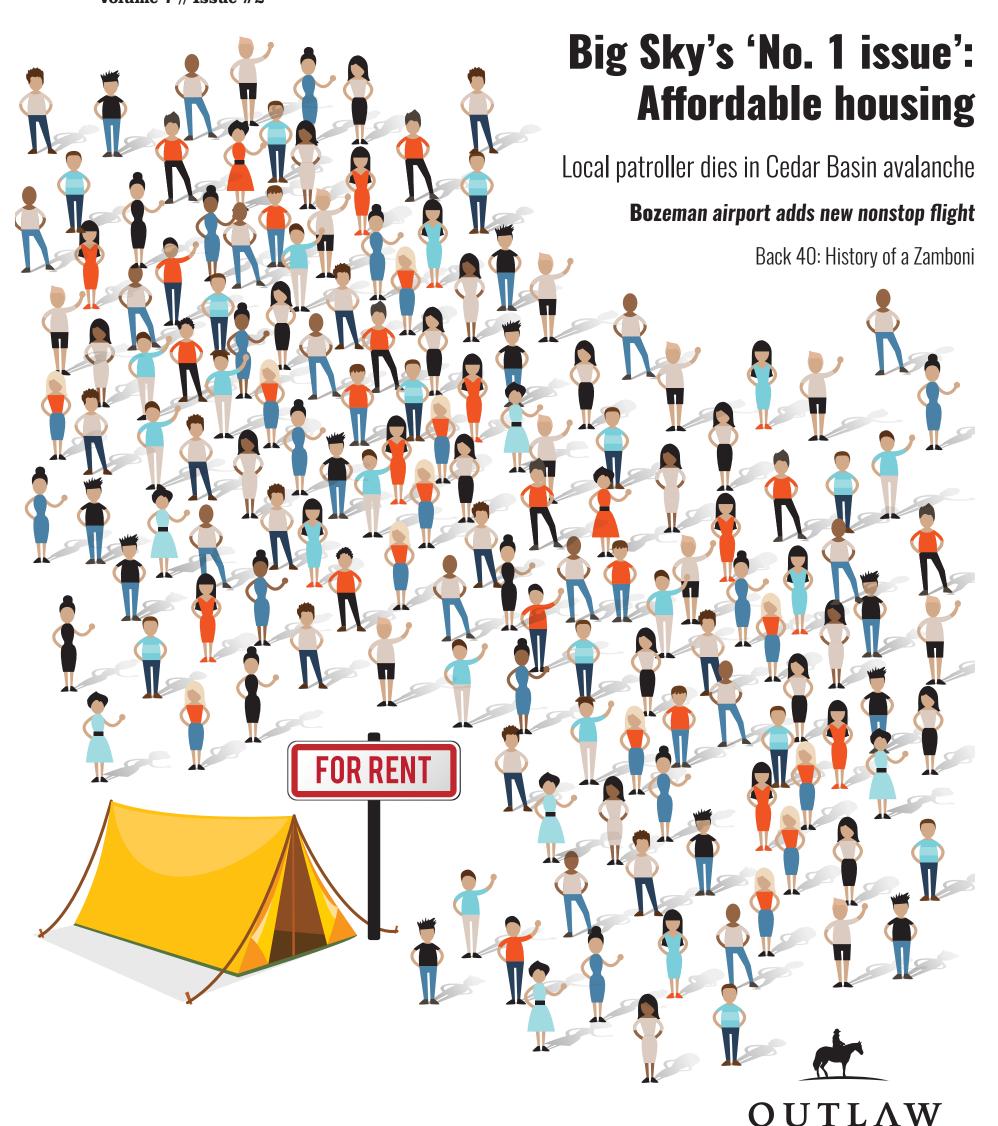
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BIO SIAV Jan. 22 - Feb. 4, 2016 Volume 7 // Issue #2







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explorebigsky



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What is this publication?

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











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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 \$3,582,000

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, 9bath 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 \$3,950,000

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.



YELLOWSTONE PRESERVE

Offered for \$39,900,000

Yellowstone Preserve is a collection of 9 homesites totalling 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



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

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NEWS IN BRIEF



FOBSE scholarships reward local students

EBS STAFF

Friends of Big Sky Education is bringing back its Community Scholarship Program for the second year.

Any senior graduating from Lone Peak High School in June is eligible to apply for one or more of the 18 available scholarships, which are donated by local families, businesses and organizations.

Of the 23 LPHS graduates in 2015, 16 students applied for 21 scholarships, and approximately \$33,000 was divvied out to eligible students.

This year, with eight seniors slated to graduate, the pool is a bit smaller yet the rewards are twofold, according to Jerry Mistretta, a former high school principal and co-founder of the program.

"[FOBSE scholarships] reward kids for academic achievement and extracurricular work," said Mistretta, who along with his wife, former district superintendent and principal Anne Marie, started the program last year. "They also give the community the opportunity to tell them 'job well done.'"

The scholarship categories range from general to medicine, arts media to business, and social services to trades.

Students received scholarship information in mid-January, and applications are due back to the school in mid-February. During a spring school assembly, scholarships will be awarded to qualifying students.

"With the new hospital and [elementary] school, Big Sky is seeing a changing way of life," Jerry said. "Now the community is providing for the community kids."

Find scholarship details at friendsofbigskyeducation.com.

BSSD students participate in storytelling program

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – On Jan. 11, Missoula-based writer Elke Govertsen presented the first in a series of three storytelling symposiums offered to BSSD junior high and high school students.

The symposiums are part of a larger storytelling program available to Big Sky students. In addition to attending the presentations, 13 students are working on personal projects in afterschool workshops with Govertsen, who founded the parenting magazine Mamalode.

The idea for the program was developed during a HATCH conference, a gathering of 100 creative types from around the world that was held in Big Sky last fall.

Although some workshop students are focusing on writing – a couple are working on novels – Govertsen will also speak about other forms of storytelling like film and social media.

"We're all storytellers whether we think of ourselves that way or not, and we're all leaving an imprint," Govertsen said.

All Big Sky junior high and high school students are invited to enter a writing contest to be held in conjunction with the workshop. The contest deadline is March 8 and winners will be announced April 8.

Other HATCH writers, including "Hook" screenwriter JV Hart, will assist with contest judging and plan to Skype in for future workshops.

The other symposiums are scheduled for March 4 and April 8.

Big Sky chamber hosts meetings on transportation issues

BIG SKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce will host a series of three community meetings to discuss the future of transportation and an investment framework for Big Sky's roadway systems. The meetings will focus on the needs of Big Sky's three main areas: Gallatin Canyon, Meadow Village and Mountain Village.

Bozeman's Western Transportation Institute will facilitate these public meetings to seek input from local residents about Big Sky's transportation needs and priorities. WTI is a department of the College of Engineering at Montana State University and has been advancing the field of transportation since 1994.

This series of meetings is meant to facilitate a discussion where the public, private, and nonprofit sectors can communicate openly and share a vision for Big Sky's future transportation issues. Topics that will be addressed include the capacity of the roadway system, short-term maintenance needs, speed limits and trail linkages.

If a Big Sky organization or partnership of organizations applies for transportation funding, there must be wide community support as a result of a collaborative effort.

All meetings will be held at the Big Sky Chapel on the following dates and times:

Wednesday, Jan. 27 – 9-11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 3 - 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4 - 4-6 p.m.

For more information on Big Sky's transportation meetings, contact Big Sky Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Kitty Clemens at (406) 995-3000 or kitty@bigskychamber.com.

BSMC sees success in opening month

BOZEMAN HEALTH

Since it began accepting patients on Dec. 12, the Big Sky Medical Center had seen more than 300 patients in its emergency department as of Jan. 15, and the hospital had conducted 16 MRIs as of Jan. 9.

"It's been rewarding to see our employees and physicians come together and work as a cohesive team to provide the best possible care for our patients," said BSMC Administrator Tracy Reamy.

Of those 300-plus patients, 70 percent have been visitors to the area, and 30 percent were Big Sky or West Yellowstone residents.

"The Big Sky Medical Center is serving its intended purpose," Reamy said. "Eighty percent of our patients thus far have had orthopedic-related injuries and those have been treated and released without leaving the community."

Relocating the Big Sky Pharmacy under the same roof has been an added convenience for Big Sky patients and visitors. The BSMC Family Medicine Clinic focuses on primary care and offers same- and next-day appointments.

Dr. Kirk Weber, who is board certified in emergency medicine and a member of the BSMC board, says BSMC has already impacted the community in the short time its been open.

"We have heard from local fire department staff that their call turnaround times have improved," Weber said, adding BSMC has been a collaborative resource for the Medical Clinic of Big Sky for ancillary diagnostic testing and treatment.

"I believe the [Big Sky] medical system has been greatly enhanced through our efforts along with other agencies and their personnel."



Affordable housing: Big Sky's 'No.1 issue'

Organizations look to new hires as future of 18-condo demonstration project remains uncertain

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BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – Construction is booming in the Yellowstone Club's American Spirit subdivision – a residential development that has been called "the most successful residential resort subdivision in the country, if not the world," by Sam Byrne, co-owner of the YC's majority shareholder CrossHarbor Capital Partners.

However, the workforce building its multimillion dollar properties – along with the rest of the area's workforce – continues to struggle to find affordable housing in Big Sky.

Like other resort communities in the West, Big Sky has been grappling with housing issues for decades. More than \$100,000, including \$60,000 of resort tax board funds, has been spent on housing studies in the last three years, and recent data indicates that Big Sky is short as many as 1,200 units to house area workers.

Stakes are particularly high right now. Concerns range from how a lack of affordable housing weakens Big Sky's population of rooted year-round residents, to how it limits the area's economic growth.

"My personal belief is it's [Big Sky's] number one issue," said Kevin Germain, member of the Resort Tax Area District board and vice president of planning and development for Lone Mountain Land Company, CrossHarbor's real estate development arm. "It's mind-boggling that 83 percent of our workforce leaves at the end of the day."

Most of Big Sky's workforce commutes to this unincorporated community from Bozeman and other areas in the county where housing is more affordable and available.

In lieu of a local nonprofit or government agency committed exclusively to affordable housing, the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce has worked on the issue since 2011 at the

behest of local businesses frustrated that a lack of housing has compromised their ability to recruit and retain a deep talent pool.

"I do believe that the more our employers suffer, and the harder it is for us to find good teachers and firefighters and employees all over big sky, [the more motivated people will be to bring] much better ideas ... to the table, "said Kitty Clemens, the chamber's executive director.

The chamber was instrumental in getting the ball rolling and most recently, it contributed \$12,000 of its own budget to help fund a housing solutions planning effort called a Preliminary Architectural Report that was presented to community members last October. But as an organization ineligible to apply for federal housing funds, there's only so much the chamber can do.

Clemens said the chamber, a nonprofit organization, is committed to the issue but limited in terms of what it can accomplish.

In addition to the chamber's \$12,000 contribution, a \$30,000 Community Development Block Grant secured by the Bozeman-based Human Resources Development Council paid for the PAR.

To prepare the PAR,
Bozeman-based
architectural firm Comma
Q subcontracted two
engineering companies
to evaluate eight sites in
and around Big Sky for
their affordable housing
suitability, and outline
development plans to tackle
the issue.

The leading option that emerged from the PAR was an 18-condo development that would potentially be located on a 4.14-acre parcel known as Sweetgrass Hills behind the tennis courts in Meadow Village. But

the development's future is far from certain. Several puzzle pieces, the largest being the land itself, are still in flux.

•••••

David C. Fowler, an architect who has been working on Big Sky's affordable housing issue since 2013, said he believes there's strong momentum in the community to make headway on the issue. "I think it's getting ready to really happen. There are a lot of people here who are truly focused on it right now."

In 2013, Fowler worked on designs for a 50-house development centrally located in Big Sky. Despite strong support for the project – several community members submitted letters to this newspaper in favor of the development – it never left the ground.

Affordable housing isn't just a matter of professional interest for Fowler – it's a personal concern as well. His office in a second-story unit above Christie's PureWest

"We've got this flood coming up and we're throwing up some sandbags here and there, but what we need to do is build some levees."

Real Estate in Town Center doubles as his home. Both architects working for him commute from Bozeman.



Currently, Big Sky is seeing \$1 billion in construction and development. At the same time, this unincorporated community has a 1,200 unit housing shortfall, and 83 percent of its workforce commutes from elsewhere in Gallatin County. PHOTO BY WES OVERVOLD

continued from pg. 5

Fowler said the single most important thing that could make affordable housing a reality in Big Sky is the involvement of a group that could accept funds to purchase land for affordable housing.

"What it boils down to is land cost," Fowler said. "At the end of the day, what Big Sky really needs is an organization or a nonprofit organization that can accept donations to offset land cost ... It's the only way to fix it."

Clemens echoes Fowler's assessment. She said the creation of a designated funding stream for housing was the top recommendation to come out of the 55-page affordable housing study prepared by Denver, Colo.-based Economic & Planning Systems in 2014.

"[If you have that] you can go to foundations, charitable trusts, real estate investment trusts, developers and bond dealers [and

make something happen] because you have something that is always going to be there," Clemens said.

Fowler also said he believes it works to Big Sky's advantage that so much of the area's development falls under the umbrella of CrossHarbor Capital Partner's ownership, the largest property owner and developer in Big Sky.

"Rather than having eight different people trying to do something, you've got one major developer that can help push the ball more efficiently," Fowler said. "I think that's probably going to help."

Approximately two months ago, LMLC, which oversees real estate developments in Moonlight Basin, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and other parts of Big Sky, posted a hiring notice on its website for a director of

housing solutions.

The new hire would be expected to "... lead the planning and development of workforce housing to support LMLC's nearterm needs, and work with the broader community in support of Big Sky-wide initiatives," according to the position description, and LMLC plans to interview candidates over the next few weeks.

Although the person LMLC is looking to hire would focus on the company's housing needs, "the bottom line is any pillow we can add to the

community for a construction worker or a year-round employee decreases the pressure on the overall community," said LMLC's Germain. "Our interests are aligned with the community."

LMLC is in the process of developing two properties targeted for employees of Yellowstone Club, Moonlight and Spanish Peaks, Germain said. Both developments will be multi-family unit apartment complexes located in Town Center.

One of the buildings will house 16 units and is slated for completion in approximately one year. The other, a 32-unit development, is still being designed, and LMLC is aiming to break ground on it at the end of the summer, according to Germain. Both will likely be rental properties.

•••••

On the nonprofit front, HRDC is ramping up its efforts on affordable housing in Big Sky, and emerging as the most likely organization to bring the PAR plans to fruition.

Usually, a local housing authority or a community land trust would take the lead on this issue, but those organizations are much more common in incorporated communities, according to Clemens, who said she's in support of HRDC taking on the developer role for affordable housing projects.

"We don't believe we need to reinvent the wheel at this point with our own housing authority," Clemens said.

"At the end of the day, what Big Sky really needs is an organization or a nonprofit organization that can accept donations to offset land cost ... It's the only way to fix it."

Tracy Menuez, a special projects sponsor with HRDC, said the organization has a long track record of acting as a property developer. "We certainly have the organizational capacity. We have two land trusts already in our portfolio," she said. "The community land-trust model is really what we'd like to see in Big Sky."

Two weeks ago, HRDC brought onboard Brian Guyer, a community development associate who will focus on affordable housing in Big Sky and West Yellowstone. Guyer comes to Montana from Park City, Utah, where he worked with community land trusts. He describes himself in his new role with HRDC as "somebody who's going to wake up and think about [affordable housing] every morning."

He's joining the cause at a tricky time. There are plenty of people in Big Sky committed to the housing issue, but the likelihood of a building being erected in the next couple years that will meet the affordability standard – meaning unit occupants spend no more than 30 percent of their income on housing – remains to be seen.

The Sweetgrass Hills property, which looked so promising and well suited to affordable housing development based on the PAR recommendation, is not currently listed for sale according to the property's owner Chad Rothacher. "HRDC has not brought forward an offer to purchase, and we are considering all offers from all parties that have come in the door," he said.

Menuez said HRDC and Rothacher are still in talks. "It's still a parcel we're considering, but we are not shutting down any options," she said.

Time could be running out to make something happen in the 2016 grant cycle. The application for what Clemens calls the "brick and mortar" Community Development Block Grant is due in April. The largest award is \$450,000, but Clemens said it's unlikely that HRDC would receive the full grant without first having a property under contract.

There are still options available to HRDC, according to Menuez, even if a piece of property has not been secured. "There are

Median price for single-family home in Big Sky:

\$1.06 MILLION



Big Sky median earnings per worker:

\$39,221



1,200 units

Housing shortfall according to HRDC

a lot of places where [a CDBG] could be plugged in and used," she said.

Even if the condo development moves forward, detractors still say 18 condos don't count for much when considered through the lens of Big Sky's massive housing shortage. Depending on who you ask, Big Sky is short 900 to 1,200 housing units.

Local developer John Romney said he applauds the efforts to date but is concerned they aren't scalable for a large number of units. "We've got this flood coming up and we're throwing up some sandbags here and there, but what we need to do is build some levees."

Menuez' response is that HRDC's effort is better late than never. "It would have been amazing had we fixed this 30 years ago, but we didn't," she said. "The best time to do it is now."

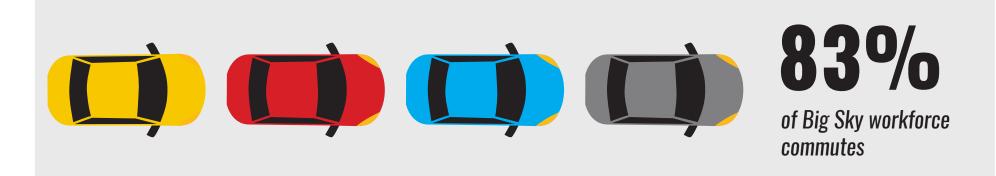
"It's not insignificant to the 18 families who move in," Guyer said, adding that it's important to move plans from the hypothetical to the material. "[But] until you have units on the ground, people kind of question viability."

