

Explore

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

FREE

Big Sky

Nov. 13 - 23, 2015
Volume 6 // Issue #23

Big Sky Resort's 1-day preseason

Yellowstone sets new visitation record

**Frog Hollow:
Inside a 25-hour mountain bike race**

Resort tax board election results

Plus: Yoga ski conditioning



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On the cover:
French fries! Skiers enjoy a one-day-only opening day at Big Sky Resort on Nov. 7. The resort officially opens for the 2015-2016 ski season on Thanksgiving Day. PHOTO BY ERSIN OZER

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Inside a 25-hour mountain bike race **33**

Explore Big Sky **What is this publication?**

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

- Best page layout and design Montana Newspaper Awards
- Best niche publication Montana Newspaper Awards
- General advertising excellence Montana Newspaper Awards
- 1st place, Government Issues Montana Newspaper Awards

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26x/year

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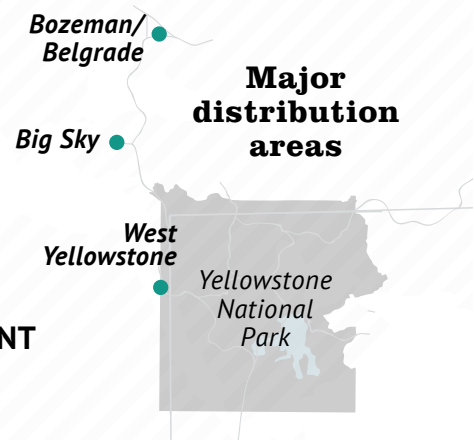
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- Private mountain clubs
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- Preferred rack placement in Bozeman/Yellowstone International airport
- Bedside at luxury lodging and recreation properties



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“Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt.”
- Unknown



MARTHA JOHNSON Owner | Broker

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



39 SWIFT BEAR

Offered for \$4,200,000

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



180 THOMAS MORAN DRIVE - BIG EZ ESTATES

Offered for \$2,350,000

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



ELKRIDGE 33

Offered for \$6,400,000

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



307 WILDRIDGE FORK

Offered for \$4,100,000

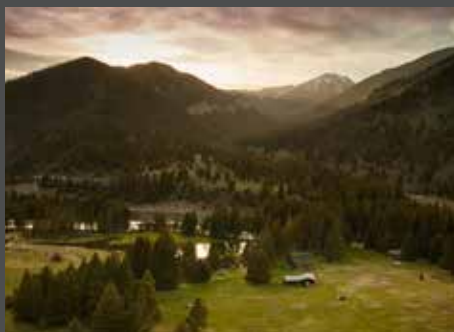
A fully furnished 6 BR, 6.5 BA home that will absolutely blow you away! With a prime location in Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, one can revel in 6,550 square feet of exquisitely decorated space that offers an open living room with gas fireplace and a dining area where you will enjoy spending leisure time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



YELLOWSTONE PRESERVE

Offered for \$39,900,000

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



ANCENEY RANCH

Offered for \$6,900,000

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

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NEWS IN BRIEF



BY EBS STAFF

Montana journalist fired over article

MIKE ENGLAND, OUTSIDE BOZEMAN

On the heels of an article about public access on the Ruby River, author Don Thomas has been relieved of his position at Ducks Unlimited, where he worked for the organization as a magazine columnist and field editor for 15 years.

The article, called "A Rift Runs Through It," first appeared in the fall 2015 edition of Outside Bozeman. According to Thomas, he was fired "due to [billionaire James Cox] Kennedy's displeasure with the article." Kennedy is a financial supporter and former DU board member.

"As an outdoorsman and conservationist who supports the North American Model and the Public Trust Doctrine, I find DU's action reprehensible," Thomas wrote in a letter after his termination. He pointed out that DU is a sportsman's organization, and his article - which appeared in a Montana publication with no ties to DU - was in support of sportsmen and their right to access the Ruby River, in accordance with Montana's Stream Access Law.

In 2003, Kennedy blocked off a historic access point running through his land, and the resulting legal battle wound up in the Montana Supreme Court this year. The court did not find in Kennedy's favor.

Nordic season kicks off at Lone Mountain Ranch

BIG SKY DISCOVERY ACADEMY

BIG SKY - On Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 6:30 p.m. the Big Sky Discovery Academy will introduce Bernadette Nelson to the Big Sky Nordic community at Lone Mountain Ranch.

Nelson is a six-time junior Olympian with 17 medals; former assistant coach of the Montana State Nordic team; and is currently head coach of Bridger Ski Foundation's postgrad and elite teams. Nelson will share stories of transitioning from touring to racing as a youth and what winning and losing has taught her. She will also describe how she's applied her training experiences to life.

Denise Wade will follow Nelson's talk with a presentation on Big Sky Ski Education Foundation's Nordic ski team and club, as well as information on Lone Mountain Ranch's ski trails, lodging, dining, and ski lessons and rentals.

Bus service to expand routes

The Big Sky Transportation District is expanding its Skyline bus service this winter season, which runs from Nov. 23 to April 17, 2016. Two late-night routes will be added to the Canyon-Mountain service, with buses returning from Big Sky Resort's Mountain Village Center at 12:15 and 2:15 a.m.

An additional route will serve the Link Express between Bozeman and Big Sky. Leaving Wal-Mart in Bozeman at 9:05 p.m., the service will reach the Mountain Village Center at 10:55 p.m. then leave the resort at 2:15 a.m. This bus will serve Bozeman upon request, arriving at Wal-Mart at 4:05 a.m.

A March 2015 Skyline survey found that 76 percent of Link Express users were Gallatin Valley residents and 60 percent of riders were commuting to work. The route has experienced a 22 percent user increase since July 1, according to David Kack, coordinator of BSTD. Gallatin County does not provide funding for the service.

Big Sky resort tax funds approximately 30 percent of the Skyline budget, Kack said, while federal transportation funds, area resorts and nonprofits, and Madison County provide the balance.

Ermine: *Mustela erminea*

Obituary: Douglas Gale



Douglas Shannon Gale, 73, died peacefully at home in Bozeman on Oct. 26 after battling kidney cancer for more than a year. He met his final goal of dancing with his wife Henrietta at their 50th wedding anniversary on July 24.

Doug was a pioneer in the development of the Internet. From his start as a physics professor, he later helped turn a connection between a few universities into the Internet as we know it today. Working with the National Science

Foundation and as a chief information officer at a number of universities, he was influential in the rapid growth of this world-changing technology.

Following their retirement to Big Sky, Doug and Henrietta became models for community-engaged retirees. Doug served on the boards of the Big Sky Fire Department, the Arts Council of Big Sky and Intermountain Opera Bozeman. The couple also helped establish the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center and raised money for the school music program in Big Sky. In order to record and preserve a written and oral history of the Internet's formative period, Doug founded the Internet Legacy Institute.

Throughout his life Doug applied a unique combination of creativity and meticulousness to both his career and his many hobbies, including outdoor adventures, ballroom dancing, woodworking, photography and storytelling. He shared these passions with those he loved. Doug climbed mountains with Henrietta – including a number of first ascents – before the sport gained popularity.

Doug is survived by his wife Henrietta; his brother Keenan; his sons Marc (Wendy) and Eric (Erin); and five loving grandchildren, Lucy, Eve, Nate, Laila and Eliza.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Dokken-Nelson Funeral Home Chapel in Bozeman at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 5. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to either the Internet Legacy Institute or Intermountain Opera Bozeman.

Obituary: Patrick Dean Nolan



Patrick Dean Nolan passed away peacefully at his Gallatin Gateway home surrounded by family on Nov. 4. He was born in Cleveland on Feb. 6, 1931 and grew up in Elkhart, Ind.

Pat spent his childhood at the family home on Heaton Lake and was an avid outdoorsman even as a boy. After graduating from Elkhart High School he joined the Air Force and served in the Medical Corps at Moses Lake, Wash., during the Korean War. Pat graduated

from Indiana University with a business degree in 1959.

He met Arlene Goulette from Michigan's Upper Peninsula during his service. They were married in Iron Mountain, Mich., in January 1956, and were blessed with five children: Lorna Holcomb (Doug - deceased); Curtis Nolan (Julie); Maureen Serrano (Lawrence); Michael Nolan; and Christopher Nolan (deceased).

He later met Eleanor Caswell Bean (Ellie), a widow with three children of her own: Glen Bean, Elizabeth (Libby) Bean and Karen Bean. Pat and Ellie were married March 17, 1982, and during their marriage bought and operated the RJ cattle ranch in Globe, Ariz. They traveled extensively and in 1998 moved to a home in Gallatin Gateway.

Pat was an avid hunter and fly fisherman. He founded the Scottsdale, Ariz. and Big Sky chapters of Ducks Unlimited. Although he had multiple sclerosis, he worked hard to remain active and lived a joyful life.

Pat was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers, his infant son Christopher, and his first wife Arlene. He is survived by his wife Ellie; his four children (Lorna, Curtis, Maureen, Michael); his three step-children (Glen, Libby, Karen); 15 grandchildren, and 21 great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at Big Sky Chapel on Nov. 17 at 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers the family is requesting donations to Ducks Unlimited, the Big Sky Chapel, or Eagle Mount-Bozeman.

Obituary: Jason Corey Weinert



Jason Corey Weinert passed away unexpectedly in his home on Oct. 29. Jason touched the lives of everyone he met.

Jason was born in Boston on July 8, 1970 to Helen Joan (Koopman) Sandoz and to the late Henry Martin Weinert. Jason graduated from Vermont Academy high school in Saxtons River, Vt., in 1988 and from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1995 with a bachelor's in wildlife biology.

Jason surfed the waves of Nantucket for many years before moving to Big Sky in 1996, where he developed additional passions and worked at Big Sky Resort for many years. If it was a physical and/or psychological challenge, Jason was on it. He skateboarded, whitewater rafted, downhill mountain biked, surfed, snowboarded, skied, snowmobiled, hiked, and loved the outdoors.

Nothing excited Jason more than these exhilarations except for his family. In 2002, Jason met his soul mate, Beth (Sadaj), and married her in 2008. His love for his wife and daughter showed in every action. Jason loved, and lived, life to the fullest.

Preceding Jason in death were his father Henry Weinert of Boston, and his mother-in-law Mary Sadaj of Butte. He is survived by his wife Beth Weinert and daughter Kaya Winter Weinert, 22 months, of Bozeman; son Jonas Weinert Lee, 17, of Laurel, Md.; mother Helen and step-father Edouard Sandoz, of Medfield, Mass.; brother Brian Weinert (wife Marie and children Kai and Luna) of Copenhagen, Denmark; father-in-law Michael Sadaj (wife Chris) of Nampa, Idaho; brother-in laws Josh Sadaj (wife Marlene, child Bianca) of Bozeman and Sean Sadaj (children Ben and Ireland) of Dickenson, N.D. Numerous extended family members and lifetime friends also survive him. Thank you Jason for all that you have given.

A memorial honoring Jason's life was held Nov. 7 in the Yellowstone Conference Center at Big Sky Resort. The Jason Weinert Memorial Fund has been established at youcaring.com/beth-and-kaya-weinert-461755 to benefit Beth and Kaya Weinert as they attempt to rebuild their lives.



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Recycling bins were removed from Big Sky Town Center on Nov. 2, resulting in the loss of a public recycling center. Where are you taking your recycling?



Kevin Miller, Big Sky, Mont.
Entrepreneur

"I don't recycle because I've always heard it all [paper, plastic, and non-corrugated cardboard] goes to the Logan landfill, except corrugated cardboard and aluminum."



Cassie Marfia, Big Sky, Mont.
Snowboard Instructor at Big Sky Resort

"Nowhere up here [in Big Sky]. I think they should have moved them down to the gravel pits [on Highway 191]. Now we have to take everything to Bozeman."

Follow up: Who are "they?"

"I don't know who, but I think it was a bad idea to remove them."



Hollie Newsom, Big Sky, Mont.
Waitress at Lone Peak Brewery

"I haven't been taking recycling out because I don't have a car to take it to Bozeman. It would be nice if there was curbside recycling [in Big Sky]. I have a lot of cardboard stacked up in my garage."

Op-Ed Mental health in Big Sky

BY MARA BURMEISTER

Growing up in Big Timber, a Montana town similar in size to Big Sky, I learned that it was "normal" to push mental health problems under the rug. I was aware of the hushed voices that spoke about suicide, alcoholism and depression, but confused about why no one in the community could help.

When I moved away from home, I realized mental health wasn't something to whisper about and there were resources available for people in need of help. Unfortunately, there continue to be many rural areas – including Big Sky – where few or no resources are available.

There's a great need for mental health services in rural Montana because these areas are generally underserved and isolated. Some unique barriers to mental health care in rural areas include: availability, accessibility and acceptability.

Rural mental health care sees a shortage of providers; low accessibility to services; lack of transportation; financial strain; and stigma surrounding mental health issues. These inherent barriers to care in rural areas likely exacerbate already existing mental health issues among individuals.

The providers who are available in rural towns see limited state and federal funding compared to urban areas. Rural residents living with mental illness are less likely to receive appropriate care, which may leave them vulnerable to crisis situations.

Cultural characteristics also make rural areas different than urban communities. There is a stigma related to mental health disorders and seeking psychiatric care because rural residents are often taught to value self-reliance and self-sufficiency. The value of independence and a pull-yourself-up-by-your-bootstraps mentality is deeply engrained.

The stigma and surrounding mental health issues is the greatest barrier to successful care for rural residents with mental illness. Even those seeking services may fear that their care won't be confidential or that rumors will abound regarding their visits to a mental health clinic.

Because of these barriers to care, many people don't get the help they want or need, leaving them vulnerable to the stressors or leading them to ineffective coping. In response, Montana State University's Human Development Clinic and the nonprofit Women in Action have partnered to offer counseling in Big Sky.

The clinic offers counseling services for all ages, as well as couples and families. Counseling is provided at low costs using a sliding-fee scale, and the initial appointment is free. The Big Sky Counseling Clinic makes it possible for local residents to find care for a range of mental health or relationship issues without traveling through Gallatin Canyon.

Mara Burmeister is a graduate student in the Marriage and Family Counseling Program at Montana State University and is currently working as a counseling intern at the Big Sky Counseling Clinic. To learn more about services offered by the clinic, or to schedule an appointment, call (406) 570-3907.

