# Dec. 11 - 21, 2015

Dec. 11 - 21, 2015 Volume 6 // Issue #25

**Big Sky Medical Center arrives** 

**Real Estate Guide** 

Big Horn basketball starts strong

**Weekend Getaway:** Jackson!

**Holiday Events Guide** 



explorebigsky.com





Dec. 11-21, 2015 Volume 6, Issue No. 25

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### On the cover:

An aerial view of Big Sky Town Center where construction of a new hotel and plaza will begin in 2016. PHOTO BY WES OVERVOLD

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# **Big Sky Medical Center arrives**

**Holiday Events Guide** 

Big Horn basketball starts strong



**WEEKEND GETAWAY: JACKSON** 

# 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.











# Frequency:

# 26x/year

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# **Distribution**









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# CONTRACTED PLACEMENT



- Top-tier hotels
- Private mountain clubs
- Luxury transport companies
- Art galleries
- Preferred rack placement in Bozeman/Yellowstone International airport
- Bedside at luxury lodging and recreation properties

Correction: In the article, "American Bank CEO, former Big Sky resident dies in helicopter crash," published Nov. 24, it was incorrectly reported that Bruce Erickson had two sons, Tyler and Taylor. Taylor is Bruce Erickson's daughter.



# MARTHA JOHNSON Owner | Broker

Martha@BigSkyRealEstate.com | 406.580.5891

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



### 39 SWIFT BEAR

Offered for \$4,200,000

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



### 180 Thomas Moran Drive - Big EZ Estates

Offered for \$2,350,000

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



### ELKRIDGE 33

Offered for \$6,400,000

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



## 307 WILDRIDGE FORK

Offered for \$4,100,000

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



## YELLOWSTONE PRESERVE

Offered for \$39,900,000

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



### 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

Martha@BigSkyRealEstate.com | 406.580.5891



**4** Dec. 11 - 21, 2015 Explore Big Sky



# NEWS IN BRIEF



**BY EBS STAFF** 

# NorthWestern underestimates tax hike after \$900M dam buy

BY MATT VOLZ ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – NorthWestern Energy officials say they won't appeal a big increase in the company's Montana property taxes after last year's \$900 million purchase of 11 hydroelectric dams.

Instead, the company's customers will pay for most of the nearly \$23 million tax hike.

Public Service Commission members questioned NorthWestern and Department of Revenue officials about the taxes on Dec. 7. They expressed frustration about the amount and the utility's ability to simply pass most of it on to its customers.

The increase is primarily a result of NorthWestern's \$900 million purchase of 11 hydroelectric dams last

year from PPL Montana. The dams boosted NorthWestern's assets and drove up its stock price, which factor into how the utility's taxes are calculated, Revenue Director Mike Kadas said.

"North Western paid considerably more than what we had valued that property at under PPL ownership," Kadas said.

NorthWestern underestimated the final tax increase by about \$5 million. Attorney John Alke says the utility decided against an appeal because the Montana Tax Appeal Board does not favor corporate taxpayers.

Alke says the hikes will amount to about a 4.5 percent increase in the typical electricity customer's bill and a 4.9 percent average increase for natural gas customers.

# Vehicle wrecks into grocery store near Big Sky Resort

BIG SKY – Just after 2 p.m. on Dec. 4 a man who allegedly suffered a seizure lost control of the Hyundai Sonata he was driving and crashed into the C&P Grocery store next door to the Black Bear Bar & Grill.

Two C&P employees were in the grocery store at the time of the accident. One sought medical attention for back injuries and the other said she was shaken up by the ordeal but otherwise uninjured.

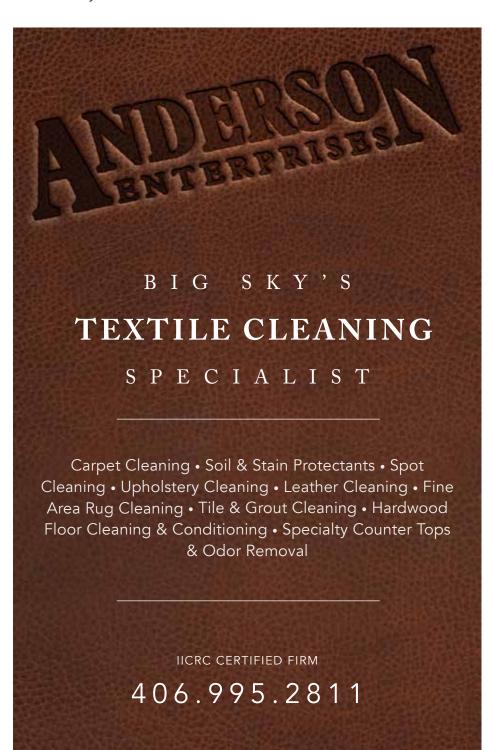
Two onlookers pulled the driver from the vehicle according to a witness.

"I don't think the car made contact with anybody [in the building]," said Montana State Highway Patrol Trooper Zachary Gold who investigated the accident. "Everybody was up and walking around. Obviously, it did a lot of damage to the building."

The car was near the intersection of Sitting Bull and Moose Ridge roads when it veered off the road and into the grocery store.

The owner of the vehicle, said it appeared the driver had suffered a seizure. She said he lost consciousness before the accident and didn't come to until he was in the back of an ambulance bound for Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital.

The vehicle was removed from the building by a tow truck later that afternoon.







Help us celebrate our One Year Anniversary in our new location!

Friday, December 18, 2015 from 4-8pm

Libations and Holiday Treats for everyone! Thanks Big Sky for an awesome 2015!



# News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

# Reflect on kindness this holiday

BY ERIC LADD EBS PUBLISHER

On behalf of the Explore Big Sky and Outlaw Partners staff, I would like to wish you all a happy holiday. For those visiting southwest Montana, welcome and enjoy, I hope you have a memorable vacation with incredible hospitality.

For local readers, thank you for your continued support in helping grow this publication into one of the state's largest newspapers, and the only one in the Big Sky community. We are honored to be the voice for this region.

Our world is facing challenging times, including destruction of the global landscape, terrorism and homegrown violence dominating the headlines. As we wade though these troubling waters let's remember we can all affect change by leading with our actions.

Imagine a planet where we treat each other with kindness, and respect Mother Nature as if our lives depended on it – in fact, they do. Small actions can breed big results.

This year was a turning point for our region as we witnessed record-setting growth and development. Farm fields and mountain valleys are quickly turning into subdivisions.

Big Sky is slated for billions of dollars in new development with the building of hundreds of new residences, as well as hundreds of thousands of square feet of new hotels and commercial centers. And Bozeman is now one of the fastest growing communities in the country.

With this development will come new jobs, and many will prosper from the accelerated growth. But with growth comes a responsibility to protect the very resources that drew us all to this region, which I firmly believe will be one of the most significant stories in the next year.

2016 will be a year when voices for conservation, responsible and sustainable growth, and protection of resources like clean air and water must be heard. Big Sky is an unincorporated town, and without dedicated governance, development occurs faster and with less regulation – this poses both an opportunity and a challenge.

Issues such as affordable housing, traffic, road safety, schools, infrastructure development, land conservation and preservation of animal habitat are becoming powerful conversation pieces for 2016. At EBS we are committed to thoughtful and responsible reporting while giving a voice to not only the people who live here but also the natural world we share this area with.

EBS is a newspaper that prints thoughtful stories every 14 days, is distributed throughout southwest Montana, and is mailed to dedicated readers around the country. Explorebigsky.com is the online platform for our media portfolio, providing news, events and stories posted daily.

Nearly 1 million people will read EBS and explorebigsky.com in 2016, and we take the responsibility of reporting seriously. To our advertisers, thank you for your support. We remain committed to growing this publication next year, making your advertising dollars as effective as possible.

Enjoy the holiday season and remember kindness is contagious – let's spread it wide.





The Dec. 9 opening of Big Sky Medical Center has broadly expanded healthcare offerings in Big Sky with its four-bed inpatient unit, six-room emergency department, lab services and MRI. How will its opening impact you and this community?



**Lianne Kershaw,** Big Sky, Mont. Owner, Sanook Skin Care and Massage Therapy

"This is a historical day, not just for the state, but for the community. To be able to access services that we normally have to go to Bozeman for - that's a blessing ... We're so lucky that we have a certain affluence in the community. I know that there were big donations from the Yellowstone Club and a few members that donated a half of a million dollars each."



Ross Downer, Big Sky, Mont. Rental Technician, Grizzly Outfitters Ski & Backcountry Sports

"I definitely think it's important to the community because we have a small population, but a lot of medical [incidents] ... There's definitely demand for urgent medical care. [On Dec. 8] there were two different folks who got ambulanced [off Big Sky Resort], pretty much simultaneously."



**Jenny Hake,** Big Sky, Mont. Emergency Room Registered Nurse, Big Sky Medical Center

"We get to take care of our community members when they're in need instead of sending them somewhere else ... We'll get to know names and faces and they'll get to know us as a staff, instead of going to a big, crazy E.R."



# **RESTAURANT OPEN DAILY**

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# **Big Sky Medical Center opens**Culmination of 15 planning years 'historic'

BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR EBS MANAGING EDITOR

BIG SKY – More than 200 Big Sky residents and visitors crowded the atrium in the Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center on Dec. 9, for what Bozeman Health interim dyad CEO and President as well as its CFO Gordon Davidson called a "historic event."

Visitors took guided tours through the 51,625-square-foot facility that includes a sixroom emergency department; four-bed inpatient unit; primary care clinic; pharmacy; laboratory services; medevac landing pad; and imaging center with a new cutting-edge MRI scanner.

BSMC will be fully operational and accepting patients on Dec. 12.

The welcoming and ribbon-cutting ceremonies culminated a dream that took root during the center's groundbreaking in May 2014, but one that was planted much earlier, according to Big Sky Resort President and General Manager Taylor Middleton, also the chair of BSMC's board of managers.

"Sure, two years from moving dirt until this building opened [is] a spectacular timeframe," Middleton told the crowd in the atrium, "but the board of directors for Bozeman Health has been working on this project for over 15 years."

After years of planning, Bozeman Health – called Bozeman Deaconess at the time – opened a pharmacy in 2004 in Big Sky Meadow Village then in 2005 bought the land along Lone Mountain Trail where the medical center exists now.

Beginning in 2013, Big Sky community leaders held open forums to discuss options for a hospital in the area, inviting Bozeman Deaconess representatives as well as those from Billings Clinic to participate.

"This is a big deal," Middleton said. "Within two years we were building a hospital right here in this place where cows, and for that matter, buffalo used to roam."

Dr. David Chen, BSMC's chief medical officer, hired five physicians to work out of Big Sky's facility, including Maren Dunn, D.O.; Mark Siemer, D.O.; Jeremy Mitchell, D.O.; Kirk Weber, M.D., FACEP; and Philip A. Hess, M.D., who will serve as the center's medical director.

A major benefit to having a medical facility in Big Sky, Hess said, will be speedier medical attention for many ailments. Until now, patients had to travel or be transported to Bozeman for definitive care.

"We're going to be able to provide care for a lot of people and reduce their travel time," said Hess, who moved to Big Sky last July and began work at BSMC in August. "The ambulance won't have to leave Big Sky to take people to Bozeman nearly so often." Longtime locals Les Loble and Bob Thompson chatted in front of the facility's large front windows, ruminating on the additional benefits to having BSMC in such close proximity to Big Sky's resort and its neighborhoods. Both retired in Big Sky, they discussed the advantages those of retirement age will see.

"When I was in the fire department we could not administer clot-busting drugs because we didn't know what [the patient's] condition was," said Loble, referring to medication administered to stroke patients. "Here, [doctors] will know, so you save a really important hour ... in the treatment of the patient. It will reduce the drag on the fire department's resources."

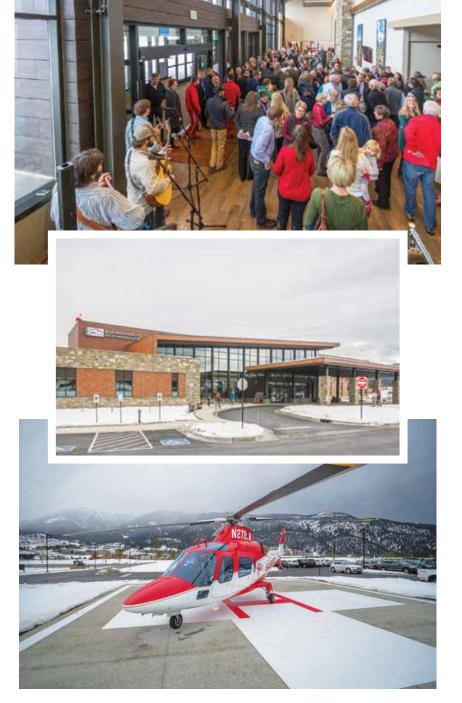
BSMC will employ 35-40 individuals to start, Davidson said during his portion of the address, and will operate as a not-for-profit organization to generate funding that it plans to reinvest into the community. In 2015 alone, donors funded the BSMC Phase 1 effort with nearly \$3 million through the nonprofit Bozeman Health Foundation.

"Healthcare is not new to us as an organization, but this is a new opportunity to us," Davidson said. "How we will improve is with feedback, [and] we welcome feedback. Today is about execution. And the execution doesn't stop today; today is just the start."

Amanda Eggert contributed to this report.







PHOTOS BY MIKE CHILCOAT



Treehouse Condo at Warren Miller Lodge \$11.5M /2,191 SQ FT



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



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

### SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB\*



Cabin #6 \$2.15M / 2,585 SQ FT



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



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



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

### **BIG SKY**



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



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



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



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

### **BIG SKY**



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



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



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



Lot 128 Anter Ridge Rd. \$175K/.4 ACRES

## **GREATER MONTANA**



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

Waterfront conservation property near Yellowstone National Park

West Yellowstone / Hebgen Lake \$19,500,000



14 Choke Cherry Lane \$97.5K/1.08 ACRES West Yellowstone





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



Lot 338 Bristlecone Drive \$4.95M / 14.6 ACRES

**BIG SKY** 



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



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

### **MOONLIGHT BASIN\***



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



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



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



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

### **BIG SKY**



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



Mountain Meadows \$3.495 M / 120 ACRES



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



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

# **BIG SKY**



Ramshorn Lot 2 \$128.5K/.32 ACRES

# GREATER MONTANA

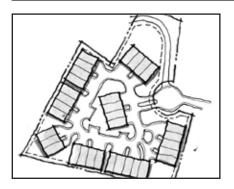


512 Old Farm Road \$3.25M / 5,497 SQ FT, 20+ ACRES E. Gallatin River Frontage / Bozeman

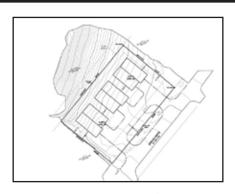


Homestead at the Beacon \$1.65M/640 ACRES Butte

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



Airport Garages / \$24.9K- \$29.9K each NOW TAKING RESERVATIONS



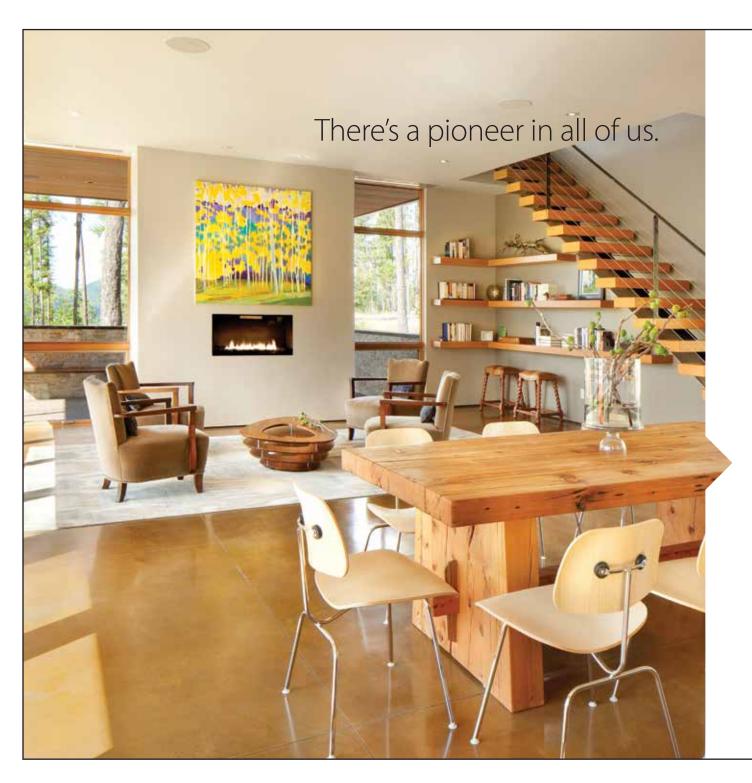
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Village Center #271 1 bath studio / 463 sq ft \$299,000



Spanish Peaks Mountain Club TBD Eagle View Trail, +/- 1.08 acres \$875,000



# 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.

As we approach the middle of the second quarter in the school district, we are busy with holiday

performance rehearsals, working through curriculum and preparing for the future. As you all know, the school board and community are now in the implementation stages of our strategic planning process and one of the major areas of the initiative is faculty excellence.

Each day around the world, parents entrust schools to care for their children, with the expectation that the students' lives will be enhanced in a learning environment. In order for these expectations to be met, schools must have a number of things in place: strong curriculum, safe facilities, a welcoming environment and capable teachers. Research indicates that the single most influential factor to increased student achievement is an effective teacher.

We are currently in the process of articulating expectations in order to have excellent faculty members in BSSD. We are fortunate to have leadership that has worked in a variety of educational settings and are highly developed in identifying and supporting excellence in the classroom. One of our biggest goals as administrators so far has been to gather school-wide data for both teaching strategies and behaviors in the district.

We have been able to establish baseline criteria for articulating high expectations, how those expectations will be demonstrated, and what additional supports are needed to ensure that Big Sky teachers are among the best in Montana and the Northwest. In order to be the best school, we need to employ, retain, support and celebrate teachers who make serious impacts with students on a daily basis.

To execute the ambitious plan the board has adopted, the faculty will be very involved and will have to manage much of the heavy lifting. We will support extensive professional development for faculty, encourage reflective teaching, and continue to assess and coach thoughtful planning of lessons.

Ultimately, our jobs as school administrators are to ensure the faculty has the tools, support and training required to be excellent – because excellent teachers equal excellent schools.



bigskylibrary.org

Announcements

Holiday Open House Sunday 12/13 2PM

# hours.

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

Public Computers available here. All are welcome.

Located at the north end of Ophir School





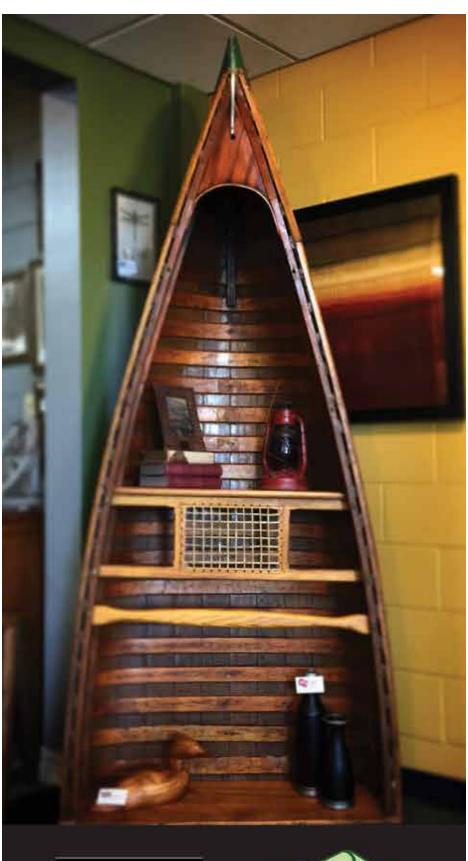
Greg Woodard "Indian Head Penny," 36 x 30, Bronze





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# TRIPLE



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- End unit with extra windows
- One car attached garage
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**4 CORNERS COMMERCIAL** 

- Live where you work multiple uses!
- 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment upstairs
- Large heated shop and office/storage space
- Separate entrances to each space

\$238,000 | MLS 209452



MEADOW VILLAGE - LOTS 23 & 24

- 2 side-by-side .25 acre lots with million dollar views
- Located in the heart of Meadow Village above Little Coyote Road
- Purchase one or both & build home on .5 acres \$168,900 EACH | MLS 188524 & 188525

**BUCK RIDGE RANCH - LOT 32A** 

\$900,000 | MLS 156618

- 39.66 acre tract that allows horses

- Direct access to Forest Service land

- Total privacy above a gated road

- Captivating views



- Spotless 1,595 sf condo 3 bedrooms, 3 baths

- Attached single car garage

\$495,000 | MLS 202360



**BIG HORN 65** 

- 1,595+/- sf 3 bedroom, 3 bath unit

- Ski-in/ski-out condo

- Highly desirable unit across from Poma Lift

- Nicely furnished with interior upgrades

**BIG HORN CONDO #34** 

- Ski-in/ski-out access next to the Poma Lift
- Wood burning fireplace

- 60 acre tract at the end of Frank Road

FRANK ROAD - BELGRADE

- Great Bridger Mountain Views
- Level tract for easy building

\$1,400,000 | MLS 201531



JUST LISTED - SPANISH PEAKS CLUB #15

- 2,969+/- sf, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, large den/family room
- Kitchen has a breakfast bar, spacious dining area, & french doors to balcony
  - Beautiful finish work & architectural accents throughout
- Attached heated two car garage with extra space for all your gear \$625,000 | MLS 209628



PRIME CANYON COMMERCIAL

- 2 commercial buildings located on 1.027 acres
- Building #1 has 3,230 sq. ft.
- Building #2 has 5,808 sq. ft.
- Great Investment with a good cap rate \$1,400,000 | MLS 204402

**BEAVER CREEK - 20 ACRES** 

- 20 acre tract with a well & corral in place

- Sweeping views of the pristine watershed

- Gated road insures privacy & quiet living

\$349,000 | MLS 192327

- You & your horses will love this tract!