Guyer acknowledges that Big Sky's lack of a city government presents challenges. "That's a unique and big hurdle. It's something that will have to be navigated," Guyer said. "A lot of tools are not available to Big Sky ... but that doesn't mean the toolbox is empty."

Romney said affordable housing isn't just an immediate concern for Big Sky. He says it will shape Big Sky's future as well.

"Initially, we're not going to have enough people to build the community, but then long term, you need people here to run the community."

EBS will continue its coverage of Big Sky's affordable housing issue. Readers with comments or stories pertaining to affordable housing are encouraged to submit letters to media@theoutlawpartners.com.



BSSD Students of the Month: December

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

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



K-2 Student of the Month - Geno DiTullio, second grade

Geno has done a terrific job of taking healthy risks. In the classroom, he uses bold new techniques in his writing, and challenges himself to choose higher grade-level books when he's reading.

Outside of the classroom, he pushes himself in everything he does and takes chances to become better. When something doesn't work out, Geno learns from it and continues to try new things, both in and out of the classroom.



Ophir Middle School Student of the Month - Sophia Robertson, eighth grade

Sophia defines an academic risk taker in every aspect of classroom life. Courageous about sharing her thoughts and ideas, Sophia allows her peers and friends to gain both confidence and perspective through her fearless academic curiosity.

Asking as many questions as she answers, Sophia is unafraid to use her intellect to build bigger concepts and understanding.

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



3-4 Student of the Month – Emmy Tatom, second grade

Although all students take a healthy academic and personal risk by entering the classroom each day, Emmy is one student who particularly stands out. She is a fourth grader who continually finds the courage to take healthy risks by asking questions.

Emmy tries new and often innovative ways to solve problems, both academically and personally – she comes in each day with the confidence that no matter how the day unfolds, she does everything in her power to be a better student when the bell rings. With her tenacity and willingness to take healthy academic and personal risks each day, it is my hope that Emmy's peers will look to her as a positive role model in fourth grade and beyond.



Lone Peak High School Student of the Month - Solae Swenson, ninth grade

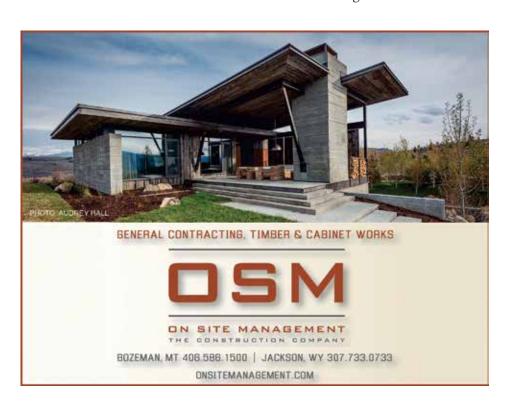
Solae exemplifies the risk taker in education because she wants to learn, and challenges herself by putting herself "out there." She wants to verify and expand her learning and is never afraid to speak up and ask or answer questions, whether she is right or not.

Solae also exemplifies risk taking in the arts and sports. She is unafraid to share her talents with her voice and when it comes to sports she jumps in with both feet. This is evident by her presence on the cheer squad, her achievements as an all-conference freshman on the varsity volleyball squad, as well a member of junior varsity basketball team. Solae succeeds because she takes risks and goes for it!

SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE POSITIONS

Big Sky School District #72

Big Sky School District #72 has two three year term school board trustee positions available. Election will be held Tuesday, May 3, 2016. Any person who is qualified to vote in Big Sky School District #72 is eligible for the office of trustee. Declaration of Intent forms are available from the main office or by calling Marie Goode, District Clerk, at 995-4281. The deadline for filing as a candidate is 4pm, March 24, 2016. NO CANDIDATE MAY APPEAR ON THE BALLOT UNLESS HE OR SHE MEETS THIS DEADLINE.



Cedar Basin avalanche claims life of YC patroller

BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR **EBS MANAGING EDITOR**

BIG SKY - A Yellowstone Club ski patroller was recently killed in a Jan. 19 avalanche outside the ski area's boundary in the northern Madison Range.

Poor snow stability due to early season cold temperatures and wind loading across the southwest Montana has led to numerous natural and human-triggered avalanches in recent weeks.

The Gallatin County Sheriff's Office identified the victim as Darren Johnson, 34, of Big Sky, who succumbed to trauma-related injuries sustained after the slide near Cedar Basin carried him through a tight pocket of trees, according to a Jan. 20 Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center advisory report.

Johnson, who had patrolled at the Yellowstone Club since 2010, and a fellow patroller were helping two Montana State University snow science program researchers collect data in the Cedar Basin area.

The foursome left the Yellowstone Club boundary at approximately 9 a.m. and traveled to the research site utilizing safe-travel techniques, according to Chris Bilbrey, one of the researchers as well as an avalanche safety instructor for the Friends of the GNFAC, a nonprofit dedicated to avalanche education and awareness in southwest Montana.

"We had had great group communication and made good travel decisions," said Bilbrey, who also

worked for 10 years as a ski patroller and assistant snow safety technician at Colorado's Wolfe Creek Ski Area. "We achieved the work objective around 2:30 [p.m.] and decided as group how to get back to ski area, based on prevailing winds and other natural avalanche activity in the area."

The group agreed to ski one at a time down a south-facing, low-angle aspect back to the Yellowstone Club boundary. Bilbrey went first, and after stopping in a safe location below a stand of trees, signaled to the group to send the next skier.

"I looked up, and [Johnson] dropped into the far skiers' right side of [the] bowl," Bilbrey said. "He made [a] hard check turn to the right and the whole bowl propagated. It happened super quick."

According to GNFAC Director Doug Chabot, the wind-loaded slope broke at a 2-4-foot crown approximately 300 feet wide, and slid 300 vertical feet, carrying Johnson about 50 feet through the trees.

"There were three feet of dense, windblown snow on top of a steep slope," said Chabot, who conducted the avalanche investigation the following day along with MSU Snow Science Laboratory Director Jordy Hendrikx. "He was the trigger."

Skiing a slightly different aspect of the same slope no matter how minor, according to Bilbrey, can have tragic consequences.

"I think it boils down to Darren getting on the wrong aspect and the wrong part of the slope," Bilbrey said. "That's the special variability of a mountain snowpack and that's why we have to continue

to pursue snow research."

The rest of the group reached Johnson within 2-3 minutes, but found the patroller with a weak pulse and breathing intermittently. They radioed dispatch and began the rescue operation, which consisted of a Yellowstone Club ski patrol snowmobile towing him by toboggan to a flat area at the club where an air ambulance helicopter transported Johnson to the Big Sky Medical Center.

"Darren has been part of our Yellowstone Club family since November 2010 and we are devastated by this tragedy," wrote Hans Williamson, Yellowstone Club general manager and vice president, in a Jan. 20 email to EBS. "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this difficult time."

In a heavy snow year with a weak layer, as much of the Rocky Mountain West is seeing this winter, Chabot says it's that much more important to be careful while traveling in the mountains.

"We have a really weak snowpack, and we're cautioning people that it will take a long time for this layer to get strong again," he said.

Hendrikx says it's tragic when fatalities occur in the mountains, and this was a situation he wished would have gone differently. He says it's also more reason to continue snow research, however. The study of snow and avalanches isn't flawless.

Visit GNFAC's website at mtavalanche.com for up-todate snowpack conditions and avalanche forecasts.



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- One car attached garage FURNISHED \$379,900 | MLS 203720



BEST PRICED! BIG HORN 11

- 1,595 sf 3BR/3B ski-in/ski-out condo
- End unit with extra windows - Attached single car garage
- FURNISHED \$432,000 | MLS 209966



MEADOW VILLAGE - LOTS 23 & 24

- 2 side-by-side .25 acre lots with million dollar views
- Located in the heart of Meadow Village
- Purchase 1 or both & build home on .5 acres \$168,900 EACH | MLS 188524 & 188525



SPANISH PEAKS CLUB #15

- 2,969+/- sf, 3BR/3BA, large family room - Spacious kitchen with large windows
 - Beautiful finish work throughout \$625,000 | MLS 209628



LOST TRAILS - LOT 4

- Extremely private, yet accessible 20 acre tract - Located halfway between meadow & mtn villages
- Power and phone to forested lot \$499,500 | MLS 196234



BIG HORN 66

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



JUST LISTED - 91 PAINTBRUSH

- Custom 3,304+/- sf log home w/ 4 car garage - Family friendly with 4BR/Office/2.5BA
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NEW LISTING - BLACK EAGLE #8

- 3,744+/- sf 3BR/3.5BA w/ great ski access
- Best streamside location, sold furnished
- Just steps to all the mountain amenities \$1,995,000 | MLS TBD



- 2 commercial buildings located on 1.027 acres
- Building #1 has 3,230 sq. ft. - Building #2 has 5,808 sq. ft.
 - \$1,400,000 | MLS 204402



BIG HORN 65

- 1,595 sf 3BR/3B ski-in/ski-out condo
- Upgraded flooring, countertops & appliances
- End unit across from the Poma Lift **FURNISHED \$525,000 | MLS 208076**



28 NORTH

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

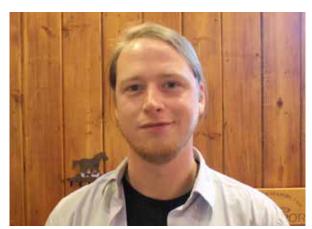


BIG HORN CONDO #34

- Spotless 1,595 sf condo 3 bedrooms, 3 baths - Ski-in/ski-out access next to the Poma Lift
- Attached single car garage
 - \$495,000 | MLS 202360



Affordable housing is one of the biggest issues facing this community. How has it impacted you?



Zane Patton, Big Sky, Mont Social Media Manager and Retail Clerk, The Cave

"I think it's only going to get worse...The only affordable housing is provided by employers, really. Places like the Wrap Shack [need] condos just to have employees."



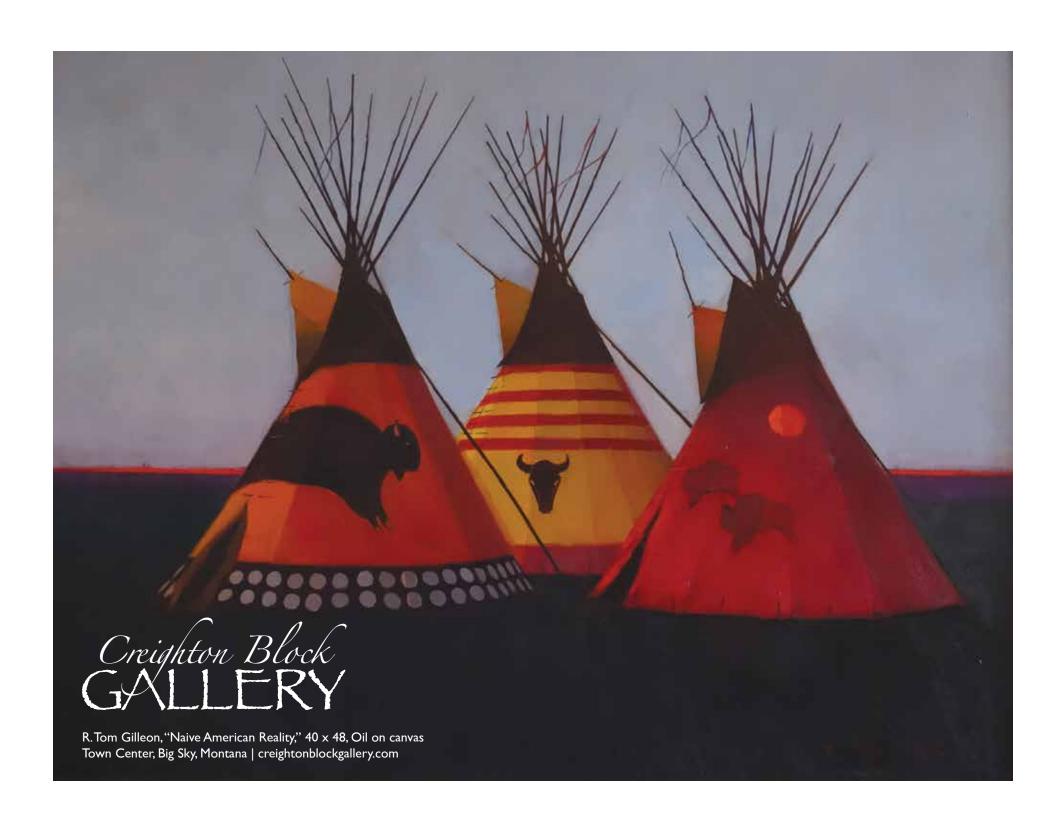
Jimmy Adair, Big Sky, Mont. Jeweler and Burton Shop Retail clerk

"I work two jobs and I don't feel like I can catch up or get ahead...[Big Sky] is growing, but there's nothing here to support it as far as a working structure. At some point you're going to run out of people to run the place."



Christian Johnsen, Big Sky, Mont. Co-owner, Blue Moon Bakery

"We lost more than six employees over the whole housing issue since last summer ... [and] we had to close on Sundays during last shoulder season. At some point, it puts pressure on us to reduce our services because we just don't have people."



Bozeman airport adds direct Dallas flight

BY TYLER ALLEN EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BELGRADE - American Airlines will begin servicing Bozeman with nonstop Dallas flights in southwest Montana's busiest tourist seasons.

Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport Director Brian Sprenger announced in a Jan. 14 press conference the seasonal service to Dallas/ Fort Worth International Airport – from June 2 to Oct. 5, and Dec. 15 to April 3 – that will allow southwest Montana residents connections to more than 200 destinations in 26 countries.

It will also open up the region's tourist opportunities – including Yellowstone National Park and Big Sky Resort – to a new population of travelers. American was the last of the major U.S. airlines without service to Bozeman.

"This is exciting news for the Bozeman community and the thousands of Montanans who rely on Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport for reliable air travel," said U.S. Sen. Steve Daines in a press release. "It will further open Bozeman's door to economic opportunities and job creation, unlocking markets for Montana small businesses."

Big Sky Resort partnered with the Bozeman Chamber of Commerce, the Yellowstone Club, and Lone Mountain Land Company to make a strong push for this expanded service in the last



Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport Director Brian Sprenger announces American Airlines' new nonstop, seasonal service to Dallas during a Jan. 14 press conference. PHOTO BY MEGAN PAULSON

two and half years, according to Brandon Bang, Big Sky Resort's senior sales director.

"The new daily seats, a new direct flight city and new American Airlines customers are each individually big steps in economic development," Bang said. "All three together are a huge win for the economy, tourism and accessibility."

The partnership obtained a small community air service grant that will pay for half of a minimum revenue guarantee to American, with the partners providing the difference. This means American won't lose any revenue until the airline turns a profit on the service.

Nonprofit marketing organization Yellowstone Country, Montana, along with Visit Big Sky, has also agreed to help Big Sky Resort market the new flight.

Bang says in addition to bringing new skiers to the resort – who may have chosen Colorado or other destinations they could fly to directly in the past – American Airlines' Dallas flight will be a boon for the resort's summer visitation.

"I think this will be a huge win for the area," Bang said.

American Legion hosting Big Sky oratory contest

BY RACHEL ANDERSON EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – The American Legion Big Sky Post 99 will host its first oratory contest at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, Jan. 27 at 5 p.m.

The contest will feature local high school students who will each prepare a speech between 8 and 10 minutes in length. Their delivery will be on any aspect of the U.S. Constitution with an emphasis on citizens' duties and obligations to our government.

Post 99 Adjutant Dick Allgood is helping spearhead the event, and says the American Legion wants to expand the youth programs offered in the community. He hopes to make the competition an annual event.

"We've been wanting to do [this oratory contest] for a long time, but we've never had a way to get it going and get the energy behind it," Allgood said, adding that Post Commander Kenny Alley has taken special pride in the event. "We've got a lot of worker bees behind the scenes on this thing."

The first-place winner at the Big Sky contest will receive a \$200 cash prize; second \$100; and third \$50. Post 99 will provide an American Legion tack pin to each contestant to honor his or her participation in the contest.

The winner will advance to the district competition held in Bozeman on Feb. 7 at American Legion Hall Post 14. American Legion posts from Big Sky, Bozeman and Livingston will send a winner to the district level.

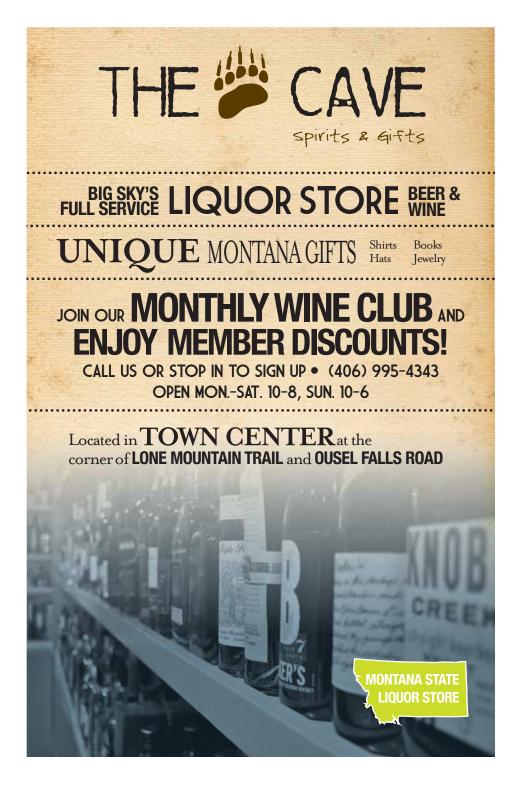
At the district competition, participants will be required to present their own prepared oration along with an additional speech. The second topic will be drawn from one of four categories involving some phase of the U.S. Constitution, selected from Articles and Sections, and the speeches will be 3-5 minutes in length.

Judges will determine the rankings and who will advance at all levels of the competition, and the state oratory contest will be held Feb. 28 at the Montana National Guard Armory in Belgrade.

Lone Peak High School civics teacher Tony Coppola will be the master of ceremonies for the Big Sky contest.