2015 Big Sky Christmas Stroll

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 5:30 TREE LIGHTING & ALL SAINTS CAROLERS**
In front of Big Sky Owners Association in Meadow Village Center
- 5:30 PHOTOS WITH SANTA CLAUS**
Santa arrives in Meadow Village Center on fire truck / Hosted by Blue Ribbon Builders
Food Bank donation appreciated
- 6:30 MAGIC SHOW**
First Security Bank in Meadow Village Center
- 6:30 HOLIDAY MARKET WITH LIVE MUSIC & EVENTS**
DJ Missy O'Malley at Fire Pit Park and vendors throughout Big Sky Town Center
- 8:15 Fireworks**
Big Sky Town Center



Also

BIG SKY FOOD BANK DONATIONS
Bins at Fire Pit Park and Blue Ribbon Builders

OPEN HOUSES AND MERCHANT ACTIVITIES

SLEIGH RIDES
Big Sky Town Center and Meadow Village Center

ICE SKATING AND BROOM BALL
Big Sky Town Center - weather permitting

**ILLUMINATED PATHWAYS
NORDIC SKI & BIKE TRAILS**
Between Meadow Village Center and Town Center

BONFIRES AND S'MORES
Town Center and Big Sky Owner's Association

BEER STROLL
Beer Stroll sponsored by Lone Peak Brewery. Try a sampling at each location, get your form signed and turn in to any location for a chance to win a FREE PINT PASS for the ski season. Passes get you \$1 OFF pints/growler fills and happy hour menu all season long

CONTACT :
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Ski Free Ski for FREE that day with Turkey For A Ticket donation at Big Sky Resort



YELLOWSTONE CLUB



Treehouse WML #206 / \$11.5M
2,191 SQ FT



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



UNDER CONTRACT

16 Pumice / \$10.5M/ 9,103 SQ FT



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

SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB



2535 Ousel Falls/\$2.95M/4,071 SQ FT



Ski Tip Lot 8 / \$825K / 1.11 ACRES



UNDER CONTRACT

Lot 156 Seclusion Point
\$545K / 3.36 ACRES



Lot 148 Wildridge Dr.
\$545K / 3.05 ACRES

BIG SKY



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



Chief Two Moons
\$649K / 2,315 SQ FT
(to be built residence)



Spanish Peaks Club Condo #44
\$549.9K / 2,140 SQ FT



21 Antler Drop Ct.
\$365K / 1,860 SQ FT

BIG SKY



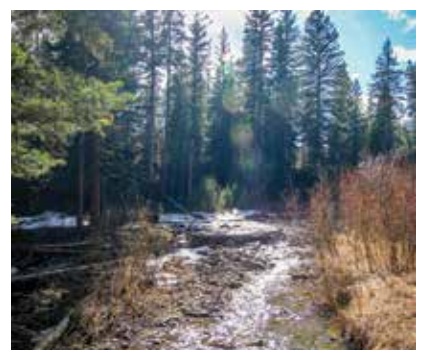
Lot 287A Rising Bull
\$529K / 1.04 ACRES



Joy Road Lot 3 / \$415K / 6.83 ACRES



Elk Ridge Ranch 28
\$399.9K / 39+ ACRES



Lot 43A Half Moon
\$399.9K / 1.22 ACRES

HEBGEN LAKE/ WEST YELLOWSTONE



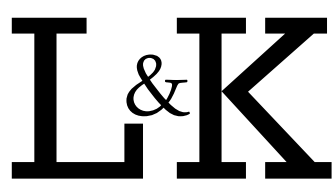
Yellowstone Ranch Preserve
753 +/- ACRES
Whiskey Jug Cabin
3 bedroom, 2 bathroom / 2,702 SQ FT
+ 9 homesites

Waterfront conservation property near
Yellowstone National Park

\$19,500,000



14 Choke Cherry Lane
\$97.5K / 1.08 ACRES



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YELLOWSTONE CLUB



UNDER CONTRACT

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



Lot 338 Bristlecone Drive
\$4.95M / 14.6 ACRES



Lot 332 Upper Cedarview Dr
\$4.4M / 4.6 ACRES



Lot 36A Copper Court
\$3.3M / 5 ACRES

MOONLIGHT BASIN



Luxury Suite 1B / \$1.49M / 2,563 SQ FT



214 W. Pine Cone Terrace / \$1.5M / 4,268 SQ FT

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BIG SKY



UNDER CONTRACT

352 Candlelight Meadow Dr.
\$315K / 1,859 SQ FT



Cedar Creek #45 / \$229K / 868 SQ FT



UNDER CONTRACT

Hill Condo #1253
\$112K / 440 SQ FT



Mountain Meadows
\$3.495 M / 120 ACRES

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BOZEMAN



Lot 3 & 3A Windy Pass
\$399.9K / 5.63 ACRES

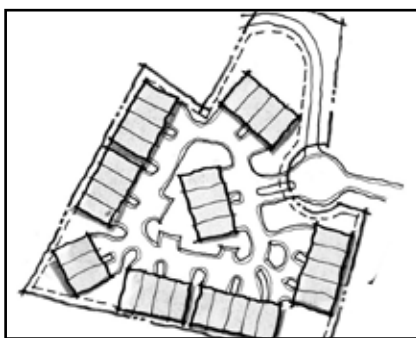


Ramshorn Lot 2
\$128.5K / .32 ACRES



512 Old Farm Road
\$3.25M / 5,497 SQ FT, 20+ ACRES / E. Gallatin River Frontage

COMMERCIAL / DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Yellowtail Development / \$2.4M / 3.5+ ACRES



Spruce Cone Development / \$420k
Platted for 3 duplexes



Airport Garages / \$24.9K- \$29.9K each
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Market Place / 5 units available
See agent for details

LKRealEstate.com



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New Big Sky retail, restaurant and residential opportunities

LONE MOUNTAIN LAND CO.

BIG SKY – Lone Mountain Land Company broke ground this fall on the new 47 Town Center Avenue building in the Big Sky Town Center. The new building will be 24,600 square feet with 8,000 square feet of retail or restaurant space on the street level, and 16 residential units on the second and third floors. Completion is slated for fall 2016.

The new building is one of several new projects in the Big Sky Town Center. Recently completed buildings include Roxy's Market and Deli and the soon-to-be-finished Big Sky Medical Center.

The street level for the 47 Town Center Avenue building will encompass 8,000 square feet, which will be divisible into units as small as 1,200 square feet, for restaurant or retail tenants. The 16 residential units on the second and third floors will be divided into 14, two-bedroom units and two, one-bedroom units.

The building will also include a basement, which is unique in Big Sky, offering additional storage space for businesses and residences. A new office building is anticipated to be adjacent to 47 Town Center, and will have space for a café, coffee shop or retail business on the street level.

“There is a lot of excitement and activity around the new Big Sky Town Center,” said LMLC CEO Mark Thorne. “With the rodeo and farmers market and concert series and ice rink and parks and trails system there is an exciting new vitality in the area that is contagious. We’re excited to be a part of it.”



RENDERING COURTESY OF LONE MOUNTAIN LAND COMPANY

The Simkins' family of Bozeman has owned hundreds of acres in this area of Big Sky for more than 40 years, and is the master developer on this and surrounding land.

“After all of these years of patient ownership,” Bill Simkins said, “we’re excited to see all of the new activity and interest in the area for businesses and families.”

Lone Mountain Land Company was formed by CrossHarbor Capital Partners to manage the development and sale of premier real estate communities and associated club operations around Big Sky, including the Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and Moonlight Basin. The company supports the thoughtful growth of these communities and is committed to responsible and sustainable development.

Board of managers selected for Big Sky Medical Center

BOZEMAN HEALTH

BOZEMAN – Julie Jackson, chair of the Bozeman Health Board of Directors, announced on Nov. 10 the inaugural board of managers for the Big Sky Medical Center. Board members include Board of Managers Chair Taylor Middleton; Loren Bough; Steve Karl, M.D.; Elizabeth Lewis; Renae Schumacher; Kirk Weber, M.D.; and Hans Williamson.

“We are very pleased to have such experienced and committed leaders working with us to ensure the success of our new medical center,” Jackson said. “Their willingness to serve is a testament to their deep connection to the community, and advancing healthcare for the residents and visitors of Big Sky and southern Gallatin County is a key priority for us all.”

Taylor Middleton, who was Big Sky Resort's general manager since 1995 and became its president in 2011, is a longtime advocate for the medical center, and has worked with the Bozeman Health leadership for many years on this initiative. A full-time resident of Big Sky for 35 years, Middleton was presented the Chet Huntley Lifetime Achievement Award in July.

Loren Bough was raised farming and ranching in Highwood, Mont. Upon completion of his degree at Harvard, he worked as a trader in New York City; London, England; and Moscow, Russia. Since moving to Big Sky in 2004, Bough and his wife Jill have focused on local educational and philanthropic issues.

Stephen Karl, M.D., has visited Big Sky since the early 1990s. His professional experience includes starting pediatric surgery programs at New Hampshire's Dartmouth Medical School and at the University of South Dakota School of Medicine. His family's love of skiing frequently brought them to Big Sky, where they have had a residence since 2001.

Elizabeth S. Lewis RN, MSN, JD, is the chief operating officer for Bozeman Health and is an executive dyad partner with the chief medical officer providing executive leadership and oversight for BSMC operations and clinical quality. Lewis has held various leadership roles at Bozeman Health since 1992, including vice president of clinical services, vice president of support services, and chief legal officer. She earned a doctor of jurisprudence from Willamette University College of Law in Salem, Ore.

Renae Schumacher moved from Sturgis, S.D., to Big Sky in 1993 where she began working at the Big Sky Conoco and soon thereafter became its owner. She has been an active community participant and business leader and has served on various community boards throughout the years. Renae and her husband, Steve, enjoy raising their three teenage boys while skiing, hiking, biking and taking full advantage of this spectacular place.

Kirk E. Weber, M.D., FACEP, has recently joined the Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center as an emergency medicine physician. Dr. Weber is a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians, and previously practiced emergency medicine in Hawaii, where he was emergency department vice chair at Hilo Medical Center. He completed his residency in emergency medicine at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City. Dr. Weber earned his M.D. at Loma Linda University School of Medicine.

Hans Williamson is vice president of operations and general manager at the Yellowstone Club. Williamson leads the Yellowstone Club operations team, including 1,100 team members in the winter and 425 team members in the summer. He graduated from Cornell University in 1983 with a bachelor's in hotel administration. Williamson lives in Big Sky with his wife, Kim, and their two sons.



THE RAM'S HORN



BY DUSTIN SHIPMAN
BSSD SUPERINTENDENT

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

The Big Sky School District, in partnership with Carney Sandoe and Associates, embarked on a strategic planning process in September. This is a necessary process for schools in the 21st century in order to clarify the visions, hopes and dreams of constituents – or anyone involved in the school district, including students, parents and community members.

The strategic plan, when processed and administered efficiently also provides the guidance to leadership for making day-to-day, as well as long-term decisions within the scope of the plan. In addition, planning provides a road map for schools to follow while minimizing the turnover of key staff and leadership. Essentially, it allows us to plan our work and then work our plan.

Our partnership with Carney Sandoe could not have been more productive to date and during an on-site visit in September, our consultant met with more than 120 constituent members personally. The firm also facilitated our community survey, which solicited 731 responses.

Respondents included current, past and prospective parents of students; faculty and staff; current students and alumni; board members and community members. The answers were thoughtful and provided the information for the steering committee to meet and develop the strategic areas of focus for BSSD.

The consulting group took the qualitative data and filtered the strategic feedback from the operational. Once the strategic data was extrapolated, the consultant returned to Big Sky during the second week of October. The steering committee had an eight-hour work session in which we reviewed the data and identified six strategic categories and points of support for the strategic categories.

The major goal of the steering committee was to remain objective and craft a plan anchored in the data collected.

We will now bring the plan to focus groups. Our first, and hopefully largest, focus group for the public will be at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 6:30 p.m. We look forward to your continued participation in this important work for the Big Sky community.

Visit bssd72.org/dl/completestrategicplan.pdf to view BSSD's draft strategic plan. If you're unable to attend the Nov. 17 focus group, contact Superintendent Shipman at dschipman@bssd72.org or Principal Alex Ide at aide@bssd72.org and a separate focus group can be arranged.



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Girls on the Run for food bank

BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – The Lone Peak High School cafeteria was a flurry of activity after the school bell rang on Nov. 3. Twenty girls in grades 3-5 and their volunteer helpers were furiously scooping, weighing, bagging and steam-sealing supplies for the local food bank.

Girls on the Run meets twice weekly for 11 weeks, from September to December, and is part of the Girls for a Change program that began in the Big Sky School District this school year. The curriculum is part of Bozeman-based Thrive, a nonprofit that also runs the CAP mentoring program in the district.

The GOTR team took 25-pound bags of sugar, flour, pancake mix, and other staples, and repackaged it into 1/4-cup quantities to be distributed from the Big Sky Community Food Bank. They also used colored markers and glitter glue to begin work on 100 Thanksgiving cards the food bank will hand out with holiday packages.

The girls had the opportunity to practice their math and motor skills, as well as learn how to work as a team, according to BSSD’s CAP Mentor Coordinator Julie Grimm. They also had to use the three tenets of the program – collaborate, cooperate and compromise – to decide which organization they were going to support. Other nominees included Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter and putting together care packages for patients at Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital.

“I love that they chose the local [organization] that is in their community,” Grimm said, adding that everything GOTR does weaves in physical activity.

“You don’t have to be a runner, it’s all about moving forward,” Grimm said. “It’s an opportunity to learn about themselves and working with others.” The



Haley Hodge, Madeline Mars, Chloe Unger, Aubrey Farr and Vera Grabow make Thanksgiving cards for the Big Sky Community Food Bank on Nov. 3, as part of the Girls on the Run program. PHOTO BY TYLER ALLEN

girls did weave some running and walking into their curriculum on Nov. 5 when they held a practice 5K outside the school in anticipation of the annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot 5K run.

Third-grader Maddie Mars said she signed up for GOTR for both the physical activity and community service the program offered.

“I wanted to run, [and] I wanted to just have fun and be a part of it,” Mars said. “Some people need extra food for Thanksgiving or for something else, and that’s why I think it’s important to help the food bank.”

And they certainly did help, repackaging more than 200 pounds of food to be distributed during the holiday season.

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Big Sky tax board elects new member

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Resort Area District tax board had three available positions on Nov. 3, with five candidates vying for four-year terms.

Incumbents Jamey Kabisch and Mike Scholz were each elected to a second tenure, and Kevin Germain was voted to fill the position vacated by outgoing board member Jeff Strickler. Tallie Lancey and Grace Young also contested the seat Germain won, and he took the oath of office at the BSRAD board meeting on Nov. 11.

Germain joins Kabisch and Scholz, as well as the other sitting board members Ginna Hermann and Heather Budd, who are up for reelection in May 2018. Germain works in planning and development for Lone Mountain Land Company and is a board member of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce; Big Sky Mountain Trails, Recreation and Parks Special District; Moonlight Community Foundation; Big Sky Natural

Resource Council; Jack Creek Preserve Foundation; and is a member of the Custer Gallatin National Forest Working Group.