**NEW LISTING - BIG HORN 11** 

**LOST TRAILS - LOT 4** 

- Extremely private, yet accessible 20 acre tract

- Located halfway between meadow & mtn villages

\$499,500 | MLS 196234

- Power and phone to forested lot

- Dramatic mountain views

- 1,595 sf 3BR/3B ski-in/ski-out condo
- End unit with extra windows - Attached single car garage
- Best priced and beautifully maintained

FURNISHED \$432,000 | MLS 2



28 NORTH - MOTIVATED SELLER

- 11.29 acre lot located just below Mtn Village
- Head-on views of ski runs
- Just minutes from the ski hill
- Short ride to Meadow amenities \$749,000 | MLS 194811



**LAKE FRONT MANOR - LOT 6** 

- 1.04 acres in a 7 lot subdivision
- Overlooks Hebgen Lake
- Well in place & approved septic
- Private community dock

\$299,000 | MLS 170691



- Can be subdivided



**BIG HORN 66** 

- 3BR/3B 1,595 sf chalet w/ one car garage
- Beautifully upgraded & close to Poma Lift
- Granite countertops and tile
- Close to mountain shops & restaurants FURNISHED \$525,000 | MLS 207791





# **BSSD Students of the Month:** November

As part of its Student of the Month program, the Big Sky School District bonored four students in November for exemplifying caring.

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.

The students are honored during an assembly before teachers and fellow students. In addition, the k-4 honorees are rewarded with a hurger from The Corral, and the chosen middle and high school students get pizza from Blue Moon Bakery.



# K-2 Student of the Month - Marley Chapin, kindergarten

Marley's teachers and classmates appreciate her empathetic nature and the way she checks in to make sure everyone is doing well. Marley is willing to help a friend who needs a little pick-me-up, and you can often find her in school with a smile on her face and a little pep in her step. Way to go Marley!



# Ophir Middle School Student of the Month - Kyan Smit, sixth grade

Kyan exemplifies the character trait of caring in the way he relates to his classmates and approaches his schoolwork. Kyan is an exceptional student who strives to better himself academically, and is very empathetic toward his peers and teachers. He is often seen checking in on his fellow classmates and is genuinely concerned about their well-being. Why is Kyan November's Student of the Month? It's simple, he cares. Congratulations, Kyan on a job well done!



# 3-4 Student of the Month – Madeline Mars, third grade

Maddie exemplifies the trait of caring throughout the school day. Not only does she care for her peers, but she also cares greatly about her schoolwork and accomplishing tasks that are bestowed upon her. Maddie demonstrates caring for peers by checking in with students that

might be down or in need of help. Pride in her work is another example of how Maddie shows that she cares about the effort she puts in. Thank you Maddie for being a role model for us all, and showing us how to be caring individuals!



# Lone Peak High School Student of the Month – Rhett Leuzinger, 10<sup>th</sup> grade

What does it mean to be caring? You have concern for the well-being of others; give of yourself without expecting anything in return; show respect to people around you; are kind to everyone and don't exclude others from activities; and you listen to what others have to say. Rhett demonstrates all of these behaviors.

In school, Rhett shows concern for others by helping them better understand concepts in class, and is one of the most respectful young men we know. Often times it's easier to sit back and do your own thing, rather than worry about what is going on around you – we are happy that we don't see that behavior in Rhett. Rhett is simply a kind person.

# **Obituary:** Lynne C. Malpeli



Lynne C. (Ford) Malpeli, 85 years old, of Naples, Fla., passed away on Nov. 25.
Lynne was born Oct. 8, 1930, in Detroit, Mich., daughter of the late Maurice and Jesse Ford.

She and her late husband,
John (Jack) C. Malpeli Jr.,
resided in Bloomfield Hills,
Mich.; Charlevoix, Mich.;
Lake Wylie, S.C., and Big
Sky, Mont. Lynne enjoyed
entertaining, traveling,
boating, playing bridge
and needlepoint. But one
of her biggest loves was
driving through Yellowstone
National Park to enjoy the
scenery and wildlife.

Lynne is survived by her five children: John C. Malpeli III of Lake Wylie, S.C.; Faith

Malpeli of Big Sky, Mont.; Marc (Kay) Malpeli of Winterhaven, Fl.; Camille Malpeli of Brighton, Mi., and Hope Walker of York, S.C. She's also survived by her eight grandchildren: Anna, John, Lauren, Jeffrey, Kali, Molly, Heidi, Hunter, as well as her great granddaughter Emilia.

Lynne will be laid to rest at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield, Mich., at a date to be announced. Jack and Lynne both lived blessed lives. Memorial contributions can be made to a charity of your choice.

# Big Sky hardware opens doors on new home

BY TYLER ALLEN EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – Hardware in Big Sky has found a new home on Lone Mountain Trail, and it was clearly a vertical move.

Ace Hardware – Big Sky opened its new doors on Dec. 8, and not only moved up the hill from its old location on Highway 191, but also increased its retail space by nearly 150 percent. Ace now occupies 13,536 square feet east of Meadow Village Center, with more than 11,000 square feet dedicated to retail.

The new real estate improves on the smaller space, and also allows products to be displayed on one floor. Kevin and Tina Barton opened their business in 1993 and the split-level nature created challenges as inventory grew over the years.

"The aisles were getting smaller and the dividers taller," said Store Manager Dan Schlapkohl, who joined the Bartons six months after they purchased the business two decades ago.

"This [new] building is designed for efficiency, it's all on one level," Kevin said, recalling a particularly busy, zero degree-day last winter at the old location. A delivery driver spent four hours unloading his supplies through the front door – the same used by customers – while the interior temperature dropped from 72 to 48 F.

"We were carrying [products] off the truck to the register for sale," Kevin said. The new space also allowed Ace

Hardware – Big Sky to open a home wares department, which Kevin named "Sweet T's" in honor of his wife Tina who passed away in February. She had planned on opening a restaurant of the same name in Big Sky before losing her battle with cancer.

In addition to home wares, Ace has added a pet-supply aisle and vastly expanded the plumbing, paint, electrical and building-supply offerings. Its new location has made it all possible, according to Kevin.

"The visibility on the contractors' route [from Bozeman] is a big reason for the new location," he said, noting the old store followed the seasonal ups and downs of a resort town.

With 10,000 new items brought into the Lone Mountain Trail location, those contractors, along with the rest of the community, should have plenty of reasons to stop year round.



Kevin Barton and Dan Schlapkohl in the new Ace Hardware – Big Sky. PHOTO BY TYLER ALLEN

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ing Big Sky. Incredible views of the resort area including Lone Mountain. 3 selected home sites each on their own 40± acre parcel.



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Fully leased and well managed mixed use building offering both retail and residential tenancies. Very positive cash flow provides solid income stream. Good mix of commercial and residential tenancies in this fast growing market.



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20.46± buildable acres in Moonlight Basin.
Spectacular views to both Lone & Fan Mtns.
Access through private, gated road along with deeded access along Jack Creek Road to Ennis.



## LOST TRAILS RETREAT, LOT 8 \$778,000 • #209887 • Call Don

20± acre property between the Meadow and Mountain Villages at Big Sky! Lot has been partially cleared for evergreen management and to create view corridors. Community water system with fire flow.



# 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.



# **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.



## LITTLE THUNDER \$329,000 • #200167 • Call Stacy or Eric

1.33± acre lot adjacent to the Thunderwolf lift at the top of the KNOB in the Cascade Subdivision. This elevated lot has mature trees & utilities in place and ready for development. Broker/Agent



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**Section 2:**SPORTS, HEALTH, DINING,
AND ENVIRONMENT







# LPHS boys handle Sheridan in season opener, lose to Roberts

BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS STAFF WRITER

SHERIDAN/ROBERTS, Mont. – Junior guard Eddie Starz scored 34 points on Dec. 4 in the Big Horns' first basketball game of the season, breaking his own 28-point school record during a 66-28 road win over the Sheridan Panthers.

Two LPHS players added double-doubles in the Big Horns' decisive win. Senior Chris Tompkins, new to the regular starting lineup, logged 15 points and 11 rebounds. Sophomore Jackson Wade netted 10 points and snagged 12 rebounds in his first high school basketball game.

Big Horns Head Coach Al Malinowski said the team's dynamics are still falling into place – especially with only three returning players – but he's pleased with what he's seen so far.

"We don't have a lot of game experience, but we have a lot of athleticism, a decent amount of skill, and a lot of work ethic," Malinowski said.

On Dec. 5, the Big Horns launched a strong fourth quarter comeback but ultimately couldn't close the gap to catch the Roberts Rockets, a bigger team with a deeper bench.

After scoring six points or fewer in each of the three preceding quarters, the Big Horns found the mark with their shots, scoring 24 points in the fourth quarter. LPHS closed the deficit to five points but ultimately lost to the Rockets 49-40.

"[Roberts] clearly had more game experience ... I think experience was the difference in that game, especially early on," Malinwoski said. "We made a pretty nice comeback, but we had dug a pretty big hole to come back out of."

Malinowski is hoping to add two players to his lineup in coming weeks, bringing the roster to a total of nine.

Once he's participated in enough practices, eighth-grader Frankie Starz will don a Big Horns jersey to play with the high school team.

Senior Hugo Boman is still dealing with a wrist injury he suffered during football season, but will be back on the practice court over the holiday break, pending a successful recovery.



Kolya Bough looks for an opening in the Big Horns' Dec. 5 game against the Roberts Rockets. "We've got a real young freshman point guard that does a real good job of handling and distributing the ball," said Big Horns head

# Big Horn girls open season with two road wins

BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS STAFF WRITER

SHERIDAN/ROBERTS, Mont. – With two wins under their belt and seven returners on their 15-player hoops team, the Lady Big Horns are shaping up to be serious contenders this season.

LPHS established a sizable lead early on in their Dec. 4 victory at Sheridan, leading 26-9 at the half. "We were able to score a lot of points right from the get-go and get some experience for the new girls," said Head Coach Nubia Allen.

With just five girls on their team, Sheridan got into foul trouble in the third quarter when one Panther fouled out, followed by another in the fourth.



Sophomore Carter Johnson directs the offense from point guard in the Lady Big Horns' 47-23 win over the Panthers on Dec.4. PHOTOS BY LOREN BOUGH

"Almost the full fourth quarter was three-on-three basketball," Allen said. "That was the first one for me. I've been playing since I was 9 years old and I've never seen that happen."

Juniors Dasha Bough and Luisa Locker led the team with 10 points each in the Big Horns' 47-23 victory over the Panthers.

On Dec. 5, the Lady Big Horns managed a 46-39 win in Roberts, relying on strong defense to shore up some offensive weaknesses. "We were a little bit sloppy [on offense], but we were able to come out with a win," Allen said.

Locker and junior Bianca Godoy had particularly strong showings.

"[Locker] was able to create a lot for us, get teammates open, and she's also a very good defender," Allen said of her point guard.

Godoy contributed seven points and aggressively defended the strongest player on the opposing team, a 5-foot-11-inch post player who netted more than half of the Rockets' points.

Godoy is the Lady Big Horns' smallest post player but the team's best defender, Allen said. "She's 5-foot-5 but she plays like she's 6 feet tall."

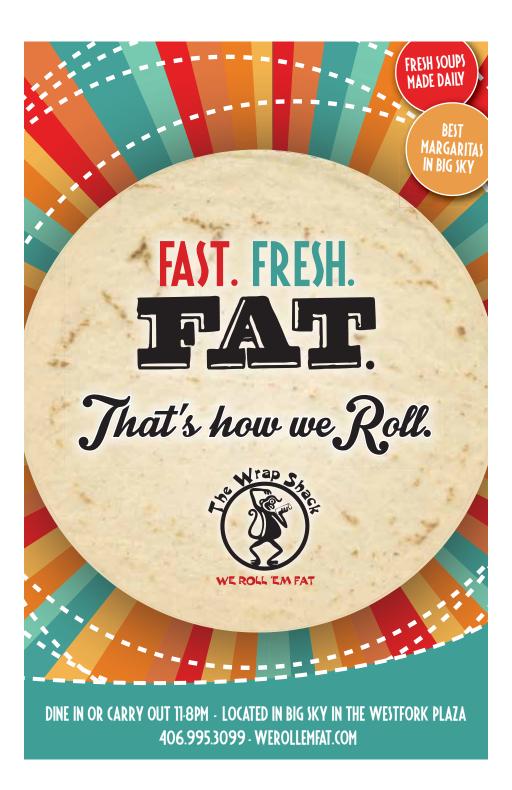
The seven returning girls played together in four tournaments this summer and there are no seniors on the LPHS squad this year. "We have a situation where our juniors have to be seniors and our sophomores have to be juniors," Allen said

The Lady Big Horns are still dialing in their team chemistry and learning one another's strengths and weaknesses, according to Allen, but she has high expectations for the team and its potential for tournament success.

"If they keep improving the way they have so far, we'll be in the top four in the district and make it to divisionals and then state," Allen said.

# LPHS Schedule

Dec. 12	Home	Hybrid Tip-Off Jamboree Lone Peak vs. Absarokee	G 4:30 B 6:00
Dec. 18	Away	@ Ennis**	G 7:00 B 5:30 JVB 2:30 JVG 4:00
Dec. 19	Home	Harrison / Willow Creek**	G 7:00 B 5:30 JVB 2:30 JVG 4:00
Jan. 2	Home	Shields Valley**	G 7:00 B 5:30 JVB 2:30 JVG 4:00
Jan. 8	Away	Gardiner**	G 7:00 B 5:30 JVB 2:30 JVG 4:00
Jan. 9	Home	Twin Bridges**	G 7:00 B 5:30 JVB 2:30 JVG 4:00
Jan. 15	Away	@ West Yellowstone**	G 7:00 B 5:30 JVB 2:30 JVG 4:00
Jan. 16	Away	@ Lima**	G 2:30 B 4:00
Jan. 22	Away	@ Harrison / Willow Creek**	G 7:00 B 5:30 JVB 2:30 JVG 4:00
Jan. 23	Home	Sheridan**	G 4:00 B 5:30
Jan. 28	Away	@ Shields Valley**	G 7:00 B 5:30 JVB 2:30 JVG 4:00
Jan. 29	Home	Gardiner**	G 7:00 B 5:30 JVB 2:30 JVG 4:00
Feb. 4	Away	@ Manhattan Christian**	G 7:00 B 5:30 JVB 2:30 JVG 4:00
Feb. 6	Home	White Sulphur Springs**	G 7:00 B 5:30 JVB 2:30 JVG 4:00
Feb. 12	Home	West Yellowstone**	G 7:00 B 5:30 JVB 2:30 JVG 4:00
Feb. 13	Home	Lime** / Senior Parent Day	G 2:30 B 4:00



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-Taylor, at Spur Coffee



# WHERE BIG SKY COMES TOGETHER

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# Three LPHS volleyball players earn All-Conference honors

BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – Two Lone Peak High School juniors and one freshman received All-Conference honors for their performance in the 2015 volleyball season.

This was the second consecutive year junior and team captain Luisa Locker was named First Team All-Conference after leading the league in digs – the defensive specialist had 289 digs in 2015.

"She is incredibly athletic and she has a great court sense," said Lady Big Horns Head Coach Sarah Griffiths of Locker's play. "This year she was elected captain and that's really where I started to see her shine ... She really put the team in a position to win."

Junior Bianca Godoy, also a team captain, was fifth in the league with 148 digs and 18th overall in kills. She was named Second Team All-Conference.

"[Godoy] is an incredible all-around player. She is solid on the front row and she is solid on the back row," Griffiths said, adding that she's



impressed by the outside hitter's consistency. "I don't think she ever has a bad day."

Freshman Solae Swanson was named First Team All-Conference, racking up enough kills to be ranked third overall in the district.

"She was such a breakout player for us," Griffiths said of Swanson. "She started the season as what we call a swing player, so she was playing both [junior varsity] and varsity, and after one game she earned a starting varsity position.

"She is a playmaker and a firecracker,"
Griffiths said, adding that she holds the LPHS record for kills in a game (13). Just one other freshman in the district was named First Team All-Conference.

The Lady Big Horns made remarkable improvements in the 2015 season, as demonstrated by their regular season record of 12-4, the fifth-year program's best to date.

"It's validating for me as a coach to see our program grow and to see that program then be recognized and rewarded by the other coaches who see us as a force to be reckoned with in the district," Griffiths said.

At the District 8C Tournament in late October, LPHS lost to the Gardiner Bruins, the three-time defending state champions and a team they beat in regular season play earlier in the year. The Lady Big Horns bounced back with a win against Shields Valley before losing their next match to White Sulphur Springs, ending the season at 13-6.

There were no seniors on the roster this year, which could hint at a solid showing for the Lady Big Horns in 2016.







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# EYE ON THE BALL

# The sad state of the Cleveland Browns



BY BRANDON NILES EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

You could feel the desperation emanating from an entire city and fan base on Nov. 30 in Cleveland, as the Baltimore Ravens

defeated the Browns in the closing seconds of their Week 12 matchup.

As Cleveland placekicker Travis Coons lined up for a game winning field goal, it seemed the Browns were about to win a tight contest. But instead of the ball sailing through the uprights for a Browns victory, the kick was blocked by the Ravens and returned by Will Hill for the gamewinning touchdown.

This is the life of a Browns fan, and it's been a very long time since the team had anything to be excited about. They are currently in their longest playoff drought in team history – their last appearance was in 2002 – and they haven't won a playoff game since 1994.

The components of a successful NFL franchise are pretty clear: consistent coaching, quality quarterback play, personnel decisions revolving around drafting well, and not overpaying free agents. These are consistent traits of the most accomplished NFL teams, and when you look at

how the Browns have fared in these three key categories, it's clear why they've been so dismal.

While the rest of the AFC North division teams – the Ravens, Pittsburgh Steelers, and Cincinnati Bengals – have combined to employ only five head coaches since 2003, the Browns have had seven different head coaches in that same span.

Since the Browns last made the playoffs, they've had 21 different starting quarterbacks, including most recently Austin Davis, who got his first start in Week 13.

Additionally, only six of the 15 players the Browns have drafted in the first round since 2002 are still on the roster, and center Alex Mack and cornerback Joe Haden are expected to move after this season

The quarterback situation seems to be at its worst this year, as the Browns have started three players at the position and none has been productive. The best of the three, 36-year-old Josh McCown, is on his seventh team of his career, and led the Browns to a 1-7 record as a starter this season before breaking his collarbone.

The team's 2014 first-round pick Johnny Manziel was supposed to provide hope at the position, but he's been in the news more often for his off-field antics than for his on-field performance. The

Associated Press recently reported that Manziel had "partied his way out of the lineup" following his Nov. 25 benching.

The Browns need to find an answer. Head Coach Mike Pettine seems like a good long-term solution for the team, but if they continue to draft poorly and struggle at the quarterback position, they have little hope of ever making the postseason.

Acquiring a quarterback is easier said than done, but the Browns also need to draft better and not overpay free agents. Three of their 10 highest paid players this season are underperforming free-agent acquisitions, including receiver Dwayne Bowe, who counts for \$4.5 million against the salary cap this year despite only catching three passes through the first 12 games.

