want to skip the waiting line for breakfast, put this mellow, indie playlist on for your next home brunch gathering:

- “Changes,” Langhorne Slim, The Law
- “Take It Back,” Liza Anne
- “Ooh Love,” Ria Mae
- “Aaron,” Paul Kalkbrenner
- “Bite My Tongue,” The Beach
- “Painting,” Lewis Del Mar
- “All I Ever Wonder,” St. Paul & The Broken Bones
- “Good As New,” Vacationer
- “Lot To Learn,” Luke Christopher
- “Catching Feelings,” Sam Sure

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

Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

		8			1	6		3
	1			7		9		
				9		7		2
				8				
						1		
		6				8	2	
	5		7	6				1
		3		2	9			
2		7	1				5	

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DIFFICULTY: ★☆☆☆

American Life in Poetry: Column 625

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

Nearly all of us have a story about once brushing up against somebody famous. On their honeymoon my father and mother went to New York City where they rode up in a hotel elevator with the famous striptease artist Gypsy Rose Lee. My father talked about those heady few moments for the rest of his life. Here’s Carol V. Davis of Los Angeles, pitching horseshoes with an admiral. This poem is from her most recent book, “Because I Cannot Leave This Body,” from Truman State University Press.

Admiral Nimitz
By Carol V. Davis

Every day in summer I’d cross the border;
he’d nod, pick up the horseshoes,
hand me one, triple the size
of my palm, and say, You first. We’d play
away the afternoon. Few words
punctuated the clank of horseshoe
against stake, until the fog rolled in
and I’d retrace my steps home.
I was five or six; he, white haired,
however old that meant.

One evening my father sat me down,
spoke in the exaggerated tone
adults adapt for children, asked

if I knew who he was.
Admiral Nimitz, of course, though
I knew nothing of his command
of the Pacific Fleet and was less impressed
than if he’d landed a horseshoe.

He was a calm man, a useful attribute
for sending young men to their deaths.
The only time I saw him upset,
raccoons had invaded from their hideouts
in the hills, attacked the goldfish in his pond,
leaving muddy footprints as they escaped.
As far as I knew, this was his only defeat.

We do not accept unsolicited submissions. American Life in Poetry 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 © 2016 by Carol V. Davis, “Admiral Nimitz,” from “Because I Cannot Leave This Body,” (Truman State University Press, 2017). Poem reprinted by permission of Carol V. Davis and the publisher. Poem first appeared in Atlanta Review, (Vol. XXII, no.2, Spring/Summer 2016). Introduction copyright © 2017 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction’s author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.

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BACK 40

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

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

Companion rescue

The deciding factor in an avalanche accident

BY ERIC KNOFF
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Backcountry skiing and snowmobiling has exploded in popularity over the past 10 years. Every winter more skiers and riders hit the backcountry in pursuit of steep faces and untracked powder. This type of riding has increased the inherent risk of being caught in an avalanche and on average, 30 people die in avalanches every year in the United States.

As skiing and snowmobiling technology evolves, so does the gear required to travel safely in the mountains. Carrying an avalanche transceiver, shovel and probe continues to be the standard for avalanche safety gear. However, new technologies such as airbag packs are improving the chances of survival for those caught or buried in an avalanche.

Airbag packs are designed to help prevent deep burials, ultimately decreasing search and excavation time. If properly deployed, these packs improve the buried individual's chances of survival by nearly 15 percent. It must be noted that airbag packs are not designed to replace your avalanche beacon.

However, having the best rescue equipment does not guarantee a successful recovery, because one in four avalanche fatalities are a result of trauma. Despite the advancements of rescue technology, even if a person doesn't die from trauma, they still have less than a 50 percent chance of surviving if completely buried. The more quickly a buried individual is uncovered, the better chance they have of surviving.



Having partners in the backcountry is important for both assessing the snowpack, as seen here, and increasing the likelihood of an avalanche victim's survival.

Time is of the essence—recent research indicates that a fully buried victim without trauma has an 80 percent chance of survival if uncovered in less than 10 minutes. The chance of survival plummets from there: if buried for 12 minutes the chance of survival drops to 40 percent and after 30 minutes the likelihood of survival drops to 20 percent.

The best formula for surviving an avalanche burial is through companion rescue. For this strategy to work, each group member must have rescue gear and know how to use it.



The survival of a skier or rider buried by an avalanche depends on companions digging them out quickly—techniques like strategic shoveling can significantly improve those odds. PHOTOS COURTESY OF GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST AVALANCHE CENTER

Transceiver practice is essential, but it's also important that backcountry enthusiasts practice the other components of companion rescue. As new transceiver technologies speed up search times, attention is being focused on more efficient probing and shoveling techniques. Practicing strategic shoveling is now equally as important as practicing transceiver searches.

Strategic shoveling involves standing on the downhill side of the probe and using gravity to assist in the extrication process. Begin the excavation downhill of the probe strike approximately 1.5 times the burial depth. All excavations should begin by moving snow to the sides, because it's important to not have to move snow twice. If more than one shoveler is available, form a conveyer belt that moves snow downhill and forms an open space to remove the victim.

