

Explore

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

FREE

Big Sky

Nov. 24 - Dec. 10, 2015
Volume 6 // Issue #24

Gift and Gear Guide

Top picks this holiday season

BSSD looks to upgrade academics

Big Sky Resort opens Thanksgiving Day

Profile

David Poole: The new face of adaptive sports



OUTLAW
PARTNERS

explorebigsky.com

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Gift & Gear Guide

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BIG SKY RESORT OPENS THANKSGIVING DAY

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.



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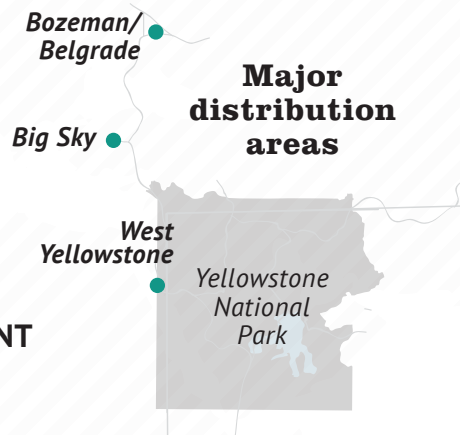
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“Commitment is what transforms a promise into reality.”

- Abraham Lincoln



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.



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180 THOMAS MORAN DRIVE - BIG EZ ESTATES
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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.



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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!

MARTHA JOHNSON
Owner | Broker

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NEWS IN BRIEF

BY EBS STAFF



BSSD students to participate in global technology week

The Big Sky School District will be participating Dec. 7-10 in a worldwide learning event called Hour of Code.

In celebration of Computer Science Week, from Dec. 7-13, the nonprofit code.org is hoping tens of millions of students will take a one-hour introduction to computer science, according to the website. Last year even President Obama got involved, writing his first line of code during the campaign.

Ophir Elementary fourth grade teacher Jeremy Harder has seen firsthand how his students are empowered by devices, as part of the district's 1:1 technology program that rolled out last school year.

"I'm seeing kids that historically had difficulty turning assignments in on time, are now turning them in every week, on time," said Harder, noting these skills are great for career readiness and all apps and extensions are written with code.

"Some students are able to write code and create their own little math game," he said. "Hour of Code is a great model to take very elementary, basic coding and see ... something happening digitally."

Rotary Club accepting 'Santa letters' for annual giving tree

ROTARY CLUB OF BIG SKY

The holidays can be a challenging time for some families and the Rotary Club of Big Sky is currently accepting "Santa letters" from those in need of providing presents for their children and Christmas dinners for their families.

Santa letter forms are available at First Security Bank, American Bank, Big Sky Western Bank, Big Sky Food Bank and the Country Market. Fill out the confidential forms and return them in the provided self-addressed stamped envelope.

Rotary Club of Big Sky will collect the letters and decorate the Christmas Giving Tree, located in the Big Sky Post Office lobby, with each child's wish for a gift. Community members are encouraged to fulfill those wishes.

Wrapped gifts, along with a Christmas dinner basket, will be delivered on the evening of Dec. 18.

Gallatin County limits plastic recycling

The Gallatin County Solid Management Waste District voted unanimously on Nov. 18 to stop accepting plastics numbered 3-7 in its recycling bins, as first reported by the Bozeman Daily Chronicle.

Plastics marked No. 1 and 2 will now be the only types accepted at the 17 recycling drop-off sites in the county. These plastics that are still accepted account for approximately 80 percent of the county's recycled waste and market factors drove the decision to send the rest of the district's plastic to the landfill.

"Most plastics are shipped to mills overseas where there is a market for these materials," wrote Robert Pudner in an email obtained by EBS. Pudner is the outreach educator for the Gallatin County Solid Management Waste District.

"However, recent changes to import regulations in these countries have destroyed the demand for plastics 3-7 from the U.S.," Pudner wrote, noting there are many decisions consumers can make to limit plastic packaging use, including buying in bulk and avoiding single-use containers.

Big Sky Resort opens Thanksgiving Day

The National Weather Service issued a Winter Storm Watch from Nov. 24-25, as of EBS press time Nov. 22. The forecast could mean big news for Big Sky Resort, set to run chairlifts, officially, to start the 2015-2016 ski season on Thanksgiving Day.

With a 30-plus inch base blanketing the upper slopes of Lone Mountain, opening day looks promising, but what opens will "depend on the timing and intensity of this storm," according to Big Sky Resort Ski Patrol Director Bob Dixon.

Due to an early November storm, Big Sky opened for one day on Nov. 7, to throngs of skiers and snowboarders eager to track down snow on Mr. K and Upper Morningstar, accessed by the Swift Current, Explorer and Lone Peak Triple chairlifts, respectively.

Whether the coming storm drops a foot of snow as predicted or not, Big Sky Resort Public Relations Manager Sheila D'Amico says the resort is ready for another successful winter.

"We're excited to jump into a new winter season after the fun early-open day we had at the beginning of November," D'Amico said. "Mother Nature has blessed us with some great storms, giving us a strong opening day."

Dubbed the "Biggest Skiing in America," Big Sky Resort boasts more than 5,800 acres and 300 named runs sprawling across four connected mountains. The resort has a vertical drop of 4,350 feet.



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News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

Outlaw hires new staff writer

BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR
EBS MANAGING EDITOR

BIG SKY – Outlaw Partners welcomed its newest Outlaw to the team on Nov. 16. Amanda Eggert, hired as staff writer, will perform reporting and editing duties for the Explore Big Sky newspaper, annual Explore Yellowstone magazine, and biannual Mountain Outlaw magazine.

Eggert earned a print journalism degree from University of Montana’s School of Journalism in 2009, though she wasn’t sure of the major at first.

“I definitely considered going with photojournalism,” Eggert said. “But with print you really get to engage with the people you’re writing about. All my family members will tell you that I ask questions all the time.”

From October 2014 through April 2015, Eggert honed her journalism skills during a fellowship with Outside magazine at the publication’s Santa Fe headquarters. She wrote “News from the Field” for Outside’s same-day online publication, fact-checked articles, and received guidance under some top journalists in the business.

“I was very lucky to work with some talented writers and very talented editors [at Outside],” Eggert said. “They put out some really high-quality reporting.”

Eggert, who turned 30 on Nov. 19 along with her twin sister, Tanya, grew up outside Billings in the small town of Huntley, Mont. Each year since they were 5 years old, the twins and their older sister Chandra, held season ski passes at Red Lodge Mountain. The experience solidified a love for the outdoors that she’s carried with her through high school, college and beyond.

A raft guide for six years, Eggert took a year off between her freshman and sophomore years to guide canoe trips on the Whangunui River in central New Zealand, where she lived for eight months. She was a ski

instructor for two seasons at Snowbowl in Missoula during college, and after graduation volunteered with Eagle Mount in Bridger and Big Sky.

Eggert also spent four seasons fighting wildfire and says the skills she learned on these crews will lend themselves to her new position with Outlaw.



Outlaw's new Staff Writer, Amanda Eggert, ready to roll up her sleeves.
PHOTO BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR

“Something I really appreciate that I still carry with me is a profound appreciation for situational awareness – being aware of my surroundings,” she said. “Situations in fire can change really quickly, and you have to be adaptable and be really comfortable thinking on your feet.”

Eggert says her broad range of interests will bode well for her as Outlaw’s new staff writer, allowing her to engage with community members in the political arena or in the recreation industry.

Aside from general reporting duties in Big Sky, Eggert says she looks forward to rafting the Gallatin River and exploring Beehive Basin.

“Big Sky has a really vibrant community,” she said. “Outlaw does a fantastic job of spreading the word about the great things that happen [here], and the great things people from Big Sky are doing around the world.”

Winter Mountain Outlaw magazine drops in December

Outlaw Partners will be releasing its winter 2015-2016 issue of Mountain Outlaw magazine on Friday, Dec. 4, and the excitement in our Big Sky Town Center office is palpable. This 11th edition of our glossy, biannual magazine might be the best yet, though we’ll let our readership be the judge.

From the front of the book to the back, this latest effort is full of striking imagery and captivating stories.

Contributors to our Outbound Gallery were asked to submit photographs interpreting the poem “Traveler” by former Montana Poet Laureate Tami Haaland. John S. Adams, an award-winning investigative journalist, explores the use of solitary confinement in the Montana State Prison. And Bozeman writer Todd Wilkinson pens a profile of one of the world’s most renowned wildlife photographers.

Mountain Outlaw is found throughout southwest Montana, all four corners of Yellowstone National Park, and is directly mailed to readers in all 50 states.

If you’re in Big Sky on Dec. 11, stop by our Town Center office during the Big Sky Christmas Stroll. We’d be delighted if you joined us to celebrate the new issue, and let us know your thoughts. – Tyler Allen



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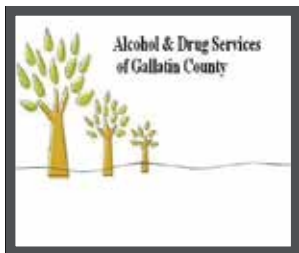
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What are you most grateful for this holiday season?



Ginny Ferguson, Big Sky, Mont.
Cashier at Roxy Market

“I’m probably most grateful to have a nice roof over my head, food in my belly, and to not be too cold.”

Follow up: Where did you move from?
“I moved from the Meadow [Village] to a place down by the [Gallatin] River.”



Jim Cain and son Dash Big Sky, Mont.
Hot Tub Maintenance Technician at Alpha Maintenance

“I’m grateful for this little guy, that’s for sure. He’s 17 months old. I think everybody’s thankful for the early snow, too.”



Andrew Klein, Big Sky, Mont.
Lift Operator at Big Sky Resort

“I’m grateful to live with the opportunity that we all have to be in this land that’s free and full of privilege. We’re pretty much free to goof off.”

Happy
Thanksgiving.



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BSSD Students of the Month: October

As part of its Student of the Month program, the Big Sky School District honored four students in October for exemplifying inquiry.

Teachers choose two “students of the month” from kindergarten through fourth grades and two in middle and high school, recognizing them based on a different theme every month.



K-2 Student of the Month – Tucker Nowakowski, first grade

Tucker’s classmates nominated him for student of the month for his inquiring nature and the great gains he’s demonstrated this school year. Classmates appreciate his willingness to ask for help and raise his hand for clarification when needed. He is showing great promise as a responsible student and budding inquirer.



3-4 Student of the Month – Cameron Pecunies, third grade

Cameron’s recent move from Maine has really brought out his exploratory nature. Cameron is full of questions about the new things he’s experiencing in Montana and eager to track down answers. Classmates appreciate his willingness to share what he has learned both in and out of school, and Cameron is an inspiring example of an explorer who is always finding something new that intrigues him.



Ophir Middle School Student of the Month – Hudson Bassett, seventh grade

Science is a subject that lends itself to inquiry, a quality Hunter exemplifies as a student always seeking to understand why things work the way they do. He puts his investigatory nature to work in science class, where he asks analytical questions about results and process. Hunter demonstrates tremendous excitement for lab experiments he does with his peers.



Lone Peak High School Student of the Month – Myles Wilson, ninth grade

Myles openly seeks knowledge and tenaciously pursues the topics of his interest. He won’t quit until he’s satisfied he fully understands the subject of his inquiry. Classmates and teachers note how active his questioning is. Myles doesn’t just raise questions; he investigates, scrutinizes, probes, interrogates, and audits everything. Teachers appreciate his willingness to openly reach for the stars.

Big Sky Community Library News

BY KATHY HOUSE
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

I want to acknowledge everyone in the community who helped support the Scholastic Book Fair and Friends of the Library used book sale. Parents and community members, as well as students, helped set up, tear down, and work the fair, and their efforts paid off.

Close to \$900 worth of books were donated off of the teachers’ wish list and the sale netted more than \$1,200, which was a \$300 increase over last year. Funds from the annual sale go directly towards new books and materials.

The FOL used book sale brought in close to \$300 and both students and community members walked with great books to read this winter. Credit goes to the dedicated FOL volunteers who came out and helped with the sales.

These book sales truly demonstrate the importance that our community puts on reading, life-long learning, and libraries. We should all be proud of that, and the library appreciates such great community support.

Several of the books left over from the used book sale will be put into book bags to be delivered to the Big Sky Community Food Bank. Book bags for all ages will include a variety of genres and information about the library and the programs and resources available. Bags will be distributed throughout the holidays.

Hours:
Sunday 1-5 p.m.
Mon. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Story time 10:30 a.m.)
Tues. and Wed. 4-8 p.m.

American Bank CEO, former Big Sky resident dies in helicopter crash

BY JOSEPH T. O’CONNOR
EBS MANAGING EDITOR

CARLSBAD, Calif. – A former Big Sky resident and onetime honorary director of the Yellowstone Club died in a Nov. 18 helicopter crash in Southern California.

Bruce A. Erickson, 65, who was living in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., was practicing landings at McClellan-Palomar Airport in Carlsbad, Calif., when the rotor hit the ground, according to the San Diego County medical examiner.

The helicopter spun in circles uncontrollably before it exploded, killing its pilot Erickson and passenger, Cardiff-By-The-Sea resident Wayne Lewis, 60.

The crash is currently under investigation by the National Safety Transportation Board.

Erickson was the owner and CEO of five Montana-based American Bank branches, with locations in Big Sky, Bozeman, Big Timber, Whitefish and Livingston.

“Bruce had a heart of gold with boundless energy, and his devotion toward community banking was unsurmountable (sic),” American Bank representa-

tives wrote in a Nov. 19 press release. “Bruce’s zest for life elevated all those who he came in contact with. He was passionate about giving with a special concern for children and the local communities the bank serves.”

Erickson was heavily involved in Big Sky Resort’s ski team, and both his sons, Taylor and Tyler, came up through the Big Sky system. But his character spoke for itself, according to longtime Big Sky resident J.C. Knaub.

“Bruce was very benevolent; gregarious with a great sense of humor,” said Knaub, who also owns Big Sky-based Andesite Construction.

Former friend Lindie Gibson writes the online column, “Classmates Chatter,” and said she learned of Erickson’s death when a friend sent her an article reporting the death.

“He was very polite and sort of passive,” recalled Gibson, who grew up near Erickson in Livingston. “I had a crush on him when he was in eighth grade running for junior high mayor.”

Erickson was preceded in death by his first wife and high school sweetheart, Carolyn, along with his parents, Claude and Bernice Erickson.



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CAMP ARROWHEAD

\$8,350,000 | #208912 | Call Stacy or Eric

25± acre Beehive Basin compound. House, guest house, caretaker apartment. Views to Lone Mountain, Andesite and Beehive. Near Big Sky Resort and Moonlight Basin.



10 ROSE BUD LOOP

\$995,000 | #205310 | Call Stacy or Eric

Furnished, Powder Ridge Cabin w/ direct Ski In-Ski Out access: In from the Bozeman Trail and Ski Out access to the White Otter Lift. 3 levels, with 2,567± sf of livable area, 4 bd, 3 ba with a detached one car garage.



FIRELIGHT CONDO

\$220,000 | #209551 | Call Marc

Immaculately maintained, this affordable 2 bd, 2 ba condo is located close to the Big Sky Town Center and Meadow Village amenities. Gas fireplace creates cozy ambiance and the wood ceiling adds comfortable feel within.



BLACK OTTER CONDO

\$210,000 | #202413 | Call Marc

This charming 2 bd, 1 full ba condo has a wonderful central location in Big Sky, Adjacent to the Arnold Palmer designed Big Sky Golf Course, wood burning fireplace, exterior patio and access to the Silverbow pool center.

Land Listings:



TIMBERLOFT ROAD

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

120± acres sited in an alpine meadow overlooking Big Sky. Incredible views of the resort area including Lone Mountain. 3 selected home sites each on their own 40± acre parcel.



NORTHFORK ROAD

\$2,495,000 | #203688 | Call Don

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



RISING BEAR ROAD

\$925,000 | #186462 | Call Stacy or Eric

2 parcels comprising 20± acres mid mountain which can be further subdivided or not. One of the only parcels w/ subdivision potential into 6-7 additional homesites remaining in the Spur Road corridor midway between the Meadow and the Mountain.



BEAVER CREEK WEST, LOT 13

\$499,000 | #195161 | Call Don

20± acres, spectacular views, located on gentle slope, private driveway, ideal for a new home, well is drilled, short distance to NFS land/trails.



TBD BIG BUCK ROAD

\$475,000 | #209474 | Call Don

Beautiful 20± acre property with views of Lone Peak and the Spanish Peaks as well as the Gallatin Canyon. Some older growth trees are still on the property and were not harvested. A well has been drilled, great build sites!

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Obituary: Edward Whitcomb Stilwill



We wish to celebrate the extraordinary life of Edward Stilwill who recently passed on to the “Happy Hunting Ground” Nov. 15 after a prolonged struggle with metastatic prostate cancer,

throughout which he was sustained by his positive life view.

Edward is survived by his loving wife, Sally Pochter Stilwill; their two children Katherine Greer (Carter) McDonnell and Sarah Elizabeth Stilwill (John) Gannon; and his grandson William Gannon.

Edward was born in Ann Arbor, Mich., and moved with his parents to Newtonville, Mass. and New Haven, Conn. as his father completed his pediatric orthopedic residency. Edward graduated from East Lansing High School in 1968, Albion College in 1972, and Northwestern University Medical School in 1976. Edward won the Bernard Baruch medal for a National Medical School writing contest. His winning writing

focused on electron microscope neuromuscular research of paraplegic upper and lower motor neuron disease.

Edward met Sally in Chicago, married in 1976, and moved back to Ann Arbor for a radiology residency and two-year neuroradiology fellowship at the University of Michigan Hospital. He rapidly rose to the rank of associate professor of neuroradiology at the University of Michigan.

In 1981, Edward moved his family to Traverse City, Mich., where he enjoyed a neuroradiology practice with Munson Medical Center for 32 years. He felt lucky to be a physician, which he called a most “honorable profession and work worth doing.”

Edward enjoyed everything outdoors, such as hiking, skiing, hunting, and cross-country skiing. For many years, he participated in cross-country races like the American Birkebeiner and American Vasa, where he won a second place team finish in 1984.

Edward enjoyed fly fishing with his father and his family at his cabin on the Manistee River; bird hunting and skeet shooting with his best friend Pat; years of Western hunting adventures with J.R.; and hiking with his favorite hiking couples in Traverse City and Montana. Edward authored “The Making of a Sportsman” about his hunting

exploits and misadventures. Upon retirement his compass needle pointed west and southwest to refocus life in the mountains of Big Sky.

Edward raised his coffee cup every morning and wine glass every evening to the Spanish Peaks Range and said, “Thank you for another day.” He felt so lucky and incredibly grateful for his full and happy life. He will be remembered always for his incredible gifts as a mentor to his family and friends.

A celebration of Edward’s life will be held at a later date. Edward’s family would like to thank the many wonderful caregivers at the Huntsman Cancer Institute in Salt Lake City, Utah and the infusion clinic of Munson Medical Center, located in Traverse City. The family would like to recognize Dr. Kohler and Dr. Heimberger in particular.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be directed to Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation Trails or the Traverse Health Clinic in Traverse City and the Big Sky Medical Center. Donations can also be made to the Bozeman Health Foundation at 931 Highland Blvd., Bozeman, MT 59715 or the Yellowstone Association at P.O. Box 117, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190.

Please share memories with the family by visiting Edward’s tribute page at reynolds-jonkboff.com.

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The Architect’s Wife houses a curated collection of home furnishings that range from sourced luxuries to antique rarities. From rich aniline leather sofas to grand chandeliers that command a room, to delicate plates with exquisite gold trim, each item tells a story of careful craftsmanship and individuality.