If the Browns take a different approach than the past 13 years, there's no reason why they can't head in the right direction. For now though, the team needs to erase the bad aspects and move forward making sound, long-term decisions – including ridding themselves of problems like Manziel.

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-bost of the 2 Guys Podcast.



# **SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN!**







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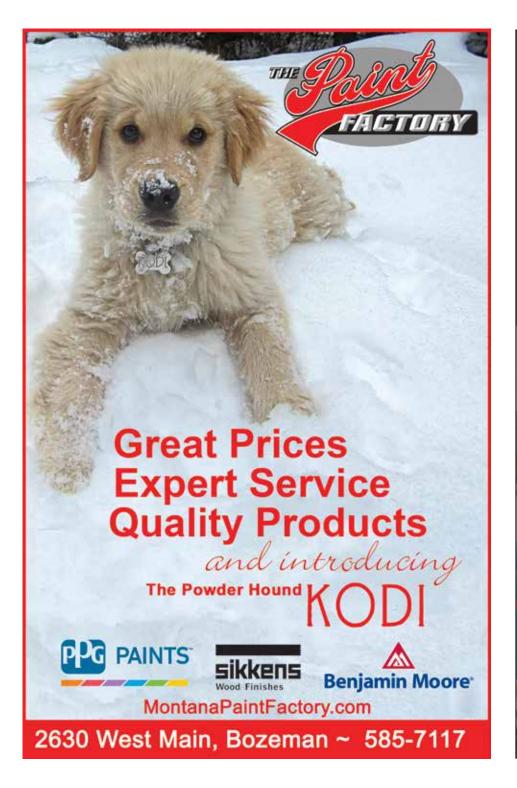
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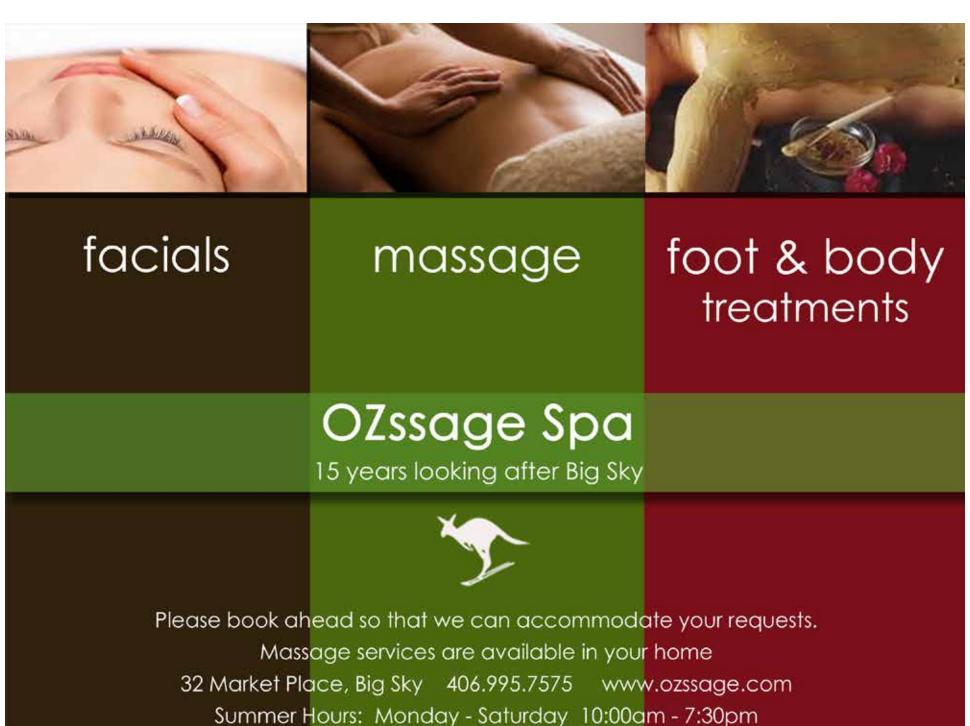
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# The CORNER OFFICE

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

# **Embracing the 'Internet of Things'**



BY JOHANNE BOUCHARD EBS BUSINESS COLUMNIST

In an early November column, I wrote about cloud computing, including Software as a Service and Platform as a Service. Now, as we approach

2016, it's important to prioritize the "Internet of Things" given the fast progression of technology, and our dependency on data and devices.

IoT is basically a network of physical objects, or "things," embedded with electronics, software, sensors and network connectivity, which enable these objects to collect and exchange data. In essence, IoT turns a product that lacked any real intelligence into a "smart" product able to identify user behavior.

This is creating opportunities for enhanced integration between the physical world and computer-based systems, and resulting in the potential for improved efficiency, accuracy and economic benefit. Don't underestimate this – it's predicted that IoT will consist of approximately 50 billion objects by 2020. We're about to feel this powerful technology wave in the very near future.

Examples of IoT include smart light bulbs from Philips, Logitech's smart remotes, wearable devices including the new Apple watch, and a smart thermostat by Google, among others.

I recently met a woman who started an IoT company, and one of my friends is now a CEO of an IoT business. It is the next big thing in technology that we all must understand, as it will impact us as individuals, consumers and how we lead and grow our businesses.

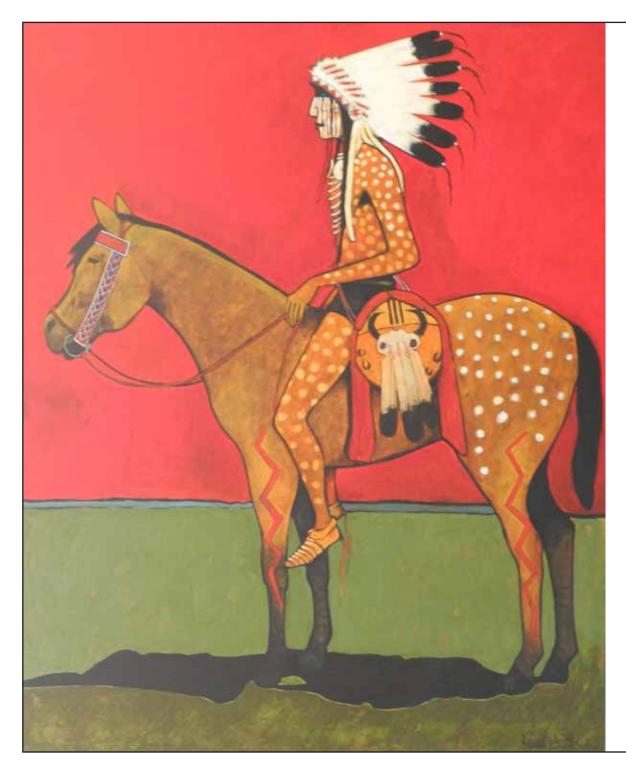
As a business owner you should embrace change and understand that things will be done very differently in 12-18 months from now. Do you remember how we used to rely on fax machines to conduct business, and cameras for taking photographs? Now, your customers take a photo and the network, cloud or device records where it was taken. Built-in artificial intelligence, predictive modeling and connectivity of all things are happening.

I mentioned in previous columns that my career began in data. Today, data is going to make our businesses smarter than ever and we're going to leverage the value of data like never before. IoT will function with cloudbased computing for us to know everything about what we come in contact with.

IoT will be revolutionary for smart homes, clothes, transportation, energy usage, smart retail and healthcare. Imagine the benefits of a smart infant monitor providing parents with real-time information about their baby's breathing, skin temperature and body position. Or the immeasurable value of prescription bottles with a wireless chip to help people be disciplined with their prescription regimen.

Envision more intelligent fitness devices at your fingertip that automatically monitor your movements, location and workouts. And there are a number of applications that we haven't even begun thinking about.

What once seemed impossible is now within reach. Data that was once untapped can be accessed in real time. Figure out which "things" you need to have connected to scale, to control your business, and to serve your customers. I invite you to be part of the change and learn about IoT. Understand when it will be applicable for you, and how soon you, your customers and partners can benefit from it.

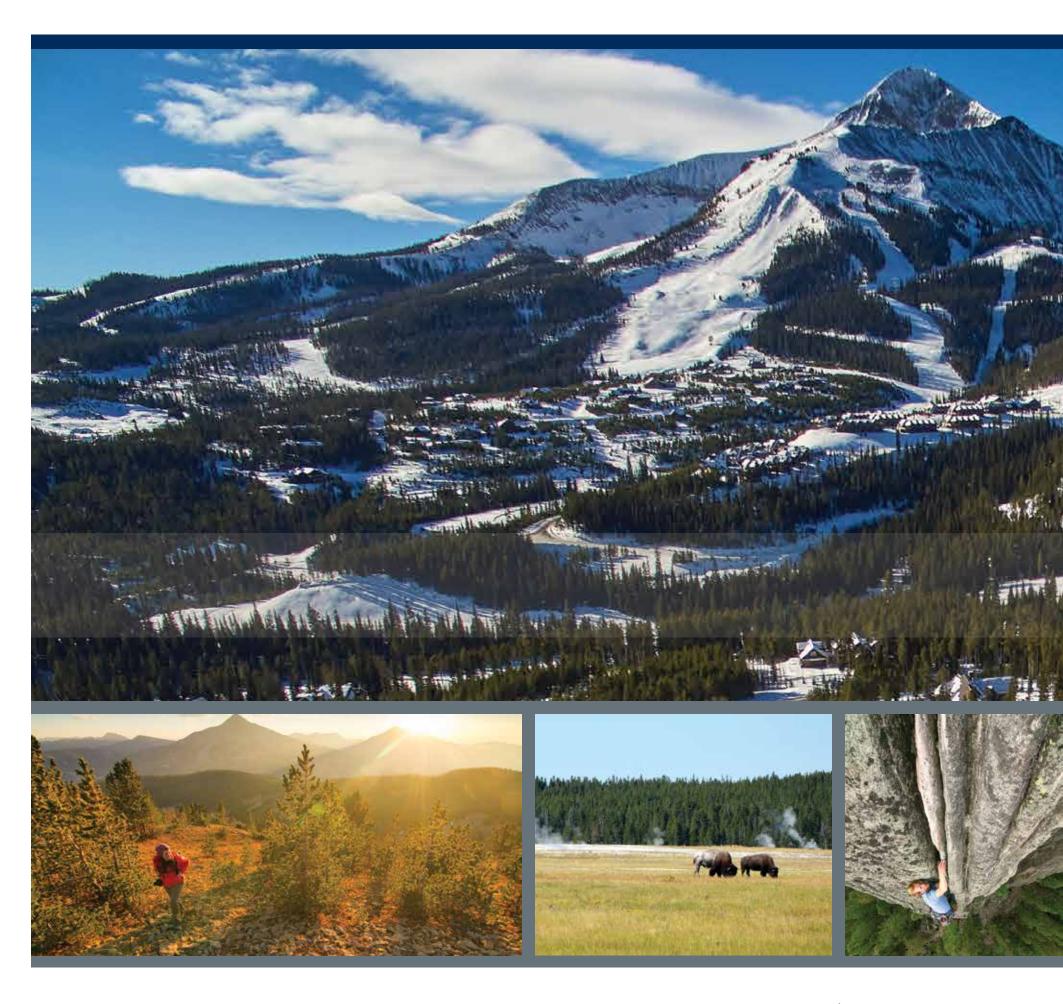




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Kevin Red Star "Big Hail Storm," 21 x 12, Acrylic on canvas

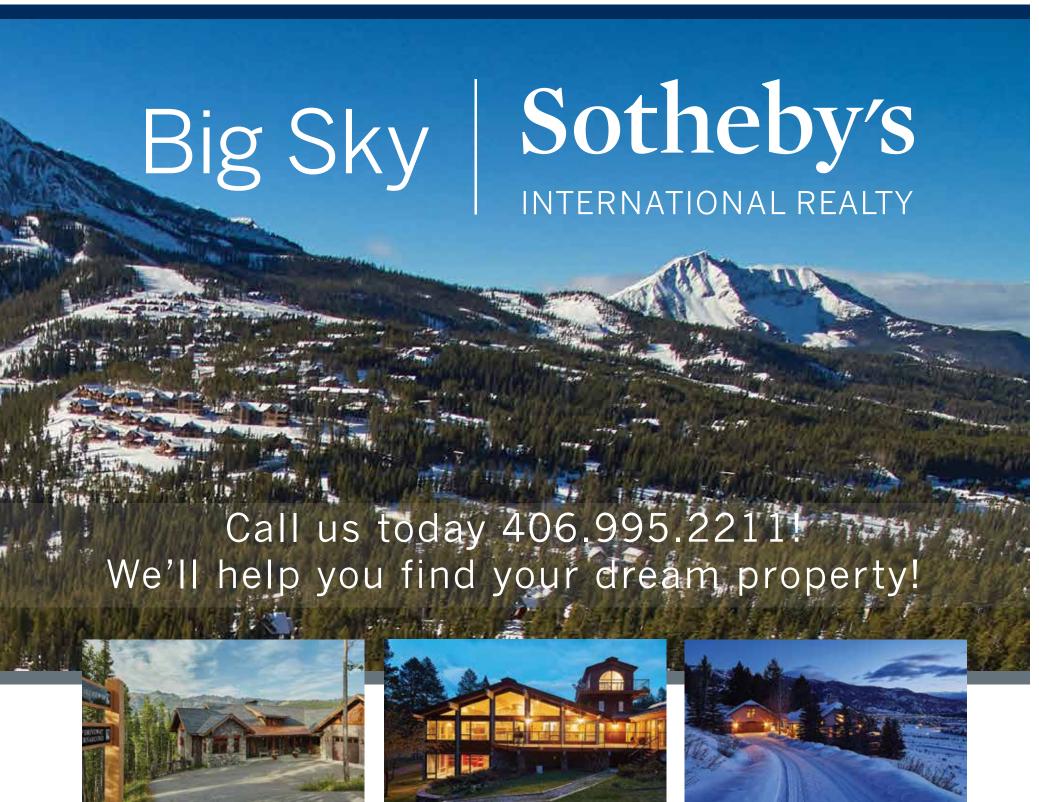


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ALPINE MEADOWS CHALET 6 Silver Star Way, Big Sky, MT 3 Bed, 4 Bath, 2560 sf \$1,645,000 | MLS:208752



SKI-IN, SKI-OUT SADDLE RIDGE 11 Saddle Ridge Road, Big Sky, MT 3 Bed, 3 Bath, 1632 sf \$619,000 | MLS:207996



**SUMMIT VIEW CONDO** Summit Room 10502, Big Sky, MT 2 Bed, 3 Bath, 1315 sf \$399,000 | 202856



**WESTFORK HOME** 68 Sage Drive, Big Sky, MT 3 Bed, 2 Bath, 1931 sf, .32 Acres \$495,000 | MLS:208595



CASCADE HOMESITE Beehive Basin Road, Big Sky, MT 1.63 Acres \$379,000 | MLS:209906



ASPEN GROVE HOMESITE West Pine Condo Terrace, Big Sky, MT 1.294 Acres \$249,000 | MLS:209881





# **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.

# Decoding restaurant language



BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

This time of year, most restaurants and bars are ushering in another winter season. They're cleaning out beer lines, relighting oven pilot lights, and welcoming some fresh faces, as well as old ones. Walk through the Buck's T-4 kitchen over the holidays, and you might hear something like:

"Walking in, one red deer mid, one mister, two all day; one ribeye, stepped on; one chicken, naked; one trout reg; one trout with walleye prep, two all day; and all this is on the fly so let's knock it out."

While the above sentence may read like nonsensical gibberish to most, this is how cooks communicate with each other on a regular basis. Notice the difference in length between the previous paragraph and the following translation:

"There is a new ticket printing right now, and it has two red deer steaks total. One is prepared medium, the other one is prepared medium rare. Next is one rib eye prepared well done. After that, one chicken dish prepared with no sauce. And finally, two trout dishes, one prepared normal, and the other prepared with all the accompaniments that would normally go on the walleye dish. And because the ticket is late coming in, we are already behind so let's try and get it going as quickly as possible."

In a fast-paced kitchen, where seconds feel like an eternity, the average cook is trying as hard as he or she can to focus on a multitude of tasks and dishes they already have started. The first sentence is quick industry lingo that is clear and efficient to the well-trained cook's ear. Also, any server walking by knows exactly what the expeditor just called out.

A typical response from another cook might be "Heard. I can cover the board, then I'm 86'd on chicken."

Translation: "I have only one chicken left which will now be sold on the ticket that was just called out. I also have every other chicken order currently on my ticket rail, but I have no more after that."

Like most every occupation or discipline, there is an inherent language that the average outsider would deem thoroughly confusing, or sometimes even humorous. Like a microwave being called "Chef Mike."

When a cook is running low on an ingredient, for example, and he knows that running out at that moment is not an option, he "puts it on the stretcher." In other words, he spreads out the remaining supply to last the rest of the evening.

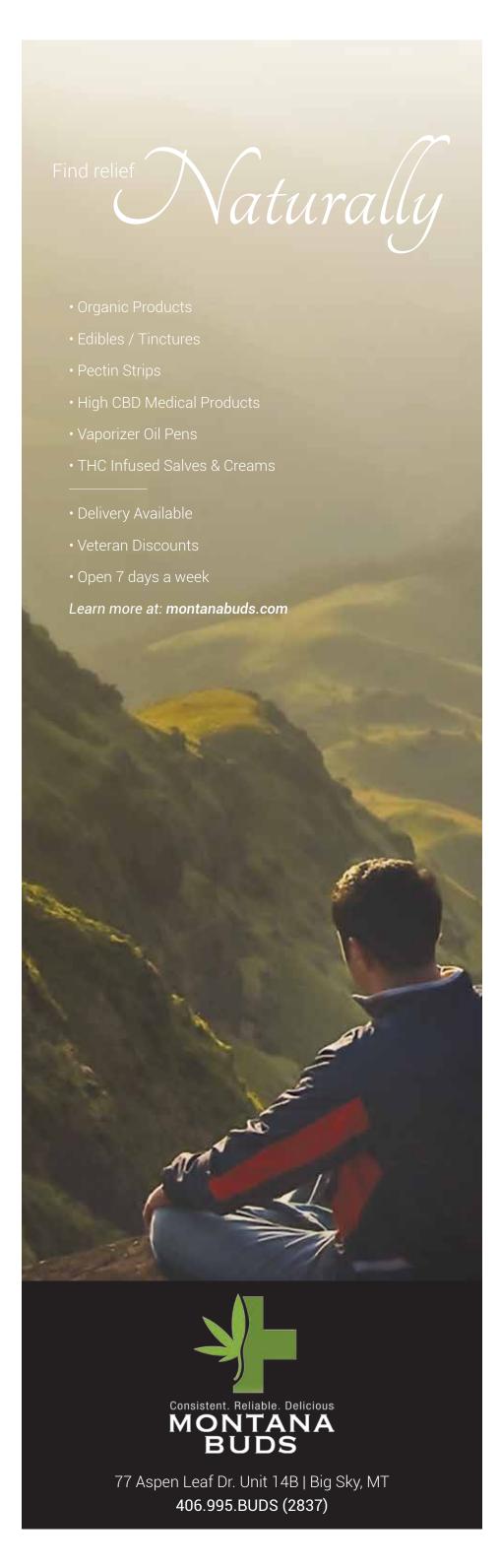
Perhaps one of the most recognizable terms spanning multiple industries is the term "86." Most people use it regularly but few know its origins.

It was coined in the era between the gold rush days and the overall gentrification of America at the turn of the 20th century, otherwise known as the "Wild West." In those days, there were typically two proofs of whiskey: 100 and 86 proof. When a patron was deemed too intoxicated or was getting unruly, he was "86'd." This meant he was no longer permitted to drink the 100 proof whiskey but rather "downgraded" to the mere 86 proof. No wonder we refer to it as the Wild West.

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 Starting new holiday traditions



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN **EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST** 

Social gatherings, gift giving and an abundance of decadent foods during the holiday season can be comforting, but also

overwhelming.

At a time when we're supposed to be cheerful and full of generosity, December celebrations can cause stress and burnout, generating unwanted feelings of exhaustion and frustration.

So this year, I'm bringing new self-awareness to the holidays and making some radical changes.

First and foremost, I'm skipping a long family tradition of holding a cookie bake-off. While I used to devour Christmas cookies without a second thought, I'm now sensitive to the bloat and weight gain they cause. Sugar disrupts my digestive system, and I experience a severe crash after eating it. Why would I give this same experience as a gift?

