Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

December 8 - 21, 2017 Volume 8 // Issue #25

Explore

Big Sky Community Organization acquires Beehive parcel

The New West: our shrinking national monuments

Longtime LPHS coaches retire

Fat bike race roundup

Special section: Real Estate Guide

• OUTLAW

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ON THE COVER: This photograph was taken at the 2016 Bozeman Ice Festival during a clinic at ice-climbing route Thin Chance at Hyalite Falls, visible from Grotto Falls Trail. The Bozeman Ice Festival is currently ongoing through Dec. 10 with daytime activities in Hyalite Canyon and evening events at the Emerson Center for Arts & Culture. PHOTO BY HEATHER MCKENNEY

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The New West: our shrinking national monuments



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Fat bike race roundup







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Ophir Middle School fifth-grader Frieda Fabozzi performed in the Nutcracker alongside professional dancers in the Dec. 3 performance, a presentation of the Arts Council of Big Sky. PHOTO BY MATT DODD

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.

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THE HIGHLANDS Spanish Peaks Mountain Club

New Construction 3-4 Bedrooms | 3-5 Baths 2914 SF - 3331 SF From \$2,025,000



120 HOMESTEAD CABIN FORK Spanish Peaks Mountain Club

Ski-In/Ski-Out 5 Bedrooms | 7 Baths 3,832 SF \$ 3,150,000



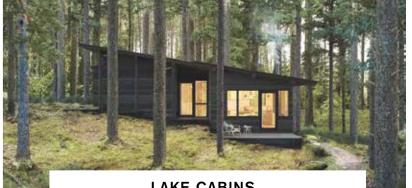
6519 BEAVER CREEK ROAD Big EZ Estates

Gated Community with Privacy 2 Bedrooms | 2 Baths 40 ACRES \$2,250,000



2885 RED FEATHER LANE Sweetgrass Hills - Big Sky Meadow

Close to shopping, golf, x-country skiing & minutes to Big Sky Resort Bedrooms | 2 Baths 3344 SF \$1,150,000



LAKE CABINS Moonlight Basin - Ulery's Lake

Lake side living with access to hiking, biking and x-country ski trails 2 Bedrooms | 2-3 Baths 1389 SF - 1584 SF From \$1,050,000



MOUNTAIN LAKE Big Sky Mountain Village

Penthouse near world class, Big Sky Resort skiing 3 Bedrooms | 3.5 Baths 3069 SF \$970,000





SPRING CREEK PRESERVE Spanish Peaks Mountain Club

Solitude and privacy in a striking mountain setting Homesites from 10.40 Acres From \$1,200,000

LODGESIDE Moonllight Basin

Ski-in/Ski-out next to Moonlight Lodge 3-4 Bedrooms | 3-4.5 Baths 3078 SF - 3288 SF From \$2,125,000

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MARTHA JOHNSON

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Input sought for Big Sky housing survey

BIG SKY COMMUNITY HOUSING TRUST

The Big Sky Community Housing Trust, Big Sky Resort Area District resort tax board and Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, with support from other organizations in the community, are sponsoring a study to understand and plan for Big Sky's housing needs now and in the future.

Housing for the local workforce is critical to the Big Sky community and economy. All employers, employees and residents living or working in Big Sky are encouraged to participate in the online survey designed to assess area housing needs, challenges and preferences.

Many business owners, employees and residents should have received links to the surveys through an email invite from the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, various social media sites or their employer.

Residents of Big Sky or those who work in the area are encouraged to provide their input.

The survey is part of a Housing Action Plan that will address housing needs in the community. WSW Consulting, Inc. out of South Lake Tahoe, California, has been contracted to conduct the study.

To access the Big Sky housing survey, visit bit.ly/bigsky2017. Surveys can also be accessed by visiting thehrdc.org.

For further information about the Big Sky housing study, contact Brian Guyer with the Big Sky Community Housing Trust at bguyer@thebrdc.org, or Wendy Sullivan, an independent consultant assisting with this study, at wendy@wswconsult.com.

Call for Salvation Army bell ringers in Big Sky

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Scholarship fund established in Devon White's memory

EBS STAFF

To honor and remember Devon White's generous spirit, his family and friends have established The Devon White Memorial Scholarship Fund. It will provide an opportunity for a Lone Peak High School graduate to attend a culinary school or a two-year trade program.

Born in Maine on April 21, 1950, White was the longtime co-owner of the Corral Bar, Steakhouse and Motel, and purportedly Big Sky's longest, living fulltime resident until his passing Sept. 4. He is remembered as a selflessly generous, tireless workhorse, and a fixture in the Corral kitchen until he took himself to the hospital Aug. 25 where he was diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer.

If you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund established in White's memory, visit fobsedonate.org or send a check to Friends of Big Sky Education noting White's name to FOBSE, P.O. Box 160633, Big Sky, Montana, 59716.

Bough subdivision pre-application submitted to county

EBS STAFF

A subdivision pre-application for the development of the Bough parcel was submitted Nov. 30 to Gallatin County by Lone Mountain Land Company, on behalf of Big Sky resident and landowner Loren Bough.

On Feb. 28, commissioner Joe Skinner and chairman Don Seifert denied the Bough Big Sky Community Subdivision's preliminary plat approval, citing construction variances that did not meet the county subdivision safety standards.

A pre-application is the very first step in the approval process, said Gallatin County Planner Tim Skop. It provides an opportunity for public comment on the development plan prior to the formal preliminary plat application. The county has 30 business days from the submittal date to collect and relay any comments on the project.

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Although the Bough parcel was donated to alleviate the affordable housing crisis, Lone Mountain Land Company President Alex Iskenderian wrote in an email to EBS that this application does not specify this will be an affordable housing project moving forward, adding, "Loren [Bough] remains committed to having this property serve the community interest in some way."

HRDC Community Development Manager Brian Guyer said after the initial plat denial last February, all parties decided it would be best for Lone Mountain Land Company move forward with the project independently, without confusing the application with affordable housing language.

"We'll re-engage in the process between the preliminary and final plat and determine at that point the best way for the Big Sky Community Housing Trust to be involved," Guyer said.

406 Forum

What's your favorite holiday tradition?



Matt King White Salmon, Washington

"My favorite holiday tradition is dirty Christmas carols and singing them all together with some eggnog and close friends and good food and actually performing them like karaoke. You can come up with some pretty funny carols when you start making them dirty."



Katie Alvin Big Sky, Montana

"I would say, living in Big Sky and the mountains, one of our favorite things is being able to cut our own [Christmas] trees."



Jeff Brauer Big Sky, Montana

"I like to go out in the woods and cut down a Christmas tree with my family."



Bri Coppola Big Sky, Montana

"Usually, in Ohio ... I go back and forth between my mom and dad's parents' houses and celebrate Christmas with both of them."

24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICES

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Emergency Department: 24/7/365

Family Medicine Clinic: Monday–Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Retail Pharmacy: Monday–Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

BOZEMAN HEALTH BIG SKY MEDICAL CENTER

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334 Town Center Avenue, Big Sky *BigSkyMedicalCenter.com*

LOCAL

Birthday celebration benefits Lone Peak High School Interact Club



On Nov. 30, the Big Sky community gathered at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center to celebrate Mark Robin's birthday at a special benefit concert to support the Lone Peak High School Interact Club's spring service trip to Nepal. Pianist Klaudia Kosiak performed works by her favorite classical composers, followed by a birthday reception for Robin, who has been struggling with ALS since his diagnosis in 2016. PHOTOS BY IVY HICKS

Big Sky substation location, cost still pending

BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY - Northwestern Energy, the publicly regulated utility company that supplies power to Big Sky, says two primary sites are still on the table for an electrical substation that the company plans to build between existing substations in Meadow Village and on Lone Mountain.

The company has renewed an option to purchase a site near the Antler Ridge neighborhood that's been dubbed the Midway site. Earlier this year, the company fielded criticism for pursuing the site with little or no notice to nearby homeowners.

"We have worked to renew the [Midway] option on the Antler Ridge, but it doesn't mean we're going to build a substation there," said NorthWestern Energy spokesman Butch Larcombe. He added that the company is also pursuing an option on the Rainham site, which is located across Lone Mountain Trail on a parcel with fewer impacted homeowners. "But the big caveat here is that it's a much more expensive option," Larcombe said, adding that it would be unfair to expect all NorthWestern customers to pay the additional expense. "Probably, people who live in the area [will] be expected to pay for some of that cost."

A date has not been set yet, but Austin said the goal is to convene the community in early 2018 to present the results of the company's research. North-Western Energy will present on both the Rainham and Midway sites, and will discuss potential cost-sharing measures that have been identified to cover the higher cost of a GIS.

Austin didn't elaborate on what an incremental cost structure—a means of recouping the cost above what a conventional, open-air substation would require—might look like, saying it's still too early to tell. "I don't want to guess on what's going to be a consensus option for the community."

Larcombe added that it's a complicated issue and determining the precise area where ratepayers would pitch in for those additional costs—and the percent they'd be expected to cover—is difficult.

The Midway site was the most widely contested location for the substation, which NorthWestern Energy says is necessary to accommodate growing demand and reduce the likelihood of a power outage by adding redundancy to the grid. After encountering considerable pushback from concerned property owners, NorthWestern Energy hired the Burton K. Wheeler Center to facilitate a months-long community engagement process.

Larcombe said the company is seriously considering a proposal to construct a gas-insulated substation, or GIS, put forth by a collection of concerned community members. A GIS would require a smaller plot of land than an open-air substation, and proponents argue that since it could be enclosed within a building, property value-damaging visual and noise impacts would be reduced.

NorthWestern Energy went to Snowmass, Colorado, in September to tour the GIS there. Eric Austin with the Burton K. Wheeler Center for Public Policy, said that no major concerns were identified during the tour, and Larcombe said the company is closely examining the feasibility of using that technology.

During an Aug. 29 public meeting, an employee of NorthWestern Energy said that the GIS in Snowmass resulted in an additional \$8 million in incremental costs.

NorthWestern Energy is also conducting a wildlife impact study for both sites.

Austin said the company would like to make a final decision on a site by late June and file the necessary conditional use permit shortly thereafter.

In order to address infrastructure demands coming down the pike, and streamline community engagement for large projects, the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce is exploring the formation of a town council. If established, such a group could have a bearing on how the site selection moves forward.

Community members interested in staying updated on the process can visit bigskysubstation.wixsite.com for more information.

Obituary: Gail Walma

Gail Walma was born Dec. 5, 1954, in Bozeman to Jim and Patty Goodrich. She passed away on Dec. 5, 2017 in Wickenburg, Arizona surrounded by the love of her life for 44 years and family and friends. She was an accomplished horse woman and believed the best things in life happened in the saddle.

Gail grew up on the 320 Guest Ranch in Big Sky, purchased by her family upon the passing of previous owner Caroline McGill. Gail attended Ophir School and Bozeman Senior High School before enrolling at Montana State University, Bozeman.

She married Jim Walma on Dec. 21, 1973. She and Jim ran the family-owned 320 Ranch and started Buffalo Horn Outfitters during the infancy of Big Sky. Together they were concessionaires in Yellowstone National Park, operated stables at Huntley Lodge, Bucks T-4 Lodge and the Almart Lodge, and were famous for their sleigh ride dinners, backcountry pack trips, elk hunting and warm Western hospitality.

Gail loved barrel racing, team roping, trail riding and was passionate about teaching others quality horsemanship. She authored a book on the life of Dr. Caroline McGill and wrote a column for the Lone Peak Lookout. She was a model for Artic Cat snowmobiles and scouted and coordinated photo shoots for Marlboro and Ford/New Holland.

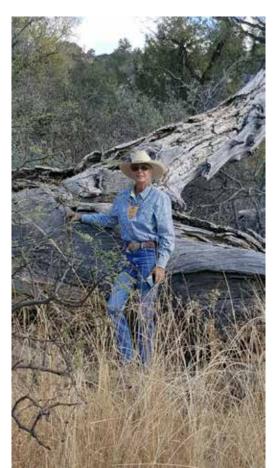
In 1976, the second love of her life, her daughter Jamie Marie Walma was born. In 1996 Gail, Jim and Jamie moved to Meeker, Colorado, to build and run the Buffalo Horn Guest Ranch, a cattle ranch and hunting operation. For 13 years, they ran 1,200 mother cows and harvested 100 elk per year at the luxury guest ranch.

Gail and Jim loved visiting Arizona to team rope during the cold northern winters. In 2000 Gail and Jim bought a vacation home in Wickenburg and loved it so much, they eventually retired here. Gail was not good at sitting still and in 2004, started Buckshot Babes Ltd.—"Western gifts for gals with grit"—with her sister Carrie Ward Compton. She was an accomplished interior decorator and retail buyer.

In 2004, the apple of her eye, her only grandson, David "Doc" McDonald Massey III was born. Gail loved watching him team rope at the Hidden Hacienda, and cheering him on at Wickenburg Wrangler football games and Wickenburg Christian Academy Basketball games.

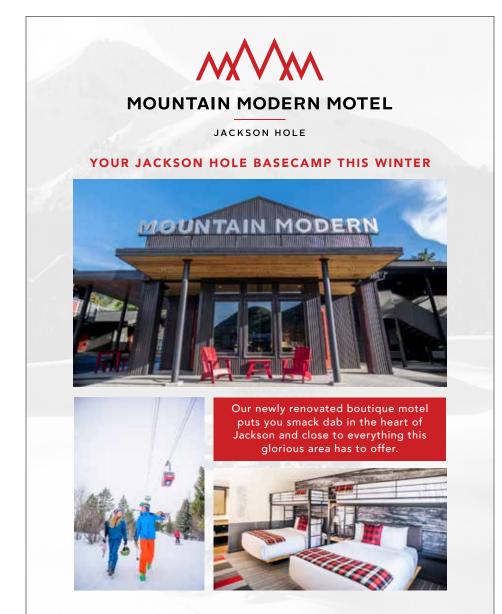
Gail enjoyed breeding and raising miniature Australian shepherds and loved her faithful dogs and many pets. Gail volunteered at Desert Caballeros Western Museum, the Humane Society of Wickenburg, and was a member of Las Senoras and Las Damas.

Gail is survived by her husband Jim Walma, daughter Jamie Walma, grandson Doc Massey, sister



Carrie Ward Compton (Don Compton), nephew Terry Grooters, all of Wickenburg; Aunt Nadine Loetzer of Rio Rancho, New Mexico; and many cousins and amazing friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Soldier's Chapel, P.O. Box 161042, Big Sky, Montana, 59716.



20th Annual Big Sky CHRISTON Sky FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

5:30 TREE LIGHTING WITH SANTA OPEN HOUSE & MERCHANT ACTIVITIES SLEIGH RIDES BON FIRES & SMORES

5 blocks from Snow King Mountain 10 miles from Grand Teton National Park 12 miles from Jackson Hole Mountain Resort 45 miles from Grand Targhee Resort

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YELLOWSTONE CLUB*



River Runs Through It 13,349 SQ FT / \$14M

SPANISH PEAKS*



388 Andesite Ridge Rd. 5,020 SQ FT / \$6.45M

BIG SKY



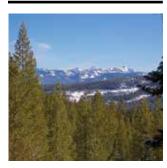
Lot 338 Bristlecone Dr 14.6 Acres / \$4.95M



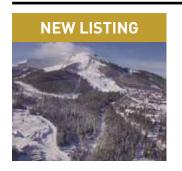
Lot 86 Andesite Ridge Rd. 2.64 Acres / \$3.3M



Lot 472 White Spruce Dr. 2.9 Acres / \$3.3M



Lot 119 Old Barn Rd. 3.13 Acres / \$450K



Lot 39 Diamond Hitch 1 ACRE / \$595K



Kandahar at **Beehive Basin** 5,409 SQ FT / \$3.45M



2789 Two Moons 2,861 SQ FT / \$1.795M New Construction



25 Lower Dudley Creek 4,076 SQ FT / \$1.65M

BIG SKY



81 Pheasant Tail Unit 2 2,592 SQ FT / \$695K



Summit Hotel 911/912 1,303 SQ FT / \$695K



49850 Gallatin Rd. 2,499 SQ FT / \$595K



281 Village Center 473 SQ FT / \$295K

BOZEMAN



Firelight Condo C-15 1,092 SQ FT / \$274.9K

BIG SKY



Lot 3 Joy Rd. 6.83 Acres / \$395K



Gallatin Rd. Parcel 1 2.63 ACRES / \$255K



Gallatin Rd. Tract 4 1.4 ACRES / \$254K



Limestone Creek 40 ACRES / 10,297 SQ FT \$12.9M

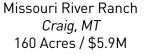


261 Parkland Trail 3,943 SQ FT / \$665K



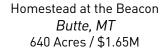
SxS Ranch Bozeman, MT 483.78 ACRES / \$7.5M





Mountain Meadows Big Sky, MT 120 Acres / \$3.495M







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



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YELLOWSTONE CLUB*



Lot 433 Serpens Trail 1.89 Acres / \$2.95M

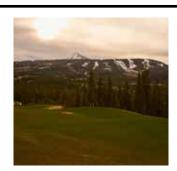


Lot 144A Pumice Rd. 2 Acres / \$2.65M

SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB*



Ski Tip Lot 10 1.02 Acres / \$975K



Lot 38 Bitterbrush Trail 1.27 ACRES / \$800K



118 Old Barn Rd. 2.49 ACRES / \$475K

BIG SKY



245 Rain in Face 3,446 SQ FT / \$1.595M



Mountain Selah 4,574 SQ FT / \$1.35M



100 Crail Ranch Dr. 3,730 SQ FT / \$1.29M



99 Pheasant Tail Unit 1 2,805 SQ FT / \$759K



12 Ruby Range 3,133 SQ FT / \$755K

BIG SKY



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



Lot 4 Beaver Creek West 20 ACRES / \$539K



Lot 287A Rising Bull Rd. 1.04 Acres / \$529K

GREATER MONTANA



Big EZ Lot 13 20 ACRES / \$449K



Lot 1 Ciel Drive 8.03 ACRES / \$415K

BOZEMAN



353 Little Wolf Road 2,784 SQ FT / \$625K



1800 Skunk Creek Rd. 38.71 ACRES / \$393K



Osprey Cove Lakehouse Hebgen Lake, MT 4,628 SQ FT / \$1.795M



Lot 14 Chokecherry Lane Hebgen Lake, MT 1.08 Acres / \$97.5K

RANCH & RECREATION



Yellowstone Ranch Preserve Hebgen Lake, MT 277.17 ACRES | \$8.365M 239.75 ACRES | Under Contract 236.52 ACRES | \$6.95M Whiskey Jug Cabin : 2,702 SQ FT





Big Sky Entrance Property Big Sky, MT 4.61 Acres / \$3.24M



Big Sky, MT

1,204 SQ FT / \$560,920

Lease Option



BeaverPond Plaza Units 8A & 8B Bozeman, MT 3,400 SQ FT | \$390K



RJS Tower Unit 205/207 Big Sky, MT 961 SQ FT / \$339K



Airport Garages Bozeman, MT \$24.9K per unit Taking reservations for building G



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Spanish Peaks wastewater pond leaks treated effluent

EBS STAFF

A repair is currently underway to fix a leak in a new wastewater pond at Spanish Peaks Mountain Club. Intended for golf course irrigation, slated to begin in summer 2018, the pond leaked an unknown amount of treated effluent.

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality said that the pond started leaking when Spanish Peaks managers filled it for the first time, and they reported it to DEQ on Nov. 21.

The leak was producing approximately 4 gallons of water per minute until the club's containment plan was executed Dec. 2, and it isn't believed to have impacted any nearby water sources, said Kristi Ponozzo, DEQ's public policy director. Ponozzo said that DEQ confirmed Nov. 30 that the leaking water was not impacting nearby wetlands or surface water—the closest stream to the pond is the South Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin River, approximately 0.5 miles away.

Ponozzo said DEQ's water quality sampling results from the treated effluent were going to be released Dec. 7, the day after EBS went to press.

DEQ approved the Spanish Peaks effluent pond's design in March 2017, construction began in May and the pond holds nearly 15 million gallons of Big Sky Water and Sewer District wastewater. It is located in the southwest area of The Ranches neighborhood, below Wilderness Ridge Trail.

The district is expecting to reach its storage capacity in May, and this pond was built to help relieve the district's storage issue.

"Anytime there's an issue with capacity, it's concerning," BSWSD General Manager Ron Edwards said. "But we're optimistic this will be fixed in the near future."

Jon Olsen, director of development and engineering at Lone Mountain Land Company, said the project was still in the construction phase when a small leak was discovered by general contractor Dick Anderson Construction in the process of performing leak testing, as required by DEQ. Olsen added it's not uncommon to discover small leaks like this one during initial testing procedures of new pond projects.

"Both Lone Mountain Land Company and Dick Anderson Construction are treating this issue with the utmost importance and have committed all necessary resources to remedy the situation as quickly as possible," Olsen wrote in a Dec. 3 email to EBS. He added that all work is being performed in conjunction with DEQ staff.

According to Olsen, testing has shown no traces of effluent in any adjacent streams or surface water, and 2 of the 4 gallons that was leaking per hour was believed to be natural groundwater, not wastewater. As an additional precautionary measure, Dick Anderson installed a containment system that captures all leaking effluent and pumps it back into the pond and approximately 2.3 million gallons of wastewater was pumped to a Yellowstone Club wastewater pond.

"There is currently no effluent from the pond being leaked onto the ground," Olsen wrote. "The small amount of effluent being leaked is being captured and pumped back into the pond."

A wastewater pond leak in the Yellowstone Club in March 2015 spilled 30 million gallons of treated effluent into Second Mule Creek, and some of it eventually reached the Gallatin River.

Big Sky's community park system grows

BIG SKY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

On Nov. 28, the Big Sky Community Organization closed on the purchase of the 7.5-acre parcel comprising the Beehive Basin Trailhead and trail.

