



March 20-April 2, 2015 Volume 6, Issue No. 6

Owned and published in Big Sky, Montana

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Letters to the editor allow EBS readers to express views and share how they would like to effect change. These are not Thank You notes. Letters should be 250 words or less, respectful, ethical, accurate, and proofread for grammar and content. We reserve the right to edit letters. Include: full name, address, phone number and title. Submit to media@theoutlawpartners.com.

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For the April 3 issue: March 27, 2015

CORRECTIONS

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ON THE COVER: EBS Senior Editor Tyler Allen takes advantage of the longer days to fish the Gallatin River after work on March 16. Learn where to go this time of year from fishing columnist Pat Straub's piece on page 42. PHOTO BY WES OVERVOLD

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Big Sky TEDDs awarded \$25,000 state grant



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How to hike 500 miles

Pending state bill would allocate \$1 million for coal litigation





What is this publication?

Bozeman/

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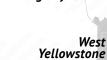
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CORRECTIONS:

In the article titled "Pie auction aims to raise \$75,000 for school programs," printed in the March 6 issue of EBS, it was reported that the Big Sky School District's Child Advancement Project is funded by the Parent Teacher Organization. All funding for the CAP Mentor Program is provided by the Yellowstone

In the article titled "Bighorns in the crosshairs" printed in the March 6 issue of EBS, it was reported that the Western Transportation Institute-Montana State University is a nonprofit. WTI is part of MSU.

Lifestyle Properties: Land



Lot 338* Yellowstone Club 14.6 ACRES \$4,950,000



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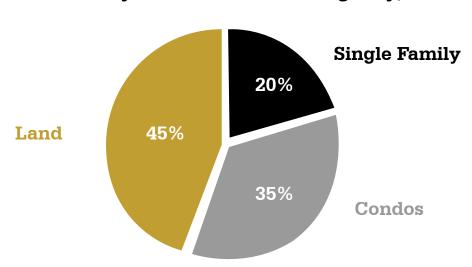


Ranch Lot 110* Spanish Peaks Mountain Club Meadow Village **2.38 ACRES** \$395,000



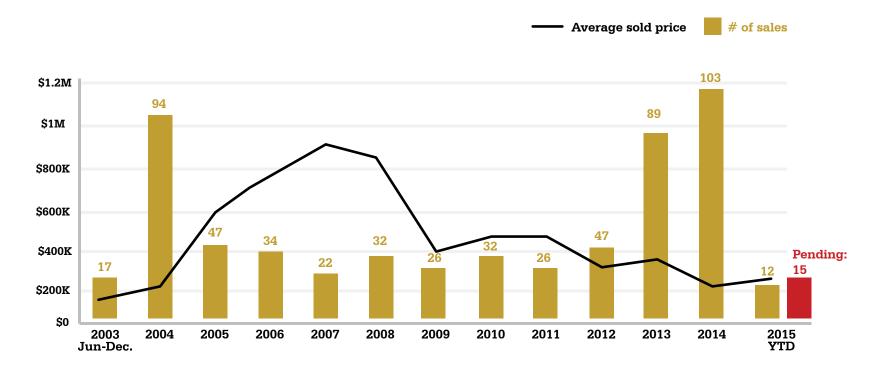
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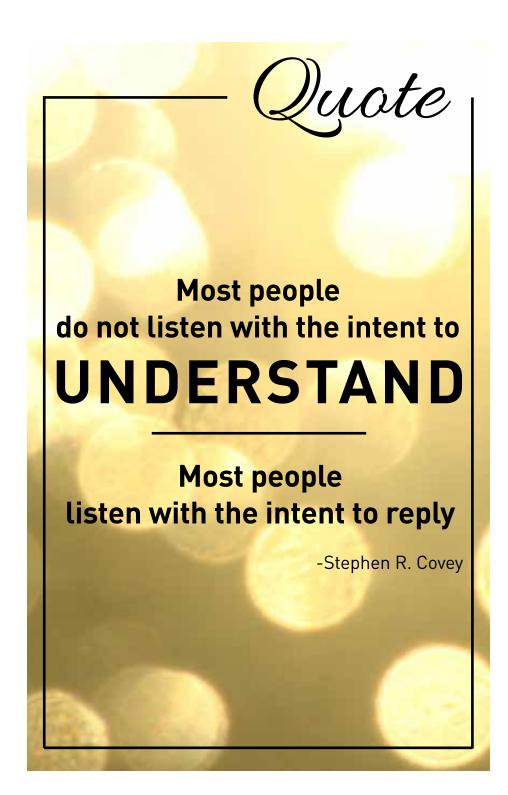
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Letter:

Insult to injury

I am responding to the letter printed in recent editions of local papers containing derogatory remarks about me and those who had the temerity to voice their opinions regarding the school's mill levy request. In her letter, the writer refers to "An anti-school gang of coordinated letter writers."

The writer thanks "...the many second homeowners who have supported the Big Sky community." I am not a "second homeowner." I have lived in Big Sky since 2008 and, contrary to her assertion, I donate weekly time to a medical clinic, support local charities and the arts council, food bank, and warming center. I serve as a Big Sky Resort Mountain Host and have been a board member of the Yellowstone Association for the past five years. I've also supported the Big Sky PTO Pie Auction through in-kind as well as monetary donations.

Highly offensive is the writer's reference to "penny-pinching, out-of-state millionaires," the "out-of-state second homeowners...whose only goal seems to be minimizing the cost of their expensive homes." The writer implies that those who have voiced their opinions do nothing for the community. This assertion could not be any further from the truth.

My suggestion is for the Big Sky School Board to be proactively transparent when it comes to issues that impact the community. Public forums to discuss such matters and garner community input would be helpful. Items such as the \$11 million dollar construction project for approximately 157 elementary students (\$70,063.00 per student) deserve to be explained and open for greater public input.

Alan Shaw Big Sky

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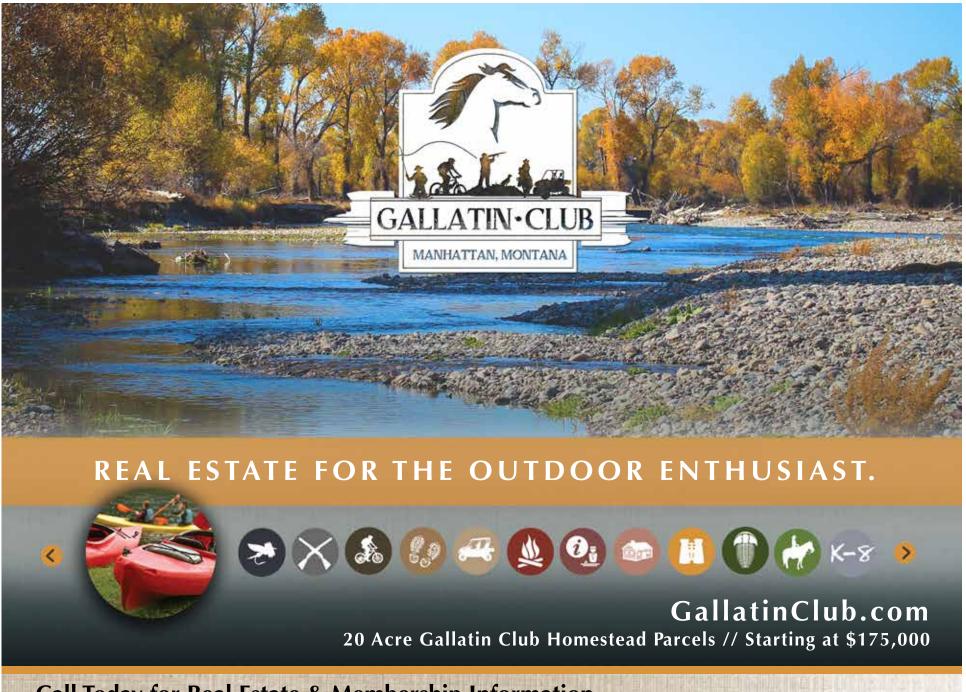
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6 March 20 - April 2, 2015 **LOCAL** explore Big Sky.com Explore Big Sky

'Service above self'

Inaugural LPHS Interact members inducted

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR EXPLORE BIG SKY MANAGING EDITOR

BIG SKY – Rotary International's Big Sky chapter on March 12 formally inducted Lone Peak High School's first Interact Club in the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.

Interact Club, a worldwide subgroup of Rotary International, offers members ages 12-18 the opportunity to address issues in their respective communities, while cultivating leadership skills and connecting with community leaders.

LPHS Superintendent Jerry House welcomed parents and community members in attendance



The inaugural LPHS Interact Club.

for the ceremony, then introduced Big Sky Rotarian Kathy Bouchard, Big Sky Rotary president-elect Danielle Miller, and Past District Governor Daryl Hanson.

Bouchard introduced 16 of 21 new Interact members who were present. Each approached the podium to accept an official pin, certificate, name badge, and wallet-sized card – the same cards that Rotarians carry – authorizing them as Interact members.

"The pins they received recognize that [they] would accept the four-way promise," said House, referring to Rotary International's official mantra that each member recites.

The Four-way Test has been a maxim for Rotarians since 1932 when international director Herbert J. Taylor wrote down, "the first 24 words" that came to him when he was trying to save his company from bankruptcy. Rotary International adopted the adage in the 1940s. It reads:

"Is it fair? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?"

Following introductions, the LPHS Interact members recited the Four-way Test in their own words, as song.

After addressing the crowd, Interact President Bianca Godoy took questions and explained the importance of her involvement in the group.

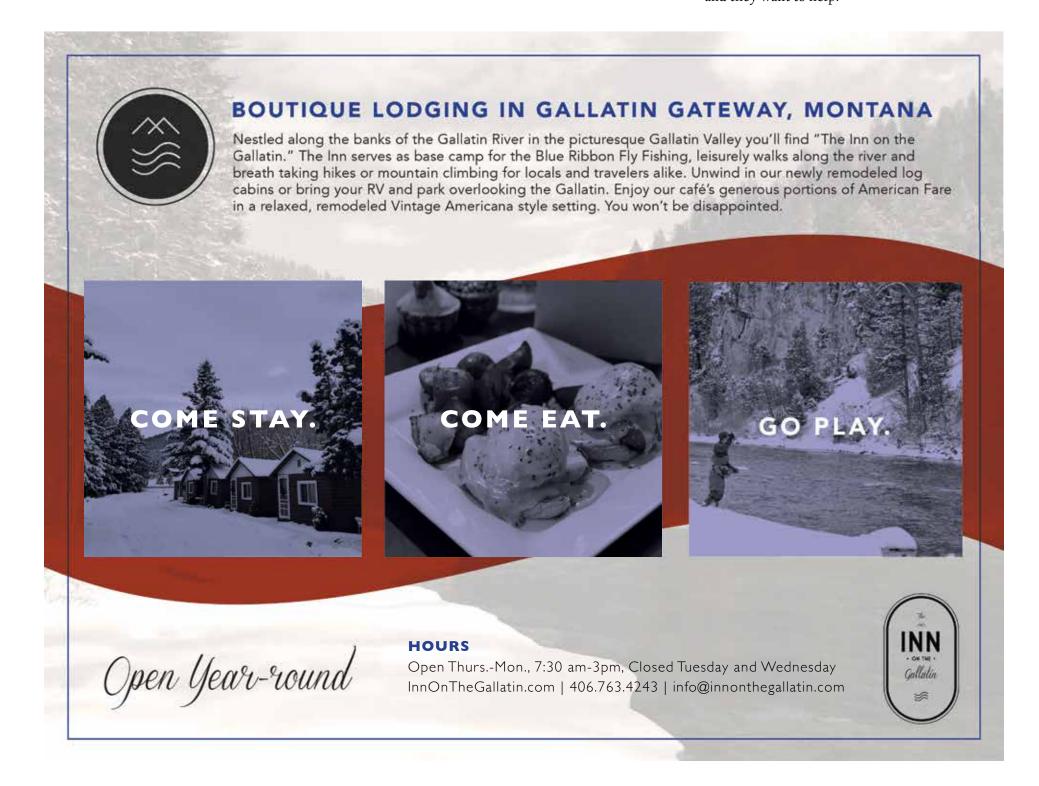


LPHS Interact Club President Bianca Godoy addresses the crowd during the Rotary International subgroup's induction ceremony on March 12.

"Sometimes it's a lot of pressure, but it's definitely service above self and giving back to society," said the LPHS sophomore. "We decided we needed to give back to the community somehow, because they give us so much."

Interact takes on projects to give back, ranging from local, national and international causes, House said, and could include assisting Blue Water Task Force, the Special Olympics, or helping eradicate polio worldwide. House, Bouchard and Miller are working with Big Sky Rotarians to help students set project subjects and timelines.

"We're required as a club to meet twice a month," House said. "What I'm super proud about [is that] some of the kids haven't been in leadership spots before. They're such a great group of diverse kids, and they want to help."





On average, Americans consume 130 pounds of sugar every year. Sugar is linked to health issues including Type 2 diabetes, obesity and depression. Do you regulate your sugar intake and if so how?



Karen Kuzminskas, Hamilton, Mass. Raw vegan chef and mother

"I don't eat any processed sugar, I'm a raw vegan. If I'm fueling for a marathon I'll use natural glucose through dates or agave. Dates are processed faster, and agave is processed slower in the body."



Kathy Moran, Big Sky, Mont. Office Manager, Montana Living-Big Sky Real Estate

"Yes, because it's Lent. I gave up sugar for Lent and I feel great, both physically and spiritually."



Dean Tsavidis, Marlborough, Mass. Custom kitchen builder

"I tend to eat fruits and vegetables. We're constantly looking at food labels and it takes about two hours for a normal grocery shop because we spend so much time looking at labels."

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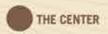
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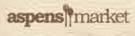










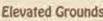












Voters reject BSSD building reserve levy

BY MARIA WYLLIE EXPLORE BIG SKY ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – Big Sky area taxpayers voted on March 10 against a building reserve levy of \$840,000 to finance completion of the new Ophir Elementary School, located just north of and contiguous to the current school campus along Highway 191.

The Gallatin County Election Office counted 660 ballots, 283 in favor of the levy and 377 against it; 47.5 percent of eligible voters participated.

A building reserve levy is used to complete the needs of a specified project, and funds are issued via Montana's INTERCAP Loan Program, which offers short-term, low-interest loans to the state's local governments, state agencies and universities.

While the levy didn't pass, the new school will still open for the 2015-16 school year – just not the way levy supporters had hoped, according to Big Sky School District Superintendent Jerry House.

"The building will be built, but the insides ... won't be finished the way we want them to be finished," House said.

BSSD requested the funds to pay for a number of items in the new k-4 building, such as furnishings and equipment; exterior landscaping; gymnasium furnishings and a laundry room; an outdoor playground classroom; and communication systems.

The school board cut these items from the budget after the project team assessed more than \$1 million in costs associated with poor soil conditions requiring geotechnical remediation and structural upgrades; radon mitigation; and more expansive site construction due to topography challenges, such as leveling wet soil.

"We're still in the thinking stage of what we're going to do next," said House, adding that he is currently fielding questions and gathering comments to ascertain why people voted the levy down.

Jerry Pape, who owns Triple Creek Realty and has lived in Big Sky since 1972, says he voted against the levy because he thinks the school should have been better prepared for such an expensive, large-scale project. "I don't think it makes a lot of sense not to protect yourself by spending a few bucks on a geotech to give you an opinion on what the ground will hold," said Pape, suggesting the school should have hired a financial consultant. "I like the school, but I think the administration better start getting a little more fiscally responsible. They can't depend on the community backing all their plays."

The next step is for the school board to reconvene with the facilities committee, administration and the construction management team, said Loren Bough, chair of the school board. Bough hopes the group will spend the next month developing alternative scenarios for completing the school.

The 23-member facilities committee was created by the school board in fall 2012 to examine the possibility of constructing the new elementary school, and is responsible for advising the school board on this project, according to Bough.

"The board understands the message of need wasn't received," Bough said. "But one take away is that when levies don't pass, there are more widespread consequences across the entire budget of the school district."

It's unknown at this point where these budget cuts might be, he added.

Big Sky local Shana Seelye, who has two children attending Ophir Elementary next fall, voted in favor of the levy. She says her kids will enjoy the extra space in the new building, but she's disappointed about the lack of available resources and programming that the budget can't cover.

"I think people got really hung up on the fact that the foundation planning wasn't what they thought it should have been," Seelye said. "[They] don't see that the taxes they aren't willing to pay won't change the foundation. What it will change is the programming and the resources available to our kids starting immediately this fall."