This year, in lieu of giving homemade cookies to my clients, friends and family, I'm giving them ripe, beautiful oranges and pomegranates. These foods have powerful anti-inflammatory agents, cancer-reducing properties and are beneficial to the immune system during prime flu season.

I'm also not cutting down a tree because I struggle with feelings of guilt. Traditionally, my husband would find just the right evergreen and bring it home for me to decorate. While I love the look and smell of a Christmas tree in the house, in a time when global warming can no longer be ignored I want living trees to stay standing and absorbing carbon dioxide, in return for the oxygen they provide.

There are many wonderful do-it-yourself ideas on the Internet that explain how to display your favorite Christmas ornaments on a colorful and cool makeshift tree. We plan on stringing lights to the wall in the shape of a Christmas tree and place presents under there. Buying a potted tree is another alternative - if you have a green thumb and the tree is native to your area, you can plant and nurture your tree after the ground thaws.

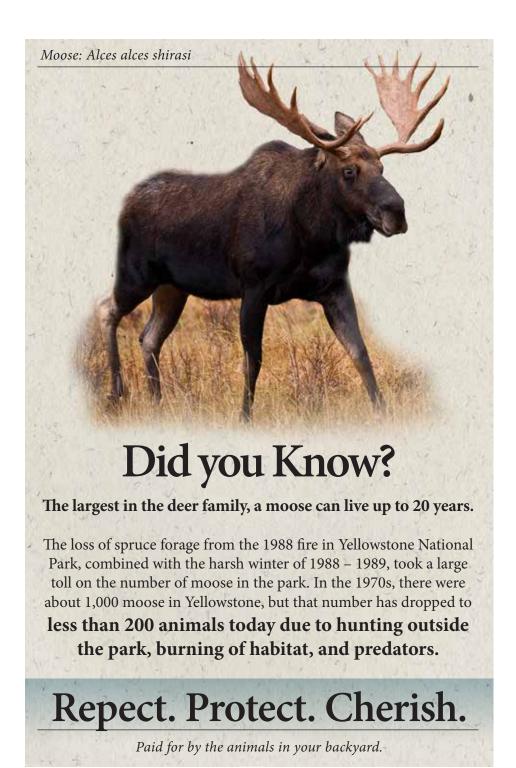
With short, cold days and many social gatherings, this season can be tiring, so I'm going to politely decline invitations that cause me to stretch myself too thin. Saying "no thank you" is ultimately kinder to you and loved ones than saying "yes," if it means getting sick as a result of wearing ourselves down.

I love holiday shopping, but somehow it's easier for me to be financially irresponsible in the name of gift giving. Unfortunately, money is the No. 1 cause of stress among Americans and this is exacerbated during the holidays.

Unmanaged stress of any kind can cause inflammation, the root of most illness. In an attempt to ward this off, I'm creating a "gift budget" and sticking to it. Origami ornaments will be lovingly made for all my friends and family this year.

What are your triggers this time of year? What new traditions can you create to ring in the New Year more happily, healthfully and energetically? Encourage your friends and family as well, so you can assist each other to bring deeper meaning to the holidays.

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







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# DOCTOR'S NOTE

# Staying safe in rocky ski conditions



BY DR. JEFF DANIELS EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

The Medical Clinic of Big Sky's 22nd ski season has begun at Big Sky Resort. It's surreal to change what we've been doing for the past seven months, shifting efforts to the resort, while still plugging away at our office in Big Sky Town Center. We've expanded operations to a seven-day workweek, and anticipate

more injuries this winter than during summer and fall.

Every year opening day is a little different. This season's early snows gave us hope for excellent Thanksgiving conditions, but the descriptions I heard from injured patients made the conditions sound thin and rocky, and conducive to injuries.

In the first two days of the season, we saw three dislocated shoulders – I think that's a record. All three were immediately diagnosed and reduced within a minute or two, but it's not a great way to begin a winter of skiing or snowboarding.

I still remember the first dislocated shoulder of our first ski season on Dec. 12, 1994. We were relaxing in the waiting room when a man walked in holding his right arm at an odd angle. It took a few moments to figure out what was wrong, several more minutes to consult an emergency textbook, and then about two or three hours to finally get the shoulder back into place.

I needed the help of the ski patrol, as well as Dr. Fran Balice who gave advice and pulled on the arm. Balice had helped ski patrol with medical problems in the years before I came to Big Sky, and together we finally fixed the dislocation. I can still hear the loud pop it made went it went back in the socket.

This year, after a busy Thanksgiving Day, there were progressively fewer people on the mountain, until \$20 Friday. That morning I recorded a radio ad warning about hitting rocks, and several people came in later in the day with cuts on their legs from run-ins with rocks. My advice in the radio ad was that we should all wear kneepads – like the telemark skiers do – if we're using our "rock" skis.

One unlucky lady fell very hard on her right shoulder and not only dislocated it, but also broke off a piece of bone called the "greater tuberosity." It's an uncommon but possible complication when the shoulder dislocates. At first, the broken fragments of bone look very far apart, but when the dislocation is reduced, the pieces come back together.

This complication not only makes for an even more painful injury than a simple dislocated shoulder, but also delays the healing process by several months since normal, healthy bone takes that long to fuse back together.

In an uncomplicated dislocation, the soft tissues holding the shoulder joint in place need time to tighten back up. Immobilization for a week is necessary and then physical therapy usually gets the shoulder back to normal, so that it won't dislocate again at the slightest provocation. Those who don't heal well, or are traumatized too soon after a first dislocation, can end up with a shoulder that won't stay in place, eventually resulting in surgery.

Stay safe out there during the holiday season!

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.

# Declining prices hit energy-producing states hard

BY BEN NEARY ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) – While other states were tightening their belts during the dark days of the Great Recession, Wyoming was socking away billions of dollars in energy revenues in the bank, building new schools and funding an endowment that offers college scholarships to its high school grads.

But with the recent slide in energy prices, fuelrich states like Wyoming and Alaska are now facing the same sort of budget crises that had hit the rest of the nation.

Commodity prices have plunged over the past two years. That's forced some energy states to dip into their "rainy day funds." And state officials say they're worried that they don't know when the rain's going to stop.

Several energy-producing states were counting on oil prices to hold steady at \$50 to \$60 a barrel

# There's no question about it, we're going to face a serious shortfall

or more this year when they mapped out their budgets this year. Their plans are crumbling now that crude prices are barely breaking \$40. Natural gas prices also are down sharply and the future for coal looks bleak.

"There's no question about it, we're going to face a serious shortfall," Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead said this week when he rolled out his budget proposal for the coming two years.

In Wyoming, the nation's leading coal-producing state, state fiscal analysts recently warned that revenues from federal coal leases are likely to fall from nearly \$740 million in the two-year funding cycle that covered 2013-14 down to just \$26 million in 2019-2020. The state has relied heavily on federal bonus payments to fund its schools.

Mead is proposing to reduce the amount of state mineral revenues that goes into permanent savings to free up money to fund programs.

Arturo Perez, fiscal analyst with the National Conference of State Legislatures in Denver, said the global oil glut is having an impact across the world.

"It's safe to say that energy-producing states are weathering some issues with regard to revenue collections," Perez said.



Nationwide, the amount that states and Native American tribes receive from energy production on federal lands has dropped 30 percent from FY 2013 to FY 2015, from \$14.2 billion to \$9.9 billion.

The problem may be most dramatic in Alaska, which long has relied on oil revenues to help fund state government. Alaska now faces an estimated budget gap of about \$3.5 billion, even after a round of furloughs, eliminating positions and other austerity measures.

Alaska hasn't ruled out the prospect of additional cuts or even new taxes – a shocking notion in a deeply conservative state proud of its lack of an income tax.

Lawmakers in Oklahoma also recently raided that state's constitutional Rainy Day Fund for about \$150 million to help close a \$611 million hole in the budget for the current fiscal year.

The Oklahoma fund will probably be tapped again with the state expecting another \$1 billion hole in the upcoming fiscal year. State finance officials say much of the shortfall is the result of the plunging price of oil and natural gas and its impact on Oklahoma's economy.

In New Mexico, projections released in August

estimated that revenues from oil and gas were expected to be more than 16 percent less than the previous fiscal year.

Legislative Finance Committee Chair Sen. John Arthur Smith said last month that New Mexico had been through tough times before but managed to pull through thanks to healthy reserves and conservative predictions. "We thought we weathered the storm, but we might be headed directly into another storm and that's a little bothersome," Smith said.

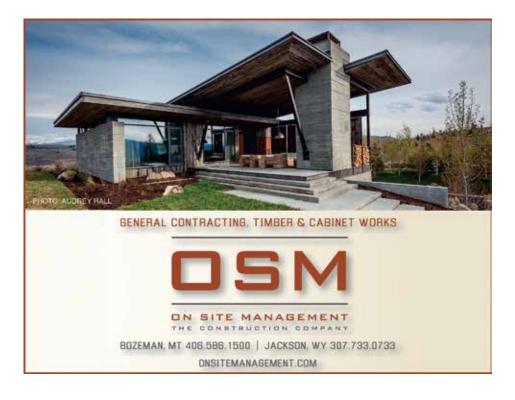
The situation isn't nearly as dire in Texas, the nation's leading oil-producing state, partly because it has diversified its economy enough to shield it from the bust.

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced in October that he was revising downward his estimate on how much the state will have to spend for its 2016-2017 budget cycle in response to lower oil prices.

Hegar said he was dropping the estimate from about \$113 billion in January to about \$110 billion. But lawmakers are only slated to spend about \$106 billion this coming year, so that revision will still mean Texas is set to run a surplus.

In North Dakota, where an oil boom has transformed the state, depressed crude prices and a drop in drilling are depressing tax collections. Overall revenues are 7.5 percent lower than were expected for the two-year budget cycle that began July 1.

Associated Press reporters Susan Montoya Bryan in Albuquerque, N.M.; Becky Bobrer in Juneau, Alaska; Matt Brown in Billings, Mont.; James MacPherson in Bismarck, N.D.; Sean Murphy in Oklahoma City and Will Weissert in Austin, Texas, contributed to this report.





# WORKSHOPS & SPECIAL EVENTS

# HOLIDAY PARTY DEC. 16

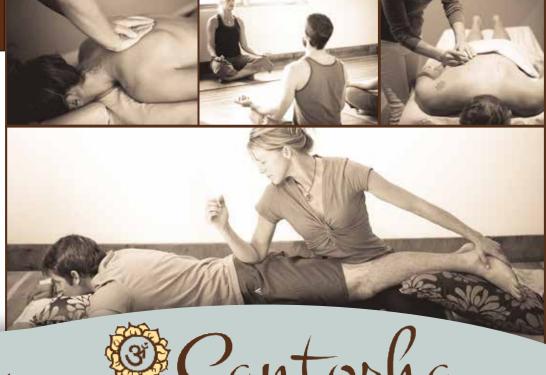
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### MONDAY

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4:15-5:15pm Teen Yoga

6:00-7:15pm All Levels Yoga

All Levels Yoga

Kids' Yoga Grades 5-8

Barre

# TUESDAY

7:00-8:00am

8:15-9:15am Pilates

9:30-10:45am All Levels Yoga

4:15-5:00pm 5:30-6:30pm

# WEDNESDAY

7:30-8:30am All Levels Yoga

9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga

Noon-1:00 All Levels Yoga

4:30-5:30pm Apres Ski Yoga

### **THURSDAY**

7:00-8:00am Zumba

8:15-9:15am

Barre

9:30-10:45am All Levels Yoga

5:30-6:30pm Pi-Yo

### **FRIDAY**

8:30-9:30am Level II Yoga

10:00-11:30am

All Levels Yoga

3:15-4:00pm Kids' Yoga Grades 3-5

> 4:15-4:45pm Kids' Yoga K-2

### **SATURDAY**

9:00-10:15am Vinyasa Flow All Levels Yoga **Section 3:** EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT











# FRIDAY, DEC. 11

# 2015 Christmas Stroll Big Sky Meadow Village & Town Center, 5:30 – 8:15 p.m.

There's much to celebrate in Big Sky this holiday season. Stroll the festivities at the Meadow Village Center, Westfork Meadows and Big Sky Town Center for an evening of family-friendly events, entertainment, and holiday cheer!

Highlights of this festive evening will include the tree-lighting ceremony at Meadow Village Center; photos with Santa at Blue Ribbon Builders; artists markets; illuminated cross country ski trails and walkways; sleigh rides courtesy of Big Sky Medical Center; a beer stroll hosted by Lone Peak Brewery; Dicken's Carrolers and a fireworks display at Big Sky Town Center; music by acclaimed DJ Missy O'Malley, and more. Take in the night as you stroll through local shops and enjoy their open houses, raffles, and holiday specials.

# Turkey for a Ticket Big Sky Resort, all day

Help stock our local food banks for the holidays. Turkey for a Ticket food drive returns for the ninth year to offer free skiing and snowboarding at Big Sky Resort to those who participate in this one-day food drive benefiting Gallatin Valley Food Bank, Madison Valley Food Bank and the Big Sky Food Bank.

# It's A Wonderful Life WMPAC, 3-4 p.m.

The Lone Peak High School International Thespian Society presents "It's A Wonderful Life: The Live Radio Play" by Joe Landry. Faithful to the much beloved film, the show is presented as if it were a live recording of the show in a 1940s radio production. Get your entire holiday fix by coming for the opening of The Snow Show at 6 p.m., a community and student art show in the Performing Art Center gallery. View student ski films and ski-inspired art while enjoying hot cocoa and holiday treats before "It's A Wonderful Life" begins at 6:30.

# SATURDAY, DEC. 12

# Shooting for the Stars fundraiser Buck's T-4, 6:30 p.m.

Big Ski Education Foundation's annual silent auction and evening of entertainment is a great way to kick off the holiday season. Appetizers and tasting hosted by Wildrye Distilling; live music by Gallatin Grass Project.

# FRIDAY, DEC. 18

# Big Sky Community Theater "Nothing Serious" WMPAC, 7:30 p.m.







# FRIDAY, DEC. 11

**Jimmy's First Christmas (on Parole)** Verge Theater, 8-10 p.m.

A Ryan Cassavaugh original and directed by Erin Roberg, this holiday comedy will get you in the Christmas spirit with laughter. Jimmy is released from prison just in time for Christmas Eve in 1989 but must now make peace with his dysfunctional family.

# Jingle All the Way 2K Bozeman Brewing, 6:30 p.m.

This fun-filled pub crawl features Bozeman's best downtown bars, pubs and taverns! Some of the stops will include the Eagles, Bacchus Pub, Crystal Bar, Copper, R Bar, Bar IX and Pub 317. Festive holiday attire is encouraged!

# Winter Art Walk Downtown Bozeman, 6 p.m.

The Winter Art Walk is the last Art Walk of the 2015 season. Downtown businesses and galleries will feature artists' openings and receptions and provide complimentary hors d'oeuvres and refreshments.

# **Holiday Open House** The Gem Gallery, all day

**Bozeman Ice Climbing Festival** Gallatin Fairgrounds, 9 a.m. – 10 p.m.



# SATURDAY, DEC. 12 Winterfest

**406** Brewing Co, 12 p.m.

Come by 406 Brewing Company and Wildrye Distilling for some winter fun! Free ski waxing all day from the Gear Wizard will be available and Seneca boards will be present with their line of skis.

**Holiday on Broadway** Willson Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

**Holiday Open House** The Gem Gallery, all day

**Bozeman Ice Climbing Festival** Gallatin Fairgrounds, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

# SUNDAY, DEC. 13

**Bozeman Ice Climbing Festival** Gallatin Fairgrounds, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Holiday on Broadway** Willson Auditorium, 2:30 p.m.

**Holiday Gift Wrapping REI**, 12 p.m.

The Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness Foundation will be participating in REI's annual holiday gift wrapping event. In exchange for a few hours of dedicated gift wrapping, REI will make a donation to the ABWF.

# TUESDAY, DEC. 15

**Cookies with Claus** Barnes & Noble, 5:30 p.m.

**DIY Ski Tuning Clinic** Play It Again Sports, 6 p.m.

# FRIDAY, DEC. 18

Jimmy's First Christmas (on parole) Verge Theater, 8-10 p.m.

**Client Appreciation Party** Theory Hair Salon, 7 p.m.

**Holiday Tea Service** Townshend's Teahouse, all day

**Nutcracker in a Nutshell** Crawford Theatre, 6:30 p.m.

# SATURDAY, DEC. 19

**Nutcracker in a Nutshell** Crawford Theatre, 2 p.m. / 6:30 p.m.

**Winter Farmer's Market** Emerson Ballroom, 9 a.m. - noon

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

# **SUNDAY. DEC. 20**

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

**Live Reindeer** Murdoch's, 11 a.m.

**Family Service Bozeman Christian Center**, 10 a.m.

# **MONDAY - TUESDAY, DEC. 21 & 22 Irving Berlin's White Christmas**

Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.





# Military ski free at Big Sky Resort

BIG SKY RESORT

Military Appreciation Weekend is Dec. 12-13 at Big Sky Resort, to thank our armed forces members for their service to our country. Active-duty or retired military men and woman ski or snowboard for free with valid military identification, and their dependents receive half-price lift tickets. Military lodging specials are available Friday and Saturday nights as well.

"The fact that the resort recognizes the sacrifices these people have made, being away from family and Montana, is great," said retired Air Force Col. Dick Fast, who is also a ski instructor at Big Sky Resort.

In addition to the lodging and lift ticket discounts, active-duty and retired military and their dependents will receive half-price equipment rentals, as well as 25 percent discounts on mountain sports group lessons and basecamp activities.

"We feel it's essential for military families to enjoy the outdoors together and what better way than skiing?" said Sheila D'Amico, Big Sky Resort public relations manager and daughter of retired Air Force Maj. Craig Chapman.

Visit bigskyresort.com/military for more information.









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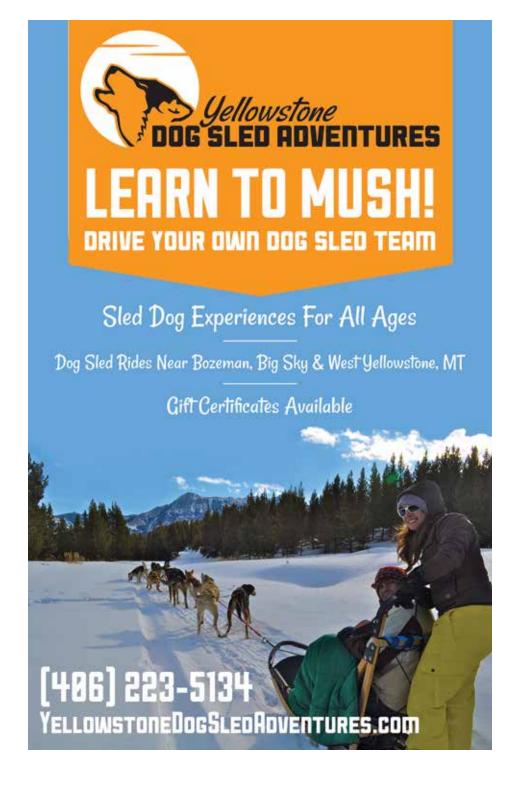
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## **Cold Hard Cash in Bozeman**

**FAULTLINE NORTH** 

BOZEMAN - The Cold Hard Cash Show is an original and innovative tribute to the music of Johnny Cash and The Tennessee Three, and the Missoula-based band will bring their hard-driving sound to Bozeman's Faultline North on Dec. 18.

Fronted by guitarist and singer Merle Travis Peterson, Cold Hard Cash brings to life classic Johnny Cash songs. The band performs with the energy of the live "At Folsom Prison" and "At San Quentin" albums with a sound so accurate you think you're listening to "The Man in Black" himself.

The band formed in 2005, and in addition to Peterson on vocals and guitar, the lineup includes longtime member Fel Torres on drums and Trebor Riddle on upright and electric bass.

Since the early days, Cold Hard Cash have performed on hundreds of stages, often sharing them with a diverse variety of artists. They've been on billings with Eric Church, Charlie Daniels, Eddie Money and Los Lobos, among many others.

In 2008, the band made their national television debut when they performed on "The Late Show with David Letterman," helping them gain a worldwide fan base. This performance helped land them on stages at several nationally known festivals. Cold Hard Cash has played at the Memphis in May Festival, the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, Daytona Bike Week, the Lonestar Rally in Texas, and the Johnny Cash Festival-Roadshow Revival in Ventura, Calif.

The band recorded a song for longtime Eddie Money drummer Glenn Symmonds in 2014, and was featured on his "Friends of Glenn's" album. The Cold Hard Cash Show continues to tour across the country nonstop, spreading the great music of Johnny Cash.