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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

Support local businesses when you ‘Shop Small’

BIG SKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce is encouraging locals and visitors alike to support the Big Sky community on Saturday, Nov. 28 by shopping at local establishments for Small Business Saturday.

A nationwide event founded by American Express in 2010, Small Business Saturday in Big Sky is in its third year organized by the Big Sky chamber, and observed on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Sandwiched between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Small Business Saturday is an ideal opportunity to help stimulate the local economy and to support local businesses and neighborhood retailers by “shopping small.”

More than 30 businesses in Big Sky located in the Mountain Village, Meadow Village, Town Center, Westfork Meadows, and Gallatin Canyon will offer deals and discounts to shoppers from 8 a.m. until closing on Nov. 28. It will be one of the busiest shopping days of the year.



To promote Small Business Saturday, the Big Sky chamber has published a free shopping guide that highlights the participating local businesses, specific Small Business Saturday deals, contact information, and additional details about the event.

The guide will be available on the events calendar at bigskychamber.com, in print at the Big Sky and Greater Yellowstone Welcome Center, or at participating businesses.

The Big Sky chamber is also sponsoring a Small Business Saturday Selfie Contest that will help promote the event on social media in real time, and runs through Wednesday, Nov. 25, when a panel of judges will choose the contest winner. The grand prize is a \$250 shopping spree to use on Small Business Saturday.

To enter the contest, take a selfie in front of your favorite Big Sky location. This could be a business, restaurant, movie theater, school, or your favorite trail. Tag your photos with both #shopsmallbigsky and #visitbigsky on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.

Only one photo is allowed per location. Your social profile settings must be set to public so the Big Sky chamber can view your selfie.

Visit bigskychamber.com or call (406) 995-3000 for more information on the Small Business Saturday or the selfie contest.



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 recently underwent a strategic planning process, which is now making it’s way through focus groups in hopes of a final draft going before the board of trustees at their Dec. 8 meeting. A significant facet of this plan is the school’s educational program.

The plan will of explore and then implement a known, consistent educational program. This will integrate academics, experiential learning, critical thinking, life skills, citizenship, global awareness and service learning within the district.

The strategic planning steering committee will investigate the implementation of the International Baccalaureate program of education. The IB is a system of teaching and learning that focuses on the holistic development of each child. While the steering committee has crafted a comprehensive plan, the major topic of each focus group so far has been implementing this academic program.

One major reason the steering committee and consultant identified the IB as a possible program for the school is how well it fits with the strategic initiative. In addition, the IB provides a curriculum that challenges each student, and promotes independent problem solving and critical thinking.

Currently, the steering committee is still in an exploratory stage and has yet to make a recommendation to the board.

A major draw for the IB program is the consistency in curriculum, training and delivery of content to students – this is sustainable over time, regardless of administrator, school board and teacher turnover. The ability to articulate our education program is essential and something that’s not currently consistent.

The next focus group for the strategic plan will be Dec. 3 at 8:45 a.m. in the Lone Peak High School cafeteria. We welcome any individual or small group appointments with myself or Principal Alex Ide. I can be reached at dshipman@bssd72.org and Principal Ide can be reached at aide@bssd72.org.



bigskylibrary.org

Announcements

**Volunteers Meet
Wednesday 12/2
10AM**

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

Donations for Big Sky Medical Center top \$3 million

BOZEMAN HEALTH FOUNDATION

The Bozeman Health Foundation has received more than \$3 million in cash and in-kind support for the Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center, the 52,000-square-foot hospital on Lone Mountain Trail slated to open in early December.

Jason Smith, executive vice president of philanthropy at BHF, said that a combined pledge of \$1 million has helped BSMC meet a fund-raising challenge set by the Charles and Peggy Stephenson Family Foundation to match their \$850,000 gift to provide for a high-quality MRI unit.

The Yellowstone Club, Yellowstone Club Community Foundation, Moonlight Basin and the Spanish Peaks Mountain Club joined forces to meet the challenge. A 1.5 Tesla MRI scanner was installed in Big Sky Medical Center on Oct. 23.

In addition to closing out the MRI challenge grant, these pledges along with gifts from several other supporters will help establish the Fund for Excellence and Innovation in Big Sky Patient Care. This fund aims to ensure those who know the Big Sky community and its healthcare needs can acquire new leading edge equipment, train hospital staff in new techniques, and provide new treatments and services to patients.

“Perhaps more than in any other sector, healthcare is changing at an incredible pace and we need to stay nimble,” said BSMC Medical Director Dr. Phil Hess. “As we bring Montana’s first truly new hospital in decades to life, the [new fund] will allow us to continue to enhance services for the future and to seize opportunities that we may not even know exist yet.”

A number of community members and companies have also contributed money and in-kind donations to the project.

Loren Bough, who together with his wife Jill was among the first supporters of this new fund, expects the hospital to be a game changer for healthcare in Big Sky.

“The opening of Big Sky Medical Center will represent a transformative moment in the life of our community,” said Bough, vice president of YCCF and a newly appointed member of the



Big Sky Medical Center board of managers (from left): Renae Schumacher, Hans Williamson, Taylor Middleton, Elizabeth Lewis, Dr. Stephen Karl, Loren Bough. PHOTO BY JOSEPH T. O’CONNOR

medical center’s board of managers. “Bozeman Health has been a great partner and delivered on their initial promises to the community.”

The nonprofit community hospital located in Big Sky Town Center will feature a four-bed inpatient unit, primary care clinic, imaging center, laboratory services, retail pharmacy, outpatient medical procedure suite, and six-room emergency department. The multiphase project was designed to accommodate four additional patient beds and supplementary clinic space as needs in the community grow.



YOU HAVE AN APPOINTMENT...



**WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 9
5:00 TO 8:00 P.M.
AT BOZEMAN HEALTH
BIG SKY
MEDICAL CENTER**

Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center opens soon. But we want to see you—and you to see us—before then. So we’re hosting a special grand opening preview and celebration for our friends and associates December 9. Drop by anytime between 5:00 and 8:00 that afternoon and evening and see how we’re centered on better health for the community, from primary care to emergency services, diagnostic imaging, outpatient procedures, pharmacy and a whole lot more. Enjoy tours, conversation, refreshments, a special gift, and an all-around good time. See you there.

BSSD considers broad academic program changes

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – Focus group discussion between Big Sky School District representatives and Big Sky community members at a Nov. 17 meeting centered on the International Baccalaureate program, a rigorous k-12 academic agenda recognized by universities around the world.

BSSD administrators and board members are considering a switch to the IB program to meet many of the objectives outlined in a strategic plan draft that will help them shape the district's future.

The steering committee charged with drafting the strategic plan presented key components to a group of 40-plus parents, school board members, teachers and administrators at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. Afterward, they answered questions and solicited input from those in attendance.

While a number of issues and proposed changes were discussed at the meeting, by and large questions and commentary focused on the IB program.

"[The International Baccalaureate] does pretty much what the Big Sky community wants," said Skip Kotkins of the education-consulting firm Carney Sandoe and Associates, "It integrates academics, experiential international worldview, and 21st century skills – not just learning math times tables and learning how to spell, but critical thinking and problem solving."

This fall, Kotkins extrapolated data from 731 survey responses and meetings with more than 150 Big Sky community members into a document the steering committee is using to shape BSSD's strategic plan. Big Sky principal Alex Ide said the district's last such plan was drafted seven years ago, and to his knowledge had not been updated since.

Two things about the process stood out to Kotkins, he said: the high level of community participation, and a "great deal of consistency" in terms of what Big Sky envisions for its school system.

Superintendent Dustin Shipman said an IB diploma could effectively replace the first year of college by granting its recipient college-

level credits and admission into a second year honors program at Montana State University, for example.

Although all students might not elect to take the challenging test for an IB diploma, they all stand to benefit from IB's learning model, said school board chair, Loren Bough.

If the IB program is adopted, all graduating seniors would receive Lone Peak High School diplomas, but would have the option of earning an IB diploma as well.

Language arts teacher Patty Hamblin and second grade teacher Brittany Shirley recently visited two of the state's four school systems with an IB program in place. They came away from their Missoula visit in strong support of the plan.

"The more we learn about [the IB], the more excited we get about it," said Hamblin. "This is something that encompasses everything we want to be. We have administrators that have experience in this, it's going to make us better professionals, [and] the kids are going to be more engaged. I mean why wouldn't we go down this road?"

Principal Alex Ide said he believes the IB program holds strong appeal for students, parents, and teachers, and both he and Shipman have worked with it before. "It's really an opportunity for us to recruit students, to recruit teachers, to retain teachers," Ide said.

While many parents expressed interest in the program, a number of concerns emerged. Several parents said they want assurance the

transition will be smooth if the program is adopted, especially given the changes the district has undergone the past two years.

Others were concerned about grades and the impact of higher academic standards on students who struggle academically. Shipman said support systems would be in place to give the program the best-possible start and address individual student needs.

Timing-wise, Shipman said in the best-case scenario, this year's ninth graders would have the option to graduate with an IB diploma.

Other items touched on during the meeting included uniform enforcement of attendance policies; the stretched-thin student advising and counseling services; accommodations for a growing number of second language English learners; and streamlined communication between administrators and community members.

The eight-person steering committee will meet at the end of November to discuss the input they received from Nov. 17 community focus group and the Nov. 18 school board focus group.

The committee will make changes to the draft and present it to the board, which will have final approval. Ultimately, the goal is to turn the plan into something with "action steps, outcomes, and accountability strands," Shipman said.

A draft of the plan is available on BSSD's website bssd72.org



Forty-plus community members consider changes to BSSD's academic program on Nov. 17, at one of several focus groups BSSD administrators are holding as they re-imagine the district's future. PHOTO BY AMANDA EGGERT

‘Three Cups of Tea’ author Mortenson to retire from charity

BY MATT VOLZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA, Mont. (AP) – “Three Cups of Tea” author Greg Mortenson, who has spent four years weathering accusations that his best-selling book contained fabrications and that he mismanaged the charity he co-founded, will retire in January, Central Asia Institute officials said.

The announcement comes as the Bozeman, Mont.-based charity works to turn around five years of declining donations and refocus its mission from building schools in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Tajikistan. Mortenson co-founded the nonprofit organization in 1996.

It was Mortenson’s decision to retire as a CAI employee and to resign his position as a non-voting member of its board, chairman Steve Bennett and executive director Jim Thaden said Thursday.

“He’s traveled overseas extensively for 20 years,” Barrett said. “It’s time for him to give himself a rest, make time for his family and do other things.”

Mortenson was traveling Thursday and did not immediately respond to a request for comment. He said in a 2014 interview with the Associated Press that he would leave the organization if he were ever a liability, but Thaden and Barrett insisted that was not the reason for his resignation.

“It’s a good place. It’s 20 years, and there’s a certain resonance with 20 years,” Barrett said.

In 2011, “60 Minutes” and author Jon Krakauer, who wrote the nonfiction bestseller “Into the Wild,” broadcast and published reports that Mortenson had made up many of the events in “Three Cups of Tea,” which told the story of how Mortenson decided to build schools in Pakistan after becoming lost during a mountaineering expedition.

The reports also accused Mortenson of using the charity to enrich himself and promote his books without sharing the royalties or speaking fees, leading to an investigation by the Montana attorney general’s office.

A 2012 settlement restructured CAI, removed Mortenson as a voting board member, and stripped him of any financial oversight. Since then, he has continued to be a full-time employee of Central Asia Institute, earning nearly \$194,000 last year in salary and benefits.

Mortenson plans to continue to support girls’ education, to write more and to focus on issues such as infant mortality, child marriage and violence against women, Central Asia Institute officials said. He

agreed to consult with the charity for its overseas programs occasionally, Barrett and Thaden added.

“If a circumstance arises where we think it will be valuable to work with him, we will call him and see if he is available,” Barrett said.

Following the accusations against Mortenson, contributions to CAI have plummeted from \$22.8 million in 2010 to \$2.2 million in 2014. Its total assets have dropped from \$25.7 million in 2011 to \$18.7 million last year.

It’s a good place. It’s 20 years, and there’s a certain resonance with 20 years

Thaden said donations have increased this year and the organization has shifted its mission from building schools to developmental programs geared toward vocational training, university assistance and ensuring girls complete high school. Barrett added that CAI is in a good place after a difficult period.

“We’re focusing on the future, not on the past, and we’re making tremendous efforts,” he said.

Some of Mortenson’s harshest critics had mixed reactions to his planned resignation. CharityWatch president Daniel Borochoff said it was a step in the right direction but that it is important for CAI to replace him with somebody who is an expert or an authority in international education.

Krakauer called the resignation a positive development that is more than four years overdue, but he questioned the group’s decision to keep Mortenson as a consultant.

“I am concerned CAI apparently does not intend to sever all ties with Mortenson, which suggests that the board still doesn’t comprehend the harm Mortenson has done,” Krakauer said in an email to the AP.

Greg Mortenson’s bestselling book “Three Cups of Tea” came under intense scrutiny after “60 Minutes,” author Jon Krakauer, and people in the book said some of the stories were fabricated.

Here’s a look at some of those stories, what is disputed, and Mortenson’s response in a 2014 interview with the AP:

MORTENSON’S DESCENT FROM K2

“Three Cups of Tea”: Mortenson stumbled upon the Pakistani village of Korphe in fall 1993 after trekking from the base camp of K2, the world’s second-highest peak. He spent days in the village recovering from the descent.

The dispute: Mortenson could not have wandered to Korphe on that trip because it is on the opposite side of the Braldu River. Krakauer says no bridge existed where Mortenson supposedly crossed the river. Krakauer says he interviewed a climber and others who confirmed a bridge was at that location before and after that period, but not at the time Mortenson was there.

Mortenson’s response: He insists he went to Korphe over a narrow footbridge and disputes Krakauer’s assertions to the contrary. Mortenson has acknowledged that he spent only a few hours there, not days as was depicted in the book.

MORTENSON’S PROMISE TO BUILD A SCHOOL

“Three Cups of Tea”: Mortenson promised the villagers of Korphe that he would build them a school after they nursed him back to health. That promise forever changed his life, and he dedicated himself to building schools in Central Asia.

The dispute: Mortenson never went to Korphe, so he couldn’t have promised to build them a school, Krakauer said. However, he did promise the villagers of Khane to the southeast that he would build them a school, but he reneged on that promise and instead built it in Korphe. A fundraising plea written by Mortenson in 1994 backs up the claim that he wanted to build the school in Khane, and it makes no mention of Korphe.

Mortenson’s response: He now says he visited both Korphe and Khane villages during that 1993 trip and promised the residents of both that he would build schools for them. He says he planned to first build the Khane school but then switched to Korphe after finding a lack of local support and corruption in Khane.

MORTENSON’S KIDNAPPING

“Three Cups of Tea”: Mortenson was kidnapped and held hostage by militants in the remote Pakistani region of Waziristan. They took his passport and money, kept him under armed guard and monitored his every movement. He won his freedom after asking for a Quran and telling his captors that his wife was expecting a child.

The dispute: People who were there described Mortenson as a guest in Waziristan, not a hostage. A photo shows him with his supposed captors, with Mortenson brandishing an AK-47.

Mortenson’s response: He stands by his story, though he says he regrets the unflattering descriptions of his captors in “Three Cups of Tea.”

Montana is latest state to reform campaign finance rules

BY MATT VOLZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – Montana is the latest state to overhaul its campaign-finance rules in an attempt to cast out dark money after the U.S. Supreme Court allowed corporations to spend unlimited amounts in elections.

The architect of the changes in Montana said the new rules will create a high level of transparency in the state with a history of election corruption, and will be effective because of Montana’s relatively small population of 1 million people.

“You can put a lightbulb in a big cave and not see very far,” Montana Commissioner of Political Practices Jonathan Motl said. “In Montana, you’re going to see a lot of corners.”

The changes – expected to be adopted in late November – will require more organizations to disclose their donors and spending, add restrictions to coordination between candidates and outside organizations, and require candidates to file same-day electronic disclosures of their contributions.

Some people aren’t convinced the reforms will live up to the promises. Paul Ryan, deputy executive director of the nonprofit Campaign Legal Center in Washington, D.C., called Montana’s efforts a squandered opportunity.

“I don’t believe Montana’s new disclosure law will in any way solve the dark money problem,” Ryan said on Nov. 18.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court in 2012 applied its Citizens United ruling to state elections, individual states have been rewriting their campaign laws to require greater disclosure from the corporations and organizations that are now allowed to make independent expenditures.

Such expenditures involve money spent to influence an election without coordination with a candidate’s campaign.

Similar efforts have failed at the federal level, with Congress rejecting legislation that would have required groups registered with the IRS as 501(4) social welfare organizations to disclose their donors.

The Supreme Court’s 2012 ruling on state elections tossed out a century-old Montana law that was crafted in the days of the Copper Kings to fight rampant corruption and election-buying. In the wake of that decision, nine legislative candidates were accused of illegally coordinating with and accepting contributions from a conservative 501(4) organization.

The 2012 ruling led to the Montana Legislature passing the Disclose Act earlier this year, aiming to make election campaigns more transparent. Motl has since spent months overhauling the state’s campaign rules to comply with the new law, with a final version to be adopted for the 2016 primary elections.

Motl said the overhaul will set a level of transparency that is among the highest in the nation. Ryan disagreed.

“For everyone who thought it would fix the dark money problem, I predict they will be disappointed,” Ryan said.

A main problem, as Ryan sees it, is the test used to determine whether an organization is a committee required to disclose its donors and spending. The Montana test requires the commissioner to determine whether “the primary purpose” of an organization is to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues.

That is a slight change from an earlier version that used the broader term “a primary purpose,” but it narrows the disclosure test enough to create a loophole for 501(c)(4) organizations that don’t want to reveal their donors, Ryan said.

Montana’s new candidate coordination limits also lack a ban preventing candidates from fundraising for outside groups, Ryan said.

California, which is often used as an example of strong transparency laws, presumes an outside organization is coordinating with a candidate if they share consultants or staffers, or if the candidate or the candidate’s family members appear at a fundraiser.

“I would definitely say we are leaders in this area,” said Jodi Remke, chairwoman of California’s Fair Political Practices Commission. “That’s mainly because we’ve been dealing with this longer, so we had a chance to get ahead of it.”

Anthony Johnstone, a University of Montana law professor who specializes in constitutional and election law, said Montana’s overhaul could have gone further but, overall, it’s an improvement.

It adopts innovative responses to problems Montana has seen since Citizens United, such as defining what election activity must be reported and disclosure requirements for ads released within 60 days of an election, Johnstone said.

“This is a Citizens United-era law,” he said. “It may not be the absolute best one, but it addresses the problems we’ve seen in Montana since Citizens United.”

State begins review of criminal justice system, seeks cuts

BY AMY BETH HANSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – The state of Montana is reviewing its criminal justice system with the goal of reducing spending and lowering recidivism rates while improving public safety.

State officials say despite a general decline in the crime and arrest rates between 2008 and 2014, the state prison population and corrections spending have increased.

“A thorough examination of our criminal justice system is long overdue,” Gov. Steve Bullock said Wednesday. “We must determine what is driving the growth in our prison population. We’re at a pivotal moment as our prison population nears capacity, and we must take a proactive and collaborative approach to establishing a more effective system that bolsters public safety.”

The state’s total crime rate decreased by 7 percent from 2008 to 2014, while the prison population increased by 7 percent. Total corrections spending over that same period of time has increased 16 percent, from \$157 million to \$182 million, officials said.

Bullock, Sen. Cynthia Wolken of Missoula and District Judge Ingrid Gustafson of Billings announced the start of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative in Montana. The Justice Center of The Council of State Governments along with the state Commission on Sentencing will examine the state’s crime and arrest trends, sentencing laws, types of supervision and the effectiveness of its rehabilitation programs and recommend improvements.