With an existing 83.5 acres of parkland, BSCO now owns and manages a total of 91 acres of parkland on behalf of the Big Sky community. All parkland owned by BSCO is a restricted asset for the purpose of public use and access.

This newest acquisition is the first the BSCO will own in Madison County.



"Growing our community assets of parkland by over 12 percent is a huge accomplishment not just for those of us right now, but also for future generations," said BSCO Executive Director Ciara Wolfe.

With current growth and development trends, BSCO is focusing their energy and effort on securing both parklands and trail easements that are heavily used and provide critical points of access into our National Forest and connections between existing parks and trails.

"Beehive Basin was a top priority for our organization," said BSCO Board Chair Al Malinowski. "Following our successful model at Ousel Falls, partnering with the USFS, we plan to improve the trailhead experience at one of our most popular destinations in Big Sky. Thanks to the work of BSCO Board member Tallie Lancey, a broker with Big Sky Sotheby's, and Suzanne Schreiner, a broker with the Big Sky Real Estate Co., paired with a generous donation from the Hough Foundation, we were able to act swiftly on this opportunity."

The Big Sky Community Organization recently purchased the 7.5 acres that comprises the Beehive Basin trail and they are now planning trailhead improvements and features. PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

BSCO plans to design trailhead improvements and open space parkland features over the winter months, while making the improvements as early as fall of 2018 after funding is secured through private donations and public grant opportunities.

To stay up to date on the plans for the Beebive Basin trailbead and park space, visit bscomt.org.

The Madrigal Dinner dishes out another evening of traditional holiday fare



The Big Sky community turned out in spades for the 21st annual Madrigal Dinner, held at Bucks T-4 Lodge on Dec. 4. Presented by the Arts Council of Big Sky, the evening of spirited revelry and song is long-standing tradition for many that marks the official start of the holiday season. The event sold out with 180 attendees. PHOTOS BY KATIE ALVIN





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Explore Big Sky

Montana files lawsuit against OxyContin manufacturer

BY AMY BETH HANSON ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) - The state of Montana filed a consumer protection lawsuit against the manufacturer of OxyContin, alleging it engaged in deceptive marketing practices by misrepresenting the risk of addiction to the opioid pain medication—costing the state millions of dollars in prescription, prevention, medical and social costs.

Attorney General Tim Fox said Monday he is seeking a court order to stop the deceptive practices by Purdue Pharma and demanding damages for costs incurred by the state in paying for opioids for first-line treatment of chronic pain and for dealing with the adverse effects of opioid use, including social services, medical and law enforcement costs.

The complaint, filed on Nov. 30, also seeks punitive damages and civil penalties.

"As our investigation revealed and our complaint alleges, for years, Purdue knew the damage caused by OxyContin, and rather than scale back or eliminate distribution of the drug, it ramped-up deceptive marketing tactics to present the drug as 'safe," Fox said. "Purdue manipulates doctors, lies to consumers, and its actions contributed to thousands of deaths across the country."

Montana has seen more than 700 opioid-related deaths since 2000, the complaint said.

Purdue spokesman Robert Josephson said the company is "deeply troubled by the opioid crisis and we are dedicated to being part of the solution." He said Purdue is working to balance patient access to approved medications while trying to solve the public health challenge.

"We vigorously deny these allegations and look forward to the opportunity to present our defense," Josephson said.

Purdue has had a similar response to the increasing number of lawsuits filed by states and other government entities against the pharmaceutical company.

Montana's complaint says opioids were widely recognized as highly addictive and only suitable for short-term use for severe pain or when a patient was dying.

In 2007, Purdue settled with the federal government and several states, including Montana, acknowledging it lied to doctors about the OxyContin's potential for abuse.

However, the complaint says, Purdue continued to deceptively market the pain medication through promotional sales visits, various payments to physicians and through patient advocacy groups.

Purdue also has advocated an unsubstantiated concept of "pseudo-addiction" that suggested a patient seeking more medication was not addicted, but their pain was being under-treated, and doctors should prescribe a higher dose of opioids, the complaint alleges.

Montana lets mine work proceed but warns revocation possible

BY MATTHEW BROWN ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) - Montana regulators have allowed a company to proceed with exploration work for a large silver and copper mine near the Idaho border with a warning that the project's license could be revoked if concerns over the environmental track record of its president are found valid.

The 300-worker Rock Creek Mine is proposed near the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness, a series of remote glaciated peaks and valleys that take their name from the area's box-like rock formations.

Montana Department of Environmental Quality Director Tom Livers on Tuesday issued a one-year extension for exploration work at the site. The approval letter also put Hecla Mining Co. on notice that regulators are investigating president Phillips Baker's previous association with the Pegasus from most development and is home to grizzly bears, wolves and other species.

The wilderness area is considered an inland rainforest because it gets up to 100 inches of rain annually. Its laced with hiking and cross country skiing trails that draw tourists.

Environmental Quality spokeswoman Kristi Ponnozzo said there's no timeline for when the agency's investigation into the matter will be completed but added that officials "are taking it very seriously."

Hecla Vice President Luke Russell said Wednesday that the environmentalists' allegation was based upon an incorrect reading of state law.

"Hecla or its subsidiary companies working in Montana were never involved with any of the Pegasus operation," Russell said.

Gold Corp.

Pegasus went into bankruptcy in 1998 after operating three mines that environmentalists say polluted surrounding waterways when cyanide, arsenic and other contaminants leaked out of the mines. Baker is a former Pegasus executive.

Government agencies have reportedly spent more than \$74 million on a cleanup at a former Pegasus mine in central Montana – the Zortman-Landusky Mine on the edge of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation.

A state law referred to as the "bad actor" provision blocks people who do not clean up or pay for the cleanup of old mines from starting new ones.

A coalition of environmental groups in October asked the state to enforce the provision by blocking Hecla's mining plans for Rock Creek and a second proposal, the Montanore mine near the small northwestern city of Libby.

The Montanore Mine also would be constructed beneath the Cabinet Mountains Wiliderness—a 35-mile long mountain range that's shielded He did not directly address Baker's role with Pegasus.

But Russell said Hecla was proving itself a responsible company with cleanup work that began this year on another former mining site in northwest Montana, the Troy Mine, which closed in 2015.

An attorney for groups seeking to halt the project said the exploration license should not have been granted amid questions about whether it was legal to do so.

"We hope and expect that when (the state) finishes its investigation it will enforce the law by denying the top leadership of Pegasus Gold the privilege of mining in our state," said Katherine O'Brien, an attorney with EarthJustice.

Earlier this month, the U.S. Forest Service said it was withholding a permit for full development of the Rock Creek Mine, citing concerns over impacts to the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness and the potential for contamination of groundwater and nearby streams.

Yellowstone Forever unveils education, fundraising and wildlife restoration initiatives

BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BOZEMAN – Just over a year after Yellowstone Association and Yellowstone Park Foundation merged to form Yellowstone Forever, big plans are in the works for the official nonprofit partner of the world's first national park.

During a Dec. 5 event in Bozeman's Baxter Hotel celebrating the organization's one-year anniversary, Yellowstone Forever Executive Director Heather White reaffirmed her organization's focus on philanthropy and education.

White said the nonprofit aims to raise \$150 million of support for Yellowstone National Park by 2022, the park's 150th birthday. Since the October 2016 merger, Yellowstone Forever has raised approximately \$19 million for the park through educational programming, direct funds and grants.

Yellowstone Forever aims to expand its educational programming, which could potentially include the incorporation of technology and online courses to help park enthusiasts learn about Yellowstone remotely. "We want to take the Yellowstone story out to the world," White said.

Other large objectives include expanding Yellowstone Forever's brand nationally, serving as a job creator for gateway communities near park entrances, expanding the organization's native fish restoration program, and building a \$40 million state-of-the-art youth campus that will require little or no electrical inputs from the power grid. White described the vision for the building as "LEED Platinum 2.0."



Yellowstone Forever has raised approximately \$19 million for Yellowstone National Park through educational programming, direct funds and grants since the foundation's inception in 2016. PHOTO BY MARIA BISSO

Park Superintendant Dan Wenk, who will be the recipient of an honorary doctorate in letters at MSU's Dec. 16 commencement ceremony, highlighted the importance of becoming stewards of, and advocates for, the park in a time when the fate of public land is so prominent in public discourse.

Wenk added that the National Park Service has added a third pillar, education, to its mission. "This all falls together with our emphasis and what we're trying to do within national parks [more broadly]," Wenk said of Yellowstone Forever's goals moving forward.

 Image: White State Stat

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For more information, please contact Mia Lennon at mia@bigsky.com

REGIONAL

Tribes: Trump's monument order disrespects native people

BY MICHELLE L. PRICE AND BRADY MCCOMBS ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - President Donald Trump's rare move to shrink two large national monuments in Utah triggered another round of outrage among Native American leaders who vowed to take the fight to court to preserve protections for land they consider sacred.

Environmental and conservation groups and a coalition of tribes began filing lawsuits Monday that ensure that Trump's announcement is far from the final chapter in the yearslong battle over public lands. The court cases are likely to drag on for years, maybe even into a new presidency.

Trump decided to reduce Bears Ears National Monument by about 85 percent and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument by nearly half. It earned him cheers from Republican leaders in Utah who lobbied him to undo protections by Democratic presidents that they considered overly broad.

Conservation groups called it the largest elimination of protected land in American history. The move comes a week after tribal leaders decried Trump's use of the name of a historical Native American figure as a slur.

At a White House event honoring Navajo Code Talkers last week, he took a political jab at Sen. Elizabeth Warren by referring to the Massachusetts Democrat as "Pocahontas," mocking her claim of having Native American heritage.

"It's just another slap in the face for a lot of us, a lot of our Native American brothers and sisters," Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathan Nez said. "To see that happen a week ago, with disparaging remarks, and now this."

Trump also overrode tribal objections to approve the Dakota Access and Keystone XL oil pipelines.

The Navajo Nation was one of five tribes that formed a coalition and spent years lobbying former President Barack Obama to declare Bears Ears a monument to preserve ancient cliff dwellings and an estimated 100,000 archaeological sites. Native Americans visit the area to perform ceremonies, collect herbs and wood for medicinal and spiritual purposes, and do healing rituals.

The coalition of the Hopi, Ute Indian, Ute Mountain Ute, Zuni tribes and Navajo Nation sued late Monday to challenge the Bears Ears reduction. Two lawsuits have been filed to try to block the Grand Staircase decision.

Earthjustice's suit called it an abuse of the president's power that jeopardizes a "Dinosaur Shangri-la" full of fossils. Some of the dinosaur fossils sit on a plateau that is home to one of the country's largest known coal reserves, which could now be open to mining. The organization is representing eight conservation groups.

Another lawsuit from three groups including the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology makes similar claims.

Meanwhile, two Utah congressmen said Tuesday that they will introduce legislation to create a modest national park at Grand Staircase and allow Native Americans and local residents manage the land in Bears Ears.



The Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah encompasses thousands of archaeological site and important areas of spiritual significance like Cedar Mesa Grand Gulch (depicted). BLM PHOTO

Additional legal challenges were expected from environmental groups and outdoor clothing company Patagonia.

Outside Trump's announcement Monday, roughly 3,000 protesters lined up near the state Capitol. Some held signs that said, "Keep your tiny hands off our public lands," and they chanted, "Lock him up!"

A smaller group gathered in support, including some who said they favor potential drilling or mining there that could create jobs. Bears Ears has no oil or gas, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told reporters, though Grand Staircase-Escalante has coal.

Bears Ears, created nearly a year ago, will be reduced to 315 square miles. Grand Staircase-Escalante will be reduced from nearly 3,000 square miles to 1,569 square miles.

Both were among a group of 27 monuments that Trump ordered Zinke to review this year.

Democrats and environmentalists accuse Trump and Zinke of engaging in a secretive process aimed at helping industry groups that have donated to Republican political campaigns.

Zinke accompanied Trump aboard Air Force One, as did Utah's Republican U.S. Sens. Orrin Hatch and Mike Lee. Hatch and other state Republican leaders pushed Trump to launch the review, saying the monuments designated by the former Democratic presidents locked up too much federal land.

Trump framed the decision as returning power to the state, saying, "You know and love this land the best and you know the best how to take care of your land." He said the decision would "give back your voice."

"Public lands will once again be for public use," Trump said to cheers.

Trump, in a speech at Utah's Capitol with the governor and other politicians, said the state's lands should not be managed by "very distant bureaucrats located in Washington."

"Your timeless bond with the outdoors should not be replaced with the whims of regulators thousands and thousands of miles away," Trump said. "I've come to Utah to take a very historic action to reverse federal overreach and restore the rights of this land to your citizens."

It marks the first time in a half century that a president has undone these types of land protections.

Utah's mostly Republican officials have lobbied Trump for months, saying the monuments closed off the areas to energy development and other access.

Environmental and tribal groups say the designations are needed to protect important archaeological and cultural resources. Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch said only Congress, not the president, has the power to reduce a national monument, which the tribal coalition argued in its lawsuit.

Hatch, who introduced Trump, said that when "you talk, this president listens" and that Trump promised to help him with "federal overreach."

No president has tried to eliminate a monument, but some have reduced or redrawn the boundaries on 18 occasions, according to the National Park Service. The most recent instance came in 1963, when President John F. Kennedy slightly downsized Bandelier National Monument in New Mexico.

Trump signed an executive order in April directing Zinke to review the protections, which Trump is able to upend under the 1906 Antiquities Act. The law gives presidents broad authority to declare federal lands as monuments and restrict their use.

Zinke has also recommended to Trump that Nevada's Gold Butte and Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou monuments be reduced, though details are unclear. His plan would allow logging at a newly designated monument in Maine and more grazing, hunting and fishing at two sites in New Mexico.

Associated Press writers Catherine Lucey in Salt Lake City and Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

Montana man in Oregon refuge and Nevada standoff cases freed

BY KEN RITTER ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS (AP) – A Montana man who took part in the occupation of an Oregon national wildlife refuge and is standing trial in an armed standoff with federal agents outside a Nevada ranch was released Dec. 1 from jail to house arrest in Las Vegas.

Ryan Payne kissed his fiancé, hugged friends and prayed with supporters after he emerged from the U.S. District Courthouse after 22 months in federal custody. He declined to speak with reporters.

"I don't have any media statements," he said after speaking with his lawyers, Brenda Wecksler and Ryan Norwood.

Payne, 34, of Anaconda, Montana, led a self-described militia called Operation Mutual Aid and traveled to Nevada in 2014 to back rancher Cliven Bundy and his family in a confrontation that grew from a decades-long dispute with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

The dispute involved cattle grazing on public land in areas including

what is now Gold Butte National Monument. Bundy says he doesn't recognize federal authority on public land.

Payne is standing trial with the Bundy family patriarch and two sons, Ammon and Ryan Bundy, on federal charges including conspiracy in the armed confrontation with federal agents in Nevada.

Federal prosecutors cast the standoff as an armed uprising, not a peaceful protest.

Payne has been in federal custody since his arrest with Ammon and Ryan Bundy on Jan. 26, 2016, outside Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon. Payne pleaded guilty in July 2016 in Portland to a felony conspiracy charge for his role leading the occupation. The Bundy brothers were acquitted of all charges.

Payne's release came a day after Ammon Bundy was released from jail to house arrest with friends in the Las Vegas area and GPS monitoring. Ryan Bundy also is out of jail, while Cliven Bundy, 71, remains behind bars in support of several other defendants still in federal custody.

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ENVIRONMENT

Explore Big Sky

December 8 - 21, 2017 17

Section 2: ENVIRONMENT, SPORTS, HEALTH, DINING & BUSINESS



The New West: Trump, Zinke show cluelessness in understanding of the emerging West



BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

President Donald Trump flew into Salt Lake City on Dec. 4 and announced that he was bestowing an early Christmas present upon rural counties in southern Utah.

The gift that he and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke

delivered was a decision, pre-ordained months ago, to undo a century's worth of conservation history. It came in the form of dramatically reducing the size of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments.

Within the span of just a few days, not only did Trump roll back a legacy of landscape protection that started with Theodore Roosevelt's use of the federal Antiquities Act—a law that many forget was also the genesis for such modern national parks (economic juggernauts) as Grand Teton and Grand Canyon; but only hours earlier the Republican-controlled U.S. Senate embedded an unthinkable anti-environment measure in the tax reform bill hastily passed last week.

That legislation inexplicably includes a provision to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska—one of America's most pristine landscapes—to oil and gas drilling.

If Theodore Roosevelt is considered America's greatest conservation-minded president, are Trump and Zinke cementing their place as leaders of the most environmentally-hostile administration ever?

Like Trump's lack of sophistication and knowledge with many things, he is apparently illiterate in his understanding of public land issues in the West.

When he described the creation of Bears Ears and Grand Escalante as "tragic federal overreach" it revealed not only his own cluelessness but that of his speechwriters in grasping fundamental shifts underway in the economy of the West.

Trump's penchant for melodrama reminds me of a cover story I wrote for The Christian Science Monitor on the differences emerging between the boom and bust cycles that plagued traditional natural resource economies in the "Old West" and undeniable trends in the "New West." Bureau of Land Management. Essentially, however, monument status barred coal mining and intensive oil and gas development, which left many locals enraged.

Taylor testified that the prosperity mentioned by Rasker never materialized in his community. But when Taylor returned home he heard from some constituents who had started businesses catering to growing numbers of tourists and backcountry adventurers.

Trump, Zinke and U.S. Rep. Rob Bishop, a Republican from Utah, claim the national monument brought economic hardship to Garfield County, though the remote rural county, like many in the West, has been losing population for generations.

Two years after Taylor went to Washington, he and I had a couple of thoughtful conversations. His community was desperate. School enrollment was dropping. He didn't care what kind of job creation happened. Ironically, he noted that several young people from Escalante left town to find short-term work as roughnecks in the energy fields of Wyoming and North Dakota.

"This is a beautiful place, and I understand why they [the Clinton administration] made it into a monument. But as far as jobs go, our numbers are down. I wish we had jobs that could bring those young men home," Taylor said. "The state of the economy is really a touchy topic. We're having to depend upon tourism to get us through where we need to be."

Southern Utah is a region in transition; natural resource extraction is not a pathway to achieving a reliable, sustainable future for young people seeking to find a place in the 21st century.

Jonathan Schechter, a demographer in Jackson Hole who makes his living analyzing the West, is known in the Rockies for coining this maxim: "Economies change faster than perceptions, perceptions change faster than politics, and politics change faster than laws."

The tension between the new and old economies undergirds almost every preservation and public land-use issue in the West.

Schechter, who runs The Charture Institute, offers his own employment statistics. In Wyoming, Montana and Colorado, the total number of jobs created through agriculture, mining and forestry ranges between 3 and 5 percent for each sector. While those industries are flat, the percentage of professional service jobs is growing fast, as is the percentage of the economy represented by retiree income.

In 2011, a Congressional hearing was held in Washington on the value of protected federal lands. Ray Rasker, founder of Bozeman-based Headwaters Economics, went to Capitol Hill to deliver his findings that resource protection continues to fuel a different kind of economic prosperity.

During the hearing, he squared off against Jerry Taylor, then mayor of tiny Escalante, Utah, a town that has long been a symbol of anti-environmental, anti-federal sentiment in the West.

Escalante is considered a gateway to Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument that 15 years earlier had been created by President Clinton invoking his power, as Roosevelt had done, through the federal Antiquities Act.

Contrary to myth, the land was already federally owned and managed by the

Trump, Zinke and the Sagebrush Rebels in Utah might be dancing in the end zone today, believing they've delivered a stunning victory, but time will tell if their anti-government, anti-conservation rhetoric leads to economic revival. History—and the opinions of most Americans—are not on their side.

Todd Wilkinson, founder of Mountain Journal (mountainjournal.org), is author of "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek" about famous Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear 399 featuring 150 photographs by Tom Mangelsen, available only at mangelsen.com/ grizzly. His feature on the delisting of Greater Yellowstone grizzlies appears in the winter 2018 issue of Mountain Outlaw and is now on newsstands.



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Wildlife biologist: Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem reaching capacity for grizzlies

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – As a population newly removed from the Endangered Species List, the Greater Yellowstone grizzly bears are considered recovered and are ready to be managed as wildlife, say wildlife officials.

"The Yellowstone Ecosystem is a totally recovered population," said Gregg Losinski, chair of the Yellowstone Ecosystem Information and Education Subcommittee with Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Genetically, the population is healthy, he added.

The Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team reported there are an estimated 718 grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem during the first meeting of the Yellowstone Grizzly Coordinating Committee on Nov. 30-Dec. 1 in Pray, Montana.

Frank van Manen, an IGBST research wildlife biologist who prepared the population report, said the estimate is meant to be conservative. "When we say 718, that number is probably closer to 1,000," van Manen said.

Researchers have been rigorously tracking the GYE grizzlies since 1973, van Manen added. With such an extensive data set, researchers have been able to create statistical models that underestimate the total bear population once observations and radio collar data are entered into the system. "You'd rather underestimate than overestimate," van Manen said.

In recent years, GYE grizzly bears have been expanding their territory, and bears are being found in places where they haven't been seen in decades. "We're basically reaching the carrying capacity," van Manen said.

"They're running out of places [within the GYE]," he added. "They're kind of forced out there. There's no place for young bears to establish home ranges of their own. Those are the bears that get into less suitable habitat, get in trouble and usually end up dead."

According to Losinski, with the delisting of the grizzly, managers will have added flexibility in managing the bears, which are reaching high densities in particular areas of the GYE.

"When you're trying to recover a species, you're looking at maximizing your output of animals," Losinski said. "In this case, [grizzlies] did that really well on their own and are now spreading into new territory. Now it is conflict reduction." Despite six pending lawsuits against the grizzly bear delisting, the YGCC is charged with following the conservation strategy for the grizzly bears of the GYE, which was approved at the end of 2016 and is an outline for managing the delisted population.