As technology improves, it's important that skiers and riders understand the capabilities of their gear, partners and rescue training. Take an avalanche class, practice with your gear and be sure your partners are knowledgeable in the latest rescue techniques. The hard truth is that if you get buried in a slide, it's going to be your partner's responsibility to save your life.

Be safe out there.

Eric Knoff is an avalanche forecaster for the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center. He's been a public forecaster the past seven winters, and also spent four seasons as an avalanche forecaster for the Going-to-the-Sun Road plowing operation in Glacier National Park.

Visit mtavalanche.com to view the daily avalanche advisory for southwest Montana and send your snowpack observations to mtavalanche@gmail.com.

Section 4: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Auction features local favorites pg. 50

WMPAC season coming to a close pg. 53

Fly Fishing Film Tour in Big Sky pg. 57

Big Sky PBR named finalist for Montana Tourism Event of the Year

Tickets for 2017 event go on sale June 1

OUTLAW PARTNERS PBR COVERAGE

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Beneath a late July sky, in the heart of southwestern Montana, some of the top professional bull riders in the world will rip out of the Big Sky PBR Arena chutes, Lone Mountain standing tall in the background. Big Sky Professional Bull Riders returns for its seventh year this July, complete with two days of bull riding, a golf tournament, the second annual Big Sky Art Auction and three nights of free music.

Recently announced as a finalist for the 2017 Montana Tourism Event of the Year, Big Sky PBR brings together the roughest bulls in the business and some of the toughest riders in the world as a part of the national Real Time Pain Relief Velocity Tour.



Forty of the top bull riders in the world will compete on champion contending bulls in the seventh annual Big Sky Professional Bull Riders event July 28 and 29.

“PBR is a highlight of the summer season in Big Sky and as the event has grown, it has become a measuring stick for continued growth and energy for all of Big Sky,” said Matt Kidd, a principal with CrossHarbor Capital Partners, at the close of last year’s event in an email to EBS.

In 2017, the event is growing again with the addition of the PBR Rider Relief Golf Tournament fundraiser on Wednesday, July 26, at Spanish Peaks Mountain Club. Returning from last year, the Big Sky Art Auction will be held July 27 under the big tent at PBR Arena. Following the auction, Turnpike Troubadours will take to Town Center Stage at the official PBR kickoff party during Thursday night’s Music in the Mountains.

On July 28 and 29, bull riders from around the world will each ride to compete in the final championship round on Saturday night, when the top 10 riders of the event will have eight seconds at a chance to win overall. Music will start on the SAV stage directly after the riding, with free performances by James McMurtry on Friday and the Jamie McLean Band on Saturday.

Visitors can expect rides scoring into the 90s, as stock contractor Chad Berger brings world champion contending bulls to the event each year, said Jacey Watson, of co-producer Freestone Productions.

At the end of each PBR season, qualifying riders vote on the best PBR event, and in 2016 Big Sky PBR won PBR Event of the Year for the fourth consecutive year.

“These bull riders probably go to 40 events a year. They’ve toured around, been coast to coast ... and Big Sky stands out to them,” Watson said. The event is held in the Big Sky PBR Arena, constructed in the fields behind Town Center Park.

It started seven years ago when Big Sky PBR co-producers Outlaw Partners (publisher of EBS), Freestone Productions and Continental Construction met in a sagebrush field to plan the construction of the perfect bull-riding venue, planning to bring PBR to Big Sky for the very first time.

“It grew from the sagebrush up, from a mid-week event on an entry level division of the PBR, to a week full of community events that impact the local economy and attract the best stock contractors and cowboys from around the world,” said Ersin Ozer, media and events director for Outlaw Partners.

With an estimated 11,000 attendees coming out for PBR weekend last year, the co-producers are beginning to describe the event as “Big Sky’s Biggest Week,” and sponsors and visitors alike are excited for what 2017 will bring.

“[The 2016] Big Sky PBR was a top-notch event and one of, if not our best of, the year,” said Cory Wiese, ranch and rodeo marketing manager for Yeti Coolers, a Big Sky PBR sponsor. “It was fantastic for us to be able to partner up with a group of folks who are also on top of their game and be a part of the excitement. We’ve been looking forward to 2017 ever since.”

Tickets for the 2017 Big Sky PBR go on sale June 1 at bigskypbr.com. For vendor and sponsorship opportunities email ersin@theoutlawpartners.com or call (406) 451-4073.



2016 Big Sky PBR event attendees check out the SAV stage after the bull riding competition wrapped up. The Turnpike Troubadours will kick off the 2017 event with a July 27 performance on Town Center Stage, James McMurtry will play July 28 and Jamie McLean Band plays July 29, both on SAV stage near PBR Arena. All shows are free. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTOS



Michael Ome Untiedt

Finding modern day meaning in Western iconography

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY - Western art, with its recurring imagery of horses, cowboys and Native American life, can run the risk of redundancy. But sometimes an artist can tackle the same subject matter in such a way that sets his work apart. Such is the case with Denver, Colorado artist Michael Ome Untiedt.