“We’re eager to get to work exploring potential changes in our criminal justice system and how we can reinvest in programs that are proven to work,” said Wolken, chair of the 15-member commission. “Everything’s on the table,” she said, including possible sentencing reductions.

The commission – which includes members from the legislative and judicial branches along with the governor’s administration – will recommend legislation based on the results of the study.

We’re at a pivotal moment as our prison population nears capacity, and we must take a proactive and collaborative approach to establishing a more effective system that bolsters public safety

The CSG Justice Center is a national nonprofit organization that has conducted the Justice Reinvestment program in 21 other states. It will seek input from judges, prosecutors, public defenders, probation officers, parole board members, law enforcement officers and victim advocates, officials said.

Carl Reynolds, the senior legal and policy adviser to CSG’s Justice Center, said he’s impressed with Montana’s drug courts and that offenders can be sentenced to the Department of Corrections, which determines the best placement in an array of options from probation to pre-release to treatment programs to prison. But he said 85 percent of people on parole or probation are violating the terms of their release and the state needs find a way to make its supervision more effective.

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Section 2:
SPORTS, HEALTH, DINING,
AND BUSINESS



Bobcats end disappointing season with big loss to Griz

BY COLTER NUANEZ
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – For most of the season, it seemed like the Montana State Bobcats were chasing.

MSU entered the 2015 season with high expectations after last fall’s playoff appearance and a large contingent of returning players. Big Sky Conference coaches voted Montana State the preseason favorite to win the conference.

But an underperforming defense, an offense that failed to capitalize on opportunities, and a slew of misfortune led to the first losing season at Montana State since 2001. Following a 54-35 loss to bitter rival Montana on Nov. 21, the Bobcats close the 2015 campaign at 5-6 overall and 3-5 in Big Sky play. MSU’s streak of winning seasons snaps at 13, the longest in the conference.

Montana State fell behind 28-7 in the first quarter before rallying in a 55-50 loss to Eastern Washington; they were behind 42-14 before another rally fell short in a 49-41 loss at Northern Arizona; they also fell behind 35-21 at Portland State and could not come back in a 59-42 loss.



The Montana Grizzlies celebrate their 54-35 win over Montana State on Nov. 17, earning them the coveted Great Divide Trophy. PHOTOS BY THERSA DA SILVA

And the Bobcats gave up 31 straight points to Montana before rallying to cut the Griz lead to nine in the fourth quarter, only to lose to their arch rivals for the third straight time.

“It has been exhausting,” Montana State Head Coach Rob Ash said following his seventh loss to Montana in nine tries. “We just can’t put ourselves in those situations. The games we won this year were the games where we got out ahead and were able to sustain ourselves as a leading team.”

Montana State was at its best this fall when they bolted out of the starting gates, like jumping to a 21-0 lead in a 45-28 win over No. 20 Cal Poly – in retrospect Montana State’s best win this season. The Bobcats built an early 21-10 lead in a 35-13 win over Sacramento State, and MSU scored 34 unanswered points to bury Idaho State early in a 44-20 win.

On Nov. 21, Montana forced four straight turnovers and converted each one into quick touchdowns to turn a game in which Montana State led 7-0 into a 31-7 Griz advantage midway through the first half. The UM lead swelled to 37-14 by halftime as Brady Gustafson threw three of his four touchdowns in the first two quarters.

Early in the second half, MSU senior Trace Timmer snared an interception and Montana State converted the short field into a touchdown cutting the lead to 37-22. Montana’s next drive was extended by a phantom “roughing the punter” call as UM’s lead swelled again, to 44-22.

Dakota Prukop threw touchdown passes to Brandon Brown and Beau Sandland to begin the fourth quarter as MSU cut the Griz lead to 44-35 with nine minutes to play. But Gustafson’s third touchdown pass to Jamaal Jones and fourth overall sewed up a fifth straight win in Bozeman for the Grizzlies.



Bobcats' wide receiver Jayshawn Gates scampers through the Grizzly defense during a losing effort in Bozeman.

Continued on pg. 18

Continued from pg. 17

“I told them I loved them and that I really appreciate their effort because we battled back. We were behind so often, so much this year and we never, ever quit in a game,” Ash said.

For Ash, the losing season is the first since 2002 and only his fourth in a 36-year head-coaching career that includes stops at Division III Juanita and Drake before coming to Montana State in 2007. Before addressing the media following the loss to Montana, Ash said he would not talk about his future or that of the program because he wanted all the focus to be on the game, specifically the 17 seniors the Bobcats said goodbye to that afternoon.

“It’s been a tough season,” Ash said. “We had high expectations and we have a really good bunch of guys. I just feel terrible for the seniors on this team who have worked so hard and it just didn’t work out.”

Colter Nuanez is the creative director and senior writer for “Skyline Sports” (skylinesportsmt.com), an online newsgathering 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.



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EYE ON THE BALL

Should the NFL playoff structure change?



BY BRANDON NILES
EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

We're past the midway mark of the NFL season, which means the playoff picture is beginning to come into focus.

We know that the New England Patriots are not ready to relinquish their defending champion status; the Arizona Cardinals look like one of the best teams in the NFC; and the Carolina Panthers are looking formidable with their undefeated start to the season.

But what about the divisions that are lacking a clear-cut champion? This time of year not only breeds anticipation for the postseason, but also the annual debate about the playoff structure in the NFL, and whether it needs to be changed.

As of EBS press time on Nov. 22, no team in the AFC South had a winning record. The Indianapolis Colts and the Houston Texans share the division lead, despite the Texans being widely considered one of the worst teams in football this season.

Should a team like the Colts or Texans make the playoffs, while a better team in a more competitive division is left out?

In pro football, there are two conferences with four divisions each. The winner of each division makes the playoffs, and two wildcard teams from each conference also get in based on their record.

This format is good for teams that win their divisions. But for other franchises, jockeying for a final wildcard spot can be frustrating while teams in less competitive divisions get into the playoffs automatically.

This isn't a new complaint either. It comes up every couple of seasons. The Panthers made the playoffs last year with a losing record, as did the Seattle

Seahawks in 2010, and each time it happens sports pundits around the country start to whine about the format.

My response to this is always the same: Settle down. Parity in the NFL creates this "problem," since teams can improve or regress dramatically in just one offseason. Meanwhile, divisional breakdowns in professional sports foster long-term rivalries between teams, making the sport more exciting for fans.

And the phrase "on any given Sunday" isn't just a cliché. In the NFL, anything can happen. In Week 10 alone, the Detroit Lions beat the heavily favored Green Bay Packers, and the lowly Texans beat the previously undefeated Cincinnati Bengals.

Anything is possible, and the NFL's one-and-done playoff system only enhances that possibility. If a team that doesn't "deserve" to be in the playoffs does well in the postseason, it only enhances the intrigue.

Last year's Panthers team and the 2010 Seahawks both won their first playoff games against teams with better regular season records. And in 2011, the New York Giants beat the heavily favored Patriots in Super Bowl XLVI, after winning the NFC East with a 9-7 regular season record.

We've become so reactionary in the sports world – just look to some of the extremely short coaching tenures for evidence. The NFL is wildly successful and making record profits. Let's not overreact by changing the entire competitive system just because a team with an inferior record makes the postseason every couple of years.

Besides, if you're a frustrated fan of a team on the wildcard borderline, there's a tried-and-true way to make the postseason: Win the division.

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.

Big Sky Resort and the Sons of American Legion Post 99 invite you in honoring the 10th Mountain Division on Military Appreciation Weekend: December 11 and 12

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- Live skype interview by 10th mountain veteran Ralph Harder and Slideshow presentation (Sat 11am)
- Flag handout and all-ski down Mr. K (Sat 12pm)

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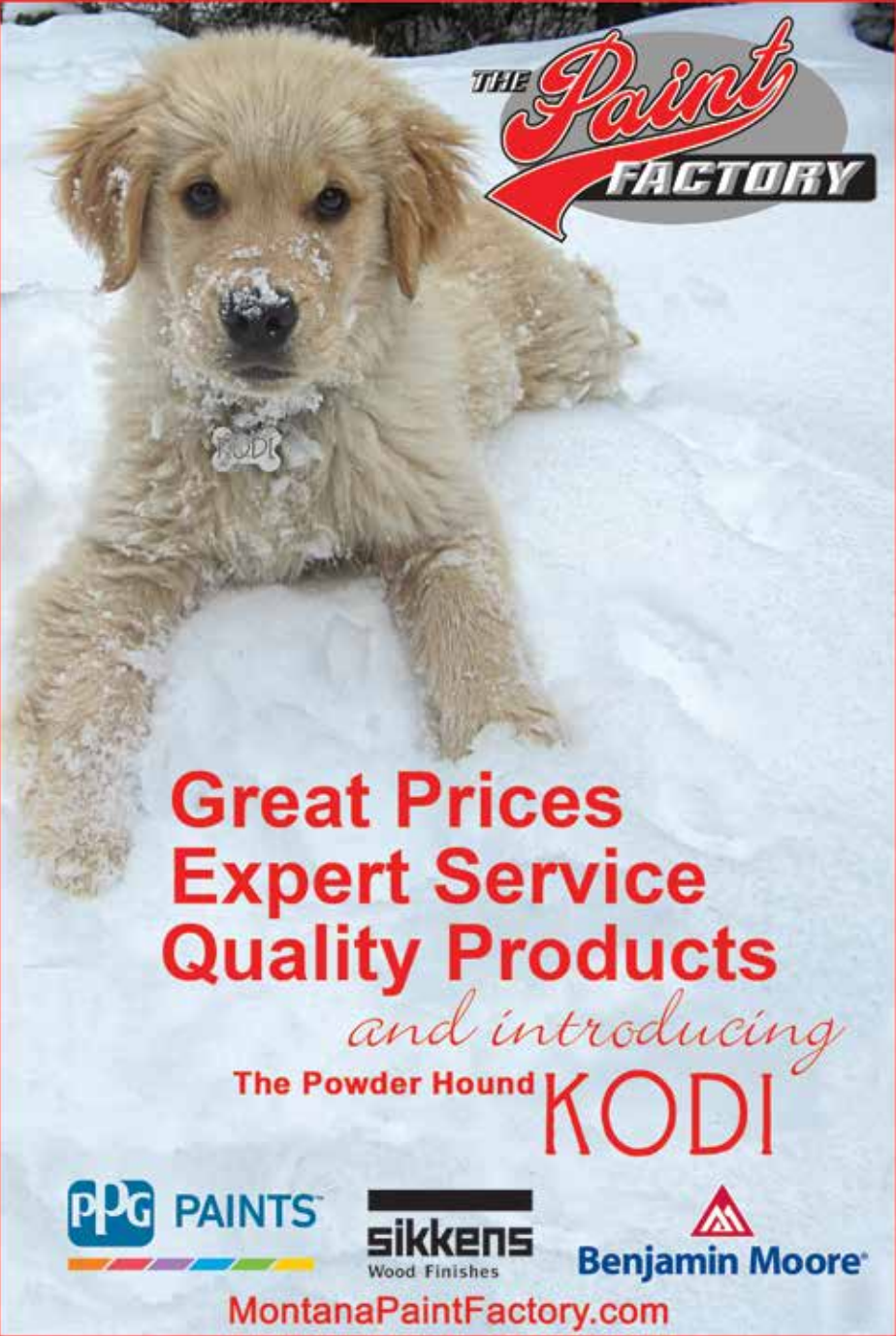
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Four keys of efficiency and effectiveness



BY JOHANNE BOUCHARD
EBS BUSINESS COLUMNIST

The holiday season is upon us and I'm already hearing people anticipate being stressed and overwhelmed. For many, the reality of juggling so much in so little time while meeting expectations is daunting.

It doesn't have to be this complicated. The key is to prioritize "must haves" versus "nice to haves" – things that aren't essential and could drive up costs –and to focus on being as efficient and effective as possible. And remember efficiency and effectiveness are not mutually exclusive.

Regardless of the season, it pays dividends to constantly review how efficient and effective your teams and organizations are. I always remind myself of four key factors: resources, time, quality and completeness.

While keeping these in mind, I can assess if my goals have been achieved; if I underestimated the tasks at hand; and how well my team accomplished our goals, or unduly stretched ourselves. Were we as efficient and effective as we could have been?

Here are examples of how to apply these four key factors:

Resources: Given your resources, what can you truly achieve within your budget? Have the right people for getting the job done, and people who are effective in their roles.

Time: Given the time available, are you stretching your resources or struggling to meet deadlines, or constantly burning the midnight oil? Hire people with the right skills, experience and know how to be efficient.

Quality: Have you thoroughly achieved the quality standards you've instilled, or did you allow for flaws, hoping they wouldn't be revealed in the final deliverables, product or customer service? Don't jeopardize the quality of the outcome or let your team perform with lesser standards of quality.

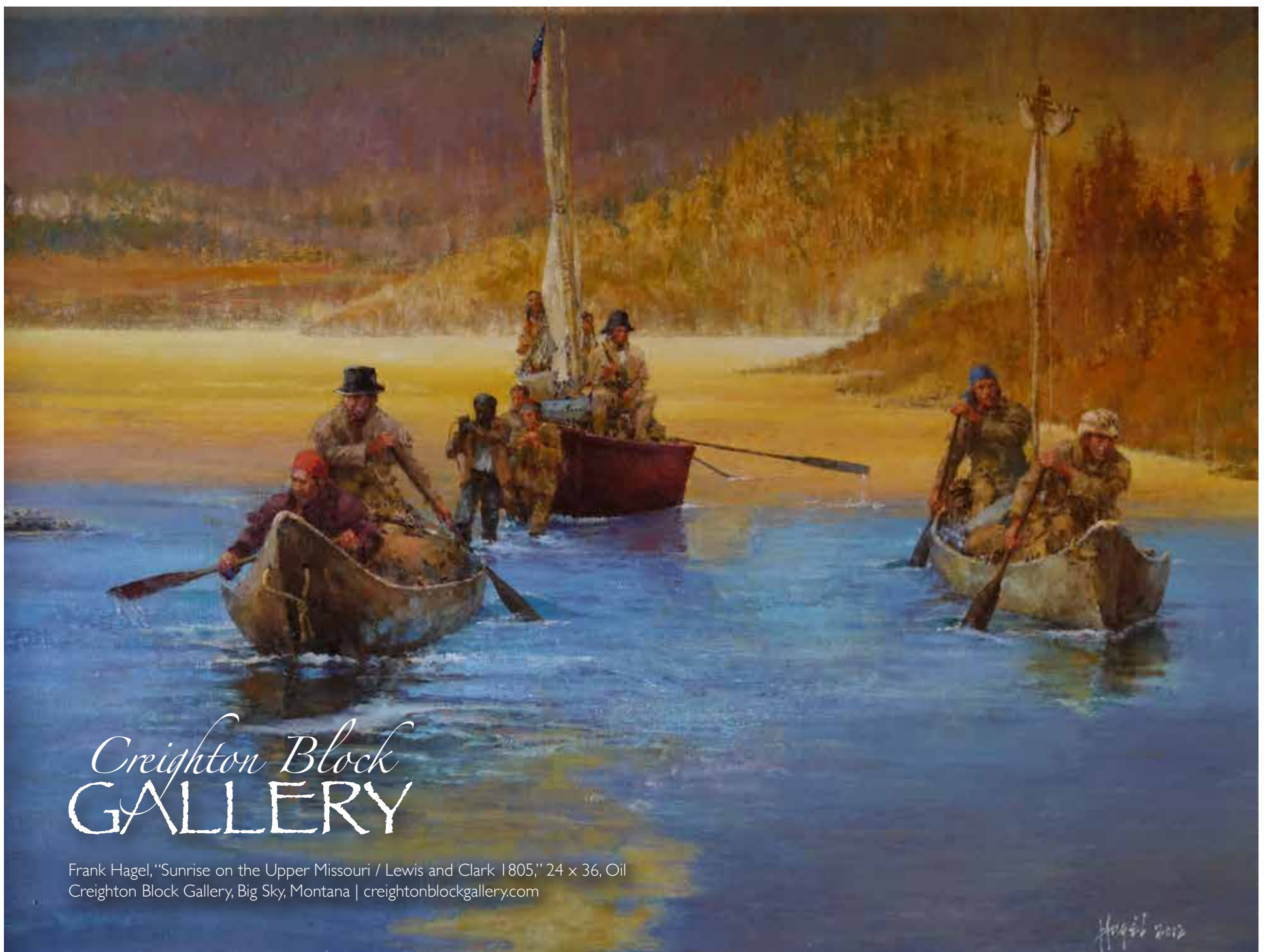
Completeness: Given the expectations of thoroughly and meticulously achieving outcomes, was the level of completeness satisfactory? Don't jeopardize aspects of customer experience, and be sure to meet your customers' expectations.

In my opinion, these four factors distinguish the stellar players from the competition. Similarly, you must know if you have what it takes to achieve the bare minimum, a good enough outcome, or the optimal performance.

Step back and reflect if you have the right people in the right roles, the skills and know-how and whether you know how to delegate the resources to get things done.

Big Sky Resort's official opening day is on Thanksgiving. This is an opportune time to kick off both the ski season and the holiday season by acknowledging everyone who contributes to making Big Sky an outstanding destination every winter. Let's not underestimate the efforts people made to get it done efficiently and effectively.

Join me in expressing gratitude for the Big Sky community this holiday season. From a hearty "thank you" to anyone who helps you enjoy your time here, to a card or small gift for those who contributes to our community – let's come together to give thanks. See you on the slopes!



Creighton Block
GALLERY

Frank Hagel, "Sunrise on the Upper Missouri / Lewis and Clark 1805," 24 x 36, Oil
Creighton Block Gallery, Big Sky, Montana | creightonblockgallery.com

Big Sky’s Consignment Cabin under new ownership

CONSIGNMENT CABIN

BIG SKY - If you heard the Consignment Cabin of Big Sky was shutting its doors, you haven’t heard the whole story. Longtime Big Sky locals Kerri and Kevin Fabozzi purchased the business in September and look forward to keeping the doors open and adding their own flair to the popular second-hand store.

The Fabozzis have lived and worked for more 15 years in Big Sky, where they met and were married, and now have two children at Ophir Elementary. Establishing themselves as ski bums in Big Sky, the couple has collectively worn many hats around town. Kerri has practiced independently as a licensed massage therapist and Kevin is a performing musician.

As a side business and hobby, Kerri ran a booth at the Big Sky Farmer’s Market called Funky Junque. It specialized in the re-sale of funky flea market finds, including framed vintage ski prints, depression glass, antiques, and unique home accents. Upon hearing that Dick Schaible was closing the Cabin’s doors she was intrigued.

“I went in to ask a couple questions, and within minutes we were talking about buying the business,” Kerry said. “Within a few weeks, we were the new [and] excited owners.” The Fabozzis look forward to beginning their next chapter at the Consignment Cabin and running it as a family business.

“I grew up in a town and an era where all the stores where brick and mortar,” says Kevin, who is originally from the small town of Amsterdam, N.Y. “All the stores and restaurants were small family-run businesses, and that’s what we have now.”

The Consignment Cabin is a treasure hunter’s paradise, and since opening its doors in 2011, has hosted shoppers from around the world. The merchandise constantly changes as new inventory arrives daily. One-of-a-kind items and rare vintage pieces are mixed in with lightly used home furnishings; home accents and décor; kitchen and dining room items; artwork and clothing; and sporting goods for both adults and children.

In typical consignment fashion, designer brands are available at reasonable prices, and sales are ongoing, as prices drop according to inventory shelf life.