"There's no question anymore about listed or delisted," said Mike Volesky, deputy director at Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. "We have to assume that we have a delisted population [and consider] how do we maintain that and how do we make sure grizzlies are preserved."

Key aspects of the conservation strategy include maintaining at least 500 bears in the GYE; monitoring the distribution of sow grizzlies with cubs; and monitoring bear mortality each year. The committee is also tasked with meeting defined genetic management objectives.

"The main point is to maintain a healthy population in the ecosystem," Losinski said. "It would be nice to see a linking with other subpopulations. ... Bears are doing good, but they can't do any better if the ecosystem won't allow them to."

Unique among other wildlife, the grizzlies of Greater Yellowstone will be managed cooperatively, at least for the first few years. Montana, Wyoming and Idaho have agreed to manage the bears as a team, "which is something we do not do for any other species," Losinski said.

Specific steps that might be considered in the future for grizzly management include building vehicle overpasses to allow bears to more readily expand into suitable habitat; increasing public education for those living in high-density bear areas; and allowing regulated hunting when and where appropriate.

With focus shifting from recovery to management for the GYE grizzly bears, Losinski says he's ready to focus on other ecosystems that are also trying to recover grizzly bear populations, such as the Bitterroot Ecosystem and the Selkirk/Cabinet-Yaak Ecosystems.

"As long as the Yellowstone population is the focus of this effort, those other recovery areas do not get the help they need," he said.



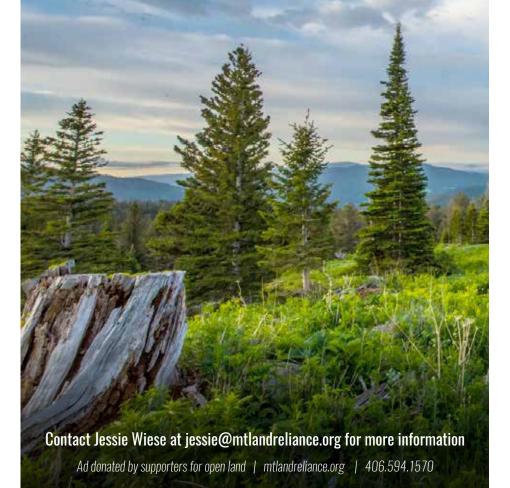
Much of that conflict resolution falls to the Wyoming Fish and Game Department. In 2016, Wyoming recorded 223 cases of conflict between grizzlies and humans, followed by Montana with 118 and Idaho with two.

In recent months, the Wyoming Fish and Game Department has been responding to grizzly bear sightings and encounters in areas near Cody where bears haven't been seen in decades. One bruin was relocated to the Caribou-Targhee National Forest; another that was damaging private property west of Cody was relocated to the Bridger Teton National Forest.

A sow with two cubs near Roaring Mountain in Yellowstone National Park. According to officials, Greater Yellowstone grizzlies are nearing the area's carrying capacity. NPS PHOTO



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Coaches reflect on origins of LPHS athletics programs

BY DAN KELLY EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY - We all can remember that teacher or coach who furthered our personal growth by offering encouragement and guidance, challenging us to exceed the expectations we set for ourselves and "leave it all on the court."

Lone Peak High School has seen a meteoric rise in enrollment since its first class of students graduated in 2009 and as the Big Horns' winter sports season begins, EBS interviewed two pioneering coaches integral to the development and success of the basketball and volleyball programs at LPHS.

With the help of countless teachers, administrators and volunteers, Al Malinowski and Sarah Phelps have instilled a culture of excellence and hard work that has brought the Big Horns from relative obscurity to an established presence in Class C athletics. Both Phelps and Malinowski have hung up their LPHS whistles—the 2016-2017 school year marked their final year at the helms of their respective programs.

Sarah Phelps' lasting contributions to Lone Peak Volleyball began at Ophir School in 2006, where she coached for five seasons before joining the staff of Lone Peak's junior varsity team in 2010. The following year, she became head coach of the first Big Horns varsity squad, a position she held for six years.

"The opportunity to build this program was something that was really exciting to me," she said. Alongside assistant coach Erika Frounfelker, Phelps and her players endured a challenging inaugural season with a team of just 12 girls, some entirely new to the sport of volleyball. "Those first few years we had a constant emphasis on fundamentals...it was a big learning curve, but we needed to build the foundation for the future," Phelps said. "I knew they had potential."

Build the foundation she did, and the Big Horns steadily improved from year to year. Phelps garnered excitement from incoming classes and drew on her experience working with the junior high teams. "It was pretty special to have those girls starting with me when they were 10 and continue to coach them through high school," Phelps said.

"One of the things I think is really great about athletics is that it connects students with adults who are great role models," LPHS Athletic Director Ladawn LeGrande



Al Malinowski's tenure on Big Sky's basketball courts started in 1996, when he coached a team of Ophir Miners. He went on to lead Lone Peak's first junior varsity and varsity squads.

said. "Sarah has amazing rapport and a bond of trust with the girls."

By 2016, under her guidance and mentorship, the program had 22 players on the roster. They finished the season with an 18-7 record, advancing to the divisional tournament and narrowly missing a berth to the state tournament after a hard fought loss to rival Gardiner. "We surprised people," Phelps said. "Everybody kept saying, 'Who is Lone Peak?' To go from 4-11 as freshman in 2013 to 18-7 as seniors was a huge jump."

Al Malinowski, or "Al Mal," has been coaching basketball in Big Sky for two decades, first stepping into his role at Ophir School in 1996 with help from teachers and community members such as Mark Gale and Jeremy Harder. "It was a niche



Sarah Phelps started Lone Peak High School's volleyball program from the ground up, eventually leading the Big Horns to the 2016 Class C divisional tournament, where they took home third place. PHOTOS BY BAY STEPHENS

in the community that I found where I could give something back," Malinowski said.

Thirteen years later, when the doors first opened in 2009 at Lone Peak High School, he was the coach of the newly established junior varsity team. "We had seven players, and three of them had never played basketball before," he said of the program's initial year.

One year later the Big Horns would defeat West Yellowstone in the play-in game to the junior varsity district tournament. With a strong group of incoming freshman soon to join the program, Malinowski knew he had the pieces in place to make the jump to varsity the following season.

Emphasizing solid fundamentals, hard work and a culture of inclusiveness—all hallmarks of Big Horn athletics-the class of 2015 would improve from a 4-17 record their first season to 13-7 in the 2014-15 campaign.

That squad was marked by strong senior leadership—four players earned All-Conference honors that year. Malinowski credits LPHS players for setting the tone during those pioneering early seasons. "Now the kids coming in, they have something they can look at, learn from the positives and negatives and keep building on the overall program."

LeGrande praised Malinowski's impact, calling him "an institution in Big Sky basketball," but Malinowski says it takes a village to build a program. Teachers and administrators such as Tony Beardsley, former athletic director of LPHS, were integral to the success of Big Horn basketball, he said.

"There was always a tremendous amount of respect that other teams had for our team—whether we won or not, we always went out and battled with what we had and did it with class and integrity," Malinowski said. "I think that was an important thing that made me proud of our players, that the kids respected those values."





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Early season injuries



BY JEFF DANIELS EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Every year since Thanksgiving of 1994, the ski season at the Medical Clinic of Big Sky kicks off a little differently based on skier volume, the terrain that's open, and the number of injuries finding their way to the clinic.

With the snow and cold temperatures that came to southwest Montana in October and into November, it looked like we would be headed for a great start to the 2017-2018 ski season. It did get warmer and rainy the week before opening day, but Nov. 23 provided for a much grander opening than in the previous three or four years. People were skiing off the Tram on opening day, compared to last year when just the Explorer chairlift was spinning on opening day, accompanied by a line snaking all the way up to the ski patrol building and our clinic.

The parking lot looked full on Thanksgiving Thursday, and within an hour, a man from Bozeman walked in with a big gash in his knee. He was skiing down the Bowl when his skis got stuck and he ejected into some rocks. He ruined a good pair of ski pants that day!

His British accent matched that of my student, Nicole Erasmus, of South Africa. The patient was actually a Big Sky veteran of many years, and we shared some memories of things past as we sutured a small hole in his knee. Then he pulled down his bloody pants leg and went back out skiing, taking another student, Amanda Mullen, who'd helped with the suturing, back up to the Bowl for a couple of runs.

I warned him to get it all in today, because when a knee gets deeply cut, the next day will usually be fraught with pain and swelling, a reaction that most knees give when the laceration involves some of the internal sacs, or bursa, of the knee joint.

We sat around the rest of the day, and luckily for everybody out there, we didn't treat any more accidents at the clinic that day. We had to wait until the Saturday after Thanksgiving for more accidents to happen. Our first patient was an MSU student who fell hard onto his left shoulder, causing significant swelling as well as pain and disability, with only a mild degree of separation of his acromioclavicular (A-C) joint.

Then we got a rancher from Cody with a very swollen knee, a good pop when he fell, and the instability that goes along with a lot of torn ligaments. We diagnosed a completely torn ACL and MCL, and he had to leave on crutches. We had another patient with a torn ACL later that day who was able to walk out in a brace. Both face the prospect of surgery to reconstruct their ACLs.

A face plant into the hard-packed snow sent one young man to the clinic, wondering if we had to straighten out his nose. We could not demonstrate any bony fractures, and the swelling on one side of his nose made it look a little displaced, but in actuality, his nose was in the proper position. It looked normal again when the swelling dissipated.

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Our last patient of the day presented with incredible pain in the shoulder after a fall directly onto it. He was literally writhing in pain. An X-ray showed a separated A-C joint, and a quick jab of local anesthesia into the separation greatly lessened his pain.

After Saturday, things got awfully quiet in the clinic again. I guess I'll have to get excited about giving flu shots until the influx of tourists in mid-December.

The Medical Clinic is open seven days per week on the Mountain, and Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday in the Town Center.

Dr. Jeff Daniels was the recipient of the 2015 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 800 medical students and young doctors to train with the Medical Clinic of Big Sky.





BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

A common hurdle to eating well is lack of time. We're busy people and the planning, shopping, cooking and cleaning required to prepare a healthy homemade dinner hardly leaves time to sit down and enjoy it.

That's one of the reasons I love a new meal delivery service, Whole and Nourished, by fellow health coach Heather McDonnell.

McDonnell provides meal delivery (or pickup) to residents of Bozeman, Belgrade and Four Corners. What sets Whole and Nourished, or W&N, apart from other online meal delivery companies is that McDonnell packs her food in reusable coolers and food containers, sources ingredients from local organic farms and ranches, and sends meals ready to eat—no chopping, sautéing or clean up required.

In a recent interview, McDonnell said new moms are loving W&N. Some women have even added it to their baby shower registry, she said.

W&N is also a terrific solution for those who do a lot of business travel. This allows them time to relax and not worry about getting on the next plane with a fridge full of produce that's sure to go bad. Actually, it's great for anyone looking to free up time spent in the kitchen who still want to eat healthy home cooked meals.

Each week, McDonnell rolls out her menu options on the easy-to navigate W&N website. Every ingredient is coded to let you know if it's organic, local, Whole 30 friendly, and dairy-, gluten- or soy-free. One staple that you'll always find is a bone broth made from scratch. It's sure to be a favorite if the "crud" catches up to you this winter.

But what if you love to cook but are short on time and out of creative recipes in spite of the thousands—maybe millions—available online? Try Green Chef, the most sustainable and delicious DIY meal plan I've found yet.

Unlike similar services that I've tried, Green Chef is very conscious of being conservative and thoughtful with its packaging; they use compostable materials. And, very importantly, all of the ingredients are organicly grown without synthetic toxic chemicals.

The weekly menu options include paleo, keto, vegan, vegetarian, carnivore, omnivore and gluten-free and prices vary depending on which you choose. Their meals range from \$10.50 to \$15, but I find that when I buy meals for two people, we actually have enough for three meals, penciling out to \$7 to \$10 per diner.

Green Chef takes the pressure off of having to meal plan every night of the week, provides unique recipes, and gives tips on food prep. It's like having a cooking class delivered to your doorstep. Since I prefer their vegetarian and vegan meals, I add my own locally sourced meat for my husband.

While there is still waste that comes from the packaging and none of the Green Chef ingredients are local, in some aspects waste is reduced because the precisely measured ingredients prevent overbuying groceries that end up spoiling.

If you're looking for a jumpstart to eating well in the upcoming year or want to share the gift of meals with someone you care about, visit wholeandnourished. com or greenchef.com and place your order for good healthy food.

Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach, culture consultant and public speaker. For a complimentary bealth consultation, reach ber at rainfordcorcoran@gmail.com.



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Everything's better with butter

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER EBS STAFF

Who doesn't like butter? An essential ingredient in most kitchens, especially during the holiday season, it adds a level of indulgence and richness to any dish. Sure, you could opt for a healthier choice like olive or coconut oil, but there is truly no substitute for the luxurious flavor of butter.

Butter is made up of butterfat, milk solids and water. These three ingredients, as well as the animal, its diet and the handling of the milk will affect the final butter product. There are several varieties of butter available for purchase or to make from scratch in your own kitchen.

The classic butter that is the most commonly available is known as sweet cream butter. This product contains approximately 80 percent butterfat, the lowest of the varieties on this list. I always buy unsalted butter so that I have complete control over the salt content of what I'm preparing. This product should be used in baking, but never to sauté or roast at high heat. The water content and milk solids in this product, as well as in cultured butter, have a low smoke point of 350 degrees.

Cultured butter is derived from cream that has been fermented or soured. It contains a higher amount of butterfat than sweet cream butter, between 82 and 86 percent. This is achieved through a longer churning time, which removes more water content. This product's rich buttery flavor and low water content is ideal for baking, or simply for slathering on toast.

Clarified butter is pure butterfat. It is made by removing the milk solids and most of the water content, resulting in a product with a much higher smoke point (450 degrees) because of the lack of burnable proteins. This product is a great option for when you want the flavor of butter and also want to cook at high heat. This product is presented alongside lobster or crab, for dunking purposes, and is a vital ingredient in hollandaise sauce. See the recipe below to make your own at home.

Ghee is clarified butter that has been taken one step further. It is cooked longer, which allows the milk solids that have settled to caramelize slightly, and for absolutely all of the water to evaporate. This results in a nuttier flavor. Ghee is often associated with Indian cuisine, where it is commonly seasoned with turmeric.



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Brown butter has been cooked so that the milk solids are caramelized, but not separated from the butterfat. The end result is a nutty, toasted flavor that is deep in color and flavor without being burned. I love drizzling browned butter over roasted vegetables to intensify the roasted flavor, or as a simple sauce for stuffed pasta such as ravioli.

How to make clarified butter at home

Place 1 pound of butter (four sticks) in a heavy saucepan and heat on the low. As the butter melts and heats, it will spit and spatter—this is the water evaporating and is normal. Slowly, the milk solids will sink to the bottom of the pan and the clear, golden butterfat will rise to the top. Strain through cheesecloth and store in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to a month.

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.

It's time to take back the title of chef



BY SCOTT MECHURA **EBS FOOD COLUMNIST**

I have been working in restaurants for over 30 years, and held a title or position of leadership for almost 20 of them. While I've had my share of ups and downs, challenges and successes, I am proud of the title and profession of chef, but something distressing, possibly even permanent is happening-the title of chef is being kidnapped.

It bothers many professional chefs when television personalities or judges refer to a flashy, button-shirted, knife- and fork-tattooed, pierced and trendy eyeglassed contestant as "chef" simply because he is cooking on TV. Many believe it is contributing to the watering down and homogenization of our profession, and I would agree.

Recently, a chef I follow on social media expressed some frustration that the profession and title of chef is getting diluted. He shared his concerns with the silent majority of the chef world, near and far, for some feedback and perspective. The response was overwhelming and all arrived at the same conclusion: Chefs and culinarians are losing their professional validity.

It got me delving deeper with fellow chefs, and we decided that there should be some minimum criteria all chefs should have.

You must have a complete tool-belt. I know many chefs who are far from a pastry chef, but in a jam, they can bake and ice a cake if needed. Not every chef is an expert at everything in the kitchen, yet they should be able to do anything on any team member's prep list on any given day.

You must have been fired at least once. In the words of the Hall of Fame football coach Mike Ditka, "if you haven't been fired at some point in your life, you're not trying hard enough." Some chefs are forced to move on simply because of budgetary shortcomings, but many are let go because they make fellow coworkers uncomfortable. Chefs are creative and, at times, push those around them too hard. But as it's been said, life begins at the end of our comfort zone.

You must respect the iconic chef coat. I've participated in events across the country, and I always find myself gravitating toward the chefs in coats first. It's a kinship; a camaraderie that sent a powerful message to me even before I really knew what a chef did. As a boy, I viewed it much like the uniforms of firemen, police officers or astronauts. It immediately tells you exactly what the profession is.

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You must have spent some serious time in a kitchen. There is no showing up to a kitchen to be chef without a respectable resumé. No matter how talented you are, your staff will quietly require you to have previously done their job before they will regard you as a leader in challenging times.

You must "earn" the title of chef. A friend and former superior once told me, in reference to another chef, that he didn't call him "chef." He explained that he didn't believe every person who held the title of chef necessarily deserved the title of chef. From then on, I felt a tiny bit of pride every time he referred to me as chef.

We need to protect our trade and craft, and there are still thousands of chefs who have never passed any sort of education or certification, but I will respectfully call them chef any day.

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.



The kitchen that is urban Nationally celebrated chefs open new restaurant, cafe in Bozeman

BY KATIE THOMAS EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN - On a recent October evening, two old friends made time to catch up over dinner. The occasion called for a jovial atmosphere with a variety of menu options, which is why the diners decided to try Bozeman's most recent gastronomical development, Urban Kitchen.

Occupying a space downtown in the striking new 5 W. Mendenhall St. building (where Opportunity Bank and its metal antelope once stood) Urban Kitchen is an upscale restaurant that serves dinner seven days a week. Owners Joe and Megan Romano opened Urban Kitchen and adjacent Salted Caramel Café this fall when they relocated to Bozeman after making a splash in the New York and Las Vegas food and beverage industries at restaurants like Aureole.

We started our culinary adventure in Urban Kitchen's vibrant and intimate bar. We sampled a riesling and the Red G Hound, a less sweet relative of the cosmopolitan made with grapefruit-infused vodka, while taking in the mirrored bar and colorful bottles climbing to the ceiling. We noted the Bar Bites menu, available from 3 to 5 p.m., but chose to save our appetites and finish our beverages. Then we moved on



Urban Kitchen's cuisine is billed as "progressive American cuisine." Depicted is the chicken and pink shrimp paella, which is served with saffron-scented rice. PHOTO BY KATIE THOMAS

to the table, where the dining atmosphere evokes a '70s lounge, with dim lights, slanted paneling and smudged mirrors.

Although there were only two of us, we decided to try two appetizers—the fried calamari, delicious and crunchy, and the garlic shrimp over polenta, creamy and plentiful. One of our entrée choices, the pork saltimbocca, was amazing: bacon-wrapped and served with garlic spinach in a brown sage butter, this entrée was filling and worth the price. The chicken and shrimp paella, while a bit overwrought, packed a walloping punch in a spicy, good way. And for the oenophiles out there, Urban Kitchen has an extensive wine list.

But the main event was the desserts: directly from the Salted Caramel Café next door, the Nutella Bomb was a dizzying and sweet concoction served with a delicate, housemade peanut brittle; and the classic creme brulee with house-made biscotti and a pile of fresh blackberries marked the end of a most interesting meal.



One of Bozeman's newest restaurants, Urban Kitchen is intended to be a place where diners can feel at home while enjoying the kind of high-quality fare people tend to expect from more urban settings. PHOTO BY STEVE CANNON

The bill arrived in a little notebook, where patrons are encouraged to write a comment, question or message, à la guestbook.

The Romanos consider their menu, which has been developed over years of culinary experience, to be "progressive American cuisine." They are ecstatic to be bringing their creations to Bozeman, and value supporting local farms and ranches wherever possible.

Bozeman native Grant Dobbie, the general manager, says the name Urban Kitchen is the perfect summary of their mission. "We want to make people feel at home ... and deliver the quality of food you'd experience in an urban setting," Dobbie said.

Urban Kitchen has succeeded in creating a welcoming atmosphere with a classy, eclectic tone, where diners can experience elaborate yet accessible cuisine. Urban Kitchen is open Sunday through Thursday from 3 to 10 p.m. and on Friday and Saturday from 3 to 11 p.m. Reservations are recommended.





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Making it in Big Sky: Kevin Barton of Ace Hardware

BY BAY STEPHENS EBS EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

BIG SKY – Since 1985, one hardware store has held it down in Big Sky. In 1993, Kevin and Tina Barton bought Mountain View Mercantile, a True Value hardware store, and ran it on their own for the first six to eight months. Their first employee, Dan Schlapkohl, has been their store manager for more than 20 years.

In 2013, they switched to the Ace Hardware family, their store garnering recognition by the Ace Hardware Corporation for performance and growth. In early 2015, just as the dream of moving to a better location was within reach, Tina lost her battle with cancer. Kevin, supported by friends, family and employees, realized the couple's dream by the end of the year, moving from a location in the canyon to a 14,000-square-foot building near Meadow Village on Lone Mountain Trail. The new space has a special kitchen and houseware department named Sweet T's Kitchen in Tina's honor.

Barton told EBS about his success and longevity as a Big Sky small business as part of this ongoing series.

EBS: What has been the key to your success?

K.B.: We took the business over at a very slow point in Big Sky's history. There was a building moratorium going in '93 because ... the water and sewage district didn't have the facilities to handle the population that we had. Construction was very limited. So that gave me the opportunity to kind of jump in without the business going crazy. It was kind of a forced slowdown in development, which... gave me time to learn the business, see where we had success and where we needed more improvements.