His oil paintings distinguished themselves amid a large collection of Western-themed artwork for reasons difficult to pinpoint beyond exuding a timelessness that tugs gently on the heartstrings of nostalgia; and an almost otherworldly quality of illumination.



Denver artist Michael Ome Untiedt employs iconography of the American West to illuminate the predicaments of 21st century life. PHOTO BY DONNA UNTIEDT

Untiedt, who is one of the few non-Montana artists participating the Arts Council of Big Sky's fifth annual art auction on March 23, believes there is more to it than that.

"The image must reflect something more than itself," Untiedt said. "Otherwise you're just making images—you're a manufacturer. The great art produced by mankind always, without exception, had tremendous meaning. Without having meaning, it's not real art."

Untiedt's oil paintings depict classic Western subject matter—sagging barns, spirited cowboys, aging mountain men and dramatic skies—but are created with a conscious intent to create resonance between his renditions of yesteryear's American West and the modern day psyche.

"I attempt to portray 21st century predicaments of life and psychology using the iconography of the 19th century cowboy or Western figure," Untiedt said.

Untiedt writes stories to accompany each of his paintings to better explain the deeper meaning and present day relevance behind the picture. One of his many blue-lit "nocturnes" or nighttime paintings called "On Occasion the Cowhand from La Mancha Would Display a Considerable Lack of Control" shows a white-bearded man caught in a moment of surprise upon a rowdy horse.

The piece is one of many inspired by the great Spanish novel "Don Quixote," which Untiedt synthesizes as a tale about "the misadventures of ... a crazed knight wannabe, reviving and reliving the myths and 'histories' of the golden age of knights and chivalry." In the vein of Cervantes' epic, Untiedt is also playing with humanity's tendency to confuse the mythology and folklore of the past with the realities of the present.

"It is as timely today as it was four hundred years ago," Untiedt writes about "Don Quixote" in the text associated with this particular painting. "Particularly if one were to replace the knight [errant] with today's myths of the American cowboy. We today, have created a very quixotic world built around a vague understanding of the history and development of the American West."

For the Arts Council of Big Sky art auction, Untiedt will complete a quick finish of a piece based on a completed study called "Storm Rider II." The scene, of a cowhand atop a bucking horse with more sky than ground beneath them, was drawn from memories growing up on the sweeping prairielands of southeast Colorado, 10 miles from the Kansas border. Untiedt remembers working with old timers who cursed "green" horses that acted up while they were in the middle of working cattle.

"The scene I most recall ... is the rider trying hard to pull the [horse's] head up, trying to keep ropes together, and grabbing anything that allows them to stay aboard."

He goes on to draw a correlation between the cowboy's attempt to wrangle the chaotic energy of the horse with the sometimes daunting task of managing our modern day lives. Untiedt believes viewers pick up on these cues subconsciously which elevates the painting's poignancy.

Whether or not you know the rambling tales and ruminating philosophies behind each of Untiedt's paintings, they add unseen, but perceived layers of potency to his work. It's up to each beholder how deeply to delve into the fine print, or if basking in the wordless glow of his paint is enough.

"I take the role of being an artist very, very seriously, and with a great deal of responsibility," Untiedt said. "Art is a definer of civilization, of culture. It's what inspires the great thoughts and helps raise humanity ... It's what sets us apart as a species—using acts of beauty to pass on aspects of our culture. I'm not always successful, but I've dedicated my life to trying."

This is the final part of a three-part series spotlighting artists participating in the Arts Council of Big Sky's fifth annual art auction on Thursday, March 23 at Moonlight Lodge from 6 to 9 p.m.

To see more of Untiedt's work visit michaelomeuntiedt.com.

For more information about the auction, including details about opportunities for VIP ticket holders call (406) 995-2742 or visit bigskyarts.org, where you can also view a full catalog of artists featured in the auction.



Untiedt will perform a quick finish demonstration of a piece based on the above study, 'Storm Rider II,' during the Arts Council of Big Sky Art Auction on March 23. PHOTO BY MICHAEL OME UNTIEDT

Auction for the Arts to feature work by regional heavyweights, local favorites

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

On Thursday, March 23, join the local community for a night of art, food and fun to support the Arts Council of Big Sky. The fifth annual Auction for the Arts will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. at Moonlight Lodge.

In addition to a live auction featuring 19 well-known artists, the event includes a silent auction with original, one-of-a-kind pieces from local and regional artists. "We have impressive silent auction items," said silent auction coordinator Katie Alvin. "We have great paintings, ceramics and sculptures, and beautiful hand-made jewelry. There's something for everyone."

Among the many intriguing pieces in the silent auction is the sterling silver "Double Mountain Ram Skull Belt Buckle," designed by Ellie Thompson of Polaris, Montana, and Chicago.