Doors open for the 9 p.m. show at 8 p.m., and tickets can be purchased in advance at faultlinenorth.com or at the door. Faultline North is located on Gallatin Park Drive in Bozeman.



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# EVENTS CALENDAR

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#### FRIDAY, DEC. 11 -TUESDAY, DEC. 22

\*If your event falls between Dec. 22 and Jan. 7, please submit it by Thursday, Dec. 24

#### **Big Sky** FRIDAY, DEC. 11

2015 Christmas Stroll Big Sky Meadow Village & Town Center, 5:30 – 8:15 p.m.

#### **Madison Base area Opening Day Big Sky Resort**

Turkey for a Ticket Big Sky Resort, all day

It's A Wonderful Life WMPAC, 3-4 p.m.

Trivia Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Live Music with Tom Marino Ousel & Spur Pizza Co, 9 p.m.

Live Music with Missy O'Malley Choppers, 9 p.m.

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, 5-7pm

#### SATURDAY, DEC. 12

Live Music with James Salstrom Choppers, 4:30 p.m.

Military Appreciation Weekend Big Sky Resort, all day

International Women's Ski Day Big Sky Resort, all day

Shooting for the Stars fundraiser BUCK S 1-4, 6:30 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, DEC. 13

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

Military Appreciation Weekend Big Sky Resort, all day

#### MONDAY, DEC. 14

Dan Egan Early Bird Camp Big Sky Resort, all day

#### TUESDAY, DEC. 15

Dan Egan Early Bird Camp Big Sky Resort, all day

Bingo Gallatin Riverhouse, 6:30 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, DEC. 17

**Business After Hours** 

Lone Peak Brewery, 5-7 p.m. Star Wars: The Force Awakens early showing Lone Peak Cinema, 7 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, DEC. 18

Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

**Anniversary Celebration** Fercho Gallery & Elliott Design, 4-8 p.m.

#### **Nothing Serious** WMPAC, 7:30 p.m.

Trivia Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Live Music with Mike Haring Ousel & Spur Pizza Co, 9 p.m.

Ski Season Stoke Fest w/ MOTH Black Bear Bar, 10 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, DEC. 19

Live Music with Brian Stumf Choppers. 4:30 p.m.

**Educator Appreciation Weekend** Big Sky Resort, all day

#### SUNDAY, DEC. 20

Big Sky Lady Shred Big Sky Resort, all day

**Educator Appreciation Weekend** Big Sky Resort, all day

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

#### Bozeman

#### FRIDAY, DEC. 11

Jimmy's First Christmas (on . Verge Theater, 8-10 p.m.

lingle All the Way 2K Bozeman Brewing, 6:30 p.m.

Winter Art Walk Downtown Bozeman, 6 p.m.

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

Holiday Open House The Gem Gallery, all day

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

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

Bozeman Ice Climbing Festival Gallatin Fairgrounds, 9 a.m. – 10 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, DEC. 12

Winterfest 406 Brewing Co, 12 p.m.

**Grand Opening** OULA Studio, all day

Holiday on Broadway Willson Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Holiday Open House The Gem Gallery, all day

Bozeman Ice Climbing Festival Gallatin Fairgrounds, 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, DEC. 13

Bozeman Ice Climbing Festival Gallatin Fairgrounds, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Canvas for a Cause: The Warming Center Corx, 4 p.m.

Holiday on Broadway Willson Auditorium, 2:30 p.m.

Modern Sons, Panther Car, Chairea Whistle Pig Korean, 8 p.m.

**Holiday Gift Wrapping** REI, 12 p.m.

#### MONDAY, DEC. 14

Open Mic Townshend's Teahouse, 7 p.m.

**Bozeman Improverts** Verge Theater, 7 p.m.

Pints with Purpose: Citizens Climate Lobby Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, DEC. 15

Sim-Bitti Reunion The Haufbrau, 9 p.m.

Cookies with Claus Barnes & Noble, 5:30 p.m.

#### **DIY Ski Tuning Clinic** Play It Again Sports, 6 p.m.

Tours for Tots (3-5 years) Museum of the Rockies. 10 -11 a.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16

Tours for Tots (3-5 years) Museum of the Rockies, 2-3 p.m.

Raise the Barn Outlaw Brewing, 5 p.m.

Jeff Peterson Lockhorn Cider House, 7 p.m.

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

#### THURSDAY, DEC. 17

Tours for Tots (3-5 years) Museum of the Rockies, 10-11 a.m. "He Named Me Malala" Screening Emerson Center, 7 p.m.

Edis Kittrell Lockhorn Cider House, 7 p.m.

Eagles Lodge, 8:30 p.m

#### FRIDAY, DEC. 18

Jimmy's First Christmas (on parole) . Verge Theater, 8-10 p.m.

**Client Appreciation Party** Theory Hair Salon, 7 p.m.

Cold Hard Cash Faultline North, 9 p.m.

Holiday Tea Service Townshend's Teahouse, all day

Nutcracker in a Nutshell Crawford Theatre, 6:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, DEC. 19

Nutcracker in a Nutshell Crawford Theatre, 2 p.m. / 6:30 p.m.

DuBuddha, Them, Sounsiva, Nintendeux Zebra Cocktail Lounge, 9 p.m.

Author Signing: Patricia Spadaro Barnes & Noble, 1 p.m.

Winter Farmer's Market Emerson Ballroom, 9 a.m. – noon

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

#### SUNDAY, DEC. 20

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

Live Reindeer Murdoch's, 11 a.m.

Family Service Bozeman Christian Center, 10 a.m.

Montana Reel & Strathspey Scottish Jam Lockhorn Cider House, 3:30 - 7 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 21 Irving Berlin's White Christmas Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Pints with Purpose: Montana Youth Tennis Association Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Trivia Bacchus Pub, 8 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY. DEC. 22**

Yoga for All Bozeman Public Library, 11 – 1:00 p.m.

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

## **Livingston &** Paradise Valley

#### FRIDAY, DEC. 11

Jerry Joseph & Steve Drizos The Mint, 9 p.m.

The Shuffiebums Neptune's Brewery, 5:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, DEC. 12

Annual Christmas Bazaar Emmigrant Hall, 10 a.m – 3 p.m.

**GT Hurley** Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Stein Holding Competition Katabatic Brewing, 7 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, DEC. 13

Community Choir Christmas concert Holbrook United Methodist Church, 3 p.m.

MONDAY, DEC. 14 Little Jane Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Danny Bee Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16

December Painting with Potter Neptune's Brewery, 6 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, DEC. 17

**The Loaned Manager Christmas play** St. Mary's Catholic School, 6:30 p.m.

**Bad Decisions** Murray Bar, 8:30 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, DEC. 18

Smokestack & The Foothill Fury Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, DEC. 19

Weston Lewis Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

**Knarliest Beerd and Ugliest** Sweater contest Katabatic Brewing, 7 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, DEC. 20

Birders Event Northern Pacific Beanery, all day

#### MONDAY, DEC. 21

Ugly Christmas sweater contest Neptune's Brewery, 4:30 p.m.

Jeff Peterson Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

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

## **West Yellowstone**

#### FRIDAY, DEC. 11

Chess Club Public Library, 4 p.m.

Mistletoe Magic Holiday Bazaar Povah Community Center, all day

#### **SATURDAY, DEC. 12**

Mistletoe Magic Holiday Bazaar Povah Community Center, all day

Biathlon Cup Rendezvous Trails, all day

#### SUNDAY, DEC. 13

Christmas Bird Count Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center, 8:30 a.m.

#### THURSDAY, DEC. 17

Christmas Stroll & Parade of Lights Downtown, 5 p.m.

Snowmobiler Introduction to Avalanches course Holiday Inn, 12 p.m. Rodeo Run Dog Sled Races Wild West Pizzeria, 2 – 8 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, DEC. 18

# Snowmobiler Introduction to Avalanches course Holiday Inn, 12 p.m.

Rodeo Run Dog Sled Races Wild West Pizzeria, 8:15 a.m

Chess Club Public Library, 4 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, DEC. 19**

Rodeo Run Dog Sled Races Wild West Pizzeria, 8:15 a.m

Afternoon talk with a Park Ranger Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center, 2 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, DEC. 20**

Afternoon talk with a Park Ranger Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center, 2 p.m.

#### **RECURRING EVENTS**

Historic Walking Tour Historic District, self-guided, daily

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

Christmas for the Critters Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center, Dec. 1-31

# **Sons of American Legion Post 99 December events**

#### Friday Dec 11

Apres Ski with American Legion and Sons of American Legion M.R. Hummers, 3-5pm

#### Friday Dec 11

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

#### Saturday Dec 12

Interactive Presentation

Live Skype Interview with Former 10th Mountain Veteran Ralph Harder 10th Mountain and Ski industry Historical Slideshow 10th Mountain Menagerie of Historical Movie Clips from YouTube North Mammoth Room at Big Sky Resort, 11 a.m.

#### Saturday Dec 12

Flag hand out and other Schwag Big Sky Resort Base Area Plaza, 12-12:30 p.m.

#### Saturday Dec 12

Flag and honorary Ski down Mr. K Big Sky Resort, 1 p.m.

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Big Sky Medical Center is now accepting applications for a Full Time CT/X-Ray Tech (benefit eligible with housing stipend offered). This is an exciting opportunity to be a part of serving patients in our new Medical Center in Big Sky. This position is responsible for providing health care services, X-Ray and CT studies to assist in diagnosis or treatment. Apply today at www.BigSkyMedicalCenter.com and click on "Careers".

Big Sky Medical Center is now accepting applications for a Full Time Pharmacy Clerk (benefit eligible with housing stipend offered). This is an exciting opportunity to be a part of serving patients in our new Medical Center in Big Sky. This position is responsible for assisting the Pharmacist in the delivery of quality pharmaceutical care and drug distribution as permitted by law. Apply today at www.BigSkyMedicalCenter.com and click on "Careers".



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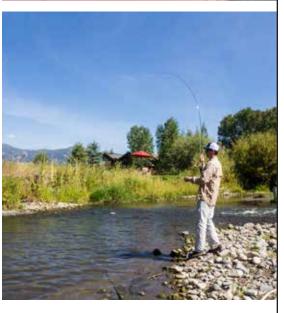
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## Film review:

## 'Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret'

BY ERIC LADD EBS PUBLISHER

"Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret" is an eye-opening and polarizing documentary released in 2014 by filmmakers Kip Andersen and Keegen Kuhn, and produced by Leonardo DiCaprio.

The feature documentary follows suit with many recent films that take on important global issues and deliver riveting statistics. "Cowspiracy" is unique in that it not only addresses the issue of climate change but also links close ties to relevant topics like health, economics, water consumption, politics, population and pollution. It will be nearly impossible for any viewer to not question their beliefs and habits, making this a powerful and controversial film.

In a world with so many confusing messages about how and why humans are destroying earth and moving toward extinction faster than ever before, "Cowspiracy" reveals a jaw-dropping discovery about how meat consumption could be one of the largest culprits to the mass devastation of the earth.

The film outlines how animal agriculture is the leading cause of deforestation, water consumption and pollution, is responsible for more greenhouse gases than the transportation industry, and is a primary driver of species extinction, habitat loss, topsoil erosion, ocean "dead zones," and virtually every other environmental ill.

COWSPIRACY

THE SUSTAINABILITY SECRET

THE SUSTA

In reaction to "Cowspiracy," Amanda Radke, editor of the blog BEEF Daily, posted a series of entries attacking the legitimacy of this movie and rebutting some of the facts.

Radke addressed the conflicting estimates on amounts of water it takes to raise cattle and create beef, concluding her analysis by referencing the website, factsaboutbeef.com. The site is funded by BEEF Checkoff, a producer-funded marketing and research program designed to increase domestic and/or international demand for beef, according to beefboard.org's website.

"In reality, it takes 441 gallons of water to produce one pound of boneless beef. Farmers and ranchers are committed to water conservation and have reduced the amount of water used to raise beef by 12 percent compared to 30 years ago," the site reads.

In comparison, 441 gallons of water is a fraction of what is used to produce other everyday items. It takes over 713 gallons of water to produce one cotton T-shirt; 39,090 gallons to manufacture a new car; and 36 million gallons per day is leaked from the New York City water supply system. So if we really care about water conservation, we should stop wearing clothes, driving cars and using water altogether in our homes and businesses."

While this movie will incite knee-jerk reactions in some viewers and cause them to grip their cheeseburgers tighter, "Cowspiracy" is an important and well-researched film that provokes thought. This movie

is not for the faint of heart, and is likely to cause you to have uncomfortable discussions with your ranching friends who are the fabric of the Western landscape. After all, do your kids know where meat comes from and how it travels from a field to a plate?

The challenge with "Cowspiracy" is that its message is so polarizing it even insinuates that you cannot be an environmentalist if you eat meat, a comment that will likely make steak lovers tune out, discredit and forget the film in a similar way to foreboding movies like "An Inconvenient Truth."

The trend in controversial documentaries is important but because many, like "Cowspiracy," come across as alarmist and it's easy for mainstream America to discount the messages and stay out of theaters.

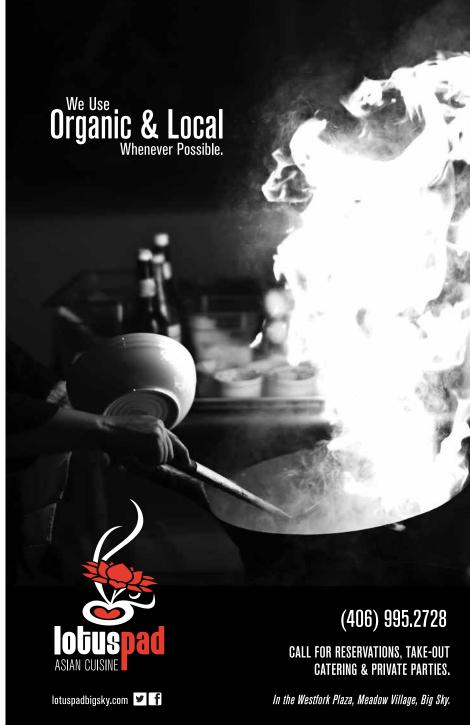
For this viewer, the powerful message "Cowspiracy" delivers is the negative impact Earth's massive and growing population is having, and our need to change as we have over-tapped the planet's resources almost beyond repair.

We are no longer a society of hunter-gatherers; subsistence farming and hunting will not feed 7 billion mouths. If we want future generations to witness oceans filled with schooling fish, forests full of game and clean streams, we must change our human trajectory or be prepared to witness the consequences.

The only way to gain widespread acceptance for these environmental issues is to make it easy for people to choose an alternative. Expensive solar panels, pricey organic plant-based protein, and other options only push the ratio toward cheaper and easier-to-obtain alternatives which are usually no good for the environment and speeding up the runaway train we call humanity.

"Cowspiracy" is highly recommended for anyone daring enough to learn more about the facts of human impact on the planet, and to confront lifelong habits and beliefs.





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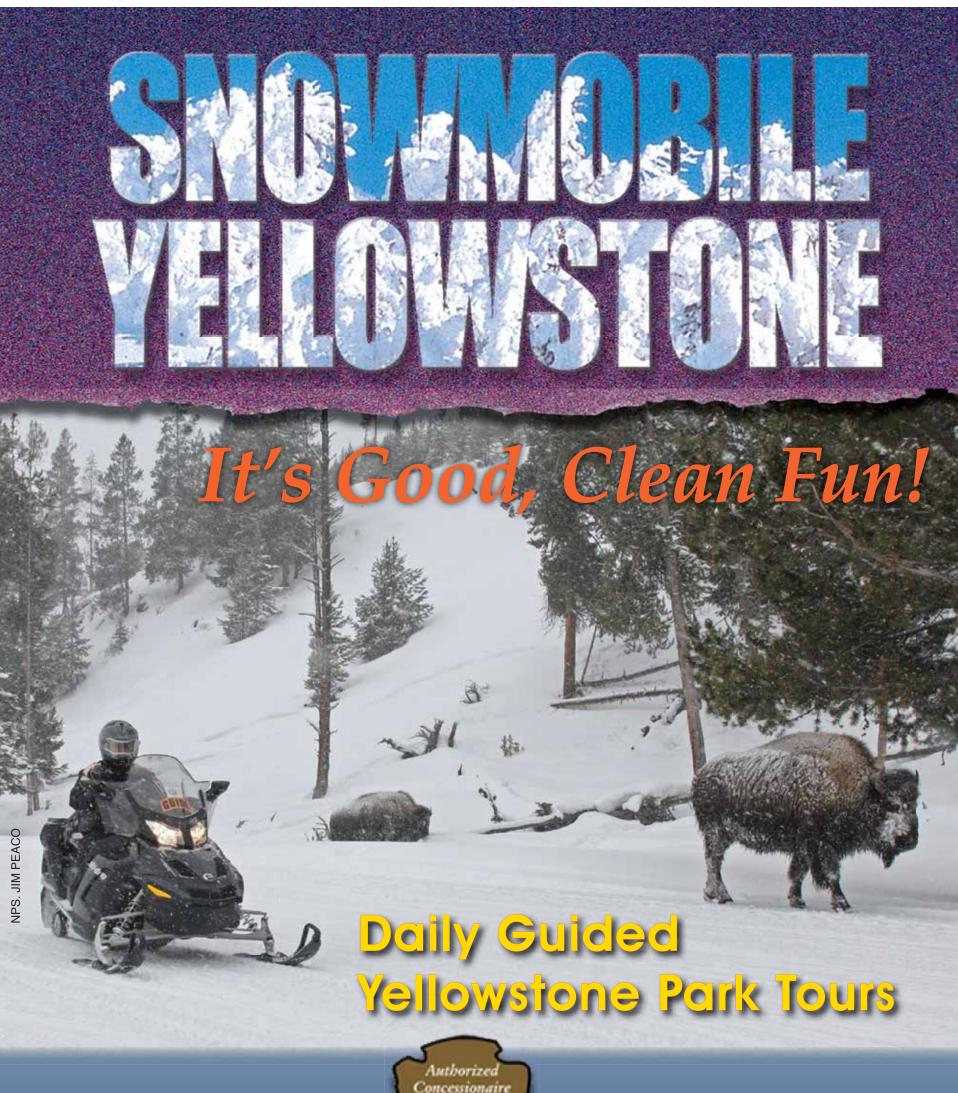


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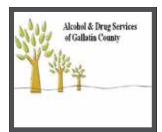
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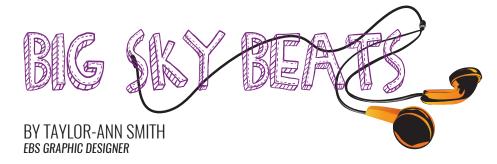
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Find out what tunes we're bumping! In Big Sky Beats, Explore Big Sky staff offers suggested tracks for your next playlist. Whether you need to freshen up your music library, want to expand your collection, or just need some tunes for the next road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

Designing this edition of EBS – the largest of 2015 – I needed constant focus, and Electronic Dance Music is my favorite genre for working on big design projects. The quick tempos and steady beats of EDM keep my fingers moving as I create graphics and place bodies of copy – I feel more connected to my digital work listening to digitally produced music.

EDM remixes are a great way to hear fresh sounds in some of your favorite songs, and this playlist features a few of my top picks. The Autograf remix of pop singer Christina Perri's track "Burning Gold" is a prime example. Originally, this song was down tempo with Perri's soprano vocals coasting through the chorus, making it suitable as a coffee shop background tune. The remix, however, features intermittent breaks of electronic mixing that bring a vibrant, faster pace.

The playlist below includes some other EDM tunes I listened to while designing the issue of EBS in your hands:

- 1. "Sweet Lovin'," Sigala feat. Bryn Christopher
- 2. "Afterlife (Frank Pole Remix)," Greyson Chance
- 3. "Indian Summer," Jai Wolf
- 4. "Burning gold (Autograf Remix)," Christina Perri
- 5. "Theme O," Madison Mars
- 6. "Let's Get Lost (Louis Futon Remix)," G-Eazy, Devon Baldwin
- 7. "Tilted," Christine and the Queens
- 8. "Raindrops," SNBRN
- 9. "Is There Somewhere," Halsey
- 10. "GoGo!," Baauer

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

# American Life in Poetry: Column 559

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

Several years ago, I co-edited an anthology of poems about birds, and I wish I'd had the opportunity to include this one, a delight. J. Allyn Rosser lives in Ohio. Her most recent book is "Mimi's Trapeze."

#### Pelicans in December

By J. Allyn Rosser

One can't help admiring their rickety grace

and old-world feathers like seasoned boardwalk planks.