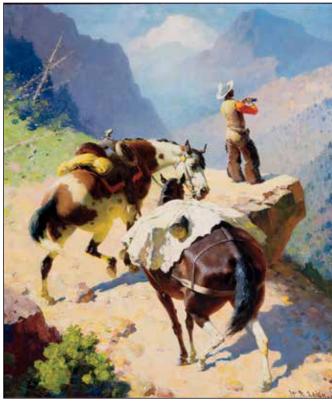
The new elementary school is currently 60 percent complete, according to Bryan Tate of Tate Management, which is representing the school during construction of the building.

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Estimate: \$200,000 - 400,000



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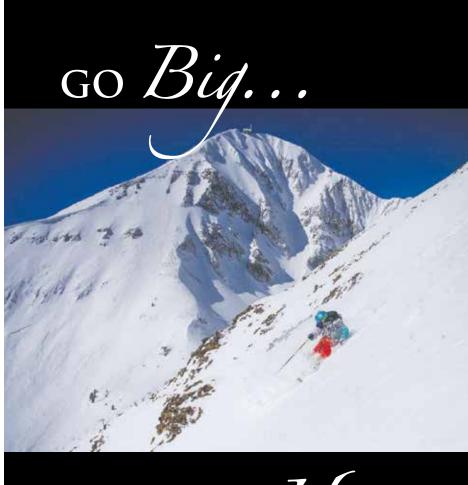
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Obituary: Clara Lou (Barnes) Lemon

Clara Lou (Barnes) Lemon, 83, of Gallatin Gateway passed away of natural causes at her home in Bozeman on March 3, 2015. Clara was born in Bozeman on Oct.12, 1931 to Trina and Bill Barnes.

Clara was raised in the Gallatin Canyon and was one of five children. She married George Lemon on October 20,1950. George and Clara lived in their log house across from the Rainbow Ranch where they raised their two daughters, Donna Lemon and Verna Lemon Sene. Clara Lou had a great passion for wildlife of all kinds including elk, deer, moose and birds, keeping records of their seasonal arrivals and departures. She would make comments such as, "Those bluebirds shouldn't be here yet!" and "The caterpillars are extra wooly this year, so it's going to be a tough winter!"

She was a great supporter and participant of feeding the elk in the winter at the Porcupine, Taylor Fork, and Sage Creek feeding grounds in the late 1960s and '70s. She was a strong woman, lifting many bales of hay onto the sleds that were pulled by very old snowmobiles out to the feeding grounds.

Clara loved to be outdoors gardening, camping, hunting and especially

fishing. The light of Clara Lou's eyes was her family. She loved her grandsons and shared many special times with them as youngsters, encouraging a love of music and nature in them. She also instilled the importance of family, as well as always following your heart and being an honest person. She could always put a smile on someone's face.

Every person who had the opportunity to be around Clara Lou benefited from her positive attitude on life. Even in her later years during her declining health, you would never hear her complain.

Clara Lou is survived by her daughter Verna and her husband Royce Sene; grandsons Dustin Sene and Brandon Sene and their spouses, Jackie and Jessi; great-grandsons Daniel and Jaxen; great-granddaughter Madison; and sister Alice Dehaun.

Graveside services will be held this spring at Soldiers Chapel Cemetery in Big Sky. Memorials can be made to The Soldiers Chapel, P.O. Box 161042, Big Sky, MT 59716.

Arrangements are in the care of Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service, which can be reached at dokkennelson.com.



MOUNTAIN OUTLAW

Mountain Outlaw magazine is seeking portrait photography along with a 75- to 100-word caption that tells a fascinating story about the person featured. The winning photos will be published in the Summer 2015 issue of Mountain Outlaw, and **finalists** awarded over \$1,000 in cash and prizes.



HOW TO ENTER:

Submit up to 10 high-resolution .jpg images (300 dpi, at least 8.5" wide) and captions to **kelsey@theoutlawpartners.com**.

EXTENDED DEADLINE: APRIL 10, 2015

Ophir fourth graders profile 'Extraordinary, Ordinary People'

Jeremy Harder's fourth grade students at Big Sky's Ophir School were assigned a biography project in early December called "Extraordinary, Ordinary People," interviewing community members in Big Sky and Bozeman.

Explore Big Sky is running four of the submissions chosen by Harder and will post them all on explorebigsky.com later this spring. This is the final of four pieces that have been edited for clarity and newspaper style.

'Chop, Chop, Chop': Matthew Eric Fritz By Maddie Cone

Matthew Eric Fritz, aka "Fritzy," is one of Big Sky's finest chefs. He was born in Naperville, Ill. in 1971, and before moving to Big Sky for the mountains and snow in 1999, he lived in Chicago's Lincoln Park.

When Fritzy was younger he wanted to follow his father's path and become a veterinarian, but he decided not to pursue that aspiration. Instead, he found a new path leading him toward cooking and fishing. In fact, he was able to have his own recipe in a famous cookbook.

When Fritzy was asked if he had any sports or hobbies he enjoys doing here, he said, "You name it. What isn't there to do?" He likes fly fishing,

Nordic skiing, mountain biking and hunting. His favorite ice cream flavor is salted caramel.

Other than that he's not picky with his food but he does have one policy: he needs to know the person who made it, unless he made it himself. His favorite subjects in school were art and physical education.

Fritzy tried out college after high school but it didn't work out so well for him. After working in restaurants for a couple years he enrolled in a local junior college called College of DuPage and got an associate degree in culinary arts. The scariest thing that's happened to him was getting buried in an avalanche. Fortunately, his friends were able to find him in time and dug him out.

If Fritzy could go anywhere in the world he would go to Africa because he loves animals. Something he likes about his job is that he's his own boss. In the future he imagines Big Sky to be even bigger then it is now. One of the risks that accompany his job is having a personal injury like breaking his hand because he won't be able to cook.

One of the rewards he gets from his job is making people like you happy! He's made me very happy with his delicious homemade pasta and delightful desserts.



ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

BIG SKY – The Arts Council of Big Sky is hosting its third annual fundraising art auction on Thursday, March 26, at Lone Mountain Ranch from 5-8 p.m.

The evening begins with a "quick finish" session including renowned painters Tom Gilleon, Harry Koyama, Shirle Wempner, Laurie Stevens, Julie Chapman and Tom English, along with sculptor Greg Woodard.

These artists will finish their work during the first part of the event, and the pieces will be auctioned off later in the evening. People are encouraged to come early and watch as the pieces come to life, are finished, and then framed in front of them.

During the quick-finish session, appetizers will be passed around and the ranch saloon will be open with a full bar. The Craig Hall Trio will play light jazz music as well.

New this year is a silent auction component, featuring artists from Big Sky and Bozeman, including Jackie Rainford Corcoran, Jill Zeidler, Ryan Turner, Ariane Coleman, Craig Hergert, Shelly Bermont, Paula Pearl, Todd Connor, Kira Fercho, Greg Darden and Mike Stoner. A dinner for four at the new Moonlight Tavern will also be part of the silent auction.

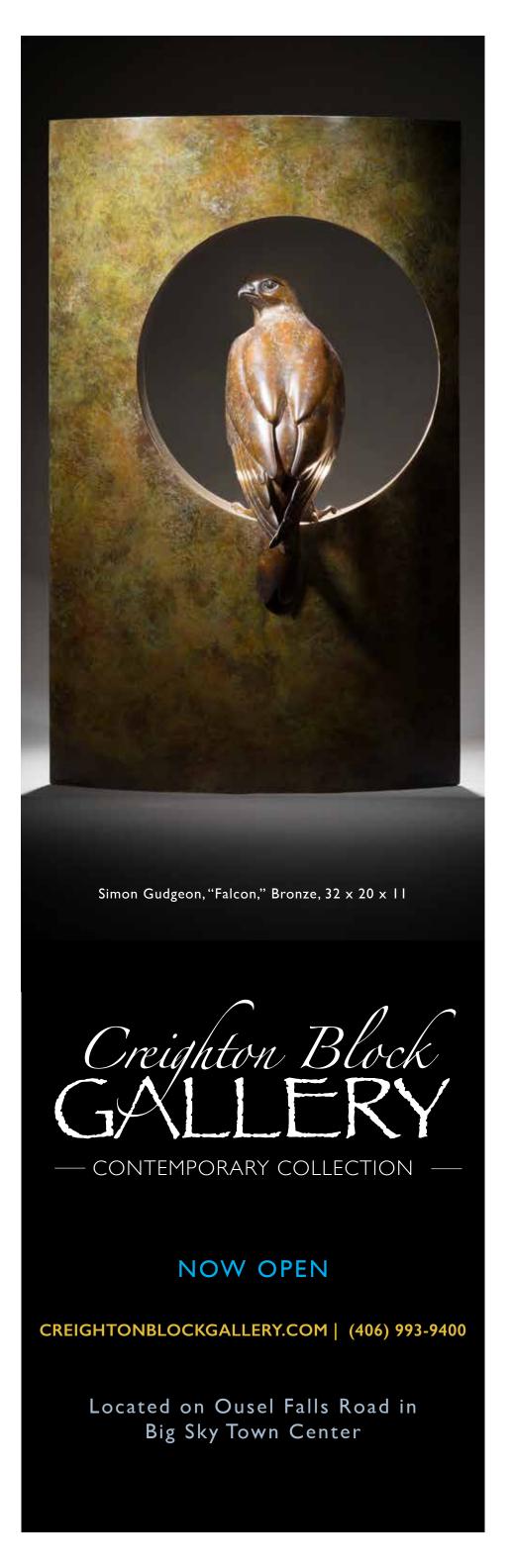
"We're excited to bring in these amazing artists and showcase them to the Big Sky community," said ACBS Executive Director Brian Hurlbut. "We feel this is a fun and different event for Big Sky, and anyone who appreciates fine art and delicious food is encouraged to attend."

A professional auctioneer will get the bidding going for the live auction at 7:30 p.m. in the Lone Mountain Ranch dining room. Half of the art auction proceeds will go directly to the Arts Council of Big Sky, to help offset the costs of producing more than 15 events throughout the year – many of them free

"This fundraiser makes a statement about the direction the Arts Council is headed," said ACBS Vice President of Development Tallie Lancey. "We're a volunteer-driven, nonprofit group of passionate individuals who work to serve the artistic and cultural demands of our entire community."

Tickets are limited and include heavy appetizers presented by LMR Executive Chef Nick Steen, and two drink tickets good for a draft heer or house wine.

Tickets are now available and can only be purchased by calling ACBS at (406) 995-2742.



REGIONAL **14** March 20 - April 2, 2015 **explorebigsky.com** Explore Big Sky

TEDxBozeman announces 2015 presenters

TEDXBOZEMAN

BOZEMAN - After reviewing submissions of more than 60 applicants, the TEDxBozeman team narrowed down their selections to 16 speakers and presenters to be featured on Friday, March 27 at The Commons in Bozeman.

"In the TED spirit of 'ideas worth spreading,' we search for proven and groundbreaking concepts that apply to people's lives, communities, and the world," said Maddie Cebuhar, TEDxBozeman's Speaker Coordinator. TEDxBozeman provides a platform for a diverse collection of individuals, all of whom share some sort of tie to the state of Montana.

Theo Bennett speaking about the "The Humanistic View of Mental Illness" at the 2014 TEDxBozeman talk. PHOTO BY LOCKIE PHOTOGRAPHY

With the goal of balancing topics from inspirational to educational, the selection committee created a lineup that promises to appeal to an audience with diverse backgrounds and interests. The scope of presenters to be featured include solar physicist Angela Des Jardins, aerial photographer Chris Boyer, 2014 Montana Teacher of the Year Anna Baldwin, and industrial designer Bill Clem, among others.

Several speakers at this year's event have broad notoriety, including Heather McPhie, a gymnast turned freestyle mogul skier and Olympian; Doug Peacock, an author and naturalist who inspired the character George Hayduke in Edward Abbey's "The Monkey Wrench Gang"; and Christian Takes Gun Parrish, or "Supaman," a Native American hip-hop artist whose unique music has gained national media attention from MTV to NPR.

TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. A nonprofit organization devoted to ideas worth spreading, TED started as a four-day conference in California 26 years ago and has grown to support those world-changing ideas with multiple initiatives. At TED, which stands for "Technology, Entertainment, Design," the world's leading thinkers and doers are asked to give the talk of their lives in 18 minutes.

Visit tedxbozeman.com for full biographies and the complete lineup of presenters along with general information about this year's event.





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Legislature debates funding litigation against states obstructing Montana coal

BY MADELYN BECK um school of journalism legislative news service

HELENA – Montana legislators are considering a bill that would give \$1 million to the Montana Department of Justice for a potential lawsuit against states that hinder Montana's coal trains from getting to larger markets. Namely, markets like China.

While House Bill 244 doesn't specify what cases the money would fund, the statute would make sure ports in Washington and Oregon are open to coal traffic.

Some ports are currently under construction, but opposition from environmental groups and local governments is stalling progress.

This leaves Montana in a bind. Republican Rep. Duane Ankney of Colstrip, home to four coal-fired power plants, is one of the strongest proponents for funding litigation to open the Washington and Oregon ports.

"This is very important to Montana," Ankney said. "Our future in the coal markets [is] in the international market. It's very important that we have access to those ports on the West Coast."

Opponents of the bill, like Republican Rep. Art Wittich of Bozeman, aren't too keen on spending \$1 million with so much uncertainty.

"We don't even know what the litigation would be, who the parties would be, what the issues would be ... I don't see the value of setting aside a million dollars of taxpayer money to think about it," Wittich said.

Speaking to arguments that this money would be wasted if court cases don't happen, Jon Bennion of the Montana Department of Justice says all this money would then flow back into state coffers.

"This money, as we see it, is restricted for this sole purpose," Bennion said. "If it is not used, it will be refunded at the end of the next biennium."

The bill faces opposition from groups like Greenpeace, the Blue Skies Campaign and Bozeman Climate Alliance, which have participated in rallies to stop coal traffic in Missoula and Helena, largely protesting the negative climate impacts of perpetuating coal use.

Helena resident Mike Lee has another issue with fighting to open the ports. He said if those ports open, it's going to likely double the yearly rail traffic, meaning longer wait times at the tracks.

"How many hours of idling automobile traffic associate with 1,000 and maybe more hours of blocked vehicular traffic at all of Helena's railroad crossings," Lee said. "Not to mention those blocked crossings in other Montana cities."

Proponents, on the other hand, argue that the state needs to fight for these ports or face missing out on jobs, as others capitalize on growing coal demand overseas.

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Patrick Barkey, University of Montana Director of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research, said U.S. coal demand is stagnating and could actually drop. But if coal can be exported through western ports, Barkey said, it will likely find a long-term market as China's economy and its hunger for coal grows rapidly.

Currently, coal trains largely use ports in British Columbia, which are reaching maximum export limits.

Montana is not alone in trying to fund these litigation efforts. Wyoming's legislature passed a similar bill last year at about half the size of Montana's \$1 million proposal.

The Montana Finance and Claims committee will likely vote on this bill in the next few weeks, deciding whether to pass it off to the full Senate, or kill it where it sits. The bill passed the House 53 to 45 in February.

Madelyn Beck is a reporter for the Legislative News Service at the University of Montana School of Journalism. She can be reached at madelyn.beck@ umontana.edu.

Tester pledges \$3 million for Montana water systems upgrades

OFFICE OF SEN. JON TESTER

BIG SANDY – Sen. Jon Tester on March 6 announced nearly \$3 million in Army Corps of Engineer grants for rural Montana water infrastructure upgrades.

A member of the appropriations subcommittee that funds water programs, Tester supported Montana water infrastructure projects as communities applied for these grants, which are made possible through the Water Resources Development Act Section 595 program. The grants can be used to upgrade wastewater treatment facilities, water supply infrastructure, environmental restoration, and surface water resource protection and development.

"Access to clean water is critical to the health of our communities," Tester said. "Making vital investments in our water infrastructure will improve wellness and boost economic development for folks across our state."

The WRDA program was created in 1999 and supports investments in rural water infrastructure. The grant requires local governments to match 25 percent of the funding.