I would say my key to success was starting in such a small operation. Essentially, I knew—or I learned quickly—every aspect of the business because I did it all. From stocking shelves to filling orders to deliveries, anything that needed to be done, I was the guy who did it.

As we developed, that let me start to delegate some of those responsibilities to other people but still kept me grounded: I knew how things were supposed to work.

So I guess the key to my success would be personal involvement in every aspect of the business.

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

K.B.: Being a retail business, there's a few regional or local obstacles [such as] the cost of labor. [With] the cost of housing in the area being so high, labor costs are up and in retail now ... our main competitor is Amazon, [or] online shopping...their operation [costs] are lower than a brick-and-mortar store like mine. So being cost competitive to the online retailers is a difficult challenge.

I think that's the biggest one—it's the changing landscape of retail and staying relevant and current with the technology.

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

K.B.: When we started the business, it was before the Yellowstone Club existed, before Spanish Peaks [Mountain Club] or any of the secondary resorts were in operation. The real estate market was vastly different. It was much smaller and concentrated, and Big Sky was a one-company town. Big Sky Resort was the driving actor in the economy.



Kevin Barton has operated a hardware store in Big Sky since 1993. He says that the key to his success has been involvement in every aspect of his business from the ground up. PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

much bigger very quickly. And other players came into town. It opened the door to more businesses and obviously, a lot more real estate.

So, the business landscape has changed with, you could say, with the landscape of Big Sky. There was no Town Center, none of the other clubs in existence ... all of that secondary development has been driving business and Big Sky Resort has grown along with it.

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

K.B.: One reason is Big Sky is its own entity, it's not like doing business in a lot of other places in the country. I think some business owners may not be prepared for the seasonality of the business, the long shoulder seasons, the offseasons.

We're fortunate to be in hardware. That was one of the determining factors of getting into the hardware store. What we did was it was a year-round business. We definitely have seasonality, but people need propane, nuts and bolts, and keys all year long. So some of the businesses—be it a boutique or a gift shop or whatever, even a café or a restaurant—[are] much more dependent on the tourism than we are.

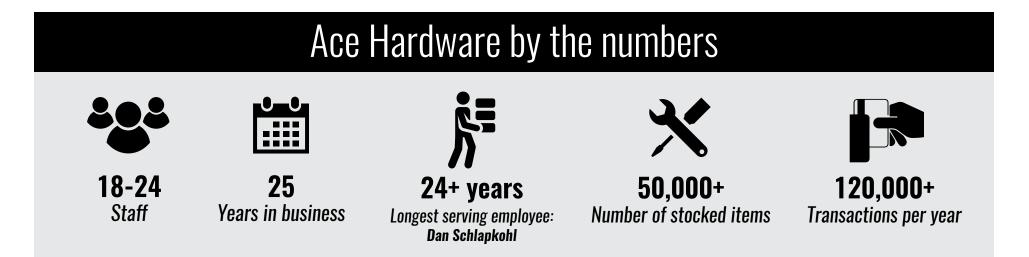
We definitely thrive by the tourism, but we survive on the local business. I think maybe that could easily be a contributing factor to the strain on a business, especially a new business. And nowadays, there's more competition in every aspect, so when a business comes they better by ready to hit the ground running and compete.

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

K.B.: Do their research and gain as much experience as possible within whatever business they're looking to get into.

I was lucky that there was barely enough business in 1993 to keep the door open six days a week. I was fortunate to be the guy in that business without a whole lot of competition and to learn it while I was doing it. I know that it would be very difficult for me to come in today without any experience and try to do what we're doing. I couldn't do it. I would fail. I would need the experience of how to run a retail operation prior to just jumping in.

The change in the landscape came from all of the secondary resorts and development in the early 2000s and in that big growth burst of, say, 2006, Big Sky got





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Explore Big Sky

OUTDOORS



INSIDE YELLOWSTONE

Yellowstone opens to snowmobile and snowcoach travel

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – With restricted vehicle access, fewer people and a blanket of muffling snow, at a first glance it seems that wintertime puts everything to sleep in Yellowstone National Park. However, frigid temperatures, steaming geyser basins and life striving for survival transforms the park experience into something all the more intimate.

"You get this feeling that you're in a place that's very hostile and beautiful," said park guide John Layshock, who takes in the changing scenery from snowcoaches he operates for customers of Yellowstone Alpine Guides. "The visual part of it is just incredible."

Every year in early November, most park roads are closed to regular traffic to allow snow to accumulate. As powder falls and multiplies, the roads eventually open to over-snow travel for tracked vehicles such as snowmobiles or snowcoaches.

A snowcoach is a multi-passenger vehicle with tracks or large low-pressure tires that are designed to travel on snow and ice. This kind of vehicle has been providing winter trips into Yellowstone for over 50 years.

During the winter season, visitors may enter the park on skis or foot, or by snowmobile or snowcoach. Non-commercial snowmobile access is available through an advanced permitting program, and there are a number of licensed commercial guides that offer winter tours into the park.

From the west entrance, tours might include a visit to Old Faithful, the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone or Hayden Valley.

While most stores, restaurants, campgrounds and lodges close for the winter, warming huts are kept open throughout the park for those on snowshoe or cross-country ski adventures. Both the Mammoth Hotel and Old Faithful Snow Lodge open for winter guests, and some commercial tour packages include an overnight trip to one of the lodges.



A variety of commercial guides offer snowcoach and snowmobile tours in Yellowstone National Park as over-snow travel becomes the only means to access the park. NPS PHOTOS

Layshock drives modern as well as vintage 1950s and '60s snowcoaches throughout the season. "It's a lot of fun," Layshock said. "The day goes by really quickly."

Layshock said snowmobiles and snowcoaches can offer different experiences of the park. Snowcoaches are enclosed and visitors will be able to speak with their guide and receive commentary throughout the tour. On the other hand, Layshock said with snowmobiles visitors are able to take in the park without extended commentary and have more time to absorb the scenery.

"The geysers, in the winter because it's cold, are absolutely incredible," Layshock said. "It's kind of otherworldly—they're harsh."

With the right temperatures, they produce a geyser rain when the hot water shoots into the frigid air and frozen ice droplets return to the ground. Other geothermal features produce an icy mist known as rime, which often accumulates on trees and produces a kind of silhouette.



According to park spokeswoman Vicki Regula, snow levels are relatively low for this time of year. With warm temperatures and rain during the latter half of November, much of the snow from earlier this fall melted.

As of EBS press time Dec. 6, there were 5 inches of new snow from Norris to Canyon, thin snow at Fishing Bridge, 6 inches of new snow at Snake River, and 1/2 of an inch of new snow from West to Old Faithful and from Madison to Norris.

Snow conditions change quickly, and regardless of conditions the interior park roads will open for the winter season beginning Dec. 15. The only road open for regular vehicle use is from the North Entrance at Gardiner, through the park to Cooke City.

For additional information about seeing the park during the wintertime, visit nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/visiting-yellowstone-in-winter.btm.

Explore Big Sky

Snow activities for children

EBS STAFF

West Yellowstone sees an average of 150 inches of snow annually, often between October and May. And as a way of encouraging kids to get outside in the wintertime, the Kids'N'Snow program in West Yellowstone offers an array of outdoor children's activities during the winter season.

One weekend each month, December through March, Kids'N'Snow hosts activities ranging from snowshoeing and ice fishing, to snowmobiling and sledding.

This season, Kids'N'Snow will offer events Dec. 16-17, Jan. 13-14, Feb. 3-4 and March 3-4. For the first session in December, kids will have an opportunity to snowshoe with a National Park Service Ranger, ride on snowmobiles, learn about raptors, make snow art, and learn to ski.

According to the program website, the organizers "offer an opportunity for all kids, both from our community and winter visitors, the chance to try new things in a safe and fun, hands-on learning environment.



Kids'N'Snow is a winter children's program in West Yellowstone offering activities from snowmobiling and snowshoeing, to animal tracking and ice fishing. PHOTO COURTESY OF WEST YELLOWSTONE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

And, hopefully, [they] develop lifelong, healthy habits along the way."

The Kids'N'Snow program started in 2010 and has expanded to reach over 1,000 participants. In 2012, the program received the Tourism Event of the Year from the Montana Office of Tourism and in 2014, it was awarded an Association of Zoos & Aquariums Nature Grant, recognizing Kids'N'Snow as an AZA Nature Play Site.

The event is a public-private partnership with local businesses and nonprofit organizations, as well as Yellowstone National Park, Custer Gallatin National Forest, the Town of West Yellowstone and the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce.

Each weekend's activities and schedule vary, so families are invited to attend multiple weekends. Most of the activities are offered at no charge, but some have limited space so pre-registration is available. Kids'N'Snow headquarters is located at the West Yellowstone Visitor Center, at 30 Yellowstone Ave.

To learn more or to register, call the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce at (406) 646-7701 or visit kidsnsnow.org.





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Big Sky Resort enjoys midwinter conditions early in the season

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Despite record breaking temperatures across the state and an unseasonably warm day in south-central Montana, Big Sky Resort opened Nov. 23 with almost midwinter conditions, allowing the resort to turn on six chairlifts and open the Big Couloir, a popular run off the top of Lone Mountain.

"That's incredibly rare for the resort to open the Big on the first day," said Big Sky Resort Public Relations Manager, Chelsi Moy. "We had almost 50 runs open on Thanksgiving Day, and that number will continue to increase substantially as the snow continues to fall."

Explorer, Swift Current, Ramcharger, Powder Seeker and all of the new surface lifts hummed to life on opening day, as well as the Lone Peak Tram. Moy said skiers and snowboarders were lined up for the Swift Current lift beginning at 7:30 a.m. despite the forecasted warm weather.

On Nov. 28, Big Sky Resort opened the Challenger lift and on Dec. 1 flocks of skiers turned out for \$29 Day, ushering in the busiest day in the resort's first weeks of the season.

Dec. 8-10 marks military appreciation day at the resort, and those with a valid military ID, whether active duty or retired service members, can get a half-price ticket.

The following weekend, Dec. 15-17, educators will be recognized with a discounted ticket upon presentation of a valid educator's ID.

Based on current conditions, Moy anticipates the resort will be able to open the Madison Area on Dec. 15.

After about 11 inches of snow fell on Lone Mountain coming out of the first weekend of December, the resort anticipates a high-pressure weather system for seven to 10 days.

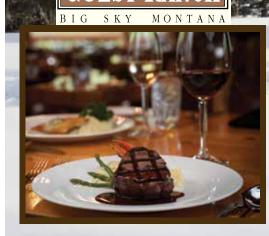
According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's December report, this dry spell will be followed by more snow during the latter half of December as a La Niña winter descends upon Big Sky.

Big Sky Resort opening day b	y the numbers
------------------------------	---------------

	6	Chairlifts open
es 1t	50	Runs open
of t	925	Skiable acres open
es-	82 "	Inches of snowfall
d 1-	24"	Mid-mountain base
	36"	Upper-mountain base
ne ber	34 °	Low temperature
UCI		

On Dec. 6, ski resort snowfall tracker On the Snow reported a 30-45-inch base at Big Sky.





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Explore Big Sky



The best gifts for the fly fisher in your life

BY PATRICK STRAUB EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

Black Friday, Shop Small Saturday and Cyber Monday have all become household phrases lately. Many of us locals might prefer a Hunting Humpday, Fly-Fishing Friday or Skiing Sunday. While much of the country partook in holiday season shopping rites of passage, many of us were opting to go outside to hunt, fish or ski. But as fortunate as we all are to live in southwest Montana, the season of gift giving is now upon us.

With tree gathering and decorating, holiday pageants and performances, and airport pick-ups and drop-offs, finding dedicated time to shop for the angler in your life can be hard. To make it even more challenging, knowing what to give is difficult for the untrained angling-centric gift bestower. Below are some of this season's best gifts across all budgets for the fly fisher in your life.

The Hatch nipper. Nippers are an essential angling tool. Many anglers are not willing to splurge on high-end nippers because of their utilitarian roots. Splurge for them and buy the best nippers on the market. \$99

Zippered waders. Patagonia and Simms make zippered waders that are the best on the market when it comes to durability, functionality and fit. A shift from chest-high waders to zippered waders is one not easily made; be the Santa superhero and make your angler happy this season. Zippered waders are ideal for cool and warmer weather fishing. In cooler weather relieving oneself is a snap and in warmer weather, unzipping the waders allows for a cool-down. Rio Gallegos by Patagonia run \$599 and Simms G4Zs cost \$799.

Rep Your Water pom-pom hat. Who doesn't love a pom-pom on the top of their hat? Color the hat like your angler's favorite fish, and you have a slam-dunk stocking stuffer. \$21

Redington Hydrogen trout spey rod. If your angler is curious about the two-handed rod craze, help them along with the ideal entry-level rod. This durable yet lightweight and responsive fly rod will allow your angler to be a part of the next big thing in local fly fishing. \$349

Yeti Rambler. We all know the quality of Yeti coolers. Scale down the size of their awesome coolers and make them more personal with a Yeti Rambler. Whether your angler wants to keep a hot beverage steamy or a cold beverage refreshing, now's the time to save with Yeti's nation-wide price discount on their hugely popular Yeti Ramblers. They're 25 percent off through Dec. 10 nationwide. Prices vary.



Choosing the best gift for the angler in your life can be a tall order. But with a little patience and by seeking the advice of your local fly shop, you can land the perfect gift for your favorite angler. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

to the good folks at Simms to use scrap neoprene for a stocking stuffer necessity—a koozie to keep your angler's cold one cold. \$13

Hareline fly tying kit with vise. Fly fishing progression is such: catch fish, catch lots of fish, catch big fish, and eventually catch big fish on flies tied personally. But your angler cannot tie his or her own flies without the proper fly tying kit. This kit is a complete kit with a vise and all the necessary tools. Materials and the desire to learn to tie flies are not included. \$199

The gift of fishing time. A list of the best fly-fishing gifts is not complete without the gift of time to go fishing. This spans all budgets, from a few hours to wet a line to an unforgettable trip a few thousand miles away. The angler in your life will be happy with an afternoon on the Gallatin or the once in a lifetime trip to chase permit or dorado. In our increasingly busy lives, time to go fishing is precious, but it is often the best gift. Priceless

Echo BASE outfit. A very popular "grab 'n go" fly rod, line and reel package. They cast well, are durable, and provide everything needed to get started. The outfit includes a rod case and is "river ready" the moment of unwrapping. This makes for a great first fly-fishing outfit or an ideal backpacking setup. \$169

R.L. Winston Boron III LS. If your angler has "been there and done that," they will appreciate one of the finest fly rods to hit the market in decades. Montana inspired, Montana designed and Montana made, R.L. Winston fly rods are an aspirational target of many anglers. The Boron III LS is made in Montana with our local waters in mind. Give your angler what they really want—a fly rod that will also be an heirloom. \$795

Simms wading koozie. From high-end fly rods to essential accessories, every angler's arsenal should including a wading koozie. Leave it

Holiday shopping season is here. It doesn't matter if we embrace it or scoff at it—it's not going away. Fortunately, if you're reading this, your shopping just became a little easier.

Pat Straub has been guiding on the Smith River for nearly 20 years. He is the author of six books, including "The Frugal Fly Fisher," "Montana On The Fly" and" Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Fly Fishing." He and his wife own Gallatin River Guides in Big Sky.

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Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



not be able to stay warm out there maybe visit your favorite local fly shop to get some tips for staying comfortable on the water in these conditions.

As for the fish biting it doesn't get much easier, if you're ok fishing nymphs that is. Fish tend to congregate in slower runs where they have a steady supply of insects to feed on and can spend the majority of their time conserving energy. Often these runs are located near some fast, deep runs. Although some of the winter lies are deep you can also find fish holding in shallow water that is a foot deep or less as long as it has all of the qualities needed for surviving a long, cold winter. The challenge is finding the exact location of these podded up fish. Once you track down some runs where they are hanging they will be found there all winter.

The bugs are pretty simple as well. Pat's Rubber Legs in medium to small sizes are still a go-to for most along with a variety of midge larvae patterns like the Zebra Midge, as well as worms and eggs. Small Lightning Bugs, T-Midges and Rainbow Warriors may be a good choice for your dropper as well. And if you find that they are eating one of your flies, but the other is just taking up space don't be afraid to switch it up.





Pheasant Tail

Hope you all have taken some time to wet a line over the past several weeks. If not hopefully we can provide a bit of inspiration for the coming days.

Often when I mention to people that I fish through the winter they follow up by asking if I ice fish! Fishing our local rivers this time of year can be very rewarding, but it is important to be prepared and dress for the occasion.

Thick socks, fingerless gloves, hand-warmers, lots of layers and a fleece Buff are just some of the things that can make a cold day on the river into a comfortable day of fishing. If you are motivated to fish, but are worried you will My favorite rig this time of year is a Pat's Rubber Legs about 3-6 feet below a strike indicator with a smaller dropper about 12'' below the Pat's. Most runs that I fish on the Gallatin this time of year don't require extra split shot, but for deeper runs or if you're fishing on upper Madison adding some shot may be necessary to get your flies down.

Good luck out there and check out Wednesday Night Fly Tying at Gallatin River Guides. Give us a call for more details or to be added to our mailing list.



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Inside the Big Sky

Winter safety tips

VISIT BIG SKY

With Big Sky Resort opening more and more terrain for the season, winter is officially here. It's easy to head out into the winter wonderland with nothing but excitement, but it's important to keep safety in mind as well. Here are some winter safety tips to ensure any visitor or local has a safe winter in Big Sky.

While outdoor adventuring:

Stay dry. There is nothing more important than avoiding hypothermia. Wet clothes lose all insulating value and transmit cold rapidly. Layer your clothing while hiking, skiing or exploring so that you can keep your body at a comfortable temperature. Synthetic fabrics make for a great base layer to limit the absorption of sweat. Waterproof outerwear is recommended.

Utilize the buddy system. When heading in to any situation where elements can change quickly, it's important to let people know where you're going and when you plan on being back. Having a partner while exploring is helpful as well. You can monitor each other for signs of hypothermia and be a support system in case of emergency.

Have the right equipment. In addition to the proper clothes, it's important to have the proper gear. Be sure to wear sun protection as snow can reflect up to 80 percent of the sun's ultraviolet rays. Wear shoes with a good fit that will not restrict blood flow to the feet, and that have soles that will provide traction in the snow. Rubber soles are best.

While Driving:

Be prepared. Make sure that your car is winter-ready with all proper fluids topped off, winter tires with good tread, and a cold-weather kit that includes a blanket, folding shovel, first aid kit, flashlight and bagged salt or sand. Check weather reports to stay informed of the conditions, and try to keep your gas tank at least half-full at all times.

Take it slow. Everything requires more time in the snow and ice, so turn, accelerate and decelerate slowly, allowing your car time to gain traction. While



Be prepared and remember to take winter safety measures when recreating and driving as conditions can change quickly and unexpectedly. PHOTO COURTESY OF VISIT BIG SKY

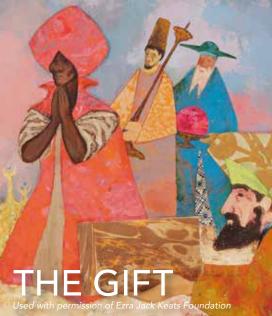
approaching a hill, try to create some inertia before the climb. There's nothing worse than trying to power up a hill and just spinning your wheels on the ice.

Don't panic. In the event of running your car off the road, remain calm. Assess the situation: Can you get a little traction under your drive tires with either sand, chains or even your floor mats? Use a shovel or any tool handy to remove snow around the tires and gently accelerate to gain traction. If you're stuck in the snow, stay in your vehicle while awaiting help, but be sure to clear your exhaust pipe before starting the engine.

We hope that you stay safe and make the most of your winter in Big Sky. Visit our local outfitters in the Meadow and at Big Sky Resort Mountain Village to find all the right gear for a great time in the outdoors. For more Big Sky tips, stop by the Visitor Information Center at the corner of Highway 191 and Lone Mountain Trail.

A version of this story was originally published on the Visit Big Sky blog at visithigskymt.com/winter-safety-tips/. Read more interesting content about the area on Visit Big Sky's blog at visithigskymt.com/category/blog/.







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On the Trail: Winter recreation trailheads

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

BY CIARA WOLFE bsco executive director

Winter has arrived, bringing new opportunities for a variety of recreation in and around Big Sky. The Big Sky Community Organization has been working with Lone Mountain Ranch and the Big Sky Owners Association to provide better access to various winter trails this season.

Better access starts with designated trailheads with parking areas to accommodate recreational users. Here, I will highlight five different trailhead access point within the Meadow where you can safely park a vehicle and access winter trails directly from that location.

All of these winter trailheads will be plowed thanks to generous donations from our local snow plow companies, Delzer Diversified and Kevin Custo, and from the Big Sky Owners Association and Big Sky Resort Area District.

Big Sky Community Park provides a plowed parking area and an outhouse with access to LMR's Nordic trail system located at the park and on the golf course. There is also access to Little Willow Way and Black Diamond Trail. Both of these trails are recommended for walking, snowshoeing or fat biking and are dog friendly.

Historic Crail Ranch provides a plowed parking lot with direct access to

LMR's Nordic trail system found on the Big Sky Resort golf course. Access is provided through the Historic Crail Ranch property.

Town Center has plowed parking spaces along Aspen Leaf Drive adjacent to Center Stage Town Center Park, a central location for accessing the community Nordic trails found throughout Town Center. These trails are open to Nordic skiing, fat biking and are dog friendly.

Hummocks and Uplands trailheads are located approximately one mile east from Town Center on Aspen Leaf Drive. The Hummocks and Uplands trailheads will be plowed for parking throughout the winter season. Hummocks and Uplands are ungroomed, but are excellent options for hiking, fat biking and backcountry Nordic and downhill skiing. These trails are also dog friendly.