The Fabozzis hope to carry on a Big Sky service they believe is necessary to the community. The Consignment Cabin matches their core values of “reduce, reuse, recycle, re-purpose.”




Consignment Cabin’s owners Kerri and Kevin Fabozzi, outside of the Big Sky business they purchased in late September. PHOTO BY JULIE PINZOK


The Consignment Cabin is located in the Bighorn Shopping Center on the corner of Highway 191 and Lone Mountain Trail. Business hours are Monday through Saturday, 10am to 5 p.m. Call (406) 993-9333 for more information.


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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.

Charcuterie class: Makin’ bacon in the ‘Big D’



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

I believe in continuing my education. Sometimes that means reading a book, other times it may involve driving to Missoula for a two-day class on wine. Or it can mean flying across the country to cut up a pig.

Buck’s owner Chuck Schommer and I recently attended a charcuterie class in Dallas, Texas. You may have heard the word charcuterie before, but don’t necessarily know what it means, while some of you may be well educated in the technique. Charcuterie is the craft of curing, preserving, and fermenting meats, and usually involves pork.

Attendees were present from all over the country, including several Texas chefs from Dallas and Fort Worth, a few from Austin, one from Seattle, Wash., and one from Kalispell.

In addition, an old friend and my former food and beverage director, Ryan Tawwater – a more talented and passionate cook than many chefs I know – caught wind that Chuck and I were attending this class and enrolled last minute, driving down from Tulsa, Okla.

The art of charcuterie involves utilizing as much of the animal as possible, and Chef Brian Polcyn, our class instructor, is a master of this. Not only did he butcher a 150-pound pig in meticulous fashion but it seemed the more he cut, the more options materialized on his cutting board. To be precise, in just two short days we produced 23 pork dishes from that single pig.

As chef Polcyn pointed out, the U.S. Department of Agriculture breaks a pig down into five major cuts to maximize volume. Traditionally, chefs break them down into eight major cuts to maximize profitability.

I had never dissected an animal in such detail. In fact, there were many nuances in this process that I felt like I should know as a chef, but did not.

For example, one of the key factors in an animal’s tenderness is the stress it was exposed to before being killed. That’s why an experienced, conscientious rancher won’t slaughter livestock immediately before, during, or after a thunderstorm.

As Chef Polcyn pointed out, the visible presence of capillaries close to the skin in the hindquarter indicated a stressful final moment for our pig.

From there we raced the clock working on a legion of preparations: from hunter’s sausage to andouille; from a poached roll made from parts of the head to maple bacon; from spicy tasso ham to spuma.

The class ended on the second day with a recap lecture from Chef Polcyn, in which he discussed the formulas that would propel our charcuterie skills forward. And being an Italian chef from Detroit, he told more than a few hilarious stories as well.

I can only hope to have the same childlike enthusiasm with my newfound knowledge as Chef Polcyn has after a lifetime of his craft.

We ended the final day with lunch consisting of our many preparations. Of all the wonderful meat creations we accomplished, and in typical chef fashion, it was the simple, peasant spuma – a rendered then whipped pork fat with onions and garlic to be spread on bread – that hooked the chefs’ attention like a cartoon character floating toward a freshly baked pie in the window.

I am fortunate to be at the helm of a restaurant that promotes the growth of its team members. It’s not a common enough trait in today’s workforce.

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

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From Jackie *with love*



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

Last spring I experienced the exercise doldrums. Running wasn't getting me emotionally stimulated any longer and my body needed a break from it.

So I ventured out of my comfort zone and tried activities like ballet, yoga and forest bathing – a type of nature walk. These changes added new dimensions to my life that I hadn't anticipated, and

I'm grateful for the experiences.

Now, here we are in the late fall when weather conditions are unpredictable. This is a great time to add variety to your life by trying something out of the ordinary. Here are eight compelling reasons to begin a new routine this season.

Stay motivated: Discovering new activities can add freshness to your life while you await the right conditions for your favorite sport, or if you simply need a change of pace. It could take some trial and error, but once you find an activity, teacher or environment that gets you fired up and leaves you hungry for more, you'll be pleased you made the effort.

Promote a healthy nervous system: If you're an adrenaline junky and your go-to activity amps up your nervous system, explore practices that are calming and grounding. For example, if you compete in hockey or roller derby, relax during a gentle yoga class or a slow outdoor walk in order to help balance your hormones.

Enhance brain function: Learning new movement patterns and overcoming the challenges of starting something new stimulates your brain, enhancing memory and thinking abilities.

Variety is the spice of life

Improve coordination and balance: Changing how you use your center of gravity and creating new mind-body connections enhances your overall balance and can improve performance in your regular activities and daily life. As a runner, I find myself challenged on the yoga mat having to hold poses and getting in touch with the tiniest muscles in my feet.

Avoid repetitive-use injuries: It's often easy to list the most common injuries associated with any sport or activity. By recruiting different muscles for different movements, overused muscles, joints, ligaments and tendons get time to rest and recover.

Meet new people: Humans are social creatures, so strong connections are vital to our well-being. Making new friends in a healthy environment is good for the mind, body and spirit.

Weather conditions won't deter you: If you're anxiously waiting for your next day on the slopes, indoor classes can get off the couch. If you find your current routine keeps you indoors, now is a great time to get fresh air in your lungs and sunshine on your face.

Avoid a weight loss plateau: Our bodies become efficient when we repeat the same exercises over a prolonged period of time. This is beneficial by allowing us to go longer and harder without expending as much energy. But if weight loss is your goal, challenge yourself to adapt to new movement patterns and increase your caloric expenditure.

I hope you're inspired to try new activities out this late fall and winter. Let me know how it goes.

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

Ermine: *Mustela erminea*



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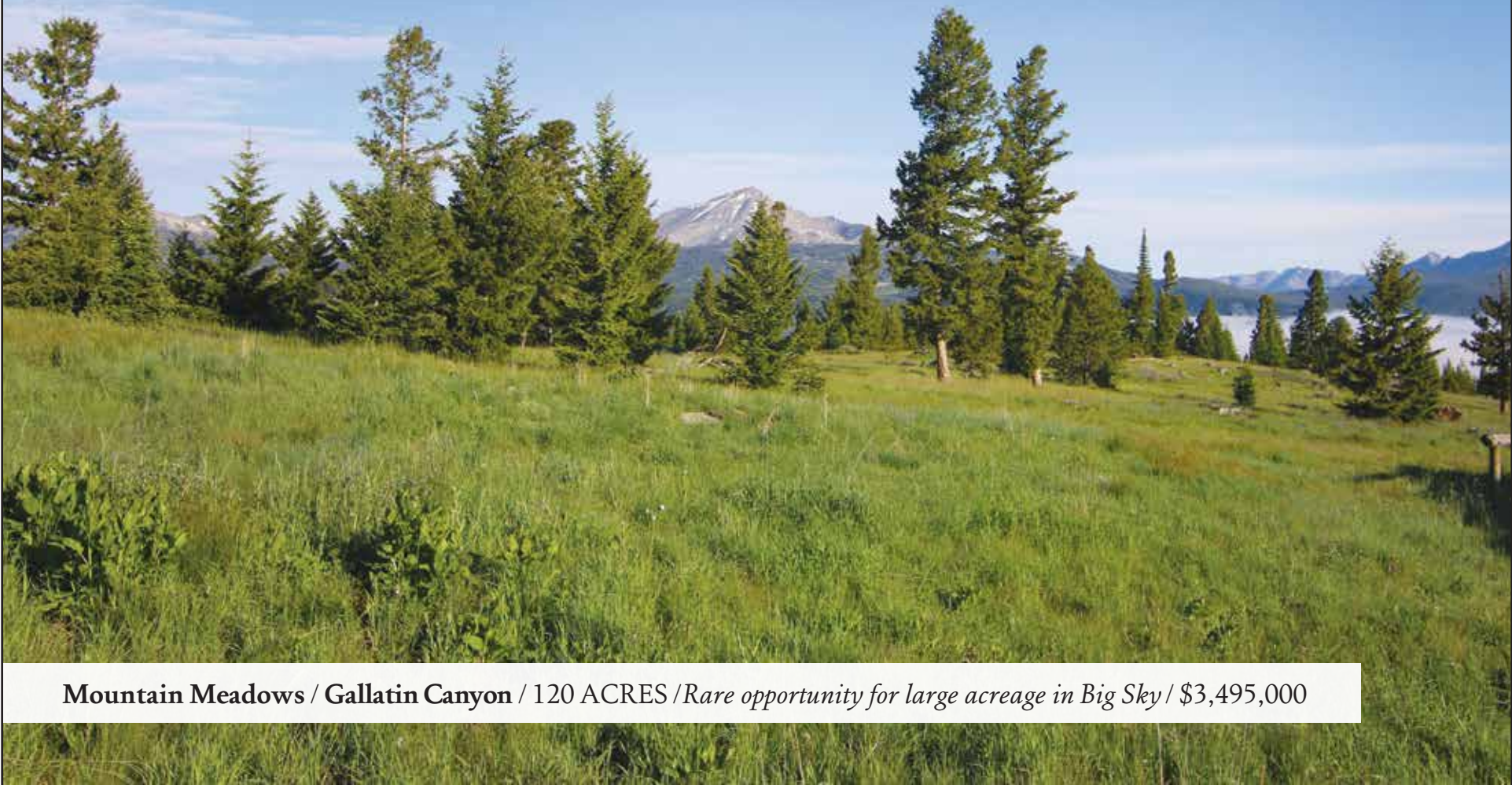
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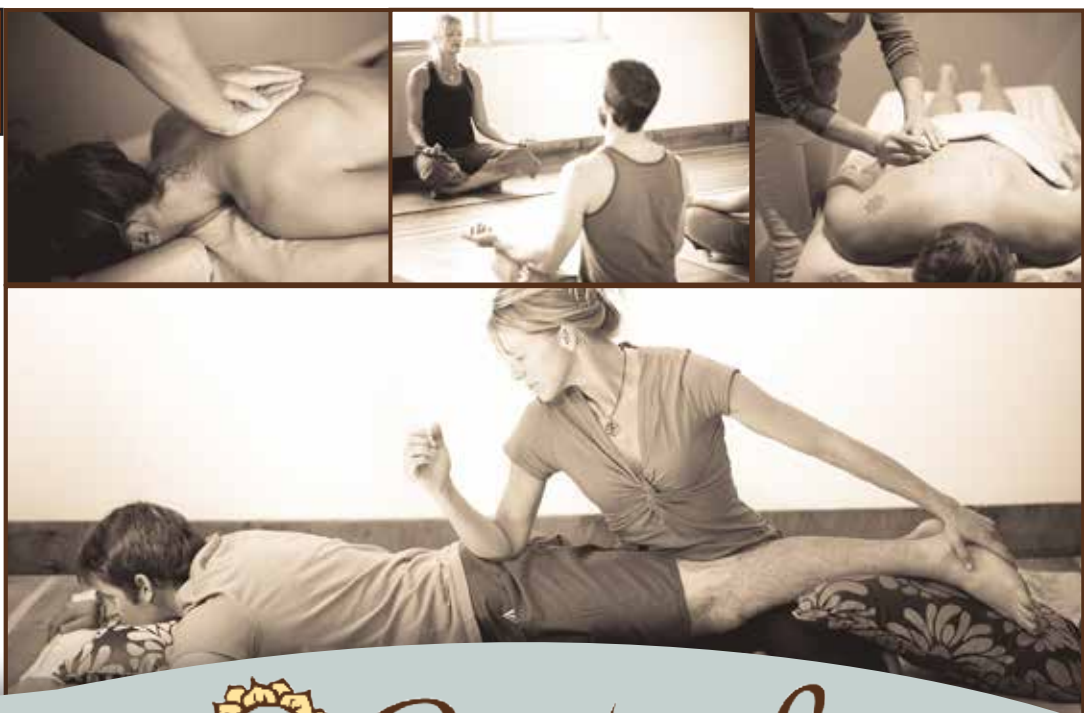
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5:45-7pm
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Ski Conditioning Yoga

TUESDAY

7-8am
All Levels Yoga

8:15-9:15am
Core Focused Pilates

9:30-10:45am
All Levels Yoga

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

WEDNESDAY

7:30-8:30am
All Levels Yoga

9-10:15am
All Levels Yoga

THURSDAY

7-8am
Zumba

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

9:30-10:45am
All Levels Yoga

FRIDAY

8:30-9:30am
Level II Yoga

10-11:30am
The Practice (1st & 3rd
Friday of the month)

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

DOCTOR'S NOTE

Staying healthy during ski season



BY DR. JEFF DANIELS
EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Have you made an effort to prepare for the ski and snowboard season? Have you worked on your quads, done plenty of aerobic exercise, and kept the weight off during the offseason? If you want to get the most out of this winter, you need to be in good shape.

Being fit is one way to prevent injury in any sport, but especially if you ski and snowboard. Also, having common sense and knowing when to call it a day adds another measure of safety. You wouldn't believe the numbers of accidents that occur on someone's last run of the day. When we're young, fatigue isn't part of our vocabulary, but as we age it becomes an important factor that could mean the difference between a long, safe season and a season-ending injury.

Staying healthy during ski season also involves preventing illnesses that are more prevalent in winter. Catching influenza can take a whole month out of the winter season, and a flu shot is an easy, safe and effective way of avoiding this nasty infection.

For those of us over 50 years old, two other illnesses that can cut deeply into an enjoyable ski season are pneumonia and shingles. Although there is no perfect prevention for either of these afflictions, both have vaccines that will lower the chances of developing them.

Other ways to stay safe this winter involve protective equipment should we have an accident, the most important being a helmet. Manufacturers are making helmets better than ever before, and you should consider replacing an old one if it has any dings from previous falls. Although not as effective as we would like, wrist guards can cut down on the number of wrist fractures, especially in snowboarders.


Unfortunately, there hasn't been a knee brace developed yet that will guarantee you won't tear your ACL. Years ago, I read about the possibility of a brace that would prevent the magnitude of twisting that results in an ACL tear. However, it never made it off the drawing board.

For those with previous injuries resulting in unstable knees, a brace that has strong metal bars and joints on either side is the way to go. I see people walking around – and falling – with neoprene sleeves around their knees. I wish these really worked. Knee braces that work aren't cheap, and most people can benefit from an off-the-shelf model that's not custom made. If you don't have a previous knee problem, I don't recommend wearing a brace to prevent one.

For those of us "old folks" with chronically sore knees, one way to make the ski season more enjoyable is with a steroid shot into one, or both, knees. These shots can last all winter, and take away the pain of arthritic knees. They work for shoulders too.

I hope you all have a safe, happy, and healthy 2015-2016 ski season, and get in as many days as you hope for. The Medical Clinic of Big Sky will be in the Big Sky Resort Mountain Village ready to help every day of the winter season – as we have for the past 21.

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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Section 3: OUTDOORS, EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT



No excuses David Poole pushes limits of adaptive sports

BY RACHEL ANDERSON
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – David Poole is changing the adaptive sports world. The 30-year-old Bozeman resident is continually challenging himself, pushing the limits in a variety of extreme sports.

Growing up in Townsend, Mont., Poole started skiing Bridger Bowl Ski Area when he was 3 years old. But even at a young age, he had a positive attitude.

“I always tried my best, and I never gave up,” he says.

Poole’s passion continued to grow into adulthood, and after leaving the Northern Rockies of Montana after high school, Poole headed south to Colorado’s Copper Mountain Ski Resort. There he worked as a chairlift operator, bumping chairs and living his dream to ski on a daily basis.

On the afternoon of Jan. 22, 2006, however, Poole’s life changed forever at the age of 21. He took his lunch break to ski a line he’d been scoping.

“I thought it was ready to ski,” Poole said. “I saw a line I wanted to hit for a while, and I got caught.”

Poole launched an 80-foot cliff, clipping rocks on the takeoff, and was tossed forward. Skiing alone, he remembers aiming for his line then suddenly tumbling down the cliffside.

“I woke up in the snow. My upper body was cold and it seemed like my lower body was warm,” Poole said. “I didn’t realize I was broken in half.”

He was airlifted by helicopter to Denver, where he learned he had sustained a T7 complete spinal cord injury to his lower back, paralyzing him below the injury.

“I had to start over and started at square one,” said Poole, who spent three months in rehabilitation at Denver’s Craig Hospital adjusting to life after the injury. “I learned how to accept that people are different ... I accepted that my life is different.”

By maintaining an undaunted optimism, Poole was determined to keep living on his own terms, according to Poole’s mother, Virginia.

“David’s positive attitude helped him overcome the challenges that had now become everyday life,” Virginia said. “He wasn’t going to allow his injury to keep him from doing all the things he loved.”

Poole continued to move forward with his passions despite his handicap, by hunting, fishing and camping, Virginia added. “He kept right on doing



Bozeman resident and adaptive sports great David Poole PHOTO COURTESY OF WORLD TEAM SPORTS

it,” she said. “Of course skiing had been his first love, and within a year of his injury he was back at it.”

Returning to the slopes at Copper Mountain in November of the same year, Poole worked intensely to master the alpine sit ski.

“For two winters there, I hit it really hard, and I was able to get my progression going pretty quickly,” Poole said. “I skied three to five days a week. [At first] it was [ski] 10 feet, fall over. Go another 10 feet, fall over.”

Advancing his abilities rapidly, Poole has skied Big Sky Resort’s Big Couloir and launches cliffs in the Challenger chairlift terrain.

But conquering the mountain was only the beginning for Poole. Today, he’s participating in many adaptive sports including Nordic skiing, biathlon, wake surfing, off-road hand cycling, rafting, ice and rock climbing, among others. He works part time as a peer advocate and mentor with Montana Independent Living Project, a nonprofit agency providing services to promote independence for people with disabilities.

“It’s easier for me to accept who I am, and the injury, if I can continue to enjoy my life,” he said.

Poole is now developing a new sport: downhill bucket biking, in which a sit-ski bucket is mounted on a downhill bike. With the help of his friends, he uses only his hands to brake around technical maneuvers and jumps. Hitting the downhill trails at Wyoming’s Grand Targhee Resort and Discovery Bike Park in Philipsburg, Poole is inspiring everyone around him.

Liz Welles, Poole’s friend and fellow adventurer, has experienced this motivation firsthand.

Continued on pg. 34

Continued from pg. 33



Poole slashing the pow on his sit ski last winter at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. PHOTO COURTESY OF DIRTMYTH PHOTOGRAPHY

“Nothing scares or stops him,” Welles said. “There are never excuses with David. He does [things] because he can.”

Poole describes himself as an adventure athlete who’s changing people’s perspective of what’s possible for adaptive athletes. He believes if you want something bad enough you’ll try harder, especially when you fall down.

“I can’t tell you how many high fives he receives in an average day on the mountain,” Welles said. “When we head up the tram at Big Sky Resort or over to Schlasman’s lift at Bridger Bowl, people just lose it when they see how easily he can navigate expert terrain.”

Cycling-apparel company Club Ride, and seating and postural support systems manufacturer Comfort Company sponsor Poole in races and

competitions around the country. He’s taken part in the Adventure Team Challenge Race with World T.E.A.M. Sports since 2012, taking second place in 2015; competed in the International Paralympics Committee Biathlon 2013 World Cup; and named 2012 Off Road Hand Cycle World Champion.

At the end of January, Poole will head to Aspen, Colo., to compete in the 2016 X Games in Mono Skier X.

Poole hopes his no-excuse attitude will show others what they’re capable of, as he seeks the ultimate rush of extreme adaptive sports.

“I tell people, ‘I didn’t get in a wheelchair [by] being careful,’” he said.