Another new participant is glass artist Tad Bradley of Bozeman, whose piece consists of 482 individual pieces of glass fused into a unique wall panel. Bradley is an early supporter of the Arts Council's ARTventure program. He hosted groups of Lone Peak High School students in his studio this year and last to explore his career and complete hands-on fusion glass projects.

Paintings in the silent auction range from abstract to contemporary, impasto to mixed media collage, wildlife to landscapes. "We have a little bit of everything," Alvin said.

The evening's festivities begin with a "Quick Finish" event, in which invited artists will complete paintings or sculptures while talking and interacting with guests. The finished pieces will be sold in a live auction conducted by art auctioneer Troy Black. The evening concludes with the closing of the silent auction.

Linda Goldinger, art auction committee chair, said the event is the Arts Council's primary fundraiser. "The Auction for the Arts has been attracting art enthusiasts



Sterling silver "Double Mountain Ram Skull Belt Buckle", designed by Ellie Thompson of Chicago and Polaris, Montana. PHOTO COURTESY OF ELLIE THOMPSON.

for five years," she said. "It's a chance to acquire some great and rare artwork, while supporting the Arts Council and the arts throughout Big Sky."

"The Arts Council, once known primarily for the summer concert series, has broadened its focus to public art, art education, film, theater, dance and more. This year, we'd like to surpass the monies raised in previous years, to help fund all these initiatives," Goldinger said.

Auction tickets are available for purchase, including VIP tickets that include a March 22 reception for artist Kevin Red Star and lunch with the artists on March 23. For more information on the event, including information about participating artists, or to purchase tickets, visit bigskyarts.org or call the Arts Council at (406) 995-2742.

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“On the Shoulders of Giants” screens at the Emerson Cultural Center

GALLATIN VALLEY LAND TRUST

The community is invited to a free film on March 21 that celebrates the legacy of private land conservation across Montana. “On The Shoulders of Giants” was produced by Bozeman filmmaker and photographer Eric Ian to mark the 40th anniversary of the first conservation easement secured in Montana.

The film includes interviews with pioneers of private land conservation in Montana like Hank Goetz, Land Lindbergh, Rock Ringling and Dave Carr. The cinematography gives viewers a breathtaking overview of conservation projects around the state—from the Blackfoot Valley to the grasslands of eastern Montana—and highlights the partnerships responsible for the conservation of 2.4 million acres of private land in the state.

The film will be accompanied by remarks from Ian, who will share his experience creating the film, as well as Doug Mitchell, deputy director of the Montana Department of Commerce and former managing director of Montana Land Reliance. Mitchell will talk about why the Department of Commerce is committed to recognizing and advancing private lands conservation.

The Montana Association of Land Trusts, an organization composed of 12 non-profit land trusts from around Montana, will screen “On the Shoulder of Giants” on March 21 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Weaver Room of Bozeman’s Emerson Cultural Center.

For more information, call the Gallatin Valley Land Trust at (406) 587-8404, ext. 8.

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**BIG SKY DISCOVERY ACADEMY
AND LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH**
are hosting one remaining Skate or Classic
Nordic races located in Town Center.

Date:
Thursday March 23rd

Registration starts at 4 pm
\$5.00 Registration Fee for all participants
PBR Arena grand stands in Town Center

Races begin as mass start at 5 pm
PBR Arena grand stands in Town Center

Courses:
5 Kilometers for adults ages 16 and older
3 K course for kids 10 to 15 years old
1 K course for kids 9 years and below

CONTACT US TODAY

nancy@bigskydiscoveryacademy.org | 406.993.2008 | bigskydiscoveryacademy.org

WMPAC closes season with original production inspired by ‘Moby Dick’

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – A fast paced, bluegrass-infused adaptation of “Moby Dick” called “Ishmael” will have its world debut at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on Saturday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Like January’s “The Winter Tale,” “Ishmael” is an original production developed during WMPAC’s Summer Conservatory program and created specifically for the Big Sky venue. It is the final performance of the 2017 winter season.

Drawing freely from the Herman Melville classic, “Ishmael” employs a single actor and three bluegrass musicians to enliven the tale of a restless country schoolteacher who decides a sea voyage could provide the change of pace he needs. He signs onto a three-year whaling trip with a captain he’s never met, and quickly finds himself in over his head. Cleverly whittled down to a 90-minute retelling intertwined with live bluegrass music, “Ishmael” transforms the notoriously thick tome into an approachable, engaging yarn.

“Ishmael” is another example of the ongoing collaboration between WMPAC and a growing network of Minneapolis-based theater artists that began with the center’s longstanding creative partnership with James Sewell Ballet.

In July 2016, as part of the Big Sky Conservatory, a residency program that brings top professional performance artists to Big Sky, WMPAC hosted Twin Cities’ actor Jack Weston, writer-director Leo Geter and members of the band Pert Near Sandstone. The artists spent a week in the mountains on the WMPAC stage and in the classrooms of the Big Sky School District while conceiving and forming the major themes of the play.