Ousel Falls trailhead has a plowed parking lot and outhouse with access to the Ousel Falls trail. Going north the trail will be packed for walking or biking into Town Center and is pet friendly. While the trail to the falls is ungroomed, it provides an opportunity for walking and snowshoeing.

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.



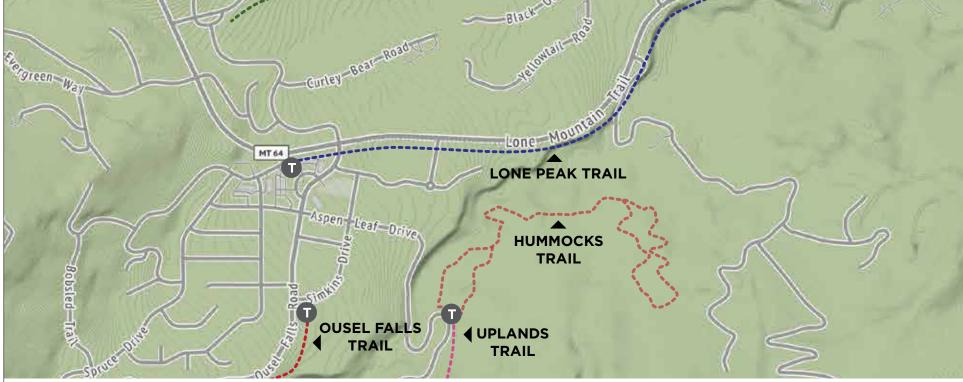
WINTER MEADOW TRAIL STATS

Ungroomed: 8.5 miles, including Hummocks, Uplands, South Fork Loop, Little Willow Way, Black Diamond and Ousel Falls trails

Packed trails: 1.5 miles, including Ousel Falls Road trail

Plowed trails: 1 miles, including Lone Peak Trail from Ousel Falls Road, to Little Coyote Road **Groomed Nordic trails:** 11 miles, including trails on the golf course and in Town Center





Ski Tips: Acceleration the unspoken fear of skiers

BY DAN EGAN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Acceleration is the unspoken fear of most skiers. The thought sits deep in our minds, that if I go too fast I'll lose control. To change the way you view acceleration, shift the focus away from going too fast, to concentrating on staying in balance.

How many times have you looked down a slope where the conditions were less than perfect, or the entrance to the tree run looked narrow and you thought, "What if I make a turn and end up going too fast?"

This situation plays out time and time again because we fear blowing a turn or not being able to make a turn to miss an obstacle such as a rock, stump or bump.

To fully grasp acceleration, we must resolve a few things. First off, skis accelerate because of the engineering, technology and materials that they're made of. Secondly, when we tune our skis, by waxing and sharpening the edges, we're making the skis go faster.

Now, when you factor into the equation that most people fear speed and the tool they've purchased is designed to go fast, you have a contradiction. The result is fear and the reaction to fear is tension within the body, and this equals fatigue.

In my camps we attack this issue head-on. I tell everyone who attends the same thing. Skis are designed to accelerate. The purpose of turning is not to slow down, rather it's to accelerate. Turns allow us to change direction and direct the energy created by turning down the mountain in a controlled fashion.

Ultimately yes, skis are used as brakes and edges can be used as a tool to slow us down and stop. However, that's not the pure purpose of turning.

The problem most skiers have is not acceleration, but the lack of anticipation of acceleration. A narrow range of balance compounds this so that when acceleration happens the skier becomes out of balance, resulting in a long traverse, a need to slam on the brakes or a potential crash.

So, what's the trick? How do we embrace acceleration and let go of our fear of going too fast?

The anticipation of acceleration requires a proactive body movement, which will allow the skier to stay centered and balanced over the skis during acceleration.

Here are three examples of a proactive body movement that can counter acceleration:

Looking ahead and down the hill. In situations where skiers are nervous, they

tend to look across the hill or at the obstacle, which limits their movement into the next turn.

Planting the downhill pole to initiate the next turn. This will position your upper body up and over your skis and allow the skis to change direction while keeping your body balanced.

Lower the edge angle of your skis as you enter the first turn. This will scrub unwanted speed and allow you to maneuver in tight places. It will also allow you to slide farther down the mountain rather than across the fall line.

If you can combine all three of these tools as you enter a run, the result will be greater control, a tighter line down the mountain and a wider range of balance.

Anticipating acceleration through your turns will help your body stay centered and balanced over your skis. PHOTO COURTESY OF RUMBLE PRODUCTIONS

Then try this for a few runs, next time you go out skiing:

Ski a run you know well and ski with the intention of only slowing down every third or fourth turn. Make two or three smooth, round turns, allow the skis to jet out of the turn into the transition and actively engage into the next turn, feeling the speed.

Then make one turn where you hit the edges hard, skid a bit and slow down. Repeat the series of turns again.

Join me this winter on the slope and let's tackle shifting the fear of uncontrollable acceleration into the efficient use of controllable acceleration.

Extreme skiing pioneer Dan Egan has appeared in 12 Warren Miller Ski films and countless others. Today he teaches clinics and guides trips at locations around the world including Big Sky, where he'll he teaching Dec. 16-17, Feb. 22-24, March 1-2 and March 8-10, as well as throughout the season (contact Big Sky Mountain Sports for availability). To find more information on Dan Egan camps and clinics go to skiclinics.com.

Bridger Bowl opens with expanded beginner terrain

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Beginner skiers will be treated this year at Bridger Bowl Ski Area after an expansion added 7 acres of easy terrain to the mountain. The ski area added two covered conveyor lifts to their operation and relocated



Sydney Desmarais and Meg Puchlerz enjoy great early season conditions at Bridger Bowl in December 2016. PHOTO BY TYLER ALLEN

the Snowflake lift to the expanded area, which is south of Saddle Peak Lodge.

Doug Wales, director of marketing and sales for Bridger Bowl, said that thanks to the \$10 million project, the first-time experience for new skiers and snowboarders has never been better. Skiers will have access to the new Snowflake warming hut as a heated space to warm up or use the restroom.

A beginner area lift ticket is required to access this newly expanded terrain.

This summer, Bridger Bowl also replaced the old double Virginia City Riblet chairlift with a triple chair that offers a height adjusting loading conveyor for kids. The new lift will serve the same terrain and increases rider capacity by 27 percent.

Improvements were also made this summer to both lodges at Bridger Bowl. Retail space has been added to the Jim Bridger Lodge, while an addition to the Saddle Peak Lodge has added 300 more seasonal locker rentals and additional cafeteria space. The Snowsports rental program and lessons offices have also moved to the new south wing of the Saddle Peak Lodge.

Going into the 2017 opening on Dec. 8, Bridger Bowl had 34 inches of settled snow base at EBS press time Dec. 6.

Explore Big Sky

Fat bike season begins throughout Greater Yellowstone Area

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Biking in the snow with over-sized tires, popularly called fat biking, was ushered in this season with Global Fat Bike Day on Dec. 2. The event was recognized by area biking groups, as well as Grand Targhee Resort.

Locally, the Southwest Montana Mountain Bike Association hosted an evening ride Dec. 2, which may have been the first fat ride of the winter season for some participants. The group left from MAP Brewing at 7:30 p.m. and toured the north side of Bozeman's trails beneath an almost-full moon.

At Grand Targhee Resort, fat bike riding was celebrated Dec. 2 with a free two-hour demo bike rental from Teton Mountain Outfitters, and Habitat High Altitude Provisions in Driggs offered free fat bike demos as well.

This winter Grand Targhee will offer nearly 10 miles of groomed Nordic trails, and over 7 miles of groomed single-track trails for biking.

On Saturday, Dec. 9, Grand Targhee will host the first of their annual fat bike races. The Grand Targhee Snow Bike Race is a 7-mile lap or 14-mile loop held on the Nordic track. A second race on Jan. 20 will be held on Hamster Loop and Jolly Green Giants plus the lower ski runs at the resort, amounting to an 8-mile lap or 16-mile loop. This second race is held in the evening and competitors are required to bring a light for their bike. There is no pre-registration for either race. Visit grandtarghee.com to learn more.

Another not-to-miss series of races in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem this winter includes a 60-kilometer backcountry race on Saturday, Dec. 16, that starts in Island Park, Idaho. This event is the first of three races in the Fat Pursuit Series. Later races get longer, and Jan. 5-7 competitors will bike their choice of 200 kilometers or 200 miles.



Grand Targhee Resort will host two fat bike races this year, after kicking off the riding season with the nationally celebrated Global Fat Bike Day Dec. 2. One of the races will be held in the dark. PHOTO BY JEFF BUYDOS

For each of the competitions in the Fat Pursuit Series, competitors will pedal just outside of Yellowstone National Park, beginning in Island Park and weaving between lodgepole pines, across historic Yellowstone fire burns, and along the Henry's Fork of the Snake River. For more information visit fatpursuit.com.

Closer to home, the annual Mad Wolf Winter Relay will test competitors in a variety of outdoor activities, including fat biking. The event returns to Big Sky this year on Feb. 24. A revival of a popular local race enjoyed in the '70s and '80s, this relay includes skiing at Big Sky Resort, running local trails, and riding a fat bike across Lone Mountain Ranch. Visit bssef.com to learn more.





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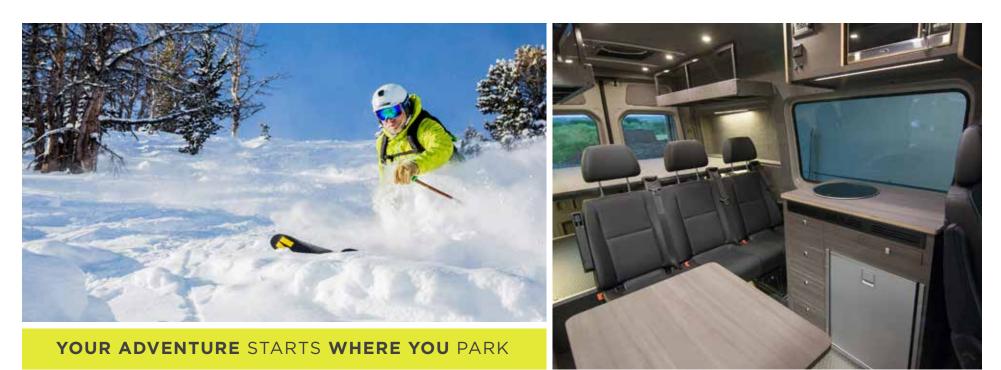
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Ice festival celebrates climbing in Hyalite Canyon

EBS STAFF

The 21st annual Bozeman Ice Climbing Festival attracts the local outdoor community, ice enthusiasts from near and far, and world-renowned professional climbers for a celebration of one of Hyalite Canyon's most popular and historic activities.

The five-day community festival kicked off Dec. 6 at the Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture in downtown Bozeman with an après climb party featuring Bridger Brewing Company's Hyalite APA, brewed exclusively for the Ice Fest.

Throughout the week, organizers are hosting a number of ice climbing skills clinics in Hyalite Canyon, the majority of which were sold out at EBS press time on Dec. 6.

Following the daytime ice climbing activities, the Bozeman Ice Festival includes a host of evening activities at the Emerson.

On Friday, Dec. 8, the Bozeman Ice Festival presents the second day of the only Montana stop on the renowned

Adventure Film Festival, which features screenings of outdoor-adventure documentaries from around the world. View the complete screening lineup on the Bozeman Ice Festival website.

On Saturday, Dec. 9, the Bozeman Ice Festival brings the film "Dirtbag: The Legend of Fred Beckey" to the Emerson. Over the course of seven decades, the late Fred Beckey (1923-2017) amassed hundreds of first ascents and is now recognized as one of the most accomplished climbers in the world. The now-ubiquitous term "dirtbag" is believed to have been coined to capture Beckey's off-the-grid spirit.

"Bozeman is a world-class outdoor adventure town, and this year we really want to invite everyone in the community who loves Hyalite and the public lands that surround us to come out and celebrate," said Festival Director Joe Josephson in a press release about the event.

Josephson is especially excited to bring the film "Dirtbag" to Bozeman. "Fred was the mentor and patron saint of the early Montana climbing pioneers, The Dirty Socks Club," Josephson added. "The stories of climbing with Fred and his lasting legacy are a foundation of the local climbing community today."

The Bozeman Ice Festival culminates on Sunday, Dec. 10, with the Local Legends Dinner that highlights Dirty Socks Club co-founder and Bozeman-native Doug McCarty. McCarty will share stories of first ascents in the Beartooth

The Bozeman Ice Festival brings climbers together to experience the ice in Hyalite Canyon. The five-day event Dec. 6-10 offers all-day climbing clinics, followed by après climb parties and a number of film screenings at the Emerson Cultural Center. PHOTO COURTESY OF BOZEMAN ICE FESTIVAL
Mountains and Hyalite, jumping freight trains right out of high school, and

Mountains and Hyalite, jumping freight trains right out of high school, and vagabonding around western Canada climbing with Beckey in the early 1970s. Attendees will have the chance to earn a membership card in the Dirty Socks Club signed by one of the founding members.

"For more than two decades the Ice Fest has always been about bringing the ice climbing community together for the first best fest of the season, but over the past decade, [it] has the added message about securing winter access to over 33,000 acres of public land in Hyalite," Josephson said. "Just a few short years ago Hyalite wasn't plowed and once the first snows fell, no one could get back there without an epic adventure."

In 2010, Josephson co-founded Friends of Hyalite, a nonprofit operating under a unique cost-share agreement with Gallatin County and the U.S. Forest Service. Since 2011, Friends of Hyalite has secured more than \$82,000 to fund annual snow plowing operations, which cost an average of \$20,000 per year to keep the road to Hyalite open.

Proceeds from the Bozeman Ice Festival go directly to Friends of Hyalite to support plowing and stewardship efforts in the canyon.

For more information and a complete schedule of events, visit bozemanicefest. com. To learn more about Friends of Hyalite visit byalite.org.







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Announcements

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DID YOU KNOW?

The Clark's nutcracker has a unique pouch under its tongue used to carry seeds long distances. The nutcracker collects seeds from pine trees and carries them away to hide for later use.

This bird hides thousands of seeds each year, and studies have shown that they can remember where they have hidden nearly all of their seeds.

The Clark's nutcracker is one of the only members of the crow family where the male incubates the eggs.

Local declines in Clark's nutcracker populations may be due to a pine beetle epidemic and the arrival of white pine blister rust, both of which kill the whitebark pines that many nutcrackers depend on.

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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"

Harvesting a Christmas tree

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

O Christmas tree, o Christmas tree How lovely are thy branches Your boughs so green in summertime Stay bravely green in wintertime O Tannenhaum, o Christmas tree How lovely are thy branches

The tradition of the Christmas tree dates back thousands of years. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, evergreen trees, wreaths and garlands symbolized eternal life for the ancient Egyptians, Chinese and Hebrews, while early tree worship survived pagan rituals in Europe. During the first century, Romans celebrated Saturnalia, the pagan Roman winter solstice festival, by decorating trees.

However, the modern tradition of the Christmas tree, decorations and all, originated in Germany as a "paradise tree" hung with apples to represent the Garden of Eden. By the 16th century, these trees were adorned with candles and other decorations as a Christmas tradition.

Today, an estimated 30 million Christmas trees are sold in the U.S. each holiday season, which have been grown and harvested as part of a longstanding holiday tradition. Often, these trees have been trimmed and shaped before being transported great distances and arriving in your home from a commercial lot.

As an alternative to purchasing your Christmas tree from a vendor this year, consider harvesting your own with a U.S. Forest Service-issued permit. Permits are issued in many national forests, the Custer Gallatin included.

Selecting a tree

Access to forested land abounds in Gallatin Canyon, and the first step is to choose a place to go and look. Many Forest Service roads in the canyon close to vehicles in the winter, but you can easily park at a trailhead or gate and continue on foot or by ski.

When selecting the tree you'd like to put in your home, imagine how it'll appear inside. Look for gaps in the branches and check that it's straight, but remember that you can get creative with decorations if the tree happens to have exceptionally unique character. Consider measuring the available space in your home before you set out, as it's easy to underestimate a tree's height.

Once you've made your selection, you may be interested in identifying the tree species. Some of the more It's important to remember that trees are a part of the ecosystem. They help protect watersheds, provide habitat for wildlife and contribute to beautiful scenery. When making your tree selection, keep in mind the following USFS guidelines:

- Don't cut trees growing within 50 feet of any stream, lake or wetland.
- Only cut trees 15 feet tall or less.
- Cut your tree as close to the ground as possible, and below the lowest live limb. A remaining stump measuring 6 inches high or less is ideal.
- After cutting your tree, attach the permit to a lower limb near the trunk for transporting home.
- Topping trees, or cutting the top off, deforms future growth and leaves a visual eyesore. Take the entire tree or choose another one.

Caring for a tree

Once your Christmas tree has made it home, there are just a few things you'll need to do to make sure those evergreen boughs stay pretty. Trees are a plant, and therefore they rely on water. Make sure you use a tree stand that fits your tree and can hold an adequate amount of water. And after the tree is brought into the house, remember to give it water daily.

If you get home late after the cutting or aren't quite ready to put that tree inside, that's OK. Most species can go six to eight hours after cutting and will still draw water through the trunk.

If you need to store the tree longer, consider putting it in a bucket of water. When you are ready to bring the tree inside, make a fresh cut on the trunk to remove the drying base. This will improve water uptake.

Harvesting your own tree may quickly become a special Christmas tradition. Whether you cross-country ski or snowshoe to the tree—or perhaps ride horseback, my personal favorite—you can easily make an adventure of the outing, bringing along sleds for the kids and making a day of finding just the right evergreen.

Christmas tree permits for the Custer Gallatin National Forest, as well as separate permits for garlands, are for sale at all seven ranger district offices, including Bozeman and West Yellowstone, as well as several community businesses. Permits are available in Big Sky at Ace Hardware and the Big Sky Conoco, and in Bozeman at Murdoch's Ranch & Home Supply on Jackrabbit Lane and 7th Avenue, as well as Owenhouse Ace Hardware downtown and on West Main Street.



common trees native to the Custer Gallatin National Forest include the lodgepole pine, Englemann spruce, sub alpine fir and Douglas fir. Both fir species have blunt, soft needles, while the spruce needles are stiff and often are described as "spiky." Lodgepole pines have clustered needles that are about 1.5 inches long.

As an aside, Montana's Kootenai National Forest was selected to provide the 2017 Capitol Christmas tree, where it's on display at the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. The 79-foot-tall Englemann spruce arrived on Nov. 25, after a 3,000-mile journey.

Cutting a tree

In southwest Montana, USFS Christmas tree permits cost \$5 and up to three can be purchased per household. Trees can be harvested throughout the Custer Gallatin National Forest, except at campgrounds, trailheads, wilderness areas, developed recreation sites, posted timber sale units and areas where trees have recently been planted for reforestation.

Gallatin Canyon offers multiple ways to access National Forest land for cutting your own permitted Christmas tree. PHOTO BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT

Explore Big Sky

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Section 4: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



TEDxBigSky profiles **pg. 46-47**



SPOTLIGHT Diana Tremaine

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Whether painting figures or wildlife, Gallatin Gateway artist Diana Tremaine is driven by a search for truth and a desire to create works that speak to the universal traits of humanity.

As a young girl growing up in New York City, Tremaine would spend long hours with an aunt who had a contemporary art collection that included paintings by abstract expressionists Piet Mondrian, Joan Miró and Wassily Kandinsky.

"I quite often didn't understand the work, but I was always drawn to it," Tremaine said. "She would drift off into a much more ethereal space and I totally understood on an intuitive, spiritual level where she was going. It felt like a language and a world that made more sense to me, and was more compelling, than a lot of the intellectual pursuits of New York City."

The daughter of a stockbroker, Tremaine didn't feel supported in her desire to pursue a degree in fine art, and felt pressured to choose a more "practical" course of study. But when she attended University of California, Berkeley, the only time she felt "truly turned on" was in the art building.

Tremaine eventually pushed past her father's influence and transferred to University of California, Los Angeles, because the school had a stronger art program.

After 14 harried years in LA, juggling a teaching job, working in galleries and making art, Tremaine decided she needed more space and quietude outside of the expectations and pressures of being an artist in an urban cultural center.

In 2000, she moved to a red-roofed farmhouse on 20 acres in Gallatin Gateway, where she still resides.

"I was attracted by the rawness of [Montana]," Tremaine said. "I needed the raw side of life in order to tap into my own spirit on a deeper level."

Her current work delves

Art as a means of unification

and unite us in our shared experience," Tremaine said. "It can be the combination of strength, beauty, fear, vulnerability, power, loss, chaos—those characteristics that make us human."

For Tremaine, it's the tension between all of those qualities and finding a way for them to aesthetically complement one another that come through in her paintings.

One of Tremaine's signature touches is to leave "holes" that expose the first layers of paint laid down on the canvas.



Montana artist Diana Tremaine shows her work in a group exhibition at Big Sky's Gallatin River Gallery that runs through Jan. 31 with an opening reception on Dec. 8, beginning at 5:30 p.m. PHOTOS BY GRAHAM NEALE

"I think every single mark you put on a canvas has an energy about it, whether it's a directness, a timidity, a confidence, an anger—it communicates where you were at when you made them," she said. "Maybe I don't even know what was behind it, but it's still there in the mark."

In a day and age when social media and a sense of division dominate people's lives, Tremaine feels that engendering connection—both with oneself and the world at large—is more important than ever.

"I think art has an important role in unifying," she said. "I think we've lost



Tremaine toys with the tension between the abstract and the representative in works meant to highlight the universal characteristics of humanity.

into the depths of contrast both visually and metaphorically. Her oil paintings explore the blurred edge between the representative and abstract and, in showing how the two styles can coexist, alludes to the whole spectrum of sentiments and personality traits that comprise what it means to be human.