New Vail megaresort set to open in Utah

BY BRADY MCCOMBS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) – Utah ski officials are hoping the “bigger is better” card lures more skiers and snowboarders to their mountains this season after several resorts completed multi-million dollar improvement projects – highlighted by Vail Resort’s merging of two well-known ski areas into one megaresort.

The new Park City Mountain Resort, which now includes the ski area formerly known as the Canyons Resort, opened Nov. 21. It will offer 7,300 skiable acres and 41 lifts to make it one of the largest in North America.

After purchasing Canyons for \$182.5 million last year, Vail spent \$50 million to build an eight-person gondola connecting the resorts, upgrade other lifts and build a new restaurant. The new gondola is set to open around mid-December, resort officials say.

The resort will be marketed simply as “Park City,” the same name as the city where it’s located. The National Ski Areas Association doesn’t track the size of U.S. resorts by skiable acres to say for sure which is the biggest, but it says it is certainly among the largest.

At Snowbird, a new 23,000-square-foot restaurant and lodge sitting atop Hidden Peak at 11,000 feet elevation is set to open. The two-story lodge with large glass windows and deck that offer spectacular views highlights \$35 million in upgrades from the resort that sits in Little Cottonwood Canyon east of Salt Lake City.

At Solitude Mountain Resort, skiers will find a new high-speed quad lift, a new run and upgraded restaurants that are part of \$7 million in investments from Deer Valley Resort, which purchased Solitude earlier this year. At Deer Valley, \$5 million was spent for behind-the-scenes improvements that include better snowmaking and a remodeled restaurant.

The flurry of upgrades marks the largest package of improvements since the late 1990s when Utah resorts geared up for the 2002 Winter Olympics, said Nathan Rafferty, president of industry group Ski Utah.

Vail’s expanding footprint in the Utah mountains has “elevated the game” of all other resorts that knew they couldn’t stand by idly and still compete, Rafferty said.

“There’s anticipation this year that I haven’t seen since the Olympic year,” Rafferty said. “Any one of these upgrades would be a marquee upgrade in one single season.”

Skier visits were down 5 percent last season, mirroring a nationwide drop. Utah officials are hoping the improvements catch people’s attention and that better snow makes for good powder after a season when the snowfall waned after a good start – likely keeping many skiers away.

Even though other Utah resorts must compete with the Park City megaresort, they think Vail’s entry into the market will pay dividends for the entire industry.

“It put us on the map,” said Emily Summers, Deer Valley spokesperson. “For the first time ever, we’re not getting confused with Colorado. Getting people to look at Utah first is a really big deal.”

The new combined resort gives skiers a European-type ski experience that hopefully offers a glimpse of the future of Utah resorts, Rafferty said. The gondola built to connect the Park City resorts leaves just two lifts needed to link seven resorts in an ambitious, long-term plan modeled after European ski areas.

“We as Americans are used to going to one lift and bobbing up and down 12 times [to] find the best powder,” Rafferty said. “With this you can say, ‘Today we’re going to ski from the far left to the far right and take all day to do it and then take the city bus to where we started from.’”



THE EDDY Line

Winter has arrived, be ready for the season



BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

As the snow flies, many anglers long for warmer days, wet wading and sunscreen.

For those desiring more comfortable conditions, the Gallatin Valley Mall is always nice this time of year.

More folks holiday shopping means fewer people fishing the best runs of the Gallatin and Madison rivers. Winter fishing is for those willing to sacrifice some comfort, yet benefit from the rewards of solitude and silence.

Winter angling action can rival the warmer days of summer, but the feeding activity of our local trout in the colder months is as fickle as it is plentiful. To get the most out of winter fishing:

Don't rush it. Winter fishing is great for folks who like to sleep in because daytime temperature changes tend to occur after 11 a.m. Trout only need water temperature to rise a few degrees for them to feed. Watch the temperature, and fish during the warmest part of the day.

Invest in quality waders and boots. Waders keep you dry and provide a layer of warmth, and a pair of boots with good traction is important. Falling in icy cold water ruins your day and could end your life. It's nice to have non-felt soles for winter fishing because snow sticks to felt and makes for uneven and dangerous walking. Put spikes or studs in your non-felt boots.

Layer your clothing. If it gets warmer outside than expected, or if you're walking a lot, shed layers and stay comfortable. If one layer gets wet from a fall or from sweat, you can shed to a drier layer. Also, quality long underwear and socks are a must for an enjoyable day on the river.

Carry a pack. A backpack is handy for carrying extra clothing, gear, and food, and allows you to add or remove layers.

Bring a net and hook removal tool. A net allows you to keep your hands dry. With a hook removal tool, such as hemostats or mitten scissor clamps, you can release a netted fish without getting your hands wet or touching the fish.

Simplify your fly selection. Trout feed sporadically in winter and most locals fish a handful of patterns. Be sure to have a few size 8 to 12 Pats' Rubberlegs in brown and tan and a few size 16 to 20 beadhead midge patterns. For those willing to sacrifice a little purity, fish a gold- or fire-bead San Juan Worm in size 10. If you see rising fish on the Gallatin, cast a size 18 or 20 Parachute Adams or any midge cluster pattern and the hungry trout should be fooled.



The thrill of fighting a fish is amplified in winter, when you're also fighting the elements. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

Be willing to fish subsurface. Because winter hatches are limited, trout congregate in slower, deeper pools. It's not pretty, but use a strike indicator and some weight, and you might have enough action to forget your hands are cold or to keep you from calling it early because you can't feel your feet.

With the recent snow, it's evident that fall is over. Fortunately for anglers, the deeper we get into winter, the sooner spring will arrive. However, winter, and especially the snow that comes with it, makes our summer angling special. This Thanksgiving, be thankful for the snow that falls this season.

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



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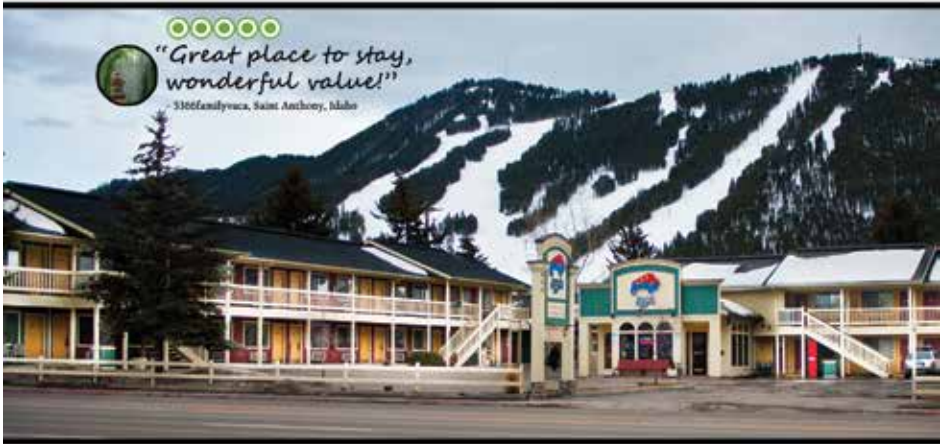
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January 9 / Selected Shorts

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January 23 / Volo by Diavolo

February 12 / Kronos Quartet

February 27 / The Dybbuk

March 5 / Billy Collins

March 19 / James Sewell Ballet

March 26 / Jitro Czech Girls Choir

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EVENTS CALENDAR

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

TUESDAY, NOV. 24 – FRIDAY, DEC. 11

***If your event falls between Nov.25 and Dec. 10, please submit it by Friday, Dec. 4.**

Big Sky
TUESDAY, NOV. 24
Bingo
Gallatin Riverhouse, 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 Cards
Big Sky Resort, all day

FRIDAY, NOV. 27
Trivia
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Black Friday Sale
Big Sky Resort, all day

SATURDAY, NOV. 28
Shop Small Saturday
Celebration
Consignment Cabin, 10-5 p.m.

Christmas
Bazaar
Buck's T-4, 12 -
6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOV. 29
Football Sunday
Lone Peak Cinema,
11 a.m.-3 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 1
Opening day
China Café, 5-9 p.m.

Bingo
Gallatin Riverhouse, 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 3
Madrigal Dinner
Buck's T-4, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 4
Trivia
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

\$20 Day
Big Sky Resort,
all day

SATURDAY, DEC. 5
Women's Early Bird Clinic
Big Sky Resort, all day

SUNDAY, DEC. 6
Women's Early Bird Clinic
Big Sky Resort, all day

All Saints' in Big Sky
Worship Service
Big Sky Chapel, 9:30 a.m.

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

Montana Ballet's
The Nutcracker
WMPAC, 4 p.m.

All Saints' "Connections" eve-
ning service
Big Sky Chapel, 5:15 p.m.

TUESDAY, DEC. 8
HR Workshop
First Security Bank,
11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9
Jumbo Wild Big Sky premiere
Lone Peak Cinema, 6 & 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 10
Open House
Lone Mountain Ranch,
4-9 p.m.
Ongoing daily (Available Until
April 3)
Sleigh Ride Dinner
Lone Mountain Ranch, 6:45 -
9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 11
Apres Ski with American Legion
and Sons of American Legion
M.R. Hummers, 3-5 p.m.

Warren Miller's "Climb to Glory"
North Mammoth Room at Big Sky
Resort, 5-7p.m.

Moonlight Area
Opening Day
Moonlight Basin, all day

Turkey for a Ticket
Big Sky Resort, all day

Big Sky
Christmas Stroll
Town Center &
Meadow Village,
5-8:15 p.m.

Mountain Outlaw release party
Outlaw Partners office,
5-8 p.m.

It's A Wonderful Life
WMPAC, 3 & 6:30 p.m.

Trivia
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m

Bozeman
TUESDAY, NOV. 24
Yoga for all
Bozeman Public Library, 11-
11:45 a.m.

Kids' Chess Club
Bozeman Public Library, 3:30 -5
p.m.

Book Club: Station Eleven
Country Bookshelf, 7 p.m.

Film: Amy
MSU Procrastinator, 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25
Music & Mussels with Jesse
Atkins
Bridger Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Pickin' in the parks
Story Mansion,
6:30 -9:30 p.m.

Open Mic
Haufbrau, 10:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOV. 26
Friendsgiving
Redbrain Media, 3 p.m.

Thanksgiving at Ted's
Ted's Montana Grill, 11a.m. -10
p.m.

Huffing for Stuffing Run
Museum of the Rockies, 9 a.m.

FRIDAY, NOV. 27
Black Friday
Gallatin Valley Mall, 5 a.m – 9
p.m.

Bearcat 9000 & The Permians
Wild Joe's, 7 – 10 p.m.

Don't Close Your Eyes
Live from the Divide, 7 p.m.

David Vincent
Kountry Korner,
5:30 -8:30 p.m.

Burger Night
Eagles Lodge, 5:30 p.m.

Joe Schwem
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 28
Don't Close Your Eyes
Live from the Divide, 7 p.m.

Small Business Saturday
Bozeman, all day

Open Mic with the BPC
Bozeman Public Library, 7 p.m.

Bert and Charlie's Gift of the
Magi
Verge Theater, 2-3 p.m.

Chad Okrusch
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Christopher Paul Stelling
Filling Station, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOV. 29
Open Mic
Haufbrau, 10:30 p.m.

Smokestack & the Foothill Fury
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, NOV. 30
Pint with Purpose: Gallatin Valley
Farm to School
Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Open Mic
Haufbrau, 10:30 p.m.

That 1 Guy
Zebra, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2
Montana Hall lighting ceremony
Alumni Plaza, 6-8 p.m.

Music & Mussels: Hollerin Pine
Bridger Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Open Mic
Haufbrau, 10:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 3
Fort Knox Five
Zebra Cocktail Lounge,
9 p.m.

1yr Anniversary Party
El Heart, 5 p.m.

Warming Center Benefit concert
Filling Station, 9 p.m.

Bozeman Doc Series: Janis: Little
Girl Blue
Emerson Crawford Theater,
7 -9 p.m.

Beer Fundraiser
406 Brewing Co, 5-8 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 4
32nd Annual Nutcracker
Willson Theatre, 7 p.m.

YAMN & The Magic Beans
Filling Station, 9 p.m.

Jeni Fleming & Angella Ahn
The Emerson,
7:30 – 10 p.m.

Don't Close Your Eyes
Live from the Divide, 7 p.m.

Irving Berlin's 'White Christmas'
The Ellen, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 5
Don't Close Your Eyes
Live from the Divide, 7 p.m.

Irving Berlin's 'White Christmas'
The Ellen, 7:30 p.m.

Bert and Charlie's Gift of the
Magi
Verge Theater, 2-3 p.m.

Christmas Stroll
Downtown
Bozeman,
4:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Santa Run for Education
The Willson, 10 a.m.

Holiday Market Jubilee
Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 9
a.m. – 4 p.m.

Christmas Stroll
The Emerson,
12:30 – 4:15 p.m.

'Tis The Season
The Emerson, 2-3 p.m.
Twas The Night Before Christmas
The Emerson, 6:30 p.m.

Sassafras
Wild Joe's, 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 6
(hed)Pe
Faultline North, 8 p.m.

Irving Berlin's 'White Christmas'
The Ellen, 3 p.m.

Open Mic
Haufbrau, 10:30 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 7
Pints with Purpose: PEO
Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Open Mic
Haufbrau, 10:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9
Music & Mussels
Bridger Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Open Mic
Haufbrau, 10:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 10
Meet the author: Jan Brett
Country Bookshelf, 10 a.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 11
Irving Berlin's 'White Christmas'
The Ellen, 7:30 p.m.

Cure for the Common & Satsang
Eagles Lodge, 9 p.m.

Free Friday Night
Children's Museum, 5-8 p.m.

Winter Art Walk
Downtown
Bozeman, 6-8 p.m.

Montana Manouche
Wild Joe's, 6 -8 p.m.

Jimmy's First Christmas on
Parole
Verge Theater, 8 – 11p.m

Livingston & Paradise Valley

TUESDAY, NOV. 24

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

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25

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

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

THURSDAY, NOV. 26

7th Annual Thanksgiving Community Dinner
Elks Lodge, 1-3:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOV. 27

Exit 288
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

Band of Drifters
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Tom Foolery
Blue Slipper Theater, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 28

Tom Foolery
Blue Slipper Theater, 8 p.m.

The Hawthorne Roots
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Danny Bee
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOV. 29

Tom Foolery
Blue Slipper Theater, 3 p.m.

MONDAY, NOV. 30

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

TUESDAY, DEC. 1

Beer for a cause: Friends of GNFAC
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Trivia Night
The Office Lounge, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 2

Jon Cheryl
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 3

Rocky Mountain Pearls
Murray Bar, 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 4

Becky Sappington & The Bitter Road
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Holiday Stroll
Downtown, 5-8 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 5

The Innocents
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Lebowski Fest
Katabatic Brewing, 6 - 8 p.m.

Gallery Opening
Banovich Art Center, 5-9 p.m.
Holiday Bazaar
The Fairgrounds, 8 a.m. -4 p.m.

WSE Holiday Farmers Market
Livingston Civic Center, 8:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, DEC. 6

The Shuffle Bums
Murray Bar, 6:30 p.m.

Tom Foolery
Blue Slipper Theater, 3 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 7

Ian Thomas
Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9

Songwriter's Night
Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

Some Day Miss Pray
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 10

Sean Eamon & The Walkaways
Murray Bar, 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DEC. 11

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

West Yellowstone

TUESDAY, NOV. 24

Yellowstone Ski Festival
Rendezvous Ski Trails, all day

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25

Yellowstone Ski Festival
Rendezvous Ski Trails, all day

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

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

THURSDAY, NOV. 26

Yellowstone Ski Festival
Rendezvous Ski Trails, all day

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

FRIDAY, NOV. 27

Yellowstone Ski Festival
Rendezvous Ski Trails, all day

Chess Club
Public Library, 4 p.m.

Christmas Stroll
West Yellowstone, all day

S'mores at the Trailhead
Rendezvous Trailhead, 4-7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOV. 28

Yellowstone Ski Festival
Rendezvous Ski Trails, all day

FRIDAY, DEC. 4

Chess Club
Public Library, 4 p.m.

Dessert and Dunk Auction
Holiday Inn, 4 -9 p.m

RECURRING EVENTS

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Nov. 2 – Dec. 15

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- 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 – THURS. 12/10

- THE GOOD DINOSAUR - PG 3:45, 5:45, 7:45
- THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKING JAY PT.2 - PG-13 4:30 & 7:30

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FRI. 12/11 – THURS. 12/17

- IN THE HEART OF THE SEA - PG-13 4:15, 6:45, 9:00
- THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKING JAY PT.2 - PG-13 4:30 & 7:30

FRI. 12/18 – THURS. 12/24

- STAR WARS EPISODE VII: THE FORCE AWAKENS - 3:00, 6:00, 9:00
- IN THE HEART OF THE SEA - PG-13 4:15, 6:45, 9:15

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Turkey for a Ticket returns to Big Sky



Big Sky Resort opened for one day on Nov. 7 to bluebird skies and crowds aplenty. With a couple more storms under its belt, the resort opens for the 2015-2016 season on Thanksgiving Day. PHOTO BY ERSIN OZER

BIG SKY RESORT

Big Sky Resort will host the ninth annual Turkey for a Ticket at the Madison Base Area on Dec. 11.

The event encourages guests to give to the local food banks in exchange for a free day of skiing. The Turkey for a Ticket food-raiser will help Gallatin Valley Food Bank, Madison Valley Food Bank, and the Big Sky Food Bank provide food for people and families in need this holiday season.

Starting at 8:30 a.m., Turkey for a Ticket allows participants to receive a free lift ticket valid for the day of the event in exchange for a minimum 13-pound frozen turkey or 20 cans of non-perishable food. The food banks are in need of specific canned items including fruit, tuna, chili, tomato sauce, and soups.

“We look forward to the Turkey for a Ticket event because it is our chance to guarantee that the shelves will be filled throughout the rest of the year,” said Sarah Gaither, Big Sky Community Food Bank operations manager. “Because of these Turkey for a Ticket reserves, we are able to cut down on food-purchase costs and focus our funds on keeping the lights on and refrigerators running.”

Since the inaugural event in 2007, Turkey for a Ticket has collected nearly 200,000 pounds of food for local area food banks. As the holidays approach, the need in the area food banks increases. Big Sky Resort hopes to incentivize community members to donate items to the food banks in exchange for day lift tickets to the resort.

Gold, Bronze, and Moonlight Area Season Pass holders are encouraged to give in exchange for a \$20 Moonride demo ski or snowboard rental which can be used between Dec. 11 and 25, 2015.

“We continue to see nearly 3,000 individuals a month, and the Turkey for a Ticket Food Drive helps us meet the ongoing need, said Gallatin Valley Food Bank operations manager Jill Holder. “We are grateful for such a giving community.”

Food bank trucks, volunteers, and Big Sky Resort staff will be at the Madison Base Area of Big Sky Resort at 8:30 a.m. on Dec. 11 to accept donations.

Visit bigskyresort.com/turkey for more information.

New terrain parks, ski runs at Big Sky Resort

BIG SKY RESORT

BIG SKY – With three new terrain parks, three new gladed runs, and a few more acres of skiable terrain, Big Sky Resort is geared up for its Nov. 26 opening day.

The Cache, a new advanced natural-style park is stashed in the trees skier’s left of the Swift Current chairlift. Its location will allow easy access to and from the newly revamped Swifty Terrain Park that has increased acreage and an improved jump line.

The Cache has replaced the traditional Freestyle Forest in the Moonlight area, which has been redeveloped into a kid’s adventure area named The Lost Frontier.

The Madison Base Area is scheduled to open Dec. 11, where Wagon Train, off Cinnabar, has been dedicated to two new terrain parks: an advanced park named Peacemaker and an intermediate park called Maverick.