Montana communities receiving water systems grants:

Belt - \$250,000

Bitterroot - \$250,000

Butte Silver-Bow - \$322,000

Eureka - \$300,000

Gallatin Gateway - \$232,000

Glendive - \$200,000

Joliet - \$250,000

South Wind Water in Great Falls - \$500,000

Three Forks - \$400,000

White Sulphur Springs - \$300,000









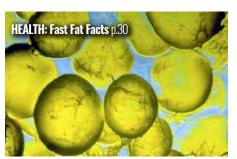
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explorebigsky.com Explore Big Sky March 20 - April 2, 2015 **17**

Section 2:SPORTS, BUSINESS AND HEALTH







Subaru Freeride Series en route to Big Sky

BY SCOTTIE WILLIAMS EXPLORE BIG SKY CONTRIBUTOR

Skiers and snowboarders put on an incredible display of talent March 4-8 at the Subaru Freeride Series stop in Telluride, Colo. The competition took place at the tail end of a weeklong storm cycle that blanketed the San Juan Mountains. The weather was perfect and the competition venues were layered with fresh snow.

Athletes attacked Telluride's Dihedral Face on Saturday where both the ladies and men impressed the judges. Using a blend of trickery and powerful skiing, athletes put forth their best efforts to improve their overall positions coming into Big Sky's championships March 25-29.

Jonathan Penfield stood on top of the podium with his snowboard for the second time this season after Saturday's final. Squaw Valley, Calif.'s Connery Lundin took top honors in men's skiing through both days of competition for a well-deserved first place and his first SFS win. Kaki Orr and Morgan McGlashon – both Jackson Hole Mountain Resort athletes – stood side by side on the ladies ski podium and veteran Camila Brown from Salt Lake City, Utah won the battle in the ladies snowboard category.

Snowboarder Chance Lenay, also a Big Sky Resort tram operator, took advantage of the rock-dodging abilities he's refined over the years riding on Lone Mountain. Lenay began the finals in 10th place and soon found himself in the lead with only a handful of riders left. He finished the weekend in fourth place.

The Subaru Winterfest and Freeride Series will return to Big Sky with a qualifier held on March 26, giving 10 athletes from four divisions - men's



Chance Lenay (at far right) joins the riders on the podium at the Telluride Subaru Freeride Series stop in Telluride. Pictured with Lenay, from left to right: second place snowboarder Gabriel Gibbs, event winner Jonathan Penfield, and third place rider Morris Hogan.



Jed Kravitz airs into Telluride's Dihedral Face in early March. PHOTOS BY SEAN RYAN

and women's skiing and snowboarding – the opportunity to compete in the main events Friday and Saturday. Riders will battle it out for a \$15,000 purse, and many of the athletes are in a close race to be crowned 2015 SFS North American champions.

In the men's snowboarding category, Canadian Jonathan Penfield has already secured the championship title after two first-place finishes this year, and will be riding victory laps in Big Sky. Lenay has found himself in a close race to finish second place overall, and hopes to win his first event on his home mountain.

"The weak snowpack is a great opportunity for lines to be ridden differently and will spice up the competition a bit more," Lenay said. He looks to stay confident during the two days of competition in hopes of making a run at the podium in Saturday's finals.

Tecnica/Blizzard team athlete Lundin is returning to Big Sky for his third time with a "Sickbird" belt buckle from Snowbird, and a win in Telluride. Currently in first place, a podium finish should be enough to earn him the title of overall champion.

Lundin had a terrifying crash last season during the Big Sky event and says he has respect for the consistently steep, high-exposure, and challenging Headwaters venue. He says he plans on skiing smart, calculated lines, with a trick or two to try and secure the title.

Keep an eye out for local athletes Lenay and skier Dan Bartzick during the event.

Stillwater Bowl offers the best viewing during the weekend's competition. Action will begin 10 a.m. Thursday and continues through Saturday, with a weather day scheduled for Sunday.

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Juniors go big at the Headwaters Runoff

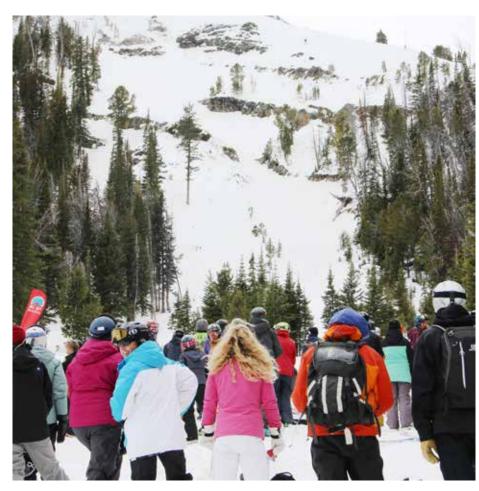
Adult competition cancelled due to low registration



Big Sky's Jackson Wade rips down the Obsidian venue on March 15 during the Headwaters Spring Runoff freeride competition at Big Sky Resort. PHOTOS BY TYLER ALLEN



Niko Hinz (center) celebrates his victory in the Junior Boys 12-14 division. Leo Tanner (left) earned second place and Joe Olson took third.



Despite the change of venue due to challenging conditions in the Headwaters Cirque, the crowds turned out to cheer on the athletes.



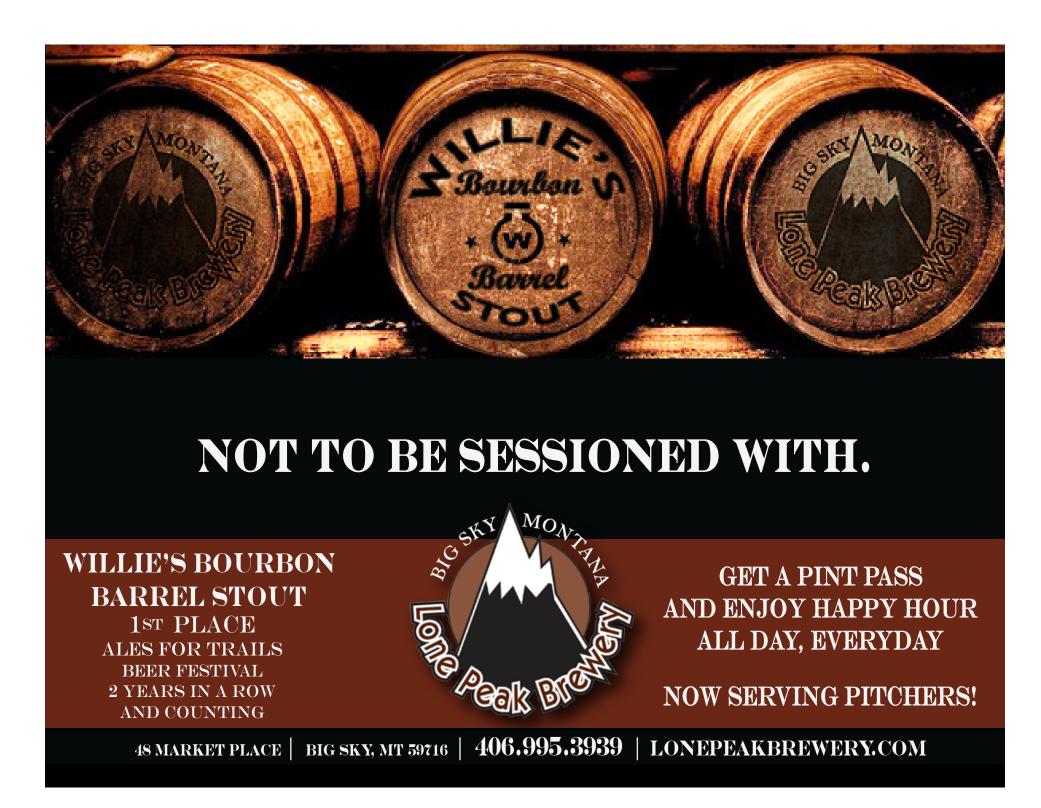
Sidney Simard, representing Bridger Bowl Ski Area, dropping into the top of the venue on his way to a sixth place finish in the Junior Boys 15-18 Division.



Masters of Ceremony Liz Welles at left and Missy O'Malley kept the crowd entertained as the young shredders attacked the venue.



The winners pose for EBS after the awards ceremony. Nehalem Manka won the Junior Girls 12-14 division, followed by Avery Berg and Kodi Boersma. Edie Mason took top honors for the Junior Girls 15-18 division, with Gracely Speth in second and Jess Sterrett in third. Parkin Costain won the Junior Boys 15-18 division, followed by Seth Klein and Christopher Mayers.







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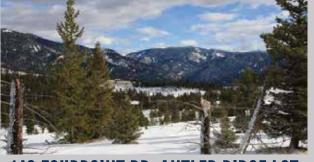
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Bell leads BSSEF to victory at Whitefish

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MIKE COIL EXPLORE BIG SKY CONTRIBUTOR

WHITEFISH – Big Sky standout skier Reece Bell led her team to victory March 6-8 at the Youth Ski League championships in Whitefish. Each of Bell's talents was on display, as she took first in the women's super-G on Friday, second in the giant slalom on Saturday, and first in the slalom on Sunday.

Bell won the slalom by nearly seven seconds and beat out the women – and men – on the super-G course.

With help from teammates Riley Becker (second in slalom) Ella Kopplin (third in giant slalom), Mazie Schreiner (sixth in slalom), Franci St. Cyr (eighth in giant slalom and ninth in slalom) and Macie Lundstrom (10th in slalom), the Big Sky Ski Education Foundation took the team championship for the second year in a row. Bell won the women's championship title and the overall title for a second consecutive year, the first back-to-back wins in the history of the USSA Northern Division.

In addition to the super-combined YSL championship trophy, the Big Sky racers also won the inaugural Peter Maxwell Carnival Team Trophy named in honor of Bridger Bowl Ski Area and Discovery Basin coach Peter Maxwell, who died in an avalanche in March 2014.

The victory qualified a number of the YSL racers for the tri-divisional race, held at Big Sky Resort March 19-22. The tri-divisional race brings together the best racers from the Intermountain Division of Utah and Idaho, as well as Alaska and the Northern Division.

With her recent wins, Bell is now ranked third in the nation in the U14 division, and was invited to race in the U16 national junior Olympics in Maine at the end of March. Bell will conclude her season with two races in Europe, including a defense of her gold medal, which she won in the British National Children's Championship in 2013.

Individual results from the Whitefish race for Big Sky and Bridger racers:

Friday Super G:

WOMEN

U14:

1 Bell, Reece (Big Sky Resort) 50.73 2 Asbell, Riley (Bridger Bowl) 52.53

3 Newhouse, Violet (BSR) 52.89

U12:

2 Carisch, Gracie (BB) 58.15

U10:

2 Brown, Brooke (BB) 1:03.23

U8:

2 Davis, Sophia (BB) 1:13.08

MEN

U12:

1 Unger, Caleb (BSR) 55.17

U8:

1 Smith, Preston (BSR) 1:14.62

Saturday Giant Slalom:

WOMEN

U14:

1 Newhouse, Violet (BB) 1:42.02 2 Bell, Reece (BSR) 1:43.80 3 Kopplin, Ella (BSR) 1:47.13

1112.

1 Carisch, Gracie (BB) 1:47.84 2 Fisher, Octavia (BB) 1:50.71 3 St Cyr, Franci (BSR) 1:51.09 U10:

2 Klug, Carson (BSR) 2:20.73 3 Navarro, Cally (BB) 2:20.83

MEN

U12:

1 Henyon, Walker (BB) 1:47.52

U8

3 Brown, Walker (BB) 2:29.42

Sunday Slalom:

WOMEN

U14:

1 Bell, Reece (BSR) 1:16.23 2 Becker, Riley Belle (BSR) 1:23.16

U12:

1 Fisher, Octavia (BB) 1:32.85 3 St. Cyr, Franci (BSR) 1:33.87

U10:

1 Trebesch, Inga (BSR) 2:01.11

MEN

U12:

2 Henyon, Walker (BB) 1:21.50

U10:

3 Ueland, Cameron (BSR) 1:31.15

U8:

1 Smith, Preston (BSR) 1:53.81



Seven-year-old Dylan Manka displaying her hard charging form during the Youth Ski League championships at Whitefish Mountain Resort in early March.



Franci St. Cyr speeding around a gate on her way to an eighth place finish in giant slalom and ninth place in slalom



Cody Clack leans into a turn during the YSL championships.



Reece Bell carving hard into a turn during her successful weekend in Whitefish.

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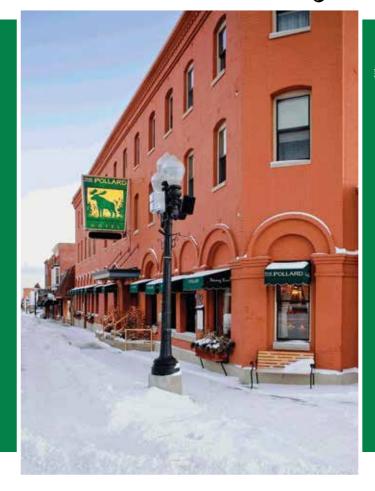
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Show respect: Be on time



BY JOHANNE BOUCHARD **EXPLORE BIG SKY BUSINESS COLUMNIST**

Do you consistently find yourself running short of time? Is it difficult to be punctual for meetings with colleagues, dinner with friends, or leisure activities?

People lose respect for you when you're constantly late. As a business leader, you project that other people's time is less

important than yours, which is presumptuous and rude. If you're an employee, you project that you can't effectively manage your time, and that you might be irresponsible. Whatever your title or obligations, you have a choice to be reliable.

With all the technology available to help manage our time, there are no excuses for habitual tardiness.

Of course, we can all be late occasionally due to uncontrollable or unavoidable circumstances. But typically we can prepare to be on time by being better organized.

"With all the technology available to help manage our time, there are no excuses for habitual tardiness."

Constantly underestimating traffic or the time it takes to get to a location; having to get gas and not planning ahead; leaving late; or taking a call when you know you shouldn't are all controllable situations.

If you are chronically tardy, ask yourself these questions:

Before going to bed at night, review what you have on your calendar the next day - do you schedule enough time between meetings, or do you set yourself up for being late?

Do you set your alarm early enough to leave on time?

When your alarm goes off, do you get right out of bed or hit snooze?

Do you let yourself get too engrossed in a project that you lose sight of time?

Did you answer yes to any of these questions? If so, here are some things you might consider trying:

> Allow extra time between meetings, and before you leave the house in the morning.

Take ownership of being on time - make it your responsibility.

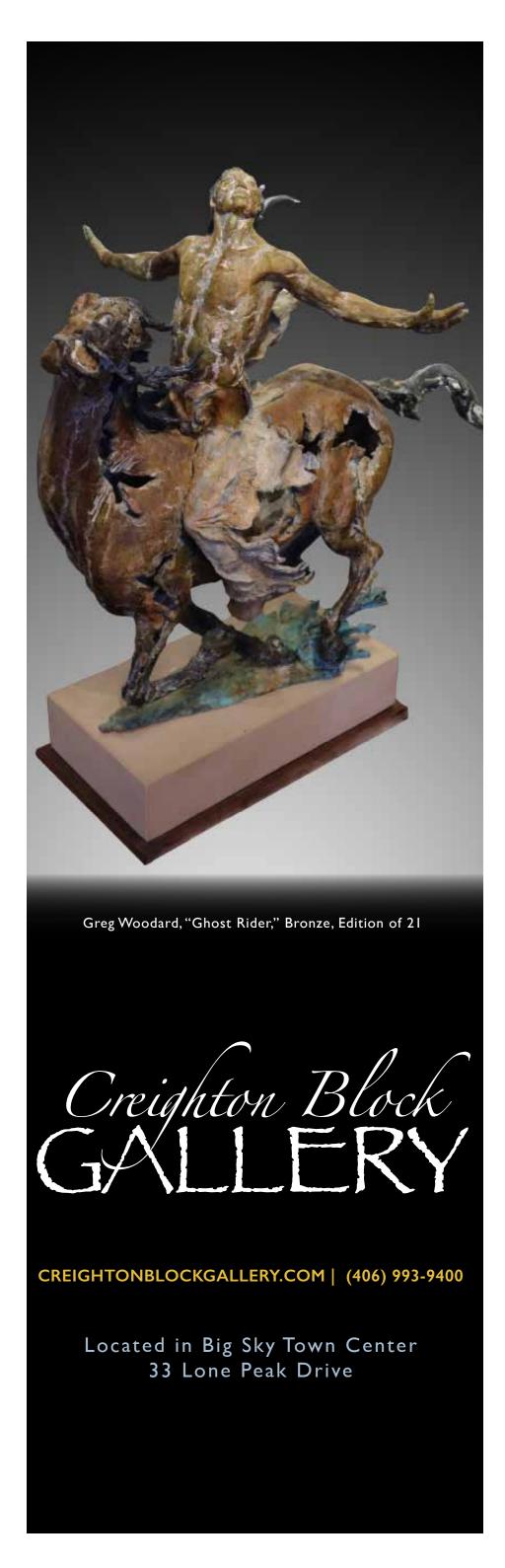
When working on an engrossing project, set an alarm to ensure that you stop on time.