They pass in silent pairs, as if a long time ago

they had wearied of calling out. The wind tips them, their

ungainly, light-brown weight, into a prehistoric wobble,

wings'-end fingers stretching from fingerless gloves,

necks slightly tucked and stiff, peering forward and down,

like old couples arm in arm on icy sidewalks, careful,

careful, mildly surprised by how difficult it has become

to stay dignified and keep moving even after the yelping gulls have gone;

even after the scattered sand, and the quietly lodged complaints.

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 J. Allyn Rosser, "Pelicans in November," from "Mimi's Trapeze," (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2014). Poem reprinted by permission of J. Allyn Rosser and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2015 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.

## Sudoku

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

				1				
3			4					9
			2		5	1		
	3	1	7				2	
9		4					7	1
		5	9			8	4	
8		9			4			7
		3		5	9			
					2			

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DIFFICULTY: ★★★☆





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River Runs Through It\*
Yellowstone Club
7 bedrooms, 10 bathrooms
13,349 SQ FT. / 2.88 ACRES
Private ski-in, ski-out location
\$13,000,000



Cabin #6
Spanish Peaks Mountain Club
4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms
2,585 SQ FT
Ski and golf course accessible
\$2,150,000



Luxury Suite 1B\*
Moonlight Basin
3 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms
2,563 SQ FT.
Ski-in, ski-out
\$1,490,000

## LAND



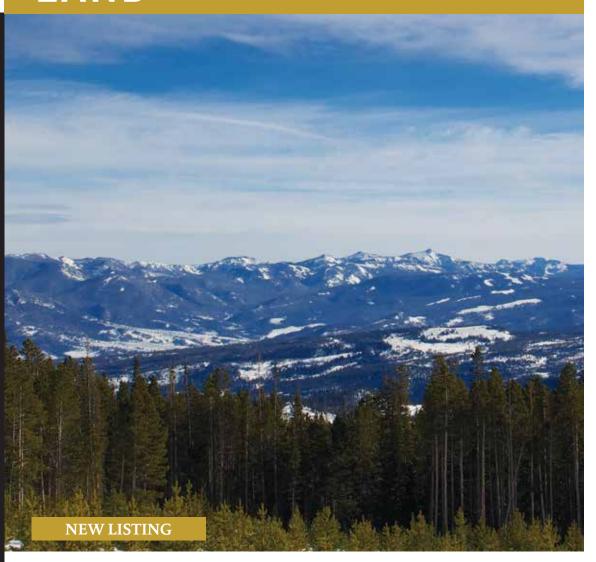
Ski Tip Lot 8\*
Spanish Peaks Mountain Club
1.11 ACRES
Ski access property
\$825,000



Lot 36A Copper Court\* Yellowstone Club 5 ACRES Private cul-de-sac location \$3,300,000



Cascade Lot 287A Big Sky Mountain 1.04 ACRES Ski access property \$529,000



Lot 86 Andesite Ridge Road\* / Yellowstone Club 2.64 ACRES / Ski accessible lot with mountain views / \$3,300,000

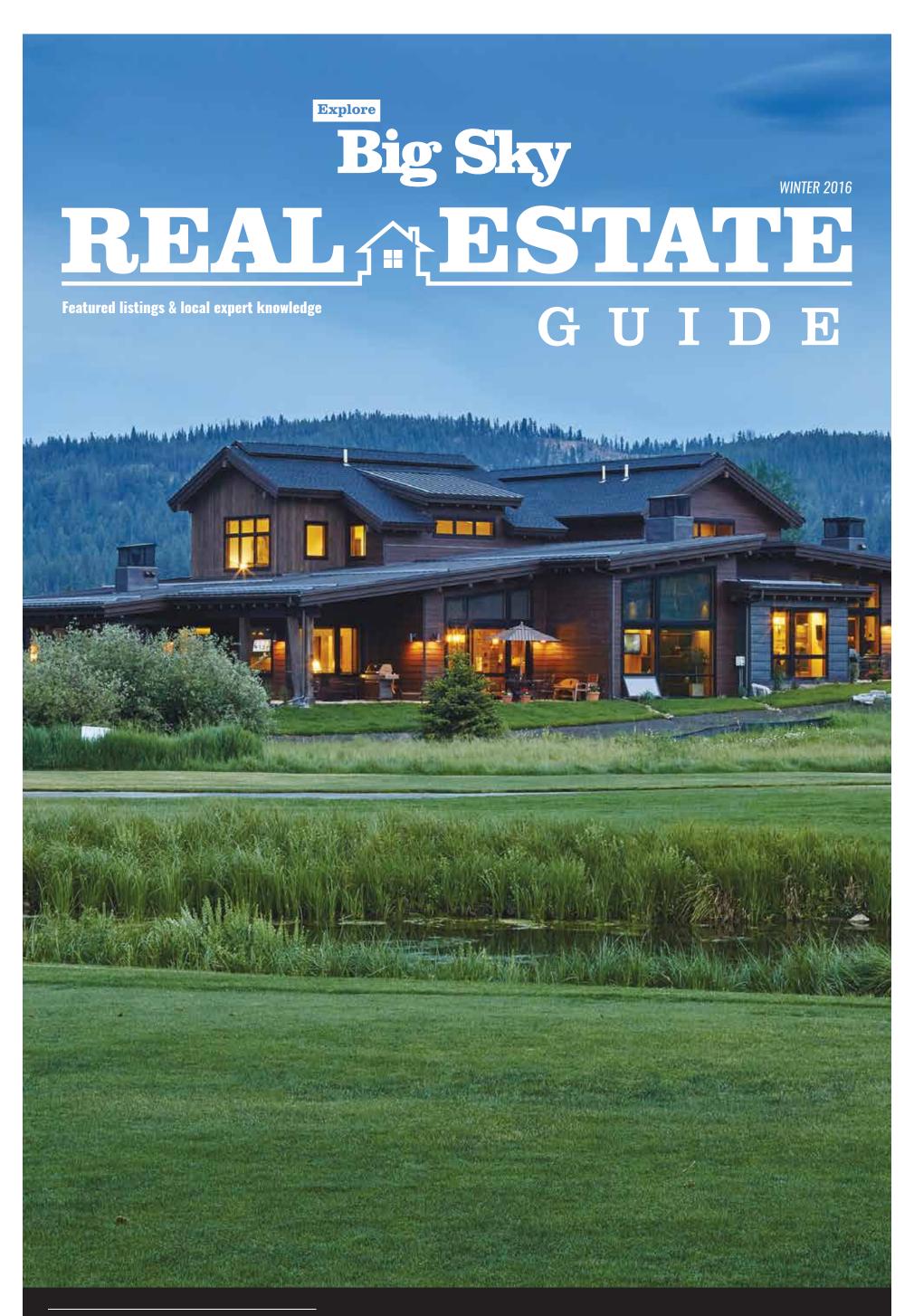


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Mountain contemporary meets modern luxury. Situated overlooking the Big Sky Golf Course, The 19th offers two, three and four bedroom residences in the heart of Big Sky's Meadow Village. See page 6. PHOTO BY: RYAN DAY THOMPSON

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Big Sky Town Center	12
Fercho Gallery & Elliott Design	13

#### Book your space in the 2016 Real Estate Guides!

#### **2016 PRINT DATES**

February 5: President's Day holiday and Spring Break

June 24: July 4 holiday and Big Sky PBR event

December 9: Start of ski season, Christmas and New Years holidays

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## The time is now to buy in Big Sky

**EBS STAFF** 

With its towering mountains, blue-ribbon trout streams and proximity to public lands, it's no wonder people flock to Montana, Gallatin County, and Big Sky especially.

From 2003 to 2012, Gallatin was the fastest growing county in the state as its population increased nearly 30 percent, according to a February report by Bozeman-based nonprofit Headwaters Economics, a community development and land management research group.

Big Sky has experienced that growth in spades. A 2014 housing study found that 83 percent of Big Sky's workforce commutes from elsewhere in the county, and the community is 1,300 units short of the demand for affordable housing.

But despite the lack of housing priced at the bottom of the market, one need only stand at the corner of Lone Mountain Trail and Ousel Falls Road in the evening – the constant traffic stream of cement, gravel and contractor trucks indicates that Big Sky development shows no signs of slowing down. The numbers paint a slightly different story.

The infographic below shows Big Sky real estate sales from Jan. 1 to Dec. 3, 2015, and compared to the same period last year some interesting trends arise. The average residence sale price has decreased 12 percent – from \$873,433 to \$770,496 – and average sale price for land has fallen 8 percent.

However, median sale price is a better indicator of where the market is at currently, because it represents the home costs in the middle of the market, and isn't affected by sales of ultra-expensive homes or parcels, like average sale price is. The 2015 median sale price actually increased 2.5 percent over the same 11 months in 2014 and median land price increased 11 percent.

"Median sale price is slightly up, meaning more of the middle of the market is moving," said L&K Real Estate owner/broker Ryan Kulesza, who believes the drop in overall sales volume is a direct result of reduced inventory in 2015.

This year, total volume in residence sales fell 31 percent, likely the effect of 2014's high inventory and strong luxury sales in areas like the Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, and Moonlight Basin.

"We still had a glut of inventory last year," Kulesza said. "We did monster numbers [in 2014]. We need inventory in the residential market – we'd sell more if we had it."

The volume of land sales increased in Big Sky by 27 percent to \$31 million in 2015, and Kulesza attributes that to land sales trailing 2014 residential sales slightly, into the spring and summer of this year.

If you're in a position to buy in Big Sky this is a great time, as federal interest rates continue to stay at historic lows. But that's unlikely to last, according to Big Sky First Security Bank Branch President Joe Miller.

"It's become more and more likely that we'll see rate increases in 2016," Miller said, alluding to the Federal Open Market Committee meeting Dec. 15-16. "We might see a Fed rate increase as early as the December meeting. If not then, most likely at the March [2016] meeting. Knowing rising rates may soon become a reality, this is a great time to buy if you're comfortable with the market."

## **Big Sky Real Estate Market Statistics**\*

#### **RESIDENCE SALES**

**Average Sale Price: \$770,496** 

**Median Sale Price: \$475,000** 

**Total Sold Volume: \$144,042,890** 

Sold: **187** 

#### LAND SALES

**Average Sale Price:** \$353,180

**Median Sale Price: \$275,000** 

Total Sold Volume: \$31,079,880

Sold: **88** 



TOP AGENTS\*\*

#1 Ryan Kulesza, L&K Real Estate
Total Sold Listing Volume: \$32,158,000

#2 Ania Bulis, Pure West Christie's Real Estate
Total Sold Listing Volume: \$30,650,000

#### #3 Martha Johnson.

Montana Living Big Sky Real Estate
Total Sold Listing Volume: \$16,714,000

#### #4 Sandy Revisky,

Pure West Christie's Real Estate
Total Sold Listing Volume: \$13,290,400

#5 Jeff Helms, Big Sky Sotheby's
Total Sold Listing Volume: \$10,674,550

# TOP BROKERAGES\*\*

#1 Christie's Pure West Big Sky-\$58,123,050

#2 Big Sky Sotheby's- \$34,806,350

#3 L&K Real Estate- \$32,158,000

**#4** Montana Living- \$23,972,000

#5 Berkshire Hathaway Home Services - \$13,115,500

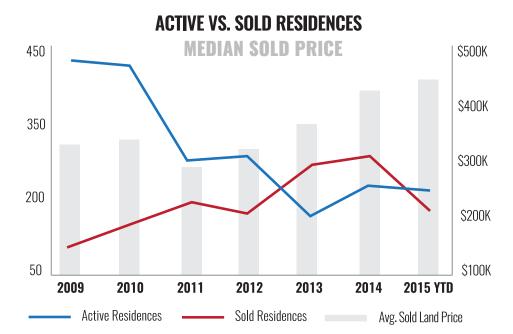
\*All stats are YTD 2015, information obtained Dec 3, 2015 from Gallatin Association of Realtors MLS. All information obtained through MLS system of Gallatin Association of Realtors and provided by L&K Real Estate. Information is entered into MLS system by third parties, therefore is deemed reliable, but we cannot represent that it is accurate or complete and should not be relied upon as such. \*\* By listing volume

## **L&K Real Estate**

Big Sky Real Estate Market Report\*

As with any economic sector, real estate is subject to the law of supply and demand.

A great example of this is the recovery of the Big Sky residential real estate market from 2009-2015. In 2009, the number of buyers purchasing real



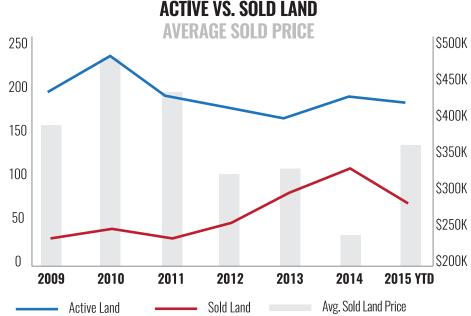
Interestingly, the land market in Big Sky had a different recovery pattern. Inventory for land continued to increase until 2010. Although it reached its low point in 2013, sales had not caught up and the average land price continued to decline until 2014. This highlights that land sales are often influenced by external factors such as building cost and availability. While land prices increased in 2015, they are still below the seven-year average.



estate was at a historic low. At the same time, many sellers put their homes on the market, resulting in a high supply of inventory. Inventory remained high until 2011 when the median price reached its low point.

From 2011-2014, the market recovered at a fast pace, with inventory dropping below the number of sold homes, causing a price increase of 54 percent over three years. In the past year, we have been nearing an "economic equilibrium" where the supply and demand has become almost equivalent. As you would expect, the price has followed, with just a **4 percent increase in median residence price from 2014 to 2015.** 

From 2011-2014, the market recovered at a fast pace, with inventory dropping below the number of sold homes, causing a price increase of 54 percent over three years.



#### What does this all mean for today's market?

- The equilibrium in the residential market indicates that the initial recovery jump has occurred, stabilizing prices rather than experiencing drastic increases or decreases, barring external factors. It's the magic balance point where it is equally a seller's and buyer's market.
- The higher supply of land inventory is keeping prices low, though they have begun an upward trend. Current building prices are generally higher than replacement costs for purchasing built product making land a good long-term investment but residences are a better value if you're looking to move in soon.

#### **L&K REAL ESTATE THROUGH THE YEARS:**

L&K Real Estate, Consulting and Development is a boutique brokerage specializing in luxury lifestyle properties. Our personal approach and strong marketing influence is a refreshing change to the current standard in the real estate industry, working as a licensed team to represent our clients, rather than individual competing agents. We have an unmatched depth of knowledge and are excited to work with buyers and sellers in this interesting market.

Established

17

**Charities Supported** 

Private Club Sold Listings by Volume\*:

Nov. 2012

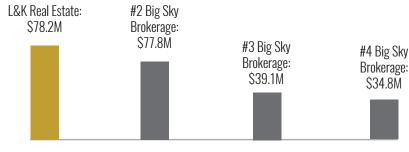
Total Marketing Reach:

48M+

\$171M

**Total Volume Sold** 

Interested in the Big Sky Real Estate Market? Give us a call at 406-995-2404 or visit our website LKRealEstate.com



L&K Real Estate is the top producing brokerage in sold listing volume in the Private Club communities of Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and Moonlight Basin \*

<sup>\*</sup> All statistics are obtained from MLS and deemed reliable but because information is provided by third parties, we cannot represent it is accurate or complete. YC Realty does not report sales, therefore is not included in stats.



Since our founding in 1997, Big Sky Build has built it's reputation by delivering excellence to each one of our clients. The quality in each of the homes we build speaks volumes about the culture of our company; we are committed to going the extra mile to ensure the highest quality in craftsmanship and customer satisfaction.

At Big Sky Build we are as passionate about serving our customers as we are about building the best homes in Southwest Montana. Each of our projects are as unique as the clients we collaborate with. Our caring, knowledgeable staff will exceed your expectations through every step of the home building experience, giving you the peace of mind you deserve. It is one of the many reasons our team is simply a cut above the rest.









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Building Big Sky's Premier Custom Homes

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## The Architect's Wife

Creating casual elegance

For those who haven't had the pleasure of visiting The Architect's Wife, it's worth the trip. The store is synonymous with the taste and style of Abby Hetherington's interior design firm Abby Hetherington Interiors, known for casual elegance in both residential and commercial projects.

The Architect's Wife is a motley collection of curated luxury and rarity, punctuated with ample personality. From found objects to high-end product lines sourced from coveted vendors across the globe, all are handpicked with equal parts experience and exuberance by the AHI team.

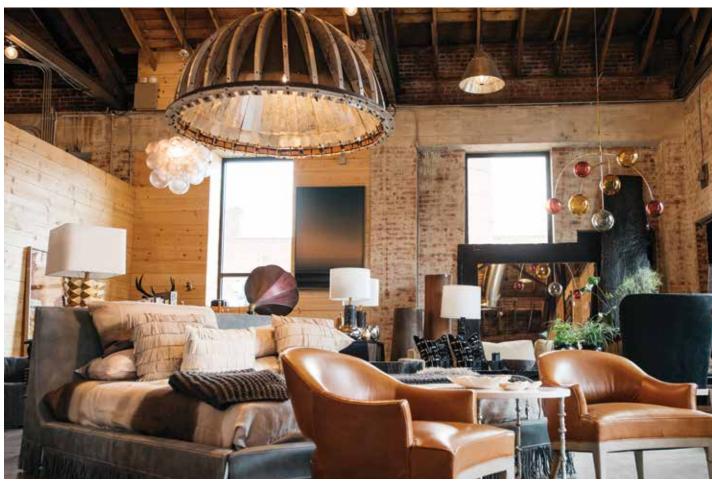
AHI's philosophy is to create for the family rather than imposing a personal preference for a trend or style. It's a malleable approach to decorating, perfect for clients seeking a partner rather than someone to make all the decisions for them. After years of working in the industry, AHI has built a

portfolio that reads more like a family album than a company prospectus.

The Architect's Wife was born of necessity. The AHI team felt the pinch of not having the right item accessible at the right time. Hetherington's 3,000-square-foot solution to this problem now holds all her favorite things, which she can offer to everyone. The Architect's Wife services AHI clients, customers in the Gallatin Valley and beyond, and other interior designers and industry professionals looking to snag the perfect piece on the spot.

The store is dynamic, with an ever-changing inventory of one-of-a-kind finds. AHI acquires products from across the globe, but never leaves Montana out of the picture. You can find a chic eco-conscious sofa from Los Angeles,





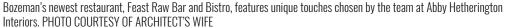
Architect's Wife in Bozeman offers a layered collection of home furnishings with luxury and rarity. PHOTO BY DEREK OLSEN

flanked by a lamp from Italy that's adjacent to a drafting table salvaged from the depths of a Butte mine. Regardless of where your hunt takes you, each item is thoughtfully selected for its unique story or emotional pull.

Hetherington and her team have created more than just a beautiful display of furniture, lighting, and décor. They know how to choose just the right items to capture a sense of place and purpose – items that come to life, adding to the comfort and curiosity of others. AHI crafts each home to be a reflection of its inhabitants, rather than an exhibition of its things.