“Ishmael” first evolved out of a production of “The White Whale” performed at the Minnesota Fringe Festival in 2015. The Warren Miller Performing Arts Center and a Minneapolis-based producer with Big Sky ties partnered to form a scaled up version with a new adapted script by Geter and score performed by members of Pert Near Sandstone.

Tickets for “Ishmael” can be purchased at warrenmillerpac.org.



Director Leo Geter works with musician Kevin Kniebel of bluegrass band Pert Near Sandstone on some musical ideas on how to intertwine the narrative of ‘Ishmael.’ PHOTO COURTESY OF WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

**OPHIR SCHOOL 2017-2018
KINDERGARTEN ROUND UP**

Students Entering August 2017

Who are 5 years old on or before 9/10/17
Wed., April 12, 7:45 am-5:45 pm
Ophir Elementary Office

Bring: birth certificate, complete immunization record, proof of residency for Big Sky School District (physical address)

Questions: 406-995-4281 or lnell@bssd72.org

A cartoon illustration of a young cowboy with blonde hair, wearing a brown cowboy hat, a white shirt with a red bandana, blue jeans, and brown boots. He is holding a lasso and looking towards the text.

SCOTTSDALE ART AUCTION

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2017



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EVENTS CALENDAR

PLANNING AN EVENT? LET US KNOW! EMAIL MEDIA@THEOUTLAWPARTNERS.COM, AND WE'LL SPREAD THE WORD.

FRIDAY, MARCH 17 – THURSDAY, MARCH 30

***If your event falls between March 31 and April 13, please submit it by March 24**

Big Sky

FRIDAY, MARCH 17
Western Region U16 Championships
Big Sky Resort, all day

St. Patrick's Day Celebration
Lone Peak Brewery, all day

Gallatin Grass Project
Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Raja Yoga Experience Workshops
Yoga Stone, 4:15 p.m.

Yoga Stories
Yoga Stone, 6:15 p.m.

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 7 p.m.

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18
Western Region U16 Championships
Big Sky Resort, all day

Shedhorn Ski Mo
Big Sky Resort, all day

Integration of Yoga and Chakras
Yoga Stone, 9 a.m.

Opening to Your Intuition
Santosha, 2 p.m.

Kent Johnson
Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

Live Music
Rainbow Ranch, 5 p.m.

James Sewall Ballet
WMPAC, 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19
Western Region U16 Championships
Big Sky Resort, all day

Opening to Your Intuition
Santosha, 9 a.m.

Stumpy Sunday
Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

Introduction to Meditation
Yoga Stone, 5:30 p.m.

Adult Drop-In Hockey
Town Center Park, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 20
Prime Rib Monday
320 Guest Ranch, 5 p.m.

Kids Hockey
Town Center Park, 5:30 p.m.

Adult Drop-In Hockey
Town Center Park, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21
Community Learning Center
Big Sky Discovery Academy, 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22
Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

Fly Fishing Film Tour
Lone Peak Cinema, 5 p.m.

Awareness Wednesday
Santosha, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23
Dan Dubuque
Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Community Learning Center
Big Sky Discovery Academy, 4 p.m.

Skate or Classic Nordic Races
Town Center Dog Loop, 4 p.m.

Fly Tying with GRG
Gallatin River Guides, 5 p.m.

Kids Hockey
Town Center Park, 5:30 p.m.

5th Annual Auction for the Arts
Moonlight Basin Lodge, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24
Smokin' Aces Tour
Big Sky Resort, all day

Parvin
Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

37th Annual Pie Auction
Buck's T-4, 6 p.m.

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 7 p.m.

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25
Smokin' Aces Tour
Big Sky Resort, all day

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

Live Music
Rainbow Ranch, 5 p.m.

Ishmael
WMPAC, 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
Smokin' Aces Tour
Big Sky Resort, all day

Telemark Tom
Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

Adult Drop-In Hockey
Town Center Park, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 27
Kids Hockey
Town Center Park, 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28
Community Learning Center
Big Sky Discovery Academy, 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29
Live Music
Lone Mountain Ranch, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30
Dan Dubuque
Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Community Learning Center
Big Sky Discovery Academy, 4 p.m.

Fly Tying with GRG
Gallatin River Guides, 5 p.m.

King Crab Feast
Lone Peak Brewery, reservations recommended

Bozeman

FRIDAY, MARCH 17
Claudia Williams
Kountry Korner Café, 5:30 p.m.

Bozambique
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Dave Hollier
Wild Joe's Coffee Spot

Nikki Lane
The Filling Station, 7 p.m.

Family Movie: Darby O'Gill and the Little People
The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Helium
Kaleidoscope Youth Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Buzz Cason and Robert Cline Jr.
Live From the Divide, 8 p.m.

Cool McCool & The Spies
American Legion, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18
Bozeman Winter Farmers Market
Emerson Ballroom, 9 a.m.

Bozeman Brew Off
Bridger Brewing, 11:30 a.m.