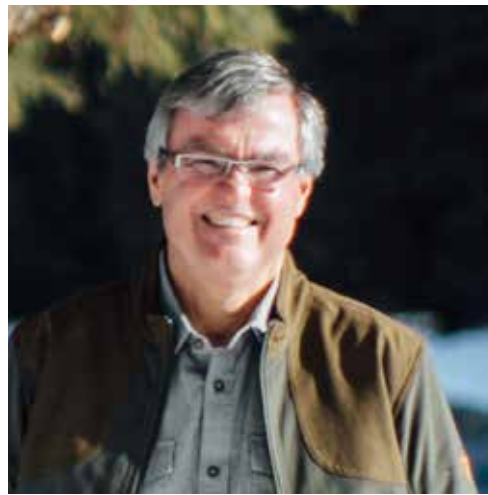
Over the past 10 years, Big Sky resort tax collections have increased 50 percent to a high of more than \$4.1 million in fiscal year 2014-2015. In an attempt to encourage voter turnout for November's election, EBS editors moderated a debate on Oct. 15 at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.

During the debate, candidates were asked a number of questions regarding the best use of resort tax funds and future issues facing the board, before opening the floor to questions from community members.

Big Sky Resort Area Tax board meetings are held once a month in the BSRAD office – above Grizzly Outfitters Ski and Backcountry Sports in Town Center – and are open to the public. The Big Sky resort tax refers to the 3 percent tax applied to luxury goods in the district that spans both Gallatin and Madison counties.



Jamey Kabisch



Mike Scholz



Kevin Germain

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Designer Abby Hetherington has opened a retail space that showcases the breadth and energy of her inimitable design aesthetic. Abby's eponymous design firm is connected to The Architect's Wife, giving customers the option to tap into her signature style. Design services are available through Abby Hetherington Interiors. 406.404.1330 | abbyhetheringtoninteriors.com



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Court overturns \$2.2M judgment in YC case over ski access

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – The Montana Supreme Court has overturned a \$2.2 million award granted to a corporation that bought a house at the exclusive Yellowstone Club but didn't receive the ski-out access it was promised.

Continental Partners bought land from Yellowstone Development in 2004 and built two houses. WLW Realty Partners purchased one that was under construction for \$12 million. Continental said Yellowstone Development assured the house would have a ski-in and gravity ski-out access before construction was complete.

The Yellowstone Club filed for bankruptcy in November 2008 and the ski-out access was not built.

WLW filed a claim in the Yellowstone Club's bankruptcy case for \$225,000, the cost of building a towline to replace the ski-out access. The court allowed that claim.

Then WLW sued Continental Partners alleging breach of contract, negligent misrepresentation and violation of the Montana Consumer Protection Act.

District Judge Loren Tucker ruled against WLW on the breach of contract case, but in favor of WLW on the other two.

In Continental's appeal, the Supreme Court found that to obtain a verdict in a negligent misrepresentation case it must be proven that the defendant made an untrue representation. In this case, the court said Continental was saying the ski-out access would be built in the future, and they believed that promise to be true at the time.

"Continental was prevented from enforcing its contractual right because the Yellowstone Club filed for bankruptcy protection," the court wrote in a 5-0 ruling issued Tuesday. The events that led to the Yellowstone Club's bankruptcy "were unknown and unknowable to Continental at the time of its representation to WLW Realty, and were completely outside of Continental's control."

Justices also rejected the \$232,000 awarded for violating the Montana Consumer Protection Act, again because Continental believed that at the time it sold the house, the ski-out access would be built.

The court sent the case back to Tucker to enter a judgment in favor of Continental.

Yellowstone reports record-breaking October

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

October proved to be another record-breaking month for Yellowstone National Park, which snapped the 4 million mark in visits for 2015.

Yellowstone hosted 4,066,191 recreational visits in the first ten months of 2015, an increase of 16.72 percent over last year and 11.70 percent over the previous top record year in 2010. The park surpassed the previous October record set last year by 29.37 percent, with 252,013 recreational visits last month.

The unseasonably warm fall weather may have played a role in the large increase in October visitation numbers. In addition, the National Park Service's "Find Your Park" public-awareness campaign, marketing and tourism promotions by the states of Montana and Wyoming, as well as lower gas prices may have influenced the record-breaking visitor numbers this year.

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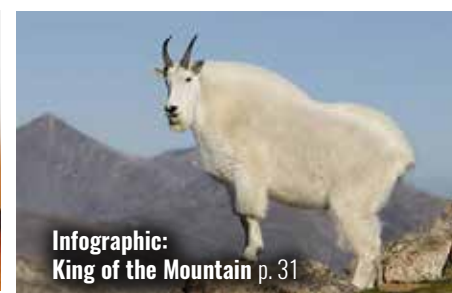
Section 2: SPORTS, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENT



Bobcats fall from playoff contention p. 19



Mat to Mountain yoga poses p. 25

Infographic:
King of the Mountain p. 31

Big Horns roll in first playoff round, stopped in Savage

BY ACRA SAMUELS

EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY/SAVAGE, Mont. – Lone Peak High School hosted its second playoff football game in program history on Halloween day. On a beautiful Saturday afternoon the Big Horns took on the Bridger Scouts, seeded third in the Class C six-man Southern Conference. The second-seeded Big Horns finished the Class C six-man Western Conference's regular season in second place.

The Big Horns wasted little time getting on the scoreboard as junior quarterback Eddie Starz hit senior Chase Samuels with a touchdown pass from 4 yards out, and freshman Milosz Shipman converted the two-point kick for an 8-0 LPHS lead with 4:15 left in the first quarter.

After the Scouts retaliated with a score of their own and one-point conversion, Starz struck again. This time he hit junior Devin Quinn from 42 yards out, and after Shipman's kick the Big Horns led 16-7 at the end of the first quarter.

Bridger scored early in the second quarter but did not convert on the point after and the score stood at 16-13. Then the Big Horns really got going. Starz threw second quarter touchdown passes of 40 yards to Quinn and 42 yards to Chase Samuels.

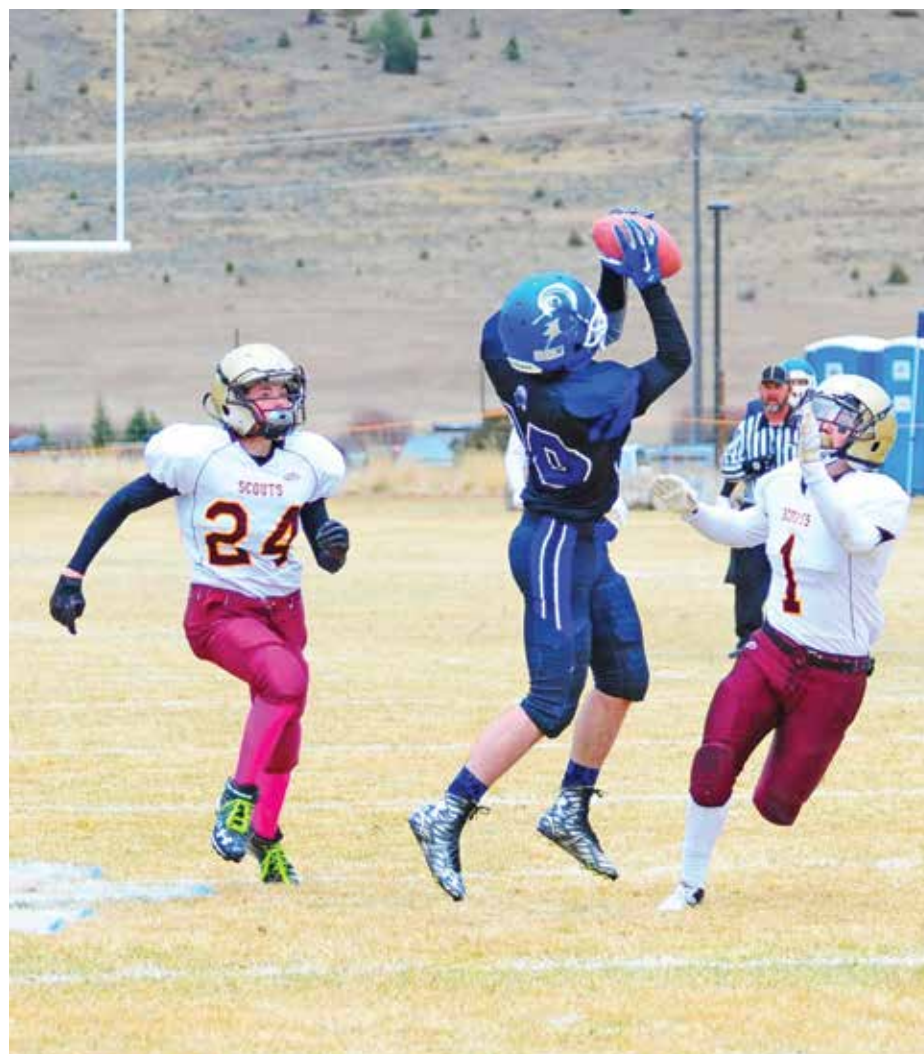
Then Starz ran for a 14-yard score and later caught a 14-yard touchdown pass from sophomore all-purpose back Holden Samuels. The home team gained more breathing room when Holden Samuels plunged into the end zone from 2 yards out with 25 seconds left in the first half, and the Big Horns were up 44-19.

Then came the nail in the coffin. The Scouts' quarterback dropped back to pass, but Chase Samuels hit him as he released the ball. LPHS junior Bridger Babcock intercepted the ball and scampered 45 yards for a touchdown as time expired. After another Shipman two-point kick, the Big Horns led 52-19 at halftime.

In the second half, the Big Horns continued their offensive explosion. Holden Samuels threw a touchdown pass to Starz, Quinn intercepted



Sophomore Holden Samuels makes a tackle during an 82-32 Big Horns victory against Bridger High School in Big Sky.



LPHS junior Devin Quinn elevates for a catch during the Big Horns' first round playoff win over the Bridger Scouts on Oct. 31. PHOTOS BY THERESA DA SILVA

a pass and returned it for a touchdown, and Babcock ripped off two scoring runs of 45 yards each. Shipman converted on 8-of-11 points after touchdown kicks, scoring 16 points. The Big Horns won the game, 82-32.

After their first round playoff victory, LPHS earned the right to travel on Nov. 7 to Savage, Mont., to take on the Warriors in the quarterfinals of the Class C playoffs. This was the second straight season the Big Horns drew an undefeated Savage team in the second round, and it was the second year in a row LPHS came home disappointed after facing the top team from the Eastern Conference.

The Warriors struck first. After being stuffed on the first two running plays, they went to the air for a 65-yard touchdown pass and hit the points after touchdown kick for an 8-0 lead. The Big Horns responded by driving the length of the field, taking the ball inside the 5-yard-line. Then the wheels came off.

Babcock went out with a leg injury and would not return, and the Big Horns were stopped on fourth down before the Warriors drove down and scored. Savage was leading 13-0 at the end of a tightly played first quarter. But the Big Horns never found any rhythm and ultimately fell to Savage 67-0.

Despite the second-round playoff loss, the LPHS Big Horns, led by head coach Matt Bakken, went 7-3 on the season and 6-1 in conference play. The team will miss senior captain and four-year letterman Chase Samuels next season, as well as senior Hugo Boman. But the Big Horns will be loaded for the 2016 campaign, returning five starters on each side of the ball.

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Bobcats lose two straight, fall from playoff contention

BY COLTER NUANEZ
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Montana State's road woes continue and now the Bobcats have nothing more to play for than pride. The MSU football team again struggled to find any footing away from Bozeman in a 44-38 loss at the University of North Dakota on Halloween. On Nov. 7 in Bozeman, the Bobcats stood toe to toe with first-place Southern Utah before falling 34-23 to the Thunderbirds.

The pair of losses ensures Montana State's season will end following the regular season. MSU has qualified for the Football Championship Subdivision four of the last five seasons but the 4-5 Bobcats are already eliminated with two games to play.

Montana State is still playing to extend a prominent streak, however: the Bobcats notched winning seasons every year since 2002. They will have to win at Idaho State on Nov. 14, and defeat rival Montana Nov. 21 at home. The Bobcats must snap a six-road game losing streak that dates back to last season, and beat the Grizzlies for the third time in nine outings with head coach Rob Ash at the helm.

In North Dakota, the Bobcats lost to UND for the first time since North Dakota joined the Big Sky Conference in 2012. UND redshirt freshman running back John Santiago scored a 45-yard touchdown less than five minutes into the game and added a 75-yard scoring sprint before the first half was complete. The all-league candidate ended the day with 230 yards and three touchdowns, including a 4-yard score with 1:41 to play that proved to be the difference over the Bobcats.

Avoiding turnovers has largely allowed Montana State to stay in games this season. But in Grand Forks, N.D., the Bobcats turned the ball over twice in three plays and three times overall. The next week against Southern Utah, MSU again turned the ball over three times. The Thunderbirds also used relentless pressure on the quarterback to keep the Big Sky Conference's league-leading scoring offense to a season low in points.

"I think we are pressing a little bit," MSU ninth-year head coach Rob Ash said following his team's first home loss of the season to Southern Utah. "It happens. I've been in this business long enough to know that as the season goes along you can't underestimate the importance of getting on a roll and getting better every single week.

"We've had to retool and redesign and backpedal," Ash said. "It gets tougher and tougher and you start to press."

The Bobcats entered 2015 with league-title and national-playoff expectations. MSU was the No. 9 team in the FCS Coaches' poll nationally, and the Big Sky coaches' pick in the league's preseason poll to take the league crown.

But a young defense that has allowed 52 points per game on the road, combined with an offense that has failed to capitalize on key opportunities means the Bobcats will be home for Thanksgiving for just the second time this decade.