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







Casual elegance is at its finest in this modern, yet rustic, Big Sky retreat. PHOTO BY AUDREY HALL



BIG SKY GETAWAY

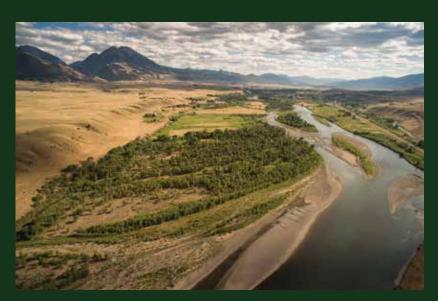
Big Sky, MT • Ski-In/Ski-Out • \$1,389,000



BRIDGER FOOTHILLS RANCH
Belgrade, MT • 80± ACRES • \$3,200,000



CORBLY MEADOWS RANCH - PARCELS 1/1A & 2/2A Bozeman, MT • 208± ACRES • \$3,100,000



YELLOWSTONE RIVER RANCH Emigrant, MT • 1,345± ACRES • \$7,250,000



SPRINGHILL MOUNTAIN RANCH PARCELS

DEFCE CREEK ENDINGTEAD

REESE CREEK FARMSTEAD

Bozeman, MT • 89± ACRES • \$1,960,000

Bozeman, MT

Parcel 4: 159± ACRES • \$2,150,000

Parcel 5: 156± ACRES • \$2,150,000

Parcel 6: 200± ACRES • \$2,350,000

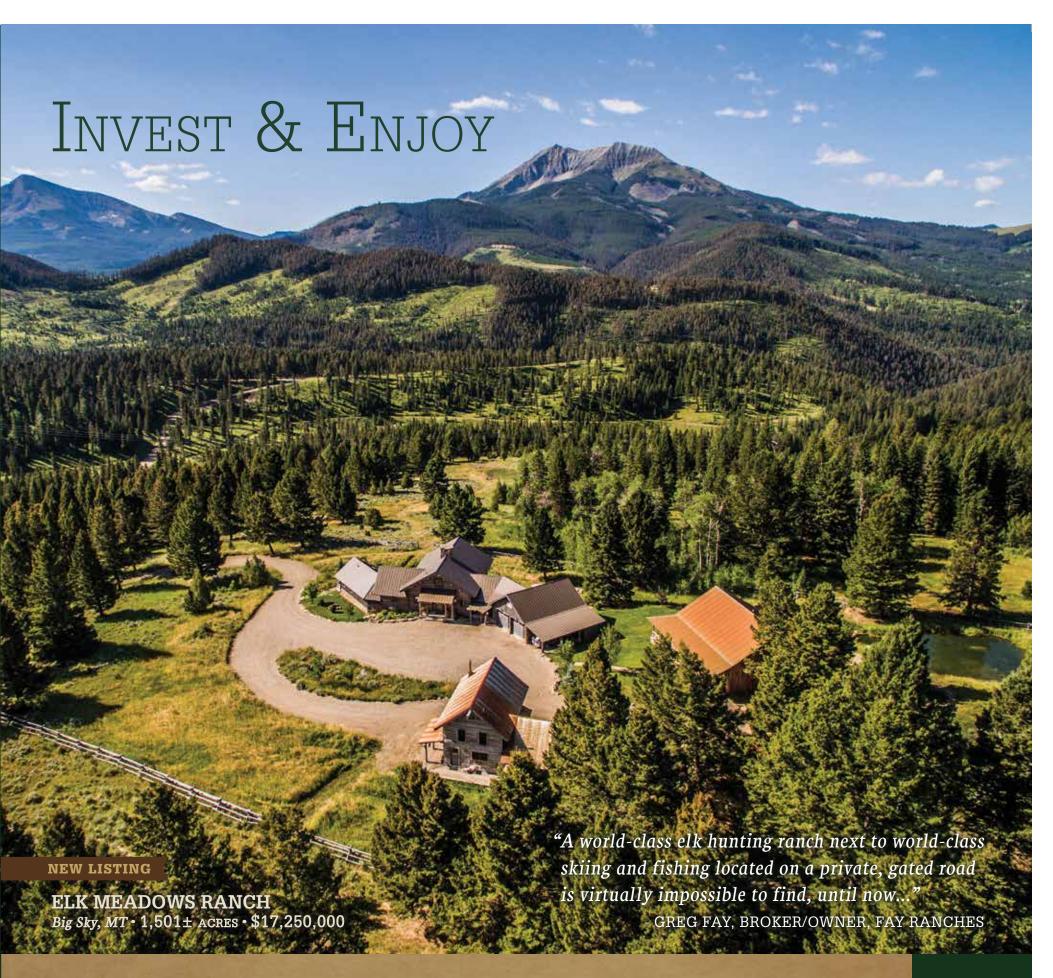


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The 1,501± acre Elk Meadows Ranch is not only a stunningly beautiful and private recreational ranch, it is also a great real estate investment, a superb elk and deer hunting ranch and a gathering place for friends and family. It is virtually impossible to find a world-class ranch within minutes of a world-class ski resort; this unique quality makes it rare in an asset class built on its lack of supply. Elk Meadows Ranch is in close proximity to Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, The Yellowstone Club and just 12± miles from the Six Shooter ski lift at the Madison Base Area of Big Sky Resort. This location contributes to the attractiveness of the ranch as an investment, particularly right now with the Big Sky market booming. However, once you own the ranch and begin enjoying every aspect of it as well as the fly fishing on the Madison River and the many restaurants, golf courses and festivals in Big Sky and Ennis, you'll forget about the investment quality of the ranch because you'll never want to sell. \$17,250,000







#### **EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF SKI-IN/SKI-OUT**



#### CABIN 18 & 35

Spanish Peaks Mountain Club Settlement Cabins. Ski-in/skiout, 4BR/5+BA, 3000+ sq ft. Walk to clubhouse. Exquisitely



#### 862 ELK MEADOW TRAIL

This magnificent, one of a kind, 6BR/9BA custom home in Spanish Peaks Mountain Club offers ski-in/golf-out access. Outstanding features, unique amenities and breathe taking

Offered at \$6,400,000



#### 39 SWIFT BEAR

5BR/5.5BA One of a kind custom Durfeld log home in Big Sky's Mountain Village! This exceptional ski-in/ski-out and adjacent to open space.

Offered at \$4,200,000



#### 10 INDIAN SUMMER

Moonlight Basin.



#### 363 LOW DOG

walking distance to restaurants, shopping and all activities. This custom log home sits on a .7 acre lot and includes the



#### BLACK EAGLE 14 & 16

Ski-in/ski-out property in the heart of Big Sky Mountain Village. 3 BR/3.5 BA unit plus a bonus room. Many upgrades and it is being offered fully furnished, minus personal items. Adjacent to the Big Sky Poma Lift.

BigSkyRealEstate.com | 406 995-6333 | Located in Big Sky Town Center





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bhhsmt.com

## **Big Sky Town Center**

**Building community** 

In 1968, NBC newscaster Chet Huntley conceptualized Big Sky with a dream that required vision and character to see it though: harnessing the rugged beauty and power of 11,166-foot Lone Mountain into a world-class resort, with a unique blend of European access and elegance paired with the spirit of the Rocky Mountain West. Thanks to that dream, Big Sky has sprung to life.

Bob Simkins of Bozeman knew he wanted to be part of the Big Sky life, so in 1970 he purchased six square miles of land with former partners the Taylor family from Bozeman – some of this land would help form the Big Sky Meadow Village area. Over the next two decades, the Simkins family visited their property for weekend adventures to hike, fish and picnic where the Town Center is today. When Bob passed away in 1993, he left his family the land and a dream of making a difference in Big Sky.



Today the Simkins family and the Town Center development team works each day to help Big Sky fulfill its potential. As their father had done since the beginning, the Simkins look forward to maintaining their stewardship of Town Center because they enjoy being involved in the evolution of this community.

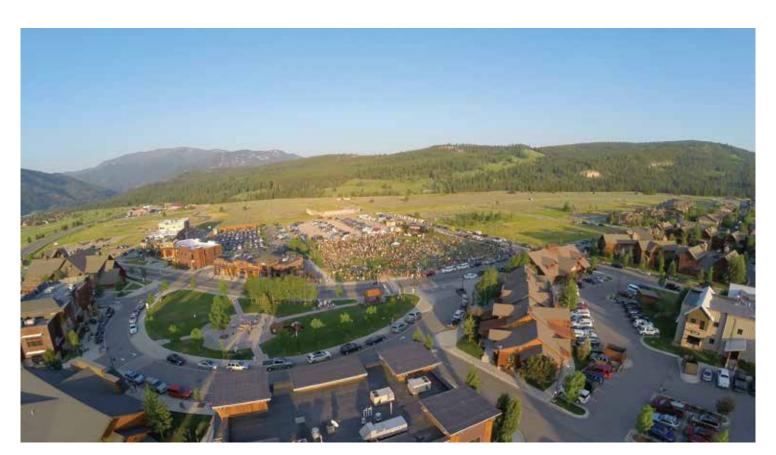
"We appreciate all of our businesses, especially the early visionary business owners and entrepreneurs who took a leap of faith on our vision," said Bill Simkins, Town Center's master developer and managing partner. "We feel that the best is yet to come."

This vision has taken root as Town Center continues to grow with purpose. Recent growth has included the addition of Roxy's Market; the Big Sky Medical Center; the mixed-use Peaks Building; a mixed-use building now under construction across from East Slope Outdoors; 14 residential condos

now under construction at Essentia condos; and a commercial building that will soon be under construction north of Lone Peak Cinema on the corner of Ousel Falls Road and Town Center Avenue.

Additionally, 2016 will see construction of the central plaza – an engaging and unique public gathering space along Town Center Avenue in front of a planned hotel – as well as two parking lots near Town Center Avenue that together will hold about 400 vehicles, among other projects.

To inquire about commercial or residential development opportunities, call Town Center at (406) 586-9629 or visit bigskytowncenter.com.



Locals and visitors alike gather for the Music in the Mountains summer concert series, one of many annual events bringing people together in Big Sky Town Center. PHOTO COURTESY OF SKYLAB MEDIA HOUSE



## Fercho Gallery & Elliott Design

Where feng shui meets the mountains

Creating a harmonious home is essential to our wellbeing, and it's important to heed our senses and "gut feelings" when selecting finishes and fabrics for our living space. Feng shui addresses how you respond to your environment in body, mind, spirit and emotion. It's the practice of analyzing spatial arrangements to create the healthiest and most beneficial energy flow.

A celebration of art and organic materials brings feng shui to the mountains. By taking our mountain landscape into account when designing our homes with wood, stone, metal, hides, and wool we feel rejuvenated and at peace after a day of skiing, hiking or fishing.

One of the easiest ways to bring good energy into your home is with art and color. Certain colors, shapes, and images will bring needed energy and balance into your space. How a person responds to the energy of different colors is a crucial component of the design process.

For example, to create a mature ambiance with primary colors, mix in warm tones such as natural fibers and textures. We all go through color phases based on unconscious and current emotions, which is why color is important to our emotional and physical balance.

"When working with design clients it is very apparent what they like and don't like just by paying attention to their non-verbal reactions," says interior designer Lori Elliott, of Big Sky's Fercho Gallery & Elliott Design. "Even when they cannot express what they like or don't like about something, their eyes will quickly tell their emotion."

With over 20 years of interior design experience, Elliott easily guides clients through their design selections by focusing on their energy. The same thing happens when people visit an art gallery, according to Elliott's partner Kira Fercho.



Kira Fercho's oil paintings provide energy to home or office spaces.



Mountain modern bathroom vanity offering a peacefulness with earthy elements and subtle color tones. PHOTOS COURTESY OF FERCHO & ELLIOTT.

"Individuals are drawn to specific art pieces because of the positive energy they feel from it," says Fercho, whose impressionistic oil paintings offer different energies due to the various color pallets she uses. Clients either love the high energy of the red teepees or appreciate the tranquility of the aspen scenes she paints.



Remodeled kitchen beverage counter uses a mixture of stone, metal and wood.

Every choice of artwork, furniture, lighting and fabric physically interacts with one's energy. Knowing what feels good to a person can help them make appropriate finish and color selections for their home. It's important for an interior designer to pay attention to each client's energy to help them create a home that is true to their style, allowing them to retreat and rejuvenate.

The five elements of feng shui: wood, fire, earth, metal and water are all found in the mountains. These multi-textural elements, infused with contemporary design, are the perfect mix to create a cozy mountain home environment – all complementing the amazing energy we receive from our mountain landscape.

Fercho Gallery & Elliott Design is located at 32 Town Center Avenue in Big Sky. Visit ferchoelliott.com or call (406)551-3995 for more information.

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- 1. For EverBank Preferred Portfolio<sup>SM</sup> loans only. Loan minimum of \$250,000 for new construction. For renovation loans, loan must have a minimum of \$250,000 in improvements. Contractor and project review and approval required. Available only in AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, MA, MD, MT, NJ, and VA. Other restrictions and limitations may apply. Contact us for more information about this product.
- 2. During the Construction Phase, we will disburse the total loan proceeds by making several advances; monthly interest only payments will be made on the amount disbursed. During the Permanent Phase, the monthly payment will increase because both interest and principal will need to be paid back. Contact us for more details on this product, including the interest-only feature.
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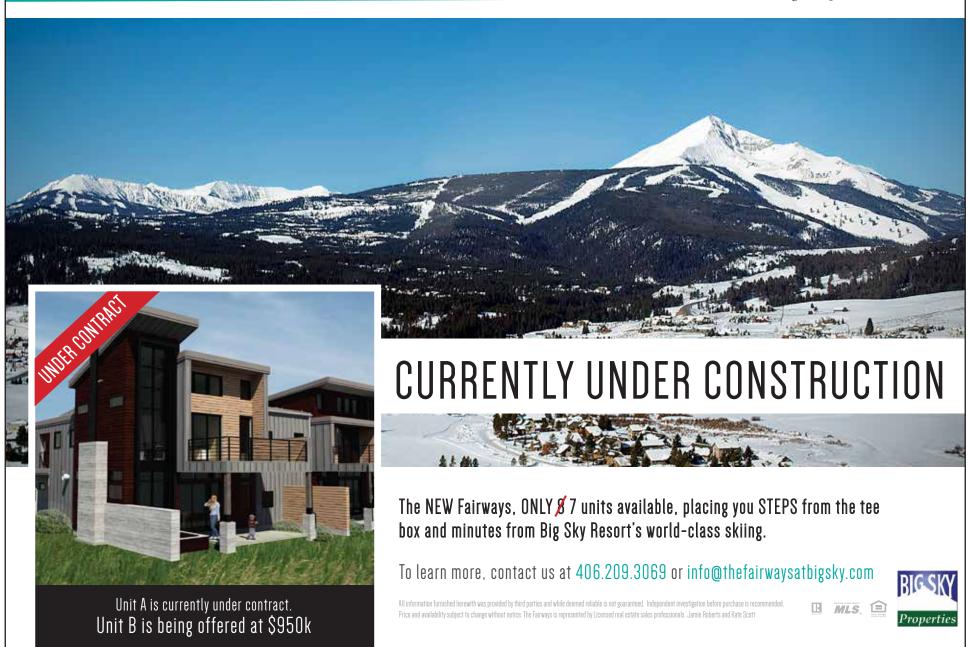
Subject to credit and property approval. Rates, program terms, and conditions are subject to change without notice. Not all products are available in all states and for all loan amounts. Other restrictions and limitations may apply. The actual terms of the loan will depend upon the specific characteristics of the loan transaction, the applicant's credit history, and other financial circumstances that may apply.

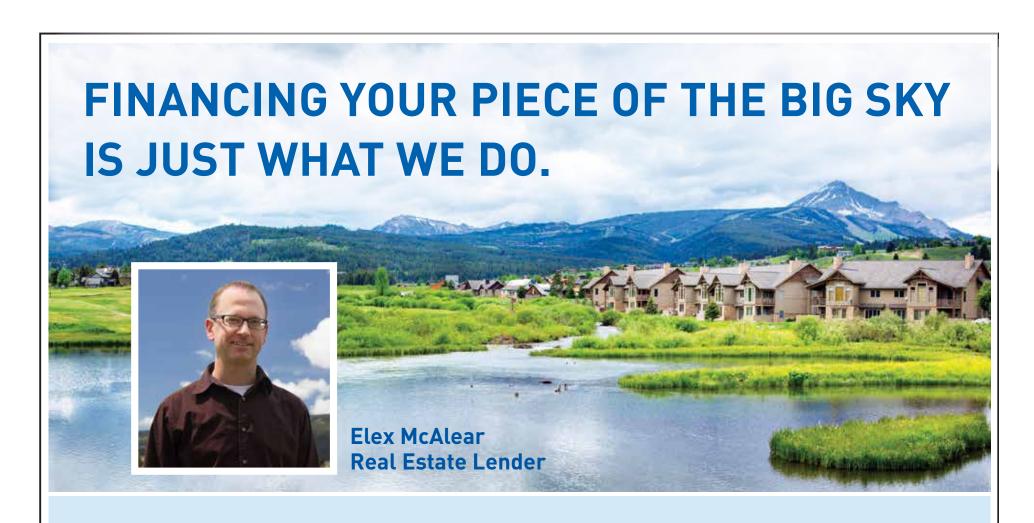


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## A MODERN TAKE ON A CLASSIC VIEW

## THE FAIRWAYS Big Sky, Montana







Success. Together.

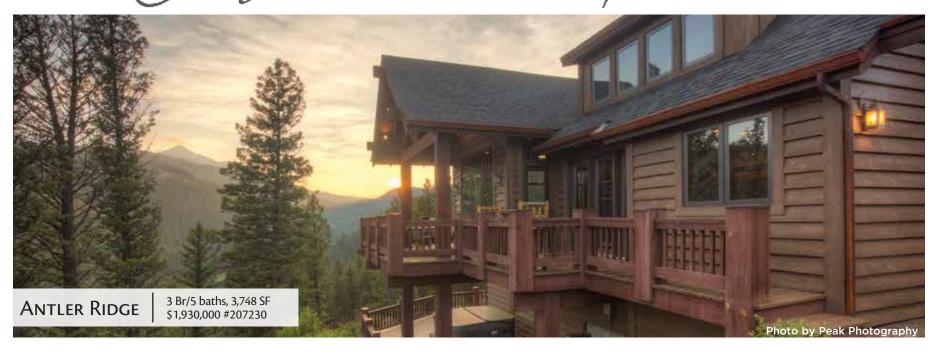
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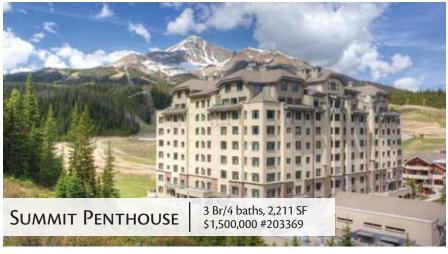
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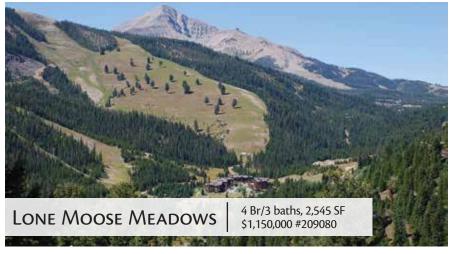


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Ron Seher Sales Associate 406-580-3363



Ron Tabaczka Sales Associate 406-570-8105 ron@bigsky-realestate.com

**Section 5:**WEEKEND GETAWAY,
OUTDOORS, GEAR







## Weekend Getaway: Jackson Hole, Wyo.

BY FBS STAFF

Jackson, Wyo., is a mountain town featuring two heartbeats – the mountain village at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort, and the famed downtown adorned in elk antlers, wooden boardwalks, and a vibrant shopping and restaurant scene.

Visitors travel from around the world to ski and play here, but as residents of Gallatin County, we're fortunate to live just a short drive away. Big Sky's

proximity to Jackson, coupled with the recreation, lodging and food options makes Jackson the perfect weekend getaway destination.

This place is a recreational paradise. Located due south of Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, Jackson Valley, aka the "Hole," is home to an array of outdoor opportunities including resort and backcountry skiing, fly-fishing, climbing, rafting, hiking ... the list goes on.

First time in Jackson? Don't sweat it. EBS has you covered with our staff picks on where to stay, eat, and, of course, ski!

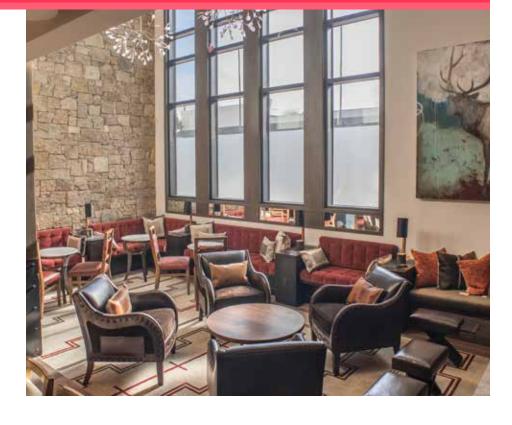
## **STAY**: HOTEL JACKSON

A few blocks off Jackson's downtown square is one of the region's newest boutique hotels, Hotel Jackson, a 58-bedroom inn featuring trendy design, relaxing rooms and attentive service set in an incredible location. Rooms at Hotel Jackson are comfortable, quiet and appointed with the rustic, modern mountain luxuries you seek on a vacation stay and expect of a new luxury hotel, down to the plush beds and fireplaces. Hotel Jackson's lobby also features a quaint and quality restaurant, FIGS, serving Mediterranean-inspired, Wyoming fare. 120 N. Glenwood Street, Jackson, Wyo. boteljackson.com (307) 733-2200









# BREAKFAST : LOTUS CAFE

Start your day here with Lotus's Bison Biscuits and Gravy or Huevos Rancheros. The restaurant caters to all eating styles by offering organic meats, vegetarian, vegan, raw and allergy-free options. Organic and fresh ingredients are the foundation for Lotus Café's creative, global menu. Whether you're looking for smoothies, cold-pressed juices, baked goods, breakfast, lunch, dinner or cocktails, Lotus has something delicious for everyone. 145 N. Glenwood Street, Jackson, Wyo. tetonlotuscafe.com (307) 734-0882



PHOTO BY HEATHER ERSON



## **SHRED (DAY):** JACKSON HOLE MOUNTAIN RESORT

,Jackson Hole Mountain Resort celebrates its 50th anniversary this season, and is sharing the love in many ways. During the last three weeks in January, powder hungry snow-sliders receive 50 percent off single-day lift tickets when they present a valid 2015-2016 season pass from any

resort, anywhere in the world. Also new this season is the Teton quad chairlift, accessing steep glades and deep snow, which previously could only be reached by hiking.