If you've done everything you can and still expect to be late, have the courtesy to notify those who are waiting for you and, if appropriate, offer to reschedule.

Showing up on time – regardless of your title, your responsibilities and the commitments you have - will cause your life to flow better. People will notice your punctuality, and your consistent punctuality may inspire reciprocity.

If you are on time, it's OK to let others know that you'd appreciate them to be on time for your next meeting. Don't be too quick to judge, but have the courage to respect yourself by letting others know that you appreciate their respect for your time.

Johanne Bouchard, a former high-tech executive, is a leadership advisor to CEOs, executives and entrepreneurs, as well as an expert in corporate board composition and dynamics. An avid skier, Bouchard and her busband have a second home in Big Sky. See more at johannebouchard.com.



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Ryan Turner Photography gallery finds a new home

Big Sky photographer Ryan Turner standing in his new gallery space on March 16 in the Big Horn shopping center. Ryan and his wife Angi opened the space on Jan 15 after moving the gallery across the parking lot that they've operated since 2010.

The proximity to the Bugaboo Café, Mountain Haven Salon and Easy Pieces Alterations has produced more foot traffic than his former space experienced, according to Ryan, who has been running his business in Big Sky since 1999. The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce will host an official ribbon cutting and grand reopening on April 2. PHOTO BY TYLER ALLEN

Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



Fisherman are out and about this March and the results have been great! Water temperatures are warmer than usual for this time of year, which means trout are more active.

The Gallatin has been off color most days giving it a green or olive tint. This is a great color for fishing this river and allows you to get closer to the fish without spooking them. Fish are moving out of their winter homes and spreading out into the river, so fish shallow riffles

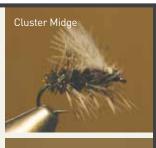
and boulder pockets in addition to the big runs and pools. Nymphing with a variety of stonefly nymphs, Princes, worms and general attractor nymphs about 4-6 feet below a strike indicator has been working best. Streamer fishing has also been producing some great action, but considering dead-drifting and swinging vs. fast stripping.

If you're looking for some dry fly action you may want to consider the lower Madison or maybe the upper Yellowstone. Some baetis starting to move around, but mostly a midge game so far. CDC Cluster Midges, Buzzballs and Para Adams should do the trick in size 16-18.

Also try dead-drifting Clouser Crayfish, Pat's Rubber Legs, Hot Bead anything, and Green Machines on the lower Madison or Pat's Rubber Legs and big Princes on the Yellowstone. The streamer bite has been ok on the Yellowstone with a few sporadic really good days.

Floating the upper Madison somewhere between McAtee and Ennis could also be a good call. Most guys are using the boat to get from A to B and stopping to fish good runs. Mostly a nymphing game, but you may find a few heads coming up.

Happy fishing!











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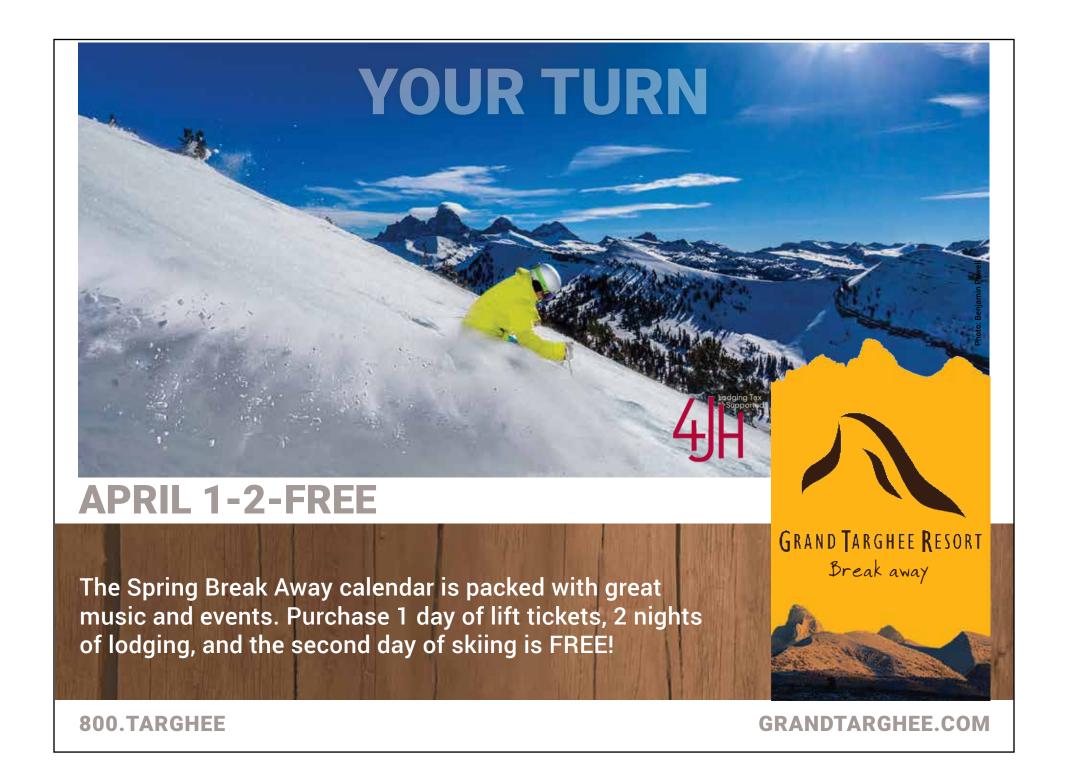
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26 March 20 - April 2, 2015 **BUSINESS explore bigsky.com** Explore Big Sky

Big Sky TEDDs awarded \$25,000 state grant

BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR EXPLORE BIG SKY MANAGING EDITOR

BIG SKY – The Montana Department of Commerce recently approved a handful of grants aimed at boosting jobs and economic growth in the state. One could help Big Sky establish two Targeted Economic Development Districts to provide a catalyst for major infrastructure development in the area.

In a March 5 letter signed by Gov. Steve Bullock, the Commerce Department approved a \$26,250 Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund request to help cover approximately \$95,000 in anticipated TEDD costs, according to Ryan Hamilton.

"It's awesome since it leverages the resort tax money the [Big Sky Chamber of Commerce] already has," said Hamilton, a member of the chamber's subgroup known as the Big Sky TEDD Committee. "We'll continue to move this project forward working with both county commissions and the Big Sky community to create the districts."

The trust fund money was awarded based on a contingency that the chamber would match the funds. Last September the Big Sky Resort Area Tax Board of Directors reallocated \$45,000 from a power line burial project to help fund the TEDD projects.

Along with \$25,000 in private funding, the TEDD committee now has the necessary capital to move forward with a planning grant to present to both Gallatin and Madison County commissioners, who would need to approve TEDDs in both counties since Big Sky straddles the border.

"We put together requests for proposal to solicit [bids for] this study on tax implications inside and outside the districts," Hamilton said. "Basically the commissioners want to understand how this thing may work and affect all the other moving parts in the county."

The grant was one of seven awarded by the Commerce Department, totaling just over \$1 million. Montana businesses were eligible to receive Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund grants for job creation and long-term economic growth planning projects, according to a March 11 press release from the governor's office.

"These grants are a great example of smart and strategic partnerships between the state of Montana and private business to responsibly grow Montana's economy," said Gov. Bullock in the press release.

Six other businesses received Big Sky Trust Fund approval, totaling approximately \$1 million.

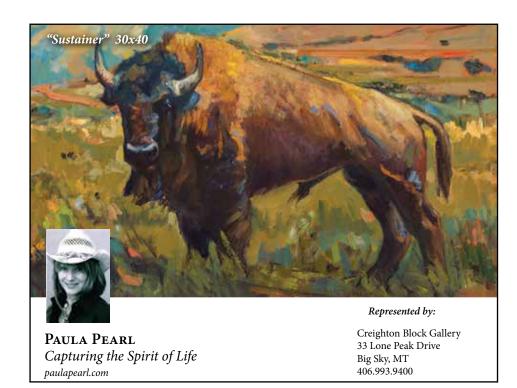
Job Creation

- Missoula County received \$547,500 to assist LGT Sustainable Energy Systems, Inc., which specializes in sustainable energy systems that capture, generate, and store renewable energy from wind and water. Grant funds will be used for equipment purchases, supporting the creation of 73 new Montana jobs.
- The City of Hamilton received \$240,000 to assist Applied Training Resources, Inc. providing mission-critical procedure, work guidance, and knowledge management solutions to high-risk industries. Grant funds will be used for the purchase of a new building, and the resulting business activities will support the creation of 32 new Montana jobs.

• Big Sky Economic Development Corporation received \$170,000 to assist All American Pharmaceutical & Natural Foods Corporation in Billings. Grant funds will be used for equipment purchases, and the resulting business activities will support the creation of 34 new Montana jobs.

Planning

- Prospera Business Network received \$26,250 to assist Oracle Film Group in Bozeman. Oracle Film Group is a boutique entertainment group specializing in the production of motion picture, commercial, and interactive entertainment. Grant funds will be used for a feasibility study evaluating the possibility of opening an animation feature film studio in southwest Montana.
- Bear Paw Development received \$26,250 to assist Port of Wild Horse, the Port of Entry in Havre. Grant funds will go toward a study that would quantify the added economic activity and benefit that Montana and Alberta, Canada would receive should the federal governments of the U.S. and Canada alter the designation of the port as an international port of entry.
- Prospera Business Network received \$4,750 to assist Montana Maltings in Manhattan. Montana Maltings is a micro malthouse that makes specialty and legacy malts for the brewing, distilling, and food industries. Grants funds will be used for an evaluation to determine the manufacturing facility requirements of a proposed malting facility in Manhattan.



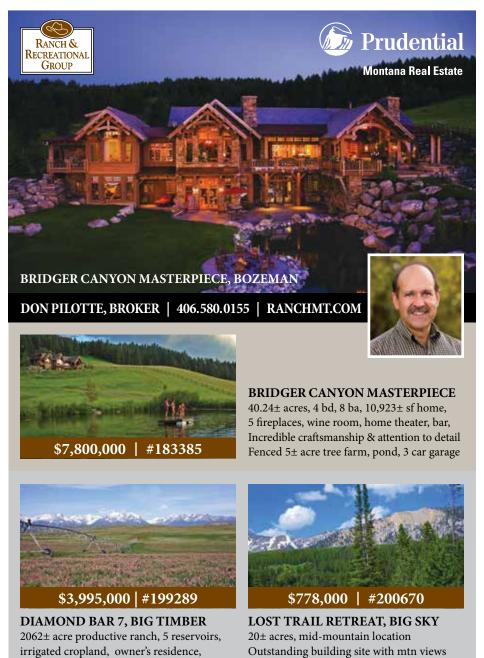


hours. Sunday 1-5p.m. Monday 10a.m.-6p.m. (Toddlers Storytime 10:30 a.m.) Tuesday 4-8p.m. Wednesday 4-8p.m. Closed Thursday-Saturday

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Registration to participate for nonprofits open until March 31

BOZEMAN AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

BOZEMAN – The Bozeman Area Community Foundation is joining communities nationwide on May 5 for "Give Local America," a 24-hour crowdfunding event and live celebration of community giving. The Gallatin County event is called "Give Big Gallatin Valley" and connects community members with local non-profits to reinforce the value of local, philanthropic giving and community engagement.

This year, Give Local America hopes to engage 15,000 nonprofit organizations and raise \$100 million in donations. The event raised \$53 million last year with 7,700 nonprofits participating.

Local nonprofits' involvement in the event will give community members the chance to find and support an organization whose mission aligns with their passion, or to make an amplified impact to an organization they already support.

In order to incentivize the community to participate, many local businesses and organizations will match donations.

"Giving on May fifth will not only show support for our community and the work of nonprofits, but it will also be an opportunity to make your donation dollars stretch," said BACF Executive Director Bridget Wilkinson. "The goal is simple – inspire neighbors to come together, show their pride in their communities, and contribute to support the life-changing work of local nonprofit organizations."

Nonprofit organizations with 501(c) (3) status located in Gallatin County are invited to participate, and must register by March 31.

Visit givebiggv.org for more information about joining the Bozeman Area Community Foundation in Give Big Gallatin Valley or contact Bridget Wilkinson at (406) 587-6262 or bridget@bozemanfoundation.org.



Winter Season: Dec. 5, 2014-April 5, 2015 750 Lone Mountain Ranch Road, Big Sky, Montana 59716 **406.995.4644** • **LoneMountainRanch.com** reservations@lonemountainranch.com

Yellowstone opens select roads for spring bicycle season

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK – Bicyclists willing to brave the often-unpredictable elements of spring in Yellowstone National Park are now able to travel 49 miles of park roads from the West Entrance at West Yellowstone to Mammoth Hot Springs, Wyo.

The stretch of road from Mammoth to Norris Junction opened March 13, and the road from Norris to West Yellowstone opened March 16. There is no bicycle access to Old Faithful or Canyon until the first interior park roads open to public motorized vehicle access on April 17.

The road from the North Entrance at Gardiner, to Cooke City at the park's Northeast Entrance is open all year to cyclists and automobiles, weather permitting.

A bicycle trip into Yellowstone this time of year is not to be undertaken lightly.

The quickly changing weather can be challenging, snow and ice may still cover sections of road that could be lined with tall snow banks, and pullouts may remain snow packed. Extra caution is advised while traveling through the five-mile long road construction zone north of Norris Junction, which is not paved and may be muddy.

Bicyclists must stay out of closed areas, and are required to ride single file while following all

other rules of the road. Cyclists should expect to encounter and yield to snowplows or other motorized vehicles operated by park employees or construction workers traveling in conjunction with park operations.

Bears, bison, elk, wolves and other wildlife could be encountered at any time. Riders are strongly encouraged to carry bear spray, and should be prepared to turn around and backtrack when encountering wildlife on the road.

No services are available along these sections of road. Cell phone coverage throughout the park is sparse and unreliable for communicating emergencies. Riders need to have a plan for self-rescue or repair, and be prepared for exposure to severe winter conditions for an extended period of time

in the event they experience a mechanical breakdown, injury or other emergency.

Cyclists are urged to call (307) 344-2109 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays for updated road access information, or call (307) 344-2113 for 24-bour weather information before committing to any ride in the park. Additional planning information is also available at nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit, or by calling (307) 344-2117.



Bicyclists on Fountain Freight Road trail next to Midway Geyser Basin. PHOTO COURTESY OF NPS





MA HEALTH & WELLNESS

FAST FAT FACTS: The basics of body fat

BY TAYLOR-ANN SMITH EXPLORE BIG SKY GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Where does body fat go when it's lost? The most common understanding is that it's converted into energy, becomes muscle, or is simply burned off. Guess again. The metabolic process of weight loss is biochemical. When you burn blubber, your body adds oxygen to that fat, and metabolizes it into carbon dioxide and water that we eventually exhale or excrete.

"Our calculations show that the lungs are the primary excretory organ for fat," wrote physicist and health speaker Ruben Meerman in a 2014 article titled, "When somebody loses weight, where does the fat go?" published in the British Medical Journal.

"Losing weight requires unlocking the carbon stored in fat cells, thus reinforcing that oft-heard refrain of 'eat less, move more,'" Meerman continued. "We recommend these concepts be included in secondary school science curriculums and university biochemistry courses to correct widespread misconceptions about weight loss."

Body fat is divided into two categories: essential fat and storage fat. Essential fat is necessary for normal body functions and is stored in bone marrow, organs, cells and muscles.

For men, the essential amount of fat is about 3 percent of their body weight. Women require a higher percentage, about 12 percent, due to sex-

specific fat found in breasts, the pelvis, and hips for reproductive function. Storage fat is accumulated beneath the skin that protects our organs. While most storage fat plays a vital role in the body, it's expendable as it increases in unhealthy gains.

To ascertain a healthy body-fat percentage, utilize an online calculator that accounts for age, weight and gender. Body Mass Index calculators are also helpful to determine health by examining your height and weight. These tools, along with a regular exercise routine and healthy diet, will help your body reach its greatest potential with body fat in check.



THE AVERAGE WOMAN

5 ft. 4 in. 166 lbs.

Fat percentage: 25-31%

46.5 lbs. of fat



THE AVERAGE MAN

5 ft. 9 in. 196 lbs.