"We are very fortunate to have the energy of our Sons of the American Legion, [and] both Jeremy Harder and Tony Copolla are members of the squadron," Allgood said. "They were able to get behind it to make it happen."

The public is encouraged to attend the event, and admission is free.





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Did you Know?

Native cutthroat trout are the most ecologically important fish in the park and most highly regarded by visiting anglers. Nonnative rainbow trout compete with the native cutthroat trout for food, habitat resources, and, even worse, interbreed with native fish, producing hybrids.

To reduce the level of hybridization and save the local population of the park's cutthroat trout, anglers are encouraged to harvest rainbow trout.

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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.

We are nearly finished with the first semester of the school year and students are busy with extra-curricular activities, school-related tasks and other endeavors. This time of year in Big Sky, most outdoor activities involve snow; skiing - both Nordic and alpine are sports supported here in the district.

Each year, as part of the school program, BSSD kids from kindergarten through 12th grade have three ski days while school is in session. Through a partnership with Boyne Resorts, our students receive lessons, gear and a great time at no cost to their families. In addition, our k-8th grade students enjoy Nordic skiing through the generosity of Lone Mountain Ranch. These are both lifelong sports that help us fulfill our mission of experiential learning and addressing a student holistically.

At Ophir Middle School and Lone Peak High School, some of our students are not only busy competing around the state with basketball, but are also contending on the snow with the Big Sky Ski Education Foundation. While skiing is not a recognized sport by any education authority in Montana, BSSEF has a robust program that requires a partnership with the school for successful student athletes.

Big Sky schools and BSSEF have a relationship in which studentathletes gain the same classification as our school related extra-curricular activities. That means we work with the ski team coaches; athletes have standards for grades they must adhere to; athlete absences are excused; and BSSEF competitors are recognized publicly for superior performance.

We have approximately 100 student-athletes training and competing with one of the BSSEF programs. Partnerships of this kind do not come easily and we've worked hard to make this a reality for our students. Research has shown a strong connection between healthy students, high achievement and participation in extra-curricular activities.

We are proud of all our student-athletes in the Big Sky School District as they pursue the peak of excellence in their athletic endeavors.



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Announcements

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hours.

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Public Computers available here. All are welcome.

Located at the north end of Ophir School



Yellowstone seeks public comment on bison quarantine

The National Park Service is seeking public comment on an Environmental Assessment for the use of quarantine to identify brucellosis-free Yellowstone bison for relocation.

The purpose of a quarantine program would be to establish or augment new conservation and cultural herds of plains bison; conserve a viable, wild population of the Yellowstone population; maintain a low risk of brucellosis transmission from bison to cattle; reduce the need for shipment of bison to meat processing facilities to limit population growth; and provide cultural and nutritional opportunities for Native Americans.

The EA analyzes three alternatives to evaluate a quarantine program for Yellowstone bison at one or more new quarantine facilities, which could be located within Yellowstone National Park, on tribal lands, or elsewhere.

- Alternative one is no action. Bison operations would continue as they currently are with no quarantine of bison.
- Alternative two includes conducting a quarantine program within Yellowstone National Park.

- Alternative three includes conducting a quarantine program on the Fort Peck Reservation and is the Park Service's preferred alternative.

Once comments are analyzed, a decision on whether to implement the plan will be made by the regional director of the intermountain region of the Park Service. If approved in time, the Park Service may implement a quarantine program during the 2016 bison management operations period.

The Park Service is inviting public comment and engagement on the EA pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The EA can be found online at parkplanning.nps.gov/bisonquarantine. To request a hard copy of the EA, call (307) 344-2015.

Respondents are encouraged to submit their comments online, band deliver them to the park administration building in Mammoth, or mail them to: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park, WY, 82190. Comments will not be accepted in any manner other than those specified above, and bulk comments submitted on behalf of others will not be accepted. The deadline to submit comments is midnight MDT on Feb. 15.

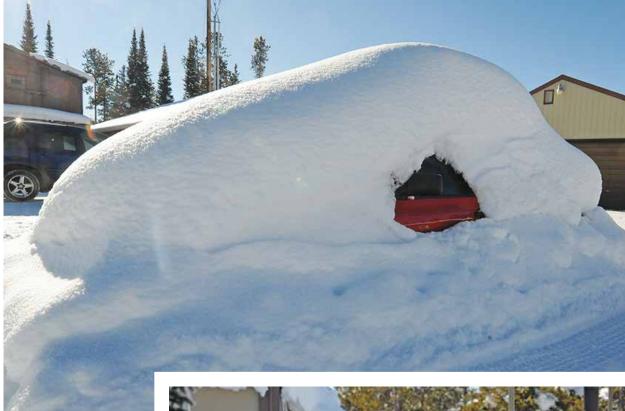
The bounty of winter in West

PHOTOS BY JOHN LAYSHOCK

West Yellowstone has had banner snowfall so far this winter. Residents who don't regularly clean off their cars are at risk of losing of them, plows are

working overtime and building maintenance includes shoveling off roofs. In mid-January, West Yellowstone photographer John Layshock shot some his favorite snowy subjects.









Yellowstone visitation tops 4 million

NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

In 2015, Yellowstone National Park recorded 4,097,710 "visits," up 16.6 percent from 2014, and making it the highest visitation year on record.

The number of visits is always greater than the actual number of individuals entering Yellowstone since people may enter and leave the park repeatedly during a stay in the area.

In 2015, 42.5 percent of the total visitation came through the park's west entrance, which also saw the greatest percentage increase in visits among the park's five entrance gates, up more than 21 percent from 2014 levels.

The National Park Service's "Find Your Park" public awareness campaign, marketing and tourism promotions by the states of Montana and Wyoming, and lower gas prices contributed to the record number of visits.

But the increase in visitation to Yellowstone this year also brought an increase in demands on park staff, facilities and resources. Long lines to enter the park, traffic jams and the resultant frustration of visitors and staff undoubtedly affected the visitor experience.

"Last year's visitation tested [our] capacity," said Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk. "We are looking at ways to reprioritize in order to protect resources, to provide additional ranger programs, and to keep facilities clean."

Congress recently provided an increase in funding for national parks in 2016, which will help meet some needs related to increased visitation. Congress is also considering separate Centennial legislation which could provide additional temporary increases and permanent authorities that will encourage philanthropy, volunteerism, and allow the park service to directly improve services.

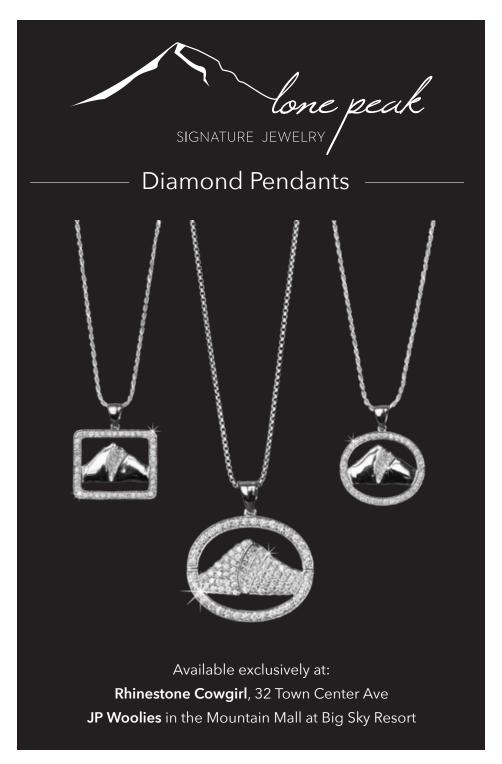
"We will be asking park visitors to pack their patience for the upcoming summer season, as we expect more record breaking numbers in 2016, the National Park Service Centennial year," Wenk said.



Vehicles wait to enter the North Entrance of Yellowstone. NPS PHOTO







Democratic lawmakers to caucus in February

BY JOHN S. ADAMS MONTANA FREE PRESS

Montana Democratic legislators are slated to gather for a "caucus retreat" at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort in February. According to an email party leaders sent to Democratic lawmakers on Dec. 26, the purpose of the Feb. 6 retreat is to prepare for the 2017 legislative session by establishing the party's priorities ahead of the 2016 election season.

But at least one Democratic lawmaker objects to House and Senate caucuses gathering outside of the public view.

Great Falls Sen. Mary Sheehy Moe in a Jan. 7 interview confirmed she raised her objections with party leaders. Moe said she believes caucus meetings are subject to the right-to-know provisions of the Montana Constitution, which requires advance public notice of official meetings so any member of the public may attend.

"I find the whole definition of the political caucus as part of a body that is covered by the open meeting law," Moe said.

Off-site party caucuses have been at the center of debates – and legal battles – over the past two decades.

In the late 1990s, 22 Montana news organizations successfully sued the four caucuses of the Montana Legislature to force the caucuses to open their meetings to the public. The courts found that "the party caucuses were public bodies and were subject to the provisions" of Montana's right-to-know laws.

In 1998, District Judge Thomas Honzel ruled in favor of the news media and declared all legislative caucus meetings must be open to the public.

"Clearly, legislators gather at caucuses to discuss the public's business," Honzel wrote in his decision. "When they do so, the public has a right to observe their discussions and to be informed about what happens at those meetings."

The issue was brought to the fore again just prior to the 2015 Legislature when the House Republican caucus gathered in the basement of a Helena restaurant without notifying the public. Two reporters discovered the caucus and dropped in on it, at which point party leaders abruptly brought the meeting to a close.

Following the House GOP's secret caucus meeting, 21 Montana news groups sued again, this time asking the court to hold the House GOP caucus in contempt of Honzel's 1998 ruling.

District Judge Kathy Seeley dismissed the complaint in January 2015. Seeley said caucus meetings should be open to the public, but that Honzel's 1998 ruling did not specifically require the meetings be noticed to the public ahead of time.

Peter Michael Meloy, the attorney who represented state news organizations in both the 1998 lawsuit and the more recent action, said Seeley's ruling put the issue of open caucuses "back where it started.

"There is a district court ruling saying that all caucuses should be open," Meloy said.

Moe said she doesn't like the court ruling, but until the law changes, Democrats need to follow it.

"I feel that at some point we need to go to the court and say that we are really a political entity, we're not a public body, but until I get word from the courts ... I just feel we need to be very careful that we make sure we notice [caucus meetings]," Moe said.

How many lawmakers will attend the Feb. 6-7 "Blues Working Group" caucus retreat, and whether their numbers will constitute a quorum, remains to be seen, said Democratic Rep. Jenny Eck, of Helena.

"We are still working to have enough people to make it a worthwhile gathering," Eck said in a Jan. 7 interview, adding that so far only a handful of lawmakers have registered for the event, and she's not sure if many more will.

Members of both major political parties argue that the public is better served when lawmakers have the opportunity to gather privately – without the scrutiny of their opposition or the public – to set their policy agenda and discuss ideas.

"I'm not horrified by the fact that [the Democrats] are trying to come together and work together.

I think that's a good thing," said Billings

Republican Rep. Jeff Essmann.

Essmann was present at the November 2014 GOP caucus meeting and, at that time, defended the party's right to gather away from the state Capitol without notifying the press or the public.

In a Jan. 7 interview, Essmann said the context of the Democrats' planned caucus retreat is the beginning of an election cycle, which he says is a "competition of ideas."

"At this point you're talking about coming up with ideas to compete in an election with hopes of advancing your interest in the election," Essmann said. "I think it's a far different cry from meeting during a Legislature, in the Capitol, to discuss how to vote on a particular bill."

Montana State University political science professor David Parker agrees that lawmakers should have a forum in which they can meet privately, without the scrutiny of the public. Parker likened the Montana court's ban on closed caucuses to the federal ban on congressional earmarks in Washington, D.C.

"What happened as a result of the elimination of earmarks is they still exist, they just exist in a different way, a less transparent way," Parker said. "I think one of the problems with a lot of these open meetings laws is that the stuff still happens in private, just in different ways. Perhaps, I would argue, in much more inefficient ways."

Democratic leaders said they don't expect enough House or Senate Democrats to show up at next month's caucus retreat to constitute a quorum. If a quorum is present – half of the Democratic body of each house, meaning 21 from the House and 11 from the Senate – the meeting will be open to the public, Democrats said.

"We're committed to doing what is expected of the law," Eck said. "We will be transparent as we always are."

The Montana Free Press is a statewide, independent, nonprofit source for in-depth Montana news, information, and analysis. Visit montanafreepress.org for more information.

Caucus: a breakdown

A caucus is a local meeting where registered members of a political party in a city, town or county gather to vote for their preferred party candidate and conduct other party business. Caucuses typically are used in combination with a state convention to elect delegates to the national nominating convention for presidential elections.

The caucus is the oldest method of choosing delegates in the U.S., widely acknowledged as originating in the English colonies before the American Revolution. Sixteen states hold caucuses to determine political party candidates. Iowa holds the first, and most significant, caucuses in the presidential election cycle.







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Section 2:SPORTS, HEALTH, DINING,
AND ENVIRONMENT







Lady Big Horns earn two more road victories

BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS STAFF WRITER

WEST YELLOWSTONE/LIMA – After winning two road games by comfortable margins last weekend, the Lady Big Horns record sits at 8-2 overall and 4-1 in conference play.

Lone Peak Head Coach Nubia Allen said her players showed up to West Yellowstone on Friday, Jan. 15 prepared for a big, vocal crowd and kept their composure.

"We needed to be patient and to have control at all times. Right from the get-go the girls did that," Allen said. "I never felt like they were out of control or overly excited and making mistakes because of it."

They set the tone early on, earning nine points in the first quarter to the Wolverines' four. By the half, they led 23-12.

The Big Horns had a particularly strong game in the paint, with junior forward Bianca Godoy



Dasha Bough scored three 3-pointers and 21 points during the Lady Big Horns' Jan. 9 loss at home to Twin Bridges. The Falcons are an undefeated team leading in the district rankings. PHOTOS BY JILL BOUGH

notching 11 points and sophomore center KP Hoffman scoring 12. From the point guard position, sophomore Luisa Locker also earned 12 points, sharing the game high with Hoffman.

Allen said she was pleased that LPHS's less experienced players had an opportunity to contribute to Friday night's win. Eight players put points on the board to earn a 54 – 25 win.

"That's what I want, where we can get scoring [opportunities] for more than one player or two players," Allen said.

The Lady Big Horns doubled their opponents' score the following night as well, beating the Lima Bears 45–19.

Allen said games like Saturday's against Lima always make her nervous. "You know you're the better team, but you never know if your girls are going to show up and play," she said. But they didn't leave their intensity in Big Sky, as they led 18-4 at the end of the first quarter.

Dasha Bough earned a game-high 14 points en route to another smooth LPHS win. Locker and junior guard Bella Butler scored 9 points each.

Allen said she's been impressed by the progress the Lady Big Horns have demonstrated in their defensive play. "That's how you win basketball games, getting stops, and that's what the girls were doing," she said. "I think that's one of the areas where we're getting stronger and more consistent."

On road, Big Horns win one, lose one

BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS STAFF WRITER

WEST YELLOWSTONE/LIMA - A tough crowd, unforced turnovers, lackluster defensive rebounding and poor free-throw shooting contributed to the Big Horns' 44-43 loss to West Yellowstone on Friday, Jan 15.

"At the end, it really could have gone either way," said Lone Peak High School Head Coach Al Malinowski. "We know there were a lot of opportunities where we could have done things differently to get the win."

The Big Horns came out strong, leading 11-4 at the close of the first quarter, but the Wolverines picked up momentum in the second quarter, scoring 20 points to the Big Horns' 12. At the close of the second half, the Big Horns clung to a 24-23 lead.

The Big Horns shot 28 percent from the freethrow line to the Wolverines' 64 percent, a shortcoming all the more painful considering LPHS went into double bonus in both halves.

West Yellowstone led 34-29 after the third quarter, but the Big Horns rallied in the fourth and came close to victory. With six seconds left on the clock, junior guard Eddie Starz made a 3-pointer to close the gap to one point. He tried to drain one more basket at the buzzer, launching a shot just shy of the half-court line, but it caught the back of the rim and bounced out.

Despite poor execution in some areas of play, the Big Horns demonstrated greater team depth on Friday. Seven of nine players put points on the board.

"We're starting to get more players coming off the bench and contributing, and more contributions from our starters, too," Malinowski said.

That development continued in the Saturday, Jan. 16 game against Lima, a decisive 65-33 win over the Bears.



After earning 17 points against Lima, junior guard Eddie Starz brought his career total to 584 points, putting him in third place on Big Sky's all-time scoring list. During the Big Horns' last home game on Jan. 9, he scored 24 points. Despite Starz' strong showing, LPHS's lost to Twin Bridges 53-34.

"[Saturday] we had an opportunity to have a deeper bench and put all nine of our guys in the game," Malinowski said, adding that the Big Horns vastly improved their free-throw shooting and defensive rebounding over the previous evening.

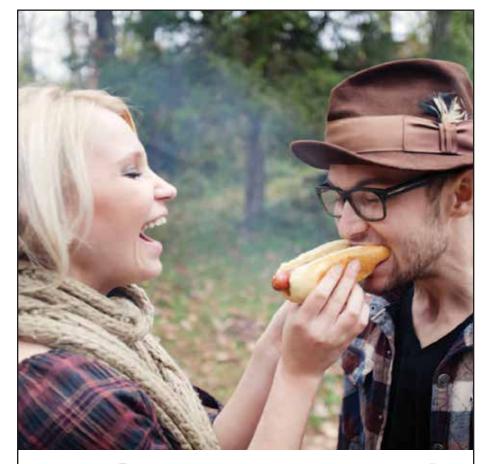
Eighth-grade guard Frankie Starz and freshman point guard Kolya Bough contributed four and seven points, respectively. Senior guard Hugo Boman, who was out for much of the early season with an injury, scored six points.

Sophomore post Jackson Wade scored 18 points, making eight baskets and two free throws.

"That's what he's capable of," Malinowski said, "when he's feeling confident and we're feeding him the ball [to] the post."