Peacemaker, replacing Zero Gravity, will begin just after the Cinnabar bridge and run all the way down to Glacier Way. Maverick, replacing Pony Park, will start just off Glacier Way

and will be accessible through Peacemaker Park or off the Derringer chairlift.

The new intermediate glade run, White Magic, is a nod to the classic Warren Miller film of the same name and has opened about three more acres of terrain accessed via the Swift Current chairlift on the skiers’ right of the Crazy Horse run. Another new intermediate glade run is Short Stack, accessed via the top of Derringer chairlift on skiers’ left.

Kids of all ages are going to enjoy whooping it up on the new beginner glade run, Playground, five acres of terrain assessed via the Swift Current chairlift between Black and Blue and the bottom of Lower Morningstar.

Mountain operations crews have been busy cutting in Comet, a new black diamond ski connection that provides easier access from the Outer Limits ski run to the top of the Six Shooter chairlift. Machine and saw crews also worked diligently this summer removing regrowth, deadfall, and stumps on ski runs to allow more terrain to open faster.

Early bird ski clinics at Big Sky Resort

BIG SKY RESORT

BIG SKY – Start off on the right piste this ski season at Big Sky Resort with its Women’s Early Bird Clinic and the Dan Egan Early Bird Camp.

The all-women early season clinic on Dec. 5 and 6 is taught by women and the session will focus on improving individual performance and mastering new techniques. This clinic is a building block to advancing women’s skiing from the start of the season, allowing them to gain confidence on snow as the season progresses.

“The idea of this clinic is to personalize a group lesson, provide key tips to improve your skiing throughout the season, and have fun meeting new friends who like to ski what you like to ski,” said Dashedelle Purchell, Women Clinics instructor at Big Sky Resort.

Dan Egan is one of the “Top Skiers of All Time,” according to Powder magazine, and his Early Bird Camp on Dec. 14 and 15 is designed for

skiers who want to learn and adapt their skills for all-terrain skiing. The camp will explore skiers’ range of balance and stance on varied terrain including groomed runs, bumps, steeps and trees.

Dan Egan’s Early Bird Camp includes two days of guiding and individualized instruction by Egan and his team of trainers, as well as video movement analysis.

“Come ski with me and learn secrets to all-terrain skiing,” Egan said. “We’ll cover the strategy and tactics for where we go and why, changing the way you’ll see the mountain. The only thing extreme is the level of fun.”

The Early Bird Camp and Women’s Early Bird Clinic are designed for intermediate and above skiers who are motivated to take their abilities to a new level. The clinics are capped at six participants per group.

Visit bigskyresort.com/clinics or call (406) 995-5743 for more information about clinic registration.

Bozeman’s annual Christmas stroll returns

DOWNTOWN BOZEMAN ASSOCIATION

Join the Downtown Bozeman Association for the 35th annual Christmas stroll on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 4:30-7:30 p.m.



Kick off the holiday season with activities, shopping and food from more than 40 nonprofit vendors. Bring the whole family to watch the lighting ceremony of the downtown decorations, check out the gingerbread house contest display, and sing Christmas carols.

Attendees can support the Christmas stroll by purchasing a stroll button which serves as a ticket to many of the activities, including pictures with Santa at the Baxter Hotel; hay wagon rides from Soroptimist Park at the corner of Rouse and Main; and children’s activities throughout the day at the Emerson Cultural Center. Button sales allow the DBA to put on the Christmas stroll every year without requiring an entry fee to enjoy the event.

The official 2015 Christmas stroll buttons will be on sale at many local businesses after Nov. 25. When you purchase your stroll button, fill out a ballot for a chance to win one of 18 prizes including Bridger Bowl passes, “Downtown Dollars,” three-day Sweet Pea Festival passes, and Museum of The Rockies passes, among others. The winners will be contacted the week following the event.

Visit downtownbozeman.org to find Christmas stroll button-sale locations and a 2015 program.

‘Holiday on Broadway’ with the Bozeman Symphony

BOZEMAN SYMPHONY

BOZEMAN – When scheduling conflicts left Christiane Noll unable to perform with the symphony this December, the Bozeman Symphony Society called Anne Runolfsson to the stage, and she didn’t miss a beat.

Perhaps the ease in which she covered for Noll was a result of her experience taking the stage mid-performance for the legendary Julie Andrews.

Runolfsson recounts the evening she was called to the stage when Andrews fell ill in the middle of a performance of “Victor/Victoria,” a production in which Andrews is famed for playing a woman playing a man, playing a woman.

“You will never go onstage,” Runolfsson remembers being told upon accepting the understudy role for Andrews. About a year into the performance run, Runolfsson got a page while relaxing at home.

“[They said] you need to be here right away because Julie isn’t going to be able to finish the performance. And by the way, we’re not holding the curtain,” Runolfsson recalls.

In less dramatic fashion, Runolfsson will arrive in Bozeman on Thursday, Dec. 12 to perform “Holiday

on Broadway” with maestro Matthew Savery and the Bozeman Symphony Orchestra. The multitasking woman of the musical theater, concert and cabaret stage, as well as prime time TV, joins the symphony for a spirited rendition of a modern, classic holiday program.

Selections will include “Sleigh Ride,” “Santa Claus is Coming to Town,” “Ave Maria,” “Think of Me,” “Defying Gravity,” and many more. Expect polished work by the orchestra, tireless vitality from conductor Matthew Savery, and a passionate, pure soprano from Runolfsson.

The musicians of the Bozeman Symphony will elevate these accessible and melodic tunes to Rocky Mountain-heights, and Runolfsson’s rangy high belt will move you. If you haven’t had the chance to attend a Bozeman Symphony performance, this is a wonderful opportunity.

Performances of “Holiday on Broadway” at the Willson Auditorium will be Saturday, Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 13 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at bozemansymphony.org, or by calling the Bozeman Symphony Society at (406) 585-9774.



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‘The Nutcracker’ at WMPAC features dancers from Atlanta Ballet

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

The second annual Big Sky performance of Montana Ballet Company’s “The Nutcracker” is coming to the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on Sunday, Dec. 6 at 4 p.m. The performance features guest artists, local dancers, and a live chamber orchestra.

MBC’s production of “The Nutcracker,” set to Tchaikovsky’s beloved score, is one of the largest artistic collaborations in the region. It features the work of accomplished dancers; local- and national-level choreographers; guest artists; live musicians; seasoned stage technicians; lighting and costume designers; and a host of dedicated volunteers.

For this special performance at WMPAC, a live chamber orchestra will perform the music. And under the direction of Big Sky dance instructor Jennifer Waters, local dancers will take part in the production performing as mice and angels.

New MBC guest artists Rachel Van Buskirk and Christian Clark, principal dancers with the Atlanta Ballet, will be appearing in the Big Sky performance. Both artists have notable careers and have danced professionally throughout the U.S. and abroad. They will share the stage with local and MBC’s company dancers. Also featured in the cast is Soren Kiesel, co-director of Bozeman’s Broad Comedy, who will once again dance the role of Drosselmeyer.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

Visit warrenmillerpac.org to purchase tickets and call (406) 995-2742 or visit bigskyarts.org for more information.

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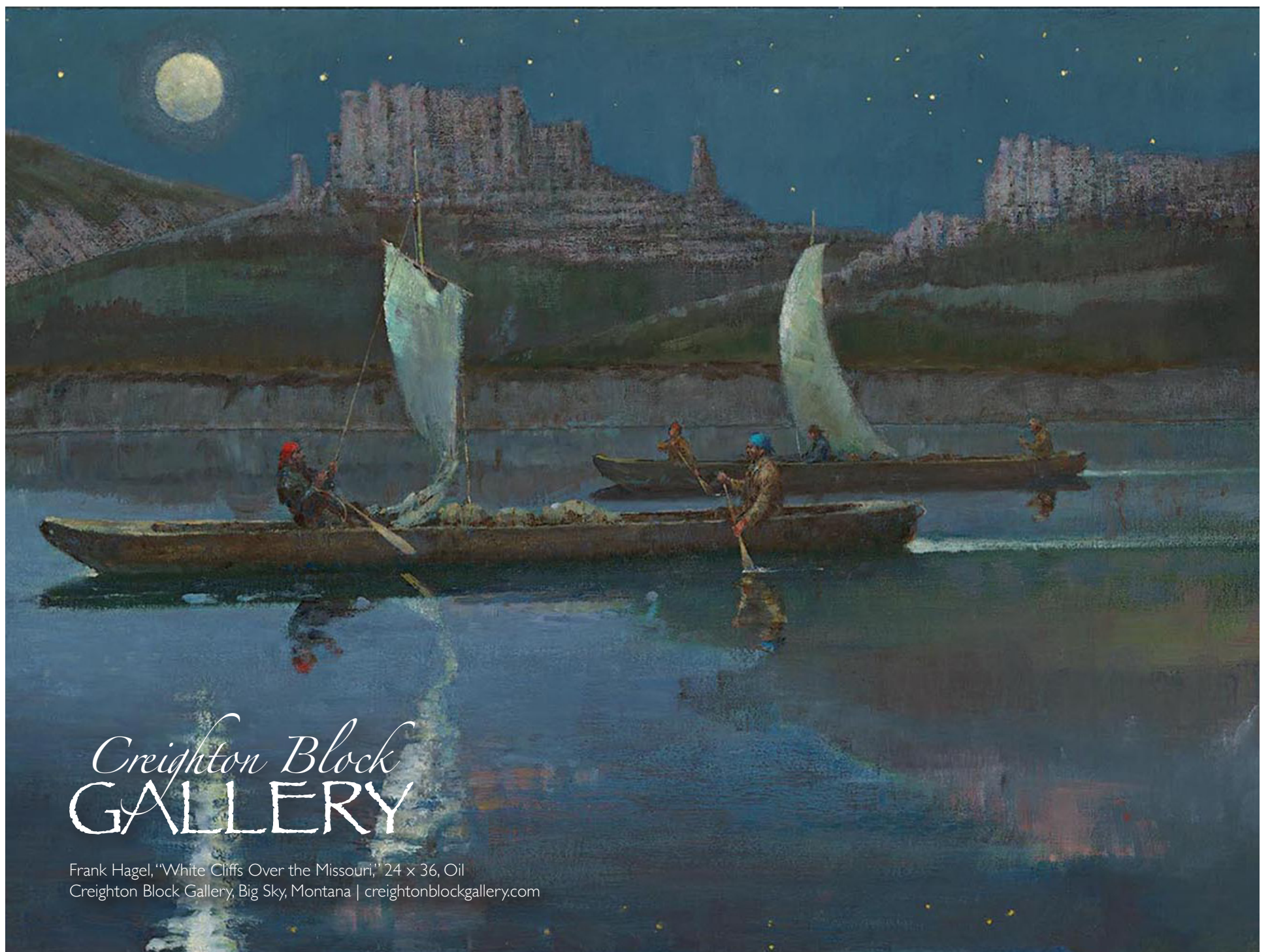


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Creighton Block
GALLERY

Frank Hagel, "White Cliffs Over the Missouri," 24 x 36, Oil
Creighton Block Gallery, Big Sky, Montana | creightonblockgallery.com

10th Mountain Division to be honored at Big Sky Resort

BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – Sons of the American Legion, Post 99 will honor the 10th Mountain Division during Big Sky Resort’s Military Appreciation Weekend, Dec. 12-13.

The U.S. Army’s 10th Mountain Division has played a significant role in the history of the ski industry and helped fuel the post-World War II skiing boom in this country. The soldiers were pioneering instructors, resort developers, equipment designers and manufacturers, and international racers.

Veterans of the 10th Mountain Division include Pete Seibert who founded Colorado’s Vail Mountain, and Dick Wilson, who became the editor of National Skiing magazine, before it was renamed Skiing magazine.

Big Sky’s SAL chapter will host numerous events during the weekend honoring the divisions’ sacrifice in World War II and their contribution to skiing, according to squadron leader Jeremy Harder.

“The recreation we do in Big Sky really started in the military,” Harder said. “We just want to make people aware of that, honor that, and make the next generation understand [these activities] didn’t start because they were fun things to do.”

Harder says that in addition to skiing, both rock climbing and mountain biking can trace their roots to the military, and SAL Post 99 is dedicated to educating the Big Sky community about that history.

The group will host an après ski with American Legion members on Friday, Dec. 11 at Mr. Hummers in the resort’s mountain mall, before a screening of Warren Miller Entertainment’s “Climb to Glory” upstairs in the Mammoth Room.

On Saturday, festivities will continue in the Mammoth Room from 11-12 p.m. with a live Skype interview with 10th Mountain Division veteran Ralph Harder – Jeremy’s grandfather – followed by a slide show depicting the division’s historical role in the ski industry.

At 12:30 p.m., Legion members and their families will ski down Mr. K as a group with American flags to honor those who served the country.

Big Sky’s SAL chapter was formed this summer and meets the first Tuesday of every month at the Gallatin Riverhouse Grill. The Sons of the American Legion is open to any male whose father or grandfather served in the U.S. Armed Forces during conflicts determined by the American Legion.

Post 99 has recruited nearly 20 members since this summer, Harder said, and it has a number of upcoming community initiatives. The group hopes to build a small interpretive center at Soldiers Chapel that will include commemorative plaques, and plant new trees at the site.

“The big thing is educating the community about the military,” Harder said. “[We’re] using recreation as a hook to get people excited about it.”

LIVE *Big*



BIG ADVENTURE, BIG EVENTS

SOAR INTO WINTER AT BIG SKY RESORT

NOVEMBER
26 Opening Day

DECEMBER
4 \$20 Day
11 Madison Base Opening Day
Turkey For a Ticket
12-13 Military Appreciation Weekend
19-20 Educator Appreciation Weekend

JANUARY
9 Smash Life Banked Slalom
16 & 23 Snobar

FEBRUARY
4-7 Big Sky Big Grass
20 Dummy Jump

MARCH
11-13 Headwaters Spring Runoff
12 Sunset Saturdays Begin
19 Smokin' Aces Championship
24-27 MSI Freeride Series

APRIL
2-3 Subaru Winterfest
9 Shedhorn SkiMo/Whiskey A-Go-Go
16 Pond Skim

COMPLETE INFO at bigskyresort.com/events

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FOR LEASE

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BIG SKY TOWN CENTER ECONOMIC GROWTH

42

New businesses
in past 5 Years

102

New jobs in the
past year

~10

New businesses
contracted in 2016

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BACK40

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

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

James Niehues: Last man standing

A ski map artist puts the finishing touches on a 30-year career

BY MARIA WYLLIE

James Niehues starts his art projects in a helicopter approximately 3,000 feet above a mountain summit. He takes hundreds of photos so he can rearrange all aspects of the mountain to fit within a single, panoramic view.

Niehues, 69, lives in Loveland, Colorado, and has been painting resort ski maps since 1988. He’s often referred to as the “Monet of the Mountains,” or the “Picasso of Powder.” With a portfolio of more than 350 mountain views and more than 75 percent of the United States’ major resorts, he’s rightfully earned the titles.

Although the maps are first and foremost wayfinding aids for skiers, resorts also rely on them as marketing tools.

In 1987, Niehues met Brown in Denver and accepted his first project – the backside of Mary Jane at Colorado’s Winter Park Resort.

Niehues had a knack for it and his career took off.

“I really enjoy the detail of it and the challenge of arranging things on a one-dimensional surface,” he said. “It’s kind of a unique branch of art.”

Niehues’ brush lets him do things a computer can’t – like having diversity in trees, rather than clones. “In one brush stroke there are variations in shade, color intensity and edge, which cannot be replicated in computer-generated images,” Niehues said, adding that such differentiation helps replicate the natural feel of the great outdoors.



A hand-painted map of Big Sky Resort’s new trail system, which now encompasses Spanish Peaks and Moonlight Basin. The painting was Niehues’ final project of 2014. PHOTOS COURTESY OF JAMES NIEHUES

“From a safety perspective, it’s skier navigation,” said Glenniss Indreland, Big Sky Resort’s brand manager for the past 27 years. “From an aesthetic perspective, it’s to show how expansive our terrain is.” Indreland worked with Niehues last April on a new rendering of Big Sky Resort to incorporate Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and Moonlight Basin.

However, as the renowned ski map artist enters retirement, he suspects he might be the last man standing.

“I hope this isn’t true but I may very well be the last real map artist that uses a paintbrush,” Niehues said. “I would hate to see that fade away, but I do imagine that will probably be the case. It will just go digital.”

Niehues’ lack of an apprentice isn’t unusual for his craft. During the history of mapping ski resorts, a single artist has always dominated the profession.

It began with Colorado-based artist Hal Shelton, who was most active in the 1960s and 70s, before he passed the baton to painter Bill Brown.

Primarily working in gouache, an opaque watercolor medium, the process isn’t quick. From start to finish, it typically takes several months to complete any given project. Since the paintings are all for commercial use, Niehues has to keep client interests in mind too.

“In the beginning it was a challenge to make sure the clients were happy,” he said. “I would try to think of each illustration as a gemstone, getting a certain sparkle to it to portray the coldness of the winter and the glisten of the snow.”

As Niehues makes his way toward retirement, he’ll continue updating his older maps, he says, but only take on select new projects.

With no successor in sight, the future of the ski map may be digital, but the paintbrush will be waiting.

This article was adapted from one originally published in the 2014-2015 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine.

Continued on pg. 47

Continued from pg. 46



**I hope this isn't true
but I may very well be
the last real map artist
that uses a paintbrush**



After collecting images of a mountain, Niehues produces a pencil sketch on vellum, which is then blueprinted and sent to the client for review. Next, he adds color, shadows and texture with his paintbrush, and then uses an airbrush to add the sky, clouds and snow on the slopes. Once the illustration is complete, it goes through another round of approval with the client before trail names and symbols are added.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS
- 1 Last of the Mohicans
 - 6 Home Box Office (abbr.)
 - 9 Repose
 - 12 Hollow stone
 - 13 Tree
 - 14 Us (Ger.)
 - 15 Lagoon
 - 16 Goddess (Lat.)
 - 17 Own (Scot.)
 - 18 Inborn
 - 20 Keen
 - 22 Desert plant
 - 24 Television channel
 - 27 Amer. Dental Assn. (abbr.)
 - 28 Bird
 - 32 Air
 - 34 Presidential nickname
 - 36 Indian music
 - 37 Glass-furnace mouth
 - 39 Survey
 - 41 Cistern

- 42 Brown vesuvianite
- 44 East
- 47 Principal commodity
- 52 According to (2 words)
- 53 Belonging to (suf.)
- 55 Eng. poet
- 56 Compass direction
- 57 Rhine tributary
- 58 Wife of Balder
- 59 No (Scot.)
- 60 Fiddler crab genus
- 61 Handwriting on the wall

- DOWN
- 1 Fruit
 - 2 No (Ger.)
 - 3 Crest
 - 4 Jewish month
 - 5 Rom. author
 - 6 Pronoun

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	B	M		O	B	E	D		C	A	A	M
R	A	Y		F	I	R	E		O	A	H	E
P	I	N	A	F	O	R	E		A	L	A	R
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Y	E	A	R		A	R	C	A		A	B	R
A	C	C		B	L	E	A	K		R	A	Y
P	R	E		L	O	A	D		M	E	S	O
P	U	R	G	E		D	I	T	A			
				E	D	E			A	D	D	E
S	U	N	N		P	R	E	S	E	R	V	E
A	J	A	R		I	N	I	T		A	E	S
P	I	N	E		C	A	N	E		B	L	T

- 7 contraction
- 8 Animal sound
- 9 Ruminant's stomach
- 10 Haw. feast
- 11 Initial (abbr.)
- 12 Anglo-Saxon slave
- 13 French art
- 14 group
- 15 Russ. despot
- 16 Pole in Gaelic games
- 17 Public vehicle
- 18 Family relative
- 19 Thus (Lat.)
- 20 Civil Aeronautics Board (abbr.)
- 21 Oriental potentate
- 22 Women's Army Corps (abbr.)
- 23 Scientific name (suf.)
- 24 Unfledged hawk
- 25 Lamb (Fr.)
- 26 Range
- 27 Blaubok
- 28 Home landscape
- 29 Isle of Napoleon
- 30 Wind indicator
- 31 Wings
- 32 Carnation
- 33 Solitary
- 34 One and other: abbr. (2 words) (Lat.)
- 35 "Blue Eagle"

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11
12						13				14		
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56				57				58				
59				60				61				

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A58

BIG SKY BEATS



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.