Fat percentage: 18-24%

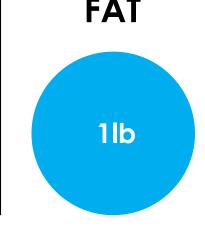
41.2 lbs. of fat

TO LOSE 1LB. OF FAT, YOU NEED TO BURN

3,500 CALORIES



1lb



Muscle is about 18% more dense than fat and one pound of muscle occupies less space (volume) than of fat.

FAT IN FOOD

GOOD

Mono and polyunsaturated fats are beneficial to our health

- Eat foods high in unsaturated fats to improve cholesterol and contribute to brain health
- Polyunsaturated fats, commonly found in plants, provide essential Omega-3 and Omega-6 fatty acids

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BAD

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- Ingredient lists that contain the words 'parially hydrogenated' is code for trans fat
- By USDA law, manufacters are allowed to put 0g on the label as long as the product contains under .5g. The American Heart Association recommends limiting trans fats to less than 2 grams per day due to risk of developing heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes.

INCLUDES:



POPCORN





CAKE MIXES

COOKIES

explorebigsky.com Explore Big Sky HEALTH March 20 - April 2, 2015 31

From Jackie with love



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN EXPLORE BIG SKY HEALTH COLUMNIST

In addition to being a holistic health coach I'm also an artist and art teacher. Lately, I've been hosting art parties – "Canvas

and Cocktail" type events – and after witnessing hundreds of people light up as they explore their canvas with brush strokes, I've been giving a lot of consideration to the real value of creativity.

Albert Einstein said, "Creativity is intelligence having fun."

A study titled "Openness to Experience and Mortality of Men" was discussed in the August 2012 edition of "Scientific American." The study's author, Nicholas Turiano, stated that, "Individuals high in creativity maintain the integrity of their neural networks even into old age." He added that stress, which can be harmful to our cardiovascular, immune and cognitive systems, is reduced in creative thinkers.

When we're in our creative groove, time seems to stand still and self-consciousness falls away. It's very similar to how meditation focuses the mind. This is evident at certain moments during art parties when a room full of 30 people becomes Zen-like in its in quiet purposefulness. Since meditation and creativity can bring us to a similar place, perhaps their health benefits overlap for similar reasons.

But beyond health, honing your creative skills is good for you bottom line.

While introducing the iPad 2 to the world in 2011, Apple's then CEO Steve Jobs said, "It's in Apple's DNA that technology alone is not enough. It's technology married with liberal arts, married with the humanities, that yields the results that make our hearts sing."

Richard Florida, an American economist and author of "The Rise of the Creative Class.

And How It's Transforming Work, Leisure and Everyday Life," writes that "...human creativity is the ultimate economic resource." According to Florida and other economists, we are in the "post-industrial age," and the workforce now relies heavily on creative thinkers.

So how do we get into this creative zone if our jobs and education don't require it? First,

discover what truly motivates you. Is it playing an instrument, wood working or writing poetry? If you're passionate about something, you're more likely to pursue it, take risks and stick with it.

Second, cultivate personality traits such as curiosity, persistence and humbleness. They allow you to have the necessary openness that creative thinking requires.

Third, and perhaps most important, check-in with your inner critic. If you have a vicious voice that tells you to hang it up before you even begin, this is a great opportunity for self-exploration, self-love and self-acceptance.

That critic is your ego trying to protect you from failing or looking foolish. Or perhaps it's not even your own voice but judgment passed on from someone else in your life like a family member or friend. Let it go and grow. You have nothing to lose and so much to gain.

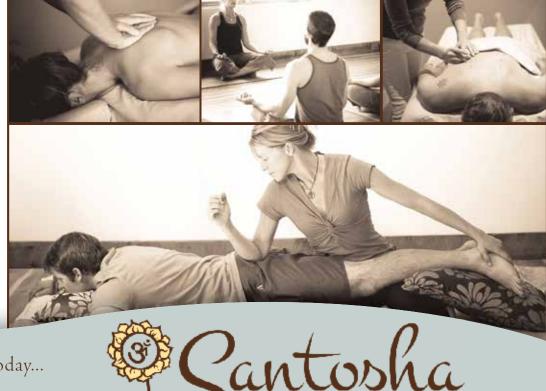
Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach, an NASM Certified Personal Trainer, a public speaker and health activist. Contact her at jackie@thetahealth.com, or find more at thetahealth.org.



Learn the ins and outs of the community cleanse April 8, 7-8pm

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SUNDAY

10-11am All Levels Adult Ballet

5-6:15pm All Levels Yoga MONDAY

8-8:45am Sound Bath Meditation

9-10:15am All Levels Yoga

6-7:15pm All Levels Yoga TUESDAY

7-8am
All Levels Yoga
8:15-9:15am
Pilates
9:30-10:45am
All Levels Yoga
5:30-6:15pm
Sound Bath
6:30-8pm

All Levels Yoga

WEDNESDAY

6-7am
All Levels Yoga
9-10:15am
All Levels Yoga
5:30-6:30pm
Gentle Yoga
4/8: 7-8pm
The Ins and Outs

of the Community

Cleanse

DAY THURSDAY

/oga All Levels Yoga
m /oga 8:15-9:15am Pilates
/oga
pm All Levels Yoga
ga 6:30-8pm

6:30-8pm Yoga Therapeutics/ Yoga Nidra FRIDAY

8:30-9:30am Level II Yoga 10-11:30am Amrit Yoga

3/20 5:30-7:30pm The Practice SATURDAY

9-10:15am All Levels Yoga



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Chainsaws and ballet: together at last

BY JENNIFER WATERS EXPLORE BIG SKY CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY - Chainsaws have nothing to do with ballet, or so you might think. James Sewell has a different idea.

The two unlikely partners will unite in "Guy Noir," a repertory piece choreographed by Sewell, who along with Sally Rouse founded the James Sewell Ballet in New York City, then brought it to Minneapolis, Minn. in 1993. The performance will take place on the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center stage on Saturday March 28 at 7:30 p.m. A second part of the show, called "Silk Road," will round out the ballet.

"Guy Noir is very tongue-in-cheek and many props will be used," said Nicky Coelho, a dancer in the show.

Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" played muse to Sewell, working with the choreographer and his dancers in their studio to develop the ballet. Guy Noir is a private detective trying to solve crime in this comedic work, and a series of stories lies within the dance.

"Garrison rewrote lyrics for the piece and was very involved with the dialog," said Sewell of the ballet, noting that the audience will hear voiceovers by Keillor during the performance.

The James Sewell Ballet will close out this winter's WMPAC season, its third trip to Big Sky since opening the first winter season in December 2013. This is the only act to be invited back for the second season, something WMPAC's Artistic Director John Zirkle hopes will become tradition.

"We are incredibly lucky to see James and his company as engaged as they are with Big Sky," Zirkle said. "'Guy Noir' is a perfect example of [his] unending creativity and fearlessness."

Local residents Sandra and Jac Jacobsen first introduced WMPAC to the James Sewell Ballet in 2013 as a way to bring a new approach to the arts center. Sandra was formerly a board member for JSB and the couple avidly supports the company.

While the ballet was visiting Big Sky in December 2013, event organizers created the idea of holding a dance intensive for advanced dancers and local children, alongside a company residency. The idea grew and came to fruition in spring 2014 when Zirkle and James Sewell Ballet Executive Director George Sutton ironed out finances and logistics.

The ballet company was in residency with WMPAC for two weeks last July, teaching students from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily, and will be returning this July for a second residency.

During his summer 2014 visit Sewell began his creation of "Silk Road," which will be presented in final form at the upcoming show. "It is the spirit of the place that inspired what came," said Sewell about choreographing the performance on the WMPAC stage in Big Sky.

Sewell's other inspirations included the frontier spirit, natural beauty, and the spirit of adventure, he said. The audience will see the grace and beauty through Sewell's unique movement style alongside extremely technical ballet pointe work.

This production continues the blossoming partnership between the James Sewell Ballet and WMPAC, and is sure to entertain. Just be careful, says "Guy Noir" performer Chris Hannon.

"Dancing with chainsaws is never a good idea," Hannon said. "Don't try this at home, kids."

To witness the magic that's bringing the James Sewell Ballet back to Big Sky, visit warrenmillerpac.org for tickets to "Guy Noir."



Cory Goei will play Guy Noir while Kelly Vittetoe dances the part of Allegsa Goodthing in the performance of "Guy Noir," a ballet coming to Big Sky's WMPAC on March 28. PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMES SEWELL BALLET

34 March 20 - April 2, 2015 **EVENTS explore bigsky.com** Explore Big Sky

Natural and

of a Deadly Virus" last fall

in response to

bewilderment about the

circumstances became more

severe in West

Quammen drew

on material from his compendious

2012 book,

"Spillover:

Animal

Africa.

public and media

disease, and after

Human History

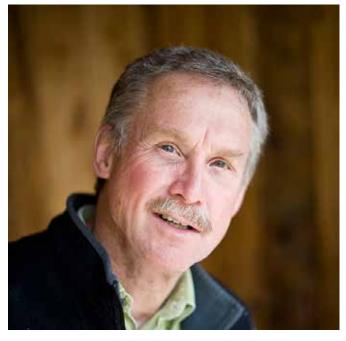
Quammen to speak on Ebola at MSU

MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – Award-winning science writer David Quammen recently published a new book about the Ebola virus and the disease it causes, and he will give a free public lecture about it at Montana State University.

Quammen will speak on "Ebola and Beyond: Scary Viruses in a Globalized World" at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 26, in Ballroom A of MSU's Strand Union Building.

A Bozeman resident and former Wallace Stegner Professor in Western American Studies at MSU, Quammen published his book "Ebola: The



Bozeman-based, award-winning science writer David Quammen will speak at Montana State University on March 26. PHOTO BY LYNN DONALDSON

adding a fresh introduction and an epilogue devoted to recent events.

Infections and the Next Human Pandemic" to assemble this new volume.

Since last November, Quammen has made two additional trips to Africa, researching a story for National Geographic on the search for Ebola's reservoir host – that is, where it hides when it's not killing humans. At the MSU lecture, he'll discuss that unsolved mystery and Ebola in a broader context as one among many viral diseases facing humanity.

"The 2014 epidemic of Ebola virus disease in West Africa is unlike any Ebola event ever seen before," said Quammen, indicating that there are five strains of ebolavirus. "In fact, as of this writing, it's already 30 times larger in terms of case fatalities – 30 times more punishing to Africans, 30 times more scary and befuddling to people around the world – than any single outbreak of an ebolavirus during the previous known history of the disease."

Quammen added that Ebola has fallen out of the mainstream news cycle in the U.S., but the epidemic still continues in West Africa, killing more people every week.

Quammen has written 16 books, including "The Reluctant Mr. Darwin," and "The Song of the Dodo." He has been published in several national magazines and won numerous awards.

"Spillover," for one, was a finalist for seven awards and received two of them: the Science and Society Book Award given by the National Association of Science Writers, and the Society of Biology (UK) Book Award in General Biology.

Quammen was educated at Yale and Oxford universities, and has lived in Montana since 1973. He has received honorary doctorates from MSU and Colorado College.

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MSU celebrates 'Creative

Nations' during Presidents Fine Art Series

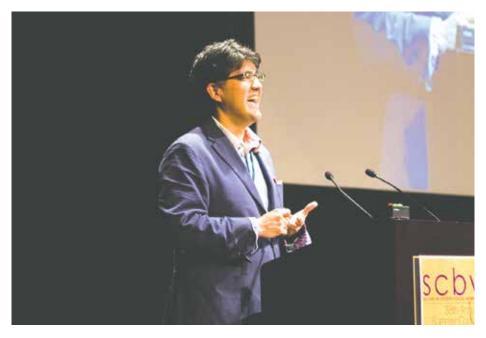
'MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – The Montana State University Office of the President and the College of Arts and Architecture are presenting "Creative Nations," a series of events to celebrate Native arts and creativity, held from February through the first week of April.

"We have planned for this year's President's Fine Arts Series since my arrival at MSU [in July 2012]," said Nancy Cornwell, dean of the College of Arts and Architecture. "It's something we are extraordinarily proud of. It feels timely, important, and absolutely humbling to present such caliber of artistic work."

On Saturday, March 28 at 7 p.m., American Indian author Sherman Alexie will be giving a lecture at the Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture. A prolific author, poet and screenwriter, Alexie was named one of The New Yorker's top 20 writers of the 21st century. Much of his writing draws from his experiences as a modern Native American.

A free screening of "Winter in the Blood," based on the novel by Native American author James Welch, will be held the following day at 2 p.m. at the Emerson Cultural Center. Produced by Alexie, the film examines a man named Virgil First Raise and how his quest to find his wife turns into an introspective journey. Alexie, film directors Alex and Andrew Smith, and actor Chaske Spencer, star of the film, will sit on a panel to answer questions after the screening.



On Saturday, March 28 at 7 p.m. American Indian author Sherman Alexie will be giving a lecture at the Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture. Photo by Rita Crayon Huang/CC BY 4.0

Other highlights in the series include a lecture by MSU graduate Joe Horse Capture – the associate curator of the Collections Research and Documentation Department at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian on March 31 at the Museum of the Rockies at 7 p.m.

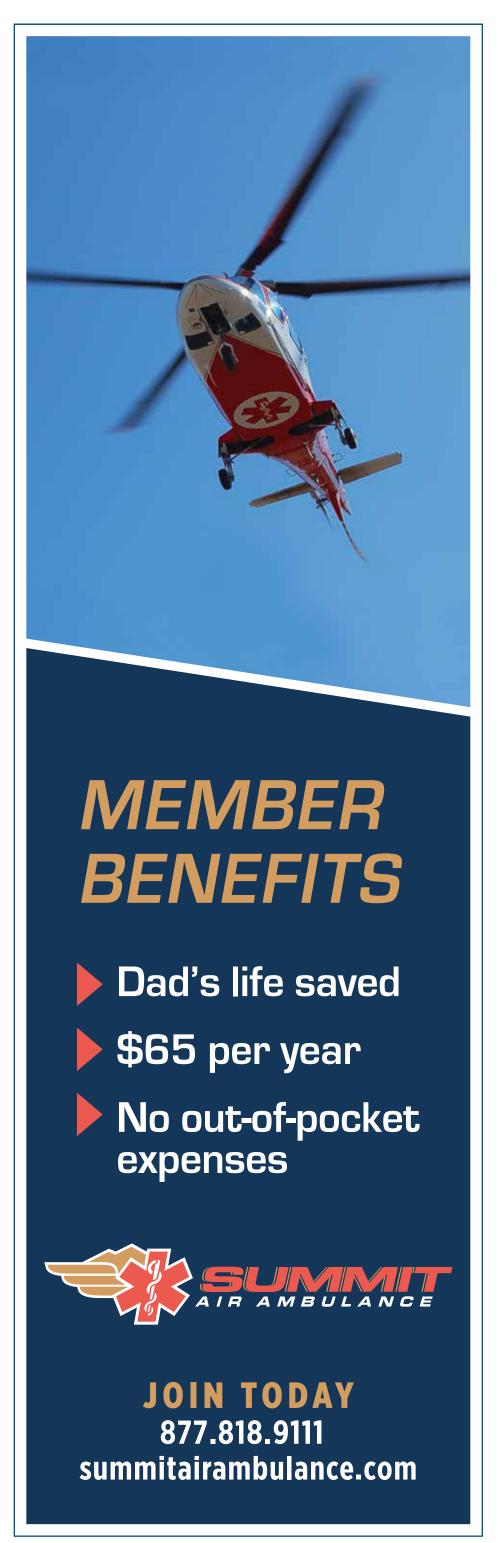
On April 1, "LaDonna Harris: Indian 101," a documentary about Native activist LaDonna Harris and her work to help improve Native American policies, which will be shown in MSU's Reynolds Recital Hall on April 1 at 7 p.m. A panel will follow featuring Harris and other trailblazers for Native American women including MSU President Waded Cruzado, MSU professor emeritus Henrietta Mann and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Denise Juneau.

The series ends with the annual MSU Pow Wow inside the Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, April 3-4.

The theme for this year's series is in keeping with MSU's continued commitment to Native students, programs, scholarships and issues, according to Cruzado.

"Each event in the series demonstrates the beauty and strength of the Native American communities through authentic stories, creatively told," she said.

All events are free and open to the public. Visit montana.edu/caa/pfas for a complete schedule of the series.