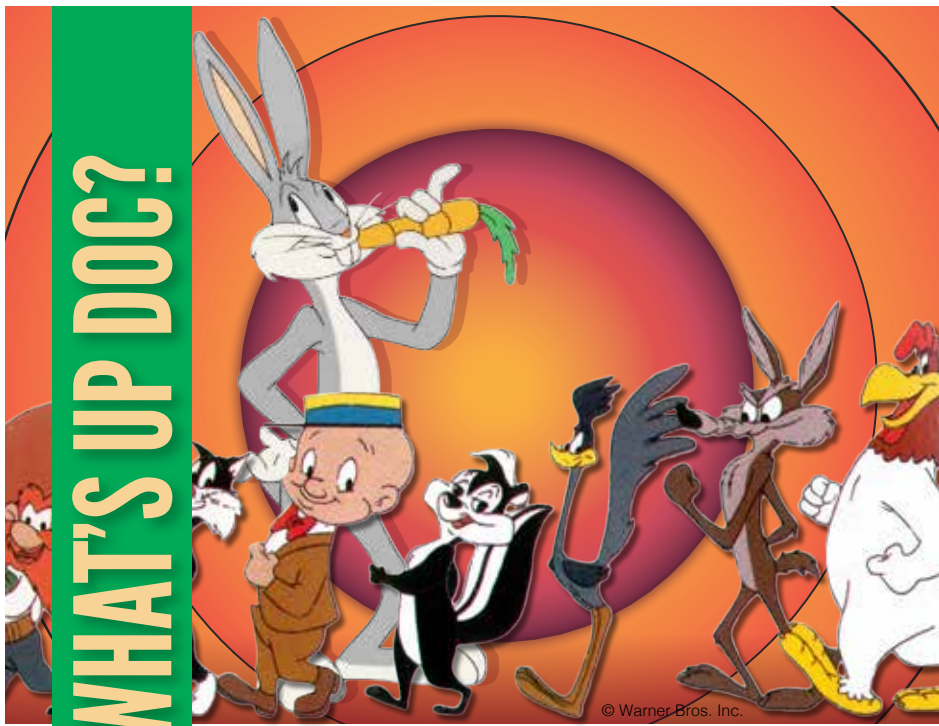
Montana State will try to salvage a winning season, starting with a trip to Pocatello to take on two-win Idaho State.

"We gotta win a game," Ash said. "We are going to go play that [Idaho State] game and win that game."

Colter Nuanez is the creative director and senior writer for "Skyline Sports" (skylinesportsmt.com), an online news-gathering organization providing cutting edge coverage of Montana State University and Big Sky Conference sports. The award-winning sportswriter has worked for newspapers and magazines across the West and has covered the Big Sky since 2006.



The Montana State Bobcats lost their first home game, 34-23 to the Southern Utah Thunderbirds, on Nov. 7. The Bobcats will have to win their final two games to salvage a winning season. PHOTOS BY THERESA DA SILVA



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Get spicy for roller derby

GALLATIN ROLLER GIRLZ

BOZEMAN – The Gallatin Roller Girlz, the Bozeman area’s flat-track roller derby league, burned it up on the track this past season. To celebrate, 406 Brewing Company is bringing the heat with a spicy re-brew of the roller derby inspired beer, Amber Waves of Pain.

Proceeds from this limited edition, pepper-infused craft beer will benefit the Gallatin Roller Girlz, and will be available in the 406 tasting room in pints and for growler refills.

Join GRG on Thursday, Dec. 3 from 5-8 p.m. to fire up the holidays with a kickoff party at 406 Brewing, located at 101 East Oak Street in Bozeman. The Girlz will be on hand throughout the night with GRG merchandise, 50/50 raffle tickets and a drawing, as well as information about the organization and how to get involved with the league.

406 Brewing offers craft brew and a locally sourced food menu to compliment what’s on tap. Amber Waves of Pain will be available for a limited time, and GRG merchandise will be available for purchase at 406 throughout the holiday season.

The Gallatin Roller Girlz are a 501(c)(3) federal nonprofit and achieved full Women’s Flat Track Derby Association member status in September.

Visit grgderby.com for more information about women’s flat track roller derby and the Gallatin Roller Girlz.



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EYE ON THE BALL

Farewell, Steve Smith Sr.



BY BRANDON NILES
EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

This season was supposed to be the swan song for veteran NFL wide receiver Steve Smith Sr. His team, the Baltimore Ravens, appeared to be Super Bowl contenders, and the 36-year-old former Carolina Panther announced prior to the season that this, his 15th in the league, would be his last.

On that afternoon in August, when Smith said, "I feel like it's time," as reported by The Baltimore Sun's Jeff Zrebiec, there was a feeling of hope surrounding Baltimore. And coming off an inaugural season with the Ravens where he finished with six touchdowns and over 1,000 yards, Smith seemed confident in what the future held.

It wasn't supposed to end like this.

The Ravens got off to woeful 1-6 start, despite Smith averaging more than six catches and 95 receiving yards per game. But on Nov. 1, during a warm and sunny afternoon in Baltimore, Steve Smith Sr. tore his Achilles tendon against the San Diego Chargers, ending his season and perhaps his career. The Ravens won the game, but lost an emotional leader and their most consistent receiver.

As I watched the game, surrounded by somber Ravens fans in a sports bar in Baltimore City, the image of Smith being helped off the field was haunting. A towel draped over his head concealed the ostensible emotions that have defined Smith's career. Standing only 5 feet 9 inches, Smith has always used his passion on the field as a means to elevate his play. In this moment, he must have known the severity of his injury. He must have known he wasn't going back out.

Known for his toughness, Smith has played through cracked ribs this season, and numerous ailments throughout his career. He famously scored a

touchdown in a 2009 game against the Giants after a hit from safety Michael Johnson. The hit broke Smith's arm, but he somehow managed to make the reception, stay upright, hold on to the ball, and run into the end zone while taking another hit as he scored the touchdown. That seriously happened.

Despite his toughness, we may have seen the last of one of the best wide receivers to ever play the game. Smith ranks 10th all-time in career receiving yards – likely to be passed by the Indianapolis Colts' Andre Johnson this season – and 15th in receptions. And he accomplished this with questionable quarterback play as a Carolina Panther in 13 of his 15 years in the league.

His 2005 season remains one of the most dominant I've seen by a receiver. That year he led the league, or tied league leaders, in all three major receiving categories: yards, receptions and touchdown catches.

While I remain hopeful that Smith will make a miraculous recovery and return for one final season of amazing catches and raucous celebrations, I know the image of Smith being helped off the field is likely the last time I'll watch one of my favorite players. Smith is the model of a football player who uses sheer will and determination to overcome perceived physical limitations and achieve greatness.

Love him or hate him, Smith embodied the essence of football and competitive sports. Because of that, he was good for the league, good for the fans, and he'll be missed greatly on the field. I wish him well, and thank him for 15 years of exciting football.

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



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Jobanne Bouchard, a former high-tech marketing executive, is a leadership advisor to CEOs, executives and entrepreneurs, as well as an expert in corporate board composition and dynamics. Visit jobannebouchard.com to learn more or download her recently published eBooks "Board Composition" and "Board Basics."

The power of cloud computing



BY JOHANNE BOUCHARD
EBS BUSINESS COLUMNIST

Regardless of the size of your business, it's imperative to have a state-of-the-art information technology infrastructure. This is no time to lag behind with IT that can efficiently and effectively help grow a sustainable business.

Oracle World, a gigantic technology conference, was held in San Francisco during the last week of October. Oracle is investing heavily to build a new cloud computing enterprise business ensuring it is the No. 1 Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) and Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) cloud provider.

The era of cloud computing is here for businesses of all sizes. When I started my career as a systems engineer, we accessed software and digital files in data centers, and the enterprise had dedicated rooms for tapes, consoles and large mainframe computers. As my own tech career progressed, so did the industry.

I've been enthralled by databases, networks, peer-to-peer computing, application servers, document and web management, and now the birth of SaaS. We've evolved from needing tons of hardware to store, maintain, access and manage our data in-house, to renting applications and app-hosting platforms as subscription services over the Internet.

In a way, we've come full circle - back to data centers. Now third party data centers exist to achieve economies of scale, and to share resources and information from a variety of devices on demand. At the core of cloud computing is invisibility of how services are rendered and where information resides, maximizing effectiveness of the shared resource.

Company IT infrastructures are shifting away from dedicated hardware, which depreciates over time. Businesses no longer need to purchase licenses in order to install different applications that must be maintained and upgraded. These changes lower costs and affect the speed at which a business scales or downsizes.

What does this mean for small business owners? Stay current with IT trends and understand the advantages and disadvantages of cloud computing.

Advantages:

A competitive edge

Cloud computing levels the field by giving small businesses access to technologies that were once out of their reach.

Reduced up-front cost to set up an IT infrastructure

Cloud computing requires minimal:

Physical hardware space

Financial allocation to evaluate and purchase hardware

Resources to evaluate, install, maintain, and back-up software and email servers

Improved streamlining and scaling

On-demand IT is dynamic and adaptable to the current business climate. Companies are no longer locked into software applications like they once were. As businesses change, so do their computing needs - modifying access permissions and opting in for upgrades are easier than ever.

Disadvantages:

Security vulnerabilities

While the safety of any computing environment is always top priority, the cloud refers to Internet-based computing. Progress is being made, but every individual business must be mindful of the risks of storing information in this "invisible" world.

Tech support

Customer support for cloud-based apps is not consistent and can be difficult to get prompt, effective support.

The cloud is here, and every business should assess whether or not to take advantage of its many benefits, while being mindful of its current limitations.



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Carol Spielman "Snowpack," 40 x 30, Acrylic on canvas

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AMUSE-BOUCHE

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

Are mushrooms from outer space?



BY SCOTT MECHURA

EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

It isn't a fruit or vegetable, it isn't a fiber, and it certainly isn't a protein. Then what is a mushroom?

Other than the mouthwatering anticipation with which chefs and foragers harvest morels or golden chanterelles from the Gallatin Valley each year, or prized truffles from France or Italy, most of us don't often give the mushroom the same attention as local beef, trout, or fresh produce.

Classified as fungi, mushrooms are referred to as hidden kingdoms unto themselves. They have a symbiotic relationship with plants, animals, and other fungi, as well as a parasitic one.

The study of mushrooms is called mycology, which differs from the disciplines of biology and botany. And while you may never think about the white buttons in the blue Styrofoam in the produce section, they just may be the most unique food you'll ever eat.

Most of us believe the round, colorful structure we see growing above ground to be the whole mushroom, when in fact that is merely the "fruit" of a much larger organism living underground made up of connected filaments called mycelium.

Modern day scientists say that mushrooms are more closely related to animals than plants, the primary reasons being they "breathe" oxygen and "exhale" carbon dioxide like humans, rather than the reverse in the plant world. And mushrooms contain no chlorophyll.

The late ethnobotanist Terence McKenna suggested that mushrooms are responsible for human intelligence as we know it. His theory hypothesized that mushroom spores possess all of the necessary requirements to travel on space currents. Furthermore, they could have settled in the brain matter of primitive humanoids and, following the lines of modern day hallucinogenic mushrooms, directly contributed to our modern day intelligence and self awareness.

McKenna went on to theorize that mushrooms are the reason there is human life on earth.

While this may seem like material from a science fiction novel, there is no avoiding the fact that mushrooms possess many traits that are unique to their kingdom alone.

Fungi build cell walls out of chitin, the same material that makes up the hard outer shells of insects and other arthropods. These cell walls contain similar chemicals found in butterfly and beetle wings, as well as the plumage of some colorful birds, such as peacocks.

Living spores have been found and collected in every level of earth's atmosphere. Mushroom spores are electron-dense and can survive in the vacuum of space. Additionally, their outer layer is actually metallic and of a purple hue, which naturally allows the spore to deflect ultraviolet light. And as if all this wasn't unique enough, the outer shell of the spore is the hardest organic compound to exist in nature.

Who knows, maybe I'll look to the stars the next time I enjoy a fresh, sautéed Crimini mushroom with a glass of Nebbiolo in hopes of seeing a mushroom-shaped constellation.

Scott Mechura has spent a life in the hospitality industry. He is a former certified beer judge and currently the Executive Chef at Buck's T-4 Lodge in Big Sky.

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From mat to mountain

Three yoga poses for winter conditioning

BY CALLIE STOLZ
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Winter has arrived, are you ready? A yoga practice is a fantastic way to condition body and mind for winter activities, especially downhill skiing and snowboarding. When we feel strong, yet flexible, we can have more fun and be more adaptable to deep powder days or crusty conditions when we just want to get out and make a few turns.

One of the most powerful lessons we learn on our mats is how to live our yoga off the mat. Taking the core principles of muscular energy, core engagement, strong alignment, flexibility, breath work, and mental focus from

our mats to the mountain is a natural transition. Engaging muscular energy creates a strong foundation in our feet and legs, which gives us stability and balance.

Tuning into our core helps us feel strong, supported and able to move with ease and grace. The key is to find the balance between strength and flexibility, when to draw in, and when to extend. This creates a sense of freedom in our body – as well as our minds and hearts – so we can adapt to whatever comes our way: on the mountain, on our mat and in our life.

Callie Stolz is a certified yoga instructor, Ayurvedic practitioner, licensed massage therapist, and owner of Big Sky's Santosha Wellness Center.

Boat pose (Navasana)

This pose develops core strength – engage your belly, lift your lower back, and breathe. From here, there are many variations: Hold this position, straighten your legs or twist side to side while extending one leg, keeping the opposite shin parallel to floor. Stay engaged and move with your breath. If you feel pain in your lower back, hold your legs underneath your knees for support and work toward variations as your strength develops.



Chair pose (Utkatasana)

Chair pose is a fantastic way to build strength in your feet, legs and core. Begin with your feet hip-distance apart, engage your core, create a small curve in your lower back and sink into an imaginary chair aligning your knees over your second toe.

Variations: Lift your heels, lift one leg and lightly tap your foot with your breath 10 times each. Add a twist and hold for five breaths on each side, or transition into Warrior III and back again.



Warrior III (Virabhadrasana III)

Warrior III develops strong balance and focus, strengthens the core and legs, and stretches your hamstrings. Bend your knees, lift one leg, engage your core, hinge forward and extend your engaged leg and foot behind you. Square your hips, extend your arms, and lift through your extended inner thigh.

Variations: Bend your knee and hover to build strength around the knee, or place your hands on the ground – or foam blocks – and move toward standing splits, then transition back to Warrior III.

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From Jackie *with love* Are you counting blessings or burdens?



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

People often load dialogue with gratitude or grievances, depending on whether they see life through a lens of abundance or scarcity.

Started in 1999, positive psychology studies happiness and how it affects overall health and well-being. In contrast to traditional psychology, which focuses on dysfunction like mental illness, positive psychology examines how we can become

happier and more fulfilled, and how that can cure or prevent physical, emotional and interpersonal breakdowns.

According to Dr. Robert Emmons, gratitude guru and author of "Gratitude Works!: A 21-day Program for Creating Emotional Prosperity," the overarching benefits of gratitude include awareness and celebration of the present moment; blocking toxic emotions; stress-resiliency; stronger social ties; and greater self-worth.

More specifically, scientific studies are proving that practicing gratitude reduces depression, anxiety, anger and burnout. It allows for better and longer sleep, lowers blood pressure, supports weight loss and fosters optimism, which positively affects the immune system.

Dr. Emmons says there is a difference between feeling grateful and being grateful. "Feeling grateful is a response to a benefit, while being grateful is a way of life," he writes. This isn't just a form of positive thinking, it's truly a way of being.

So how do we make gratitude a way of life? First and foremost, we accept life as a gift. This concept reminds me of a beautiful quote from an unknown author: "I opened two gifts this morning, they were my eyes."