Open Mic Night
Wild Joe's Coffee Spot, 5 p.m.

Helium
Kaleidoscope Youth Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

The Second Chance Prom: 3rd Time's a Charm
Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 8 p.m.

Cool McCool & The Spies
American Legion, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19
High Altitude Tea Service
Townshend's Bozeman Teahouse, 10 a.m.

Spring Equinox Dual GS
Bridger Bowl, 11 a.m.

Bozeman Brew Off
Bridger Brewing, 11:30 a.m.

Remote Control Car Racing
American Legion, noon

Voices of Choice: A Benefit for the Susan Wicklund Fund
The Baxter Hotel, 3 p.m.

Edis Kitrell
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Bridger Mountain Big Band
Eagles Lodge, 7 p.m.

Kenny Diamond
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 20
Ballroom & Swing Dance Classes
The MAC, 6 p.m.

Dead Man Winter
The Filling Station, 7 p.m.

Spanish Class with Kristin ND Wolf
Lockhorn Cider House, 7:30 p.m.

Improv on the Verge
Verge Theatre, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21
Tours for Tots
Museum of the Rockies, 10 a.m.

Lucas Biespiel
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

On the Shoulders of Giants
The Emerson, 6 p.m.

Broken Ground Workshop
Lockhorn Cider House, 7 p.m.

Journey with Special Guest Asia
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7:30 p.m.

Dirtwire
The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22
Peter King
Outlaw Brewing, 6 p.m.

Cricket Adventure
Cowboy Cricket Farm, 6 p.m.

Science Inquiry Series
Museum of the Rockies, 7 p.m.

2017 Mountain Lion Season Meeting
Headwaters Community Center, 7 p.m.

Eric Church
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 8 p.m.

Trivia
The Molly Brown, 8 p.m.

Grant Farm
The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23
Tours for Tots
Museum of the Rockies, 10 a.m.

The Vibe Quartet
406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

Backcountry Woman Series:
Backpacking Basics
REI, 6 p.m.

Chad Okrusch
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

TAUK
The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24
MSU Bobcat Ski Day
Bridger Bowl, 9 a.m.

Claudia Williams
Kountry Korner Café, 5:30 p.m.

9th Annual Spelling Bee
Riverside Country Club, 6 p.m.

Edis
Wild Joe's Coffee Spot, 6 p.m.

Trivia Night: Blade Runner
The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Bingo at the Baxter
The Baxter Hotel, 7 p.m.

Helium
Kaleidoscope Youth Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

The Werks with Cure for the Common
Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 8 p.m.

Strangeways
American Legion, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25
Carving out Hunger Food Drive
Bridger Bowl, 9 a.m.

Crocs Family Day
Museum of the Rockies, 10 a.m.

Get Ready to Backpack
REI, 11 a.m.

Organic Gardening Made Easy
Broken Ground, 1 p.m.

The Emperor's New Clothes
Verge Theater, 2 p.m.

42nd Annual Chord Rustlers Show
Emerson's Crawford theatre, 3 p.m.

Gloves Off Gala
The Commons at Baxter and Love, 5:30 p.m.

Skavacado
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Sky Choice
Wild Joe's Coffee Spot, 6 p.m.

James Hill
The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Helium
Kaleidoscope Youth Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Horseshoes & Hand Grenades with
Rabbit Wilde
Eagles Lodge, 8 p.m.

Strangeways
American Legion, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
Remote Control Car Racing
Bozeman American Legion, noon

Petty John's Underground
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Kevin Grastorg
Outlaw Brewing, 6 p.m.

Bridger Mountain Big Band
Eagles Lodge, 7 p.m.

The Ghost of Paul Revere
The Filling Station, 7 p.m.

Little Jane & the Pistol Whips
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 27
Defenders of Wildlife Pint Night
MAP Brewing, 5 p.m.

Ballroom & Swing Dance Classes
The MAC, 6 p.m.

Spanish Class with Kristin ND Wolf
Lockhorn Cider House, 7:30 p.m.

Lecture by Conrad Anker and Jimmy Chin
MSU SUB Ballroom, 7:30 p.m.

Christ Shiflett of Foo Fighters
Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28
Café Scientifique
Baxter Hotel, 6 p.m.

Brews & The Big Sky
Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Tommy Georges
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Broken Ground Workshop
Lockhorn Cider House, 7 p.m.

A Season of Predators
Emerson’s Crawford Theatre, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29
Sack Lunch Seminar
MSU SUB, noon

BPW Awards Ceremony
The Emerson, 5:30 p.m.

Spring Bike Maintenance Basics
REI, 6 p.m.

Elise R. Donohue Lecture
Museum of the Rockies, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30
The Vibe Quartet
406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

IBU’s
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Hooligans
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Random Acts of Improv
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

RECURRING EVENTS:
Pints with Purpose
Bridger Brewing, Mondays, 5 p.m.

Burgers & Bingo
Eagles Lodge, Friday Nights, 5:30 p.m.