EVENTS CALENDAR 36 March 20 - April 2, 2015 **explorebigsky.com** Explore Big Sky

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 20 -**THURSDAY, APRIL 2**

*If your event falls between April 3 and April 17 please submit it by Friday, March 27.

BIG SKY

FRIDAY, MARCH 20 Intermountain U-14 Tri-Divisional Championships Big Sky Resort, all day (thru Sun.)

Catfish Friday Lone Peak Brewery, all day

Kent Johnson Whiskey Jack's, 3:30 p.m.

Lauren Regnier & Jeff Bellino Carabiner, 4 p.m.

Mike Haring Chet's Bar, 4:30 p.m.

Two to Tango WMPAC, 7:30 p.m.

Portal Creek Riverhouse, 8 p.m.

Julia Roberts Carabiner, 8:30 p.m.

Live Music Ousel & Spur, 9-11 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

Smokin' Aces Championship Big Sky Resort, 8:30 a.m.

Brian & Ben Whiskey Jack's, 3:30 p.m.

Kent Johnson Scissorbills, 3:30 p.m. Lone Mountain Trio Carabiner, 4 & 8:30 p.m.

Dos Mayos Chet's Bar, 4:30 p.m.

Après Music Choppers, 5:30 p.m.

Fish Camp Boys Riverhouse, 6:30 p.m.

Rocky Mountain Pearls Riverhouse, 7 p.m.

Ophir Pie Auction Buck's T -4, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22On Mountain Church Services

BSR, 1:30 p.m.

Music w/Stumpy Scissorbills, 3:30 p.m.

Texas Hold 'Em Poker Riverhouse, 4 p.m.

Southern Belles Riverhouse, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 23 Dan Dubuque

Whiskey Jack's, 3:30 p.m.

Montana Exit Carabiner, 4 p.m.

Diamond Chet's Bar, 4:30 p.m.

Service Industry Night Lone Peak Brewery, 6-8 p.m.

Forrest & Friends Black Bear, 10 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24 Mike Haring Whiskey Jack's, 3:30 p.m.

Live Music @ Carabiner Kenny Diamond, 4 p.m. Lauren Regnier, 8:30 p.m.

Milton Menasco Duo Chet's Bar, 4:30 p.m.

Open Mic By WOM, 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

Subaru Freeride Series Big Sky Resort (thru Mon.)

Live Music @ Carabiner Kevin Fabozzi, 4 p.m. Mike Haring, 8:30 p.m.

Diamond Chet's Bar, 4:30 p.m.

Trap Release Workshop River Rock Lodge Conference Room, 6:30 p.m.

Karaoke Broken Spoke, 9:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26 Subaru Freeride Series Big Sky Resort (thru Mon.)

Load Bearing Walls Whiskey Jack's, 3:30 p.m.

Live Music @ Carabiner Mike Haring, 4 p.m. Kevin Fabozzi, 8:30 p.m.

Menasco Duo Chet's Bar, 4:30 p.m.

Annual Auction for the Arts Lone Mountain Ranch. 5 p.m.

Tom Georges Riverhouse, 6:30 p.m.

Rum Boogie Scissorbills, 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27 Subaru Freeride Series Big Sky Resort (thru Mon.)

Catfish Friday Lone Peak Brewery, all day

Live music at Whiskey Jack's Kent Johnson, 3:30 p.m. Jerry Joseph, 9:30 p.m.

Lauren Regnier & Jeff Bellino Carabiner, 4:30 p.m.

Mike Haring Chet's Bar, 4:30 p.m.

Quenby & West of Wayland Riverhouse, 8 p.m.

Live Music Ousel & Spur, 9-11 p.m.

DJ 5 Star & M.O.T.H. Black Bear, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28 Subaru Freeride Series Big Sky Resort (thru Mon.)

Subaru Winterfest Swift Current at BSR, 9 a.m.

Live music at Whiskey Jack's Brian and Ben, 3:30 p.m. Jerry Joseph, 9:30 p.m.

Live music at Carabiner Lone Mountain Trio, 4 p.m. Two Bit Franks, 8:30 p.m.

Dos Mayos Chet's Bar, 4:30 p.m.

Après Music Choppers, 5:30 p.m.

Rocky Mountain Pearls Riverhouse, 7 p.m.

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

Electric Sunday Broken Spoke, 9:30 p.m.

Skate Park Fundraiser Live Music Black Bear, 10 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Subaru Freeride Series Big Sky Resort (thru Mon.)

On Mountain Church Services BSR, 1:30 p.m.

Music w/Stumpy Scissorbills, 3:30 p.m.

Texas Hold 'Em Poker Riverhouse, 4 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 30 Subaru Freeride Series Big Sky Resort

Dan Dubuque Whiskey Jack's, 3:30 p.m.

Montana Exit Carabiner, 4 p.m.

Diamond Chet's Bar, 4:30 p.m.

Service Industry Night Lone Peak Brewery, 6-8 p.m.

DJ Mountjoy Black Bear, 10 p.m.

Buck's T-4, 8 a.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31 Stormwater Workshops

Mike Haring Whiskey Jack's, 3:30 p.m.

Live music at Carabiner Kenny Diamond, 4 p.m.

Lauren Regnier, 8:30 p.m.

Taco Tuesday Black Bear, 4 p.m.

Milton Menasco Duo Chet's Bar, 4:30 p.m.

Comedy & Cuisine Lukas Seely Buck's T-4, 6 p.m.

Mandy Rowden Riverhouse, 6:30 p.m.

Open Mic By WOM, 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

Stormwater Workshops Buck's T-4, 8 a.m.

Live music at Carabiner Kevin Fabozzi, 4 p.m. Mike Haring, 8:30 p.m.

Diamond Chet's Bar, 4:30 p.m.

Karaoke Broken Spoke, 9:30 p.m.

THURSDAY. APRIL 2 Stormwater Workshops

Buck's T-4. 8 a.m. Load Bearing Walls

Whiskey Jack's, 3:30 p.m. Live music at Carabiner

Mike Haring, 4 p.m. Kevin Fabozzi, 8:30 p.m.

Milton Menasco Duo Chet's Bar, 4:30 p.m. **Brian Stumpf**

Riverhouse, 6:30 p.m. Rum Boogie Scissorbills, 10 p.m.

Bozeman

FRIDAY, MARCH 20 Free Family Movie Spy Kids The Ellen, 7 p.m.

Cold Hard Cash Eagles Lodge, 7 p.m.

My Cousin Jimmy Wild Joe's, 7 p.m.

Dirk Alan Lockhorn Cider House, 7 p.m.

The Baxter, 7 p.m.

David Dalla G LFTD, 8 p.m.

Avenue Q: The Musical The Verge, 8 p.m.

Pimps of Joytime + Cure for the Common Filling Station, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

Gallatin Ice Foundation Gloves Off Gala The Commons, 9 a.m.

Winter Farmers' Market The Emerson, 9 a.m.

Children's Puppet Matinee Greatest Fairytale Never Told The Verge, 2 p.m.

Point and Chute Bridger Bowl, 5 p.m.

Open Mic Night Wild Joe's, 7 p.m.

Hank Patterson's Reel Mont. Adventure The Emerson, 8 p.m.

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HELP WANTED

School Board Trustee Position

Big Sky School District #72 has two three-year term school board trustee positions available. Election will be held Tuesday, May 5, 2015. Any person who is qualified to vote in Big Sky School District #72 is eligible for the office of trustee. Nomination petitions are available from the main office or by calling Marie Goode, District Clerk, at 995-4281 ext. 202. A valid nomination petition requires five signatures of registered voters from the district. The deadline for filing a petition is March 26, 2015. No candidate may appear on the ballot unless he or she meets this deadline. No person signing a petition may sign more nomination petitions than there are trustee positions open.

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Michael Keaton Trivia Night Beetlejuice The Ellen, 7 p.m.

Contra Dance Bozeman Senior Ctr., 7:30 p.m.

Mont. Chamber Music Society Spring Concert Reynolds Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Avenue Q: The Musical The Verge, 8 p.m.

The Dirty Shame Eagles, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22 Spring Used Book Sale

Bozeman Public Library, 11 a.m.

Ceilidh Bridger Brewing, 3 p.m.

Bridger Mountain Big Band Colonel Black's, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 23

Pints w/Purpose Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

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

Trivia Bacchus, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

Free Tax Help MSU, 5:30 p.m.

Gallatin Art Crossing Lecture Bozeman Public Library, 7 p.m.

Nicole Lewis Lockhorn Cider House, 7 p.m.

Little Jane Bacchus Pub, 8 p.m.

Cave Singers Filling Station, 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25 Trampled by Turtles The Emerson, 8 p.m.

Beth Wood & Sarah Sample LFTD, 8 p.m.

Sim-Bitti Colonel Black's, 10 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

Free Tax Help MSU, 5:30 p.m.

BFS Presents: A Most Violent Year The Emerson, 7:30 p.m.

Steve Tyrell The Ellen, 8 p.m.

Shelly & Tony Bacchus Pub, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

Ian Thomas Wild Joe's, 7 p.m.

DJ Rhone Lockhorn Cider House, 7 p.m.

Bearded Competition Music by Doctors of Geography Eagles Club, 8 p.m.

Avenue O: The Musical The Verge, 8 p.m.

Dirt Farmers Debut CD Release Party Filling Station, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY. MARCH 28 Children's Puppet Matinee

Greatest Fairytale Never Told The Verge, 2 p.m.

Beer n' Bark Benefit **Eagle Mount Fundraiser** Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 4 p.m.

Sherman Alexie lecture The Emerson, 7 p.m.

John Hanlon & Dane Thompsen Wild Joe's, 7 p.m.

Avenue O: The Musical The Verge, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY. MARCH 29

Carve Out Hunger **GVFB Food Drive** Bridger Bowl, 8 a.m.

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

Bridger Mountain Big Band Colonel Black's, 7:30 p.m.

Open Mic Haufbrau, 10:30 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 30 Improv on the Verge

The Verge, 7 p.m.

Trivia Bacchus, 8 p.m.

MSU, 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY. MARCH 31 Free Tax Help

Jeremy Morton Duo Bacchus, 8 p.m.

Johnny & Molly of Communist Daughter

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

Filling Station, 8 p.m.

Publishing Workshop Country Bookshelf, 6:30 p.m.

Sneak preview of "The Hunting Ground' The Emerson, 7 p.m.

Sim-Bitti Colonel Black's, 8 p.m.

Heatwarmer w/Modern Sons Filling Station, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

Mont. Wilderness School **Fundraising Launch Party** 406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

"Being Evel" The Emerson, 7 p.m.

Larry Lou & the Bird Dogs Bacchus, 9 p.m.

Naïve Melodv Talking Heads Tribute Band Filling Station, 9 p.m.

Livingston & **Paradise Valley**

FRIDAY. MARCH 20 The King's Feast Chico Hot Springs, 6 p.m.

"Oklahoma" The Shane, 8 p.m.

www.Twang Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Exit 288

Chico Saloon, 9:30 p.m.

Slow Moe Joe Proghorn Trio The Mint, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21 Senior Services Connection

Park County Senior Center,

Chad Okrusch Katabatic, 5:30 p.m.

Paul Ray American Legion,

"Oklahoma" The Shane, 8 p.m.

The Bird Dogs Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Exit 288 Chico Saloon, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22 "Oklahoma" The Shane, 3 p.m.

Laura Rain & The Caesars Chico Saloon, 8 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 23 Bluegrass Jam

Katabatic, 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24 Beer for A Cause: The Depot Katabatic, 4 p.m.

Taco Tuesday w/Swingley Jazz The Mint, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

Bingo Night The Mint, 6 p.m.

Holler N' Pine Katabatic, 5:30 p.m.

Ian Thomas Murray Bar, 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

Dogs of Livingston Presentation Liv.-Park Co. Library, 6:30 p.m.

Ladies Night w/DJ Mike Murray Bar, 8:30 p.m.

Scotty Nelson The Mint,

FRIDAY. MARCH 27 Gary Ferguson Reading Elk River Books, 7 p.m.

"Oklahoma" The Shane, 8 p.m.

Country Tradition American Legion,

Von Stomper Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Hooligans The Mint, 9:30 p.m.

www.Twang Chico Saloon, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28 Build Your Own Pond workshop

Paradise Permaculture, 10

Paul Lee Katabatic, 5:30 p.m.

"Oklahoma' The Shane, 8 p.m.

Contra Dance Fundraiser & Fiddle Concert Park Co. Senior Ctr., 6:30 p.m.

Quenby & WOW Band Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

www.Twang Chico Saloon, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

"Oklahoma" The Shane, 3 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 30 Bluegrass Jam Katabatik, 5:30 p.m.

Bluegrass Jam Katabatic, 5:30 p.m.

Open Mic Night The Mint, 8 p.m.

Katabatic, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31 Beer for a Cause: Relay for

Taco Tuesday w/Swingley Jazz The Mint, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1 The Dirt Farmers

Katabatic, 5:30 p.m. Bingo Night

The Mint, 6 p.m.

Chad Okrusch Murray Bar, 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2 Business After Hours Livingston Enterprise, 5:30 p.m.

Yabba Murray Bar. 8:30 p.m.

West Yellowstone

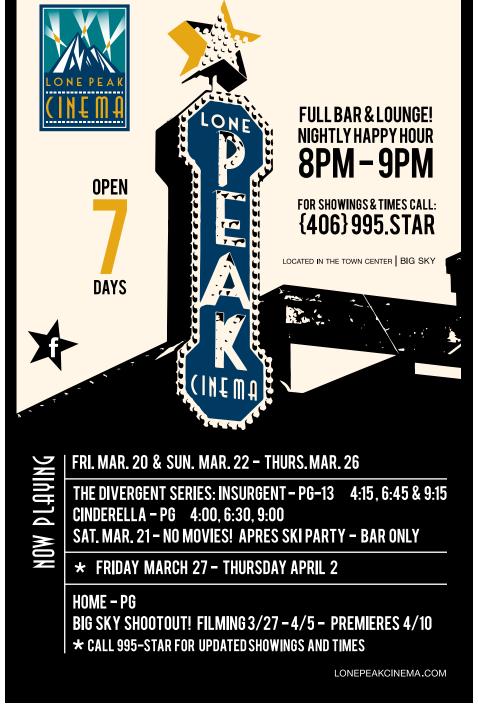
SATURDAY, MARCH 21 The Kind Wild West Saloon, 11 p.m.

MONDAY. MARCH 23 Karaoke Night Wild West Saloon, 8:30 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 30 Karaoke Night Wild West Saloon, 8:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1 Yellowstone's Cycle Only Days YNP (thru April 17)





38 March 20 - April 2, 2015 **EVENTS explore bigsky.com** Explore Big Sky

Little Mermaid Ballet comes to Bozeman

YELLOWSTONE BALLET COMPANY

BOZEMAN – The Yellowstone Ballet Company presents "The Little Mermaid," on Saturday, April 4 at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. in Bozeman's newly refurbished Willson Auditorium.

Kathleen Rakela, YBC's artistic director and recipient of a prestigious Montana Arts Council Fellowship in the Performing Arts, has created a multimedia presentation for the production including magical choreography, stupendous costumes, and projected ocean images that will delight young and old.

Daniel Parker, former conductor for the Hartford Ballet, composed an enchanting score and Robert Worobec narrates the classic Hans Christian Anderson tale – not the Disney version.

Every child who attends the ballet will receive a free stuffed dolphin, stuffed sea horse or seashell, and after the performance parents can take pictures of their child in a Little Nemo costume or starfish costume with the little mermaid and various sea creatures. CDs signed by the composer of The Little Mermaid audio book will also be on sale at the event.

Included in the performance are professional guest artists Molly Huempfner, Randy Herrera, and YBC alumni Fiona Lee dancing alongside performers from Yellowstone Ballet School, The Dance Center and Main Street Dance Theatre.

Randy Herrera, former Houston Ballet principal dancer, dances the role of the prince. Mr. Herrera was born in Acapulco, Mexico and raised in Chicago, Ill. He received a scholarship to The Chicago Academy for the Performing Arts and after graduating joined the Joffrey Ballet of Chicago.

Herrera has won numerous awards, including the Princess Grace Award in 1999 and in 1998 received fourth place in the International Ballet Competition held in Jackson, Miss.

Bozeman-based Fiona Lee will dance the title role of the little mermaid. Lee, who trained at the Yellowstone Ballet School for nine years, attended the American Ballet Theatre Young Dancer Workshop in 2012 and American Ballet Theatre New York Intensive in 2013.