"It doesn't matter if I'm looking at a human, a horse, a bird ... there are certain gestures, certain moods, certain traits that transcend species sight of what connects us all—there's a huge divide among people and an usversus-them mentality. If a work of art moves you, takes your breath away, you realize you're not alone in whatever feeling that painting brings up in you—it connects you with the artist and everyone else who has been affected by that painting."

Tremaine is attracted to the liminal—neither here nor there—space and approaches the recurring theme through technique and subject. One painting called "Intrepid" depicts a man at three different phases of tumbling through an abstracted background of space. The figure's state of freefall indicates Tremaine's interest in the transitional period where, as the artist puts it, "you've jumped but haven't landed, a moment of suspension where you don't know what's next."

"When one is an artist you're always in transition ... if I felt like I nailed it every time, I wouldn't keep painting," she said. "As you get older you're always getting more clear, closer to what matters to you and what doesn't. There's no finish line as an artist, you just try to remain committed to your own truth and really where you land is out of your control."

Explore Big Sky

x = independently organized TED event

TEDx brings 'Positivity' to Big Sky

EBS STAFF

What began in 1984 as a conference to share new ideas concerning technology, entertainment and design has become the most renowned speaking series in the world. TED Talks now encompass nearly any conceivable topic, and occur around the globe in more than 100 different languages.

An independently organized version of TED, called TEDx, is coming to Big Sky on Jan. 27. The second annual TEDxBigSky will feature seven hand-picked, inspiring people at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. The speakers will share ideas and personal stories related to the 2018 event's theme of "positivity."

Outlaw Partners—the media, marketing and events company that also publishes this newspaper—launched the idea to bring a TEDx event to Big Sky when Media and Events Director Ersin Ozer reflected on the journalism and stories coming out of the region.

"I was inspired by our magazine, Mountain Outlaw, to put on this event on a live platform," said Ozer, who works with a group of Big Sky community members that sit on the TEDxBigSky committee and bring the event to fruition each year. "Outlaw aims to create connections and inspire others to act, and this year's theme of positivity juxtaposes much of what we are seeing in mass media and current events. Producing TEDxBigSky with this theme brings it all full circle."

Past TEDxBigSky presenters have included rocket scientist and professional snowboarder Andrew Crawford, researcher and philanthropist Linda Wortman, world-renowned architect Scott Wyatt, thought leader Ann Herrmann-Nehdi, former head of the CNN international news desk Parisa Khosravi, and a musical performance by Lukas Nelson.

The 2018 event will feature a woman whose life was transformed by her mother's death, and subsequent journey through her father's Alzheimer's; a Nepalese mountaineering guide; the founder of a media outlet devoted to uplifting news; the co-founder of an innovative technology startup company; a passionate outdoorsman; and special guest, musician Martin Sexton.

Stay tuned in to upcoming issues of EBS to get to know the 2018 presenters. EBS will feature Q&A interviews with the speakers in each issue leading up to the event.

Tickets for the event go on sale Dec. 15. Visit tedxbigsky.com for tickets, updates and to view all of the TEDx videos from the inaugural TEDxBigSky event.



DARYN KAGAN

Explore Big Sky: *What inspired you to give a TEDxBigSky talk?* **Daryn Kagan:** The invitation, firstly. It's always been on my wish list to do that. It's a perfect fit because the theme is positivity and I've built the most recent chapter of my media career out of sharing positive uplifting stories.

EBS: What does positivity mean to you?

D.K.: To me positivity means a choice—the choice of where you're going to focus your attention. We all have a range of emotions and things happen that you can't control, but you can control what you focus on.

EBS: In your career at CNN, you have reported from the red carpet at the Academy Awards and from the ground in Kuwait during the Iraq War. What was one of the most impactful stories from your years as a broadcast journalist? **D.K.:** Probably being on the air on 9/11, when the second plane went into the second [World Trade Center] tower, in terms of witnessing history and being a journalist and having the world look to you for information. If you want to do news, CNN is the place to do it—it's a front row seat to history every single day you go to work.

EBS: *How does your experience as a journalist inform the work you're doing today?* **D.K.**: At the end of the day it's storytelling—how do you tell a story? And those skills are important whether you're covering a war or someone who is overcoming an obstacle in their life.

You might remember Daryn Kagan from her more than 12 years as an anchor on CNN. Today, Kagan is a syndicated newspaper columnist for Cox Newspapers. Her weekly "What's Possible!" column inspires readers in newspapers across the country, including the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Eighty of her most popular columns make up her latest book, "Hope Possible: A Network News Anchor's Thoughts on Losing a Job, Finding Love, a New Career, and my Dog, Always my Dog." She is the creator and host of DarynKagan.com, an inspirational, online website featuring stories that "show the world what is possible." Kagan lives in Atlanta with her husband, daughter and "little sister" from the Big Brother Big Sister program. Her three-laegged cat, 11-month-old rescue bound puppy and eight chickens complete the family. **EBS:** Do you have a favorite TED or TEDx program? Which one and why? **D.K.:** I'm biased but my friend, Parisa Khosravi, who spoke at last year's TEDxBig-Sky [about her son with autism finding his voice] because I've taken that journey with her, and have seen her struggles as a mother and it's so inspiring to see what's possible for her son now.

EBS: You have said that you view your life as a story of reinvention. In what ways have you reinvented yourself? D.K.: I've come to find that everything ends. Every job ends, every relationship ends, every life ends, and endings aren't necessarily sad; they can be, but they are also openings for new chapters.

EBS: How would you like the audience at TEDxBigSky to feel after bearing your talk?

D.K.: I would like them to feel empowered, and to make different choices about the media they consume.



Robbie Houcek began her information technology career in Silicon Valley, working for companies like Advanced Micro Devices and Sun Micro Systems. During her years in the corporate world, Houcek's mother was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Several chemotherapy and radiation treatments later, her mother lost the battle with cancer. This devastating event led Houcek to purse a career in alternative therapies. She is a nationally certified Clinical Hypnotherapist, an Emotional Integration Practitioner, Associate Polarity Practitioner, Ontological Kinesiology Facilitator and an ordained interfaith minister. While tending to her thriving practice, Houcek's father developed Alzheimer's disease. She became the executor of his will, his power of attorney and over the last several years, has functioned as his most fiercely dedicated advocate. Her inspiring story provides a unique perspective of the journey through the disease.

EBS: Losing your mother to cancer in 1994 caused you to leave a career in IT for one in alternative therapies. What was the thought process that compelled you to switch careers?

ROBBIE HOUCEK

RH: By the time my mother was diagnosed, the cancer had spread through most of her body. It wasn't a matter of if she would die but when. She was in New Mexico and I was living in Silicon Valley. I couldn't be there to support her on a daily basis, but I wanted to do something to help her navigate the last phase of her life.

At the time, I was putting in six days a week and lots of long hours. I was over-worked and out of balance. Her diagnosis was a wake-up call—I carry 50 percent of her DNA in my body. I started looking for an alternative therapy that would help me facilitate my mother's experience with cancer, as well as her eventual passing. I took my first course and was hooked.

EBS: What, at the most basic level, compels your current work? **RH:** Empowering my clients. There is nothing better than working with a client to shift her perspective, watching her confidence grow, then watching her thrive.

EBS: What advice would you give young people who are beginning to think about their professional lives?

RH: Find a way to make a career out of doing what fulfills you. When I was in the corporate world I felt very successful but my work didn't feel significant. Now my work feels both significant and successful.

EBS: *The theme of TEDxBigSky is "positivity." What does positivity mean to you?* **RH:** Positivity is being able to face challenges and obstacles and look for the positive aspect, look for the opportunity for growth. We all face challenges and obstacles. How you deal with those challenges, the perspective you choose, is up to you.

EBS: *How does one shift to a place of positivity when they are struggling?* **RH:** It's all about shifting perspective. When you're struggling, you're not aware of options. When you stop pushing against the situation ... you stop struggling. When you stop struggling and just breathe, you give yourself some room to shift perspective. Then you may be aware of options you had not seen before.

EBS: *Do you have a favorite TED or TEDx program? Which one and why?* **RH:** Amy Cuddy's talk "Your Body Language May Shape Who You Are." Her message is all about changing perspective through the use of confident postures.

EBS: How would you like the audience at TEDxBigSky to feel after hearing your talk?

RH: Uplifted and hopeful. - Sarah Gianelli





Explore Big Sky

Take a musical road trip with Martin Sexton's 'Mixtape of the Open Road'

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

BIG SKY - Massachusetts-based troubadour Martin Sexton's latest album "Mixtape of the Open Road" harkens back to the days when cassettes and CDs with handwritten song titles were all the rage. While most mixtapes are compilations of various artists, Sexton's range as a musician and his disparate



influences as an artist give this album an eclectic "mixtape" feel.

From the very first track, we are treated to a musical, cross-country journey.

A minstrel at heart, Sexton's soulful voice, heartfelt lyrics, and inimical showmanship have earned him a cult-like following as one of America's most underappreciated singer-songwriters. He has been referred to as a "musician's musician," partly from the accolades bestowed on him by more well-known guitar players such as Dave Matthews and John Mayer.

Sexton's distinctive guitar style—fretting bass lines with his thumb, slapping the strings lightly on backbeats and palm-slapping for percussive effects—gives his solo performances a full sound complemented by his beatboxing and a multi-octave vocal range capable of moving between Louis Armstrong growls and falsetto riffs and covering all the ground in between.

Sexton is a one-man band firmly rooted in the folk-rock tradition, but the way he blends Gospel, jazz, R&B, blues and funk elements into ballads with witty, world-worn lyrics is where his individuality really shines through.

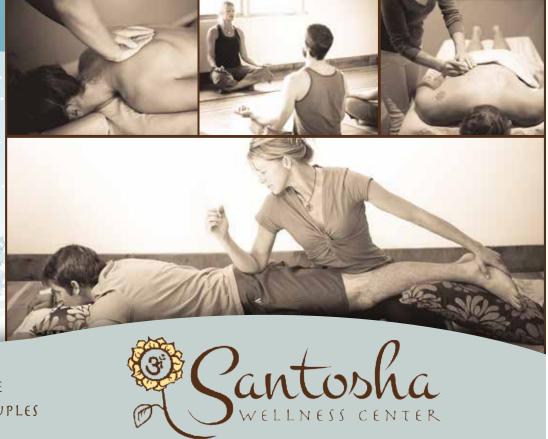
Sexton will be playing a concert at Big Sky Resort's Montana Jack on the evening of Jan. 26. Doors open at 8 p.m. He will also be making a special appearance at TEDxBigSky on Jan. 27 at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center beginning at 5 p.m. Visit explorebigsky.com for tickets to the concert at Montana Jack. Tickets for TEDxBigSky go on sale on Dec. 15 at tedxbigsky.com.

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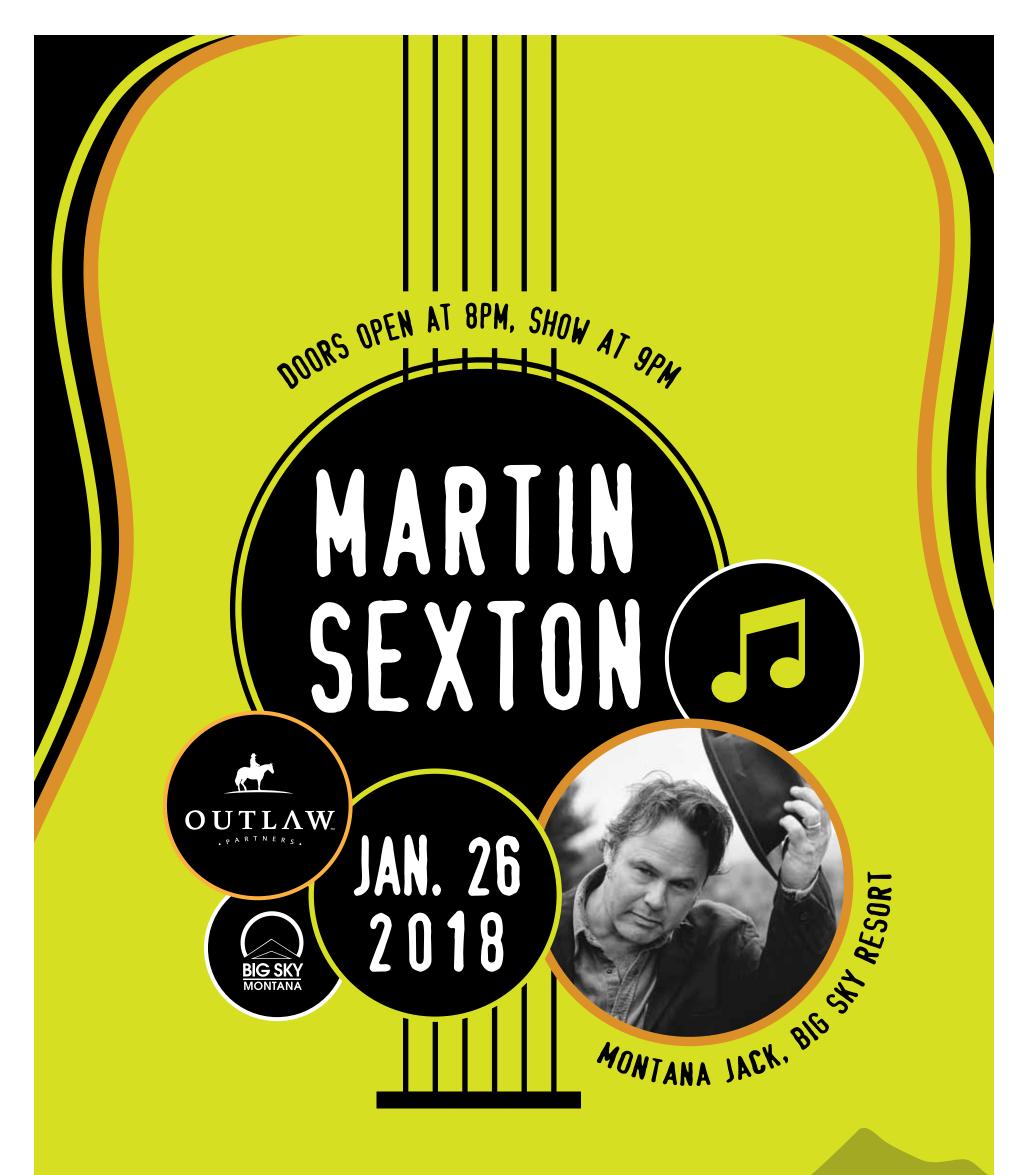
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РY





Explore Big Sky

EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

*IF YOUR EVENT FALLS BETWEEN DEC. 22 AND JAN. 4, PLEASE SUBMIT IT BY DEC. 14 BY EMAILING MEDIA@OUT-LAW.PARTNERS.

BIG SKY

SANTOSHA EVENTS

1st Wednesday of every month Surviving Cancer Support Group **2nd Wednesday of Every month**-Awareness Wednesday - this month Skin Care for the Winter with Amy Woodger -12/13

3rd Wednesday of Every month Caregivers Support Group

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

20th Annual Christmas Stroll Town Center, Meadow Village Center and Westfork Meadows, all evening

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11 Service Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 Big Sky Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, 8:30 a.m.

Top Shelf Toastmasters Town Center Sales Office, 12 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 Resort Tax Board Meeting

District Office, 8 a.m.

Trails Committee Meeting BSCO Office, 2 p.m.

Holiday Appetizers, cooking class Big Sky Discovery Academy, 6 p.m.

Family Cooking Night Ophir Elementary Cafeteria, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

Lone Peak High School and Ophir Middle School Winter Music Concert Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15 Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY. DECEMBER 16

Holiday Home Tour Discovery Academy, 3 p.m.

First Snow: Aoide at Christmas, concert Big Sky Chapel, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18 Service Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19 Top Shelf Toastmasters

Town Center Sales Office, 12 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20 Diamond, music Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21 Visit Big Sky Board Meeting Town Center Conference Room, 8:30 a.m.

Kent Johnson, music Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

BOZEMAN

The Musical, Annie Ellen Theatre, select days throughout December at 7:30 or 3 p.m. Bozeman Ice Festival Emerson Cultural Center Dec. 8 Aprés-Climb Party, 5 p.m. Adventure Film Festival, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 9 Aprés-Climb Party, 5 p.m. Ditrbag, film, 7:30 p.m. Dec. 10 Local Legends Dinner, 6 P.M.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

What's Next? The Power of Storytelling, lecture Bozeman Public Library, 8:30 a.m.

Art Walk Downtown, 6 p.m.

Jazz Night Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 Brianna Moore, music Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

A Brasstacular Christmas, music Willson Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

Ice Sculpting Demonstration Bozeman Hot Springs, 2 p.m.

A Brasstacular Christmas, music Willson Auditorium, 2:30 p.m.

Lazy Owl String Band, music Red Tractor Pizza, 6 p.m.

Dan Henry, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

Resposado, music Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

Denver Holt, Owl Research Institute, lecture Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 Mike & Mike, music Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Letters from the Montana Frontier, lecture Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Mountainfilm on Tour Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

Bridger Creek Boys, music Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Lang Termes, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15 Jazz Night Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 Howard Beall & The Fake News, music Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 Dan Dubuque, music Red Tractor Pizza, 6 p.m.

The Wind Drifters, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Spettacolo, film Emerson Cultural Center, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

Travis Morrison, music Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

It's a Wonderful Life, film Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20 Comedy Night Red Tractor Pizza, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

Bridger Creek Boys, music Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Mathias, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.



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The Big Sky School District music department presents two winter concert programs this holiday season. The Ophir Middle School band and Lone Peak High School band and capella group, will perform at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 14. The Ophir Elementary School program will take place on Friday, Dec. 22, and will feature performances by students in kindergarten through fifth grade. The elementary program will be split into two shows with grades K-2 performing at 9 a.m. and third through fifth graders at 10 a.m. All performances will take place in the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. PHOTO COURTESY OF TIM SULLIVAN

WORTH THE DRIVE

Butte, MT

Ice-Sculpting Contest

Dec. 9, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The 17th annual competition of the ice returns to Butte. Competitors will chip away at ice blocks, each weighing more than 340 pounds. outside Uptown Butte businesses until 3 p.m. Then, judges will cast a cold eye on the sculptures and rank them for prizes. Visit mainstreetbutte.org to learn more.

Livingston, MT

Christmas Dinner Show and Country Dance Dec. 15 and 16 Music Ranch Montana

On Friday, Dec. 15 the High Country Cowboys will perform their selection of Country Western and Christmas music during a ticketed dinner. The meal begins at 6:15 p.m. and the music starts at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday, Dec. 16 Quenby & The West of the Wayland Band will play and the dance floor will be open. Visit musicranchmontana.net for more information.

Livingston, MT

Holiday Vaudeville Extravaganza

Dec. 8-17 Shane Lalani Center for the Arts

This holiday vaudeville variety show returns as a high-energy romp through the cherished chestnuts of the season. An intrepid squad of community performers, ranging from the sublime to the spastic will amaze, amuse and mystify with songs, skits and vigorous acts of vaudevillian virtuosity. Fridays and Saturdays the show starts at 8 p.m. and on Sundays it begins at 3 p.m. Tickets are available at theshanecenter.org or by calling (406) 222-1420.

Livingston, MT

Speakeasy Naughty Christmas

Dec. 15, 7 p.m. **Pine Creek Lodge**

Speakeasy returns to Pine Creek Lodge, where they originated Naughty Christmas many years ago. There is limited seating for this fun night of slightly naughty tunes from the '20s through the '60s. You can dance, you can laugh and you can sing along. Call for reservations at (406) 222-3628.





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Aoide Chamber Singers perform free holiday concert at Big Sky Chapel

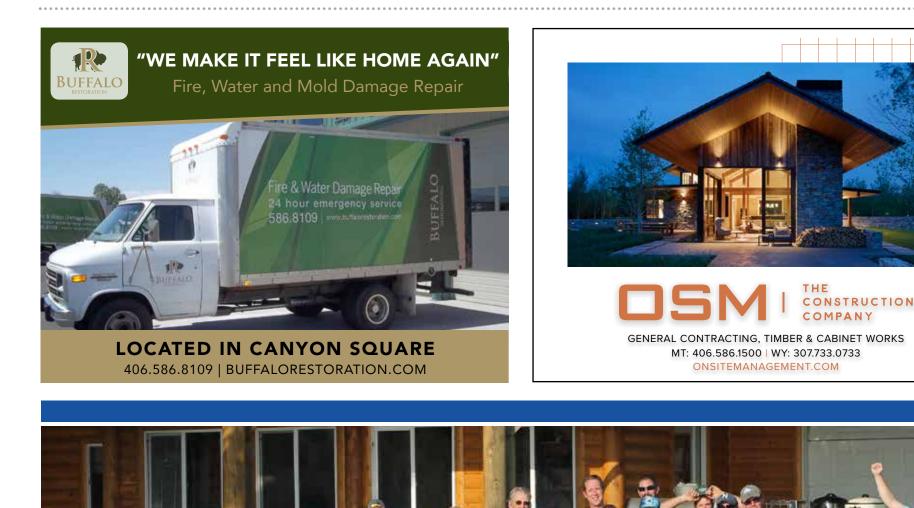
ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

The Arts Council of Big Sky presents a concert of holiday choral singing featuring the Aoide Chamber Singers on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 8 p.m. in the Big Sky Chapel. The all-ages performance is free and seating is on a first come, first served basis.

With performances described by audience members as "the best choral singing we've ever heard in Bozeman (or almost anywhere)," Aoide Chamber Singers has established itself as one of Montana's leading vocal ensembles. Founded in 2012 at Montana State University by then freshman Andrew Major, Aoide humbly began with seven singers. Their high level of artistry and commitment to modern music drew attention from others and membership now exceeds 20 singers.