When we shift our focus to what we're grateful for, our body chemistry actually changes. In studies where participants practiced gratitude for only four weeks, cortisol – the stress hormone – was lowered and dehydroepiandrosterone – a precursor to sex hormones like testosterone and estrogen – increased. In another 10-week study, the so-called "happy hormones" like dopamine, serotonin and oxytocin increased.

Here are some practical examples of how you can cultivate gratitude:

- Keep a gratitude journal. You can record something large or small to be grateful for every day, but once a week is effective as well.

- Notice the words you use when speaking to yourself and others, and choose them carefully. Avoid using toxic words that stimulate negative emotions in you and the listener.

- Express thanks to those who have helped you in both small and large ways. Saying "Thank you" is powerful. Intimate relationships are proven to thrive when partners express gratitude to each other. Dr. Emmons says that writing it down in a card or letter can be even more advantageous.

- Give back. Charitable giving is a win-win. The giver receives a sense of purpose, joy and connection.

Thanksgiving is a great time to start a gratitude journal for yourself, with your family, in a classroom, or with friends. I'm grateful to you for taking the time to read this today.

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

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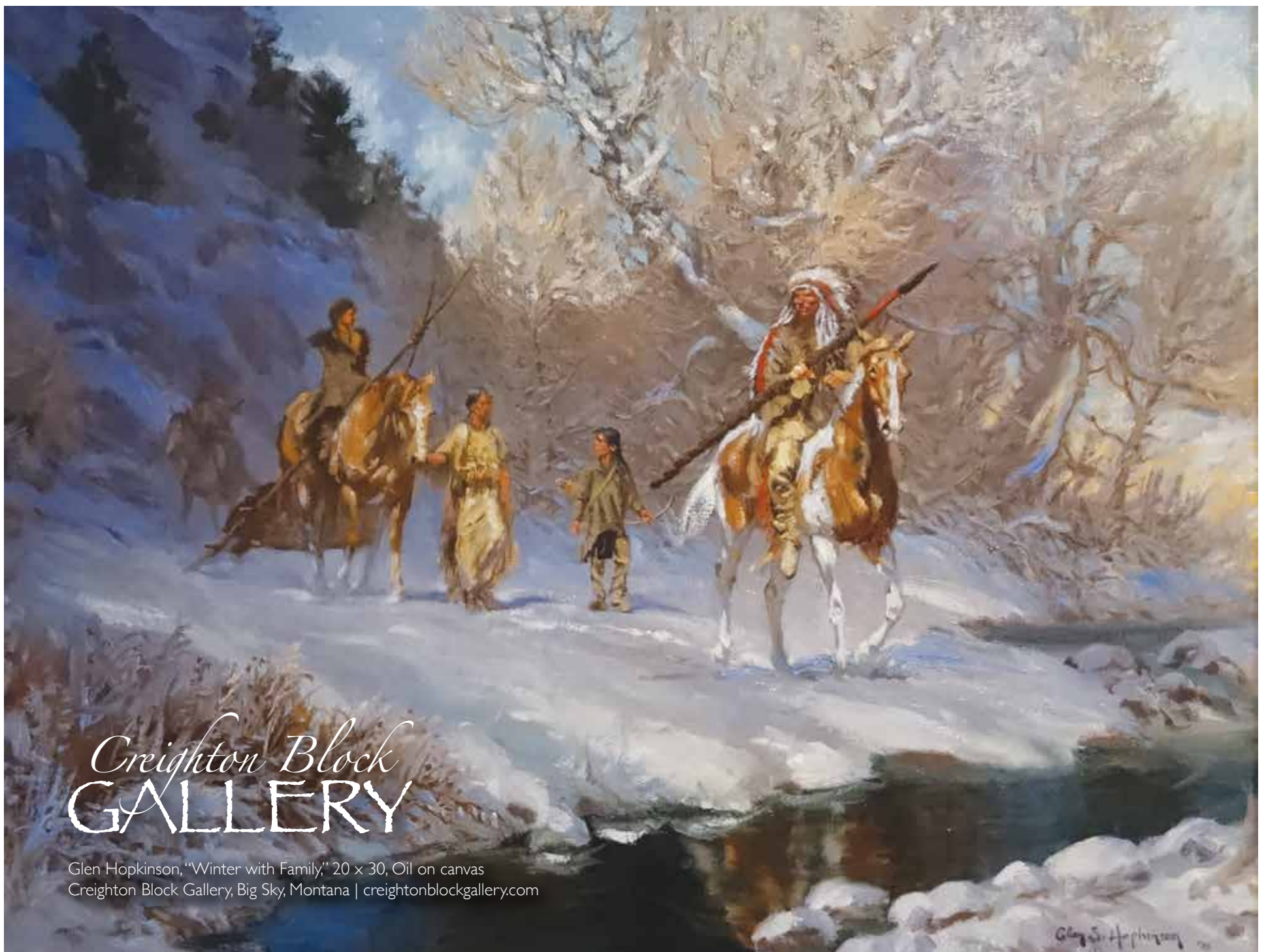
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Glen Hopkinson, "Winter with Family," 20 x 30, Oil on canvas
Creighton Block Gallery, Big Sky, Montana | creightonblockgallery.com

DOCTOR'S NOTE

Our incredible immune system



BY DR. JEFF DANIELS
EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

The human immune system is a remarkable piece of work. Not only does it protect us against all sorts of invading organisms – viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites – it also eliminates our own cells that turn cancerous.

We know that immunity is not perfect because we all get infections and some of us develop cancer, but throughout a lifetime – now 85 to 90-plus years for most Americans – the immune system is constantly working to keep us disease free.

I studied immunology intensely during my fellowship training in New York, and to me the most fascinating aspect of our immune system is how it produces billions of cells and molecules to fight an immense array of pathogens. It does so by splicing and combining a small amount of our DNA in various branches of the immune system then mass-producing specific defenses.

When germs invade our body, the first line of defense is a broad attack not aimed specifically at that one microbe. Over eons, this has evolved and proven effective in slowing down the pathologic process. That gives the immune system time – about a week or two – to mount a calculated, specific attack and successfully dispose of the infection. Many of the common illnesses we deal with could be fatal without a specific immunologic defense.

Timely vaccinations are important. By giving our immune system a chance to gear up before an attack we can limit, or virtually eliminate, a specific infection if we're exposed to others with that disease.

Many of you are too young to remember some common diseases that are now preventable and rarely mentioned. Polio, before Jonas Salk developed a vaccine in the late 1950s, killed or paralyzed thousands of people every year. Measles, which until a vaccine was introduced in the early 1960s, infected almost every American child under the age of 15, and accounted for about 450 deaths per year in otherwise healthy children. German measles, also known as rubella, caused deafness and other birth defects in kids.

Very few vaccines are perfect, and only one disease prevented by a vaccine has been completely wiped off the face of the Earth. Smallpox was the first human disease to have a preventative vaccination. Other vaccine-preventable diseases still lurk, often in less developed countries, with the potential of sneaking back and infecting people who have not been vaccinated, such as measles did last year.

Consider this: Researchers at the University of California, San Diego showed that a child with a healthy immune system can effectively process up to 100,000 different immunological challenges at once. Most vaccines we use contain dozens, maybe hundreds of unique molecules to challenge the immune system and stimulate a protective response.

Since the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends only 14 vaccines, to be administered over a two year period, those who worry about children getting too many vaccinations in short periods of time shouldn't be so concerned.

I'll have more to say about the importance and safety of vaccines in future columns.

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



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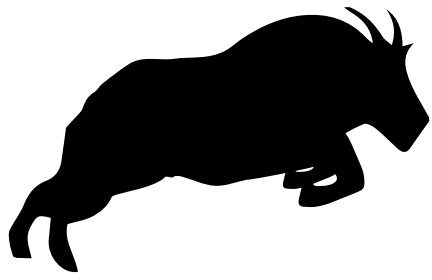
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 DIET: Herbivore
 AVG. LIFE SPAN: 9 to 12 years
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 WEIGHT: 100 to 300 lbs



RANGE: The Rocky Mountain and coastal ranges of northwestern North America

[Since the 1930s and '40s individuals have been introduced into additional mountain ranges in Oregon, Montana, Washington, South Dakota and Colorado]

Goats will usually choose terrain that is even steeper and more precipitous than the favored terrain of sheep, up to elevations of 13,000 ft.



GOATS vs. SHEEP

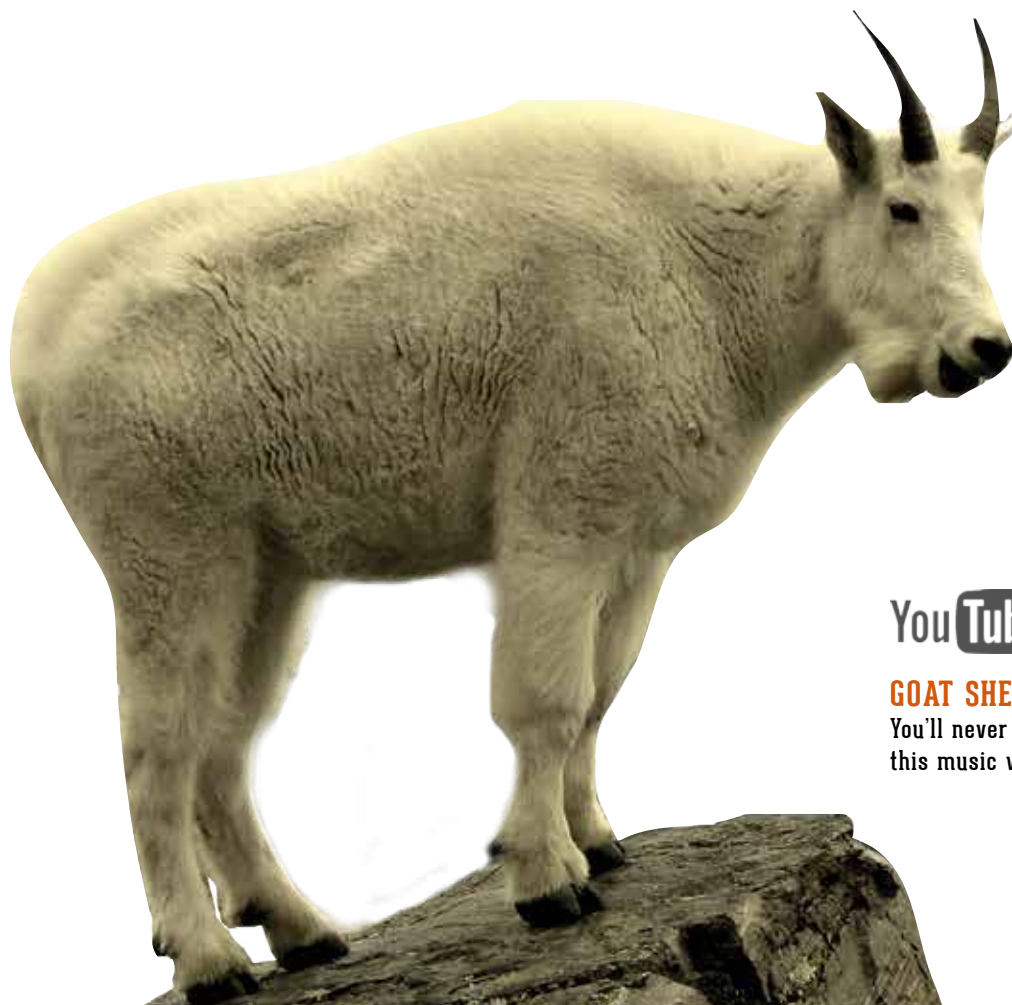
Family	Bovidae	Bovidae
Hair color	white	tan/brown/gray
Horns	Thin, black, swept back	Thick, curling

The bearded lady

Both males [billies] and females [nannies] have horns and beard-like hair on their chins.



Mountain goats have cloven hooves with two toes that spread wide to improve balance. Rough pads on the bottom of each toe provide the grip of a natural climbing shoe.



The Greater Yellowstone Area Mountain Ungulate Project is a collaborative research initiative to study the ecology and population dynamics of bighorn sheep and mountain goats throughout the Yellowstone ecosystem. Follow their progress at gyamountainungulateproject.com



YouTube

GOAT SHEEP GOAT - BANFF NATIONAL PARK
 You'll never forget who's who again after watching this music video by Parks Canada's Mountain WIT.

SOURCES: animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/mountain-goat
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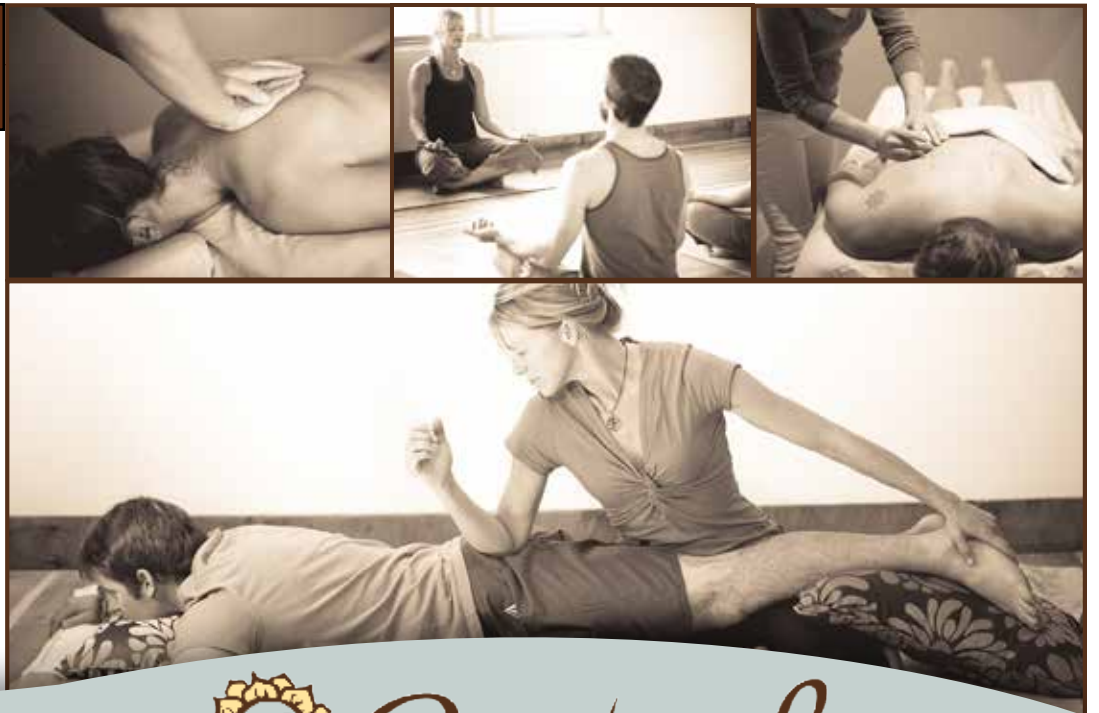
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SUNDAY

10-11am
Adult Ballet

6-7:15pm
(See website for
class details)

MONDAY

9-10:15am
All Levels Yoga

4:15-5:15pm
Yoga for Kids
(9th-12th grade)

5:45-7pm
Ski Conditioning Yoga

TUESDAY

7-8am
All Levels Yoga

8:15-9:15am
Core Focused Pilates

9:30-10:45am
Ski Conditioning Yoga

4:15-5pm
Yoga for Kids
(5th-8th grades)

WEDNESDAY

7:30-8:30am
All Levels Yoga

9-10:15am
All Levels Yoga

11/11
Awareness
Wednesday
7-8pm

THURSDAY

7-8am
Zumba

8:15-9:15am
Roll it Out Pilates

9:30-10:45am
Ski Conditioning Yoga

FRIDAY

8:30-9:30am
Level II Yoga

10-11:30am
The Practice

3:15-4pm
Yoga for Kids
(3rd-5th grades)

4:15-4:45pm
Yoga for Kids
(K-2nd grades)

SATURDAY

9-10:15am
Ashtanga Flow

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Section 3: OUTDOORS, EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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Big Sky Resort's first day p. 40

Back 40:
Yellowstone Winterkeeper p. 44

Twenty-five hours in Frog Hollow

Enduring a day-long mountain bike race

BY ERIC LADD
EBS PUBLISHER

HURRICANE, Utah – It's 8 p.m. on a star-filled, moonless night with a strong wind blowing from the west. In the distance, headlamps of mountain bikers are littered among sagebrush and rocky outcroppings as they focus on completing a 13-mile loop. They are already 10 hours into a 25-hour cycling race.