The role of the beautiful bride who steals the prince's love will be danced by Molly Huempfner, Main Street Dance Theatre alumni currently dancing with Colorado Ballet. Miss Huempfner has a BFA in ballet performance from the University of Utah. She was one of three dancers selected to perform with Ballet West by artistic director Adam Sklute while completing her degree.

Tickets are available at yellowstoneballet.com. For more information or group rates email yellowstoneballet@gmail.com or call (406) 223-4664 or (406) 222-0430.

Lukas Seely to perform comedy, cooking at Buck's T-4

BUCK'S T-4 LODGE

BIG SKY – Comedian Lukas Seely will perform a comedy show and conduct a cooking class at Big Sky's Buck's T-4 Lodge on Tuesday March 31.

Seely, a Billings native who now lives in Los Angeles, pairs his unique combination of comedy and compelling life stories with the culinary styling of Chef/Owner Chuck Schommer and Executive Chef Scott Mechura.

Seely will also conduct a limited-availability cooking class featuring "Rodeo Ninja Noodles," the dish he competed with in 2014 on TNT's "On The Menu" with Emeril Lagasse.

Seely started performing comedy in Billings before relocating to Seattle, Wash. in 2004. He soon became a crowd favorite on the Seattle comedy scene and has since moved to Los Angeles where he regularly performs at the Hollywood Improv and The Comedy Store, among other venues.

He has been nominated as an Emerging Comic in the New York Underground Comedy Festival.

Seely recently opened for Bill Burr on the "Billy Red State Tour," and has also worked with such comedy names as Dane Cook, Damon Wayans, Russell Peters, Bobby Lee, Sarah Silverman, Ron White, Greg Giraldo and Daniel Tosh.

He has performed his standup on FOX's "Laughs," and Showtime's "Louie Anderson Presents," currently on hulu.com.

Call (406) 995-4111 for more information or to purchase tickets.

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Plug into the Sun

Bozeman business presents the benefits of going solar

"HARVEST SOLAR MT

BOZEMAN – Harvest Solar MT, a Bozeman-based solar energy company, is hosting two "Plug into the Sun" community events in Bozeman and Belgrade, March 24 and 25. Attendees will learn how solar electric systems work, how to benefit from available incentives and why now is the ideal time to choose this technology.

"As power rates increase and the country makes moves to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, many are left wondering how they can take hold of their own electrical generation," said Brad Van Wert, co-owner of Harvest Solar MT. "Choosing solar electricity allows homeowners and business owners alike to protect themselves from these uncertainties and lock in their power rates for 20 or more years."

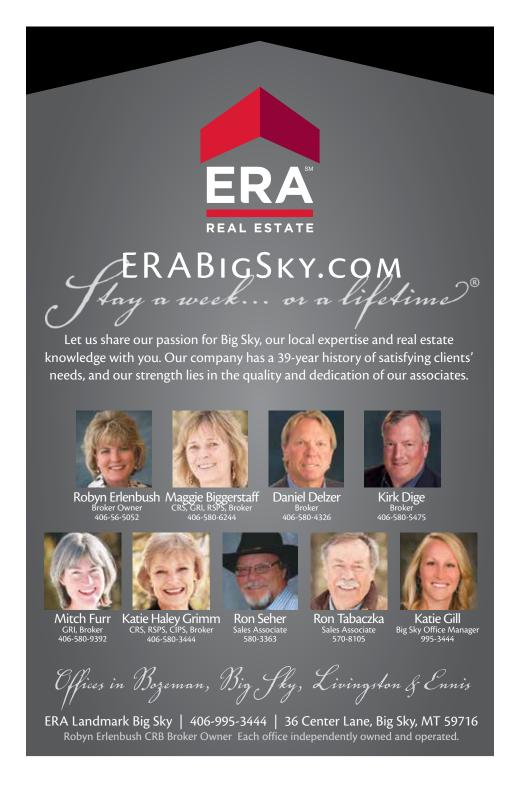
The Bozeman event is on Tuesday, March 24 in the Emerson Cultural Center's Weaver Room from 7-8:30 p.m., and Mackenzie River Pizza will host the Belgrade event, from 7-8:30 p.m. Both are free and open to the public.

Participants will also learn about the components of a solar electric system, how grid-tied solar works, what goes into an installation and how to benefit from federal and state incentives.

"The 'Plug Into the Sun' community event is designed to help Montanans learn how this technology works and how they can easily and affordably make it a part of their own lives," Van Wert said.

Everyone who attends the events will have the opportunity to schedule a free site assessment as well as enter to win a free solar electric installation from Harvest Solar MT.

Call (406) 570-8844 or email brad@barvestsolarmt.com for details. Visit barvestsolarmt.com to learn more about Harvest Solar MT.







2115 Little Coyote 4 bedroom/4bath \$549,000 MLS #201505



Elk Ridge Ranch Lot 28 39 +/- acres \$399,000 MLS #197670



271 Village Center @ Big Sky Resort Studio/1 bath \$299,000 MLS #148787

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



21 Soapstone / \$9.85M / 7,587 SQ FT

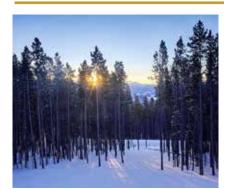


Doc's Holiday / \$8.2M / 8,292 SQ FT



208 Andesite / \$5.9M / 6,312 SQ FT

YELLOWSTONE CLUB



Lot 144A / \$1.95M / 2 ACRES

SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB



217 Goshawk / \$3.9M / 5,837 SQ FT



Ski Tip Lot 6 / \$855K / 1.26 ACRES



Ski Tip Lot 8 / \$775K / 1.11 ACRES

SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB



Ranch Lot 87 / \$297K / 3.65 ACRES



Ranch Lot 10 / \$275K / 5.1 ACRES

MOONLIGHT BASIN



10 Half Hitch / \$3.49 M / 4,924 SQ FT

BIG SKY



214 W. Pine Cone Terrace \$1.9M / 4,268 SQ FT

BIG SKY



Lone Peak Town Home #59 \$535K / 2,115 SQ FT

PRICE REDUCED

13 Beartooth Rd. / $450 \mathrm{K}$ / $2,\!782$ SQ FT

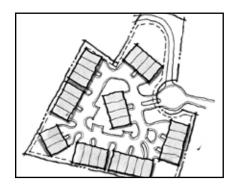


Cedar Creek #45 / 229K / 868 SQ FT

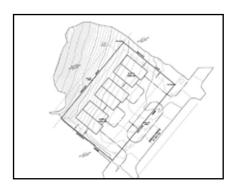


Mountain Meadows \$3.495 M / 120 ACRES

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Market Place / 5 units available See agent for details



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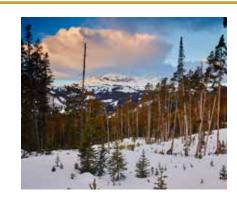
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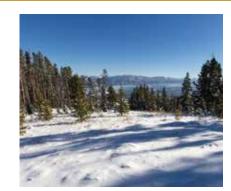
Sunrise Ridge 35B/ \$3.995M/3,120 SQ FT



Lot 338 / \$4.95M / 14.6 ACRES



Lot 332 / \$4.4M / 4.6 ACRES



Lot 36A / \$2.8M / 5 ACRES

SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB



Elkridge 68 / \$585K / 1.02 ACRES



Ranch Lot 110 / \$395K / 2.38 ACRES



Ranch Lot 93 / \$350K / 4.84 ACRES



Ranch Lot 99 / \$345K / 4.06 ACRES

BIG SKY



Buck Ridge Lodge / \$899K / 4,144 SQ FT



Spanish Peaks Club Condo #11 \$630K / 2,314 SQ FT



1085 Looking Glass / \$559K / 2,100 SQ FT



145 Karst Stage / \$497K / 2,288 SQ FT

BIG SKY



Lot 43A Half Moon \$379.9K / 1.22 ACRES



Antler Ridge Lot 183 / \$180K / .46ACRES



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The Eddy Line

Great fishing surrounds us – know where to go



BY PATRICK STRAUB EXPLORE BIG SKY FISHING COLUMNIST

It's officially spring.
That means daylight
savings time, NCAA
hoops brackets, and the
toughest decision of
the week: Do you call
in sick and head to the

river, or ski a few runs and then enjoy a sunny terrace?

The snow is still quite good and fishing now is a pleasure, especially with the warmer weather this winter. If you decide to fish, choosing where to go is not always easy.

For those of us fortunate to be on the water more than we're not, deciding where to fish is predicated more on personal experience than seeking up-to-date intel and taking a leap of faith.

However, there are times when even the "fly fishing regulars" need a helping hand. When I'm at a loss for accurate, "been-there-yesterday" knowledge, I get to work. And by work, I mean pre-planning and information gathering. Here's what to do:

Find accurate fishing reports. Information is all around us and deciphering what beta to use or discard is key. Create a list of fly shops that post daily fishing reports. Make note of how often they're updated, and if you notice a lack of updates, keep searching until you find the most recent report.

Call your local fly shop. Local shops build and keep their reputations by providing accurate information. Online reports and Facebook posts are good resources, but if you truly want today's skinny, pick up the phone and call. It's always a good idea to ask the staff, "If you were going fishing today, where would you go?"

Check multiple weather reports. As I'm preparing for a guided trip, I check the weather in at least four locations: Ennis, Emigrant, Livingston, Big Sky and sometimes Bozeman.



Friends like Shane Jackson (left) and Paul Roos can be great company on the river and also good resources for fishing beta. PHOTOS BY KENTON ROWE

Montana's geography creates many microclimates. The forecast for Livingston might be calling for 50 F and southwest winds of 20 mph, but 20 miles south near Emigrant the forecast could predict calm winds and 60 F. Smartphones make it easy to check the weather before you venture out.

Talk to friends. People live in southwest Montana because of the lifestyle it allows. If you haven't been fishing in a while, chances are you know someone who has. Call them and pick their brain. Be sure to invite them along, offer to drive and be prepared if they say, "Yes, I'd love to come."

Social network. If you're struggling to find a friend who's been out recently, hit the digital highway. Your local fly shops are still your best source for free and honest information, but with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and myriad blogs out there, you'll always find people who are happy to "kiss and tell." But be sure to get out there and fish, and don't get caught surfing the Internet all day.

How do you want to fish? This may ultimately determine where you go. If you want the best shot at the brown trout of a lifetime, and don't care about casting to rising fish, then you should hook up the boat and head to the Yellowstone River, downstream of Livingston. If you want to find some fish eating midges – or even better, Blue Winged Olives – consider the Lower Madison or Gallatin rivers. If you want to get away from the crowds – oh yeah, it's spring. There are no crowds.

Join your local Trout Unlimited chapter and attend monthly meetings. This is a win-win for all. Your membership dollars help preserve cold-water fisheries in our area, and you're guaranteed to meet some new fishing friends happy to share information. I met one of my lifelong angling companions at a Trout Unlimited meeting. We learned neither of us had anything going on the next day, and have been fishing pals for nearly 20 years.

I sometimes feel for the clients in my boat – they're getting a guide who's juggling two fly-fishing businesses, two kids at home, and most nights doing so on minimal sleep.

Fortunately, I've been doing this long enough that most days I can draw from personal experience. If the wads of tip cash I'm given at the end of the day are proof, then I must be doing OK. It's a good thing, because Pampers ain't cheap and college funds don't save themselves.

Pat Straub is the author of six books, including "The Frugal Fly Fisher," "Montana On The Fly," and "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Fly Fishing." He and his wife own Gallatin River Guides in Big Sky and with a partner, owns a guide service on the Missouri River.



Choosing to float or to wade is a big first step in deciding where to fish this time of year. Floating, like Matt Fritz pictured here, allows you to cover more ground. But wading allows you to be close to a warm truck if the weather changes.

Montana Wilderness School kicks off fundraising campaign

BY TYLER ALLEN **EXPLORE BIG SKY SENIOR EDITOR**

BOZEMAN - On April 2 at Bozeman's 406 Brewing Company, the Montana Wilderness School will host a scholarship fundraiser launch party from 5-8 p.m. That morning the school will also begin its 30-day Indiegogo campaign, to raise money for Montana students needing financial support to attend the summer wilderness programs.

"Programs like ours tend to be cost-prohibitive," said Montana Wilderness School co-founder Josh Olsen. "Scholarships are a critical part of the school ... if we can get some folks to chip in some money, that adds up to life-changing experiences for Montana youth."

The school will run its first programs this summer including a 20-day course in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Other programs consist of a "Mountains to Missouri Course" and a mountaineering program in the Pioneer Mountains. The Pioneer course attendees will spend 20 days mountain climbing, learning alpine skills and traveling over snow, if conditions allow.

The 25-day Mountains to Missouri Course includes backpacking along the Rocky Mountain Front; packrafting on the Dearborn River; a shuttle around the Missouri River dams in Great Falls; and canoeing on the Wild and Scenic section of the Missouri, through the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge.

Olsen hatched the idea for the Montana Wilderness School with co-founder Gar Duke, after the two met in March 2012 at a Wilderness First Responder course Olsen was teaching.

"We started skiing and climbing together and both had that vision - we wanted to do something for Montana kids," Duke said. "We felt like there was this niche that was open."

Duke worked for Outward Bound on and off from 1995-2006, in the organization's Colorado School teaching mountaineering, backpacking, canyoneering and rock climbing, as well as its Costa Rica and Maine-based Hurricane Island schools. The Bremerton, Wash.-native moved to Bozeman threeand-a-half years ago after sailing around the world for more than four years.

Olsen grew up in Havre, Mont. and worked for outdoor schools in the Kalispell area while attending college at the University of Montana in Missoula. He ski patrolled at Silver Mountain in Idaho before moving to Bozeman in 2010 where he worked as a patroller at the Yellowstone Club.

"Growing up in Montana, I thought it was interesting there weren't a lot of expeditionary programs in [the state]," Olsen said. "Typically kids would have to leave the state, and I thought that was unfortunate. We have great wilderness areas and public lands. I thought there should be a program getting kids on their public lands."

Duke says one of the school's goals is to get a diversity of Montana youth into the wilderness. He and Olson have reached out to a number of communities including tribal and rural ranching towns, and sent fliers out to every Montana high school last fall. They hope to raise \$40,000 to provide up to 10 full scholarships through their Indiegogo campaign, offering high school students with varied backgrounds an opportunity to get outside and problem-solve together.

"It's fundamentally important for kids to connect with wild spaces," Olsen said. "People will only protect what they care about, [and] people only care about what they've experienced."

Olsen added that as kids grow up to be the decision makers for Montana, the value they place on public lands will determine the state's conservation legacy.

"When youth go back to their hometown they'll value these things as they become citizens and voters ... ensuring the protected landscape," he said.

The Montana Wilderness School is currently accepting applications ahead of its first program, slated to begin at the end of June.



Montana Wilderness School co-founder Josh Olsen scouting Belt Creek rapids on the Missouri River in July 2014. PHOTO BY GAR DUKE



cough and aches and pains.

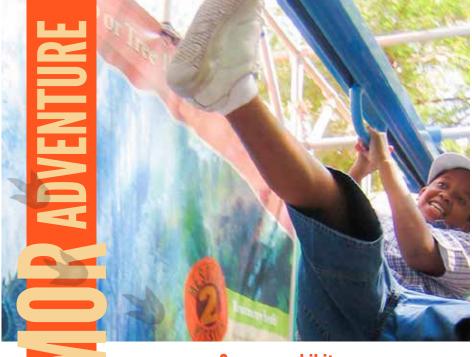
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Our new exhibit **Dinosaur Revolution: Live Large** is enormously entertaining!

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Uncover the facts and fossils about dinosaurs in this fascinating maze for children of all ages. You'll travel through 150 million years with a dinosaur's eye view of the world, mimic dinosaur behavior, like crushing earth beneath your giant feet, and find evidence of why dinosaurs are one of the most successful survivors in earth's history! Driven by questions and answers, Dinosaur Revolution takes you on a journey that's as large as a T. rex!

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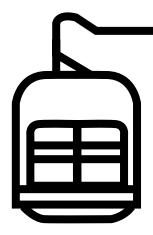




Also open now, Liberty on the Border: A Civil War Exhibit



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WORD FROM THE RESORTS

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



BY SHEILA CHAPMAN BIG SKY RESORT PR MANAGER

We had a taste of spring skiing and winter is far from over – more storms are on the horizon and there's still a lot happening at Big Sky Resort.

On March 21, Big Sky Resort is hosting the Royal Flush Championship, which is the culmination of the three stop series that makes up the 2015 Smoking Aces Tour. The slopestyle competition will be held at the Swifty 2.0 terrain park.