The chapel holiday program, entitled "First Snow: Aoide at Christmas," is a diverse collection of pieces that includes works by Bo Holten, David Lang, Blake Hensen, Sergei Rachmaninov and more. Aoide is a dedicated advocate for contemporary composers, with an overwhelming majority of their repertoire drawing from the last decade of choral writing. The group's performances routinely range from hauntingly passionate works of Renaissance and Medieval chant through contemporary choral masterpieces.

This concert is presented by the Arts Council of Big Sky and underwritten by the Schwer-Topeffer Memorial fund, dedicated to bringing bigh-quality classical music to Big Sky audiences. Visit bigskyarts.org or call (406) 995-2742.







Enjoy another 'Brasstacular Christmas' with the Bozeman Symphony Featuring special guest Ryan Anthony on trumpet

BOZEMAN SYMPHONY SOCIETY

Ever since the 2014 premiere of "A Brasstacular Christmas," the Bozeman Symphony has received requests from audiences to present it again. On Saturday, Dec. 9 and 10, the symphony will repeat that first performance, again featuring Ryan Anthony, current principal trumpet for the Dallas Symphony and former principal trumpet for the world famous Canadian Brass.

Anthony is known as one of the greatest trumpeters and entertainers at work today. While Anthony's technical skills are well known, his ability to combine that with an innate musicality and a profound connection with audiences is what critics have said sets him apart as a performer.

Maestro Matthew Savery of the Bozeman Symphony met Anthony in Michigan in 2002, while performing with the Greater Lansing Symphony Orchestra. They have since performed several concerts together and became great friends. At some point during their friendship, Anthony convinced Savery to collaborate on a new and humorous Christmas extravaganza and a "Brasstacular Christmas" was born.

Audiences will watch—and listen—while Savery and Anthony ham it up while simultaneously showcasing Anthony's impressive talent on the trumpet. The score includes playful numbers such as "Trumpet Voluntary," "The Christmas Song," "Deck the Horn," "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," music from "Polar Express" and more.

"I never have as much fun as I do when I'm on stage with Ryan," Savery said. "It is always an honor to be on stage with a world-class musician but even more fun when it's a close friend."



"A Brasstacular Christmas," featuring virtuoso trumpeter Ryan Anthony, returns to Bozeman Dec. 9 and 10 at the Willson Auditorium. PHOTO COURTESY OF BOZEMAN SYMPHONY SOCIETY

Performances will be held at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10 at the Willson Auditorium located at 404 W. Main St. in downtown Bozeman. Tickets can be purchased online at bozemansymphony.org, the Bozeman Symphony office at 1001 W. Oak St., Suite 110, or by calling (406) 585-9774.

Mountainfilm on Tour makes a stop in Bozeman

EBS STAFF

At 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 13, Bozeman Film Society presents Mountainfilm on Tour at the historic Ellen Theatre. Curated specifically for Bozeman audiences, the evening features a selection of 12 culturally diverse, adventure-packed, inspiring short documentary films culled from the 2017 Mountainfilm Festival in Telluride, Colorado.

A benefit for Mountainfilms' nonprofit partner, dZi Foundation, the program

will explore themes connected to the Mountainfilm mission to use the power of film, art and ideas to inspire audiences to create a better world. The dZi Foundation works hand-in-hand with remote Himalayan communities to address their needs in health, education and sustainable community development. The evening's master of ceremonies will be dZi Foundation founder and president Jim Nowak, with Dunning appearing as a special guest.

Tickets are available online at thellentheatre.com, in person at the Ellen Theatre box office, or by calling (406) 585-5885. The Ellen Theatre lobby opens at 6 p.m. for concession and bar; seating begins at 6:30 p.m. Visit bozemanfilmsociety.org for more information.



Included in the line-up is the Commitment Grant Winner film, "The Last Honey Hunter," which follows an unassuming man named Mauli Dhan Rai through the mist-shrouded mountains of Nepal's Hongu River valley, where he is believed to have been chosen by the gods for the perilous rite of honey harvesting. "Where the Wild Things Play" is a rowdy ode to the most hardcore of female athletes, while "La Langosta" sees Rafa Ortiz ditch his kayak and send a 70-foot waterfall in a blow-up pool toy. With a special local tie, "A Field Guide to Losing Your Friends" follows Bozeman's Tyler Dunning on a grief-fueled quest to visit all 59 U.S. national parks.



"The Last Honey Hunter" is one of 12 adventure-packed, inspiring documentary shorts featured at the Mountainfilm on Tour festival in Bozeman on Dec. 13. PHOTO COURTESY OF BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY

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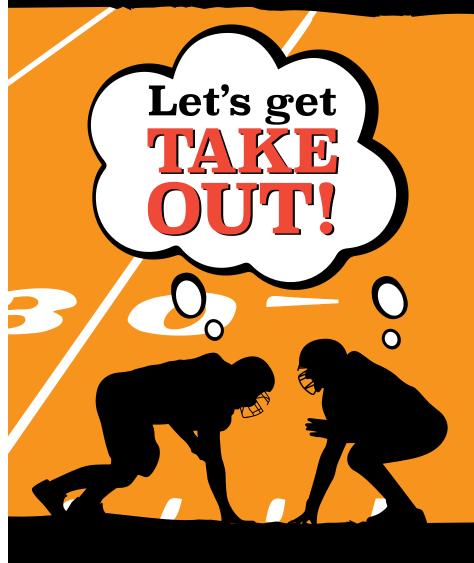
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Cowboy's Quill

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

Thomas McGuane: Literary Wrangler

BY DOUG HARE EBS Staff

Thomas McGuane has been writing for over five decades, and most of that time has been spent raising horses and cattle on his ranch just outside McLeod, Montana.

He doesn't call himself a cowboy but he is a former champion horse cutter, an event where horse and rider are judged by their ability to separate cows from the herd. Like his longtime friend and fellow author, the late Jim Harrison, McGuane is an accomplished outdoorsman who knows a thing or two about hunting and casting flies in southwest Montana.

His first three novels, "The Sporting Club," "The Bushwhacked Piano" and "Ninety-two in the Shade," were all set in Florida and gained him a reputation as an extraordinarily talented novelist.

In fact, the only book of McGuane's not reviewed favorably was "Panama," a drug-fueled tale about debauchery in Key West that he still considers one of his best works.

Any good Montana bookshelf should have something with McGuane's name on the spine. I would recommend his most recent collection of short stories: "Crow Fair." More subdued than his earlier work, most of these stories explore flawed characters from Big Sky Country whose shortcomings lead to revelations, both for the character and reader alike.

Even in his old age, McGuane remains in good health and at the top of his form as a writer, his storytelling powers and artistic vision more refined than ever.

McGuane's prose in "Crow Fair" is sparse, direct and matter-of-fact. The sentences are taut and lean. But even with characters that are plain spoken, passive or laconic, the stories capture the complexities of family life, aging and solitude with an authenticity that very few writers can muster.

He does not try to idealize life in Montana, father-son relationships, romance or the prospects of growing old. But his brand of realistic satire often manages a surreal effect.

"Weight Watchers" examines a father going through a divorce with a dark humor that blends the comic and tragic seamlessly. This story in particular

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5 miles south of Big Sky on HWY 191 BREAKFAST - LUNCH - DINNER EVERYDAY! Check out our menu online corralbar.com 406.995.4249 resembles the comic stylings of Mark Twain, but the cathartic moment is both jarring and somber. McGuane is at his best writing about father-son relationships.

"Shaman" is a poignant piece given recent national debates about law enforcement and gun violence. After a senseless shooting by a local sheriff, the author in his typical deadpan style writes, "Dan Sheare from the Ford dealership said it was like they had shot the Easter Bunny."

Almost every story in the collection has an illumination of the universality of the human condition and the particularity of living in modern-day Montana. Give McGuane a chance and he'll be sure to rope you in.

A version of this article ran in a July 2016 issue of EBS.

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

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



BY AMY HUNTER ASSISTANT COMMUNITY LIBRARIAN

There's something about this time of year that brings smiles to so many faces. In thinking about it, I have come up with a few ideas why. It could be:

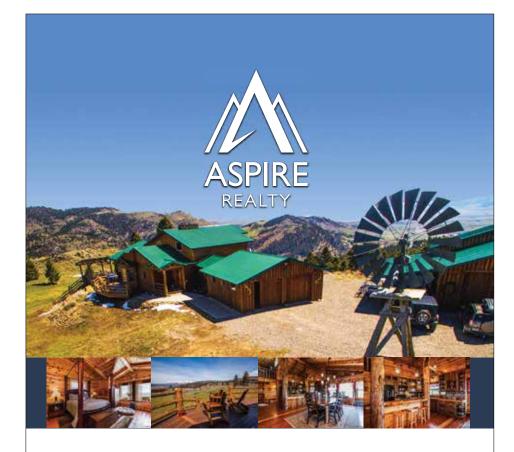
- 1. The anticipation that accompanies ski season and the delights of winter.
- 2. The closing of one year and the anticipation of the great things that await us in the upcoming year.
- 3. A holiday season where focus seems to turn from the individual to others, from Thanksgiving to Giving Tuesday to Christmas. It feels like a much-needed break from worrying about ourselves too much.

Whatever the reason for smiling and feeling a little lighter this season, come visit the library and spread some cheer. We have holiday books and movies available for all ages, including silver screen titles "It's a Wonderful Life" and "Joyeux Noel," and the book "Winter Solstice" by Elin Hilderbrand. Mark your calendars for Dec.17 when a special visitor will come to the library open house at 2 p.m. It will be fun for the whole family.

Remember the library is a place of connecting and building community. Let us know about any holiday activities this holiday season, as many are away from family and loved ones. Happy Holidays!







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Letters reveal life on the Montana frontier Gallatin History Museum lecture series continues

EBS STAFF

Historian and collector Ken Hamlin will share the stories of men and women on the Montana Territory frontier for this month's Gallatin History Museum Monthly Speaker Series on Dec. 13 in the Museum of the Rockies Hager Auditorium.

The lecture, "Letters from the Montana Frontier: Separation, Men, Women, Families and Courtship," begins at 6 p.m. and will include a number of stories inspired by Hamlin's own personal collection of letters, photographs and memorabilia.

Hamlin attended Montana State University, receiving a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Fish and Wildlife Management and worked as a research wildlife biologist for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks for 35 years. Since his retirement, Hamlin has served on the Gallatin Historical Society Board of Directors and has contributed many articles for the Gallatin History Museum Quarterly magazine.

Of his many historical interests, Hamlin says he is particularly intrigued by postal history, and collects envelopes and their contents in order to understand what characters from the past were doing and thinking at a moment in time.

In his presentation, Hamlin will consider the effects of separation and delays in communication for a variety of families, from the men who left home to make their fortune on the frontier, to the wives, children, sweethearts and parents back home.

He will open with an excerpt from a letter written in French in 1810, the first letter sent in Montana, which left from the northwest corner of Gallatin County and was hand-carried down river to Saint Louis, Missouri. Other excerpts date from the time period between 1865 and 1889 when Montana was established as a territory.



Nine miners stand at the entrance to the Brother Jonathan Mine near Sheridan, Montana, in 1900. This month's Gallatin History Museum presentation will focus on Montana's postal history and correspondence between those trying to get rich on the Montana frontier and the loved ones they left back home. PHOTO COURTESEY OF GALLATIN HISTORY MUSEUM

Particular themes Hamlin plans to discuss include the Montana gold rush period and how families fared during the time, as well as courting by mail and some of the best and worst "pickup lines" of the time. "Some of them are pretty funny," Hamlin said.

Visit gallatinbistorymuseum.org for more information.



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The Emerson celebrates the arts with dual exhibits opening Dec. 8

THE EMERSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS & CULTURE

The Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture kicks off its third annual Celebration of the Arts with a silent auction during the show's opening reception on Friday, Dec. 8, from 5 to 8 p.m.

The Celebration of the Arts exhibit is a juried collection of original art donated by local and regional artists in support of the Emerson. Silent bidding will continue through the exhibition's culmination in the organization's biggest annual fundraiser event on Jan. 26, in the Emerson Ballroom.



The Emerson is also celebrating the historic building's 100th birthday with two exhibits that pay homage to the nearly 75 years it operated as a schoolhouse.

The 30-plus artists participating in this year's exhibit will display a wide array of mediums including oil paintings, watercolors, ceramics, metalwork, glass and fiber arts.

This year, the Emerson is celebrating its 25th anniversary as an arts organization, and the 100th year of the historic building's existence.

The Emerson existed as a schoolhouse from 1918 to 1992. In tandem with the

Celebration of the Arts exhibition, two other exhibits pay tribute to the building's schoolhouse years. The Emerson partnered with the Gallatin History Museum to curate two exhibits that explore the origins of school and social dances as well as vintage fashions. These exhibits honor the past and commemorate the organization's future.

"A Night to Remember—Winter Formal" is a throwback to formal dances, vintage fashions and historic prominence of the Emerson building in the Gallatin Valley. Vintage formal attire, courtesy of the Gallatin History Museum and individual community members, will be showcased in the Lobby Gallery.



Larry Blackwood's "Escher in Yellowstone" is one of a wide variety of artwork donated to the Emerson's Celebration of the Arts exhibition and up for silent auction through Jan. 26. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE EMERSON CENTER FOR THE ARTS & CULTURE

On display in the Weaver Room is "A Night to Remember—A Photographic Journey of Dance Through the Ages." This exhibit is comprised of historic photographs from school and community dances that took place around the Gallatin Valley.

Visit theemerson.org for more information



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River Runs Through It | \$14M 13,349 SQ FT | 2.88 ACRES *Largest ski-in, ski-out home available at Yellowstone Club*



388 Andesite Ridge Road | \$6.45M 5,020 SQ FT | 2.15 ACRES *Recently remodeled ski-in, ski out home*



Lot 338 Bristlecone Drive | \$4.95M 14.6 ACRES Large, private end of cul-de-sac lot



Lot 86 Andesite Ridge Road | \$3.3M 2.64 ACRES Nordic & alpline ski access lot with mountain views



Lot 433 Serpens Trail | \$7.5M 1.89 ACRES Ski Access with spectacular Pioneer, Cedar and Lone Mountain views

TOTAL L&K SALES TRANSACTIONS AT YELLOWSTONE CLUB SINCE 2013 \$140,830,000°

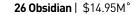












Lot 472 White Spruce | \$3.3M°



Lot 144A Pumice Road | \$2.65M°

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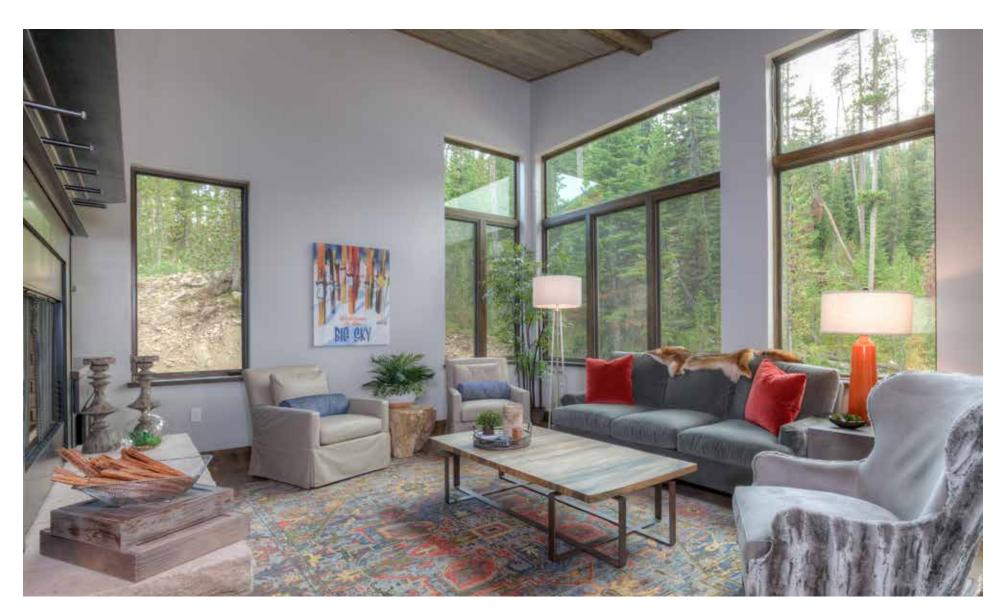


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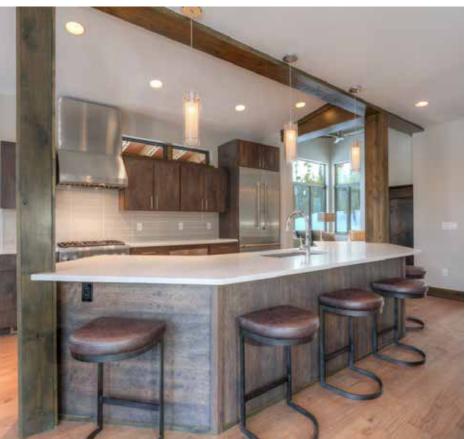


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CONTENTS

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Deck the halls Local designers share holiday decorating tips

Shelter Interiors

Shelter Interiors is a full-service interior design firm headquartered in Bozeman. Their mission is to create interior sanctuaries for their clients,

and a refuge worthy of the magnificent natural

A photo of the living room of a property in the

Yellowstone Club designed by Shelter Interiors,

reflects the firm's signature aesthetic-modern,



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHELTER INTERIORS

"This space in particular is special in that in really incorporates a lot of hidden modern technology

Big Sky ReDesign

Big Sky ReDesign is full-service inte-

area. Founder Jodee March works with

color, texture, furniture placement and decor to showcase a home's potential in

homeowners, property managers and

realtors. She uses her knowledge of

rior design firm serving the Big Sky

seamlessly into the design," said Senior Designer Sharon Lohss. "And [it] can easily transition from formal to casual entertaining."

yet timeless.

surroundings.

Lohss said Shelter Interiors specializes in creating spaces with luxurious details that reflect their clients' personalities and lifestyles.

Holiday decorating tip: "When it comes to holiday decorating, rather than trying to incorporate too many features pick one or two elements and use many of them for a big impact. For example, an entry table filled with several simple white tabletop trees and many white candles will make a big statement." – Sharon Lohss



PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY REDESIGN

a distinctive Montana style.

"Whether you're remodeling a single room or need a complete home makeover, our goal is to create environments that are functional, yet une



Elliott Interior Design

Lori Elliott, ASID, NCIDQ, is a professional interior designer who works with clients, contractors and architects to ensure interior spaces are not only aesthetically pleasing, but

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELLIOTT INTERIOR DESIGN

also functional. She offers her clients 20-plus years of professional experience to help with new construction or remodeling. Elliott primarily focuses on residential and small commercial spaces.

"I encourage my clients to express their individual style rather than follow trends," Elliott said. "I work with them to balance the colors and textures they love and to help create a space they will feel comfortable living or working in."

Elliott has decided to showcase two Native American rugs made of wool, which, she adds, is great for the Montana climate.

Holiday decorating tip: Holiday decorating comes from the heart and I always encourage to buy local. ...Merry Christmas, Big Sky! – Lori Elliott



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLEAN LINE CONSULTING with a clean, fresh aesthetic.

Clean Line Consulting

Bozeman-based Clean Line Consulting is a sister duo of interior designers Ashley Sanford and Kelly Lovell. They have worked together for almost a decade and specialize in unique mountain properties

The photo shows an interior of one of their favorite projects. The house was

family that has since become very good friends of the designers.

designed by Bozeman's Reid Smith Architects and built by Big Sky Build for a

makeover, our goal is to create environments that are functional, yet unexpectedly creative," March said.

Holiday decorating tip: "Give your home a warm Montana holiday feel by using fresh greenery and pinecones throughout." – Jodee March

"We kept calling it 'organic modern,'" Sanford said. "They wanted it to be fresh but still comfortable and livable for family, friends and pets."

Holiday decorating tip: "For holiday decorating, you can never go wrong with fresh greenery and lots of candles for a cozy atmosphere and relaxed vibe." – Ashley Sanford

Holiday Home Tour to benefit Big Sky Discovery Academy

BIG SKY DISCOVERY ACADEMY

The public is invited on a tour of three festively-decorated Big Sky residences on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 3 to 6 p.m. The second annual Holiday Home Tour features homes in the Spanish Peaks and Aspen Groves communities. Free transportation is provided.

Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served at each residence with a presentation about the home, architect, builder, decorator and designer.

The tour will end at Discovery's Community Learning Center for a holiday bazaar beginning at 6 p.m. where guests can browse holiday gift items made by local artists and Discovery students.

"This is an important event because in addition to a fun, festive night for people to enjoy, all proceeds go towards supporting Discovery Academy programs and kids in our community," said Karen Maybe, Big Sky Discovery Academy co-founder and school board president.

Visit bigskydiscoveryacademy.org or call (406) 993-2008 for details.



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Don Pilotte / Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Montana Properties Conservation easements



Although they're a common subject of conversation in southwest Montana, conservation easements are often misunderstood.

Essentially, a conservation easement is formed when a landowner voluntarily decides to gift or convey some rights associated with their property, most commonly the right to develop or subdivide. A private organization or a governmental agency agrees to enforce the restrictions included within the easement.

For example, an owner can decide to restrict development or commercial activity, refrain from subdividing or further subdividing a property, or discontinue or prohibit mining. Other terms written into an easement can specify that timber will not be harvested, or place restrictions on certain activities. Many people believe that a conservation easement automatically allows public access to the land, but public access is granted on a case-by-case basis and is often not part of a conservation easement.

A conservation easement should be considered a permanent encumbrance on the land. Sometimes the easement language might be changed



The Crazy Mountains Alpine Ranch is a 4,526+/- acre ranch on the western side of the Crazy Mountains near Clyde Park, Montana. It is listed at \$10,750,000 and has one section (574+/- acres) protected by a conservation easement.