3395 Cody Lane, Teton Village, Wyo.

jacksonbole.com (307) 733-2292



PHOTO COURTESY OF JACKSON HOLE MOUNTAIN RESORT

#### **LUNCH: SNAKE RIVER BREWING**



Wyoming's oldest brewery offers one of Jackson's best, and most affordable, lunches. Since opening eight years ago, head chef Ryan Brogan has been satisfying locals and visitors alike. Favorites include the Roper brisket sandwich and the Salumi wood-fired pizza prepared with house-smoked ham, spicy capicola, salami, pepperoncinis, mozzarella, and a touch of honey. Check out the daily rotating specials, the \$9 lunch menu and wash your lunch down with award-winning Zonker Stout.

265 S. Millward Street, Jackson, Wyo. snakeriverbrewing.com (307) 739-2337

## **DINNER:** THAI ME UP RESTAURANT & BREWERY



PHOTO BY KENT ELLIOT

Here's a recipe for success: craft beer, kung fu on TV, tasty Thai food, and hiphop on the speakers. The restaurant first opened its doors in 2000 and also houses Melvin Brewery, recipient of the 2015 Great American Beer Festival Small Brewpub of the Year award. Sit at the bar to watch kung fu flicks, and try the Pad Thai or Melvin Burger paired with one of 20 beers on tap. 75 E. Pearl Avenue, Jackson, Wyo. thaijb.com (307) 733-0005



#### **SHRED (NIGHT) :** SNOW KING MOUNTAIN

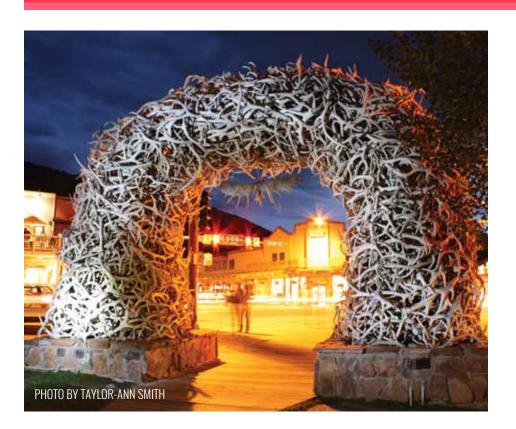
Nestled up against the vibrant town of Jackson proper, this hometown ski area spans 400 acres of terrain with more than 1,500 feet of vertical drop. The mountain is a perfect training ground for ski-race enthusiasts and is home to the steepest north-facing FIS-sanctioned racecourse in the continental U.S. Don't miss night skiing every Tuesday through Saturday. Offering affordable adult lift tickets, Snow King is the perfect way to truly live the "first chair to last" experience.

400 E. Snow King Avenue, Jackson, Wyo. snowkingmountain.com (307) 201-KING



PHOTO COURTESY OF SNOW KING MOUNTAIN





#### **ANTLER ARCHES**

A photo in front of one of the iconic antler arches is a must for new Jackson visitors. The first arch was built in 1953 and the group of four arches have been beloved downtown Jackson monuments ever since. Comprised of shed elk antlers collected from the nearby National Elk Refuge, the arches are an artistic wonder comprised of about 2,000 antlers each and weighing 10,000-12,000 pounds. Stop by George Washington Memorial Park, commonly known as "Town Square," after some shopping to take a photo or admire their wild beauty.



#### **MOUNTAIN MAN TOY SHOP**

Inspired by the outdoor heritage and lifestyle of Jackson Hole, this shop features an array of handcrafted tools, gifts and accessories for the modern day outdoorsman that make any adventure possible. Be sure to stop by and check out their display of tomahawks and axes or grab a bag of Pig Candy – a bacon flavored treat inspired by local restaurant Genevieve's.

98 Center Street, Jackson, Wyo.

mtnmengifts.com (307) 733-4193

#### STIO

Stio was founded in Jackson to inspire connection with the outdoors through functional products. From insulated jackets to wear-around-town, lightweight backcountry softshells and stylish trucker hats, the Stio Mountain Studio in the heart of town is the perfect stop for local apparel and great holiday gifts.

10 E. Broadway, Jackson, Wyo. stio.com (307) 201-1890





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BY PATRICK STRAUB **EBS FISHING COLUMNIST** 

Are you dreading having to answer the question, "What do you want for Christmas?" Scratching your head about what to give? Swing for the fences with these homerun gift ideas,

which can all be purchased or arranged locally.

Orvis Mirage Reel. The high-performance, large-arbor Mirage fly reel combines superior performance and durability. Using the same principles employed for fighter jet brakes, the carbon contact sheet and stainless drag drum gives this reel smooth, consistent and infinitely adjustable stopping power – from free spooling to a dead stop. The crew at Big Sky's East Slope Outdoors describes these reels as, "One of our best sellers because it is just that good. It fishes well and looks sweet too."

Patagonia Simple Fly Fishing Kit. This Simple Fly Fishing Kit includes a 10-foot 6-inch tenkara rod and everything you need to connect to the fly-fishing experience. At the heart of the kit is the book, "Simple Fly Fishing: Techniques for Tenkara and Rod & Reel," the most comprehensive book available on the subject of simple fly fishing, and specifically the tenkara technique.

The Abel Nipper. Created out of anodized aluminum, and with jaws of premium stainless steel, the Abel Nipper is a longstanding staple on any gift list - it's also the best nipper in the fly-fishing world. But at \$50 for standard black, and up to \$100 for artistic prints, such as a Derek De Young brown trout skin or skull-and-crossbones, a lot of folks suffer sticker shock. The angler in your life will cherish these because they're unlikely to splurge on it themselves.

RL Winston Boron III LS Fly Rod. Montana-inspired and Montana-made, this new model from RL Winston is the best "all-arounder" rod to hit the market in years. Not too stiff and fast, and not too soft and slow, it's clear the heart and soul of the Boron III LS lies in Montana trout streams. Delicate presentations, double-nymph rigs, and dragging streamers are all in this rod's wheelhouse.

**Simms Rogue Fleece Hoody.** Looking like a professional fly fisher is easy, though sometimes feeling like it is tougher. But with this Bozemaninspired Simms hoody, you'll feel like a pro. This bad boy is equipped with weather-shielding attributes to soldier through the day, including a 100-percent polyester woven face backed with a water-shedding DWR finish and fleece lined hand-warmer pockets.

**Redington's Butterstick Fly Rod.** This reasonably priced rod is perfect for someone who has every fly rod known to man. It has silky-smooth action - like butter, baby - allowing the angler to fully feel the casting stroke. Even with its Barry White smoothness, this rod can cut the wind. Plus it makes a Taylor Fork dink feel like a Missouri River bruiser.

Patagonia Foot Tractor Wading Boots. Bozeman and Big Sky's home water, the Gallatin River, is a minefield of slippery boulders. Ideal for our mountain streams, these boots have aluminum bars on the sole that help with traction on rocks. They also grip well on muddy trails and won't accumulate snow. If you care about your angler not slipping and falling, treat them - and you - this holiday.



The Abel Nipper is the perfect gift for the angler in your life. Nippers are an essential part of fly fishing, but some folks aren't willing to splurge – this year let Santa do the splurging and make someone on your gift list very happy. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

Sweetgrass Fly Rods. Authentic as it gets, these rods are designed and constructed by legendary builders, and are of heirloom quality. With over 120 years of collective rod-building experience, the Sweetgrass Rod team promises to build bamboo fly rods that are as special as they are a credit to the craft.

Instruction and knowledge. Money used for instruction is never misspent. Our area is home to fantastic guides and outfitters, fly tiers, guide schools and women's fly-fishing schools. For anglers who live here, but don't fish as much as they'd like, spending a day or two with a local guide, taking a class or a fly tying lesson gives them a valuable resource down the road.

As a kid, my parents always told me the gift-giving season wasn't about my wants and needs - my personal joy was derived from giving to others, they said. As a lifelong angler, I can tell you that if you give any of these gifts this season, you and the angler in your life will be full in the joy department.

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.

## **Ski Tips:** Floating between turns



BY DAN EGAN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The moment between turns is magical. It's a time of detachment from what was and what will be; a feeling of

weightlessness generated by the energy of the last turn mixed with a freedom of floating through time and space.

If you want to learn to float between your turns, you must digest a few key truths about skiing:

Have a game plan. Descending a snow-covered mountain requires strategy and tactics, and these take preparation, planning and execution. Pushing off the top of a run with a game plan of where you're going will add purpose to your skiing. Once you understand your destination and why you are going there, your confidence will build allowing you to arrange your body in proper skiing positions throughout the run.

Skis are designed to accelerate. The main function of turning is to change direction, not slow down. Every time I tell skiers this they look at me in disbelief, but its true. Technology is built into skis to absorb and control energy, and redirect skiers across and down the slope. Once you believe this you'll enter into a new level of freedom on the mountain.

**Stand perpendicular to the mountain.** Between turns, standing at right angles to the slope you're skiing will unlock your body from the cage of

apprehension. It will place you in control and place you in a position to work with gravity rather than fight it.

To slow down, plan ahead. Deceleration happens over a series of turns. If you want to slow down, remain in balance and gain control, and practice slowing down over a series of three turns. This will introduce a whole new understanding to your run.

Ski the mountain in sections. Get in the practice of saying, "I'm going to start here and end there." Then regroup and do it again. By skiing the slope in sections, you'll feel more relaxed and confident going from point A to point B and the quality of your skiing will reflect this newfound confidence.

Try these simple steps on terrain below your ability level, and focus your attention to what is happening between your turns. Self-evaluate to determine your level of freedom. If you start to feel a release of energy and a detachment from the slope you'll slowly start enjoying the feeling of time and space between turns and enter into a new dimension of the sport.



Dan Egan accelerates between turns on the south face of Lone Mountain. PHOTO BY JEN BENNETT/RUMBLE PRODUCTIONS

Extreme skiing pioneer Dan Egan has appeared in 12 Warren Miller Ski films and countless others. Today he teaches clinics and guides trips at locations around the world including Big Sky, where he'll he teaching Dec. 14-15, March 3-5 and March 10-12. Find more ski tips from Dan Egan at skiclinics.com/education/skitips.

## GEAR REVIEW



## **Smith Pivot MIPS helmet**

Since first donning a helmet 15 years ago, Smith's Pivot MIPS is one of the most comfortable lids I've worn. The fit wraps nicely around my face and ears, blocking out the wind and cold Montana air. Despite its lack of bulk it seamlessly accommodates a light beanie – which is key for me on extra cold days. The mini visor on the brim also keeps me sliding in style.

With 13 vents, I was worried the Pivot might be too drafty, but Smith's AirEvac 2 and Airflow climate control systems regulate the helmet's temperature well – it keeps me warm without being too hot, and allows enough air flow to keep me cool on short inbounds hikes. While I hope to never have to use it, the integrated MIPS technology will allow a small rotation of the outer shell relative to the liner – if you crash and your head impacts at an angle it will decrease rotational forces, reducing potential damage to your brain.

Overall the Pivot MIPS is a great high-tech helmet that should provide years of solid performance. Available in both men's and women's styles, the price tag is a worthwhile investment in protecting your head, while enjoying deep days on the mountain. – *Megan Paulson* 

\$160 smithoptics.com





## **WORD FROM THE RESORTS**

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



BY SHEILA D'AMICO BIG SKY RESORT PR MANAGER

The Madison Base Area is now open, providing access to northside terrain at Big Sky Resort. All facilities are open, including Headwaters Grille restaurant, Mountain Sports School, Moonlight Mercantile and Moonride Rental and Repair.

The resort is hosting Military Appreciation Weekend Dec. 12-13 to thank our armed forces members for their service to our country.

Active-duty or retired military men and woman ski or snowboard for free with valid military identification, and their dependents will receive half-price lift tickets. Military lodging specials are available for Friday and Saturday nights.

Calling all ladies! On Dec. 12, the K2 Ski Alliance presents the third annual International Women's Ski Day at Big Sky Resort. It's a global event where women worldwide hit the slopes to celebrate women skiing and snowboarding. Hint: if I were a guy, I'd be at Big Sky Resort during this event.

Educators will be descending on Big Sky for the eighth annual Educator Appreciation Weekend, Dec. 19-20. Big Sky Resort is offering free skiing to area educators - with proof of employment - and half-price lift tickets to their immediate family on Saturday and Sunday when they book lodging through central reservations. Half-price lift tickets are available to educators and their immediate family not staying in resort lodging.

Limber up before hitting the slopes Monday through Saturday at Big Sky Resort's Wellness Center where yoga, kettlebells, pilates and cardio conditioning classes are offered.

As always, the resort offers free après ski music Monday through Saturday at Montana Jack, Carabiner Lounge and Chet's Bar & Grill.

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



## BY THERESA LELAND BOHART RANCH MARKETING COORDINATOR

Bohart Ranch Cross Country Ski Center opened to the public for the ski season on Dec. 7. However, due to early season trail conditions, Bo-

hart will open on a day-to-day basis dependent on weather.

Season pass holders have the privilege of skiing before and after public hours, as well as pre- and post-season. In addition, pass holders may ski with their dog every Wednesday after 3 p.m., and participate in our trial fat bike program in place on limited trails for bikes with tires 3.7 inches or wider.

Skiers under 6 years old and over 70 ski free, and the Ranch will treat you to a free ski on your birthday. Bohart offers rentals and the ski school teaches a variety of lessons for all skill levels, in both classic and skate technique – interested parties can sign up for a onetime class or a multi-week clinic.

Bohart's 30 kilometers of trails are groomed for both classic and skate skiing, where skiers enjoy scenic solitude and are often treated to wildlife sightings.

Bohart Ranch is located 16 miles north of Bozeman up Bridger Canyon Road. Visit bohartranchxcski.com for more information.

## BY JENNIE WHITE GRAND TARGHEE RESORT MARKETING MANAGER

Grand Targhee Resort is open and the season is off to a strong start. With 73 inches of snow as of Dec. 8, the mountain is skiing great. Despite early season conditions, the resort's terrain



park manager Justin Montoya has already built a terrain park with four features and one jump.

New to Targhee this year includes the addition of chef David Hugo to the resort's culinary team. Hugo relocated from Vermont where he was the former owner of Starry Night Café and the food manager/head chef at Shelburne Farms.

Hugo brings a wealth of knowledge including a focus on farm-to-table style dining, sustainable farming and cooking practices, and award-winning culinary skills. Stop by the Branding Iron to enjoy his new menu featuring lunch, après and dinner daily.

The Sioux Lodge two-bedroom units have received kitchenettes and these eight units now have housewares and kitchen appliances to accommodate 10 guests.

Grand Targhee has always been renowned for great powder, but now the resort will be known for great groomers as well. The resort added two new snowcats to its grooming fleet this year to deliver the best carving surface no matter what Mother Nature brings.

Upcoming events include Free Demo Days and One Ton Pig at the Trap Bar Dec. 12, and Targhee's Fat Bike Race No. 1 on Dec. 13. The first fat bike race will consist of two laps of 10 miles total, or 20 miles in four laps.

Visit grandtarghee.com for more information.



Lone Mountain Ranch opened for skinny ski season on Dec. 5 with its 85 kilometers of Nordic trails and 30 kilometers of snowshoe trails. On Dec. 19, the Ranch Saloon and its dining room – with farm-to-table delicacies prepared by award-winning Executive Chef Nick Steen – will opens to the public.

New this year, season passholders can upgrade with a \$50 membership to the LMR Club, earning discounts on lodging, sleigh-ride dinners, and savings in the outdoor shop and saloon.

Once there's enough snow to groom the meadow trails, the Dog Loop will open up more than 5 kilometers of trails to enjoy with your four-legged friends. Be sure you purchase a bone-shaped pass for your ski buddy, and additional dogs can the join the pack at a discount. – *T.A.* 





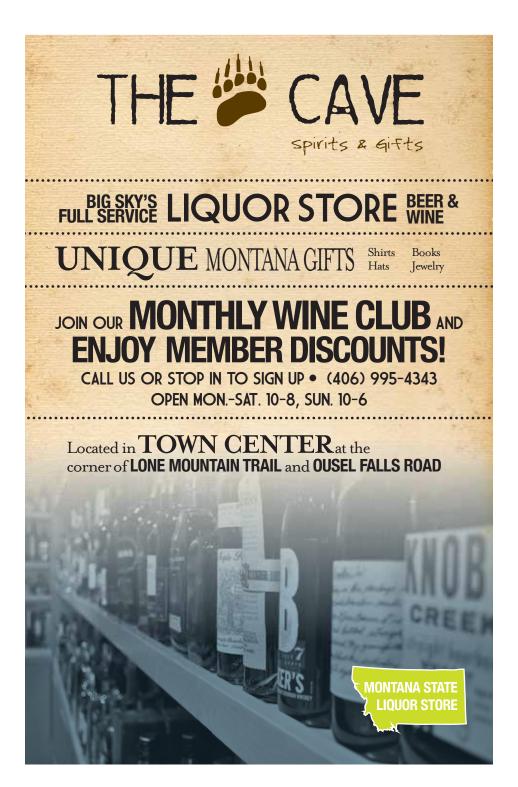


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# BACKLI

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

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

## Performing arts, just down the road

BY JOHN ZIRKLE EBS CONTRIBUTOR

A friend recently sent me a New York Times article titled "Google Cultural Institute Puts Us All Onstage" about a new immersive Google technology that enables users to experience 360-degree video on stage during live performances at New York's City's Carnegie Hall.

The Google Cultural Institute is already in place at prestigious venues around the world, and allows users to experience performing and visual arts at their best, from wherever they live.

The online responses to the article were mixed. Some commentators ardently opposed technology usurping the live experience, protesting that performances could only be understood if you were actually there. Others praised Google for devising a way to give access to people who might fall outside the socioeconomic and geographic range for attending such events. Personally, I think it's great to have both – people will always find value in attending events in person, even if others are watching from home.

One of the incredible things about Big Sky is that we don't have to worry about "lack of access" anymore. If you need a hospital, head

down the road to the new Big Sky Medical Center. Want to see a movie, need a gallon of milk, or want a great education for your kids? It's all just down the road. Want to ski some powder? Big Sky Resort is nearby.

When I first moved to Big Sky in 2009, I never thought I would say, "Want to go listen to a Grammy-winning artist for \$20? Just go down the road." It's barely fathomable that we've managed to make that statement a reality at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center in less than four years. Yet here we are.

The big picture for WMPAC is simple: We present in the winter, create in the summer, and attempt to inspire year-round. Intrinsic to that model is access. We strive to create opportunities for the entire community, and I'm happy to say we've succeeded.

In the day-to-day operations of the center, outside the limelight of our electric winter season and our exciting new summer conservatory, I have the privilege of working on stage with many of our

community members, both young and not-so-young.

I witness kids jump on stage into the lights for the first time, and grin from ear to ear when they earn their first applause. Through the adult education program at the school district, we've been able to establish a fantastic troupe of local actors who spend countless hours rehearsing and memorizing lines – often in between shifts at their paying jobs – to produce an annual theatrical experience by and for the community.

Most importantly, I get to witness the Big Sky community breathing life into our center, giving it direction, filling it with warmth and adulation, and keeping it vibrant all year long.

Whether it's an informative lecture on health, a rehearsal with kids, a world-class conservatory experience, or a powerful concert with some of the world's best artists, I find comfort knowing we have unlimited access to an arts center just down the road.

John Zirkle is the artistic director at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center and the Big Sky School District interim music teacher. When he's not immersed in the performing arts he's spending time with his new wife Ewa.



Top: The Warren Miller Performing Arts Center has 280 seats, a 1,500-square-foot stage and was completed in March 2013. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY Bottom: The Community Theater cast for the 2013 production of "Not Your Usual Charles Dickens Christmas." PHOTO BY ANNA MIDDLETON