The Subaru Freeride Series returns March 25-29 with ski and snowboard divisions for adult men and women. A qualifier event will be held on Thursday, followed by two main event days on Friday and Saturday. The world's best athletes will be featured in front of a global audience through a high definition, live webcast.

The competition will be complemented by Subaru Winterfest, which show-cases the sport and culture of freeride and includes sponsor expos, educational clinics, music, good beer and local food.

Easter Sunday is April 5, and a sunrise service will be held at the top of Swift Current chairlift, which begins loading at 6:30 a.m. for the 7 a.m. service.

As always, Big Sky Resort offers free après ski music Monday through Saturday at Whiskey Jack's, the Carabiner Lounge and Chet's Bar & Grill. And don't forget about the early season pass sale, which ends April 30.

Visit bigskyresort/events for up-to-date event information.



BY BEN EGBERT LMR BARTENDER

Spring is here and I'm excited about creating some warm-weather cocktails, but what I'm really looking forward to is the Willie's Distillery dinner at Lone Mountain Ranch on March 27 at 6:30 p.m.

Montana grains, carefully selected yeast, pure Montana water, and a good dose of heart and soul – that's what Willie's is all about. Sometimes the Ennis-based distillery even uses wild Montana honey, native berries and botanicals to enhance their craft spirits. Representatives from the distillery will be here for the dinner to talk about the history of Willie's and how their products are made.

As LMR's bartender, I'll be creating five unique cocktails using handcrafted spirits from Willie's, including the Honey Moonshine, Bourbon Whiskey, and Montana Moonshine among others. Executive chef Nick Steen will be behind the scenes in the kitchen to prepare an exceptional five-course meal with dishes that will pair with each cocktail.

If you can't make it out for the Willie's dinner, embrace the sunshine and warmer temps and stop into the saloon for a seasonal cocktail. The deck is open at Lone Mountain Ranch and we can't wait to see you here. Cheers!



BY JENNIE WHITE GRAND TARGHEE RESORT MARKETING MANAGER

As spring rounds the corner, great conditions at Grand Targhee continue. If you're looking for corduroy groomers, sunny days, and runs through the park, then Targhee is the place.

"Spring Break Away" kicks off March 27 with 30 days of fun, music, events and more. March 27-29 is packed with great music from the Miller Sisters, Sneaky Pete and the Secret Weapons, and DJ Cut La Whut.

The GTK9 Spring Avalanche Dog Fundraiser goes down March 28, and you can meet the dogs and handlers, while participating in practice rescues. Raffle tickets are on sale now with prizes including Revision skis, a 2015-2016 season pass, a stay and ski package, Targhee Fest three-day tickets, and Grand Targhee Bluegrass three-day tickets. All proceeds benefit the dogs and their training.

The fun continues March 29 with the annual Sick Trick Competition. This is your chance to show off your best old school trick and win some great prizes, and costumes are highly recommended. Keep an eye on our calendar because spring at the 'Ghee is jam-packed! Pack up the car and break away; you'll find some great slopeside lodging specials this spring at Grand Targhee Resort.



The Bridger Bowl Ski Patrol will host its annual Dirtbag Ball on March 28 at the Molly Brown in Bozeman. The fundraiser for the ski patrol begins at 7 p.m. with a silent auction, followed by music from Bridger patrol's Mighty Locker Room Band and the Chanman Roots Band, a reggae act from Jackson, Wyo.

The event raises funds for ski patroller education, medical certification and training, as well as medical supplies and training for Bridger's avalanche dogs. Expect to see people

decked out in their most retro ski gear and possibly some dancers on roller skates.

"Dirtbag dress-up is the next best thing to Halloween," said Bridger patroller Phil Sgamma.

The third annual Gallatin Valley Food Bank "Carve Out Hunger" food drive comes to Bridger Bowl Ski Area on March 29. Skiers will receive a voucher for a \$20 lift ticket by donating 10 cans – or 50 pounds – of nonperishable food. Last year the event collected 5,202 pounds of food for hungry Gallatin Valley families, and every 50 pounds of food donated by an individual enters them into a drawing for a 2015-2016 season pass.

The dry spell in the Bridger Mountains snapped on March 18 – the day EBS went to print – with the ski area reporting four inches of new snow. – *T.A.*



Reno Walsh takes advantage of the stable snow conditions on March 14 to shred the Banana Couloir on Ross Peak, north of Bridger Bowl Ski Area. PHOTO BY TYLER ALLEN

M.A.X. Pass to give riders access to 22 ski resorts

SPROCKET COMMUNICATONS

DENVER – Intrawest, Powdr and Boyne Resorts jointly launched the new M.A.X. Pass today. This "Multi-Alpine Experience" ski pass gives skiers and snowboarders access to 22 mountains across North America for the 2015-2016 season. M.A.X. passholders can experience five days at each of the 22 participating resorts with a total of 110 days on the slopes and no blackout dates, including holidays.

"Boyne Resorts is proud to align with two companies who share our true passion for creating unique destinations and resorts across North America to offer the best multi-mountain pass on the market," said Stephen Kircher, President of Boyne Resorts' Eastern Operations. "M.A.X. passholders have the freedom to use the pass however they choose – from single-day visits and long weekends to longer ski trips over the holidays."

The M.A.X. Pass gives winter sports enthusiasts the opportunity to get the most value out of their winter season while experiencing unique mountains and a variety of incredible terrain throughout North America.

Days do not need to be used consecutively and days are not transferrable from one mountain to another. Introductory prices are available for a limited time.

The pass is available at the MAX pass.com at introductory spring rates through April 30.

Participating resorts by region include:

NORTHEAST/EAST

- **Snowshoe** / West Virginia
- Killington / Vermont
- Pico Mountain / Vermont
- Stratton / Vermont
- Loon Mountain / New Hampshire
- Sugarloaf / Maine
- Sunday River / Maine

ROCKIES

- Big Sky Resort / Montana
- **Brighton** / Utah
- Copper Mountain / Colorado
- Steamboat Springs / Colorado
- Winter Park / Colorado

MIDWEST

- Boyne Highlands/ Michigan
- Boyne Mountain / Michigan

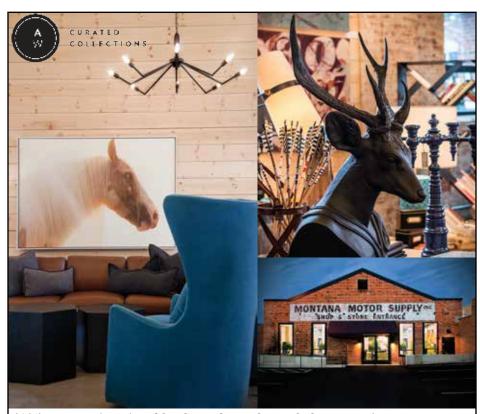
WEST

- Boreal Mountain / California
- Crystal Mountain / Washington
- · Las Vegas Ski and Snowboard / Nevada
- Mt. Bachelor / Oregon
- The Summit at Snoqualmie/ Washington

CANADA

- Blue Mountain / Ontario
- Cypress Mountain / British Columbia
- Mont Tremblant / Quebec





With over a decade of **high-end residential-design** at her eponymous firm, Abby Hetherington and team have passed their extensive **expertise** and unrivaled taste into the persona of the **Architect's Wife.**

In this 3,000-square-foot store, **modern** meets the **mountains** with a **curated collection** of furniture, lighting, rugs, accessories, and art. Snag a coveted piece on the spot or work with **knowledgeable staff** to utilize an extensive fabric, flooring, and wall-covering library for **custom projects**.

The Architect's Wife is always available, but better in person. architectswife.com hello@architectswife.com 23 w. bazzock, bozeman

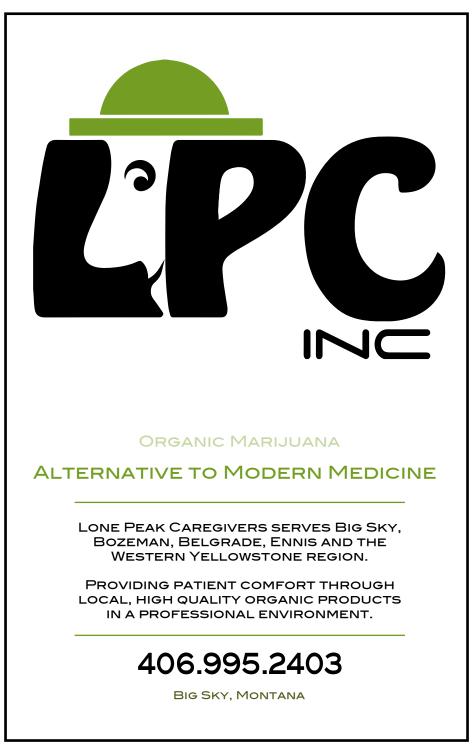
p: 406.577.2000 hours: 10am-6pm monday-saturday

Full interior design services available with Abby Hetherington Interiors. p: 406.404.1330

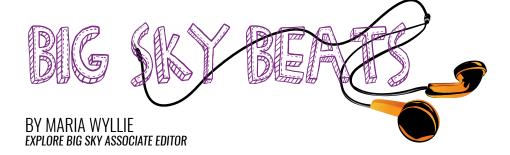








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Find out what tunes we're bumping! In "Big Sky Beats," Explore Big Sky staff and guests talk soundtracks for winter in the Rockies, and guests can share what they listen to when they shred.

I've been hearing a lot of Pink Floyd on the radio recently. With the November 2014 release of the band's latest album, "The Endless River," and in anticipation of guitarist David Gilmour's September 2015 release, it seems that Floyd fans can't get enough.

Known for their psychedelic instrumentals and philosophical lyrics, the English rock band's music has influenced a number of other artists, spanning a wide range of genres, evident by the countless recordings of their songs.

Tracks from a few of these bands can be found below. I find them a nice change of pace when I'm craving some Floyd but have exhausted my own collection. Give them a listen, and if you can't make it to any of Gilmour's 2015 tour, be sure to check out Bozeman's Pinky and the Floyd - undoubtedly one of the nation's best tribute bands.

- 1. "Another Brick In The Wall" (Pt. 1, 2 & 3), Korn
- 2. "Time" (Feat. Corey Harris & Ranking Joe), Easy Star All-Stars
- 3. "Comfortably Numb," Pickin' On Series
- 4. "The Great Gig In The Sky," Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
- 5. "Have a Cigar," Gov't Mule
- 6. "Interstellar Overdrive," Pearl Jam
- 7. "On The Turning Away," Richie Havens
- 8. "See Emily Play," David Bowie
- 9. "Shine On Your Crazy Diamond," Stone Temple Pilots
- 10. "Us and Them," The Flaming Lips

American Life in Poetry: Column 521

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

Amanda Strand is a poet living in Maryland. I like this poem for its simplicity, clarity and directness. No frills to decorate it, just the kind of straightforward accounting of an experience that Henry David Thoreau said he looked for in an author.

Father and Daughter

By Amanda Strand

The wedding ring I took off myself, his wife wasn't up to it. I brought the nurse into the room in case he jumped or anything. "Can we turn his head? He looks so uncomfortable." She looked straight at me, patiently waiting for it to sink in.

The snow fell. His truck in the barn, his boots by the door, flagpoles empty. It took a long time for the taxi to come. "Where to?" he said. "My father just died," I said. As if it were a destination.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetryfoundation. org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2014 by Amanda Strand and reprinted by permission of the poet. Introduction copyright © 2015 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.



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BACKLI

For Explore Big Sky, the Back 40 is a resource: a place where we can delve into subjects and ask experts to share their knowledge. Topics include regional history, profiles of local artists and musicians, snow and avalanche education, how-to pieces for traditional or outdoor skills, and science.

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

How to hike 500 miles

STORY AND PHOTOS BY AARON HUSSMANN EXPLORE BIG SKY CONTRIBUTOR

The summer of 2013 brought a borderline unhealthy obsession with the one-hit-wonder tune "500 Miles" by wailing Scottish band, The Proclaimers. To be fair, I didn't actually walk 1,000 miles and fall down at anyone's door, but I did walk a demanding 500 miles and I'm damned proud of it.

After working 60-80 hour weeks for nine months, living in a crowded city, and becoming one of the thousands of tired, nerve-shaken souls John Muir spoke about, I realized the famous naturalist was right when he said, "going to the mountains is going home."

I packed my old Subaru full of my worldly possessions and headed back home, to South Lake Tahoe, Calif. Breathing in crisp mountain air and soaking in the stillness of the granite peaks surrounding me, I resolved to drag my city-slicker feet over 500 miles of trail that summer.

Hiking 500 miles in one season isn't the most difficult task in the world, especially if you're a Pacific Crest Trail thru-hiker, but it's also not the easiest task. It can be difficult to stay motivated, to get out of your tent and hike every day. Hiking 500 miles requires a steady balance of careful planning and wild spontaneity. The end result, however, is an overwhelming sense of pride and accomplishment, a rewarding connection, or re-connection, with the natural world, and a new appreciation for a slower pace of life.

Here are five tips to plan for and stay motivated during a 500-mile season, but feel free to liberally apply these tips to any hiking adventure.

Invest in solid hiking boots and socks. I can honestly count my blisters on one hand after almost five years of dedicated Oboz boots use. Oboz is a Bozeman-based footwear company that plants a tree in communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America for every pair of shoes they sell. Your feet are your most valuable yet underrated piece of gear on the trail, and your fancy, ultra-light thingamajig won't do any good unless your feet are comfortable, dry and blister free. Seriously, try caring how many ounces your titanium spork weighs when your feet are covered in blisters.

Small hikes add up, so get outside often. Researchers at the University of Michigan and Edge Hill University in the

United Kingdom have found that weekly walks in nature significantly reduce stress and lower depression. These short walks also significantly add to your 500-mile goal for the season.

Rediscover the familiar and explore the brand new. When embarking on your 500-mile ambitions,

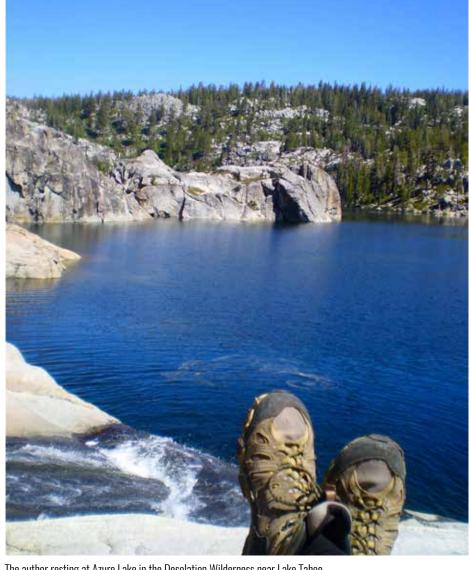
ease into the season by hiking familiar trails with a new eye for discovery. Consider buying a guidebook and map for hikes in your local area. Don't be afraid to wake up in the morning, unfold your map, close your eyes, and drop your finger on a new destination.

Learn the local flora and fauna. John Muir taught his children the names of dozens of plants and animals on their Martinez, Calif. ranch that served as a powerful lesson about respect, wonder, and interconnectedness with nature. Pick up a guide to the local plants, trees, flowers, and wildlife in your area and bring it with you on every hike. Each step down the trail becomes a learning experience or a reacquaintance with a familiar friend. Plus, you get to look like a nature badass for knowing what all those different pine trees are.

Learn to love (and hate) hiking. You're likely reading this because you're already a fan of hiking. Yet no matter how much you love it, at some point you might want to tell your hiking boots and trekking poles, "Just because I love you doesn't mean I have to like you right now." For me, being stuck in my tent for 30 hours of torrential downpour, having my "waterproof" rain fly soak through, and hiking through seven miles of trail-turned-river is one of these moments. But as my father always says, "The misery makes the memory," and my miserable hiking experiences are ones I will cherish for a lifetime.

In the end, whether you're hiking 500 miles or 50, when you connect your boot soles with trail dirt, you're also connecting your soul with the natural world. With these five tips in mind, the only step left is to lace up your boots, grab your map, and hit the trail

Aaron Hussmann is the Community Engagement Associate with the League to Save Lake Tahoe and author of "500 Miles of South Lake Tahoe Hikes." This article first appeared on the obozfootwear.com website in the "Trail Tales" section.



The author resting at Azure Lake in the Desolation Wilderness near Lake Tahoe



Loyal trail dog Bodhi celebrating mile 500 with the author on top of Angora Peak near Lake Tahoe, Calif.