View of the Crazy Mountains

property's value without the easement. That 80 percent can then be applied toward a deduction for tax purposes. Landowners who are not looking for a deduction for tax purposes might also sell the value of the conservation easement to a sponsoring group.

If the subject property is adjacent to or in an area of other conserved properties, sometimes organizations and agencies may actively court landowners to see if they're interested in adding to the conserved properties in that specific area.

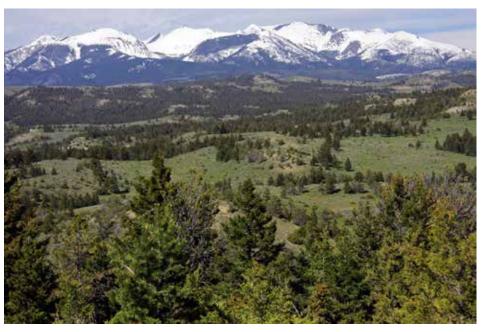
Sponsoring groups can be local, regional, national or even international in scope, size and interest. For example, The Nature Conservancy, Montana Land Reliance and Gallatin Valley Land Trust are all active in southwest Montana. Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and many other groups are also active in Montana.

a bit, but the overall impact of the easement is binding for all future

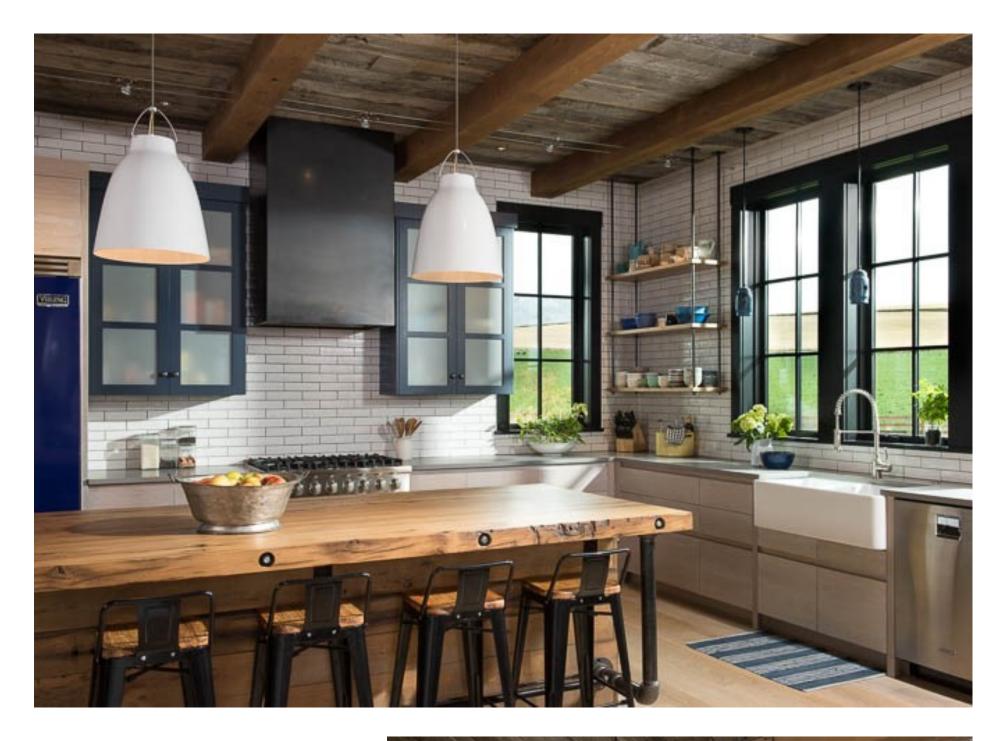
landowners associated with the encumbered property.

If a landowner donates certain rights to an organization or agency, the donation often results in a diminished value for the subject property. This reduced value has to be verified, typically by a certified appraiser who appraises of the land's value before and after the easement has been placed on the subject property.

These appraisals help the property owner determine the difference in the land's value before and after the easement is in place. If the property is located in a high-demand area where there's considerable growth, the diminished value can be quite high. Conversely, if the subject property is in a region of low growth and demand, the percentage of the reduced value can be quite low. For example, in an area of high growth and demand, a property with a conservation easement restricting all development might have a value that's 80 percent of the



View of the Crazy Mountains from the upper cabin. PHOTO BY DON PILOTTE







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Stacy Ossorio / Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Montana Properties

State of real estate in the region





-36 Low Dog Road. Ski/in, ski/out from a beautiful Mountain Village home with updated modern finishes in a clean, crisp look. (MLS No. 310947) PHOTO COURTESY OF PEAK PHOTOGRAPHY

Southwestern Montana real estate markets, including in Bozeman and Big Sky, have shown extraordinary resilience over the last several months. Activity levels in Bozeman are at an all-time high, with new subdivisions, housing starts and advances in market prices surprising even seasoned real estate watchers. In the Big Sky market, what's taking place is no less extraordinary.

The winter season of 2016-2017 ended positively, forecasting robust summer and fall market activity. Unanticipated was how dramatic the absorption of inventory would be over the course of the summer, and how decreased inventory would have such a dramatic effect on well-priced prime property.

Demand is now outpacing supply and the lack of new inventory is notable. Total available market inventory decreased from \$573.6 million in January 2017, to \$491.2 million in November 2017 in the greater Big Sky area, according to the Multiple Listing Service. So, nearly \$82.4 million in inventory was absorbed in the past 10 months and not replaced by new listings. The high point for inventory volume was in July, when there was over \$600 million in active listings.

The number of closed sales has increased over the years as well. In 2015, the total number of sales reached 269 and 292 in 2016. By the end of October 2017, there had been 339 sales, with two additional months to account for. Of the 339 sales closed this year, 179 were under \$500,000 and 160 were over \$500,000. Fifty-nine sales were between \$500,000-800,000 and 76 were over \$1 million.



-Lone Peak Townhome #5 has luxury finishes and is in the heart of Big Sky Town Center for year-round convenience. (MLS No. 303585) PHOTO BY PAUL BUSSI

daily and direct flights. New buyers marvel at the natural beauty of the Big Sky area, and many current owners are taking the opportunity to trade up or acquire property that is still reasonably and favorably priced, especially when compared to more developed markets in Jackson, Wyoming, and Colorado's resort corridor along Interstate 70.

Land sales are the emerging market. The listed dollar value of land inventory has decreased by close to \$40 million as the number of listed parcels has decreased from 220 at the beginning of the year, to 175 in November. There were over \$58.9 million in year-to-date land sales in 94 transactions—compared to 58 transactions totaling approximately \$25 million in sales volume, in all of 2016.

The amenities in Big Sky are compelling, with buyers from all parts of the country and world looking for and finding a great mountain community with first-class services, medical facilities, schools, and world-class summer and winter recreation. Big Sky has an amazing community of people and real estate offerings. It truly is the last best place to live and invest.

Stacy and Eric Ossorio bave been active brokers in Big Sky since 1993 and can be reached at Berksbire Hathaway HomeServices Montana. Stacy: call (406) 539-8553 or email stacy.ossorio@gmail.com; Eric: call (406) 539-9553 or email eric.ossorio@gmail.com.

2017 started with a 25-month supply of inventory and ended up in October with an 11-month supply, with 402 new listings, and 339 sales for a sales volume of \$250.9 million year-to-date. Interestingly, the average sales price was \$740,169, while the median sales price was \$421,500 half of all sales were under \$421,500. Another interesting metric is that the average day on market (DOM) was 240 days, while the median DOM was 137, meaning that half of all sales closed in under five months of the listing date.

Big Sky real estate opportunities continue to offer an appealing and diverse selection. Buyers recognize that the area is being thoughtfully developed, and that services are expanding to meet demand. Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport continues to grow and expand services, offering more



Diamond Hitch, Lot 26 is a terrific ski/in, ski/out 1-acre lot with easy access to the Pony Express and Moonlight Lodge. (MLS No. 210453) PHOTO BY ERIC OSSORIO



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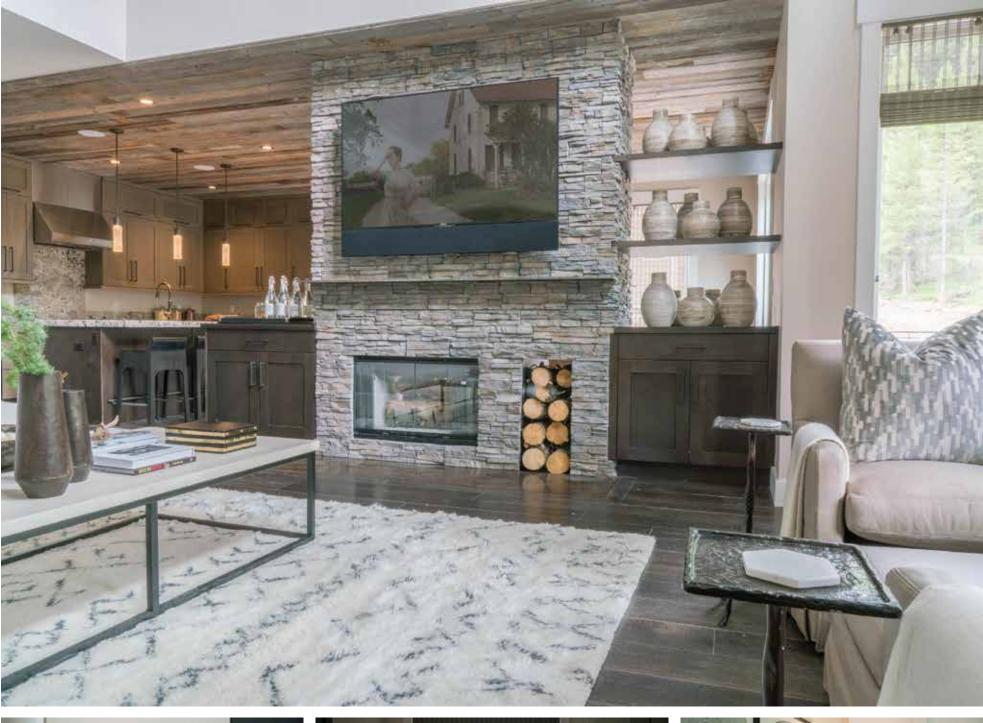


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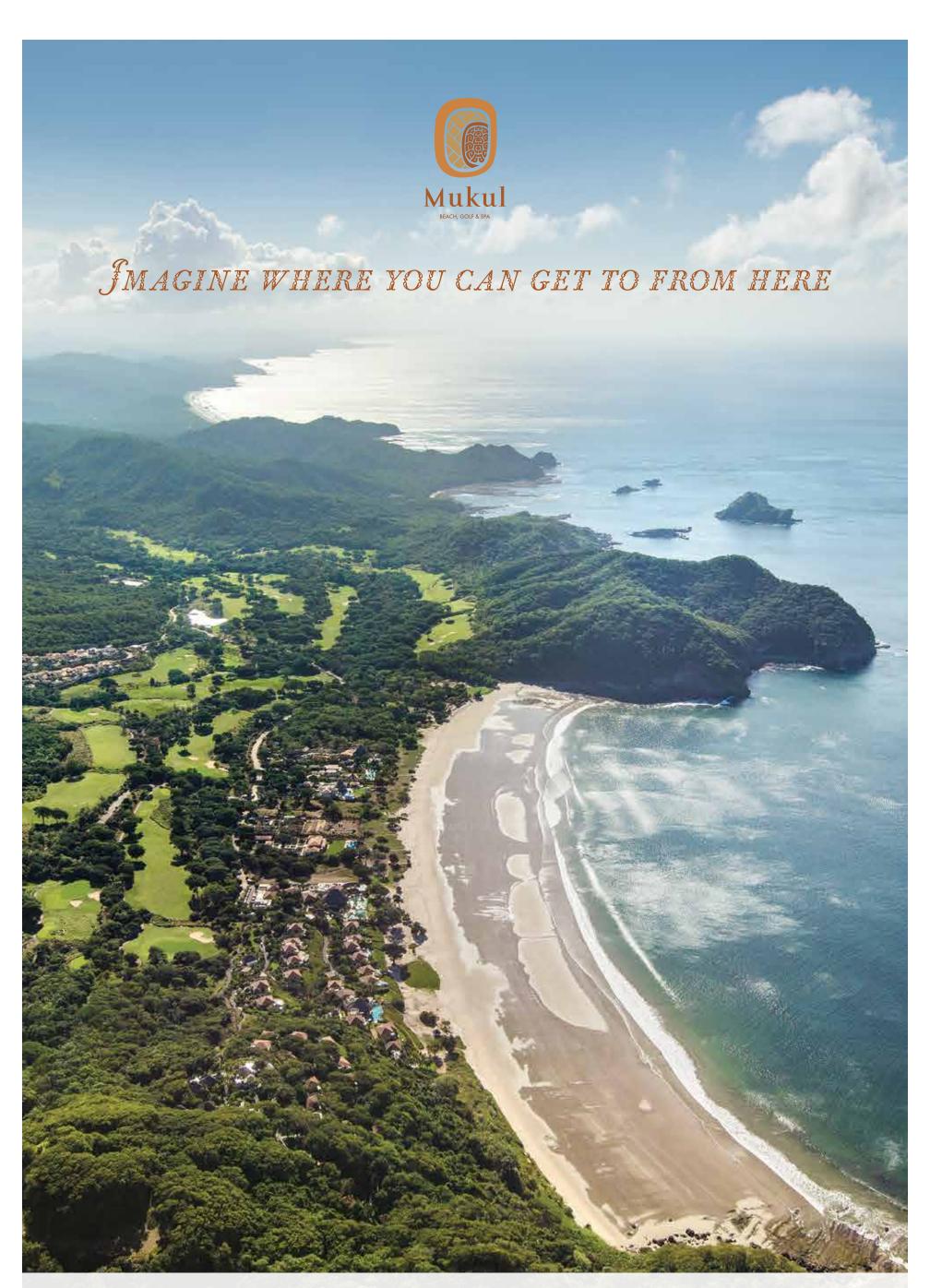


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Abby Hetherington Interiors Enriching lives through timeless and elegant design



Whether it's a custom home, a new restaurant or commercial space, Abby Hetherington Interiors' projects are an imaginative breath of fresh air. Starting with their clients' visions, a little nurturing, and guidance borne of long experience and innate ability, the design team morphs boring spaces into designs that exceed clients' wildest expectations.

Attention to detail and a unique aesthetic make AHI a highly sought after firm nationwide. AHI designs have been featured in numerous publications including Country Living, Mountain Living, Western Art and Architecture, Big Sky Journal and Cowboys & Indians.

"Design isn't about a formula. It's more a focus on what our clients want to do in their spaces and how they utilize it," Hetherington says. "The more my clients trust us, the more successful the project is."

The Abby Hetherington Interiors team believes in the power of great design. They share their passion for the sophisticated, the delightfully unexpected, and making the old new again. It's apparent in their work that their mission is to inspire and enrich their clients' lives through timeless and elegant design.

Expert Advice: "Don't fall into fads. Start with the basics and add layers from there," Hetherington says. "Eclectic pieces can be interspersed to keep the eye moving and interested in the room. Aesthetic tastes change and evolve, so invest in staple pieces that can endure the test of time."

The AHI team works on both local and national levels, traveling wherever their clients need their design expertise. "We love working with clients that understand that great design doesn't happen overnight, it evolves from the collaboration between our team and our clients," Hetherington says. "We try to immerse ourselves in what our clients love and design through their lens, but with a bit of a nontraditional twist."

On top of her design work, founder Abby Hetherington is also responsible for the eclectic and explorative concept furniture showroom Architect's Wife, located in Bozeman. The nearly 3,000-square-foot showroom is truly an experience for the senses. With pattern and texture and a touch of whimsy, she has created a space that appeals to anyone looking to be inspired. The Architect's Wife space allows conceptual ideas to become tangible, providing each customer the ability to feel fabrics, explore textiles, play with room design and envision the future of their own space.

"Everything we do has a lot of detail—it's relatively simple, but it's still over the top," Hetherington says. "Most people wouldn't come into the showroom and buy a whole vignette. It's meant for people to come in, explore, experience and feel inspired."



Interior design by Abby Hetherington Interiors. PHOTOS BY WHITNEY KAMMANS.

For interior design services contact Abby Hetberington Interiors at abby@betberingtoninteriors.com or call (406) 404-1330. The Architect's Wife is located at 23 West Babcock Street in Bozeman. Visit architectswife.com or call (406) 577-2000 for more information.



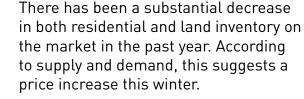


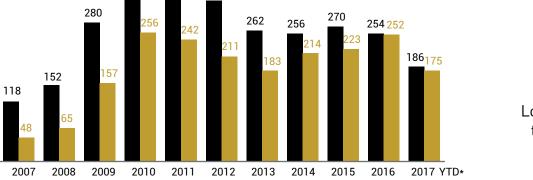


BIG SKY MARKET REPORT*

RESIDENTIAL LAND

HISTORICAL BIG SKY ACTIVE LISTINGS*





SELLERS Low inventory makes this an ideal time to list your property as we head into the winter season.

Big Sky saw the most land sales we have seen in a decade in 2017. Residential sales outpaced the average active listings for the first time in ten years.

420

370

325

450

400

350

300

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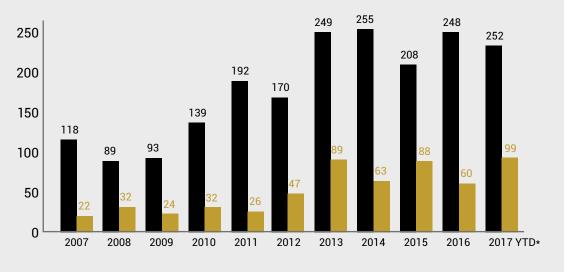
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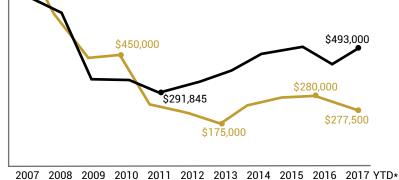


HISTORICAL BIG SKY SOLD LISTINGS*

BIG SKY MEDIAN SALE PRICE HISTORY*°



Residential prices had a small correction in 2016, which led to inventory being absorbed and prices starting to increase again this year. Land prices have remained fairly steady, with new moderate priced lots coming to market over the past two years.





BUYERS

Land and Residential median prices are still well below the previous height of the market in 2006-2007. Good values still exist throughout our region.

Stay informed on the Big Sky market - subscribe to our newsletter. LKRealEstate.com | 406.995.2404 | info@lkrealestate.com



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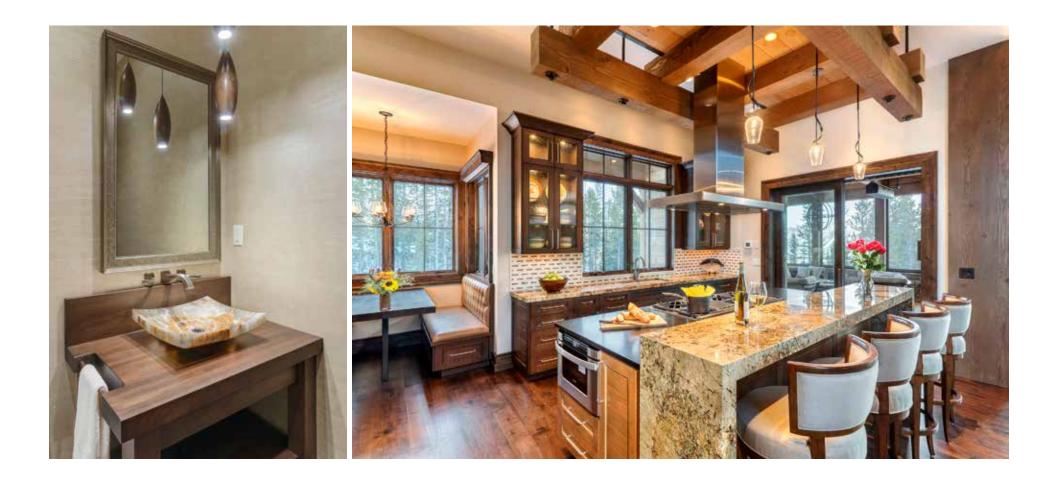






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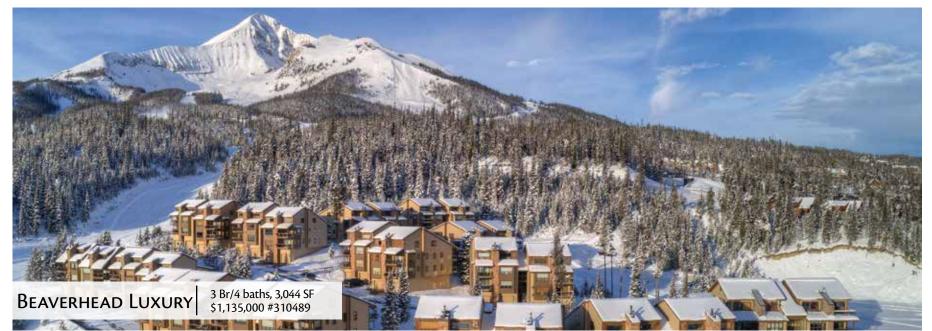
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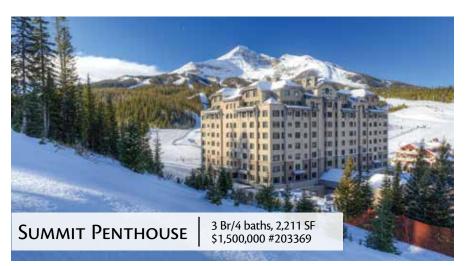




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