Open Mic Night
The Haufbrau, Sundays, Mondays, and
Wednesdays at 10:30 p.m.

Karaoke
American Legion, Mondays, 9 p.m.

Cribbage Night
Eagles Lodge, Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Rockin’ R Bingo
Rockin’ R Bar, Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

Karaoke
Bar IX, Tuesdays, 9 p.m.

Music & Mussels
Bridger Brewing, Wednesdays, 5 p.m.

Pickin’ in the Parks
The Story Mansion, Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Bluegrass Thursdays with The Bridger Creek
Boys
Red Tractor Pizza, Thursdays, 7 p.m.
Bozeman’s Original Pub Trivia
Pub 317, Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Karaoke
Eagles Lodge, Thursdays, 8:30 p.m.

Yoga for All
Bozeman Public Library, Tuesdays at 11 a.m and
12 p.m.

Walk for the Health of It
Peet’s Hill, Fridays at noon

Livingston & Paradise Valley
FRIDAY, MARCH 17
Conley’s Books and Music Grand Opening
Conley’s Books and Music, 12 p.m.

Bebe Le Boeuf Duo
Uncorked, 5 p.m.

Art Reception
Livingston Center for Art & Culture, 5:30 p.m.

St. Patrick’s Day Party
Pine Creek Lodge, 6 p.m.

Rob Lethert
Office Lounge, 7 p.m.

Blackwater Band
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

Gary Small & The Coyote Brothers
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18
YPL Garage Sale
Yellowstone Pioneer Lodge, 8 a.m.

Ledbak
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Jason Moreland
Neptune’s Brewery, 5:30 p.m.

Blackwater Band
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

Gary Small & The Coyote Brothers
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 20
Bluegrass Jam
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Shelly Besler & Tony Polecastro
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21
Pints for a Purpose: Joe Brooks Chapter 25
Katabatic Brewing, 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22
Juan Soria
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23
2017 Fly Fishing Film Tour
Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 6 p.m.

Park High Choir Concert
Park High School, 7 p.m.

Erin & The Project
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24
Quenby Unplugged
Uncorked, 5 p.m.

Ski Give Away Party
Katabatic Brewing, 5 p.m.

Classic Country & Blues
Pine Creek Lodge, 6 p.m.

Fashion Show
The Buckhorn, 7 p.m.

www.twang
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

Way Station
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25
Logan Auction
Park County Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.

Shelly Besler
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Scott Boehler and Bob Bramblett
Neptune’s Brewery, 5:30 p.m.

One Leaf Clover
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

www.twang
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 27
Travis Yost
The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

Bluegrass Jam
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Love is a Dog from Nebraska
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28
Pints for PTO: Washington Elementary
Katabatic Brewing, 4 p.m.

Ultimate Frisbee Pickup
Livingston Civic Center, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29
Yellowstone River Closure Updates
Park County Fairgrounds, 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30
Laney Lou & The Bird Dogs
Soundcolor Studios, 7:30 p.m.

KayIn Beasly
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

West Yellowstone
FRIDAY, MARCH 17
Chess Club
West Yellowstone Public Library, 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18
Live Poker
The Buffalo Bar, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 20
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 21
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 23
Knit Night
Stagecoach Inn, 6 p.m.

Rachel’s Paint N Sip
Gallery on the Go, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25
Live Poker
The Buffalo Bar, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 27
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 30
Knit Night
Stagecoach Inn, 6 p.m.

Ennis

FRIDAY, MARCH 17
William Ennis Birthday Bash
Ennis Elementary, 5 p.m.

Unfortunate Cookies
Willie’s Distillery, 5:30 p.m.

Lane Norberg
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 18
Murder Mystery Fairytale
Madison Valley Public Library, 5:30 p.m.

MRFC Ladies Night
Madison River Fishing Company, 6 p.m.

Cole Thorne
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 19
Mathias
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22
Solar Energy Workshop
Madison Valley Public Library, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24
Ruby Valley Bo with Barb Wire
Willie’s Distillery, 5:30 p.m.

Juan Soria
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25
Tom Georges
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
Lang Termes
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 28
Cancer Support Group
Madison Valley Medical Center, 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29
Madison Watershed Planning
Ennis School Cafeteria, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30
A Hearing Clinic
Madison Square Athletic Club, 10 a.m.

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2017 Fly Fishing Film Tour makes a splash in Big Sky March 22

GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

The Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T) returns to Big Sky on Wednesday, March 22 at Lone Peak Cinema, with showings at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. The 2017 tour showcases nine fly-fishing films from around the world. From pursuing giant predatory fish in Siberia that have never been caught on a fly, to scouting tarpon by paraglider in Florida, to pursuing tarpon and permit with a legendary Mexican angler, the 2017 short films promise to take viewers on a journey from one corner of the globe to the other. Other filming locations include Idaho, Kamchatka, Alaska and our own backyard.