Some bikers are wearing tight spandex with shaved legs, while others instead opt for costumes. All are tasked with completing the longest timed bike race in the region. This is the seventh annual 25 Hours in Frog Hollow race staged outside of Hurricane, Utah.

The format is simple: Ride as many 13-mile laps, as fast as you can, in 25 hours.

Some riders attack the Frog Hollow race solo, and others team up in two-, four- or five-person squads with some solo riders completing as many as 25 laps (325 miles) in years past. More than 250 racers competed in the Nov. 7-8 race, a well-orchestrated, fun and competitive event that at times may be confused for a Burning Man-type festival with costumes, RVs and Sprinter vans gathered on Bureau of Land Management property.

The area around St. George and Hurricane is quickly becoming known as a Moab alternative for mountain biking – sitting in the shadow of Zion National Park, one understands why this is an ideal setting for a fall bike race that mixes athletes from elite professionals to office desk amateurs.

As 3 a.m. rolls around the headlamps have slowed to a trickle across the hillside, and lap times slow by a few minutes as the temperature drops to near freezing. Bonfires litter campsites while friendly volunteers man burn barrels and cheer on the late-night riders.

Teams discuss strategic plans during rotations and try to keep the legs warm between laps. Seasoned endurance mountain bikers give advice, including why these types of races are won and lost between midnight and 5 a.m. The 2015 edition proves no exception, as the leaderboards in many categories change during the middle of the night.



Team Hiball celebrating their five-person, co-ed division victory: Mindy Mulliken of Steamboat Springs, Colo.; Cameron Johnson and Nick Franczyk from Missoula; and Eric Ladd and Chad Rothacher of Big Sky.



Mindy Mulliken and Nick Franczyk ride together towards the finish line of 25 Hours in Frog Hollow, as team Hiball secures a first-place finish in their division. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTOS



Many Frog Hollow competitors opt for costumes over traditional endurance racing apparel.

As the sun rises, the Lions Club International food tent is full of tired riders and fans as they consume coffee and calories, and celebrate the final hours of the race. The Frog Hollow race finishes at 11 a.m. sharp, 25 hours after the Le Mans-style start, with records broken and exhausted, dust-covered racers. A celebration ensues with pizza and awards under the hot desert sun.

Many impressive stats come out of the Frog Hollow race but the results from the solo race winners are worth particular mention. Especially impressive were the top men and women finishers: Sam Sweetser, completing 22 laps (286 miles) and Jeannie Anders who completed 14 laps (182 miles). And competing on single speed bikes, the winners were Jason Whitehead (21 laps) and Sarah Mah-Withers (11 laps).

A handful of riders from Montana competed in the race including John Flach and Chris Wilson from Big Sky, who competed in the Male Solo division.

Continued on pg. 34

Continued from pg. 33



The Hiball Frog Hollow team was fueled by Hiball energy drinks (left) and Hammer Nutrition products (center) throughout the 25-hour bike race in southern Utah; their Verge Sport race apparel (right) kept Missoula's Cameron Johnson – and the rest of the Hiball crew – cool during the daylight hours, and warm throughout the night

To compete in and survive an endurance mountain-bike race you need to train and bring along a support team, but also rely on some quality products to help in the effort. During the 25 Hours in Frog Hollow race, Team Hiball – a mix of southwest Montana and Colorado riders – used the following products to help the team to its first-place finish in the five-person, co-ed division.

Verge jerseys

No racer is complete without a custom-made jersey, and Verge Sport makes some of the best. Verge jerseys can be customized with logos, design and coloring to suit a casual rider or someone needing a skintight race suit. vergesport.com

Hammer Nutrition

Keeping the correct calorie intake aboard during any race is critical, and Hammer Nutrition is an industry leader with an array of products to supplement elite athletes. During the race the Hiball team used Hammer Heed and gel packages to keep fueled up, while post-race they consumed

Hammer Recoverite and Endurolytes to stay nourished and prevent cramping. hammadnutrition.com

Elevated Legs

A secret weapon for any athlete, especially for those needing to recover midway through a relay race, Elevated Legs are the next best thing to traveling with your own personal massage therapist. Elevated Legs is an advanced athletic recovery system that uses pneumatic compression to increase blood flow and reduce muscle soreness and fatigue. elevatedlegs.com

Hiball energy drinks

Organic and loaded with all the goodies you need for a boost of caffeine during any hour of the day, Hiball provides all-natural energy. The team found this energy drink to be a go-to product during the 25-hour race, and on the subsequent drive home. Team Hiball preferred the Ginger Ale and Grapefruit flavors during the evening hours, and switched to the coffee-flavored drinks as the sun began to rise. biballer.com



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THE EDDY Line

Wrestling with shoulder season



BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

November is a month of transition for many of us in Big Sky country. Personally, it means catching up on family time and honey-do's, but it also includes daily rituals to the snow gods. Ski season is near.

As for fishing this time of year, I treat it like the days before college graduation – no need to wake until the crack of 11 a.m. There's a parallel to the underbelly of impending graduation, when the question is always asked, "So, what are your plans after graduation?" The question asked of fly fishers here in southwest Montana is, "So, what are you up to this month?" The answers are mostly "hanging out," "tying flies," or "chasing steelhead."

At least until the ski hill opens. Until then, here are a few ideas to keep your casting arm in shape.

Flee west or north to chase steelhead.

Standing in the same run for countless hours methodically – almost as if in meditation – casting and drifting over and over has never appealed to me. Then it happens: a steelhead

is hooked on the 2,871st cast and it all makes sense. The immeasurable pull of a steelhead – its pace and determination to end the fight is felt throughout your entire body, and the nights camping and cooking Jetboil meals are forgotten with the first run of a hooked steelhead.

Blue Winged Olive hatches and midges on Paradise Valley spring creeks. In winter, the fee is only \$40 per rod, and you'll have minimal company. Head to the creeks on a day with little wind and you'll find fish eating tiny dry flies. If little or no hatch occurs, fish size 18 or 20 midge nymphs below a very small indicator and you should have success. If you want a head start, or wish to learn more about these fisheries, consider hiring a guide for a day.

The Upper Madison between the lakes or above Lyons Bridge. As the lure of trophy bull elk keeps many people in the woods, the potential for large brown trout and solitude exist on the Upper Madison River. Dead drifting or slowly stripping large streamers is popular; however, for anglers that can see little dry flies, hatches of midges are a daily occurrence. If you like techy dry-fly angling, bring size 18 or 20 dry flies. Watch the forecast because an overcast day will bring more fish to net, as Upper Madison trout don't like bright sun.

The Gallatin River near Big Sky. Talking about the consistency of the Gallatin as a winter fishery is good and bad: you want people to know it's damn good, but not so good that it feels crowded. Look for midge hatches, but you'll succeed with tandem nymph rigs using an indicator. For Big Sky locals, the Gallatin is ideal – you can get in a few hours of fishing during the best time of day and still have time to work; make a supply run to Bozeman; or as a fishing guide in downtime, take a nap.

Running down the list of things I need to do before the chairlifts start spinning – aka the list of things I've put off all fishing season – I think of all the good runs on the Gallatin that have no one fishing them right now. And I remind myself that the sooner things are put off, the more time I have to eventually get them done.

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

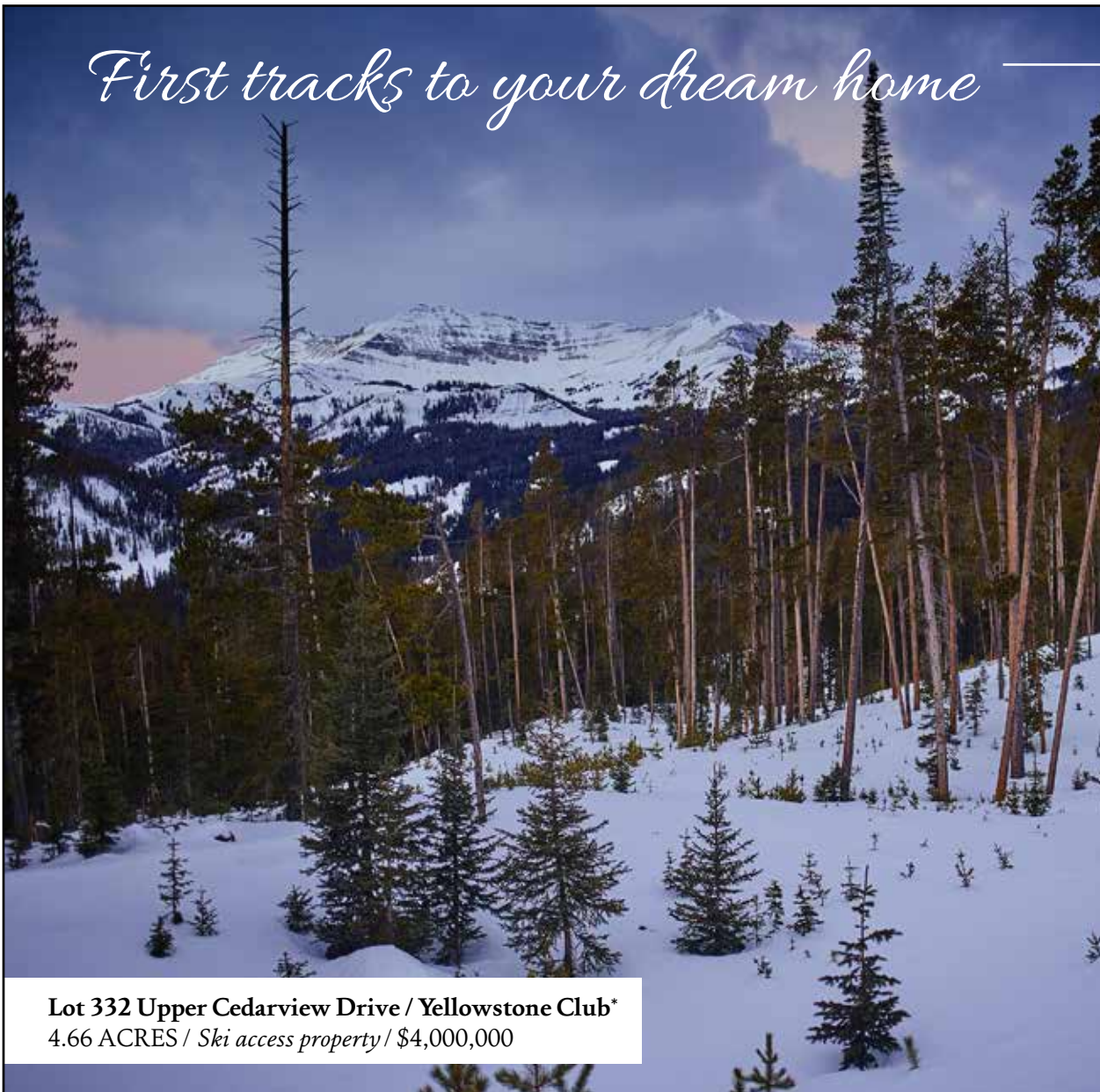
This article was adapted from one published in a November 2013 issue of EBS.



November can be the season for some dandies. This Gallatin River brown trout took a streamer stripped slowly in a deep run. PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTANA FISHING GUIDE SCHOOL

First tracks to your dream home

Featuring:

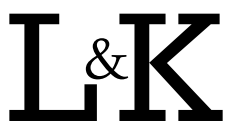


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Avalanche centers re-launch education program

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO PROGRAM

Avalanches in North America kill an average of 39 people each year and hundreds more are injured. The keys for backcountry users to have fun and stay alive are avalanche awareness and education.

On Nov. 4, the Friends of the Colorado Avalanche Information Center and the Utah Avalanche Center announced the re-launch of Know Before You Go, an avalanche safety program taught across North America.

The KBYG program was developed in 2004 to raise avalanche awareness among inexperienced backcountry users, particularly those in junior high and high school. Since then nearly 200,000 people have seen the presentation in Utah alone. For many, KBYG is their first exposure to avalanche instruction.

“With a little education many of these [avalanche] accidents can be prevented,” said CAIC Director Ethan Greene. “Know Before You Go is an exciting and entertaining education program that will help our kids stay safe while they are living, working, or playing in the mountains.”

And KBYG isn't just for kids. Thousands of adult winter recreationists have learned the basics of avalanche safety from this program, according to Paul Diegel, executive director of the UAC.

“Just like Hawaiians learn the basics of tide and current safety at a young age, those living or playing near snow-covered mountains need to learn about avalanche safety,” Diegel said.

Over the past several months FoCAIC and the UAC have put together an updated version of the KBYG program. In partnership with Avalanche Canada, Backcountry Access, The National Avalanche Center, the American Institute of Avalanche Research and Education, and the American



PHOTO BY PAXSON WOELBER (OWN WORK) CC BY-SA 4.0

Avalanche Association, KBYG has created a North American standard for introducing avalanche awareness.

In an hour-long presentation, participants see the destructive power of avalanches, understand when and why they happen, and learn how to have fun in the mountains while avoiding snow slides.