Having lived in Montana for most of my life, in 2004 my parents decided they were bored of Billings after 25 years, and moved our family to the tiny town of Driftwood, Texas. Comprised of only a post office and a famous BBQ joint called The Salt Lick, this new home opened my eyes to Texas hills, red dirt and country music.

Our house was located in a neighborhood surrounded by fields of grazing sheep and iconic Texas longhorns. One of my favorite memories in Driftwood was waking up at sunrise and walking with my dad to the corral to see this herd of longhorns.

After feeding the longhorns straw, my dad would take my brother and me to school in the town of Buddha. During the entire 45-minute ride, we’d listen to Austin’s humorous morning talk show “Bob and Tom” on KVET, which featured classic country hits and new releases.

Feeling homesick and missing the slower pace of Montana, our family decided to move back to Billings in 2005 and have stayed in the Treasure State ever since.

This playlist features some of my favorite country songs, which remind me of those winding roads of south Texas:

- 1. “7 & 7,” Turnpike Troubadours
- 2. “Even If It Breaks Your Heart,” Eli Young Band
- 3. “Little Red Wagon,” Miranda Lambert
- 4. “Any Man of Mine,” Shania Twain
- 5. “Amarillo Sky,” Jason Aldean
- 6. “Something Like That,” Tim McGraw
- 7. “Jailbreak,” Larkin Poe
- 8. “Broken Windshield View,” Chis Lane
- 9. “Young & Crazy,” Frankie Ballard
- 10. “Mud On the Tires,” Brad Paisley

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

American Life in Poetry: Column 556

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

Marge Saiser is a Nebraskan who has written a number of deeply moving poems about love. Here’s one for our holiday season:

Thanksgiving for Two

By Marge Saiser

The adults we call our children will not be arriving with their children in tow for Thanksgiving. We must make our feast ourselves,

slice our half-ham, indulge, fill our plates, potatoes and green beans carried to our table near the window.

We are the feast, plenty of years, arguments. I’m thinking the whole bundle of it rolls out like a white tablecloth. We wanted

to be good company for one another. Little did we know that first picnic how this would go. Your hair was thick,

mine long and easy; we climbed a bluff to look over a storybook plain. We chose our spot as high as we could, to see

the river and the checkerboard fields. What we didn’t see was this day, in our pajamas if we want to,

wrinkled hands strong, wine in juice glasses, toasting whatever’s next,

the decades of side-by-side, our great good luck.

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 Marjorie Saiser, “Thanksgiving for Two,” (2014). Poem reprinted by permission of Marjorie Saiser. Introduction copyright © 2015 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction’s author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.



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Explore

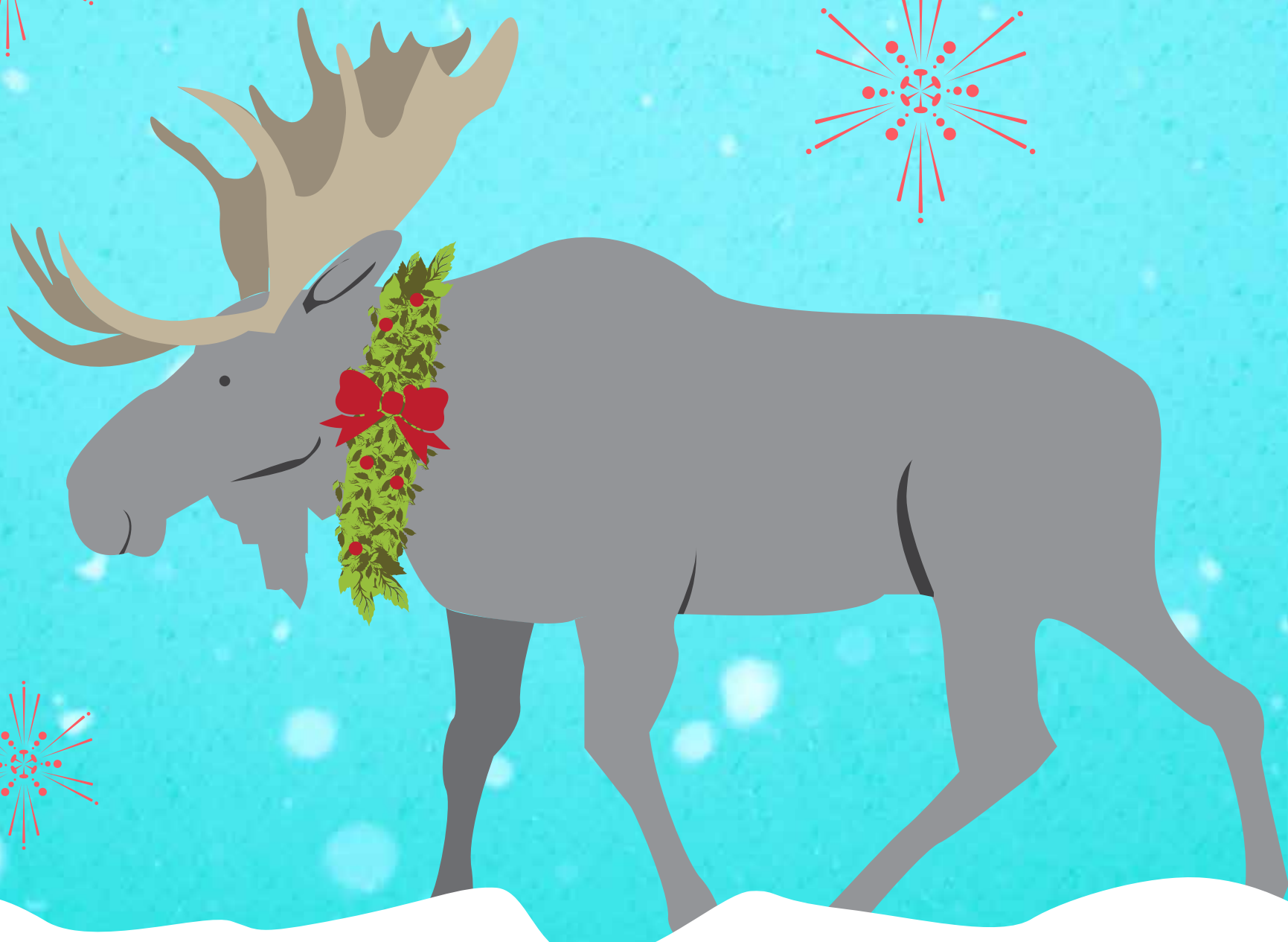
Big Sky

WINTER 2015/16

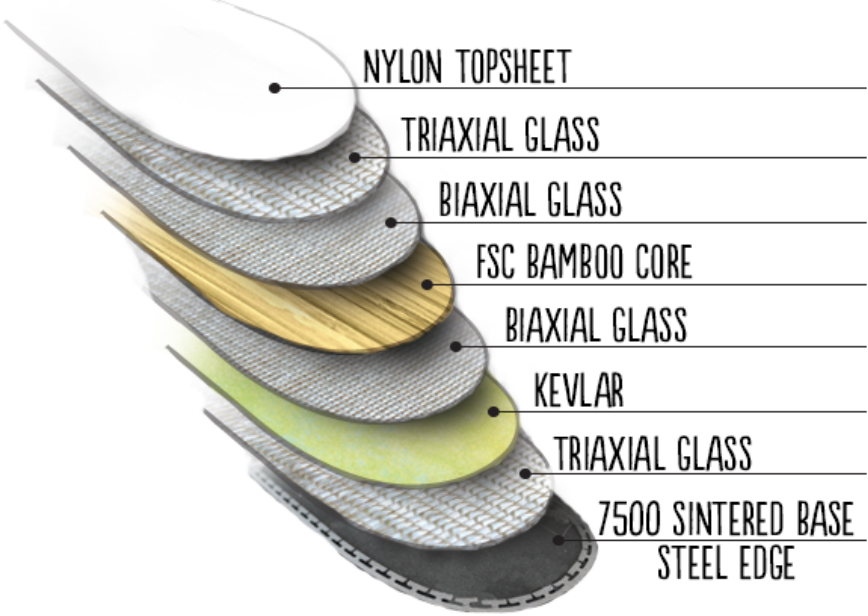
GIFT & GEAR

Guide

From the hottest skis around to great reads this holiday season, and from the best stocking stuffers to the top gifts you'll find at local Big Sky businesses, here's your holiday shopping guide.



SKI CONSTRUCTION



RAMP BigBambooski,
189 cm

Skiers talk about one-quiver boards they can take all over the hill, from big-mountain steeps to trees, and from bumps and crud to the park. Skiers, meet your match.

RAMP’s Bambooski is the ultimate multi-tool ski. Its mid-wide design (140-105-136) whips around tight trees and its early rise allows you to float in deep pow, while camber underfoot holds a grip on hardpack groomers. The playful shape and twin-tip profile will let you boost backcountry booters straight on or switch, and the construction is downright bomber.

The key is, you guessed it, a bamboo core. Torsionally rigid and lively, bamboo is one of the strongest plants on the planet. In fact, according to one German study, it has a tensile strength on the level of steel.

Combined with layers of fiberglass and Kevlar, RAMP’s dedication to rugged bases (according to its website, “The material combines the greatest impact strength of any thermoplastic”), and its vacuum-molding compression process, you’ve got a killer set of boards that you can ride anywhere.

By the way, Skiing Magazine rated the Bigbambooski an Official Selection in 2015, calling it a “dependable all-mountain workhorse.” Oh, and they’re built in the USA. – Joseph T. O’Connor

\$599 rampsports.com





Redington Hydrogen fly rod

The Redington Hydrogen four-piece fly rod is the lightest in its class and comes in 11 different varieties, with differing lengths and line weights. I tested the 9-foot, 5-weight version on the Gallatin River and found it delicately dropped tiny baetis dry flies into my favorite seams and pools.

Rig it up with a couple nymphs and some weight to hunt lunkers in the deeps, and this featherweight rod can still hold its own. Skeletonized reel seats and single-foot guides help reduce weight, but you won't notice while you're bringing a hefty rainbow trout to net. – Tyler Allen
\$299.95 redington.com

Backcountry Access Scepter Pole

Whether you're a skier, snowboarder or snowshoer you need reliable poles in the mountains. The Backcountry Access Aluminum Scepter is a great all-around pole that's both affordable and has myriad features.

The poles have a smooth swing weight; are adjustable in height up to 145 centimeters; have a non-bulky sprayed-on grip texture below the handle; and feature an integrated ice/snow scraper. Sturdy enough for in-bounds skiing, the Scepter is my new go-to for mountain travel. How did I ever get by without these before?

– Megan Paulson
\$79.95 backcountryaccess.com



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EnerPlex Kickr IV Solar Charger, Jumpr Slate 10K

If there are two different worlds that never seem to get along, they’re electronics and the outdoors. No matter how we try to mitigate their differences, they rarely compromise. Enerplex looks to change all that, starting with its Kickr IV Solar Charger.

Constructed from weather-resistant materials in a foldable design, the Kickr IV demonstrates how solar technology can go hand-in-hand with any outdoor pursuit. Through an onboard USB outlet, this charger can pump celestial power into a variety of electronics or a battery pack to be stored and used later.

With grommets on all four corners of the unfolded panel array, the Kickr IV is highly adaptable no matter what direction the sun is shining.

Paired with the Jumpr Slate 10K portable battery, you’ll have the ultimate approach to keeping cameras, phones, tablets, and any other device charged. The Jumpr Slate 10K can be charged through a mini USB cable itself, and can provide five to six smartphone charges through its dual 2.4 amp USB outlets.

While toting multiple electronic devices around the backcountry or through airports where power sources are virtually nonexistent, this portable battery pack provides enough juice for you to roam free without the concern of dead batteries leaving you stranded. – *Wes Overvold*

Jumpr Slate: \$99.99; Kickr IV Solar Charger: \$99.99 goenerplex.com



Petzl Tikka Headlamp

This year, headlamp heavyweight and climbing gear guru Petzl introduced a clever addition to one of their classic, light (3.2 ounces with batteries) models: a phosphorescent feature that makes locating your light source in the dark a far less painful process.

Three AAA batteries and 100 lumens will buy you approximately 180 feet of illumination and 120 hours of run time; stretch your batteries to 180 hours by switching the brightness setting to low. The Tikka is an excellent stocking stuffer for friends and family on dawn patrol. – *Amanda Eggert*

\$29.95 petzl.coam

Yaktrax RUN

Too slick outside for a run? No more excuses. Yaktrax RUN are lightweight and easy-to-use devices to provide traction while you’re jogging in the dead of winter. The anatomical design combines 1.4 millimeter steel coils and removable carbide steel spikes that attach to your running shoes for added stability and grip.

Despite a seemingly bulky design, the RUNs fit effortlessly over my running shoes and are surprisingly comfortable. In 2 inches of packed snow and ice, they felt natural underneath my feet, didn’t impact my stride, and kept me from slipping. Plus they’re safe to use in temperatures as low as -41 F. – *Emily O’Connor*
\$39.99 yaktrax.com



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Ibex Woolies 1 Crew, Bottom

I’ve worn Ibex merino wool bottoms every winter since 2003, and they’re the one piece of ski gear I’ll upgrade, but never replace. The Woolies 1 are a lightweight baselayer that provide superior warmth, are quick drying, and won’t leave you with that polyester-induced ski-locker smell. You can also feel good about buying wool because it’s a sustainable resource, unlike oil-based polyester.

In case you didn’t know, wool is no longer synonymous with a scratchy feel, and Ibex’s rib-knit merino is some of the softest on the market. Pair the bottoms with a Woolies 1 Crew and you’ll have the perfect base system for all your winter pursuits. – T.A.
\$80 each shop.ibex.com



Sperry Boatyard Chukka Boot

With a waterproof leather and mesh upper paired with a lug outsole, the Boatyard Chukka is a boot that will keep your feet dry while you stroll in style. Sperry’s patented Adaptive Wave-Siping disperses water from the boot soles for maximum traction no matter the conditions.

Sperry has built footwear for boaters since 1935, so they know traction. The Boatyard Chukka, with its ankle-top design, is also a great fit for icy sidewalks during a Northern Rockies winter, and its classy appearance will impress at the office and on the town. – T.A.
\$140 sperry.com

MOR

HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

Join us for *Season of Light!*
MOR’s holiday classic returns to the Taylor Planetarium.

Showtimes: Nov. 30 – Dec. 31
Monday–Friday, 11am & 3pm | Saturday–Sunday, 2pm & 4pm

It’s returning for another joyous season! And MOR’s holiday classic, *Season of Light*, has been re-mastered for the new digital format. Learn about the many holiday customs that make winter more festive. Yule logs, Christmas trees, the Hanukkah Menorah, luminaries, Santa Claus – all were taken from different cultures to fill the dark months of the year with more light. Brighten your family’s holidays and stop by soon for *Season of Light*!

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Sorel Joan of Arctic Knit II Boot

This boot combines warmth and style and will keep your feet comfortable in temperatures as low as -25 F. Fully sealed seams, waterproof suede leather and a rubber shell keep the elements away from your feet. Sorel’s bonded felt midsole keeps the cold from creeping up from below.

A burly, rubber outsole gives you the grip you need on ice or snow and makes this boot the perfect choice for the depths of a Montana winter. – *Taylor-Ann Smith*
\$170 sorel.com



Outdoor Research Extravert Gloves

Time tested by both OR ambassadors and customers, the Extravert Gloves have been top performers for years. The Extraverts were redesigned this year to offer quicker-drying hand protection and burlier construction to keep your mitts warm and dry whether you’re lapping the tram or mushing huskies.

Built with breathable nylon and spandex stretch twill, the outer shell wicks away moisture while remaining wind resistant and lightweight. The palm is made from water-resistant, durable goat leather and the pre-curved fingers will help reduce hand fatigue when you’re ice climbing or splitting firewood: two occasions when you can’t afford to let go. – *J.T.O.*
\$75 outdoorresearch.com

Outdoor Research UberLayer Hooded Jacket

Outdoor Research hit a homerun by melding every desired quality into a featherweight, hooded jacket. Worn over a midweight base layer, the UberLayer Hooded Jacket kept me pleasantly warm and dry during a recent test in howling wind and snow.

This soft and compressible layer features Polartec Alpha insulation technology, which retains the right amount of warmth while maintaining breathability, and is surprisingly wind- and water-resistant.

The UberLayer has plenty of give for unrestricted climbing maneuvers or while you’re “rolling down the windows.” Its generous pockets – one of which the jacket compresses into – make this layer a must have for the winter ahead. – *Alexis Deaton*
\$299 outdoorresearch.com





Borbay art

Jason Borbay spent a decade living in Manhattan, where he was named “Time Out New York” magazine’s “Most Creative New Yorker” in 2009. Borbay painted the cover for Zach O’Malley Greenburg’s 2014 book “Michael Jackson, Inc.,” and had an exhibit in the Major League Baseball Fan Cave.