Two films stand out for showcasing the accomplishments of women in a male-dominated industry. “Odd Man Out” highlights the exploits of Alaska-born, Montana-transplant Camille Egendorf, star of “Providence,” as she carves her niche in the fly-fishing world. In “Old Friends New Fish,” winner of the Trout Unlimited Women in Fly Fishing Film Grant, three women celebrate 20 years of friendship on Montana rivers.

In addition to showcasing the best fly-fishing films, the F3T continues to partner with local fly shops and conservation organizations across the country. The 2016 tour raised more than \$300,000 to support education and conservation projects that enhance the sport of fly fishing.

The Big Sky premier of the 2017 Fly Fishing Film Tour on March 22 is free, however proceeds from the event will support the conservation work of the Gallatin River Task Force.

Visit flyfilmtour.com for more information on the film tour or to watch the film trailers.



ABOVE: Set in Mexico and produced by RA Beattie, “Corazón” is the story of the unlikely friendship between two anglers and the willingness of the fly fishing industry to rally around a guide in need. PHOTO BY BRYAN GREGSON

BELOW: “120 Days,” produced by Felt Soul Media, captures the love of Tarpon fishing in Florida’s waters. It is one of nine films to be shown at the annual Fly Fishing Film Tour in Big Sky March 22. PHOTO BY FELT SOUL MEDIA



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MARCH 25

MARCH 25

MARCH 26

MARCH 31

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The Hooligans at the Trap

White Lightning Open Mic Night At The Trap

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Rubber Legs Banked Slalom

Clusterpluck at the Trap

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Intuition- The What- The Where- The Why with Elizabeth Thorson, RN, Medical Intuitive and Intuitive Consultant
March 22, 6:30-7:30 pm.

Opening to Your Intuition
with Elizabeth Thorson, RN, Medical Intuitive & Intuitive Consultant March 18 & 19

A Weekend Yoga Workshop with Benjamin Sears
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5:00-6:15pm All Levels Yoga	9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga	7:00-8:00am All Levels Yoga	7:30-8:30am All Levels Yoga	8:15-9:15am All Levels Yoga	9:00-10:15am Level II Yoga	9:00-10:15am Ashtanga/Vinyasa Flow (all levels)
8:00-9:00pm Candlelit Yin	4:30-5:30pm Apres Ski Yoga	9:30-10:45am Vinyasa Flow (all Levels)	9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga	9:30-10:30am All Levels Yoga	11:00-12:00pm Restorative Yoga	
	5:45-7:00pm Heated Vinyasa Flow	6:30-7:45pm All Levels Yoga	11:00-12:30pm The Practice Level II-III Yoga	6:30-7:45pm All Levels Yoga	3:15-4:00pm Kids Yoga, 3rd-5th	
					4:15-4:45pm Kids Yoga, K-2nd	



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

David Long: Serious writer

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

My high school English teacher used to say that in novels there is character evolution, while in short stories there are character revelations. David Long is a writer who has mastered both techniques.

Long grew up in rural Massachusetts and studied at the University of Montana during the 1970s—the heyday of the M.F.A. program—under acclaimed writers and teachers like Richard Hugo, Madeline DeFrees and Bill Kittredge. He began his studies as a poet and emerged as a promising writer of short fiction.

Long then moved to Kalispell in northwest Montana and spent almost three decades in Flathead County before moving to Tacoma, Washington, in 1999. Many of his best short stories are located in Sperry County, his fictionalized account of Flathead County.

Ever-present in his writing is his love for the Pacific Northwest, from Seattle to Helena. Some reviewers of his work talk about his evocative descriptions of harsh, barren Western landscapes, but for the most part, his stories are located in fertile mountain valleys.

In the same vein, many critics have misread Long's style as mundane, run-down and despairing. Sure, his characters are often drifters, ne'er-do-wells, long distance truckers or cowboys with hidden scars just getting by, making tough decisions and living with them. Better readings of his work reveal Long's ability to confront the everyday head-on, and when he is at his best, his stripped-down, colloquial sentences seem to re-enchant the commonplace.

We are lucky that writers like Long were able to buck the literary trend of romanticizing life in rural mid-century Montana. The authenticity of his descriptions slowly builds along with simple plotlines, giving his narrative arc a trajectory that culminates in brilliant moments of catharsis for confused, down-and-out characters.

In his short story "Eclipse," this line reverberates with the weight of the entire story behind it: "You see how it is with trouble and happiness, There are some good moments, aren't there. Were you asking for more than that?"

In one interview, Long said, "A novelist creates more of a world and fills it up; a short story writer uses much more suggestion ... you leap from there to the next sentence. Whereas, often, a novelist puts in every stepping-stone."

While Long can also now call himself an accomplished novelist, winning various awards for "The Falling Boy" (1997), "The Daughters of Simon Lamoreaux" (2000), and "The Inhabited World" (2006), I would recommend his third collection of short stories, "Blue Spruce" (1997). In almost every piece, Long's skill at leaping from sentence to sentence, stone to stone, leads to moments of suggestion where characters reveal deep truths that were hidden in plain sight.

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

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