“Working with the Utah Avalanche Center on the revamp of Know Before You Go has been very exciting for us,” said FoCAIC Executive Director Aaron Carlson. “The collaboration has allowed us to develop a consistent program across two great avalanche centers' education programs.”

Visit kbyg.org for more information and contact info@kbyg.org to schedule a free Know Before You Go program in your community.

Master the Mountain at Big Sky Resort

Early registration closes Dec. 13

BIG SKY RESORT

BIG SKY – Big Sky Resort is offering early season pricing on the 2016 installment of its popular Master the Mountain locals program until Dec. 13. This five-week program helps adults develop new skills for enjoying the powder, moguls, glades, and off-groomed terrain found throughout the resort's 5,800-plus skiable acres.

Master the Mountain offers two programs, meeting in two different locations. The Mountain Village program offers participants eight sessions weekday mornings, afternoons on Tuesday and Friday, or Saturday afternoons. The Madison Base program offers eight sessions meeting weekday mornings on Monday and Thursday. All sessions start in January.

Participants must possess at least “advanced beginner” skills and be comfortable on green level slopes such as Mr. K. Individuals are divided into groups to ski with instructors based on terrain, speed, personal goals and compatibility.

During the session, participants will receive individualized feedback and have the opportunity to see themselves on video. In addition to the on-snow experience, the program includes après ski social events and fun, informational clinics. Past clinics have included ski tuning, avalanche awareness and safety, and biomechanics of skiing, among others.

Master the Mountain is in its 18th year, and was created for residents and visitors with extended stays in the Big Sky area. Big Sky Resort officially opens for the 2015-2016 winter season on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26, and the Madison Base area will open Dec. 11.

Visit bigskyresort.com/mtm or call (406) 995-5743 for more information.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

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FRIDAY, NOV. 13 – THURSDAY, NOV. 26

***If your event falls
between Nov. 13 and
27, please submit it
by Friday, Nov. 20.**

Big Sky

FRIDAY, NOV. 13

Trivia
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

\$10 Week
Lotus Pad, 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 14

\$10 Week
Lotus Pad, 5 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOV. 15

Lone Peak Football Sunday
Lone Peak Cinema,
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

\$10 Week
Lotus Pad, 5 p.m.

MONDAY, NOV. 16

Rhinestone Cowgirl opens
Rhinestone Cowgirl,
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOV. 17

Holiday Cooking Series
Gourmet Gals, 6 – 8 p.m.

Bingo
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill,
6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18

**FREE Avalanche
Awareness
Seminar
Grizzly Outfitters,
7 p.m.**

THURSDAY, NOV. 19

Visit Big Sky Board Meeting
Big Sky Chamber,
8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

FRIDAY, NOV. 20

Trivia
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOV. 22

Lone Peak Football Sunday
Lone Peak Cinema,
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOV. 24

Bingo
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill,
6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25

Warren Miller's Chasing
Shadows
Lone Peak Cinema,
8 -9 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOV. 26

**Opening Day
Big Sky Resort,
all day**

**6th Annual
BSSEF Turkey Trot
Fire Pit Park,
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

Deeper Day for
Sky Card holders
Big Sky Resort, all day

Bozeman

FRIDAY, NOV. 13

**Grizzlies of
Pilgrim Creek
Emerson
Crawford
Theater,
6:30 – 10 p.m.**

Bozeman High's
The Wizard of Oz
Willson Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Anniversary Celebration
Damsel fly Clothing,
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Bozeman Brewing Beer
Pairing Dinner
The Food Studio, 7 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, NOV. 14

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

Anniversary Celebration
Damsel fly Clothing,
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Bozeman High's
The Wizard of Oz
Willson Auditorium, 7 p.m.

9th Annual Bozeman Blue-
grass Festival
Emerson Culture Center,
6 p.m.

12th Annual Sip & Sample
Joe's Parkway Market,
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Full Gravity Day
Spire Climbing Center, 9 a.m.

Shakewell
The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

Fall Used Book Sale
Bozeman Public Library,
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Silly Moose Comedy Improv
Show For Kids
Verge Theater, 2-3 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOV. 15

Fall Used Book Sale
Bozeman Public Library,
11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Luminosity with the Boze-
man Symphonic Choir
Holy Rosary Church,
3 -4 p.m.

12th Annual Sip & Sample
Joe's Parkway Market,
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

IndepenDANCE: Spectrum
viewing party
Lockhorn Cider House, 3 p.m.

Vegan Potluck
Sourdough Fire Department,
1 p.m.

MONDAY, NOV. 16

Pints with Purpose: Mon-
tana Wilderness School
Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOV. 17

Nikki Lane, Clear Plastic
Masks, & Echodrive
The Filling Station,
6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18

The Bent Bones
Faultline North, 7 p.m.

Dynamite Dads
Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Obie Trice
Eagles Lodge, 7 p.m.

Music & Mussels with Chris
Cunningham & Friends
Bridger Brewing,
5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOV. 19

**Ladies Night
Downtown
Downtown, 5 p.m.**

FRIDAY, NOV. 20

**Cat/Griz MSU
Prep Rally
Downtown,
5:30 p.m.**

Paint the Growler Art Show
Revolver Menswear, 6 p.m.

MSU Undie Run
Roberts Hall, MSU campus,
12 p.m.

The Broads Are Back!
Emerson Culture Center,
8 – 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 21

**Montana State
vs. University of
Montana
Bobcat Stadium,
12:10 p.m.**

The Broads Are Back!
Emerson Culture Center,
8 – 10 p.m.

Electra Sextons Drag Show
Elks Lodge, 7 p.m.

Campaign 'Kick-Off' Break-
fast
Story Mansion, 9 a.m.

Holiday Bazaar
Emerson Culture Center,
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Funksgiving
Faultline North,
7:30 p.m.

Holiday Extravaganza
Holiday Inn Express,
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Winter Farmer's Market
Emerson Culture Center,
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

'Confessions of a Camo
Queen: Living with an Out-
doorsman' book signing
Wal-Mart, 12-2 p.m. / Bob
Ward's, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

MONDAY, NOV. 23

November Service
Opportunity
Best Western Plus Grantree
Inn, 4 p.m.

Pints with Purpose
Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25

Music & Mussels with Jesse
Atkins
Bridger Brewing,
5:30 p.m.

Livingston & Paradise Valley

FRIDAY, NOV. 13

Gary Small & The Coyote
Brothers
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

Kaylan Beasley
Katabatic Brewing,
5:30 p.m.

Milton Menasco & The Big
Fiasco
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Into The Woods
Shane Lalani Center, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 14

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

Wartime Blues
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Into The Woods
Shane Lalani Center, 8 p.m.

2015 Fall Health
Festival
Park County Fairgrounds,
7 - 11 a.m.

Pine Creek School
Fundraiser
Pine Creek School, 5 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOV. 15

Into The Woods
Shane Lalani Center, 3 p.m.

MONDAY, NOV. 16

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

Double Barrel
Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOV. 17

Beer for a Cause: CASA
Katabatic Brewing,
4-8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18

'Unbranded' Screening
Shane Lalani Center,
5:30 p.m.

Cory Johnson
Katabatic Brewing,
5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOV. 19

Musical Gems of Montana:
Symphony at the Shane
Shane Lalani Center,
7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Vibe Techs
Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOV. 20

Heather Lingle Band
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Autumn Skate Party
Civic Center,
5:30 - 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 21

Holiday Expo
Livingston Civic Center,
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Ticket Sauce
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

MONDAY, NOV. 23

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

Miss Massive Snowflake
Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOV. 24

Beer for a Cause: Livingston
Food Pantry
Katabatic Brewing,
4-8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25

Jason Moreland
Katabatic Brewing,
5:30 p.m.

West Yellowstone**FRIDAY, NOV. 13**

Senior Lunch
Povah Community Center,
12-1 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 14

West Yellowstone Annual
Ski Swap
Rendezvous Trailhead Build-
ing, 8 a.m. - noon

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18

Senior Lunch
Povah Community Center,
12-1 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOV. 19

Knit Night
Send It Home, 6-8 p.m.

Girl Scout Food Drive
Marketplace & Food Round-
up Stores, 5-7 p.m.

Bingo!
The Branch, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOV. 20

Senior Lunch
Povah Community Center,
12-1 p.m.

Girl Scout Food Drive
Marketplace & Food Round-
up Stores,
5-7 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOV. 24

Yellowstone Ski Festival
Rendezvous Ski Trails, all
day

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25

Senior Lunch
Povah Community Center,
12-1 p.m.

Yellowstone Ski Festival
Rendezvous Ski Trails, all
day

Fall Beer Fest
Branch Bar, 5 - 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOV. 26

Knit Night
Send It Home, 6-8 p.m.

Bingo!
The Branch, 5 p.m.

Yellowstone Ski Festival
Rendezvous Ski Trails, all
day

Thanksgiving Dinner Buffet
Branch Bar, 3 - 8 p.m.

RECURRING EVENTS

Historic Walking Tour
Historic District, self-guid-
ed, daily

West Entrance closed to
motorized travel
Nov. 2 - Dec. 15

YELLOWSTONE SKI FESTIVAL**Nov. 24 - 28****Rendezvous Ski Trails, West Yellowstone**

This is a must for every cross-country skier! Hundreds of Nordic ski enthusiasts from all over the world, novice to expert, gather for a celebration of cross-country skiing. Lessons, free demos, evening activities, kids camp, races, and more!

skirunbikemt.com for more information

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

**November 28, 2015 10:00 AM -
November 28, 2015 6:00 PM**

Small Business Saturday is a day dedicated to supporting small businesses on one of the busiest shopping weekends of the year. On the Saturday after Thanksgiving, we're asking millions of Americans to shop small at their favorite local stores

and help fuel the economy. We have many amazing small businesses that would like to welcome customers on SBS with varied promotions and activities. When we all shop small, it will be huge.

For more information about the nationally advertised event visit www.smallbusinesssaturday.com.

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Ace Hardware

Ace Hardware in Big Sky looking for temporary laborer. Duties include, but are not limited to: Moving inventory, fixtures, business equipment and other retail and business collateral, setting up and tearing

down of retail fixture and décor, and setting up inventory and retail displays from old location (47835 Gallatin Road, Big Sky, Montana) to new store location (1565 Lone Mountain Trail, Big Sky, Montana). There is a requirement and expectation that employee is physically fit and capable of heavy lifting. There is a further presumption by and between employee and employer that employee has no pre-existing health condition(s) which would limit ability to perform and complete all job duties. Work week is based upon a 40 hour work week. You are expected to be in your work area, ready to start work at your scheduled starting time. Hours are recorded on a time-clock system. Base rate of pay is \$12.00 per hour. Contact Ace Hardware at (406) 995-4500 ask for Dan.

Construction: Seeking Journeyman Carpenters

Blue Ribbon Builders is now hiring experienced/skilled journeyman carpenters for full time, year round work in Big Sky. We offer exemplary compensation packages and work environment! Apply online at: <http://blueribbonbuilders.com/employment/>. Or Send resumes to: hr@blueribbonbuilders.com. For more information call 406-995-4574.

Big Sky School District

Big Sky School District is seeking substitute bus drivers and a FT year-round Facilities Assistant/Custodian For more information call Jermy Zier 406-995-4281 or go to www.bssd72.org

Headwaters Hot Tub Service

Daily hot tub service route. Must have valid drivers license and auto insurance. Able to work independently with good communication with co-workers. Good customer service and a drive to do work outdoors in Big Sky. Paid mileage plus hourly pay DOE. Flexible schedule, FT and PT available. Must be able to lift and carry 50 lbs. Resume appreciated. Call 406-995-7319 or email headwatershottubservice@yahoo.com.

Big Sky Resort spins lifts during preseason preview

BIG SKY RESORT

After a week of storms and snowmaking, Big Sky Resort opened on Nov. 7 for one day of skiing and riding. The resort reported 30 inches of powder during the first week of November to make the early open possible.

The Swift Current chairlift opened at 9 a.m. to the cheers of skiers and snowboarders who began lining up well before 8 a.m.

The buzz this ski season is all about a strong El Niño causing a warmer, drier winter in the Northern Rockies. However, Big Sky Resort found that during the 33 years of snow-data collection at the resort, 10 have been El Niño years,

and 60 percent of those El Niño years have produced above average or average snowfall.

The Swift Current and Explorer chairlifts began spinning for access to the beginner run, Mr. K., and by 10 a.m., the Lone Peak Triple chairlift was open with access to the intermediate run, Upper Morningstar.

“It’s so fun to open for one day to get some early powder turns and celebrate a great start to a new ski season,” said Big Sky Resort Public Relations Manager Sheila D’Amico.

Big Sky Resort’s official opening day is Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26. The Madison Base Area will open on Friday, Dec. 11.



Clockwise from top: Excitement was high at Big Sky Resort as the Lone Peak Triple chairlift opened on Nov. 7, three weeks before the resort’s official opening day; Kyle Bancroft gets some November powder on Upper Morning Star; snowboard instructor Mary Gandy carving up the groomer under bluebird skies; Caleb Helsley taking one of his many Mr. K laps. PHOTOS BY ERSIN OZER

Symphony at Livingston's Shane Center

BOZEMAN SYMPHONY

LIVINGSTON – Much like the town itself, the Shane Lalani Center for Performing Arts in Livingston is one of Montana's hidden gems.

The Shane is Montana's newest arts center, "dedicated to fostering creativity and building community through various arts programs, classes and events," according to its website. It's home to a thriving theater company with top-notch community productions, classes, and educational outreach programming for area schools. The Shane Center is also the residence for Symphony at the Shane, a series of musical performances arranged by the Bozeman Symphony.

On Nov. 19 at 7:30 p.m., the Bozeman Symphony and Symphony at the Shane present pianist Laurel Yost, Jeannie Little on trombone, and trumpeter Sarah Stoneback.

Pianist Laurel Yost will accompany the two brass players, and also perform solo. Yost is a beloved member of the professional staff in the Montana State University School of Music. The professor and pianist often performs as a soloist, as well as with ensembles including the Camerata Trio, Beethoven Trio, Milhaud Trio, and the MSU-Bozeman New Music Ensemble.

Jeannie Little, of Jeannie Little and Friends, is an all-around musical virtuoso. She excels as a soloist, low brass professor, university band director, conductor, clinician, and recording artist. Little studied at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., under renowned trombonist and pedagogue, Dr. John Marcellus, and is currently a low bass professor and director of the university band at MSU.

Little has performed with musical legends including Ella Fitzgerald, Natalie Cole, Ben Vereen and the Dorsey Brothers Band.

Having graduated from University Colorado Boulder with a doctorate in musical performance and pedagogy with an emphasis on trumpet, Sarah Stoneback currently works as a trumpet and theory professor at MSU. As a Conn-Selmer Bach clinician, Stoneback has presented educational and inspirational seminars and assemblies with the Stoneback Sisters in schools throughout the U.S.