Junior guard Liam Germain had notable contributions on offense and defense, making two 3-pointers and grabbing a couple steals. "Friday he had multiple situations where he was inches from a steal and on Saturday many of those were actually turning into steals," Malinowski said.

Lima's Guy Hales had an impressive fourth quarter showing, scoring 13 of the Bears' 15 points that quarter. The junior guard scored a game-high total of 19 points.



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Jan. 22	Away	@ Harrison / Willow Creek**	G 7:00 B 5:30
Jan. 23	Home	Sheridan**	G 2:30 B 4:00
Jan. 28	Away	@ Shields Valley**	G 7:00 B 5:30 JVG 4:00
Jan. 29	Home	Gardiner**	G 7:00 B 5:30 JVG 4:00
Feb. 4	Away	@ Manhattan Christian**	G 7:00 B 5:30 JVG 4:00

G: Girls Varsity B: Boys Varsity

JVG: Junior Varsity Girls JVB: Junior Varsity Boys ** District 11/12C basketball games

11/12 C BOYS BASKETBALL STANDINGS

CONFERENCE		OVERALL		
TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	WINS	LOSSES
1. MANHATTAN CHRISTIAN	6	0	9	1
2. TWIN BRIDGES	5	0	7	3
3. ENNIS	5	1	7	3
4. WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS	4	2	5	5
5. HARRISON/ WILLOW CREEK	2	2	3	6
6. GARDINER	3	3	4	5
7. LONE PEAK	2	3	3	7
8. LIMA	1	4	2	7
9. WEST YELLOWSTONE	1	4	2	7
10. SHIELDS VALLEY	1	5	3	7
11. SHERIDAN	0	5	0	9

11/12 C GIRLS BASKETBALL STANDINGS

CONFERENCE			OVERALL	
TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	WINS	LOSSES
1. TWIN BRIDGES	5	0	10	0
2. MANHATTAN CHRISTIAN	6	0	7	3
3. LONE PEAK	4	1	8	2
4. ENNIS	4	2	6	4
5. HARRISON/ WILLOW CREEK	2	1	4	4
6. WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS	4	2	5	5
7. WEST YELLOWSTONE	1	4	4	6
8. SHIELDS VALLEY	1	4	2	7
9. GARDINER	1	5	1	8
10. LIMA	0	5	4	5
11. SHERIDAN	0	5	0	9



EYE ON THE BALL

The NFL coaching carousel



BY BRANDON NILES EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

Just a couple of weeks into the NFL playoffs, head coaching positions that became available following the regular season were already

filled. This was an interesting year for head coaching jobs, as three new-hires were promoted from within organizations, a rarity in the NFL. In most cases, coaches are hired from other franchises.

Seven teams will feature a new face at the helm next season: the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Tennessee Titans, Philadelphia Eagles, San Francisco 49ers, New York Giants, Cleveland Browns, and Miami Dolphins. Oddly enough, it's a common occurrence in today's NFL: seven new head coaches were hired after each of the previous two seasons.

The Titans are promoting interim coach Mike Mularkey to the fulltime position. This is only the third time an interim coach has gotten the top job since 2010, and the results have been largely unsuccessful. The last coach to shed the interim tag was Romeo Crennel following the 2011 season, who was made head coach of the Kansas City Chiefs and subsequently fired following a two-win 2012 season.

The Bucs and Giants promoted from within as well, hiring their own offensive coordinators. Dirk Koetter will take over in Tampa Bay, while Ben McAdoo will be calling the shots in New York. This kind of internal advancement is also rare – of the current head coaches in the league, only Jason Garrett of the Dallas Cowboys has gotten his position in a similar way.

The reasoning behind the three internal promotions is likely related to strong quarterback play on each team. Maintaining the offensive system in place is a smart move for teams that already have successful passers.

The rest of the head coaching vacancies were filled by retreads and hot coordinators. Former head coaches Chip Kelly and Hue Jackson were hired by the 49ers and Browns respectively, and will be eager to show what they can do with new opportunities. Kelly in particular seems ideally suited for a 49ers roster that badly needs a new identity.

The Dolphins hired Chicago Bears offensive coordinator Adam Gase to be their new head coach, hoping that he can help quarterback Ryan Tannehill develop into a more consistent player. Gase has worked with quarterbacks Peyton Manning and Jay Cutler, and Miami fans hope he can fix a team with plenty of talent that wildly underachieved in 2015.

Finally, the Eagles hired Chiefs offensive coordinator Doug Pederson. An assistant in Philadelphia from 2009 to 2012, Pederson will take over a team in flux after Chip Kelly jettisoned four of their five best offensive players a year ago.

Each coach will bring a new era of hope and excitement to the respective fan bases. While Gase and McAdoo inherit the most talent, the best hire is Jackson, who will be counted on to provide the hapless Browns with much needed stability. Jackson spent the last four years as an assistant for the Cincinnati Bengals and is well regarded around the league.

Coaching turnover can be a necessary evil in pro sports, but the rampant disregard for continuity throughout the league is concerning. Looking to 2016, let's hope these new coaches get the time and support necessary to build a competitive team, and that they aren't among the names of coaches without jobs this time next year.

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







The artisan

Marine Corps vet crafts one-of-a-kind furniture

BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY - By the time Joseph Cummings Ladd graduated from the Bridger Program, an alternative high school in Bozeman, he was producing woodwork high enough in quality to sell. One interested party offered \$350 for a sculptural piece he constructed out of wood scraps in the shop, but he was too attached to sell it.

"It was a totally eccentric, creative piece ... It kind of reminds me of a cathedral," said Ladd, now 33. These days, however, the skilled craftsman finds pleasure in parting with his woodworking projects. To get there he took a circuitous route.

After finishing high school in 2001, Ladd went to work for different furniture makers in Bozeman but found few opportunities for advancement working in other people's shops. The summer after his freshman year at Montana State University – he studied architecture – he secured his first large furniture order while working out of a friend's woodworking shop.

Ladd made enough money to open his own space with \$3,000. "Every project I did, I kept reinvesting in tools and moving into bigger and bigger shops," he said. In 2003, he started building relationships with interior designers and selling pieces in and around Big Sky.

After three and a half years, Ladd felt his business was weighing him down. Other creative pursuits were calling for his attention, including playing guitar and oil painting.

Something else was pulling at him, too: the Marine Corps. "It was always something that interested me. There was an intrigue into that world."

In 2007, Ladd enlisted for four years in the Marine infantry. He went to Iraq in 2008, followed by a 2010 tour in Afghanistan. He doesn't talk about his enlisted years in much detail except to say the discipline he learned helped him become a better craftsman.

After completing his second tour, Ladd decided he could either put the money he earned toward travel – he's spent time in Spain and Costa Rica – or reinvest in tools and devote himself to woodworking again. In 2011 Ladd opened up shop outside Bozeman under the business name Joseph Cummings Furniture Artisan.

"When you're working with your hands in the shop, every other thing that's going on in your life disappears and it gets very peaceful," he says. "And that's where I think I got to be really good."

Going back into the furniture-making business has also helped put things into perspective, Ladd says. "Some things are so much easier ... [In the Marines], we just worked endless hours under horrible conditions. So I come in here," he says, referring to the 1,800-square-foot shop in Four Corners he built himself. "...To be in here is just a blessing."

His family has been a source of support and transformation as well. His wife Hillari Ladd has an organic body-care line. She sells shave sets with razors and bristle brushes that their 13-year-old son makes the handles for on a lathe. The couple has a three-year-old son as well.



Joseph Cummings Ladd has been creating furniture since he was 12 years old and selling his work in Big Sky since 2003. PHOTO BY WES OVERVOLD

"My family's like a mirror," Ladd said. "If I didn't have my family ... I wouldn't have the opportunity to better myself because I would just be by myself [working] in the shop like a madman with nobody to reflect how I am."

Ladd describes his creative process as "new ways of doing the old things." That includes traditional joinery techniques – he doesn't use metal or glue to join pieces of wood together.

This effectively turns his pieces into large-scale logic puzzles that require careful planning. "That's really where you're limited – how well you can see ahead," he said, adding that he appreciates challenges and opportunities for improvisation that arise during the process.

Ladd is partial to North American hardwoods with character like walnut, cherry and maple. "I pull every board," he said, and makes frequent trips to Helena Hardwoods to peruse the inventory.

He points out several types of character on the silver maple headboard he's working on: quilted patterning with a 3-D quality, similar to a topographic map; a series of undulating lines called curly figuring; and bird's eye, patterns of concentric circles created by limbs or knots.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOSEPH CUMMINGS LADD

continued from pg. 20

Ladd made the dining set currently for sale at Big Sky's Creighton Block Gallery out of walnut, maple and sapele – a native African wood similar to mahogany, but darker and richer. Each has a distinct smell, Ladd said: maple smells like an ice cream shop, sapele smells like clove, and walnut has its own indescribable scent.

"It was very aromatic," he said of the two years, off-and-on, he spent working on the set.

Although Ladd still builds pieces on spec, like the bedroom set he's working on now, he also consults with clients and develops pieces collaboratively, a process he enjoys.

"When I was younger, I got really attached to my work. [But] when you deliver a piece to somebody and they're taken by it, that's more rewarding than to keep it."



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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.

Unwritten but understood kitchen rules



BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Most industries have certain, specific ways of doing things, even the sports world. But these often come with a list of unwritten rules. Take baseball, for example: After hitting a homerun, a batter should never flip his bat while standing and admiring his work, or saunter around the bases. The rulebook doesn't actually state this law, but you can be sure the opposing pitcher knows it.

A restaurant's kitchen is no different. Here are some of the many unwritten, implied, expected and enforced stipulations of the professional kitchen:

Do not touch my knives. Respect your teammates' tools. Anthony Bourdain once said there are two things of his you never touch. And his knife is one of them.

Utilize your own sense of urgency. Your three biggest opponents are always the clock, the calendar and yourself.

Respect the equipment. Few kitchens have the money to purchase expensive restaurant equipment and tools the day they break. The prep doesn't stop, so make sure you always have well-respected, working equipment.

It's never personal. The chef or other co-workers may get tense or even yell in the heat of battle. Never take it personally, because it never is.

Neatness counts. To work neat is to work organized. To work organized is to work smart. To work smart is to work fast.

Show up to work ready to work. Don't start telling your partying or powder story the minute you walk in the door. We've all been there. We all have stories, and even though it's probably a good one, nobody cares about yours until your prep is done and your station is set up.

Mise en place. A cook's food and prep station is called his mise en place, or "put in place." Never touch or take from another cook's mise en place because you ran out of something. You'll lose respect faster than you can say, "Want to hear about my sick powder turns today?"

Only water is water. In a hot kitchen with long hours, stay hydrated. There is no substitute for water, especially here in the mountains. Not soda. Not Gatorade. Certainly not Red Bull.

Kitchen towels: tools not toys. Along with tall white paper hats, long gone are the days of towel snapping to horse around. Grow up and keep your towel tucked in your apron for when you need it.

Be a fixer, not a leaver. When you use the roll of plastic wrap and it peels away from the edge and starts to unroll in half, stop. Fix it for the next person. It sends a message that you respect them. The same goes for the paper towel and hand soap dispensers.

"Guys, I'm going down!" Never let your pride get in the way of thinking you can pull yourself out of the weeds when you know you can't. It takes humility and self-awareness to recognize you need help for the betterment of the kitchen's overall flow.

You are not sick. A hangover is not sick. Pros play hurt.

Taste, taste. Never ask another cook to taste something you haven't first tasted.

Respect your work and your craft. I can tolerate the mistake of screwing up a dish. I cannot accept the sin of serving it.

Like baseball, there are countless other unwritten rules of the kitchen, but these are the ones that, if followed, will gain you respect in any kitchen you call home.

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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guidelines



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN **EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST**

The long awaited and hotly debated 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans have finally been released. Published by the U.S. departments of Agriculture and Health and Human

Services, these guidelines impact our children's school breakfasts and lunches as well as their health curriculum from kindergarten through high school graduation.

I wish I could tell you that rising rates of obesity, as well as diabetes and other lifestyle related diseases including many cancers, autoimmune diseases and heart disease, have caused our government to make radical shifts from the DGAs first publishing in 1977. But unfortunately I cannot.

Here are a few of the problems with the new DGAs:

They state that we are not consuming enough dairy like milk and cheese, while 30-50 million Americans are lactose intolerant and our factory-raised cows are injected with hormones and antibiotics that are harmful to our health.

When they recommend eating more of something, they use simple language, including "fruits and vegetables." However, when they recommend eating less of something, they shift to unclear terms, including "fat," "sugar" and "salt."

These terms are euphemisms for processed meats, soft drinks and convenience foods, according to Marion Nestle's blog foodpolitics.com. Nestle is the Paulette Goddard professor in the department of nutrition, food studies, and public health at New York University.

Behind these products are lobbying groups including the American Farm Bureau Federation, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Pork Producer's Council, and National Restaurant Association, among others - which collectively spent millions of dollars making sure their interests were protected by the DGAs.

They fail to mention that the World Health Organization conducted scientific research and reported in October 2015 that consuming processed meats - which include bacon, sausage, hot dogs, salami, beef jerky and ham - is potentially carcinogenic, or cancer causing, when eaten on a regular basis.

With this directive, the 2015 DGA advisory committee, consisting of 14 independent experts advising HHS and USDA, responded with this conclusion: "Current evidence shows that the average U.S. diet has a larger environmental impact in terms of increased greenhouse gas emissions, land use, water use, and energy use," when compared to "a diet higher in plant-based foods."

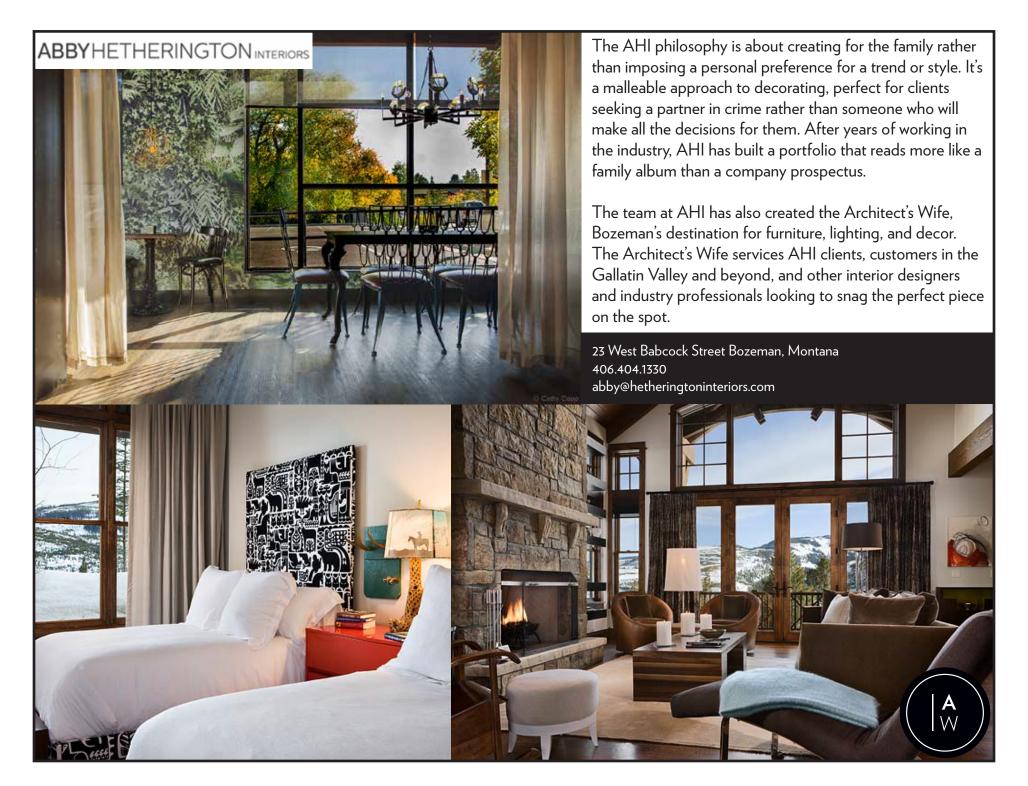
Unfortunately, those with the final say, USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack and HHS Secretary Sylvia Matthew Burwell concluded in a joint blog, " ... we do not believe that the 2015 DGAs are the appropriate vehicle for this important policy conversation about sustainability."

While the new DGAs advise eating 10 percent less sugar than the previous guidelines, they don't make clear that we need to drink water instead of sweetened drinks such as juice, soda, iced tea, and lemonade. Sweetened drinks are the leading source of sugar in the American diet, and overconsumption of sugar has contributed to a 28 percent obesity rate in the U.S., while half of American adults suffer from type 2 diabetes or prediabetes.

Along the same lines, research in the last decade has proven the fat-free craze, heavily promoted by the DGAs since 1977, is having a severe negative impact on the nutritional value of our food and our health. Yet the DGAs still recommend low-fat and fat-free products. When fat is removed from products, sugar is added in order to maintain flavor, and nutrition experts are proving that our vilification of fat has been misguided and fats from whole foods are actually beneficial to our bodies.

I hope this information encourages you to do your own research and use your voting and spending power to thwart the efforts of lobby groups and the politicians who continue to choose money over our health.

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





Minor hand trauma: a potential major problem



BY DR. JEFF DANIELS **EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST**

As we know, the hand is a key part of the body and is one feature of our anatomy that helps define us as humans. But being an extremity, the hand is also vulnerable to serious infections.

These infections are fairly common, so people often don't seem too concerned when they suffer minor hand trauma.

But beware, these inconsequential injuries can blossom into a major problem.

In the Medical Clinic of Big Sky during the second week of January, we treated a number of broken bones and torn ligaments, as well as two interesting hand infections. One was somewhat benign and was treated with an antibiotic shot. But the other injury was bad and needed emergency surgery.

The first minor infection came from a stab wound. Not from a knife, but the tip of a sharp pencil in the middle of the patient's palm. Three days after the injury, the palm around the puncture wound was beet-red, and pain was moving up into the finger directly inline with the wound.

The injured man could make a fist and the swelling was minimal, so we decided to try a shot of a potent antibiotic. By the next morning, the pain was relieved significantly, and the redness was almost gone.

The second, more serious infection resulted from a dog bite. A young man came into the clinic holding his red and swollen hand in the air. A dog's tooth had punctured the inside of his ring finger and he couldn't move his fingers or bend his wrist without pain.

We immediately sent the patient to the hand surgeon in Bozeman, and upon arrival, was taken to the operating room to open up the channels through which the infection was spreading. The doctors washed out the infection then started massive doses of antibiotics.

I saw this fellow at his workplace a couple days later, with his hand in a cast, holding his arm up in the air to help reduce the swelling. The pain was under control and he was smiling.

Animal bites to the hand are almost guaranteed to cause a serious infection – nearly 100 percent of the time from a cat bite or scratch, and approximately 50 percent of the time from a dog bite.

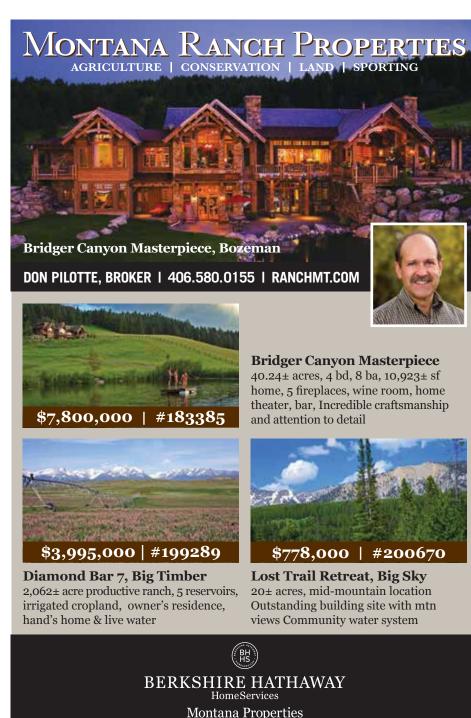
Both animals transmit a bacteria called Pasteurella multocida, carried in their mouths - and cats lick it onto their claws - so that any break of the skin is susceptible to infection. It responds well to an antibiotic, but most people wait too long to get it looked at, and by that time it's too late for an easy fix.

When a bite to the hand becomes infected, your anatomy makes it likely the infection will spread rapidly. The tendons in the hand, and sheathes around those tendons, serve as conduits for the bacteria and the inflammatory response the body makes as a defense. It's the inflammation that really hurts.

The presenting symptoms are usually the inability to make a fist, pain resulting from moving of the fingers or wrist, and swelling of the entire hand. Nerves in the hand and fingers are some of the most sensitive in the body, so when there is inflammation and infection, the pain can be excruciating.

If you suffer a puncture wound to your hand, get it checked out before it becomes a major problem.

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





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Coal suspension affects 30-plus mining projects

BY MATTHEW BROWN AND MEAD GRUVER ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) – At least 30 applications from companies seeking to mine hundreds of millions of tons of coal face suspension as the government reviews its sales of the fuel from public lands, U.S. officials disclosed Jan. 15.

The coal leasing program is on hold for up to three years while the Interior Department reviews fees paid by mining companies and the environmental effect of burning coal, agency Secretary Sally Jewell said.

The Associated Press obtained a Bureau of Land Management list of affected sites ahead of its public release, and it includes mining proposals in nine states.

Some of the largest projects are in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming and Montana, the nation's top coal-producing region. Other projects are in Utah, Kentucky, Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Oklahoma and North Dakota.

The announcement marks another major blow to the struggling coal industry, which has been hit with increased competition from cheap natural gas, new anti-pollution regulations and faltering international coal markets that have dimmed hopes to boost exports. The nation's second largest coal company, Arch Coal of St. Louis, declared bankruptcy Jan. 11. Even before further leasing was suspended, work at many of the sites was unlikely to begin for years because of the time it takes companies to navigate the government coal program.

Mining already underway on public lands will be allowed to continue. As could 17 other lease appli-

cations, many of which had been approved or whose environmental studies were completed but still were being processed.

Mining representatives and elected officials from coal states decried the suspension.

"President Obama is wrong, and once again Montana's working families are bearing the brunt of his unilateral action," said Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, also a Democrat.

But the coal industry effectively has been under its own leasing moratorium in the Powder River Basin for the past few years. Several companies, including Alpha Natural Resources, which filed for bankrupt-cy protection last year, have asked the government to delay action on coal tracts previously nominated for leasing.

No federal coal reserves in Wyoming or Montana have been leased since 2012.

"This is just such a great time to take a pause in the federal coal program. There is so much uncertainty about the future of coal," said Shannon Anderson with Powder River Basin Resource Council, a conservation group made up of landowners.

The moratorium could stall a 441 million-ton expansion of Cloud Peak Energy's Antelope mine in central Wyoming, a 198-million-ton expansion of Cloud Peak's Spring Creek mine in Montana, and a 203-million-ton expansion of Lighthouse Resources' Decker mine in Montana.

U.S. coal companies produced about 900 million tons of the fuel last year, the lowest volume in almost three decades, according to government estimates.

Cloud Peak Energy President Colin Marshall accused federal officials of pandering to environmentalists trying to shut down the industry.

"We believe this review process is not warranted and is aimed at delaying leases to ensure the coal is never mined, denying its economic benefits to the nation," Marshall said.

But Marshall added that the Gillette, Wyo.-based company does not expect an immediate effect to its operations and has a significant amount of coal reserves on non-federal lands, including on Montana's Crow Indian Reservation.

The U.S. sold billions of tons of coal over the past several decades, and Jewell said those reserves would be enough to sustain current production levels for about 20 years even with no new leases. Roughly 40 percent of the coal produced in the country comes from federal lands, primarily in Wyoming, Montana, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico. Wyoming has directed billions of dollars from the sale of federal coal leases to support state school construction in recent decades. But with the recent downturn in the industry, the state has been scrambling to identify new sources of revenue.

"If we aren't able to change those policies around, places like Gillette are going to look very much like the economies of Appalachia are looking right now," Republican state Rep. Tim Stubson said.

Gruver reported from Cheyenne, Wyo. Associated Press writer Ben Neary in Cheyenne contributed to this report.

Officials say elk population stable after years of decline

BOZEMAN (AP) – Officials say the elk population in the northern part of Yellowstone National Park and southern Montana is stable after dropping over the past few years, though biologists are warning that after a set of mild winters, there is a possibility that harsher winters could change that in the future.

The Northern Yellowstone Cooperative Wildlife Working Group counted 4,900 elk in the region this winter. That's up from last year's count of 4,840 elk, but still down sharply from the highest count in recent years, when biologists saw more than 6,000 in 2010, and down from 19,000 in the mid-1990s.

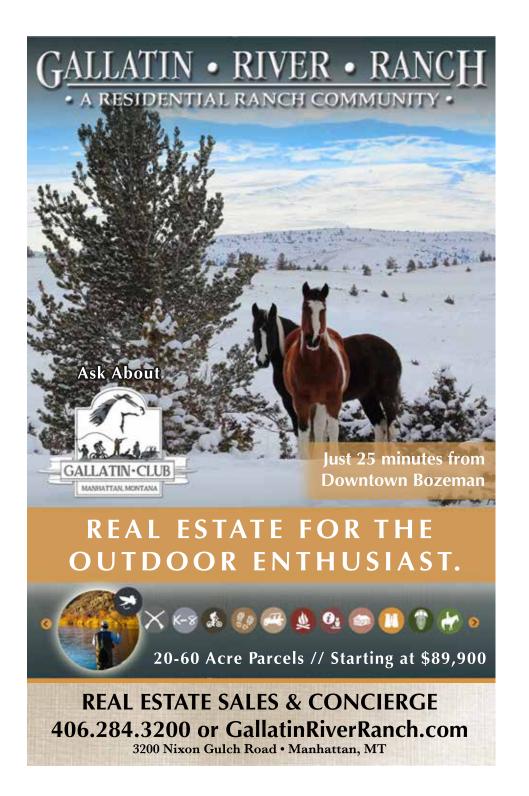
"In a way it's good news," said Doug Smith, a Yellowstone National Park biologist. "We think we have a fairly stable elk herd."

The number of elk in that region has been the subject of a debate between outfitters, hunters and wildlife officials for several months.

Wildlife officials proposed capping the number of hunters in one hunting district near Gardiner at 75, a huge drop from the number allowed to hunt there now, which is about 1,500 in heavily trafficked years. Wildlife officials cite unsustainable hunting, while opponents argue the herd isn't in a biological crisis.

The count is an estimate, based on airplane surveillance. They were documented by the number of elk and didn't classify them by sex or age.

Karen Loveless, a biologist with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, said she flew over the area in late December and kept track of the bulls, an indication of the herd's health. She saw 116 brow-tine bulls, which are bulls older than about 2 years. Of those, she said about 44 percent were six-point or better, and about 56 percent were five-point or smaller, the Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported.



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sleep 6. The east facing balcony allows for morning sun and natural light.



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of the character of a cozy log cabin in the woods, combined with all of the modern amenities that you desire. This three pedroom, two bathroom cabin offers a vaulted kitchen/dining/ living room with hardwood floors, a river rock fireplace, a hot tub on the back covered porch and a one car garage. This cabin is an excellent rental income producer. MLS#: 208236

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63 RUNNING BEAR ROAD

This ski-in/ski-out, three bedroom, three bathroom condominium offers a terrific location close to the Poma Lift in Big Sky Mountain Village! This fully furnished property has been freshly painted, has upgraded flooring and has been very well maintained. It offers a wood burning fireplace, a large open living/dining/kitchen area, a 1 car garage, a comfortable back deck and more. MLS#: 210195

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110 DIAMOND HITCH

Enjoy spectacular views from this ski-in/ski-out home in Moonlight Basin's Diamond Hitch neighborhood. Four bedrooms, including a bunk room, four full baths, two halfbaths, a large loft and two large living areas provide plenty of room for entertaining guests. Beautiful finishes include hardwood floors, granite counter tops, custom cabinetry, stone fireplaces and expansive decks to enjoy the views. Property is fully furnished and turn-key! MLS#: 208123

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211 ANTLER RIDGE ROAD

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Listing Agent: Michael Thomas | 406.581.2400



234 NORDIC LANE

Located in Big Sky Ski Resort's meadow area and surrounded by trees, this extremely well maintained home offers privacy and close proximity to area amenities. With three bedrooms plus a bonus room and loft, lower level family room, main level great room, wrap around deck and large screened in porch, there is plenty of room to enjoy, entertain and relax. MLS#: 204930

Offered at \$1,250,000

Listing Agent: Lynn Milligan | 406.581.2848



SILVERADO TRAIL, LOT 63

Privacy and mountain views are yours from this Spanish Peaks North Lot. The abundance of trees and the quiet neighborhood setting create an off the beaten path experience, although Big Sky's Meadow Village and Town Center communities are very close by. An old logging road winds perfectly through the property allowing easy access to the building site. While privately owned now, the 4.22 acre lot was originally identified by the developer as a personal building site. MLS#: 206509

Starting at \$387,500

Listing Agent: Lynn Milligan | 406.581.2848





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Summit View Lot 5 +/- 1.11 acres \$365,000



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



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

Three Mile CreeK Post & Beam

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River Runs Through It* / Yellowstone Club 7 bedrooms, 10 bathrooms 13,349 SQ FT / 2.88 ACRES Ski-in, Ski-out location with great views \$13,000,000



Treehouse Condo 206*/ Yellowstone Club
4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms / 2,191 SQ FT
Rare opportunity to own slopeside at the Warren Miller Lodge
\$11,500,000



Homestead Cabin 6* / Spanish Peaks Mountain Club 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms / 2,585 SQ FT Ski and golf course access location \$2,150,000



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



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Yellowstone Ranch Preserve / West Yellowstone 753 +/- ACRES Whiskey Jug Cabin: 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms / 2,702 SQ FT 9 Homesites on waterfront conservation property near Yellowstone National Park \$19,500,000



512 Old Farm Rd. / Bozeman 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms 5,497 SQ FT. / 20+ ACRES ~1/2 mile of East Gallatin River Frontage \$3,250,000



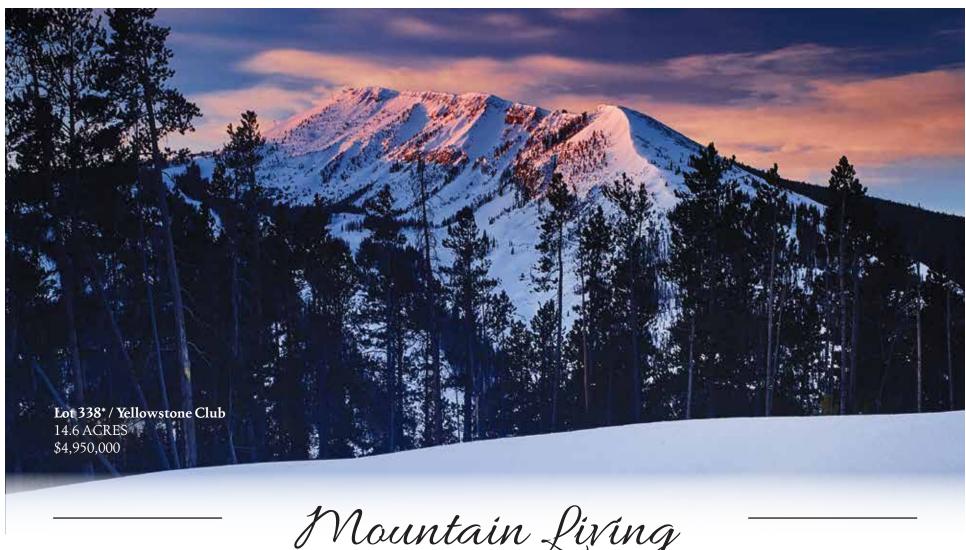
Mountain Meadows / Gallatin Canyon 120 ACRES Large acreage lot with Lone Peak view \$3,495,000



Homestead on the Beacon / Butte 640 ACRES Excellent big game babitat \$1,650,000



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Mountain Living



21 Soapstone* / Yellowstone Club 4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms 7,587 SQ FT / 5.25 ACRES Bordered by open space \$9,850,000



Mountain Selah / Big Sky Mountain 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms 4,574 SQ FT. / 1.07 ACRES Ski access to Big Sky Resort \$1,350,000



Buck Ridge Lodge / Gallatin Canyon 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms 4,144 SQ FT. / 18.67 ACRES Snowmobile access to Buck Ridge and Forest Service land \$899,000



Lot 3 Joy Road / Big Sky Mountain 6.83ACRES Creekside location near Beebive Basin trailhead \$415,000



Real Estate Brokerage, Consulting & Development 406-995-2404 • LKREALESTATE.COM

Section 3: EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT







Montana's epic film fest returns to Missoula

EBS STAFF

MISSOULA – The largest film festival in Montana is just around the corner. This year, its 13th, the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival will feature more than 200 of the world's top docudramas, and some local selections as well.

Over the course of 10 days from Feb. 19-28, the 2016 event will screen films curated from a list of over 1,500 submissions and host a filmmaking conference where participants can engage in workshops, panels and other discussions with some of the industry's most influential leaders.

More than 20,000 fans, filmmakers and industry buffs will descend on Missoula, Mont., for screenings and the receptions, parties and discussions that accompany one of the West's premiere nonfiction film events.

Here are a few of the festival's top selections and a taste of what you can expect.

Borderline (2016, Director: Rebbie Ratner, New York City) In this documentary's world premiere, Regina has been diagnosed with a borderline personality disorder. The first time she tried to kill herself, she was 5 years old. Now she's 45 and hell-bent on trying to live – most of the time. 88 mins.

Never Too Late (2015, Director: Devon Riter, Bozeman, Mont.) Shad Blair, a 36-year-old plumber living in Stevensville, Mont., chases his childhood dream of becoming a professional basketball player. During this film's world premiere, Blair heads to the Las Vegas Overseas Combine to see if he has what it takes to play with the very best. 28 mins.

Chameleon (2014, Director: Ryan Mullins, Montreal, Quebec) Anas has been called the James Bond of Ghanaian journalism. He's exposed a sex-trafficking ring by masquerading as a bartender, uncovered deplorable conditions in Accra's psychiatric hospital, posed as a crown prince in order to bypass a rebel checkpoint. His unorthodox methods are infamous throughout Ghana, but, despite his notoriety, his face is unknown to the public. The film's Montana premiere takes us behind the scenes of the Tiger Eye Investigations Bureau hot on the heels of his next big case. 78 mins.



Fans line up at the Wilma Theatre in Missoula for the 2015 Big Sky Documentary Film Festival. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BSDFF

The Bug (2016, Director: Damon Ristau, Missoula, Mont.)

This is the story of the most beloved and recognizable automobile on Earth, the Volkswagen Beetle. It's the car that gave mobility to the masses and captured the hearts and minds of generations. From Nazi Germany to the Summer of Love and into the heart of the largest corporate scandal in automotive history, this is the story of the "people's car." 83 mins.

The Seventh Fire (2015, Director: Jack Riccobono, New York City)

Terrence Malick presents the Montana premiere of this haunting and visually arresting nonfiction film about the gang crisis in Indian Country. When Rob Brown, a Native American gang leader on a remote Minnesota reservation, is sentenced to prison for a fifth time, he must confront his role in bringing violent drug culture into his beloved Ojibwe community. As Rob reckons with his past, his 17-year-old protege, Kevin, dreams of the future: becoming the most powerful and feared Native gangster on the reservation. 78 mins.

Visit bigskyfilmfest.org for further details.



"The Bug" debuts at the BSDFF in February, celebrating the "most recognizable vehicle on Earth," the Volkswagen Beetle.





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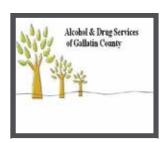
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Violinist Alexander Markov joins Bozeman Symphony

BOZEMAN SYMPHONY

BOZEMAN - Maestro Matthew Savery will conduct the Bozeman Symphony Orchestra on Feb. 6 and 7 for performances of "Return to Carnegie" at the Willson Auditorium.

Violin virtuoso and Bozeman favorite Alexander Markov will join the symphony for these two special performances. On June 5, the world-renowned musician teamed up with Savery for a historic performance on the Stern Auditorium's Perlman Stage at New York City's Carnegie Hall. These longtime friends will encore this program for Bozeman audiences in the Willson.

Program selections include: "Serenade, op. 48, C major" by Tchaikovsky; "Ciaccona, Violin and Strings" by Vitali; and "Le Quattro Staggioni, op. 8" ("The Four Seasons") by Vivaldi.

Markov has been hailed as one of the most captivating musicians of our time.

"He is without doubt one of the most brilliant and musical of violinists," wrote the late Lord Yehudi Menuhin, widely considered one of the greatest violinists of the 20th century.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOZEMAN SYMPHONY

"Alexander Markov will certainly leave his mark on the music-lovers of the world and in the annals of the violin virtuosi of our day."

Gold medal winner at the Paganini International Violin Competition, Markov has appeared as a soloist with some of the world's most celebrated orchestras, including the Philadelphia Orchestra; the BBC and Montreal symphonies; the Mostly Mozart Festival Orchestra; and the Budapest Festival Orchestra, among others.

Markov has also worked with some of the major conductors of our time, including Neeme Jarvi, Christoph Eschenbach and Ivan Fischer.

Savery and Markov first met in Bozeman, when Markov came to perform the Tchaikovsky violin concerto.

"We became immediate friends ... which has brought us to perform together many times in many cities, and over the years developed into a deeply close personal friendship," Savery said. "Together, we're kind of like frat brothers – off stage – who inspire excellence out of each other artistically."

The Willson Auditorium is located at 404 West Main Street in Bozeman and performances of "Return to Carnegie" are scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 7 at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets are available at bozemansymphony.org, by phone at (406) 585-9774, or at the Bozeman Symphony Society office at 1001 West Oak Street, Suite 110.

Ben Sollee brings his musical complexity, energy to Bozeman

FAULTLINE NORTH

BOZEMAN – Known for his thrilling cello playing, Ben Sollee brings a unique mix of folk, bluegrass, jazz, and rhythm and blues to Bozeman's Fault-line North on Sunday, Jan. 24.

Sollee possesses a smooth and smoky voice and a knack for intricate arrangements that has brought about comparisons to Sufjan Stevens. Sollee shares himself completely with his audience, whether it with personal lyrics or his commitment to the environment – he can often be found riding a bicycle to his concerts, which have become legendary for their intimacy.

Sollee first gained major notice with his 2008 debut "Learning to Bend," which led NPR's Morning Edition to call him one of the "top ten great unknown artists" of the year. Later, NPR's All Things Considered called his

debut "an inspired collection of acoustic, folk and jazz-flavored songs, filled with hope and the earnest belief that the world is good."

Sollee has toured the world with Abigail Washburn's Sparrow Quartet alongside multi-Grammy winner Bela Fleck. Sollee's music drew the attention of My Morning Jacket front man Jim James, who produced his second full-length album. Sollee then contributed his cello to My Morning Jacket's hit album "Circuital," before releasing "Inclusions," a sonically awe-inspiring album about relationships that was called "structurally brilliant" by Slant.

Through his travels, Sollee has garnered a rabid following of listeners and he's sure to gain some new ones on Jan. 24 in Bozeman.

Faultline North is located on Gallatin Park Drive in Bozeman and doors open for the all ages, 8 p.m. show at 7 p.m.

You'll find a Family Medicine Clinic at Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center, where our providers will coordinate care and help keep you and your family healthy.







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Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



It's been a good winter of fishing so far and we expect it to only get better, barring any incoming arctic fronts that will slow us down for a bit. The temps have been consistently good lately, which reduces any issues caused by ice and makes for a more comfortable fishing experience.

Our guides and clients have been focusing on the Madison and Gallatin Rivers almost exclusively. If you have a report from the Yellowstone or another river near by we'd love to hear it.

The Gallatin has been good, but finding the right water has been a little bit tricky for some. One consistent mistake I'm seeing anglers make is going to the slowest, deepest section of water they can find. Although fish

may be in there for most that hasn't been the most productive water. Instead look for shallower water that has a good food supply. Even some riffles that seem too fast for winter can be stacked with fish. I'd recommend focusing on water that is 2-4' deep.

Another mistake has been to fish with a rig that is too long and/ or too heavy. A good rig for that 2-4' of water will be about 4-6' from the strike indicator to the first fly and about a foot to the dropper. A split shot may not be required if fishing weighted flies.

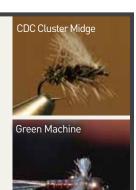
Good bugs have been Pat's Rubber Legs in sizes 8-12, Prince Nymphs in 12-14, Zebra Midges in an assortment of colors sizes 16-18, assorted eggs and worms and any nymph with a hot bead on it. Some guys are out there with streamers and finding a few willing fish...low and slow.

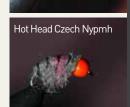
The upper Madison has been fishing great as well. It does sound like there has been a fair amount of pressure compared to the days of old, so fishing the same old spots close to parking areas may be a bit more challenging than you're used to. If you can walk past where most people are fishing I'd highly recommend it. Some dry fly activity, but sounds like they've been a challenge to hook up with. Try extending your leaders and dropping down to smaller tippet and flies.

Similar patterns to the Gallatin, but with a bit more emphasis on smaller bugs like Zebras, etc.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY, JAN. 22 - THURSDAY, FEB. 4

*If your event falls between Feb. 5 and Feb. 19, please submit it by Thrusday, Jan. 28

Big Sky

FRIDAY, JAN. 22

Chuck Denison Choppers, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Rotary Gold Auction Bucks T-4, 6 p.m.

Kevin Fabozzi Ousel & Spur Pizza, 9 p.m.

USGBC Montana Annual Summit Big Sky Resort, 7 a.m.

Brian Stumpf Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 23

Snobar Big Sky Resort, 5-9 p.m.

Snobar After Party Choppers, 10:30 p.m.

Volo by Diavolo WPMAC, 7:30 p.m.

USGBC Montana Annual Summit Big Sky Resort, 7 a.m.

Milton Menasco & the Big Feasco Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JAN. 24

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

TUESDAY, JAN. 26

Open Skate Town Center Ice Rink, 12-5 p.m.

Kids Broomball Town Center Ice Rink, 5-6 p.m.

Adult Broomball Town Center Ice Rink, 7-11 p.m.

January Cooking Series Gourmet Gals, 6-8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 27

Open Skate Town Center Ice Rink, 12-11 p.m.

THRUSDAY, JAN. 28

Open Skate Town Center Ice Rink, 12-4:30 p.m.

Kids Clinic Town Center Ice Rink, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Adult Drop In Hockey Town Center Ice Rink, 7-11 p.m.

Josh Moore Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 29

Open Skate Town Center Ice Rink, 12-11 p.m.

The Quit Act Ousel & Spur Pizza, 9 p.m.

Rocky Mountain Pearls Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 30

Open Skate Town Center Ice Rink, 12-11 p.m.

Tom Marino Choppers, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Buck Ridge Fun Run Gallatin Valley Snowmoblie Assoc. 9 – 4 p.m.

Gallatin Grass Project Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JAN. 31

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

Open Skate Town Center Ice Rink, 12-6 p.m.

Adult Drop in Hockey Town Center Ice Rink, 7-11 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 1

Open Skate Town Center Ice Rink, 12-4:40 p.m.

Kids Clinic Town Center Ice Rink, 5:30-7 p.m.

Open Skate Town Center Ice Rink, 7-11 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 2

Open Skate Town Center Ice Rink, 12-5 p.m.

Kids Broomball Town Center Ice Rink, 5-6 p.m.

Adult Broomball Town Center Ice Rink, 7-11 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 3

Open Skate Town Center Ice Rink, 12-11 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 4

Open Skate Town Center Ice Rink, 12-4:30 p.m.

Kids Clinic Town Center Ice Rink, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Adult Drop In Hockey Town Center Ice Rink, 7-11 p.m.

Big Sky Big Grass Festival Big Sky Resort, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 5

Big Sky Big Grass Festival Big Sky Resort, 5:30 p.m.

Open Skate Town Center Ice Rink, 12-11 p.m.

Bozeman

FRIDAY, JAN. 22

4th Annual Bobcat Ski Day Bridger Bowl, all day

Burgers & Bingo Eagles Lodge, 5:30 p.m.

Jeff Carroll Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Piano Series II with Robert Henry Reynold's Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Here Goes Nothing Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Little Jane & the Pistolwhips Eagles Lodge, 9 p.m.

Farch & Panther Car Filling Station, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 23

Han's Retirement Party Filling Station, 9 p.m.

Beginner Ukulele class Public Library, 2 p.m.

Club Ride with Don Funke Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 10 a.m.

One Day Sale El Heart, 11 a.m.

Duckworth Montana Classic Skijoring Race Gallatin County Regional Park, 11:30 a.m.

Women's Weekend Creative Retreat Chico Hot Springs, 9 a.m.

Claire Lynch Band Ellen Theatre, 7-10 p.m.

MSU Basketball vs. Idaho Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 2 p.m.

Amber Ikeman Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Here Goes Nothing Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JAN. 24

Fresh Meat & Greet Wild Joe's Coffee House, 4 p.m.

Duckworth Montana Classic Skijoring Race Gallatin County Regional Park, 11:30 a.m. Lang Termes Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Open Mic Haufbrau, 10:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 25 Pints with Purpose: Open Door

Theatre Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Open Mic Haufbrau, 10:30 p.m.

Tom Kirwan Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 -8:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 26

2016 Fly Fishing Film Tour Emerson Culture Center, 7 p.m.

MSU Veritas Forum Strand Union Building, 8 p.m.

All My Sons Ellen Theatre, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Brews & the Big Sky: Amber Waves of Grain Museum of the Rockies, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY. JAN. 27

Music & Mussels w/ Walcrik Bridger Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Intro to Insight Meditation Bozeman Dharma Center, 7 p.m.

Chamber Music Festival Reynold's Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JAN. 28

MSU Winter Job Fair SUB Ballroom, 3-7 p.m.

Karaoke Eagles Lodge, 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 29

Jon Wayne & The Pain + Satsang Filling Station, 9 p.m.

Celebration of the Arts 2016 Emerson Culture Center, 6 p.m.

Burgers & Bingo Eagles Lodge, 5:30 p.m.

James Salestrom Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 30 Community Ski and lunch

FUNday B Bar Ranch, 9 a.m.

John Adam Smith band w/ Tomorrow's Today Faultline North, 8 p.m.

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

MSU Women's Basketball vs. Montana Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 2 p.m.

Tevin Apedaile Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m. MSU Basketball vs. Montana Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JAN. 31

Brian Regan Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 1

Pints with Purpose: US Green Building Council Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Bramble & Rye Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 -8:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 2

Broadway in Bozeman: Flashdance Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 3

Brother's Gow + One Leaf Clover Filling Station, 9 p.m.

Open Mic Haufbrau, 10:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 4

Steak and Stout Red Brain Media, 4-7 p.m.

MSU Women's Basketball vs. Portland State Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 5

Burgers & Bingo Eagles Lodge, 5:30 p.m.

Lester Rocks Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

The 4onthefloor Filling Station, 9 p.m.

Livingston & Paradise Valley

FRIDAY, JAN. 22

Big Ol' Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 23

Aran Buzzas Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Band of Drifters Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 25

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

Danny Bee Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY. JAN. 27

Travis Yost Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 29

Tom Catmull's Radio Static Murray Bar, 9 p.m. A Midsummer Night's Dream Shane Center, 7-8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 30

Celtic Festival Elks Lodge, 5:30 p.m.

One Leaf Clover Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

A Midsummer Night's Dream Shane Center, 2-3:30 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 1

lan Thomas Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 2

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

Beer for a cause: Shift Empowerment Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 3

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

Jason Wickens & Kalyn Beasley Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 5

Gun Show Park County Fairgrounds, 3-7 p.m.

The Vibe Techs Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

West Yellowstone

FRIDAY, JAN. 22

Chess Club Public Library, 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 23

Spam Cup #2 Classic Rendezvous Ski Trails, 10 a.m.

SUNDAY, JAN. 24

Biathlon Cup #2 Pursuit Format Rendezvous Ski Trails, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 25

Martial Arts classes Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 26

Martial Arts classes Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY. JAN. 27

Martial Arts classes Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

Winter Snowshoe programs Hebgen Lake Ranger Station, 1 p.m.

FRIDAY, JAN. 29

Chess Club Public Library, 4 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 1

Martial Arts classes Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 2

Martial Arts classes Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 3

Martial Arts classes Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 4

Adult Co-Ed Volleyball School Gym, 7 p.m.

Knit Night Send It Home, 6-8 p.m. Yoga for Everyone Povah Center, 6:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 5

Chess Club Public Library, 4 p.m.

RECURRING EVENTS

Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center, 2 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday

Snowshoe walk with a Yellowstone Park Ranger West Yellowstone Visitor Center, 10 a.m. every Saturday and Sunday

Historic Walking Tour Historic District, self-guided, daily

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Wanted: Reliable, responsible driver to operate a snowplow tractor in Big Sky. No experience necessary; training provided. Must have own transportation to job site. Salary DOE. Call Jim at 406-580-6615.

The Nordic Race Series

Adults: 5K Kids 7-11: 3K Kids 6 & under: 1K

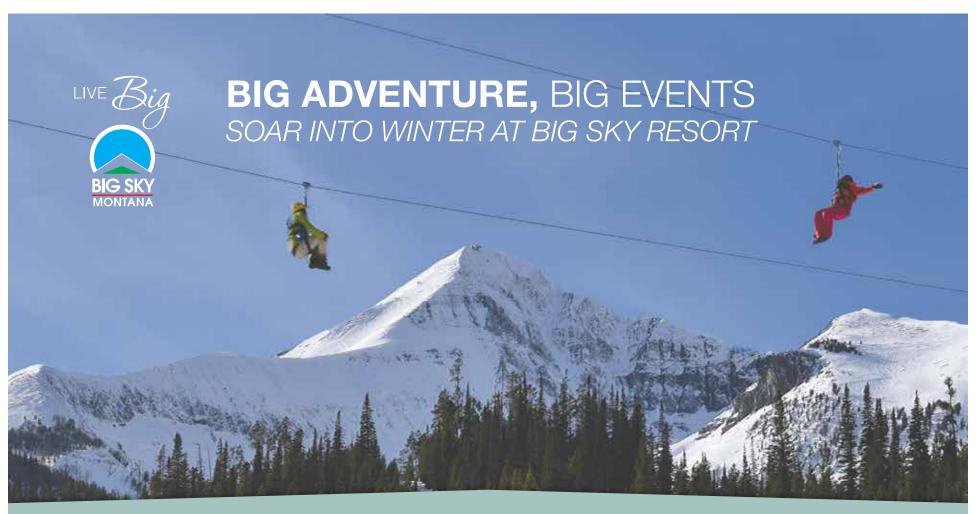
----- Skate or classic –

February 2 - 5 p.m. March 12 - 5 p.m.

Start & finish:
Dog loop in Town Center next to PBR bleachers

Cost: \$5





JANUARY

9 Smash Life Banked Slalom

16 & 23 Snobar

FEBRUARY

4-7 Big Sky Big Grass

13 Transworld Snowboarding TransAM Tour

20 Dummy Jump

MARCH

11-13 Headwaters Spring Runoff
12 Sunset Saturdays Begin
19 Smokin' Aces Championship

24-27 MSI Freeride Series

APRIL

2-3 Subaru Winterfest

9 Shedhorn SkiMo/Whiskey A-Go-Go

16 Pond Skim

COMPLETE INFO at bigskyresort.com/events



Muslim reformist to speak at MSU

MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – Best-selling author Irshad Manji, an inspirational speaker, founder of the Moral Courage Project and Muslim reformist, will speak at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 22, in Montana State University's Strand Union Ballroom.

Known for her best-selling books, including "Allah, Liberty, and Love" and "Trouble with Islam Today," Manji's writing focuses on empowering individuals to question and make choices in the face of fear and adversity.

Manji is also director of the Moral Courage Project at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University, which is dedicated to equipping people with the ability to make decisions without compromising their integrity. For Manji, this means living openly as a lesbian and a Muslim.

"Irshad Manji shares one of the most inspiring and powerful messages that I have ever heard," said MSU President Waded Cruzado. "I am thrilled that our MSU community has been given the opportunity to experience such a dynamic speaker."

Manji seeks to encourage and empower people of all religions and backgrounds to stand up to

abuse. She says she models this philosophy as she maintains her faith and attempts to bridge the widening gap between religious conviction and freedom, even in the face of death threats.

She recently was awarded the Lantos Human Rights Prize, given to individuals who exhibit "courage and towering moral strength," and

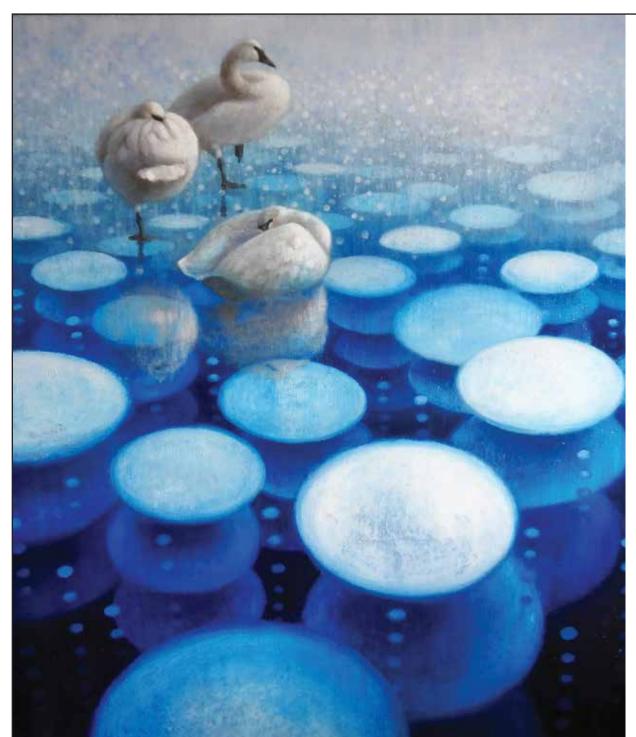
those who have faced personal danger in exposing human rights abuses. Previous recipients of the Lantos Prize include the Dalai Lama, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former Israeli President Shimon Peres.



Author Irshad Manji, also a Muslim reformist and founder of the Moral Courage Project, will give a lecture on Feb. 22 at MSU's SUB Ballroom. PHOTO COURTESY OF IRSHAD MANJI

Manji's visit is hosted by the MSU Leadership Institute, and following the lecture she will be available to answer audience questions.

Doors will open at 6:45 p.m. the night of the event and tickets are available at local TicketsWest locations and the Bobcat Ticket Office.

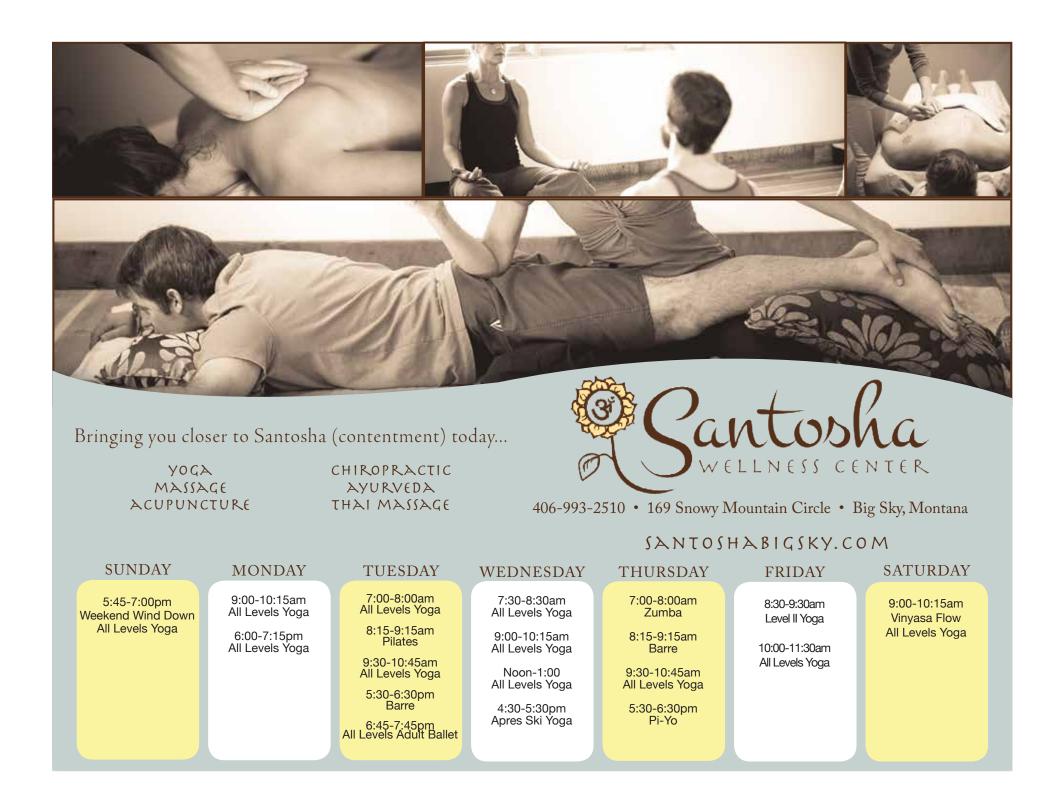




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John

"Now put the paper down and get back to work."



Calling all artists

Red Ants Pants Music Festival poster contest opens

RED ANTS PANTS

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MONT. – If you love Montana, music and artwork, Red Ants Pants wants to see how you can bring it all together for the sixth annual Red Ants Pants Music Festival poster. Submissions will be accepted until March 1.

The winner's artwork will be featured as the backdrop for the poster design and this festival keepsake for fans is one more way Red Ants Pants can help promote creativity in the arts.

Thousands of these posters are printed and distributed throughout the region and beyond as part of our marketing efforts for the late July music festival in the Montana ranching community of White Sulphur Springs.

In the last five years, the four nights and three days of music have featured outstanding talent including The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Lyle Lovett, Emmylou Harris, Merle Haggard, and Keb' Mo', among others.

Last year was the biggest festival to date with more than 14,000 in attendance. A portion of the proceeds from the weekend go to the Red Ants Pants Foundation, which has given more than \$45,000 to people and projects that embody its mission of fostering self-reliance, women's leadership and promoting our working family farms and ranches.

The 2016 festival will be held July 28-31 and the lineup will be released on April 2, the day tickets go on sale and the winner of the poster contest is announced.

Visit redantspantsmusicfestival.com/join-the-colony/poster-contest to submit your artwork before the March 1 deadline. The winner will receive six weekend passes to the 2016 Red Ants Pants Music Festival.



2015 winning poster design by Alex Albright. IMAGES COURTESY OF RED ANTS PANTS



Winter 2016 Class Schedule

MONDAY

5:50AM BARRE® 7AM SPIN 8:45AM TRX CIRCUIT

6:15 PM ZUMBA®

TUESDAY

5:50AM SPIN 8:45AM BALLET FITNESS

12:15PM ROTATING 5:45PM PIYO®

WEDNESDAY

6:45AM POWER PUMP 8AM PILATES

9:15AM BARRE® **6:15PM** SPIN

5:50AM TRX

9:15 AM SPIN

THURSDAY

5:50AM SPIN
7AM SPIN
8:15AM ZUMBA®
12:15PM TRX
CIRCUIT
5:45PM BARRE

8:00AM ROTATING

FRIDAY SATURDAY

CIRCUIT 6:55AM BARRE® 8AM YOGALATES

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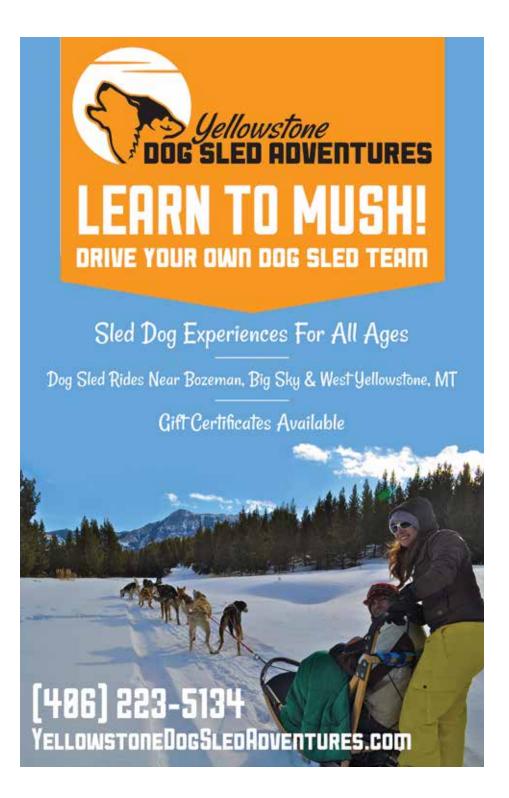


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Find out what tunes we're bumping! In Big Sky Beats, Explore Big Sky staff offers suggested tracks for your next playlist. Whether you need to freshen up your music library, want to expand your collection, or just need some tunes for the slopes, we've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

Since discovering the music-streaming service Spotify three years ago I rarely use iTunes, but I recently decided to take a trip down memory lane and check out my music library.

This week's playlist features the top 10 most played songs in my library – which I worried would be all of my emo/pop-punk anthems from high school and no one would ever read this column again. However, my top songs surprised me and are quite revealing.

Each song has themes of youth and the struggle of finding a sense of self. While I'm still on my way to locating such solace completely, these tracks provide a good beat as I continue the journey.

- 1. "Your Body is a Weapon," The Wombats
- 2. "Seven Nights Seven Days," The Fratellis
- 3. "Real," Years & Years
- 4. "The Struggle," Grizfolk 5. "Demons," Fenech-Soler
- 6. "Young Blood," The Naked and Famous
- 7. "Sleepless," Cazzette 8. "Lofticries," Purity Ring
- 9. "We're the Kids," Parade of Lights 10. "Thrash Unreal," Against Me!

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

American Life in Poetry: Column 565

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

This column is more than 10 years old and I've finally gotten around to trying a little origami! Here's a poem about that, and about a good deal more than that, by Vanessa Stauffer, who teaches writing at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan.

Lessons

By Vanessa Stauffer

To crease a sheet of paper is to change its memory, says the origami master: what was a field of snow folded into flake. A crane, erect, structured from surface. A tree emerges from a leaf—each form undone

reveals the seams, pressed with ruler's edge. Some figures take hundreds to be shaped, crossed & doubled over, the sheet bound to its making—a web of scars that maps a body out of space,

how I fashion memory: idling at an intersection next to Jack Yates High, an hour past the bell, I saw a girl fold herself in half to slip beneath the busted chain-link, books thrust ahead, splayed on asphalt broiling

in Houston sun. What memory will she retain? Her cindered palms, the scraped shin? Braids brushing the dirt? The white kite of her homework taking flight? Finding herself locked out, or being made

to break herself in.

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 © 2015 by Vanessa Stauffer, "Lessons," from third coast, ("Winter," 2015). Poem reprinted by permission of Vanessa Stauffer 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.

CROSSWORD 34 Variation (pref.) **ACROSS** ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE 35 Ice 36 Scientific name Fellow S O B O D A FLAG YOGI ICAL MENT Taro A G I B 8 Foot (suf.) 12 N.Z. fish (suf.) 37 Aquarium fish PILASTER 37 Advandin IIsh 38 Christmas song 40 Egypt. evil god 41 Saga (2 words) 44 Belonging to (suf.) 47 Silver-iron ore 13 Black 14 Great Lake OLEKORINAGT 15 Bachelor of Fine Arts TAROT ALTAITE (abbr.) 16 Medal (2 words) 48 Javanese 18 Prison: Brit. 20 Ceremonial poison tree 49 Monkey 50 Indo-Chin. RAILBEL entrance 21 Belt OBI STAAT BIN LEEK people HABANERA 23 Palm starch 51 Man's name: 25 Indian camel PAVE abbr. 26 Vast 27 Palestine 52 Talk EDEN Liberation assembly cry 17 Beer Organ. (abbr.) Son of Adam 30 Master of Botanical 19 Or (Lat.) DOWN Business Administration (abbr.) 21 Crest Apronlike cloth Television band 22 Rounded projection 23 Forage herb 24 Hamitic Feminine (suf.) Five of trump (abbr.) 31 Cheek bone Viking 32 King (Fr.) 33 Ten decibels Bias 10 Plate Anglo-Saxon 11 Mouse-spotter's language 26 Wholesome 27 Augur 28 Circle 29 Unctuous 12 31 Twin crystal 15 35 Shorten 36 Father of Jason 37 Alluvial deposit 38 Son of Lamech 39 Killer whale 40 Thick slice 41 Nat'l Park Service (abbr.) 42 Caucasian wild 30 goat 43 P.I. volcano 45 Amer.

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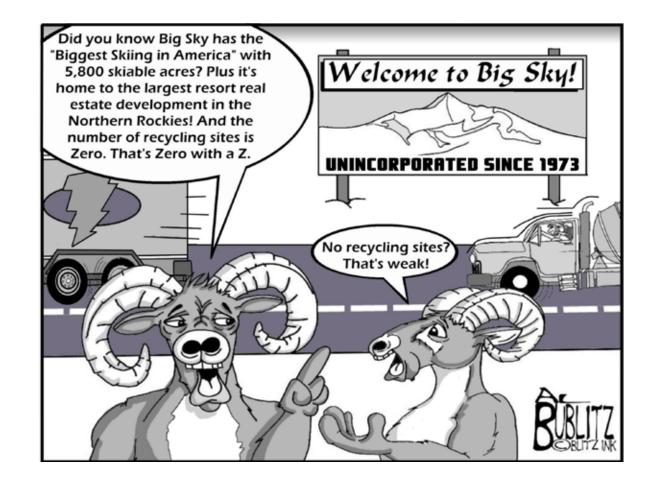
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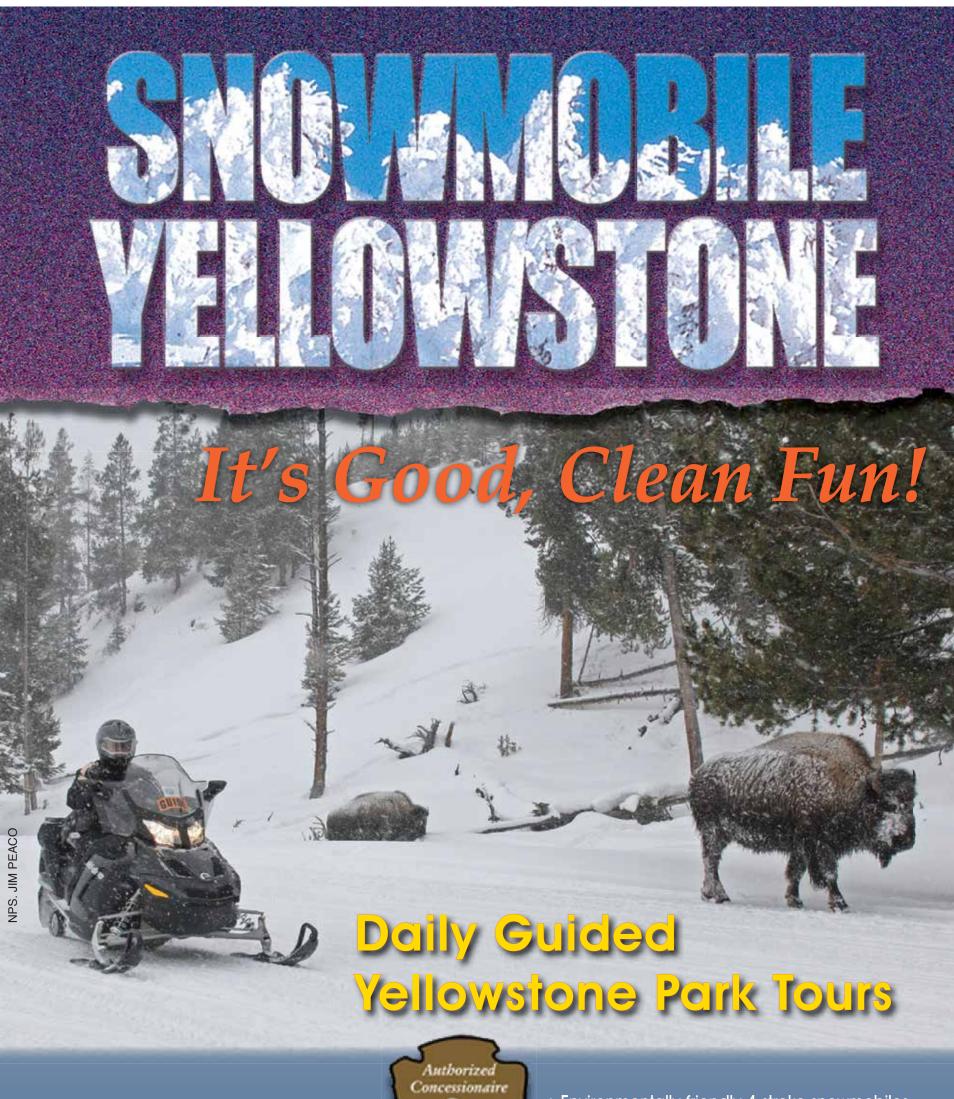
Automobile

(suf.)

45

Assn. (abbr.) 46 One who is





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Section 4: OUTDOORS









Guide to tying your own flies

BY JIMMY ARMIJO-GROVER

EBS GUEST FISHING COLUMNIST

For many anglers, winter is time to clean and upgrade gear, take a breather from fishing, and restock fly supplies at the local shop.

However, some spend their downtime tying their own flies, a practice that used to be much more common.

Fly tying is an integral part of fly-fishing culture, but learning to tie flies can be intimidating. There's an abundance of materials and equipment to learn and purchase, and many flies are small, hard to see, and the dexterity required can be enough to scare people away.

So why do we tie flies? The reasons are unique to each fly tier, but here are the most common I've observed in my 22-plus years of fly tying and fishing.

Cost. It can be painful to pay up to \$6 for trout flies, and even more for new-aged streamer patterns. There's also a strong correlation between young fly fishers – many who live paycheck-to-paycheck – and the desire to exclusively hunt big trout with streamers. With many streamers costing more than \$5, losing a few in a day is the difference between eating dinner and going hungry.

A \$5 investment in materials will leave enough cash left over to take that hot girl from Tinder on a dinner date. While online date-seekers look for specific qualities, dedicated fly tiers desire every color or size of material that hits the market. This can lead to an empty wallet too, but if you are disciplined and plan in advance, you'll make it work.



Tying flies, whether at home on the vise in the middle of winter or gearing up for a day in the boat, is an inexpensive way to expand your arsenal. PHOTO BY TYLER BUSBY

Catching a fish on a fly you created. Primal instinct may have led humans to catch fish, and few things are more rewarding than doing it with tools you created by hand. I don't remember the first fish I caught with a fly I tied, but I do remember when I caught several fish on a pattern I designed and tied myself very early in my angling career. I was filled with a great sense of accomplishment and it made for a powerful learning experience on the river.

Learning what fish eat. This is my favorite reason for tying flies. It forces us to consider a fish's diet: colors, proportions, sizes, and anatomical features, among other factors. If you haven't tied flies, you may think a Chubby Chernobyl is a bunch of junk thrown onto a hook. But when broken down, you start to see what a fish sees: the dubbed body and legs sit in the surface film; legs move freely with the movement of water, imitating a struggling insect; foam is responsible for the body profile; and the wings catch enough light to appear like the fluttering wings of a grasshopper or stonefly.

Social aspect. This is usually a secondary motivation at first, but it keeps some folks on the fly-tying vise. Most Western fishing towns have at least one group of anglers that meets occasionally to tie flies and talk fishing, and some towns have a very strong tying culture with options for social tying every week.

I've been to many of these gatherings and you'd be surprised how many tiers that attend rarely fish. I've even met avid and very skilled fly tiers that don't have interest in fishing at all. For many, tying flies with friends breaks the solitude of tying alone or having to learn a new fly or technique on their own.

Whatever your skill level, experience, or motivation for tying flies, I invite you to join us at Gallatin River Guides at 5 p.m. every Thursday for Fly Tying Night.

Jimmy Armijo-Grover is the general manager of Big Sky's Gallatin River Guides and has been fishing the waters of southwest Montana for 20 years.





WORD FROM THE RESORTS

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



BY SHELBY THORLACIOUS
BIG SKY RESORT SALES AND MARKETING OFFICE MANAGER

The month of January has been good to Big Sky Resort with many snowy days and the forecast calling for more accumulation in the coming weeks. "The Biggest Skiing in America" always has plenty of snow to go around, so grab some buddies and your shred sticks, and enjoy Mother Nature's gift!

Get your tickets for the 10th annual Big Sky Big Grass Festival taking place Feb. 4-7. The Live Big Pass provides access to all shows and a limited number of individual show tickets will also be available. The weekend will include performances by the Sam Bush Band, David Grisman Bluegrass Experience, The Travelin' McCourys, Keller Williams with The Travelin' McCourys, Drew Emmitt Band, Jeff Austin Band, The Kitchen Dwellers and many more. Don't miss out on this boot stomping good time!

February events at Big Sky Resort also include Montana Jack Super Bowl 50 party on Feb. 7 at 3:30 p.m. and TransWorld SNOWboarding's TransAm Slopestyle competition on Feb. 13.

Learn more about Big Sky Big Grass at bigskyresort.com/biggrass and all Big Sky Resort events at bigskyresort.com/events.



PHOTO BY ALEXIS DEATON



Jan. 19 was the only day in a seven-day span ending Jan. 20 that Bridger Bowl Ski Area didn't report new snow. EBS went to press on Jan. 20, when Bridger reported an additional 8 inches to bring season snowfall to 153 inches. Skiing and riding conditions are incredible and all the recent snow is opening up new lines off the ridge and Schlasman's chairlift terrain.

On Jan. 23 and Feb. 6, Bridger is hosting a "Ridge Tactics Workshop," a review of ridge-skiing protocols, route finding for Schlasman's and ridge terrain, as well as skiing and snowboarding tactics for extreme terrain.

The "Skin to Win Randonee Rally" returns to Bridger's slopes on Jan. 30, when competitors circumnavigate the mountain with climbing skins. Pro division racers will gain 5,000 vertical feet and recreation racers will gain up to 3,000. A mandatory competitor's meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29 at the Beall Park Recreation Center located at 415 North Bozeman Avenue.

Live music by the Usual Suspects and a beer promotion from Missoula's Draught Works Brewery will follow Saturday's mountaineering event in the Jim Bridger Lodge. – *T.A.*



PHOTO BY TYLER ALLEN



BY JENNIE WHITE GRAND TARGHEE RESORT MARKETING MANAGER

With so much recent snow, there's only one thing to do – get out and enjoy your turns! From slopeside lodging, 2,600 acres of terrain, and the only cat skiing in Wyoming, to Western hospitality and a top-notch ski and

snowboard school, you're sure to have a vacation that is value packed!

Don't neglect Targhee's flatland offerings including snowshoe tours, fat biking and Nordic skiing. Powder days filled January with between 4 and 16 inches per day falling on Targhee's slopes.

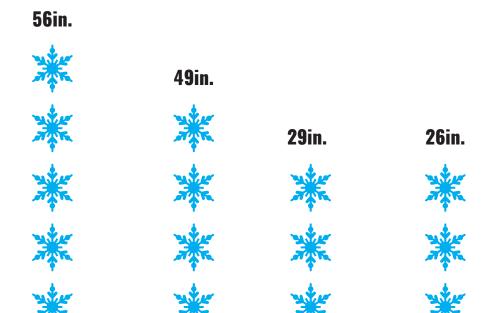
It's also time to celebrate all things snow during the 2016 Great Snow Fest Jan. 22-31. Enjoy two weekends of events including Grand Targhee Powder Camps, the Backcountry Film Festival, the Eukanuba Stagestop Dogsled Race, a snowplane rally and exhibition, and a skijoring competition.

Après ski festivities like the fifth annual Snow Ball as well as the Targhee Tubing and S'mores Party are upcoming as well. There's so much to enjoy you might just have to stay a night or two!

Stop in the Branding Iron Grill and enjoy a fresh menu inspired by local ingredients from Chef Hugo, a Vermont native serving up a unique après menu daily from 3-5 p.m.

Powder Alert!

It's been an epic powder year so far in southwest Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Region. In the past week (from Jan. 13-Jan. 20, when EBS went to press), here are the (deep) snow totals from four of the region's top resorts.

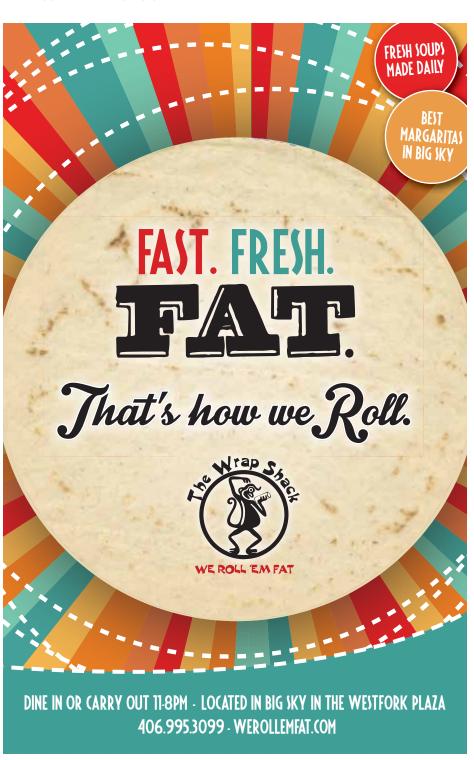


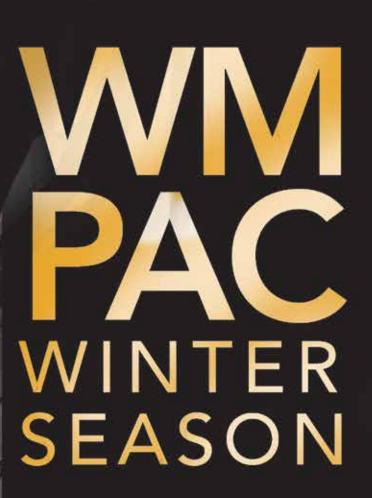
Jackson Hole Grand Targhee Bridger Bowl Big Sky Resort Mountain Resort



Outlaw Partners Media and Events Director Ersin Ozer checks the depth at Big Sky Resort on January 20. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO







2015/16



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Banking turns in Big Sky

Fifth annual Smash Life raises money for snow sports

youngboarderBIG SKY – A-Robs Smash Life Banked Slalom was a smashing success Jan. 9 and 10 at Big Sky Resort raising more than \$3,000 for The A-Rob Plant a Seed Project. Kyle Miller won the men's division and Sarris McComb won her third women's title, edging out Big Sky's Tanya Simonson in second place.

The Smash Life event is a primary fundraiser for A-Rob's Plant a Seed Project that was created in memory of snowboarder Aaron Robinson, who was killed in a 2011 snowboarding accident in Chile. The nonprofit is dedicated to help-

ing the youth of Montana's Flathead Valley get a snowboard under their feet. "It's awesome that Big Sky Resort is down to help out to keep young kids snowboarding," said Smash Life founder Shane Stalling, adding that the new Cache Park venue was ideal for the event.

Smash Life rolled on to Washington's Alpental ski area the following weekend, where heavy snows kept many contestants off the course and riding fresh powder "just like A-Rob would have been," Stalling said. – *T.A.*

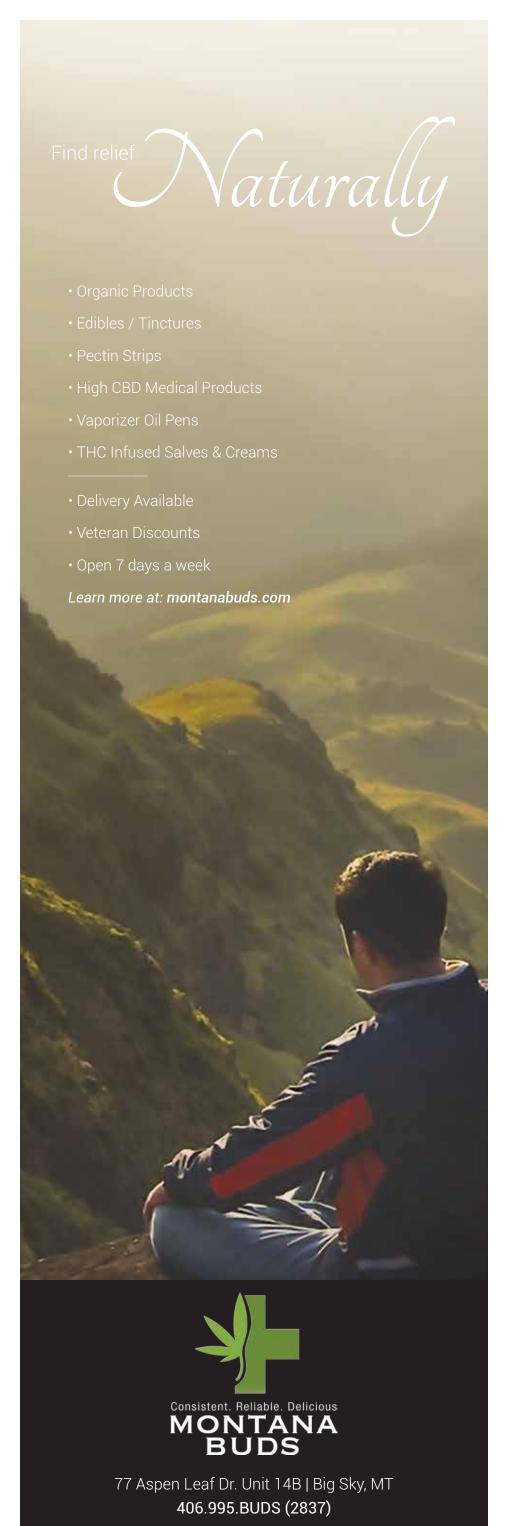








PHOTOS BY WES OVERVOLD



GEAR REVIEW

G3 Boundary 100 skis

The G3 Boundary 100 ski is truly a daily driver. The British Columbia-based company's Powerlight Stealth Construction creates a playful, powerful and lightweight board whether you're ripping fresh corduroy, pristine powder, or anything in between.

I tested the 185-centimeter long boards, and found them a perfect compromise for all the slopes I could find to slide them down. They were able to handle moguls and chopped up pow at Big Sky Resort, but were enough ski to surf 10 inches of fresh when I took them out of the stable into Beehive Basin.

At 3 pounds, 9 ounces per ski, they leave you with plenty of gas for the ride down during long tours, and let you make evasive maneuvers when the terrain dictates. The Boundary 100s were my first foray into the G3 lineup, and have me convinced our neighbors to the north know how to build great skis. – *T.A.*

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Grizzly killing report: Yellowstone hikers taking risks

BY MATTHEW BROWN ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) – The killing of a Montana man by a Yellowstone National Park grizzly bear highlights the need for hikers in the region to travel in groups, carry Mace-like bear spray and take other precautions against attacks, investigators said Jan. 13.

A 260-pound grizzly killed Lance Crosby, 63, in August as the Billings man hiked alone and off-trail in a popular area of the park known as Elephant Back Mountain.

Crosby's body was partially eaten and buried. The female bear later was captured and euthanized and its two cubs placed into an Ohio zoo.

The attack marked the sixth fatal grizzly bear mauling since 2010 in the Yellowstone region of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho.

Five of the victims were hikers, including four who were alone, according to a multi-agency review board that investigated Crosby's death. None of the hikers carried canisters of bear spray, which can stop a charging bear.

"All of the agencies work really hard to get information out to people about how to be safe in bear country. The majority of people don't listen," said review board chair Chris Servheen, the grizzly bear recovery coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Yellowstone received 4.1 million visits last year, the highest number on record.

Roughly 700 to 1,000 grizzlies live in and around the park. State officials want to allow hunts of the federally protected animals in part to address increasingly frequent conflicts with people.

Since the 2011 mauling of a California man, park officials have attempted to step up bear safety education efforts.

In addition to new signs at trailheads that warn of the dangers of grizzlies, a park concessionaire recently began renting canisters of bear spray for \$9.25 a day. That compares to a purchase price of about \$50.

Yet surveys show most visitors aren't complying with recommended safety practices, said Yellowstone bear management biologist Kerry Gunther. Fewer than 14 percent of almost 8,800 visitors surveyed carried bear spray, and 60 percent hiked



A grizzly bear hunts near Swan Lake in Yellowstone National Park. NPS PHOTO

in party sizes smaller than the recommended minimum of three people.

Other recommended precautions include being vigilant, making noise, and not running from a bear during an encounter. The safety measures should be practiced in combination, officials said.

"You can't hike in a group and then not carry bear spray, or if you carry bear spray that doesn't make you immune. It's not brains in a can," Servheen said.





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"

The old Zamboni that could A history of Big Sky's ice-smoothing machine

BY RYAN BLECHTA
AS TOLD TO EBS SENIOR EDITOR TYLER ALLEN

The Big Sky Skating and Hockey
Association was born in March 2009 when
Big Sky Town Center Project Manager
Ryan Hamilton held a meeting to gauge
community interest in bockey and skating.
More than 30 people attended and it was
obvious Big Sky skaters were ready for a
hockey-sized rink.

In 2011, the group acquired a more than 30-year-old Zamboni, and Ryan Blechta began his ice-resurfacing career in earnest.

Jason Martel used to own the Gallatin Valley Ice Garden, and when he sold the Garden he gave his main Zamboni to Bozeman's Haynes Pavilion, and donated his backup to us. It was just sitting outside in his lumberyard at the time, and it was pretty beat up.

Zambonis run on propane and not a lot of mechanics know how to work on them. However, we were able to find a mechanic who got it going in March 2011 then took it to Blasting Technologies to sandblast the whole thing – it was pretty rusty. SCS Wraps covered it in a Bozeman Ice Dogs decal, since Martel owned the team at the time.

I rented an Elevation 6000 condo in Town Center, and when the Zamboni arrived in Big Sky in November 2011, I kept it in the garage.

The first year we only used it for shaving the ice – you don't want to use cold water for resurfacing since hot water binds with the ice much quicker. We'd go out there with cold water from the fire hoses and then shave it with the Zamboni blade.

It worked like a dream. The first time we cut the ice it was amazing how smooth it was.

Typical rinks have a boiler to heat the water, but without that luxury I got a Rinnai hot water machine on a portable cart from Justin Hussey of Big Sky's Hussey Plumbing – it heats your water to 140 F – and I'd wheel the water heater outside and run the hose under the garage door. It would heat 1-2 gallons per minute, and take more than an hour to fill the Zamboni.

Then I'd hop on the machine, get on Aspen Leaf Drive and drive it three minutes over to the rink – I did that for two winters.



The old Zamboni that could putting a fresh skin on the Big Sky skating rink PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY SKATING AND HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

I made a bunch of modifications on it but it's a very old machine and hard to find parts, so I called the Zamboni factory in Paramount, Calif., gave them specs and sent them photos. They said, "That thing is still running?"

They think it was built between 1976 and '78 but they still had parts for it – I couldn't believe it. The dynamics of how a Zamboni works haven't changed much over the decades.

I needed to get it in a shop after the first season, but it's really awkward to get on a trailer since it's so low to the ground. I was working as an assistant golf course superintendent at the Yellowstone Club and had a pretty big shop up there – I thought, "Screw it. I'm going to drive it up there."

So I woke up at 4 a.m., put on my headlamp and drove it up South Fork Road. It took me three and a half hours. The machine weighs 14,000 pounds and only goes 4 mph uphill – I didn't factor that in, but was only passed by one car on my way up there.

I've frozen it a few times before but once you get it warm again it runs great. I've also run out of propane – once in the middle of the rink and I had to tow it off with my truck.

Last year we were able to get a bunch of volunteers to build a heated shed for the Zamboni so I don't keep it in my garage anymore. We piped the whole water system from the nearby fire hydrant, through the Rinnai and into the Zamboni.

Jesse Campos, Big Sky's rink maintenance manager, and I resurface the rink three days a week during the season and typically more often during the holidays, but it's all weather dependent. It can be 10 F in February and the sun still melts the ice. Everybody loves the views, but we're hoping to get some shade cloths put up in the future.

Last year the weather was challenging and we had to shut down in early February for a week. At the beginning of the season we have to wait until we get consistent cold temps, and it usually doesn't happen until December. We typically do 20-30 floods before we open the rink, 1/16 of an inch of ice at a time.

The next step is to raise money for refrigeration in the rink, and we've started a savings account for a new Zamboni. This machine isn't going to last forever.

BSSHA founding members include Ryan Hamilton, Griffin Kilby, Brian Dolan, and current officers and board members Blechta, Gary Hermann, Steve Rapp, Scott Leuzinger, Lindsey Pruiett, Chris Grace, and Detroit Red Wings great Marty Pavelich.

Ryan Blechta is BSSHA board president, the Spanish Peaks Mountain Club golf course superintendent and has lived in Big Sky for 11 years. He grew up playing hockey in Minnesota and has been a BSSHA Zamboni driver and bockey player since 2011.