Since then, Minnesota-based Borbay has gone nomadic and is currently painting in Jackson, Wyo., where the mountain community is inspiring his new series of neon signs at dusk. Spoiler alert: A casual glance at one of his pieces could fool you into thinking he’s a photographer, not a painter. - T.A
\$4000-12,000 borbay.com

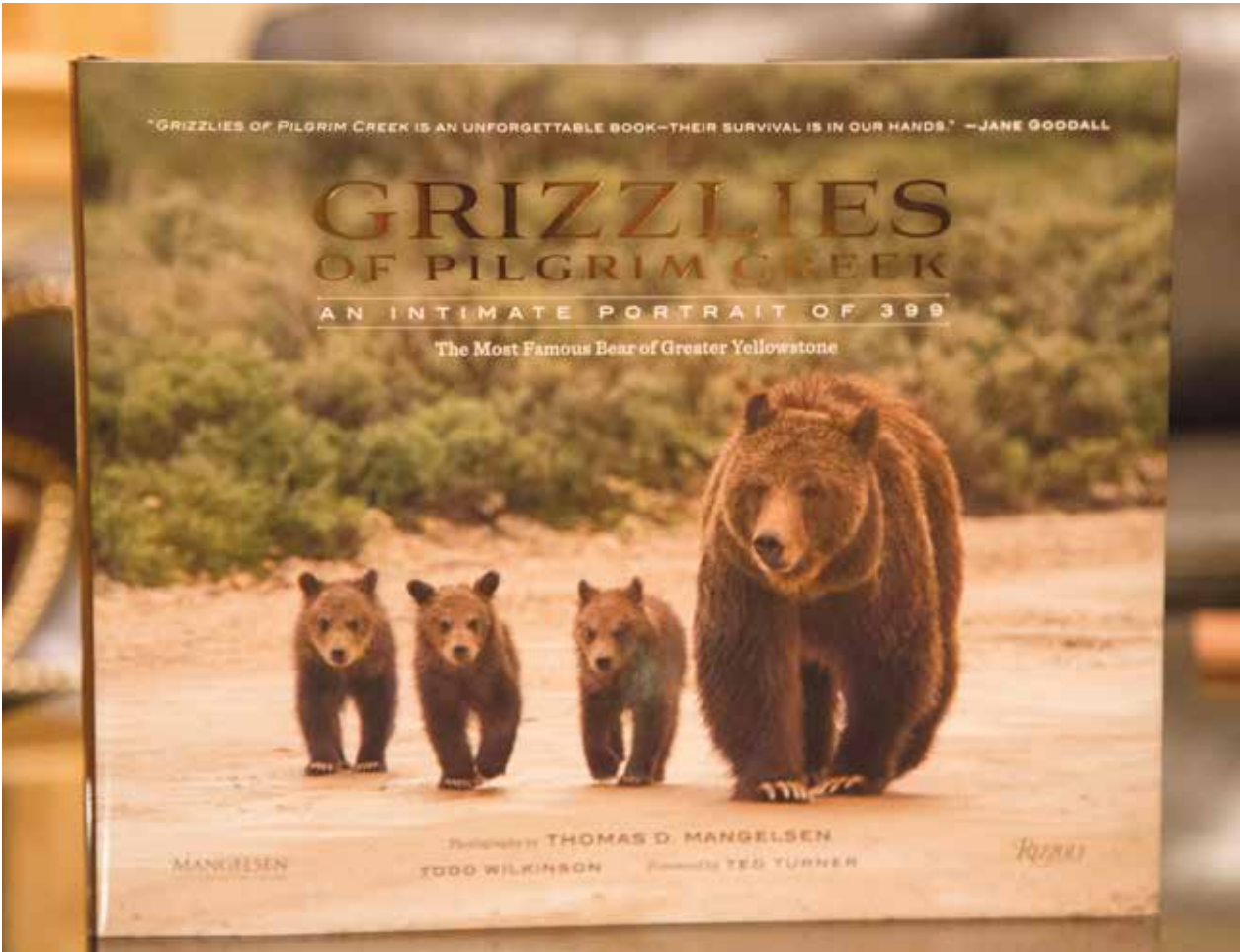
Kevin Schwarting art

Big Sky-based painter Kevin Schwarting has a deep passion rooted in skiing. When he moved from Chicago to Montana in 2003, the cold-smoke powder in the Northern Rockies inspired him to depict his ski adventures on canvas.

The results are paintings rich in color and atmosphere, texture and light pal-ettes. The paintings “represent idealized, sometimes surreal winter experiences that shape [my] style,” he says, “in the same was these experiences shape us all as skiers.”

Schwarting’s art appears on RAMP Sports’ ski topsheets, and he sells T-shirts and hoodies, phone cases and stationary, as well as his prints. - J.T.O.
Prices vary coldmountainart.com



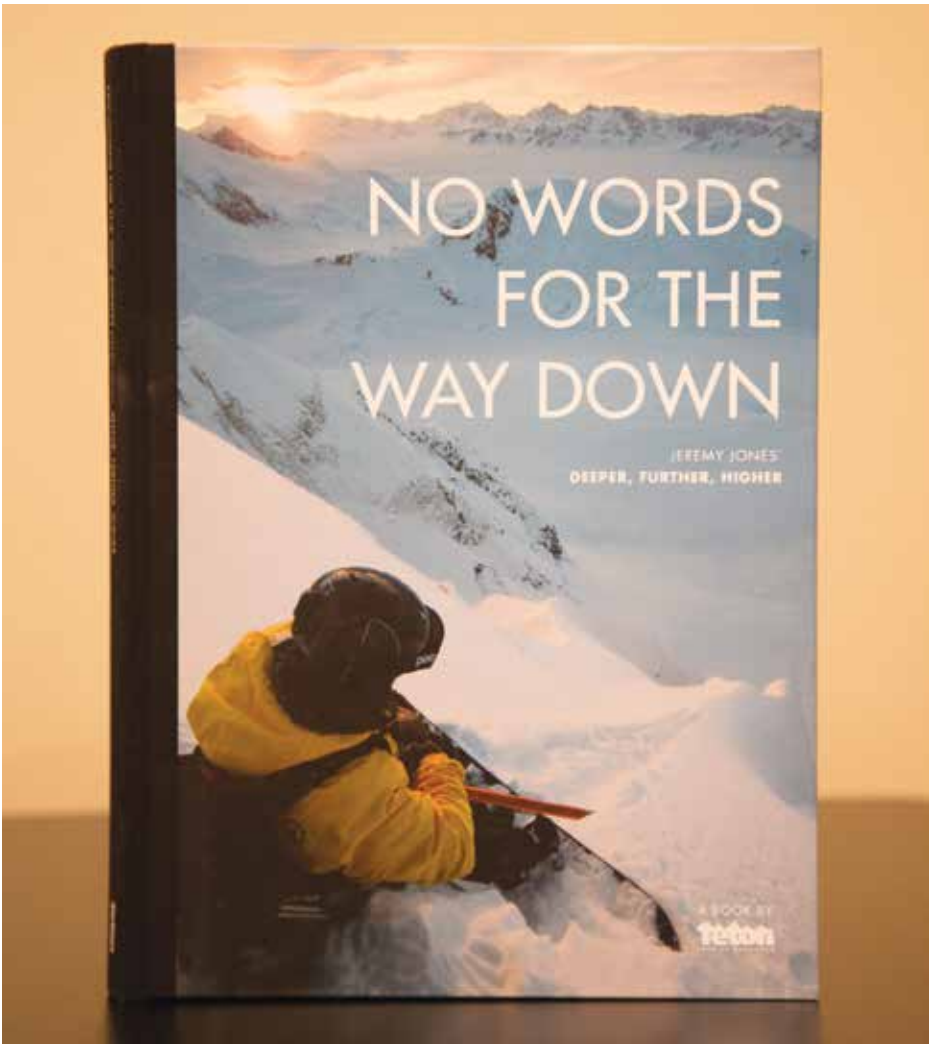


“Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek, An Intimate Portrait of 399, the Most Famous Bear of Greater Yellowstone”

Once on the verge of extinction, the grizzly bear population in the Greater Yellowstone has gradually rebounded since the Endangered Species Act was signed in 1973.

Globally acclaimed wildlife photographer Thomas D. Mangelsen and journalist Todd Wilkinson joined forces to create “Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek,” which documents ten years in the life of Greater Yellowstone’s most famous bear, “399.” Noted for her survival skills, savvy providing for her cubs, and tendency to amble across the roads of Grand Teton National Park, 399 has become an icon.

Discover her story in 240 pages of stunning photography and text, and learn the detailed history of the region’s grizzlies. – T.S.
\$60 mangelsen.com/grizzly




“No Words for the Way Down,” by Jeremy Jones

Have you ever wanted a window into your favorite skiing and snowboarding footage? Want something just as visually gripping?

Stunning photography and design accompany the personal journals Jeremy Jones’ penned while filming Teton Gravity Research’s “Deeper,” “Further,” and “Higher.” TGR published the coffee table book in October.

Jones imparts lessons including “A switchback while skinning is a good stability test”; “Crampons save energy”; and “Sleeping with a warm water bottle adds 10 degrees Fahrenheit to your sleeping bag.” The book offsets instruction with intimate, down-day reflection from Alaska, Antarctica and the Himalaya. – A.E.
\$60 tetongravity.com




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Wyoming Whiskey

Wyoming Whiskey Small Batch Bourbon is distilled, barreled, and bottled in Kirby, Wyo., an hour's drive east of Yellowstone National Park. A creation of Whiskey Hall of Famer Steve Nally – of Makers Mark fame – you've likely seen Wyoming Whiskey in liquor stores around the West.

Unlike other regional bourbons, Wyoming Whiskey is created entirely within Cowboy State lines. The corn, wheat and barley are sourced locally, and a nearby limestone aquifer provides the water they use.

I'm no whiskey connoisseur, but with sweet notes of syrup and caramel, I've sipped enough other bourbon to know that this stuff is good. Heck, even my wife drank it neat. – *E.J. Daws*
\$39-49 wyomingwhiskey.com



Hiball Energy drinks

The perfect balance of healthy and stimulating, Hiball is the go-to for good energy. Comprised of all natural ingredients, Hiball Energy offers a range of choices including caffeinated sparkling waters, cold brew coffees, energy juices, and protein drinks.

Whether you prefer a Vanilla Cold Brew to start your morning, or a refreshing Grapefruit Sparkling Water to keep you fueled for a few more runs off the Lone Peak Tram, Hiball Energy drinks are the perfect choice without the processed sugar. Cases can be ordered online and Highball will ship it free right to your door. – *T.S.*
Starting at \$36/case hiballer.com



Field Trip Jerky

Created in 2010 by three New York City friends after a ski trip to Vermont, Field Trip Beef Jerky is as natural as you'll find. Tom Donigan, Scott Fiesinger, and Matt Levey sought an all-natural and organic jerky made from top-grade meat, and the result hits the spot.

Made without gluten, preservatives, added MSG, nitrates, or corn syrup, Field Trip beef or turkey jerky comes sealed in airtight packaging to hold in freshness, and in six different flavors.

The cracked pepper turkey jerky is seasoned to perfection, but it's all about the Honey Spice-flavored beef jerky – brown sugar and cayenne pepper together at last! – *J.T.O.*
\$6.50 fieldtripjerky.com



Klean Kanteen Tumbler, Pint Lid

Whether you want to keep your bevvies cold or hot, Klean Kanteen will oblige with its vacuum-insulated, 16-ounce tumbler.

You don't want coffee-flavored beer or beer-flavored coffee, so fear not: This tough-as-nails container is made from electropolished stainless steel that won't absorb past flavors and ruin your day on the slopes, the river, or commuting to the day job.

A Pint Lid (sold separately) will keep everything out but your beverage, and fits snugly on the tumbler. Bonus feature: the lid has a straw port. –J.T.O.

Tumbler: \$23.95; Pint Lid: \$6.95 kleankanteen.com



Yeti Rambler Colster

We no longer have to rely on poorly manufactured foam to tackle the important job of keeping our beverages cool. Yeti Coolers has introduced the next level of drink insulation.

With its double-walled vacuum insulation and a ThermoLock Gasket, the Rambler Colster can keep any 12-ounce can or bottle ice cold much longer than you actually need. Whether you take an aggressive approach toward consuming tasty beverages, or a more casual "nursing" method, the Rambler Colster ensures your last sip is as cold as the first.

Constructed out of kitchen-grade stainless steel and built to last, this is not your father's can cooler – but it probably should be. – W.O.
\$29.99 yeticoolers.com

DryGuy Travel Dry DX

A stocking stuffer that should be on every outdoorsman's list, the DryGuy Travel Dry DX portable boot and shoe dryer is a compact, handy way to dry out your footwear after a day outside.

Plug it into a wall outlet or use the AC adapter in your vehicle – the DryGuy is equally effective for warming ski boots on the way to the resort, drying out hunting boots after a wet day in the woods, and keeping hiking shoes fresh and dry. The dryer is nearly silent while it's plugged in, and small fans help remove moisture, draw fresh air in, and warm up your footwear. – M.P.
\$40 dryguy.com



Fishpond Drifty Boat Caddie

You have enough going on in your drift boat – between dogs, empty beer cans, mangled tippet nests, and extra rods – you need some order. Meet Fishpond's Drifty Boat Caddie, a truly minimalist boat bag to keep small essentials organized and within arm's reach.

The sturdy construction features a removable fly holder – which folds down and can be used as a fly-tying surface – several options for lanyard attachments, and a beer holster. My favorite feature is the removable and interchangeable gunwale hooks and straps, meaning you can securely attach it to a bench, cooler, or even the sides of the boat. – E.D.
\$99.95 fishpondusa.com



EAST SLOPE OUTDOORS



Laundromat Patchwork and Juneau sweater jacket

East Slope owner David Alvin said he nearly sold out of Laundromat’s wool sweater jackets last holiday season. This season, ESO amassed a broad sampling of styles that will look sharp on just about everyone.

Laundromat purchases fair-trade certified products that are hand-knit in Nepal by equitably paid tailors and knitters. Jacket exteriors are 100 percent wool, and interiors are constructed from 100 percent cotton or a cozy, fleece-like polyester. – A.E.
\$160 to \$180 32 B Town Center Ave., Big Sky, Mont.

SUGARBUZZ



Sugar Buzz owners Cory and Lisa Lundstrom are trying something new this season: custom chocolate boxes that can be assembled at the store or pre-ordered.

Load up on all the tastiest chocolates – including mini cashew clusters, peanut butter melties, and triple dip malt balls – and avoid those that normally linger in the box long after the holidays have ended. Order in advance and you can get your chocolates imprinted with a custom design. – A.E.
Prices vary 81 Snowy Mountain Circle, Big Sky, Mont.

GRIZZLY OUTFITTERS



Beartooth Publishing map, AT ski rental

Want a taste of the booming backcountry skiing trend? Head down to Grizzly Outfitters to pick up one of Beartooth Publishing’s waterproof and tear-resistant recreation topographical maps, and let the experts set you up with top-of-the-line alpine touring rental gear: Scarpa boots and Dynafit skis, bindings and skins.

“We’ve [outfitted] everything from light, 5-foot females to 300-pound, 6-foot-4-inch guys. They were all out the door happy,” said Grizzly co-owner Andrew Schreiner. Once you’re hooked, return to purchase the latest gear, from skis and boots to transceivers and airbags. – A.E.
Map: \$13, AT ski package rental: \$65 per day 11 Lone Peak Drive #101, Big Sky, Mont.

RHINESTONE COWGIRL



Morse Code necklace

The Morse Code is a simple statement about the people and places we love. The collection by beq Pettina uses Japanese silk thread and sterling silver to create a necklace that reads “Big Sky” or “Montana” in Morse code. This is a perfect, artistic gift for someone who loves “The last best place.”
\$34

Wooden Ships scarf or hat

Colombian-born designer Paola Buendía created Wooden Ships after travels to Bali inspired her to make products with the environment, culture, and economy in mind.

A fair-trade, zero waste, and organic company, Wooden Ships will make you look good while putting your conscience at ease. With a blend of wool and acrylic yarn, these scarves and hats will keep you warm and complement nearly any outfit. – T.S.

Scarves \$45-59; Hat \$38 32 Town Center Ave., Unit A, Big Sky, Mont.

MOUNTAIN MAVEN



Best Friends Girl Hooded Cardigan

Lightweight and warm, this hooded cardigan will be a welcome addition your wardrobe. The flyaway cut adds clean, flattering lines to this tunic-length sweater. Plan on layering it over your favorite shirt since this will be your new go-to cardigan. –A.D.
\$45, 115 Lone Peak Drive, Big Sky, Mont.

LONE PEAK CINEMA

For a gift that keeps on giving, visit Lone Peak Cinema for the ultimate stocking stuffer. You can save \$25 when you buy the theater’s 10-ticket pack, and this holiday season owners Scott and Sally Fisher are bringing in some blockbusters.

The final chapter of “The Hunger Games” films, “Mockingjay, Part 2” plays through Dec. 17, and tickets for “Star Wars, Episode VII: The Force Awakens” go on sale Dec. 5.

Featuring the NFL Sunday Ticket, Trivia Nights each Friday, and alternating “Throwback Thursday” themes each month (December’s is holiday movies with “Elf” and “Home Alone”), Lone Peak Cinema is entertaining après-ski crowds. –J.T.O.

10-ticket package: \$80
50 Ousel Falls Road,
Big Sky, Mont.



GALLATIN ALPINE SPORTS



Never Summer Mountainslayer

Lone Mountain graces the topsheet of Never Summer’s Mountainslayer, a limited-edition, cambered snowboard. Gallatin Alpine Sports designed the board in conjunction with Bozeman-based World Boards and Never Summer, a Colorado-based company that has been designing and building boards since 1983.

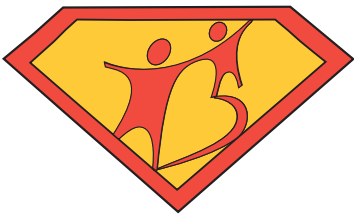
“It’s not just an old pressed profile, it’s an original shape,” said GAS owner Tom Owen, noting there are only 50 Mountainslayers made each year. The 2016 model features the color photography of Big Sky local Ryan Turner. – A.E.

\$550 169 Snowy Mountain Circle, Big Sky, Mont.



As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words,
but to live by them.

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We’ve highlighted a number of products and services in our annual Gift and Gear Guide because the holiday season is a time for giving and showing appreciation for the ones you love. This is also a great time of year to consider some of the tremendous nonprofits and charities in our region. EBS staff has high-

lighted a few below that we’re passionate about, support financially, or where we volunteer our time. Consider offering your support to one of them or an organization of your choosing this holiday season. – T.A.



The Big Sky Community Corporation promotes, acquires and preserves sustainable recreational resources and programming for the use of the Big Sky Community and its visitors.
bscmt.org



BSCFB promotes a vibrant local economy by utilizing community resources to preserve the food security, health and dignity of those in need in the Big Sky area.
bigskyfoodbank.org



VISION: A healthy Gallatin River Watershed for future generations
MISSION: To partner with our community to inspire stewardship of the Gallatin River Watershed.
gallatinrivertaskforce.org



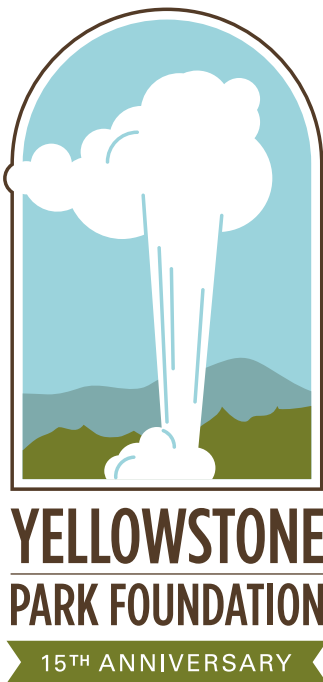
Eagle Mount Bozeman is committed to provide quality therapeutic recreational opportunities for people with disabilities and young people with cancer, and to provide support for families of participants so that “they shall mount up with wings as eagles.” (Isaiah 40:31)
eaglemount.org



The Spanish Peaks Community Foundation supports the greater Big Sky area by funding community service projects, the arts, education and management of the outdoors.
spanishpeaksfoundation.org



As a non-profit, volunteer-based organization, our mission is to provide an opportunity for kids to become great skiers and pursue personal goals while promoting good sportsmanship, healthy competitiveness, sound technical skills, and an appreciation for the spirit of skiing in the mountains.
bssef.com



The Yellowstone Park Foundation is dedicated to ensuring that America’s Park endures for generations. As the official fundraising partner of Yellowstone National Park, the Foundation is committed to raising funds and resources to provide a margin of excellence for Yellowstone and its visitors’ experiences.
ypf.org



Providing opportunities to extraordinary teenagers in order to foster self-reliance, critical thinking skills, and community participation throughout Gallatin County, Montana.
byep.org



Gallant Chance Ranch works with at-risk youth ages 13 and up in Gallatin County to inspire them to D.R.E.A.M. – develop responsible, enthusiastic and ambitious mindsets. The organization strives to develop youths who are prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century as emerging leaders within their community.
gallantchanceranch.org

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
Meadow Village Center, Westfork Meadows and Town Center

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
Start at Lone Peak Brewery and stroll to select locations at Meadow Village, Westfork Meadows and Town Center. Try a sampling at each location and enter to win a FREE VEGAS VACATION FOR 2

CONTACT :

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Ski Free

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



BIG SKY
TOWN CENTER
MONTANA



BOZEMAN HEALTH
BIG SKY MEDICAL CENTER