Trumpeter Sarah Stoneback (pictured) will join pianist Laurel Yost and Jeannie Little on trombone during at Livingston's Shane Lalani Center on Nov. 19. The Bozeman Symphony and Symphony at the Shane will present the performance. PHOTO COURTESY OF BOZEMAN SYMPHONY

Stoneback has also participated in the presentation of more than 2,000 performances in the form of community concerts; solo engagements with numerous professional bands and orchestras; and provided workshops and residencies throughout the U.S. and Europe.

This performance is sure to glow, entertaining both untrained ears and those of seasoned patrons. Expect nothing less than richly resonant brass, and magically mindful piano melodies from this Symphony at the Shane.

Tickets are available at bozemansymphony.org, or by calling the Bozeman Symphony Society at (406) 585-9774. Advanced reservations are recommended but tickets may be purchased at the door.

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- SPECTRE - PG-13 4:00 & 7:15
- THE PEANUTS MOVIE - G 3:45, 6:00, 8:00

WED. 11/18

DOUBLE FEATURE PREMIERE:

- THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKING JAY PART 1&2 - PG-13 4:30
- SPECTRE - PG-13 4:00 & 7:15

THURSDAY NOV. 19TH

- THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKING JAY PT.2 - PG-13 7:00
- SPECTRE - PG-13 4:00 & 7:15

FRI. 11/20 - TUES. 11/24

- THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKING JAY PT.2 - PG-13 4:30 & 7:30
- SPECTRE - PG-13 4:00 & 7:15

WED. 11/25

- WARREN MILLER'S "CHASING SHADOWS" 6:00 & 9:00
- THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKING JAY PT.2 - PG-13 4:30 & 7:30

THURS. 11/26

- THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKING JAY PT.2 - PG-13 4:30 & 7:30
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Paint Bozeman blue and gold, Can the Griz

DOWNTOWN BOZEMAN ASSOCIATION

BOZEMAN - Help Montana State University celebrate and welcome visitors by decorating your business in blue and gold the week of Nov. 15-21, in preparation for Cat/Griz weekend. The Bobcats take on rival University of Montana Grizzlies in Bozeman on Saturday, Nov. 21 at 12:10 p.m.

Paint your storefront, hang Bobcat flags or signs, or showcase Bobcat merchandise in windows of your business. Windows must be decorated no later than 10 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 18. Businesses who decorate in blue and gold will have a chance to win prizes including MSU basketball tickets, gear, Bobcat cookies, and more. Volunteers working on behalf of MSU will be visiting businesses on Nov. 20, and passing out prizes to those showcasing exceptional Bobcat spirit.

Also, the 16th annual Can the Griz food drive is ongoing until Nov. 21. This is an off-field competition between MSU and UM to see which community can collect the

most donations for their local food banks. Organizers request that non-perishable food donations be taken to collection locations throughout Bozeman, to support those in need in Gallatin County.

Bobcat supporters can designate their contribution to MSU by telling the Gallatin Valley Food Bank, or collection location host, that their donation is for the Can the Griz food drive. Monetary donations may be made directly to the GVFB online or by texting "CAN" to 444999. This year, Can the Griz shirts will be available at the MSU Bookstore, and proceeds from shirt sales benefit the food bank.

Join the Bobcat men's and women's basketball teams as they play a doubleheader on Friday, Nov. 20 at Brick Breeden Fieldhouse in Bozeman. The women face the University of Portland at 5:30 p.m., and the men play San Jose State University at 8:05 p.m.

Visit canthegriz.com to find a list of participating Can the Griz locations, and donate directly to the Gallatin County Food Bank at gallatinvalleyfoodbank.org.



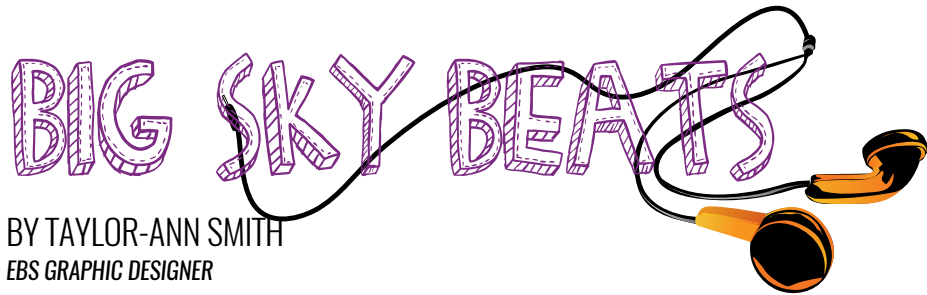
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BY TAYLOR-ANN SMITH
EBS GRAPHIC DESIGNER

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

The Great Depression of the 1930s drastically affected American industries, resulting in the termination of many female workers to provide jobs for unemployed men. However, nightclubs in this era generated an alternative economy providing an income source for women in the music world.

Female musicians worked as pianists in male jazz bands and played a number of other instruments traditionally associated with men, including trumpet, drums and saxophone.

Gender roles shifted drastically again during World War II, creating a new acceptance of women's presence in male-dominated civilian occupations, including big bands. As the draft depleted male band members, female musicians enjoyed increased bookings in major ballrooms, theaters, and on the military entertainment circuit.

Post World War II, women became even more involved in the labor force. Some musicians switched from horn to piano taking advantage of a greater public acceptance of women at the keyboard, while others moved on to music education or accompaniment. Although times have changed since the mid-20th century, women in jazz continue to bring big sound to the music industry.

This playlist features some female jazz classics, and a few upcoming artists echoing the sounds of their icons:

1. "Mean to Me," Sarah Vaughan
2. "Undecided," Ella Fitzgerald
3. "Why Don't You Do Right," Peggy Lee
4. "The Way You Look Tonight," Billie Holiday
5. "Something's Got A Hold On Me," Etta James
6. "Anytime, Anyplace, Anywhere," Hadda Brooks
7. "He Can Only Hold Her," Amy Winehouse
8. "Who Will Comfort Me," Melody Gardot
9. "Mimosa and Me," Renee Yoxon
10. "Knock Knock," Nikki Yanofsky

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

American Life in Poetry: Column 555

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

When we're feeling sorry for ourselves it can help to make a list of things for which we're grateful. Here is a fine poem of gratitude by Barbara Crooker, who lives in Pennsylvania, and its images make up just such a list. This is from her book, "Small Rain."

Sustenance

By Barbara Crooker

The sky hangs up its starry pictures: a swan, a crab, a horse. And even though you're three hundred miles away, I know you see them, too. Right now, my side of the bed is empty, a clear blue lake of flannel. The distance yawns and stretches. It's hard to remember we swim in an ocean of great love, so easy to fall into bickering like little birds at the feeder fighting over proso and millet, unaware of how large the bag of grain is, a river of golden seeds, that the harvest was plentiful, the corn is in the barn, and whenever we're hungry, a dipperful of just what we need will be spilled . . .

American Life in Poetry does not accept unsolicited submissions, and is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2014 by Barbara Crooker, "Sustenance," from "Small Rain," (Purple Flag Press, 2014). Poem reprinted by permission of Barbara Crooker and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2015 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.

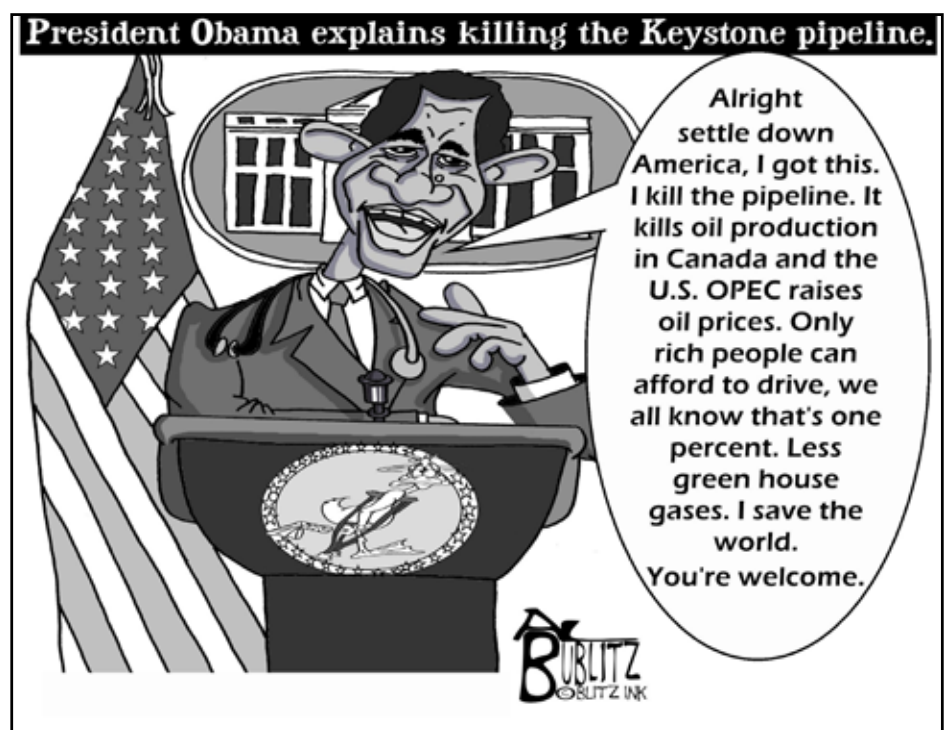
Sudoku

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

2			5				3	
			4				9	
					2		8	6
3		6						
5	9			6				
		8					1	
6		2			5			
	8		3		9			2
		9				4		

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DIFFICULTY: ★★☆☆



BACK 40

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

Of Pride and Progress: Forty Years in Yellowstone

BY STEVEN FULLER
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

If you came to Yellowstone National Park when it opened in 1872, you would have built a house here: On the Grand Canyon of Yellowstone overlooking the Yellowstone River, its famous waterfalls tumbling hundreds of feet over the cliffs. I have lived here, in the isolated Canyon winterkeeper's house, since 1973.

The house appears in old tinted postcards behind the Canyon Hotel, an architectural spectacle when it was built in 1910, its perimeter measuring one mile. After World War II the National Park Service determined it obsolete, and the hotel was condemned. In August 1960 it caught fire and burned for two weeks.

The fire was declared accidental, but in 1975 an old timer knocked on the door of my cabin, the only landmark left from his time in Yellowstone. We had coffee. When I asked if he was here when the hotel burned he said, “Here? Hell, I poured the kerosene!”

This house has been the Canyon winterkeeper's for more than a hundred years. Since the 1880s, winterkeepers have been employed as caretakers to shovel snow off roofs of hotels closed for the long winters. I was the only applicant when I was hired in 1973. My wage was \$13.25 a day.

The park looked after us. That first winter, they gave me a worn-out Johnson snowmobile. But when my wife Angela was hauling garbage, the throttle on the machine stuck and she fell off near the 1,200-foot canyon rim. Later, while I was riding it, the bicycle-style handlebars broke off in my hands.

A winterkeeper is “the toughest job in Wyoming,” Jerry Bateson, a retired winterkeeper, told me. I never thought about that until one winter when I had no snowmobile at all. I skied a mile to and from work carrying two shovels, a six-foot snow saw, and a 10-foot ladder on my shoulders from one building to the next.



The Canyon winterkeeper's house in 1930. For generations of Canyon winterkeepers, it has been a sanctuary in this isolated and often hostile environment. PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The nearest neighbors lived on Yellowstone Lake, 17 snowmobile miles south: a ranger, his wife, and two winterkeepers, one known as Silent Joe. Otherwise, we had to snowmobile 34 miles to Mammoth or 40 miles to West Yellowstone to visit anyone. And it was questionable if the snowmobile would make it there, let alone back home.

Every fall we cached the supplies needed for the next five months by the case or the 50-pound bag. We baked bread, brewed beer, sprouted beans, and used powdered milk. Our mail arrived in a big canvas bag once every month or so. I listened by short wave radio to the BBC. Power outages were frequent and could last as long as two weeks. Those nights were lit by candles and Coleman lanterns.

All living winterkeepers have testified their time here was the best in their lives. One winterkeeper, circa late 1940s, visited me shortly before he died. He said he killed a grizzly bear off the front steps and poached deer to supplement the meager wages winterkeepers have always been paid.



An old crosscut saw mounted on a D-shovel handle enables a winterkeeper to cut snow into upright, freezer-sized blocks that can be skidded off building roofs. In this work, a snowblower is a useless toy. PHOTO BY JEFF VANUGA

Grizzlies are still common here. When Angela and I moved in, hundreds of nails had been driven through the back door so the protruding points would tear a bear's paws if it attempted to claw its way inside. I witnessed this defense first-hand on October 5 during our second winter.

Angela, eight months pregnant, our young daughter Emma, and I were enjoying a dinner of elk stew when we heard a commotion at the small kitchen window. A huge, pig-eyed grizzly head intruded into the room.

My family fled the kitchen while I advanced to shoo the bear away, a difficult task since this occurred years before pepper spray was available. I first tried an ancient .22 pistol (would not fire); considered shooting a 12-gauge shotgun over the bear's head (damage to kitchen wall too significant). I made a long pole with two prongs wired to an electrical outlet, the idea: shock the bear while it was stuck in the window (not sure this was a good idea). Later, I tried ammonia-filled balloons (no noticeable effect on the bear). I joined the family and we bailed out a window.

I radioed the ranger at Yellowstone Lake. The bear was trapped and released 40 miles northeast of Canyon, but two nights later it was back trying to claw its way through the walls. Trapped again, she proved to be an elderly, underweight female unlikely to survive the winter. Ultimately she was euthanized.

Things have changed in the 42 years I've lived here and I'm now one of two winterkeepers left in the park. In summer 2014, Canyon was open 111 days. In the 1970s, the season was 70 days long and otherwise quiet, rarely visited. The surrounding region had far fewer people than now and highways to the park were slow. Cars were less capable.

Salt Lake City International Airport is now only six hours away by rental car and regional towns have become cities. Big Sky is a world-class destination and the tiny Bozeman airport of the early 70s has grown exponentially.

Bozeman was a provincial town where local cowboys would give you a haircut if you needed one and Budweiser and Velveeta were the closest to wine and cheese options, even within the cloistered university.

My winter life, while still challenging, is easier. Long ago, I wanted to live at the top of a mountain but have access to the Library of Congress. Now, with my Internet satellite dish, I have that connection.

Progress comes at a cost. Civilization has come to my doorstep and I now live in a box that grows ever smaller. Sometimes I wish the world was going in reverse, that “civilization” was in retreat rather than busy incorporating the last fragments of the wild and of the independent, self-reliant life I enjoyed for such a long time.

But I tasted the old wilder Yellowstone. And still I cherish the good fortune of living here.

This article originally appeared in the Winter 2015 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine.