POWDER!

Big Sky Chamber tackles traffic

New book chronicles cowboys, Mozart and Indians

Business profile: White Buffalo Republic

Plus:
Real Estate Guide
#explorebigsky

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## POWDER!

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**Business profile:**

**White Buffalo Republic**

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**WHAT:**

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

**WHY:**

Explore Big Sky is a voice for Big Sky, keeping relevant topics at the forefront; while educating, engaging, and exploring Southwest Montana.

**Frequency**

EVERY 2 WEEKS

**Annual Readership**

OVER 1 MILLION

Mailed to subscribers in all 50 states; including primary addresses of second home owners in Big Sky, MT

**Readership per issue**

49,500

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**OUTLAW PARTNERS & EXPLORE BIG SKY**

P.O. Box 160250, Big Sky, MT 59716

(406) 995-2055 • media@outlawpartners.com

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**CORRECTION:** EBS misidentified the player in the Big Horns basketball photo that ran in the last issue of the paper. The player pictured was Frankie Starz, rather than Eddie Starz, as had been reported. EBS regrets the error.

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**“The secret of life is honesty and fair dealing. If you can fake that, you’ve got it made.”**

- Groucho Marx
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 entrepreneur 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 conservation easement or sell each parcel individually - own it privately or pull together a consortium of your friends.

**Anceney Ranch**
Offered for $6,900,000

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

*This information is subject to errors, omissions, prior sale, change, withdrawal and approval of purchase by owner. All information from sources deemed reliable, but not guaranteed by Montana Living - Big Sky Real Estate, independent investigation is recommended. For properties listed, price and terms subject to change. Montana Living ~ Big Sky Real Estate is a registered trademark of Newwest LLC. For properties listed, price and terms subject to change. Montana Living ~ Big Sky Real Estate is a registered trademark of Newwest LLC.*

**ON THE COVER:**
Outlaw Partners Director of Sales E.J. Daws hams it up near Baldface Lodge, British Columbia. PHOTO BY ADRIAN MORIN

Martha Johnson
Owner | Broker
Martha@BigSkyRealEstate.com | 406.580.5891

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Double tanker crashes on Highway 191, spills hot oil

BIG SKY - A double tanker truck hauling approximately 31 tons of liquid asphalt – a petroleum product used in road construction – crashed off Highway 191 Jan. 25 south of Big Sky.

The southbound tanker veered into the west ditch near mile marker 37 before coming to rest on its passenger side. The tanker was the only vehicle involved in the accident and Montana Highway Patrol Trooper Marcus Cook said road conditions did not appear to be a factor.

Cook said the driver was uninjured and would be cited for careless driving.

The Big Sky Fire Department managed the incident as a hazardous materials scene. According to the initial report given to Shasta Steinweden, an environmental enforcement specialist with the Department of Environmental Quality, approximately 50 gallons of liquid asphalt leaked out of the second tank and into the ditch. The tanker was removed later that night.

The Gallatin River is on the east side of the highway where the accident occurred and Cook said he didn’t see any culverts by which the liquid asphalt could directly reach the river. “It looks like it’s staying contained in the west ditch.”

According to Steinweden, trucking company Johnny B Transport would be tasked with clean up.

“A season-long Montana resident fishing license will increase by $3 this year to $21. Fishing licenses will no longer be sold in combination with a conservation license – which is required for any hunting or fishing license purchase. The resident conservation license costs $8 for all ages.

Under the new structure, most licenses that were free or discounted in 2015 will be charged at half of the standard license cost. Previously, free licenses or a variety of discounted prices were offered to some youth, seniors and disabled sportsmen.

In 2016, only military recognition and block management cooperator combination licenses will remain free. PWP is reimbursed by the state general fund for military recognition licenses, and block management cooperators provide hunting opportunities for all sportsmen.

The new fee structure will also standardize the definition of youth as those between 12 and 17 years old. This language replaces a number of age definitions.

The price of all other resident tags, licenses, drawing fees and permits will remain the same as in 2015.

Big Horn football players honored

EBS STAFF

The Lone Peak High School football team hosted its second playoff game in school history this fall, and rolled the Bridger Scouts, 82-32. While they fell 67-0 to the Savage Warriors in the second round, that didn’t stop the Big Horns from cleaning up state accolades that were announced in January.

Nine of the 15 Big Horn varsity letter winners were honored as Academic All-State, meaning they earned a 3.5 grade point average or better. Bridger Babcock and Eddie Starz were also named to the All-State team for their accomplishments on the field, and Chase Samuels won All-Conference accolades.

The nine Big Horn football players named Academic All-State for the 2015 season: Liam Germain, Devin Quinn, Evan Redmon, Chase Samuels, Holden Samuels, Eddie Starz, Bridger Babcock, and Zach Cone.
1 RED CLOUD LOOP
This immaculate four-bedroom, three-bath cabin sits directly on the WhiteOtter ski trail and offers panoramic views. This charming log cabin boasts vaulted ceilings, a well-appointed kitchen, a statement rock fireplace in the living room and gas fireplace in the spacious family room, two decks, a propane hot tub, and a 1-car garage. Sold fully furnished and turnkey, this cabin has never been rented and offers every upgrade that the developer offered at the time of construction! MLS#: 210799
Offered at $885,000
Listing Agent: Sandy Revisky | 406.539.6316

1C RED CLOUD LOOP
Fantastic Powder Ridge cabin with convenient ski-in and out access from the adjacent White Otter ski lift. Sold fully furnished and turnkey, this property provides a ski locker, 1 car detached garage, rock fireplace in the great room and propane fireplace in the lower level family room, a gaming system, Red screen TV’s and a 6-7 person hot tub with Spa access in the walk-out level. Excellent rental history and the ski access is unparalleled. MLS: 210790
Offered at $975,000
Listing Agent: Mary Wheeler | 406.539.1745

2 HIGH POINT DRIVE
Nestled near the base of Lone Mountain, this stand-alone Frisco Collection offers charming views and incredible ski access to both the base area of Big Sky Resort and Moonlight Basin. There are 3 master suites and a bonus room, four and a half baths, a security and entertainment system, gourmet kitchen, large deck, hot tub, and an attached garage. Offered tastefully furnished, sunny MLS: 210294
Offered at $1,450,000
Listing Agent: Mary Wheeler | 406.539.1745

2C RED CLOUD LOOP
This charming four-bedroom, three-bath cabin sits directly on the White Otter ski trail and offers incredible views of the Spanish Peaks. This cozy cabin features vaulted ceilings, a well-appointed kitchen, a statement rock fireplace in the living room and gas fireplace in the spacious family room, two decks, a propane hot tub, and a 1-car garage. Sold fully furnished and turnkey, this property provides a ski locker, 1 car detached garage, rock fireplace in the great room and propane fireplace in the lower level family room, a gaming system, Red screen TV’s and a 6-7 person hot tub with Spa access in the walk-out level. Excellent rental history and the ski access is unparalleled. MLS: 210790
Offered at $975,000
Listing Agent: Mary Wheeler | 406.539.1745

3 BLACK MOON ROAD
This beautiful ski-in/ski-out mountain home is situated on a premier lot with amazing views and mature trees providing privacy. 4,361 +/- square feet, the four bedrooms plus bonus room, three bathrooms and newly remodeled kitchen provides plenty of space for entertaining guests. MLS: 210098
Offered at $1,375,000
Listing Agent: Jackie Miller | 406.539.5003

147 NIGHTHAWK FORK
Enjoy panoramic views of the Spanish Peaks, Lone Mountain and the Gallatin Range from this cabin in the heart of Spanish Peaks Mountain Club. This 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath residence is walking distance to the Club House pool and numerous amenities. The home includes three indoor fireplaces, natural stone slabs, hardwood floors, several decks, two living rooms, outdoor hot tub and Wolf/Subzero appliances and is being effortlessly furnished MLS: 210735
Offered at $2,150,000
Listing Agent: Ania Bulis | 406.580.6852

SHOSHONE CONDO #1920
Located in Big Sky Ski & Summer Resort’s Mountain Village Center, this fully furnished condominium offers near waterfront ownership. The Shoshone Condominium Hotel is next to the slopes and offers ski storage, an exercise center, pool and hot tub facility on the premises. Restaurants, shopping and ski rental services are in immediate proximity. Relax by your fireplace, watch the planes or Adventure Mountain and enjoy the view. MLS: 210931
Offered at $235,000
Listing Agent: Lynn Milligan | 406.581.2848

NORTH FORK ROAD
Rarefied air and panoramic views! Tract 2A-1A and 2A-1B are very unique opportunities to own very large parcels in Big Sky. Tract 2A-1A consists of 196.907 acres, which is bordered by Tract 2A-1B at 246.925 acres, in the North Fork Subdivision. Both parcels are buffered by US Forest Service and provide privacy and expansive views making for a perfect place to build your retreat. Gallatin County Zoning is RC-SF 20. MLS: 210780 & 211277
Starting at $2,140,000
Listing Agent: Michael Thomas | 406.581.2400

TBD TALUS TRAIL
Beautiful and private, these parcels are located in the Pineapple Bob Subdivision. Lot 45, at 6.54 acres plus an additional 5.75 acres of open space, and Lot 46, at 11.76 acres and accompanied by 8.97 acres of open space. Groom to skiing access to the north and west to the Gallatin Range and Ponderosa Drainage. Milieu, well designed to provide a beautiful backdrop for those very special building sites. MLS: 206648 & 206620
Starting at $745,000
Listing Agent: Michael Thomas | 406.581.2400

BIG SKY • MOONLIGHT BASIN • SPANISH PEAKS • YELLOWSTONE CLUB

406.995.4009
BigSkyLuxuryRealEstate.com
Big Sky, Montana

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From an economic perspective, Big Sky is negatively impacted by the many commuting workers who can’t find housing here. Who should be responsible for providing workforce housing in Big Sky?

Taylor Middleton, Big Sky, Mont
General Manager, Big Sky Resort

“An affordable housing solution is not going to be resolved at one moment with one silver bullet. The solution is going to be ongoing and it’s going to come from a combination of many things including public and private partners, land-use planning, creative funding, creative construction types and transportation.

Follow up: Are there any promising solutions in the works?

Through community partnerships, we’ve built 100 multi-bedroom condominiums, probably about 400 beds. If history is any indication of the future, there will be more housing solutions put on the market by Big Sky Resort and other employers.”

Lynne Anderson, Big Sky, Mont
Co-owner, Country Market

“I don’t know that anybody should have to provide it. I do believe the community as the whole – if they want to be a community – needs to figure out a way to have it available to the workforce … What we’re doing is exporting all our wealth because [our workers] are coming here, they’re earning their wages, and they’re spending them somewhere else. We can’t build a vibrant community under those economic terms.”

Cheryl Ridgely, Bozeman, Mont.
Chief Strategy and Business Development Officer, Bozeman Health

“It can’t speak for the rest of the community, but as an employer of a hospital providing essential services to the community, making sure that staff find housing in close proximity to the hospital is a very valuable thing. We were able to find almost all of our employees in Big Sky, which is terrific, but we know that likely is not going to be the case moving forward [so] we purchased additional land [near Big Sky Medical Center] … in order to build housing units in the future.”

Social media reaction to affordable housing story

EBS received a number of comments on our Facebook page after posting the story “Affordable housing: Big Sky’s ‘No. 1 issue’” that first appeared in the Jan. 22 edition of the newspaper.

We reached out to the Facebook commenters requesting permission to print their reactions in this edition of EBS, and below are two responses from readers who agreed to go on record. Comments were edited for clarity, brevity and newspaper style.

“We worked in Big Sky for three months and had to camp out on the job because the cheapest short term rental was over $4,000 a month! The one thing that jumped out in the article is the $100,000-plus they wasted on a housing study.

All you need to do is go into any restaurant or other low-wage-paying establishment and talk with the employees. Most of the ones I met were also living in their cars or camped out in tents. This was in October, November and December!”

Ken Miller
Missoula

“Unless the big money of developers, realtors, and incoming deep pocket purchasers want affordable housing for the workers, it isn’t going to happen.

[This is] a local example of big money destroying the working class in Montana and beyond.”

Pat Wilson
Bozeman

Letter:
Affordable housing essential to Big Sky’s future

It seems expected that a resort town like Big Sky should experience affordable housing problems. Indeed, we all seem to use the excuse that it’s even worse in Jackson, Wyo. or Colorado’s Vail and Aspen.

But Big Sky in the ’90s was a much more balanced ski town. I remember enough housing to go with the jobs that accompanied running this magnificent place. The unfortunate lesson we could have learned – and hopefully still can – is that other resorts messed up by not planning for more affordable housing.

Since there is so much development to come in the next 10 years, how about we get this in motion now?

As small business owners of the Wrap Shack, we are constantly struggling to find employees. The first major hurdle is finding them housing. Businesses such as ours, the Blue Moon Bakery and the Hungry Moose Market and Deli do have some housing available, and we are small businesses compared to what’s to come. If we’re looking ahead to deal with future employee issues, why aren’t the bigger businesses?

Why is there going to be $1 billion of growth in Big Sky, but none, or very little of it, marked for affordable housing? The foundation of keeping this town an outstanding place for outdoor recreation relies on its workers. If the major developers want to have success, affordable housing should be viewed as true infrastructure, and should be built along with these massive developments.

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Bozeman

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Why is there going to be $1 billion of growth in Big Sky, but none, or very little of it, marked for affordable housing? The foundation of keeping this town an outstanding place for outdoor recreation relies on its workers. If the major developers want to have success, affordable housing should be viewed as true infrastructure, and should be built along with these massive developments.

If 11 future hotels are built along with countless more restaurants and retail shops, who will be here to pour the Perrier?

Karen Macklin and Don Mattusch
Big Sky
Community meetings attempt to address Big Sky traffic issues

BY TYLER ALLEN

BIG SKY — On Jan. 19, a westbound vehicle was stopped at the entrance to Roxy’s Market on Lone Mountain Trail when a van rear-ended the car, sending it into oncoming traffic. The three-vehicle accident resulted in minor injuries to two of the drivers who were treated at the Big Sky Medical Center.

Big Sky Fire Department Chief William Farhat pointed to a lack of turn lanes on the highway.

“If there was a middle lane, [the driver] would have been able to [turn safely],” Farhat said.

More than 30 community members gathered in the Big Sky Chapel basement on Jan. 27 to address traffic hazards of Lone Mountain Trail such as the Jan. 19 incident, and other transportation issues in Big Sky.

This was the first of three identical meetings organized by the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce – the other two were held Feb. 3 and 4 after EBS went to press – and it was apparent traffic is a significant community concern.

Kitty Clemens, the chamber’s executive director, opened the discussion by explaining that the purpose of this effort was to get feedback from the members of this unincorporated community, “because we don’t have a city hall we can all check in with.”

Clemens described how Big Sky’s main transportation arteries – Lone Mountain Trail and Highway 191 – are under the control of the Montana Department of Transportation because they’re state and federal highways, respectively.

Big Sky taxpayers are paying nearly $540,000 in road taxes to Gallatin County and $700,000-plus to Madison County, according to Kack. None of that money sent to Gallatin County – and very little of the Madison County revenue – is being reinvested in road construction or maintenance in Big Sky, he added.

A request would need to be made to both counties to ask MDT for an area transportation plan that would be conducted by a private consultant firm and paid for by funds from both counties and MDT. A project of any significance on Highway 191 or Lone Mountain Trail would need to be added to MDT’s Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan.

The STIP is updated every year, and currently outlines all of the major construction projects planned statewide through 2019. Right now, there are no Big Sky projects on the document.

“What David is talking about gives us a road map for a 20-year vision,” Clemens said. “To get projects qualified you need a long-term vision.”

After the presentation, the meeting broke into two focus groups led by Kack and his WTI colleague Patrick McGowen. Large maps of the area’s roads were spread out on tables and attendees were asked what and where major traffic issues exist.

Big Sky resident Steve Johnson suggested installing “No Left Turn” signs on all Lone Mountain Trail intersections without protected turn lanes.

For traffic heading westbound from Highway 191 to Town Center that would include the intersections at the Big Sky Medical Center and Roxy’s Market, funneling traffic to Ousel Falls Road and eastbound on Town Center Avenue.

“Always practical as a business owner,” said John Romney, a Big Sky Town Center developer.

Many in attendance suggested installing a center – or “suicide” – lane on Lone Mountain Trail, that would offer protected turning for both directions of traffic along the entire stretch of road from 191 to Town Center.

McGowen said that installing a traffic signal at Lone Mountain Trail and Ousel Falls Road would have a ripple effect, slowing down vehicles in both directions.

“If you built 1,000 units of affordable housing in Big Sky it would take 1,000 cars off the road,” McGowen added.

Greg Hunt, who spends half the year in Big Sky and the other half in Hong Kong, lives in the Firelight Center.


After the meeting concluded, Clemens talked about what a lack of incorporation means for the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce.

“Our chamber does a little more because we end up project managing [since] there’s no city staff,” Clemens said, adding that transportation is one leg of a three-legged “place-making” stool that includes housing and open space.

Clemens said traffic in Gallatin Canyon and Lone Mountain Trail is at “carrying capacity right now,” and if Big Sky doesn’t have safe, dependable roads, community businesses could see a negative effect on the number of customers from Bozeman and elsewhere in Gallatin County.

“We have to think about repeat business,” she said. “The best customers are the ones you already have.”

WTI hopes to present recommendations to the chamber board in March, according to Kack.
Fire department master plan highlights areas of concern

BY AMANDA EGGERT

BIG SKY – A lack of nearby fire departments able to assist the Big Sky Fire Department, multiple calls coming in at once in a large district, and the importance of enforcing fire codes for new construction were among topics discussed at BSFD’s master plan presentation Jan. 21.

During the second half of 2015, Emergency Services Consulting International collected data, observed the department’s daily operations, and incorporated that material into a 141-page document of findings and recommendations for both current and projected needs.

Lane Wintermute, a senior associate with Wilsonville, Ore.-based ESCI, presented those findings to approximately 35 community members at the Big Sky Water and Sewer District meeting room.

Wintermute said that - with the exception of the Yellowstone Club Fire Department - Big Sky is a long way from other departments available to contribute manpower and resources for emergency response.

“It’s a very unique situation and it really challenges the fire department,” he said.

BSFD Chief William Farhat said that the fire district boundary is 57 square miles, but the department actually responds to a much larger area because there’s no one else to respond.

The size of the district factors into another area of concern: concurrent calls, or calls that come in at the same time. BSFD is able to finish responding to a call without another one coming in about 85 percent of the time; the other 15 percent, they’re forced to juggle two or three calls with limited resources.

“If you’re in Spanish Peaks [Mountain Club] and you need to drive to Moonlight, well that’s 20, 25 minutes. It takes forever to get there and that’s hard to deal with for a department,” Farhat said.

The department staffs four firefighters on an average shift. Farhat said this typically means calling in full-time firefighters to work overtime hours.

According to Wintermute, Big Sky firefighters spend an average of 1 hour and 21 minutes on an average call. The department reaches incidents within 15 minutes approximately 80 percent of the time.

“Twenty percent of our calls take us more than 20 minutes to get to? That’s a really high number. That’s bad,” Farhat said, adding that the department needs to look into ways to bring response time down.

Options might include more staff and staffing the second station located in Big Sky Resort’s Mountain Village, which is currently used for equipment storage and as a meeting place for personnel.

“At some point in the future, that facility is going to need to be staffed and it’s probably going to need to be modified,” Wintermute said, adding that residential and sleeping quarters for crew would likely need to be added.

Wintermute also said code enforcement on new construction is “hugely important” because once a structure has been built, it becomes the responsibility of BSFD “for the rest of its life, until it falls down.

“You need to make sure these large, high-risk buildings with a lot of people in them do not catch fire,” he said, “because if they do, you might not be able to put them out, quite frankly.”

Farhat said he does what he can to enforce the fire code, but there’s little time to do so, and his approach has centered on education.

“If we choose to strongly enforce [the fire code], the county attorney is overloaded. We can use [BSFD’s] private attorney ... and I try to plug that hole, but there’s just not enough time in the day to do that,” he said.

The BSFD board of trustees understands the department is shorthanded in that regard and resources for building review are tight all the way around, Farhat said. There’s one state building inspector assigned to this area, and one building code plan reviewer statewide, he added.

Other topics of conversation included the department ladder truck - which is currently located at the unstaffed station in Mountain Village – and how the opening of the Big Sky Medical Center has impacted the department.

Farhat said transporting medical patients to BSMC rather than driving all the way to Bozeman has helped him keep resources in Big Sky.

The BSFD board of trustees will use ESCI’s findings to guide its policies the next 10 to 15 years.

Wintermute ended his presentation by urging Big Sky to make use of the plan.

“That’s probably the most important conversation to have now – now that you have it, what are you going to do with it? We really don’t like to see these master plans gather dust.”

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.
JUST LISTED - 91 PAINTBRUSH
- Custom 3,304+/- sf log home w/ 4 car garage
- Family friendly w/ 4BR/3.5BA
- Large outdoor fireplace
- Within walking distance to Big Sky schools
$785,000 | MLS 210321

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
- Incredible views of Lone Mountain
$1,995,000 | MLS 210575

JUST LISTED - SADDLE RIDGE #3
- Adjacent to the Moonlight Lodge, easy walk
- 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths w/ beautiful furnishings
- Hot tub on balcony with gorgeous views
- Great vacation rental with easy ski access
$569,000 | MLS 210636

JUST LISTED - 1551 PAINTBRUSH
- 3,304+/- sf log home w/ 4 car garage
- Family friendly w/ 4BR/3.5BA
- Large outdoor fireplace
- Within walking distance to Big Sky schools
$785,000 | MLS 210321

NEW LISTING - FIRELIGHT CONDO 7D
- ONLY 2BR/2B 1,092+/- sf condo listed
- Open floor plan w/ gas fireplace & breakfast bar
- Master suite w/ walk-in closet & double vanity
- Fully furnished with ideal location
$249,000 | MLS 210724

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 $325,000 | MLS 207791

PRIME CANYON COMMERCIAL
- 2 commercial buildings located on 1.027 acres
- Building #1 has 3,230 sq. ft.
- Building #2 has 5,808 sq. ft.
- Great Investment with a good cap rate
$1,399,500 | MLS 204402

BIG HORN 11
- 1,595 sf 3BR/3B ski-in/ski-out condo
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LAKEFRONT MANOR - LOT 5
- 1.04 acres in a 7 lot subdivision
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WHEREAS, the Trustees have determined that an amendment to the General Fund budget in the amount of $62,015.98 is necessary under the provisions of Section 20-

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Big Sky School District No. 72, Gallatin County, Montana, will meet at

 At a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Big Sky School District No. 72, Gallatin County, Montana, held January 21, 2016 at 5:30pm in the MS/HS Conference Room, the following resolution was introduced:

WHEREAS, the Trustees of Big Sky School District No. 72, Gallatin County, Montana, have made a determination that as a result of an unanticipated enrollment increase, the District’s General Fund budget does not provide sufficient financing to properly maintain and support the District for the entire current school fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Trustees have determined that an amendment to the General Fund budget in the amount of $62,015.98 is necessary under the provisions of Section 20-9-161(1), MCA for the purpose of operating and maintaining the District, and

WHEREAS, the anticipated source of financing the budget amendment expenditures shall be additional state assistance.

Therefore be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Big Sky School District No. 72, Gallatin County, Montana, proclaims a need for an amendment to the purpose identified above, and be it further resolved that the Board of Trustees of Big Sky School District No. 72, Gallatin County, Montana, meet at 5:30pm in the MS/HS Conference Room on February 17, 2016 for the purpose of considering and adopting the budget amendment.

This year, we formed a partnership with “Hatch,” a network of innovators and thinkers who are among the best in the world at what they do. Our first relationship with Hatch was student participation during their annual conference at Moonlight Basin last summer. Our students were able to participate in workshops and network with Hatch members from all over the world and the Ostinato Project was one result of the conference.

Led by Warren Miller Performing Arts Center Artistic Director John Zirkle, the Ostinato Project provides a platform for our students to work with world famous composer Phillip Sheppard and producer Russell Spurlock. We are able to communicate with these experts in their field via Skype and email, and give the students an opportunity to create music while also experiencing how music is edited and recorded.

Hatch has also exposed our students to Missoula-based writer Elke Govertsen, owner and writer for the parenting magazine “Mamalode.” Govertsen spent a day with our students during an assembly prior to more formal meetings with students about their writing projects. Both of these Hatch partnerships have exposed our students to people who are at or near the top of their industry. We hope Hatch becomes a long-term partner and continues to encourage innovation and passion in Big Sky students.

Zirkle is also leading the “1st Chair Project,” which is a partnership between the school district and Montana State University music students, who visit the school weekly to perform with our kids. Big Sky students are able to hear and see others performing their instruments at a high level, providing a unique learning opportunity.

While these are two of our key partnerships, we have many others with community members here at the school. Jill Bough and Tori Pintar are working with our students through Art Café, a lunchtime program hosted on campus for all of our high school students. Barbara Rowley also volunteers her time with our students through Art Café, a lunchtime program hosted on campus for all of our high school students. Barbara Rowley also volunteers her time to lead our students in sophisticated theater productions.

Any partnerships the school can initiate and cultivate are important for our kids as they navigate the challenges they face as young learners. If you wish to partner with the school in any way, please come see us. We are always looking for opportunities to expose our kids to people they can learn from and be inspired by.

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

In this column, I will describe some of the partnerships that the Big Sky School District has capitalized on to impact our students’ growth and development, both intellectually and artistically.

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Witness
New book weaves themes of extraordinary life

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR
EBS MANAGING EDITOR

BOZEMAN – A new book written by Renaissance man and Montana native Robert Staffanson is more than a memoir penned with the wit, humor and knowledge inherent in those who have lived fascinating lives. It’s an evolutionary tour de force.

“Witness to Spirit: My Life with Cowboys, Mozart and Indians” follows Staffanson from his parents’ ranch along the Yellowstone River in eastern Montana, to the Springfield Symphony in Massachusetts, and back to The Treasure State where he founded the American Indian Institute in Bozeman.

The book’s title, Staffanson says, was a group effort between his daughter Kristin Campbell as well as film producer Pam Roberts, a close friend and creator of Rattlesnake Productions in Bozeman.

“It’s about the spirit in vastly different environments,” said Staffanson, who turned 94 last November. “And I was there. I was the witness.”

The book is divided into three sections called “movements,” which highlight three major themes: Cowboys, Music, and Indians. And these three movements in Staffanson’s life are nothing less than inspiring, according to Bozeman writer Todd Wilkinson, who wrote the book’s introduction.

“What Bob has done is led by example on how to live an ethical and meaningful life; how to stand and act on one’s own convictions,” Wilkinson said. “If you look at the arc of his life … there’s nobody who has lived a life like that. In that sense, he’s an original American.”

“Witness” opens with Staffanson learning to ride his first horse as a 4-year-old cowboy in eastern Montana, and about the stories of Native Americans that older cowboys told in the late 1920s.

At a young age, Staffanson became enamored with the American Indian way of life. Indeed, it would lead him back to the Montana of his youth in what would become the third movement in his book.

While attending the University of Montana School of Music, where he studied classical conductors including Bach, Brahms, Beethoven and Mozart, Staffanson married Ann, his high school sweetheart.

In 1950, the couple moved back to the eastern part of the state, where Staffanson taught music classes then founded the Billings Symphony before moving in 1955 to conduct the Springfield Symphony in Massachusetts.

To Staffanson the writer, music acted as the thread to connect the varying movements, and was, as he calls it, “fulfilling.” In the book’s second act, Staffanson writes of this critical component in his life.

“I believe great music is a primal force. It takes us beyond the confines of our world into realms of pure spirit: a harbinger of what may be ahead for us.”

What lay ahead were profound changes sparked during summer return trips to Montana. During these vacations, Staffanson began forming strong relationships with American Indians, as well as a deepening interest in human rights.

In 1970, after deciding to leave conducting and big-city life for a return to Montana, Staffanson suffered a kinked bowel related to stress from the fraught decision. Strong doses of antibiotics caused him to lose most of his hearing. Music would never be the same for him.

The next year, Robert and Ann moved to Helena with their daughter Kristin. In 1977, the Crow Nation hosted a meeting at the headwaters of the Missouri River, and the American Indian Institute joined with the Traditional Circle of Indian Elders and Youth to form the Two Circles.

The Bozeman-based nonprofit aims to celebrate American Indian heritage and bring about a greater understanding of America’s native peoples.

Less than a mile east of the American Indian Institute, at a Bozeman Public Library book reading on Jan. 22, Staffanson signed copies of his book for fans, and answered questions. Wilkinson was the first speaker to introduce Staffanson, and spoke about helping the author put the book together.

“Here’s a 94-year-old guy being recognized in front of his community for living an extraordinary life,” Wilkinson said. “This is an honoring ceremony for the most remarkable man I’ve ever met.”

After introductions by Wilkinson and longtime American Indian Institute affiliate José Lucero, Staffanson rested his arms on the podium, and his piercing blues eyes gazed out over the full house.

He read excerpts from his book, entertaining the crowd with witty prose and raising more than a few comments from the spiritual context of the reading. One line in particular, one that opens the prelude to “Witness,” unveils a deeper context of Staffanson’s story:

“A friend asked me, ‘Did you choose your life?’ My answer: ‘No, life chose me.’”

Staffanson just decided to write it down.
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Yellowstone launches audio project with MSU

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

BOZEMAN – On Jan. 28, Yellowstone National Park and the Acoustic Atlas at Montana State University Library announced the launch of the Yellowstone Collection, a curated compilation of field recordings and a developing podcast series highlighting America’s first national park.

The growing audio collection aims to create new ways to experience the animals, landscapes and people of the area, by offering a free online archive of natural sounds, interviews and radio stories focused on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

The Acoustic Atlas was founded in 2013 and includes recordings from throughout the Western U.S. The Yellowstone collection builds on its mission to document the sounds of regional ecosystems.

“Montana State University Library launched the Acoustic Atlas because there are relatively few natural sound collections at libraries, and even fewer focusing on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem,” said Kenning Arlitsch, dean of the MSU Library. “We could not be more excited to share the sounds of Yellowstone through our archive.”

In addition to expanding the natural sounds collection at MSU, the field recordings will be used as a foundation in creating sound-rich, podcast-style audio pieces that tell the stories of research and issues in YNP. The audio stories, which visitors and followers can listen to online, will highlight the rich, but changing, soundscapes of the area, chronicle some of the research taking place in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and spotlight key voices in the region.

“It’s kind of like public radio for Yellowstone National Park. I hope these stories build perspective and advance our conversations about science and the complexities of preservation in Yellowstone,” said project producer and Yellowstone National Park correspondent Jennifer Jerrett. “[This year] marks the National Park Service Centennial, so it seems fitting to stop and listen – to really listen – and reflect on the meaning of parks and preservation in America.”

The project is supported in part by Montana State University, the Yellowstone Association, the Yellowstone Park Foundation, and by a grant through the Eyes on Yellowstone program, which is made possible by Canon U.S.A., Inc. This program represents the largest corporate donation for wildlife conservation in the park.

Audio from the partnership can be accessed at nps.gov/yell/learn/photosmultimedia/soundlibrary and acousticatlas.org.

Jennifer Jerrett records at Mammoth Terraces in Yellowstone National Park. PHOTO BY NEAL HERBERT

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and Sean & Wanda McCarthy

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Thank You

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We have sold our business to Agata Morrill from West Yellowstone where she owns a print shop. Printing will now be offered here in Big Sky to go along with the shipping services.

We believe she will be an asset to the community and we hope you support her.

Thanks again, Sean & Wanda
Documents detail Right to Work’s involvement in Montana elections

BY JOHN S. ADAMS
MONTANA FREE PRESS

HELENA – Thousands of newly uncovered documents and recently filed court records bolster the already mounting evidence tying the anti-union National Right to Work Committee to the political activities of conservative nonprofit groups accused of improperly coordinating Republican legislative primary campaigns in Montana.

Emails, documents, and affidavits recently obtained by Montana’s commissioner of political practices paint a detailed picture of how the national anti-union group oversaw the activities of American Tradition Partnership, the group at the center of allegations of illegal third-party influence in Montana Republican primary campaigns in 2008, 2010, and 2012.

The National Right to Work Committee is a 501(c)(4) “social welfare” group that, according to the IRS, should not engage in “direct or indirect participation or intervention in political campaigns on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.”

Tens of thousands of pages of emails obtained by Montana Commissioner of Political Practices Jonathan Motl show a link between top NRTWC officials and political campaign activities in Montana.

A former NRTWC employee said in a sworn affidavit filed in Helena District Court that NRTWC staff was relocated to Montana to work on the 2010 primary campaign and that Dimitri Kesari, the political director of the national organization, oversaw their work.

Emails provided to Motl show that National Right to Work Executive Director Jedd Coburn was in regular communication with the groups doing political work in Montana, and provided text for candidates’ campaign materials.

Motl said this latest trove of information is significant because it proves ATP was not acting as an independent-issue advocacy organization, as the groups claimed, but was instead part of a massive, coordinated campaign machine funded by an out-of-state organization with the goal of changing the makeup of the Montana Legislature.

“Christian LeFer was here as a field operative for National Right to Work. Once you get there, then National Right to Work’s central role is more apparent,” Motl said. “I don’t think you can underestimate the significance, or the threat, that a coordinated, funded, centralized corporate takeover of candidates poses [to elections].”

Motl said in 2008, when Western Tradition Partnership first emerged on the scene in Montana, and in 2010 when the group changed its name to American Tradition Partnership, most people, including a previous commissioner of political practices, believed the group was an independent entity.

“You can see from looking at all of these documents that it wasn’t,” Motl said.

A spokesman for the National Right to Work Committee did not return multiple phone calls or emails seeking comment for this story. LeFer, who was the director of Montana Citizens for Right to Work and ran two political nonprofits in Montana, also did not respond to email inquiries.

According to a U.S. Senate lobbying disclosure database, NRTWC spent more than $42 million between 1999 and 2016 lobbying the Senate to pass a national “Right to Work” bill. Dimitri Kesari was one of the group’s top lobbyists in Washington, D.C., during most of that period.

Montana is one of the few Western states without a right to work law. Such laws prohibit labor unions from requiring employees to join the union or pay dues as a condition of employment.

LeFer’s Montana nonprofit group WTP made national headlines in 2012 when Frontline and ProPublica reported about boxes of documents that revealed how the organization coordinated with Republican legislative candidates.

WTP is also the group that successfully sued the state in 2011 and eventually overturned Montana’s 100-year-old ban on corporate spending in elections.

Former staffers and interns who worked for WTP, its successor group ATP, and Christian and Allison LeFer, the Colorado couple who ran those organizations and a host of other political groups, turned over thousands of emails to Motl as part of an investigation leading up to a civil lawsuit.

Motl is suing Bozeman Republican Rep. Art Wittich in Helena District Court, alleging Wittich broke Montana campaign finance laws by accepting illegal corporate campaign contributions. Motl alleges WTP/ATP and other groups provided coordinated campaign services to Wittich and other conservative Republican candidates at little or no cost to the candidates.

Wittich has denied the allegations, saying he paid for the services he was provided. He has accused Motl of engaging in a “political witch hunt.”

That case is scheduled to go to jury trial March 28.

Motl made the email documents available for inspection by reporters in response to a series of public information requests from the Montana Free Press and the Bozeman Daily Chronicle.

Many of the email highlights come from Andrew O’Neill, a staffer who worked on graphics and website design on behalf of WTP/ATP and the various campaign services corporations run by the LeFers.

A review of the emails indicates O’Neill was deeply involved in the day-to-day operations.

“I don’t think you can underestimate the significance, or the threat, that a coordinated, funded, centralized corporate takeover of candidates poses [to elections].”
of the organizations centered on GOP legislative campaigns. The emails indicate O’Neill and other WTP/ATP staffers had regular communication with the LeFers and high-level NRTWC officials surrounding the campaigns of Republican legislative candidates.

In one of the emails, a document details the offerings of a turn-key campaign operation called Smart Simple Campaigns which reads: “EVERYTHING BELOW WE DO FOR INVITEES IS FREE OR AT COST.”

In another email, Christian LeFer invited 26 Republican legislative candidates to candidate training seminar in Bozeman.

“Your campaign’s effectiveness and your ability to recruit volunteers, and raise will immensely benefit, money-back guaranteed,” the email states, adding, “Please do not forward…”

Motl said that is the main problem with the operation: The NRTWC-affiliated groups in Montana provided services and labor to certain candidates without disclosing what was done or how much was spent. In some cases, the documents show, those groups gave away those services for free.
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**LPHS girls school Sheridan and Gardiner**

**BY AMANDA EGGERT**  
**EBS STAFF WRITER**

BIG SKY – Sizable early leads during the Lady Big Horns’ last two home games allowed Lone Peak High School head coach Nubia Allen to give her junior varsity players plenty of minutes on the varsity floor.

Several freshmen and sophomore players stepped up to the plate with steals, assists and baskets from both inside and outside the 3-point arc.

On Jan. 29 versus Gardiner, the Lady Big Horns led 10-4 in the first quarter and poured it on in the second. By the time the halftime buzzer rang, they were up 23-5.

Sophomore guard Kuka Holder had a particularly strong night on both ends of the court. She held the Bruins’ strongest player, guard P.J. Thomas, to 9 points while scoring a game-high 16.

“Kuka’s quick enough to be a guard, but she’s taller than most of the guards, so she has an advantage,” Allen said.

LPHS also established momentum early on in their Jan. 23, 54-18 win over the Sheridan Panthers.

The Panthers are a small, young team – four eighth graders joined one sophomore, two juniors and a senior for this most recent game. When LPHS and Sheridan squared off in Sheridan on Dec. 4, two of five Panthers fouled out in the second half. The Lady Big Horns won that game 47-23 after spending much of the fourth quarter playing three-on-three basketball.

During their Jan. 23, 12-1 match-up, Dasha Bough put up half of her game-high 20 points in the first quarter, making four 2-point shots and two free throws. At the end of the first quarter, the Lady Big Horns led 23-4.

Bough and the other starters played little of the second half, allowing the freshmen and sophomores a chance to shine. “All of [them] got to play almost the entire fourth quarter,” Allen said. “It was nice to see everyone playing.” Nine of 12 players put points on the board during the contest.

Freshman guard Kodi Boersma sank the first shot of the fourth quarter and followed it with a 3-pointer. “She’s a consistent player,” Allen said. “She’s always pushing herself [and] she’s not afraid to shoot, which is great.”

Another freshman, center Solae Swenson, scored two 15-foot jump shots in the fourth quarter.

Defensively, the Lady Big Horns were on point, grabbing 16 steals. Sheridan capitalized on the few free-throw opportunities they had, going six-for-eight from the line. All five of their fourth quarter points were scored with free throws.

The next home game for the 13-1 Lady Big Horns is Saturday, Feb. 6 against White Sulphur Springs, the sixth-ranked team in the district. It will be the first time LPHS faces the Hornets this season.

**Big Horns fall to Bruins, set records in win over Panthers**

**BY AMANDA EGGERT**  
**EBS STAFF WRITER**

If the shots had fallen just a little better, Lone Peak High School’s Jan. 30 game against Gardiner could have been theirs. Although it was within reach several times during the night, the Big Horns couldn’t quite secure the lead in their 56-47 loss to the Bruins.

“We just didn’t knock the shots down,” said LPHS head coach Al Malinowski. “Normally we shoot in the 40 to 50 percent range for two-pointers, and in that game we were at about 39 percent.”

The Bruins’ star player, post player Jerry Hurst, scored 23 points, mostly inside the paint.

“We need to continue working on our post defense so we don’t allow a bigger player to get the ball [that] close to the basket,” Malinowski said.

Although they didn’t win, Malinowski was encouraged by the Big Horns’ effort and their rebounding in particular – they grabbed 11 offensive boards.

“While [Gardiner is] young, they’re still a pretty long team and a pretty athletic team,” Malinowski said. “I was proud of the way we were able to do a better job rebounding than we have in past games.”

Junior guard Eddie Starz went 9 of 10 from the free-throw line and scored 27 points, enough to tie him with alumnus Trevor House for most career points scored in LPHS history. He also broke his own record from last year for most points scored in a season, and had 304 when EBS went to press on Feb. 3.

The Big Horns set two scoring records against Sheridan during their Jan. 23, 12-1 match-up at home. Starz scored 39 points – a record for most individual points – and the team put up 87 points, surpassing the previous record of 84 set last season.

Although Starz’s feat was impressive there were notable contributions team-wide, as eight of nine Big Horns scored. Kolya Bough and senior guard Hugo Boman set personal career records with eight and 10 points, respectively.

“(Bough’s) scoring is improving because he’s starting to find a few more shots,” Malinowski said. “He hit the 3-pointer which put a stamp on our first half.” The score at halftime was 42-19 Big Horns.

LPHS kept the Panthers’ star shooter, junior guard Tristan Horn, scoreless in the first quarter, but he came back with a vengeance with nine points in the second quarter, 12 in the third, and 17 points in the fourth.

When the dust settled, Horn had scored 40 of the Panthers’ 54 points. “When he saw an opening, he took it, and he didn’t miss very many of them,” Malinowski said. “We need to do a better job as an overall team to work together to stop one player from scoring on us like that.”

Starz had seven steals, and he converted many of them into points on the other end of the floor.

“Ever since we played Twin [Bridges], our focus has been on trying to get more points from our defense, and we’re starting to see benefits from that,” Malinowski said. “What I like about our team is we’ve seen steady improvement and it feels like we keep building on our improvements.”

The ninth-ranked Big Horns will face off against fourth-ranked White Sulphur Springs at home on Saturday, Feb. 6.
**LPHS Basketball Schedule & Standings**

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Away Team</th>
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**11/12 C BOYS BASKETBALL STANDINGS**

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The emergence of Cam
Panthers quarterback Cam Newton entered the echelon of elite quarterbacks this year behind 45 regular season touchdowns – 35 passing and 10 rushing – and led an exciting young Carolina team to the Super Bowl. With improved passing and decision-making, Newton developed into a complete quarterback, and is just beginning what should be a long career of MVP-caliber seasons.

The immortal Tom Brady
“Deflategate?” History. Turning 38 years old? No problem. Injuries to key starters on offense? Bring it on. Despite these issues, Patriots quarterback Tom Brady led the league in touchdown passes and guided his team to the AFC Championship game. Brady remains one of the best at his position, and fans are privileged to watch him play at such an elite level despite his age. Brady thinks he has up to 10 years left in the league. I’m not going to argue with him.

Wade Phillips: defensive genius
All Wade Phillips does is coach elite defenses. As a head coach, he’s had limited success, but as a defensive coordinator Phillips is about as good as it gets. After leading the Houston Texans defense to top 10 rankings in points allowed each year from 2011 to 2013, the Broncos hired Phillips to lead their defense this season. The Broncos improved from 16th to fourth in points allowed this year, and allowed the least amount of yards to opposing offenses. Phillips is a big reason why the Broncos made it to the Super Bowl, and head coach Gary Kubiak is lucky to have him on staff.

There were plenty of other things to love about this season: the emerging young talent in Oakland, Jacksonville, and Washington will all be worth watching in the future; the amazing campaign the Arizona Cardinals had; and the Seattle Seahawks’ late season success added intrigue as well.

While it’s hard to pick out just a handful of my favorite moments from this year, the dominant Denver defense and amazing seasons from Newton and Brady stand out above the rest.

Once the Super Bowl is over, the long layoff until next year begins. But with the flurry of offseason activity that occurs each spring, fans can eagerly follow their favorite teams during free agency and the NFL draft as they put away their tailgate equipment until next fall.

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.

Opinion
Peyton Manning notches historic AFC Championship win

BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

Before the NFL playoffs began, EBS Publisher Eric Ladd and I made a bet. Ladd is a Denver Broncos fan and I root for the New England Patriots – the supporter of the team that lost first place to Brady’s Patriots Nov. 29 – showed no signs of slowing the Hall of Fame quarterback as he galloped around the Patriots’ right end.

While Brady owns the head-to-head record (11-6) between two of the greatest quarterbacks ever to play the game, they’ve split the last 10 matchups, 5-5. And when it’s counted the most, in the playoffs, Manning leads the rivalry 3-2 and has won three of four AFC Championship game meetings.

Though Brady outgained Manning through the air with 310 yards in the Jan. 24 contest, Manning has put up astronomical statistics since the Indianapolis Colts picked him No. 1 overall in the 1998 NFL draft. Manning has thrown for 71,940 yards, 539 touchdowns and been awarded the NFL Most Valuable Player five times during his illustrious career.

Manning’s career statistics are incredibly impressive, but it may be his ability to rebound from injury that makes him such an amazing football player.

He battled through old age and a nagging foot injury to win the AFC Championship with Denver, but may have never become a Bronco if it wasn’t for a neck injury that sidelined him for the 2011 season. The Colts decided to usher in a new era at quarterback when they picked Andrew Luck No. 1 overall in the 2012 draft and Manning signed with Denver.

When the tense, hard-fought championship game was over, Manning was caught on camera telling coach Belichick, “This might be my last rodeo.” The two have matched wits throughout their careers and if this season is indeed the end of the road for Manning, he managed to get some crucial eight-second rides against one of the greatest coach-player combos in NFL history.

Way to hang on Peyton. I hope to see you in the ring again after Super Bowl 50. You’re one of the best to ever sling the pigskin.

See you on the slopes Tom.
How time flies...it’s already February and before we know it we’ll be fishing Parachute Adams to rising trout again!

For now we’ll just have to be satisfied with a nymph rig, the occasional pod of fish sipping midges and low and slow streamer swings. That being said fishing has been consistently good and even a few reports of slightly bigger fish being caught out of the Gallatin.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record your typical winter offerings will still produce trout, such as the Pat’s Rubber Legs, Zebra Midge, and of course eggs and worms.

Some dry fly action may be found on calm, overcast days if you’re in the right place. The upper Madison around Raynold’s Pass, $3 Bridge and Pine Butte are all good areas to look for fish eating on the surface. If you want numbers stick to the nymph rig. If you’re patient swinging a streamer can produce some action as well. I recommend smaller dark and natural colored streamers.

On the Gallatin you need long runs of slow moving water and a calm, overcast day to find a good winter midge hatch. It might be a few more weeks until we see more consistent action on top though. Sticking to the nymph rig is the way to go for now, but some continue to put fish in the net swinging streamers.

The lower Madison below Ennis Dam all the way to Black’s Ford is also a good place to head hunt. Beartrap Canyon is a good place to get away from some of the Bozeman traffic or drop in below Ennis dam. There are also some great runs along Beartrap Road above and below Warm Springs.

Sounds like the Yellowstone River is also putting on a fair show between Ennis and Gardiner. Maybe consider a day on DePuy’s... only $40 a rod this time of year!

Happy fishing and don’t forget Thursday Night Fly Tying at Gallatin River Guides...5pm all winter long.
In 1989, Jim Sanderson packed his bags and left his hometown of Afton, Wyo., on a religious mission across Guatemala. For his two-year stay, Sanderson needed a sturdy bag to tote his teachings and bought one from a local merchant in San Jose Pinula. It was love at first carry.

Sanderson brought the bag back to the University of Idaho College of Law where he was a student, and later used it as a daily satchel for courtroom litigation in Afton where he currently works as a lawyer. Despite being stuffed with 1,000-page law books and traveling the world, Sanderson’s leather bag has been in use for 27 years, and shows little signs of wear though plenty of character.

“That bag is what got me passionate about leather goods and I wanted more,” Sanderson said.

Meeting his wife Sandra in 2006 brought him back to Guatemala and sparked the creation of White Buffalo Republic.

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The economic collapse of 2008 forced Sandra’s family to leave their home in Guatemala City and move to Chiquimula, Guatemala, where her father owned a restaurant that would later go out of business. Fernando Mora, Jim’s father-in-law, asked him what products would sell in the U.S. in hopes of finding a new source of income.

“I made the offhanded comment that my leather bag I’d bought on my mission always attracted attention,” said Sanderson, whose in-laws spent what little savings they had on 20 cheaply constructed bags and expected him to make a return on their investment.

“I was tired of these skilled workers doubting themselves,” Sanderson said. “I’ve owned name-brand leather bags and those from Guatemala were comparable, if not better. I wanted to show them that they ‘can’ and bring them access to the rest of the world.”

Sanderson made a trip to Guatemala in March of 2011 to visit with the marroquineros and develop a basic, high-quality leather bag design. With the help of his family-in-law, he sought an instructor to teach them to develop a simple, reliable leather bag.

Inspired by those carried by early Rocky Mountain explorers, Sanderson and his team developed their first bag, “Basica” that is now sold as the “Alpine.”

By the end of 2011, White Buffalo Republic was an established business with clientele from America and across the world, including Singapore, Russia, and Wales. Set up as a cooperative, all 16 craftsmen receive a share of the company profits giving them a high quality of living far greater than if they were selling directly to tourists in Guatemala.

White Buffalo Republic sells about 60 bags per month, all made to order, and typically take four days each to create. The satchels are made from full-grain, natural vegetable-tanned leather from Guatemala to boost the local economy.

Like the animals the hides came from, each bag is unique with characters such as brand marks, insect bites, and scars. Hides are cleaned and dyed with natural oils and waxes to produce a durable finish without sacrificing the original integrity of the hide. White Buffalo Republic’s craftsmen hand cut, sew, and assemble each bag with as many as 1,700 stitches.

Based on attention to detail and pride in the product, White Buffalo Republic bags are intentionally simple with ease of use in mind. Each bag echoes designs of those used by early explorers and reflect the wild, western traits of Wyoming’s landscape.

White Buffalo Republic goods are functional works of art that carry more than just a laptop or notebook. They carry the spirit of the craftsmen and value of hard work.
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**AMUSE-BOUCHE**

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

The seven deadly sins of the restaurant

**BY SCOTT MECHURA**

EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

For years, maître d’ Ben Chekroun at New York City’s Le Bernardin has reined in new servers with his list of 129 cardinal sins of “Monumentally Magnificent Trivialities.” I have distilled my list down to seven sins that can be devastating to your restaurant.

**Filthy bathrooms.** Years ago, I had an uncle who collected classic cars. He took me under his wing and coached me on, among other things, how the previous owner maintained his vehicle. His indicator was how clean the trunk was. Look at the cleanliness of a restaurant’s bathrooms and you will have a pretty accurate indicator of how they run their restaurant.

**No salt and pepper shakers on tables.** As a chef, tables with no salt and pepper shakers are a sign of arrogance. It says you are impervious to mistakes or criticism. Cold food is cold food, but seasoning is subjective. Maybe your guest would prefer more salt than you chose to initially season the dish with. If you allow substitutions, then you allow salt and pepper shakers on the table.

**Rushed service.** I once dined at a new restaurant that a friend in the wine business said we absolutely had to try. It was one of her accounts and the owner was dying to entertain us. This restaurant was all the buzz; a much sought-after reservation. Clouded by their anxiety to impress, they botched one basic aspect of our overall experience. Every course was forced on us before we were done with the preceding one. The quality of the food was completely overshadowed by the “expedient” service.

**Questioning the guest.** On a trip to Las Vegas, my wife Carrie and I once had a dining experience that still has people shaking their heads when I tell the story. Carrie ordered a salad that was supposed to have walnuts. It initially appeared there were no walnuts. Upon closer inspection, however, her salad did contain a few walnuts beneath the lettuce. The only problem was that the waiter conducted the inspection with Carrie’s fork. We did not tip 20 percent.

**Not writing it down.** You see it all the time: your server approaches the table to take your order with nothing to write on. You make a mental note of your group’s size, and you just know something will be incorrect. A bartender merely turns around to begin your drinks seconds after leaving you. Your server may experience many other distractions on his or her way to the computer, and your order is almost inevitably wrong.

**Confusing service with servitude.** We recently visited some friends in Santa Monica, Calif., where we patronized a few restaurants. When you live in a community as small and off the beaten path as Big Sky, you often get the feeling we play second or even third fiddle to the “big city.” In all three establishments, the poor service made me re-realize the warmth and friendliness of Buck’s T-4, but also Big Sky in general.

**Slow food, wrong food.** Like many quality, high-volume restaurants that generally run like a Swiss watch, Buck’s is not immune to slow service or slow food at times. We realize that occasionally, slowness happens. But don’t compound that by not preparing your guest’s food to their liking after they’ve already been waiting too long.

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.
Explore Big Sky

By Jackie Rainford Corcoran
EBS Health Columnist

Dr. William Li’s TED Talk titled “Can we eat to starve cancer?” is an inspiration, and by walking us through the complex subject of angiogenesis, he makes a strong argument that we can eat to starve cancer.

Angiogenesis simply means the formation and development of blood vessels, and according to Dr. Li, we develop the necessary amount of blood vessels we need throughout life while in the womb, with a few exceptions. New blood vessels line the uterus in women during menstruation and in pregnancy they form the placenta. After injury, new blood vessels form under the skin to create a scab.

The system works on checks and balances. When we need new blood vessels, stimulators are released from preexisting blood cells and when we no longer do, inhibitors are released to prune them back, returning us to our baseline.

If this system is disrupted however, myriad problems can occur. Dr. Li says that abnormal angiogenesis is the root of 70 major diseases. In this column, we’ll focus on how this affects cancer.

Medical scientist Judah Folkman founded the field of angiogenesis research in 1971. He noted that we commonly have microscopic cancer cells in our body but they do not pose a threat and most can’t grow beyond a microscopic size without a blood supply. Folkman called this “cancer without disease.”

But cancer cells have the ability to release what Dr. Li calls “natural fertilizers.” These draw a blood supply to the cancer cells, which then delivers the oxygen and nutrients they need for growth. Unfortunately, by the time these nourished cancer cells are detectable, they have often metastasized to a point that is challenging to cure and potentially lethal.

Dr. Li, excited by the possibility of curing cancer by stopping angiogenesis from feeding cancer cells using antiangiogenic therapy was still unsatisfied with his success rate as the cancer is often found too late. This caused him to dig deeper.

Li asked himself: “Could the answer to cancer be preventing angiogenesis by beating cancer at its own game so it can never become dangerous?” He learned that 90-95 percent of cancers are “environmentally caused” and of those, 30-35 percent are caused by diet.

This led to Li’s quest for cancer prevention through diet. “… what we have discovered is that Mother Nature has laced a large number of foods and beverages and herbs with naturally occurring inhibitors of angiogenesis,” he says.

Cancer preventing agents are found in foods that are readily available, are effective when eaten in reasonable amounts and are in their natural state. In other words, these foods are potent anti-cancer agents without being consumed in heavy-duty concentrations or in pill form. We can get them while eating a delicious meal. They are proving to be as therapeutic – and in some cases, more so – than pharmaceuticals.

Here is a list of some antiangiogenic foods, beverages and herbs that help prevent cancer cells from growing: apples, avocados, blueberries, grapefruit, broccoli, carrots, onions, lettuce, tomatoes, spinach, zucchini, cocoa powder, tomato sauce, soy sauce, almonds, walnuts, brown rice, quinoa, oats, black and green tea, red wine, turmeric and garlic.

For the most current scientific evidence and a complete list of antiangiogenic foods and recipes, visit Dr. Li’s website eat2beat.org and I encourage you to watch his TED Talk “Can we eat to starve cancer?”

Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach, a public speaker and health activist. Contact her at rainfordcorcoran@gmail.com.
One of the more devastating injuries we see coming off the ski hill is a fracture involving the knee joint, also known as a tibial plateau fracture. It’s much more likely to be seen in skiers than in snowboarders, and almost always requires surgery.

The knee joint is made up of three bones: the femur (thigh bone), tibia (shin or lower leg bone), and patella (knee cap). The joint itself basically consists of the widened and flattened ends of the femur and tibia held together by ligaments, tendons, and other soft tissues.

The joint is lined with cartilage covering the end of the femur as a solid coating, and formed into two disks – the medial and lateral menisci – on the upper surface of the tibia. This tibial joint surface and the upper tibial bone substance are what get damaged in this injury.

Every ski season, we average more than one tibial plateau fracture per week. This season, we didn’t see this injury through the first seven weeks, but then we had three in the last week of January. It’s hard to explain, except that the overall number of all knee injuries increased at the same time. I’m guessing it was a result of warmer weather making for thicker snow, which is more likely to catch a skier off guard than dry powder.

The mechanism of injury that produces this fracture varies, including a twisting fall, a tumble or cartwheel that causes the knee to buckle severely, and rapid deceleration when hitting a tree. The type of twist that produces an ACL tear – which is a much more common injury – can also produce a tibial plateau fracture, and the ACL itself is often torn when the plateau is fractured.

When the tibial plateau is broken, the knee swells immediately, because of bleeding into the joint. Most people will be instantly disabled and in a great deal of pain, while a rare few are able to get up and ski down the mountain.

Of the three tibial plateau fractures that we’ve seen this winter, only one was severe. It occurred in an expert skier from South Dakota, at the end of the day when the light was flat, causing him to misjudge a turn. As he fell, his friend skiing with him heard a crack, and ski patrol had to sled him down. His X-ray looked like a chain saw cut vertically through his knee.

The next two unlucky skiers had milder damage to the knee joint, where it took an experienced eye to not only suspect the fracture on examination, but to even see it on X-ray. One of these patients, thinking he wasn’t badly injured, wanted to limp out of the office, and I had to talk him into getting the knee X-rayed. It’s lucky that I did, because the last thing you want to do is bear weight on a knee with a tibial plateau fracture.

Surgery is needed to repair the knee in this type of injury, but it’s not considered an emergency like a severe boot-top fracture of the tibia and fibula. Most patients can wait a couple of days, as long as the knee is immobilized and crutches are used to keep weight off the leg. A CT scan is necessary to map out all the details of the damaged bone.

The worst thing about a tibial plateau fracture is that even in the best of hands, it is not likely the knee joint will return to 100 percent normal. I’m glad this is not a common injury.
Coal projects advance but won't be final under moratorium

BY MATTHEW BROWN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CASPER, Wyo. – U.S. officials on Jan. 27 cleared the way for a review of two mining projects that would dig up 644 million tons of coal from public lands, despite a recent government moratorium halting federal coal sales.

Wyoming, Montana and U.S. Bureau of Land Management officials approved moving forward with a multiyear evaluation of the projects located next to existing mines in the states’ Powder River Basin, the nation’s largest coal-producing region.

The Jan. 15 moratorium from the Obama administration allows coal sale applications to be reviewed but blocks their final approval pending a sweeping review of the federal coal program, expected to take three years.

Industry opponents had urged officials to block the applications. They cited concerns over climate change and other environmental effects from burning coal and questioned if taxpayers were getting a fair deal in a program that has sold more than $2.2 billion of coal since President Barack Obama took office, at prices below $1 per ton in many cases.

While the administration has aired similar concerns, the Jan. 27 vote indicates it remains unwilling for now to shut down a program that gives private companies cheap access to massive coal reserves in the Western U.S. and provides significant revenue to states.

Gillette, Wyoming-based Cloud Peak Energy and Lighthouse Resources Inc. of Salt Lake City are seeking the coal applications. Company representatives said it was crucial that work start soon on their applications in order to have coal available for mining in future years, when current reserves are depleted.

Lighthouse Resources wants to increase its annual production from 3 million tons to as much as 15 million tons at its Decker Mine in southeastern Montana, environmental manager Jordan Sweeney said. The company wants to export the fuel through new coal ports proposed on the West Coast.

Cloud Peak’s Antelope Mine produces coal for U.S. markets and would continue to do so with the additional fuel it’s seeking, said Blake Jones, the mine’s technical services manager.

The company submitted an application involving another federal coal tract in 2005, and it was approved only last year, Jones said. Most of that coal likely will be mined by the time a decision is made on the latest application, he said.

“With this long of a process, we need to move forward to get it started,” Jones said.

Greenpeace, the Sierra Club, WildEarth Guardians and other environmental groups said power plants burning the coal sought by Cloud Peak and Lighthouse Resources would generate over 1 billion tons of carbon dioxide gas, the main contributor to global warming.

“We know the federal coal system is broken. President Obama has called for a deep review of the program, and the world is turning to clean energy,” said Diana Best with Greenpeace USA.

A shift in the industry’s fortunes reached a critical juncture last year, when cheaper natural gas overtook coal to become the dominant fuel used to generate electricity in the U.S.

In response to the declining demand, coal mining companies had sharply scaled back their pursuit of new leases even before the moratorium.

In November, Peabody Energy and Arch coal – the two largest U.S. coal mining companies – withdrew applications to lease almost 2 billion tons of coal in Wyoming. Other companies have asked federal officials to delay sales on three leases totaling 668 million tons.

Yellowstone sued over bison slaughter restrictions

BILLINGS (AP) – A wildlife advocate and a freelance journalist sued the National Park Service Jan. 26 to gain access to a program that ships Yellowstone National Park bison to slaughter.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Wyoming comes as federal and state officials plan to kill up to 900 bison this winter through slaughter and hunting. It’s part of a much-criticized effort to reduce the size of the park’s bison herds, in order to protect livestock in Montana from the disease brucellosis.

During the capture operations, portions of the park near its border with Montana are closed as bison attempt to migrate in search of food at lower elevations in Montana. Public access also is restricted at a large corral that holds bison destined for slaughter.

Those restrictions violate free speech protections under the First Amendment by limiting access for journalists and the public, according to the lawsuit.

The plaintiffs in the case are Stephany Seay with the Buffalo Field Campaign and New York-based freelance journalist Christopher Ketcham. They’re being represented by attorneys with the Animal Legal Defense Fund; a private Wyoming law firm, Fuller, Sandefer and Associates; and two constitutional law professors from the University of Denver.

The attorneys wrote that the park’s restrictions amount to censorship of those trying to draw attention to the slaughter program in an effort to change it.

Yellowstone spokeswoman Sandra Snell-Dobert said the restrictions are meant to protect park workers and the public. Moving and sorting bison can be dangerous, particularly within the narrow confines of the corrals, Snell-Dobert said.

The lawsuit says such safety claims are exaggerated and that access to the corrals was routinely allowed until 2006, with no reports of anyone being injured.
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4,268 SQ FT / .75 ACRES
End of cul-de-sac location
$1,500,000

Lot 119 Old Barn Road / Spanish Peaks Mountain Club
3.13 ACRES
Creekside location with mountain views
$450,000

Lot 338* / Yellowstone Club
14.6 ACRES
$4,950,000
Yellowstone Ranch Preserve

- Nine ranch lots on 753 acres on the Horse Butte Peninsula of Hebgen Lake
- Private Marina with over one-mile of shoreline
- Bordered by Forest Service lands
- Five miles from Yellowstone National Park
- Six miles from Yellowstone Airport
- Whiskey Jug Cabin:
  - 3 bedrooms / 2 bathrooms

Yellowstone Ranch Preserve is being offered in its entirety for the first time at $19,500,000

Contact us to schedule a tour.
Yellowstone Club Ski Properties

**Lot 86 Andesite Ridge Road** / Yellowstone Club
2.64 ACRES
Alpine and Nordic ski access lot
$3,300,000

**Lot 144A Pumice Road** / Yellowstone Club
2 ACRES
Ski access lot with mountain views
$2,650,000

**River Runs Through It** / Yellowstone Club
7 bedrooms, 10 bathrooms
15,349 SQ FT / 2.88 ACRES
Ski-in, Ski-out location with great views
$13,000,000

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

**River Runs Through It** / Yellowstone Club
7 bedrooms, 10 bathrooms
15,349 SQ FT / 2.88 ACRES
Ski-in, Ski-out location with great views
$13,000,000

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

**River Runs Through It** / Yellowstone Club
7 bedrooms, 10 bathrooms
15,349 SQ FT / 2.88 ACRES
Ski-in, Ski-out location with great views
$13,000,000

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

**River Runs Through It** / Yellowstone Club
7 bedrooms, 10 bathrooms
15,349 SQ FT / 2.88 ACRES
Ski-in, Ski-out location with great views
$13,000,000

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

**River Runs Through It** / Yellowstone Club
7 bedrooms, 10 bathrooms
15,349 SQ FT / 2.88 ACRES
Ski-in, Ski-out location with great views
$13,000,000

**Treehouse Condo at Warren Miller Lodge** / Yellowstone Club
4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms / 2,191 SQ FT
Rare opportunity to own slopeside at the Warren Miller Lodge
$11,500,000
Big Sky - This year marks the 10th anniversary of the highly anticipated Big Sky Big Grass music festival, but it’s the first year legendary banjo master Béla Fleck augments the increasingly impressive lineup of musicians. The 2016 Big Grass lineup is sure to cause some serious snowmelt on the mountain at Big Sky Resort during the first weekend of February.

Fleck is renowned for elevating the banjo from its hillbilly roots and expertly showcasing the instrument’s versatility and respectability across musical genres ranging from classical to funk, jazz, world, and even ‘80s pop. Fleck will appear on stage with a relatively new touring partner, wife and fellow banjo player Abigail Washburn.

Washburn plays in the rhythmic old time strumming style called clawhammer. Combined with Fleck’s plucky three-finger picking and overlaid with Washburn’s soulful, torchy vocals, they create a moving tapestry of sound that rushes and ripples, bounces and bobbles, as if flowing over a stony river bottom.

Washburn’s name might not be known in as many households as her husband’s, but her musical prowess stands on its own merits – perhaps most notably as a longtime member of the all ‘g’earl’ touring band Uncle Earl. Her insistence on building a career independent of Fleck’s is one of the reasons the couple waited so many years to make their musical partnership official.

It wasn’t until the birth of their son Juno in 2013 that Fleck and Washburn decided the best way to preserve their family unit was to play together more, so they hit the road as a husband and wife team, baby in tow.

“The duo has turned out to be good for our marriage, because we look for consensus and find ways to accommodate each other’s point of view in the music and our relationship,” Fleck wrote in a January email. “I think Abby brings out a musical and heartfelt side of me, while I ask things of her technically that she hasn’t done before on a regular basis.”

Fleck says he challenges Washburn to be his “Yang,” and she challenges him to be the “Yin” of the duo.

At Big Sky Big Grass, expect to hear tracks off the duo’s eponymous 2014 debut album, a characteristically eclectic collection of Appalachian murder ballads, gospel, chamber and blues.

Fleck and Washburn are looking forward to plucking their stuff during their Saturday evening performance at Big Grass.

“arly,” and the sun sets, the mountains in winter to play music,” Fleck said. “My road manager hates me for it. ‘Florida in the winter; mountains in the summer’ is his mantra to me. But the way it feels to bring the music to the people in those places in the winter is very special.”

And Fleck says they’re excited to be performing along with the other musicians in the lineup, some of whom are “very dear lifelong friends.”

Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn perform at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7 in Big Sky Resort’s Missouri Ballroom. Béla Fleck and Abigail Washburn perform at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7 in Big Sky Resort’s Missouri Ballroom.

Visit bigskybiggrass.com for a complete schedule of performances and ticket information.
Tim Kent
Commercial Lender and Branch Manager
O: 406.556.3215 | C: 406.223.9573
tkent@bigskybank.com

Brett Evertz
Real Estate Loan Officer
55 Lone Peak Drive | Big Sky, Montana
O: 406.556.3214 | C: 406.629.0132
bevertz@bigskybank.com    NMLS #523473

Member FDIC   Equal Housing Lender
FRIDAY
FEB. 5

MONTANA JACK
3:30 p.m.
“Regional Band Showcase”

3:30-5:30 p.m.
Gallatin Grass Project

LATE NIGHT AT THE JACK
10:00 - 11:15 p.m.
Kitchen Dwellers

11:30 - 1:00 p.m.
Front Country

CARABINER LOUNGE
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
The Good Time Travelers

8:30 - 11:00 p.m.
Tyler Grant

CHETS BAR
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Two Bit Franks

MISSOURI BALLROOM
Doors open 5:30 p.m.

6:00 - 7:15 p.m.
Billy Strings

7:30 -8:45 p.m.
Frank Solivan & Dirty Kitchen

9:00-10:30 p.m.
The Travelin’ McCourys

SATURDAY
FEB. 6

MONTANA JACK
3:30 p.m.
“Regional Band Showcase”

3:30-5:30 p.m.
Two Bit Franks

LATE NIGHT AT THE JACK
10:30-11:45 p.m.
Front Country

12:00 -1:30 p.m.
Drew Emmit Band

CARABINER LOUNGE
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Tyler Grant

8:30 - 11:00 p.m.
The Good Time Travelers

CHETS BAR
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
The Good Time Travelers

MISSOURI BALLROOM
Doors open 5:30 p.m.

6:30 -7:45 p.m.
Bela and Abigail

8:00 - 9:15 p.m.
David Grisman Bluegrass Experience

9:30-11:00 p.m.
Sam Bush Band

SUNDAY
FEB. 7

MONTANA JACK
3:30 p.m.
“Regional Band Showcase”

MISSOURI BALLROOM
Doors open 7:00 p.m.

7:30 - 8:15 p.m.
Big Grass Jam

8:30 p.m.
Drew Emmit Band

9:45 p.m.
Jeff Austin Band

11:00 p.m.
Keller Williams with The Travelin’ McCourys

TICKETS FOR ALL NIGHTS CAN BE PURCHASED AT: BIGSKYRESORT.COM/BIGGRASS

Bill Payne sits in with Montana-based bluegrass band the Two Bit Franks during the 2015 Big Sky Big Grass Festival. PHOTO BY WES OVERVOLD
The San Francisco Chronicle calls IGN “one of the most important showcases for contemporary finger stylists.”

The Boston Globe calls Solas “the finest Celtic ensemble this country has ever produced,” while the Wall Street Journal notes that the band “has electrified crowds everywhere it has played: it’s an Irish traditional band bearing all the marks of greatness.”

TICKETS & MORE INFORMATION: BIGSKYARTS.ORG / 995-2742
Skiing with horsepower
320 Guest Ranch hosts sixth-annual skijoring competition

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – Equestrian skijoring, with its mix of horseman skills and skier stoke, has found a welcome home 12 miles south of Big Sky at the 320 Guest Ranch. The event returns to the ranch for the sixth consecutive year, Feb. 6 and 7.

During an equestrian skijoring race, a horseback rider pulls a skier through an obstacle course in a timed run. There are other versions of skijoring that involve mules, dogs, bikes and snowmobiles.

Skijoring – which comes from a Norwegian term meaning “ski driving” – wasn’t very common when the ranch started hosting races in 2011.

“There were only a few events [in the U.S.],” said Megan Coppola, 320’s marketing coordinator and dining room manager. “Now it’s very popular and it’s spread nationally.”

Although the 320 race isn’t one of its sanctioned events, the North American Ski Joring Association was established in 1999 to advance the sport. NASJA races are currently held in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado and New Mexico. Next year, Utah and Arizona will be added to the list.

“I really think that once you see it, and especially once you do it, you really get into it,” said NASJA president and skijoring competitor Scott Ping, referencing the sport’s growth.

“A lot of these teams will work the circuit – rodeo in the summer and skijoring in the winter,” Coppola said. “Jackson, Red Lodge, Whitefish, 320 – they can honestly hit a skijoring event every weekend.”

Skiers will navigate a series of slalom gates, 2- to 3-foot jumps and banked turns on 320’s 400-yard course. Time penalties are given for a missed turn or jump. “You want to have the fastest, cleanest run,” Coppola said.

Successful teams have riders who skillfully adjust their horse’s speed and work their horse across the course, Coppola said, as well skiers who manage their speed by taking in or paying out slack in the rope.

Coppola said they won’t know how much money this year’s winning team will walk away with until registration is complete, but last year’s total payout was $1,900.

Typically the skier and rider work together prior to the event, but last year’s winning team in the open division – the most competitive category – met at the event and left with $635.

The combination of horses, skiers, speed and jumps tends to result in a fair amount of carnage, but a search and rescue team will be on hand to assist with medical treatment if needed.

“It damn near killed me three times,” Ping said of skijoring events he’s competed in. “I can’t tell you all the injuries I’ve had doing this sport, but I keep doing it because I love it.”

As with previous years, a local brewery and distillery will offer tastings of their products both days – Red Lodge Ales and Bozeman Spirits will also be on hand Saturday night at the 320 banquet hall, where Bozeman-based Rocky Mountain Pearls will play country tunes.

Registration opens Saturday, Feb. 6 and both days of racing, as well as the Rocky Mountain Pearls concert, are free for spectators. Visit 320ranch.com/activities for more information.
Big Sky
FRIDAY, FEB. 5
Open Skate
Town Center Ice Rink, 12-11 p.m.

Big Sky Big Grass Festival
Big Sky Resort, all day

SATURDAY, FEB. 6
Open Skate
Town Center Ice Rink, 12-11 p.m.

Skijoring
320 Guest Ranch, 1 p.m.

Rocky Mountain Pears
320 Guest Ranch, 8 p.m.

Big Sky Big Grass Festival
Big Sky Resort, all day

Josh Moore
Gallatin River House, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEB. 7
Open Skate
Town Center Ice Rink, 12-6 p.m.

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

Skijoring
320 Guest Ranch, 11 a.m.

Big Sky Big Grass Festival
Big Sky Resort, all day

MONDAY, FEB. 8
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.

Lauren Jackson & Jeff Bellino
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Dan Dubuque
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 9
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, 5-6 p.m.

Kenny Diamond
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Dave Liles
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Rocky Mountain Pears
Gallatin River House, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 13
Open Skate
Town Center Ice Rink, 12-11 p.m.

Subaru Preferred Parking Day
Big Sky Resort, all day

Transworld Snowboarding
Transam
Big Sky Resort, 8 a.m.

Diamond
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Mike Haring
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

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

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

Subaru Preferred Parking Day
Big Sky Resort, all day

On Mountain Church Services
Big Sky Resort 1:30 p.m.

On Mountain Church Services
Big Sky Resort, all day

Parking Day
Subaru Preferred

THURSDAY, FEB. 18
Carabiner Lounge, 8:30 p.m.

Mike Haring
Carabiner Lounge, 8:30 p.m.

International Guitar Night
WMFAC, 7:30 p.m.

Load Bearing Walls
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Kids Clinic
Town Center Ice Rink, 12-4:40 p.m.

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

Kronos Quartet
WMFAC, 7:30 p.m.

Kant Johnson
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Lauren Jackson & Jeff Bellino
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Dan Dubuque
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 16
Open Skate
Town Center Ice Rink, 12-5 p.m.

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

Level 1
Avalanche course
Big Sky Resort, 5:30-9:30 p.m.

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

Big Sky Transportation Advisory Meeting
Big Sky Water & Sewer, 1 p.m.

Kenny Diamond
Montana Jack, 3-30 p.m.

Mike Haring
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Montana Menouche Deo
Chets Bar & Grill, 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17
Open Skate
Town Center Ice Rink, 12-11 p.m.

Wine Wednesday
Montana Jack, 3-30 p.m.

Kids Clinic
Town Center Ice Rink, 12-11 p.m.

Kids Clinic
Town Center Ice Rink, 12-6 p.m.

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

Subaru Preferred Parking Day
Big Sky Resort, all day

Lauren Jackson & Jeff Bellino
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Dan Dubuque
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 16
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.

Big Sky Transportation Advisory Meeting
Big Sky Water & Sewer, 1 p.m.

Kenny Diamond
Montana Jack, 3-30 p.m.

Mike Haring
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Montana Menouche Deo
Chets Bar & Grill, 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17
Open Skate
Town Center Ice Rink, 12-11 p.m.

Wine Wednesday
Montana Jack, 3-30 p.m.

Kids Clinic
Town Center Ice Rink, 12-11 p.m.

Kids Clinic
Town Center Ice Rink, 12-6 p.m.

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

Subaru Preferred Parking Day
Big Sky Resort, all day

Lauren Jackson & Jeff Bellino
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Dan Dubuque
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 16
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.

Big Sky Transportation Advisory Meeting
Big Sky Water & Sewer, 1 p.m.

Kenny Diamond
Montana Jack, 3-30 p.m.

Mike Haring
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Montana Menouche Deo
Chets Bar & Grill, 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17
Open Skate
Town Center Ice Rink, 12-11 p.m.

Wine Wednesday
Montana Jack, 3-30 p.m.

Kids Clinic
Town Center Ice Rink, 12-11 p.m.
SUNDAY, FEB. 14
Cirque du Cœur
Roskin' TJ Ranch, 6 p.m.
Russ Chapman
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.
Open Mic
Hautafa, 10:30 p.m.
MONDAY, FEB. 15
Indigenous Eric
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.
Improv on the Verge
Verge Theater, 7 p.m.
TUESDAY, FEB. 16
MSU Awards for Excellence
MSU SUB Ballroom, 5:30 p.m.
Life Drawing
Emerson Culture Center, 6 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17
Pickin' in the parks
Story Mansion, 6:30 p.m.
Bingo
American Legion, 7 p.m.
SUNDAY, FEB. 14
Livingston & Paradise Valley
FRIDAY, FEB. 5
The Vibe Techs
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.
Gun Show
Park County Fairgrounds, 2-7 p.m.
SATURDAY, FEB. 6
Local Yokel
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.
Aaron Banfield
Katahdin Brewing, 5:30 p.m.
Gun Show
Park County Fairgrounds, 9-6 p.m.
MONDAY, FEB. 7
Gun Show
Park County Fairgrounds, 9-3 p.m.
TUESDAY, FEB. 8
Danny Bee
Murray Bar, 5 p.m.
Bluegrass Jam
Katahdin Brewing, 5:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, FEB. 10
World's Finest
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.
Ford Bozzer
Katahdin Brewing, 5:30 p.m.
SATURDAY, FEB. 12
Sometime Miss Pray
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.
Boots and Buckles Ball
Park County Fairgrounds, 5:30 p.m.
Potluck & Jam Session
Senior Center, 1-5 p.m.
Robin Hoed
Shane Center, 2 & 5 p.m.
TUESDAY, FEB. 15
Bluegrass Jam
Katahdin Brewing, 5:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 16
Beef for a cause: Trout Unlimited
Katahdin Brewing, 5:30 p.m.
Livingston Film Series
Shane Center, 6-30 p.m.
THURSDAY, FEB. 17
John Derado
Katahdin Brewing, 5:30 p.m.
FRIDAY, FEB. 18
Chess Club
Public Library, 4 p.m.
SUNDAY, FEB. 13
West Yellowstone
FRIDAY, FEB. 5
Chess Club
Public Library, 4 p.m.
MONDAY, FEB. 8
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY, FEB. 9
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, FEB. 11
Adult Co-Ed Volleyball
School Gym, 7 p.m.
Keit Night
Send It Home, 6-8 p.m.
Yoga for Everyone
Povah Center, 6-15 p.m.
FRIDAY, FEB. 12
Chess Club
Public Library, 4 p.m.
SUNDAY, FEB. 13
Winter Snowshoe Program
Helgen Lake Ranger Station, 1 p.m.
MONDAY, FEB. 14
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY, FEB. 15
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 16
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY, FEB. 17
Adult Co-Ed Volleyball
School Gym, 7 p.m.
Keit Night
Send It Home, 6-8 p.m.
Yoga for Everyone
Povah Center, 6-15 p.m.
FRIDAY, FEB. 18
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
Thank you Big Sky Community for our new playground equipment! With your efforts, this was possible!

Love, Morningstar
Learning Center’s Children
Film society brings ‘Trumbo,’ ‘Spotlight’ to The Ellen Theatre

BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY

The Bozeman Film Society continues its lively, independent film season on Tuesday, Feb. 9 with the must-see “Trumbo.”

The film has garnered numerous accolades, including an Academy Award Best Actor nomination for Bryan Cranston, who portrays the richly entertaining and notorious Dalton Trumbo – one of the greatest screenwriters in cinema history.

Directed by Jay Roach, “Trumbo” recounts how Dalton used words and wit to win two Academy Awards and expose the absurdity and injustice of the blacklist, which entangled everyone from gossip columnist Hedda Hopper – played by Helen Mirren – to John Wayne, Kirk Douglas and Otto Preminger.

Philadelphia Inquirer film critic Steven Rea called the film, “ ... a period piece full of colorful characters, natty costumes, jaunty music.”

“Trumbo” also features John Goodman, Elle Fanning, Louis C.K. and Diane Lane. The R-rated film runs 124 minutes.

On Wednesday, Feb. 17, Michael Keaton leads a strong ensemble cast in the critically acclaimed “Spotlight.” The film recounts the riveting true story behind the Pulitzer Prize-winning Boston Globe investigation that would rock the city – and cause a crisis in one of the world’s oldest and most trusted institutions.

When the newspaper’s tenacious “Spotlight” team of reporters delves into allegations of abuse in the Catholic Church, their yearlong investigation uncovers a decades-long cover up. The scandal reached the highest levels of Boston’s religious, legal, and government establishments, touching off a wave of revelations around the world.

Directed by Academy Award-nominee Tom McCarthy, “Spotlight” is a tense investigative dramatic thriller, tracing the steps to one of the biggest cover-ups in modern times. In addition to Keaton, the film stars Mark Ruffalo, Rachel McAdams, Liev Schreiber, Billy Crudup and Stanley Tucci, among others.

Nominated for six Academy Awards, “Spotlight” collected three Golden Globes and a Screen Actors Guild Award for Best Ensemble.

“‘Spotlight’ is a gripping detective story and a superlative newsroom drama,” according to The New York Times film critic A.O. Scott. Deadline film critic Pete Hammond calls the film, “Masterful, with a superb ensemble cast.” This R-rated film runs 127 minutes.

Both films begin at 7:30 p.m. at The Ellen Theatre on Main Street in Bozeman and tickets are available at theellentheatre.com; by calling The Ellen Theatre box office at (406) 585-5885; or by visiting the box office Wednesday through Saturday from 1-3 p.m., as well as two hours prior to the screening.

Visit bozemanfilmsoociety.org for more information about the Bozeman Film Society.

LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH

HAPPY HOUR

AT THE SALOON

APRES SKI FEATURED COCKTAIL OF THE DAY

NIGHTLY SPECIALS ON MONTANA DRAFTS AND WINES BY THE GLASS + NEW BAR MENU

3 to 6

LIVE MUSIC IN THE SALOON

MONDAYS - MONTANA EXIT 7 - 9 PM
WEDNESDAYS - JAMES SALESTROM 7 - 9 PM
FRIDAYS - TOM MARINO 7 - 9 PM
SATURDAYS - BRUCE ANFINSON 4 - 6 PM JULIE ROX 7 - 9 PM

MENU

MOSCOW MULE | VODKA, GINGER BEER, LIME JUICE
VELVET TODDY | BLACK VELVET, APPLE PUCKER, HONEY, LEMON JUICE
STEAK & FRIES | MONTANA ANGUS, FRIES, CHIMICHURRI
DUCK TENDERS & POUTINE | DUCK TENDERLOINS, GRAVY, TABASCO, FRIES

TO VIEW OUR FULL APRES SKI FOOD & BEVERAGE MENU, VISIT THE SALOON ON OUR WEBSITE.
On Feb. 13, the talented musicians from The Hawthorne Roots along with Wesley and the Revolving will take the stage at Lone Peak Brewery to deliver soulful performances of their rock/blues, and folk/bluegrass genres, respectively.

The Hawthorne Roots’ original songs combine the passion of soul music with revved-up rock and blues beats. Their fresh sound has gained recognition in Montana, earning them Bozeman Magazine’s Peoples’ Choice Awards for “Best New Local Band” and “Best Folk Performance.”

The style is defined by silvery vocals, tightly woven harmonies, and catchy melodies. The Hawthorne Roots consists of sisters Madeline and Emma Kelly, Montana transplants from the East Coast, who are backed by bassist Haley Ford, guitarist Lucas Mace, and drummer Michael Dejaynes.

Cinched up tight and tucked neatly behind the strings, Wesley and the Revolving cut heavily across the grain of the folk and bluegrass genres. Led by creator Wes Urbaniak’s song writing, WarR’s music is far from commonplace. According to Urbaniak, “It’s a hug and a grrrrr with a little bit of fur.”

The Feb. 13 Lone Peak Brewery show starts at 9 p.m. Call (406) 995-3939 for details.
The brewery is calling... and I must go!

Happy President's Day

IN THE END, IT'S NOT THE YEARS IN YOUR LIFE THAT COUNT.
IT'S THE LIFE IN YOUR YEARS.

~ABRAHAM LINCOLN
There's a pioneer in all of us.

Bringing you closer to Santosha (contentment) today...

There's a pioneer in all of us. Residential architecture inspired by breathtaking natural environments.
**A celebration of guitars in Big Sky**  
*International Guitar Night features four virtuosos*

**ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY**

The Arts Council of Big Sky kicks off its winter concert season with a celebration of fingerstyle acoustic guitar, when four acclaimed musicians share the stage at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on Thursday, Feb. 18.

“International Guitar Night” is one of the most popular touring showcases of guitar music, and features some of the hottest players in the world – including Lulo Reinhardt, the grand nephew of the famous Django Reinhardt. Brian Gore, Mike Dawes and Andre Krengel will also join Reinhardt on the WMPAC stage.

Since it began in 1995, this annual tour has been a forum for the world’s finest guitarists and composers to play their latest original songs and share musical ideas.

“We’ve been wanting to bring this international event to Big Sky for a long time,” said ACBS Executive Director Brian Hurlbut. “Not only will it showcase the excellent acoustics in the WMPAC theater, but it will be fun to watch. These four players are incredible.”

Gore is a San Francisco guitar poet that is gaining a reputation as one of the most interesting and influential performers of the next generation in fingerstyle guitar. His lyrical, understated compositions integrate classical and percussive techniques that display what the Los Angeles Times calls “a characterful bounce and spaciousness all his own.”

For Krengel, who was born in a small German village, playing guitar is a journey and music is a language that connects us to people without words. He is a versatile and virtuosic guitar player who is mainly self-taught, with his own unique style of playing. Krengel is also one of the foremost and prominent players in Germany.

Dawes released his debut single with Candyrat records in 2012, his international profile has exploded. The young performer’s virtuoso style, littered with subtle nuances and micro-techniques has earned the 24-year-old British guitarist massive international critical acclaim. Dawes’ stage show has a youthful energy and charisma that blows the lid off the traditional guitar concert.

Reinhardt is a third generation master from Germany, and has retained the incredible Reinhardt soul, speed and dexterity while updating the repertoire. Lulo has expanded on the legacy of his granduncle Django with Latin-flavored rhythms and melodies, and has attained a worldwide reputation for his varied projects over the years.

Visit warrenmillerpac.org to purchase tickets. For more information about International Guitar Night, call (406) 995-2742 or visit bigskyarts.org.

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**Winter 2016 Class Schedule**

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By Taylor-Ann Smith
EBS Graphic Designer

Find out what tunes we're bumpsing! 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.

One of my favorite features on the music streaming service Spotify is the “Discover Weekly” playlist. Spotify tracks the songs and artists you listen to and generates a weekly playlist catered to your taste as well as suggesting artists and albums you may enjoy.

While some of these songs I’ve heard before, the playlist mostly features artists outside the limelight and brings a fresh vibe to my music collection.

The tracks below are from my most recent Discover Weekly playlist that I jammed to while designing this issue of Explore Big Sky.

1. “Circles feat. Vanic,” machineheart
2. “VYVA,” WITHOUT
3. “Nightfall,” Louis Vivet
4. “Cry Baby,” The Neighborhood
5. “Collected My Love feat. Alex Newell - Mat Zo Remix,” The Knocks
7. “I Need You,” Toto Box
10. “It’s Strange,” Louis The Child

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

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American Life in Poetry: Column 567

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

A friend told me recently that he tries to keep in touch with people he’s known even though they don’t put any effort into doing that themselves. Here’s William Trowbridge, who lives in Missouri, making an effort. His most recent book is “Put This On, Please.”

Long Distance to My Old Coach

By William Trowbridge

The reception’s not bad, across 50 years, though his voice has lost its boot-camp timbre. He’s in his 80’s now and, in a recent photo, looks it, so bald and pale and hard to see behind the tallowing of flesh. Posing with friends, he’s the only one who has to sit—the man three of us couldn’t pin. “The Hugger,” they christened him before my class arrived—for his bearlike shape and his first name, Hugh.

He fostered even us, the lowly track squad. “Mr. Morrison,” I still call him. “You were the speedster on the team, a flash,” he recalls with a chuckle. That’s where his memory of me fades. And what have I retained of him beyond the nickname, voice, and burly shape? The rest could be invention: memory and desire’s sleight-of-hand as we call up those we think we’ve known, to chat about the old days and the weather, bum hips and cholesterol, our small talk numbing as a dial tone, serious as prayer.


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Sudoku

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

![Sudoku grid](image)
The first families in Gallatin Basin

Pages from the 1910 census

BY AL LOCKWOOD

Homesteading got a late start in the Gallatin Basin, the area now known as Big Sky. The years 1865 to 1900 saw active settlement in other parts of Montana under the provisions of the Homestead Act of 1862 and later revisions to it, which gave settlers title to 160 acres of land for farming at little or no cost.

But it wasn’t until after the first true road was cut into the Gallatin Canyon in 1901 – to supply the Cooper Logging Camp in the Taylor Fork area – that ranchers began driving cattle up the logging road to the meadows of the Gallatin Basin. Once there, they built cabins and staked out their 160-acre homesteads.

If there were settlers in the basin in 1900, the U.S. Census Bureau didn’t send anyone to count them. However, by 1910 enough people lived and worked in the area that the government included them in the 13th federal census.

In May of that year, a census taker named Sadie Porter from Yellowstone County, Mont., counted 50 workers encamped along the Madison River just over the divide from the Gallatin Basin. These workers were employed by the Montana Reservoir and Irrigation Company, which built Hebgen Dam from 1910 to 1914.

The single page of Porter’s census is cataloged in the bureau’s 1910 records along with seven pages of data collected June 3-10 in Gallatin County, by a Bozeman farmer named Henry F. Cowherd.

Cowherd was assigned to count the settlers in the Gallatin Basin, which was designated by the Census Bureau as “Basin Precincts – Gallatin National Forest – School District No. 54.” Most of Cowherd’s workdays were likely spent on horseback, riding up rough dirt roads and into canyons looking for ranchers, lumbermen and prospectors.

On June 4, Cowherd documented the family of Augustus Franklin Crail on their homestead in the West Fork Meadow area. Two of the Crail homestead buildings still stand in Big Sky as part of the Crail Ranch Homestead Museum.

Only three of the 47 Gallatin Basin residents in 1910 were born on foreign soil: Chalisa Johnson, a farmer, was born in Sweden; Patrick Shien was a miner from Ireland; and Andrew Levinski, a miner born in Germany. All others were born in the U.S. or its territories, and 15 claimed Montana as their place of birth.

Levinski, a 51-year-old prospector who emigrated to the U.S. in 1872, would later become one of the most infamous people in the Gallatin Basin area.

In January 1917, Levinski shot and killed two prominent Gallatin County citizens as they rode to his mining camp along what is now called Levinski Creek, as told in Janet Cronin’s and Dorothy Levinski, Pete Karst and many others whose names appear in the 1910 census are told in Cronin and Vick’s “Montana’s Gallatin Canyon: A Gem in the Treasure State.” Levinski was angry over threats to take his mining claims. He was brought to trial and acquitted, and shortly thereafter disappeared from the area and was never seen again.

On June 6, 1910, the same day he counted Levinski, Cowherd recorded Tom Michener and his family, whose descendants lived in Gallatin Canyon until recently. Tom’s daughter is the author Dorothy Michener Vick whose history of the canyon, written in collaboration with Cronin, is still popular today.

On June 7, Cowherd tabulated the Lytle family – William, known as “Billy,” and his wife Etta, known as “Pearl,” who was blind but a very capable and independent woman. After marrying Billy, she was so good at handling her household chores and cooking for the hunting parties that few realized that she couldn’t see, according to Cronin and Vick.

On June 10, 1910, his last day of census taking in the Gallatin Basin, Cowherd documented the Karst household. Pete Karst, age 34 from Wisconsin, is listed simply as “farmer,” but, Karst was the original entrepreneur of the canyon. He developed transportation services, established lodging and restaurants, and even set up an early ski run across from his cabins along the Gallatin River in Karst Camp, a few miles north of Big Sky.

The stories of the Crails, Micheners, Lytles, Andrew Levinski, Pete Karst and many others whose names appear in the 1910 census are told in Cronin and Vick’s “Montana’s Gallatin Canyon,” as well as “Images of America: Big Sky,” by Jeff Strickler and Anne Marie Mistretta.

Al Lockwood spends his summers in Big Sky and is a past chair of the Historic Crail Ranch Conservators. Visit crailranch.org for more information on the history and people of Big Sky’s early days.
Ski Tips: Stay compacted in the steep and narrow

BY DAN EGAN

Ski conditions and terrain vary, and you need to be quick on your edges to adjust to these changes.

In steep and narrow terrain, such as chutes and couloirs, stay compact so you can react from turn to turn. By staying low and centered over your skis you’ll be in a better position to respond to the puzzle of tight, narrow spaces and explore more of the mountain.

Let’s start from the top – have a plan before you drop in and ski these spots in sections. Tell yourself how many turns it will take to get to the next narrow zone and pick out locations to stop and evaluate your situation.

Remember, you don’t want to arc or carve on the steeps because this will create acceleration and usually that speed will take you across the slope, rather than down the mountain.

When you drop in, don’t try to turn – just traverse in and stop. To do this, keep your shoulders slightly countered to the slope and reach forward with your hands to keep your body over your feet, while setting your edges into the snow.

Next, keep your eyes focused down the fall line. Remember, you go where you look, so look where you want to go. If you want to go downhill, don’t look across the slope in the direction of your ski tips, instead look down and through the really tight areas.

Once you’re settled and comfortable on the steep slope, make your first turn with confidence. Pole plants are an important part of the stance and are the foundation of steep skiing. Plant your pole down the fall line and reach out from your body as far as you can – this will keep your center of gravity over your feet and place you in a position to make a short, quick turn.

As you plant your pole, unweight your skis by slightly popping up and retract your feet under your butt, swing them around, and land on the new downhill edges. Keep your eyes looking down the fall line and make sure your shoulders and hands remain counter to the slope and facing down the mountain.

Once you’ve made the first turn, repeat. The rest will come more easily.

A common mistake in steep skiing is to allow your uphill hand to touch the slope. If you do this, you’ll bend at the waist and lose the advantage of skiing with a strong core. Your skis will also accelerate and travel across, rather than down, the fall line.

Practice these techniques on a steep, open slope before attempting the narrows. Traverse into an imaginary alleyway, get settled on the slope, make a turn and stop. See if you can do this without additional traversing or drifting across the fall line.

Progress by making one turn then add more as your confidence grows.

Steeper and narrow places add to the adventure of skiing, and if you remain compact you’ll have an easier time side slipping over ice and side stepping over exposed rocks.

Keep in mind that part of big mountain skiing is unlocking the puzzle of steep and narrow places, so forget about flawless technique.

Drop in safely, have fun and explore your own personal limits.

Extreme skiing pioneer Dan Egan has appeared in 12 Warren Miller Ski films and countless others. Today he teaches clinics and guides trips at locations around the world including Big Sky, where he’ll be teaching March 3-5 and March 10-12. Find more ski tips from Dan Egan at skiclinics.com/education/skitips.
As a skier, you dream of this.

This is the moment you recount again and again, to anyone who will listen at bars, over dinner, and around campfires. People may be sick of hearing about it, but you find it creeping into conversations over and over.

This is the best ski run of your life.

I hit my high-water mark in mid-January, at Baldface Lodge outside of Nelson, British Columbia, high in the Selkirk Range.

In some sort of skier’s divine intervention, the conditions lined up perfectly. Ten centimeters of snow fell two days before we arrived, then 15 centimeters the following day – all on top of a 6-foot base with great stability. This part of Canada is often socked in during the winter, but for some reason, the sun decided to show its face on this day.

My adrenaline was jacked as we stood at the top of Baldface Peak. The high summits of multiple provincial parks poked their heads above the ever-shifting clouds snaking through the valleys below.

Then we see our line.

Beneath the tips of my skis, more than 2,000 feet of virgin snow lay from the top to the valley floor. I feel as if I’d dreamt of this before, but now the wind is cold, the sun is bright, and I am actually here.

We drop in, rapidly gaining speed. The west face of Baldface Peak shows itself, as a completely untouched canvas below. At the same time that I want to make small, jumpy powder turns, the urge to open up the throttle and make sweeping giant slalom turns over-takes me.

We are ripping now.

On every turn, champagne powder snow blasts my face and blows over my shoulders. I laugh, yell, and have an ice cream headache.

My beard is caked in snow from trips in and out of “the white room.”

Sun, snow, sun, snow, sun, snow – it’s the dreamy repetition of a skier’s cadence.

I’m not sure if time actually slows down, but it seems to last forever. The next thing I know, I’m at the bottom of the peak, looking up at over 2,300 feet of the mountain I just danced with. I can pick out my tracks, right from the top to where I now stand.

I’m sweating, out of breath, laughing, joy-ously cursing, high fiving and in complete amazement.

When replaying the day at the lodge that evening, a longtime Baldface skier quipped, “You may have different runs than that, but you will never have better runs than that.”

With incredible snow stacking up throughout the Northern Rockies, I hope you get to ski the best run of your life this winter.
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January’s abundant snowfall brought Bridger Bowl Ski Area’s total for the season to 171 inches with a settled base depth of a hefty 60 inches. A look at Bridger’s daily video archive shows skiers and riders shredding all sorts of creative lines thanks to January’s snowfall.

On Saturday, Feb. 6 the King and Queen of the Ridge returns to Bridger, when contestants hike and ski the ridge as many times as they can in five hours. Proceeds from the event are donated to the Friends of the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center and the King and Queen has raised more than $123,000 for the Friends since 2003.

And mark your calendars for the Bridger Gully Freeride Feb. 20, where skiers and snowboarders test their mettle in some of Bridger’s rowdiest terrain. Pre-registration is required by noon on Feb. 19. – T.A.

BY JENNIE WHITE
GRAND TARGHEE RESORT MARKETING MANAGER

Traveling with little adventurers? With Targhee’s on-mountain childcare and Mini Moose and Powder Scouts programs, your little skier or rider will be in good hands while you hit the slopes.

Throughout the Kids Fun Zone and the Shoshone area, you’ll find plenty of terrain-based learning areas to increase confidence, balance and skill. There’s even a beginner terrain park where you can practice your own skills before progressing on. And the best part? Kids 12 and younger stay and ski free with an accompanied adult.

Our Ski and Ride School is perfect for any skill level and our certified instructors will take your skiing or snowboarding to the next level. Give us a call and we’ll make sure you are set up to finish!

Visit grandtarghee.com or call 1-800-TARGHEE for more information.

PHOTO BY WES OVERVOLD
A Warm Thank You

Centre Sky Architecture would like to thank all of our team members for their hard work, dedication, and support. You, along with the contractors, engineers, consultants, and the Big Sky community make us who we are.

We appreciate the recognition for the Best Architect for Best of Big Sky nomination.

Thank you,

Jamie Daugaard, AIA, NCARB, LEED AP

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Explore Big Sky

BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

Why you should love whitefish

You read that title correctly. I considered writing this column anonymously, however, I know I’m not alone in my admiration of whitefish. Since Valentine’s Day is on the horizon I’m going so far as to say I love whitefish. I finally said it in a public forum – that feels good.

Mountain whitefish (Prosopium williamsoni) is affectionately known as “mighty whitey,” “mountain bonethof,” “rock roller,” among many other nicknames.

Whitefish are widespread native species found in rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs in Montana. Some anglers disdain whitefish; others are impartial to their existence, and some share my feelings of admiration and respect.

Here are some reasons why mountain whitefish deserve a little love this upcoming Valentine’s Day.

They belong here. As a native salmonid whitefish have toughed it out. They’ve seen arctic grayling come and go, and non-salmonid brook trout establish themselves; and they co-exist with introduced rainbow and brown trout.

What you don’t know can’t hurt you. It happens dozens of times a year in my boat: A large fish is hooked and a nice fight ensues. Anticipation builds as the camera and net are at the ready. The fish is brought to the surface and … doh! It’s a whitefish. Celebrate the size and the fight in the fish – if a rock roller fought well enough to keep its identity a secret, then it deserves accolades.

Trout with training wheels. For beginning anglers, whitefish are ideal for learning to hook-set, fight, land, and properly release fish. They tend to be less selective than trout, which plays well to the marginal skills of novice anglers. A whitefish on the line is a reward for a successful presentation of a fly.

Small whitefish make bigger trout. The Yellowstone River is home to some massive brown trout, as well as an abundance of whitefish. Predatory trout seek out other fish, such as small whitefish. Whitefish roe – eggs released during their fall spawn – provide an abundant food source for trout as they prepare for a long winter.

Morale booster. A fish in hand feels better than catching no fish at all, and it’s OK to admit you prefer to to catch trout. However, don’t rain on someone else’s parade if a whitefish is brought to hand. If you can’t say anything nice …

Indicator species. Large populations of whitefish indicate a healthy river system – one that has a diverse insect population, consistent fish-friendly flows and runoff cycles, and plenty of trout. Whitefish are a food source for osprey, otters, and eagles, among other animals. If a river’s whitefish population drops, those animals aren’t going to the grocery store, they’re going to eat trout.

The state record is attainable. If you want to make it in the record books, a whitefish might be your best chance. The typical whitefish is going to be 10-12 inches, but larger fish are not uncommon. The Montana state record is 23 inches and 5.1 pounds. Many hardcore anglers may have caught a whitefish that big, but those catches often go undocumented. Start keeping track because the record is swimming out there somewhere.

Equal opportunity feeders. Whitefish are opportunistic feeders. Sure, their willingness to eat removes the guessing game or challenge of catching a fish with a fly, but it’s OK to have times fishing when the catching is easy. White fish often eat dry flies with abandon and seeing a fish eat a fly you presented is fun regardless of the species.

Guilt-free fish. If you want to catch, keep, and eat fish, the whitefish is for you. In a Montana State University study, participants found that whitefish when cooked, were similar to trout in texture, aroma and juiciness. Fillet, remove any brown fat and skin, coat with your favorite breading, and fry in light oil. Or season the boned and skinned fillets and sauté, being very careful not to over cook. Usually three minutes a side is all it takes.

My favorite nickname for the mountain whitefish is “Rodney.” Why? Because Mr. Dangerfield got no respect and neither do these fish. Whitefish have been around long before anyone fished our waters and like it or not, they are going to stick around long after we’re gone.

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

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The Board of Trustees has selected the Nominating Committee for the 3 Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. 63rd Annual Meeting. These committee members are looking for interested 3 Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. members who live in the listed exchange areas to be candidates for the position of Trustee on the Board of Trustees. This Board manages the business and affairs of 3 Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming an active participant on the Board of Trustees of 3 Rivers Telephone Cooperative, Inc. please call one of the Nomination Committee members listed below for requirements, qualifications and responsibilities by February 15, 2016.

At-Large | Committee Member: Linda O’Connor | 406-738-4373
At-Large | Committee Member: Jeanette “Tootie” Rasmussen | 406-466-2091
Lima/Melrose/Sheridan/Virginia City/Twin Bridges | Committee Member: Dale Giem | 406-596-3253
Fairfield/Augusta/Fort Shaw/Helena | Committee Member: Ken Naylor | 406-467-3409
Big Sky | Committee Member: Maggie Biggerstaff | 406-580-6244
Browning/Heart Butte | Committee Member: Brother Dale Mooney | 406-338-5290 ext 111

In addition, there are two other ways to be nominated:
1. Any 15 or more members acting together may make nominations by petition up to 30 days prior to the meeting.
2. The president of the board will call for additional nominations from the floor at the actual meeting.

For further details on these alternative nomination procedures, please call 1-800-796-4567 ext 4132.

The election will be held in Fairfield at the Community Hall on Monday, March 21, 2016.
The business meeting begins at 1:00 p.m.
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3 bd, 3.5 ba, 2,583± sf furnished unit, turn key, upgraded unit has never been rented, gourmet kitchen, SS appliances, granite countertops, master private deck, hot tub; bonus living room.

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$475,000 | #209474 | Call Don
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Big Sky Sotheby’s International Realty *artfully unites extraordinary properties with extraordinary lives* — and here under the Big Sky, we experience “extraordinary” every day.
Explore Big Sky

REAL ESTATE GUIDE

Featured listings & local expert knowledge

DROP IN, SKI OUT. Five and six bedroom luxury ski chalets located on the groomed ski runs of the Big Sky Resort. Read more on page 3. RENDERING BY BECHTLER ARCHITECTS
Big Sky real estate roundtable

EBS interviewed five locals – two realtors, a banker, and a builder – for beta on the area’s real estate market.

Here’s their take on the future of the Big Sky market, and how buyers and sellers can use that information to their advantage. Their responses have been edited for clarity and length.

Shawna Winter is the managing broker of the dedicated sales team for Lone Mountain Land Company.

Stacy Ossorio is a broker with Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices.

Joe Miller is branch president of First Security Bank.

John Seelye is president of Big Sky Build.

Global and national economic conditions indicate that we’re headed for a market correction. How do you think Big Sky’s real estate market will be impacted?

Shawna Winter: I feel that so long as we have good product that is priced accurately and strategically to the market, we should be OK. I think our location and phenomenal properties will work in our favor, even if we have to pull back a little bit with some of our development plans.

I branched off and started my own real estate company when the market was at its worst in 2009 and 2010, and I was able to sell a lot of my properties so long as I was strategic with my pricing.

Stacy Ossorio: Big Sky is an unusual real estate market because it’s primarily a second-home vacation market. I think our sales will be OK because our market draws buyers from a variety of marketplaces, not just Wall Street.

Joe Miller: If we do have a correction – which is still possible, depending on what news you’re looking at – that means our clients’ disposable income drops, which would mean a slowdown in Big Sky.

The wildcard is that with the high school, the hospital and new businesses opening, we have a greater need for more people in Big Sky. We still haven’t seen an increase in inventory for people to buy or rent, so I think the housing shortage could reduce some of the aggressiveness of the recession we saw in 2008.

John Seelye: I think that’s what could slow down the exponential growth we’ve seen since 2010, but I do think people will still see the value of investing in the Big Sky market. After the last recession … people are putting more of an emphasis on quality of life, which Big Sky promotes.

According to local developers, as many as 3,000 new units will be built in Big Sky in the near future. What do you think the area will look like in 10–20 years?

S.W.: I hope we approach development as thoughtfully and creatively as possible so it happens harmoniously with nature.

S.O.: I think right now developers are trying to lead the market with their version of market demand … If demand for 3,000 units isn’t there, the market will do what it always does and it will make an adjustment.

If there’s a variety of housing, this will be a thriving community. If developers choose to build only high-end housing, then we will have a part-time community. What we really need is developers to provide housing for people who are going to create neighborhoods, people who are going to live here fulltime.

J.M.: As more people come to Big Sky and invest in vacation homes, the inventory will dry up and prices will rise. I suppose that will make it harder for working families to live in Big Sky.

I think it will be a great vacation community, but I don’t know how we will avoid Jackson Hole, Wyoming’s situation, where there aren’t many opportunities for the average, everyday person. One positive aspect of the last downturn is that a lot of local families were able to purchase homes in Big Sky. If the market continues to rise, they could start looking at alternatives outside of Big Sky.

J.S.: Hopefully it’s white in the winter and green in the summer. Big Sky has been found and it’s going to grow. There will be growing pains, but I think in the end Big Sky will benefit from what’s going to happen in the next 10–20 years. As a fulltime, year-round resident and business owner here, I think we have a hell of a lot to look forward to.

Right now, Big Sky is in an interesting situation: inventory and interest rates are low, land value and building costs are high, there’s a large amount of planned development, and the economic market is weakening. How do you see these elements playing out here?

S.W.: I think there’s no time like the present if you are interested in getting involved. As long as developers can be smart about the product and the pricing, I think the rest will take care of itself.

J.M.: None of us really knows, although it could impact the number of people commuting from elsewhere and the amount of rental properties available. Last time we had a downturn, the reduction in the construction workforce opened up rental properties. Maybe that will make it a little easier for some people to live in Big Sky.

What’s your advice to buyers and sellers?

S.W.: If you’re interested in getting involved in Big Sky, now’s the time. Sellers should make sure that their properties are priced and positioned to sell within a very reasonable timeframe.

S.O.: This is the time to buy for people who have been waiting to purchase a property in Big Sky, especially in the $400,000 to $700,000 range. That’s always been a very viable market in Big Sky and that buyer should jump in. Sellers should be careful that they don’t overprice their property – they could miss their opportunity to sell in a timely fashion.

J.M.: Sit down with a banker or a financial planner and go through the numbers. If you find a property that you’re happy with and you’re not stretched too thin financially, go ahead and buy it. For sellers, it sure seems like a great time to sell. The single-family residence market has come close to full recovery if it hasn’t already, and the condo market is not far behind.
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The Big Sky real estate market remains healthy according to 2015 statistics. Residential sales volume is down 18 percent from 2014, but these numbers indicate a more balanced inventory. The median residential sold price of $475,000 increased 5 percent from 2014 to 2015 showing steady, moderate growth.

Data over several years shows an upward trend since the bottom of the market in 2009. Comparing 2009 to 2015, total sales volume was 195 percent greater while median home prices were 35 percent greater. While that certainly indicates a healthy recovery, median residence price remains 31 percent below the previous height of $687,500 in 2007.

Land trends have taken a different path, where total sales volume has increased by 240 percent comparing 2009 to 2015, but the median price has actually decreased by 36 percent. This is more of an indication of the types of lots being purchased rather than signaling lower prices.

One of the strongest reasons for the median price decrease is driven by the lack of inventory in the lower priced residential market. Subdivision lots priced under $250,000 made up 44 percent of the land sales in 2015, while only 16 percent of the lots sold in 2009 were priced under $250,000.

A look at the current inventory and 2015 residential sales in different market sectors helps tell the bigger story. Residences listed under $500,000 had a high absorption rate; listings between $500,000 and $1 million have relatively proportional inventory and sales, and the market over $1 million currently has more inventory than sales in 2015.

Although there is a lower absorption rate in the $1 million-plus sector, this portion of the market is actually very strong. There were more sales over $1 million in 2015 (47) than in 2007 (43), a year with higher average home price because the inventory was low.

Confidence in the market has grown throughout the region recently, with more clarity in the development direction of the private clubs and the introduction of more amenities and services, creating a stronger community to which full-time and part-time residents are attracted.

If you are considering buying or selling property in southwest Montana, we would love the opportunity to work with you. Visit lkrealestate.com to sign up for our newsletter and stay informed on market trends or call (406) 995-2404.

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1. For EverBank Preferred PortfolioSM loans only. Loan minimum of $250,000 for new construction. For renovation loans, loan must have a minimum of $250,000 in improvements. Contractor and project review and approval required. Available only in AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, MA, MD, MT, NJ, and VA. Other restrictions and limitations may apply. Contact us for more information about this product.
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Building a home in the Northern Rockies can be a big undertaking. First, you need to decide where to build, and there are many great places to choose from. The choices continue when you select an architect, style of home and, possibly, an interior designer.

But one of the most critical decisions – if not the most critical – is the builder you choose. If you hope to build a home in Big Sky or Jackson, Wyo., then the choice is simple: Teton Heritage Builders.

Passionate about creating collaboration with their custom home clients, Teton Heritage Builders delivers the highest quality of handcrafted homes using all elements of the Rocky Mountain palette, including timber, log, stone, and, most recently, glass.

The partnership between client, architect and builder is critical to any successful construction project. Teton Heritage Builders works closely with its clients to make sure their visions and budget align with the design of the home. This is achieved by using a comprehensive estimating program specifically designed for homes in the resort market.

At the end of the day, their focus is to deliver a home that meets and exceeds expectations with no surprises for the client.

Teton Heritage Builders is celebrating 20 years in business in the Rockies this year, which is a testament to the stability and hard work of everyone involved in the company.

When Peter Lee founded the company in 1996 in Jackson Hole, he envisioned a company that would grow with its most valuable assets remaining onboard for a long time. That’s why today eight employee/owner partners are involved in the company, with more soon to follow.

With partners invested in the projects that Teton Heritage builds day in and day out, clients know their best interests are being held to the highest standard.

Teton Heritage not only focuses on the finish of the homes being at the highest level of quality, but the homes are also built to perform. Foam insulation is used on every project to make sure that every home meets or exceeds energy standards.

A home can be a gorgeous masterpiece, but if it doesn’t perform at the level required for the environment it’s built in, it will not stand the test of time. That’s why Teton Heritage refers to their homes as “legacy” and “heirloom” homes. They are being built to last for generations, if that is something a client desires.

There are many ways the home building process can be described, but Teton Heritage likes to hear from its clients that the process was “fun.” They enjoy going to work every day and working with clients to build their dream homes.

If you or someone you know is in the market for a custom home builder, call Teton Heritage Builders today.

Teton Heritage Builders is located at 76225 Gallatin Road in Gallatin Gateway and at 160 West Deloney Avenue in Jackson, Wyo. Visit tetonheritagebuilders.com or call (406) 522-0808 for more information.
Spanish Peaks Mountain Club

**Settlement Cabin #18**
A well maintained and exquisitely decorated, fully furnished 5 bedroom, 6.5 bath Settlement Cabin. A Golf or Ski/Social Membership is available with this home.

Offered for $2,350,000

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**363 Low Dog**
The ideal ski-in/ski-out mountain home. This home has 4 bedrooms and 5 full baths plus a large family/TV room on the lower level with a separate kitchen.

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**180 Thomas Moran**
4BD/5BA residence with over 5,000 sq. ft. of living space. A custom log home in a private setting just a short drive to the amenities offered at Spanish Peaks Mountain Club.

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**10 Indian Summer**
An elegant and well maintained, ski-in/ski-out 3 bedroom + loft/4.5 bath home that offers some of the best views in Moonlight Basin.

Offered for $1,699,000

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**217 Mountain Valley Trail**
This elegant 4BD/4.5B, custom built post and beam rustic home adjacent to open space and golf course at Spanish Peaks Mountain Club.

Offered for $3,150,000

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**507 Wildridge Fork**
Fully furnished and exquisitely decorated 6 bedroom, 6.5 bath home. Offers open living room layout, large chef’s kitchen and elegantly master bedroom.

Offered for $3,950,000

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**39 Swift Bear**
This exceptional ski in/ski out mountain home sits on 1.972 acres with a year round stream and adjacent to open space. It boasts stunning and inspiring views of Lone Peak.

Offered for $3,582,000

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Settlement Cabin #18
A well maintained and exquisitely decorated, fully furnished 5 bedroom, 6.5 bath Settlement Cabin. A Golf or Ski/Social Membership is available with this home. Offered for $2,350,000.

363 Low Dog
The ideal ski-in/ski-out mountain home. This home has 4 bedrooms and 5 full baths plus a large family/TV room on the lower level with a separate kitchen. Offered for $3,095,000.

584 Autumn Trail
This spacious 3 level custom home located in the charming Aspen Groves sub-division boasts superb high end finishes. Offered for $1,378,000.

1335 Buck Ridge
Secluded fully furnished log home w/ guest cabin nestled in the woods on just under 20 acres of the Buck Ridge Ranch Subdivision. Offered for $1,100,000.

1895 Little Coyote
A spacious and well maintained 4 bedroom/4 bath home conveniently located in Big Sky’s Meadow Village. Great rental history. Offered for $699,000.

217 Mountain Valley Trail
This elegant 4BD/4.5B, custom built post and beam rustic home adjacent to open space and golf course at Spanish Peaks Mountain Club. Offered for $3,150,000.

307 Wildridge Fork
Fully furnished and exquisitely decorated 6 bedroom, 6.5 bath home. Offers open living room layout, large chef’s kitchen and elegantly master bedroom. Offered for $3,950,000.

39 Swift Bear
This exceptional ski in/ski out mountain home sits on 1.572 acres with a year round stream and adjacent to open space. It boasts stunning and inspiring views of Lone Peak. Offered for $3,582,000.

Rocking S7
An exceptional 50 acre parcel situated 25 minutes from Bozeman along the western side of the Bridger Mountains, adjoining large ranches and the closely held Infid Dry Creek drainage. Offered for $1,375,000.

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In the heart of Big Sky, Montana the Gallatin Preserve offers a rare opportunity to own a 160 acre ranch in the middle of one of the fastest growing resorts in the country. From $3,500,000.

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Updated and well maintained unit located all on one level. Big Sky’s public golf course is right in your backyard. Convenient to shopping and dining. Offered for $375,000.

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An exceptional 50 acre parcel situated 25 minutes from Bozeman along the western side of the Bridger Mountains, adjoining large ranches and the closely held Infid Dry Creek drainage. Offered for $1,375,000.

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Contact a listing agent for additional information:

William Feher
Listing Agent / General Manager
406-600-0275
william@casaderidge.com

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BIG SKY, MONTANA
Name: Jim and Teresa McMahon

Primary Residence: Pittsburgh, Penn.

Second Home: Mountain Lake Condominium, Big Sky

Hobbies: Skiing, mountain biking, hiking, reading, spending time with grandchildren

Jim and Teresa McMahon live in a Pittsburgh suburb, where he works as a literary agent and she is a marketing consultant. They have two grown children – as well as four grandkids.

After visiting Big Sky for years, the McMahons finally settled on a Mountain Lake unit that’s due to be completed by summer 2017.

Big Sky Sotheby’s International Realty: What brought you to Big Sky initially?

Jim: We have friends who have been coming to Big Sky for years, and … we finally joined them on a ski vacation when our kids were in college, and we all fell in love. Initially, we were struck by the beauty – I’ll never forget when I first laid eyes on Lone Peak. But then it was the small-town feeling and the skiing: no lift lines, wide-open slopes, exciting terrain, and incredible views. We’ve come back every winter since, and finally decided to buy.

BSSIR: How did you decide on Mountain Lake?

Teresa: We’d been looking for a few years at everything from private homes to ski-in/ski-out condos. We drove by the Mountain Lake development and decided to inquire about it. After a tour, a look at the plans for the new units, and a look at existing units, it just felt right.

Jim: And it was the right price. We were nervous about buying a second home, but this is affordable, it’s brand new, and it’s so well located.

BSSIR: What made it stand out from the others?

Teresa: They all have amazing views of the lake and Lone Peak. We were able to choose contemporary finishes, and that’s what we were really looking for. There’s a workout room, plenty of room for our kids and grandkids, it’s near dining and shopping, and even though it’s a condo, there’s a real sense of privacy.

Jim: And it’s so close to the ski hill – a shuttle takes you right to the base. There’s a pool and hot tub for when the grandkids visit, and hiking and biking is right out our front door.

BSSIR: What are you looking forward to most?

Jim: We know we like winter in Big Sky, and we can’t wait to spend time here in the summer. We’re looking forward to hikes and bike rides, visits to Yellowstone, outdoor summer concerts, time around the pool and fishing on the lake with the grandkids. It’s a world away from our lives in Pittsburgh, with busy work and social schedules.

Teresa: We always look forward to our next visit, and soon we can call it home.

Big Sky Sotheby’s International Realty is the listing agency for the Mountain Lake Condominiums with pricing starting at $825,000. Visit mountaingatemt.com or call (406) 995-2211 for more information.
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Each office independently owned and operated.
Nestled conveniently in Bozeman, The Knolls at Hillcrest may be a perfect solution for baby boomers embarking on a quest to “right-size” their lifestyle - if their current living space is no longer optimal after the kids are grown and gone. The Knolls offers many upscale features and finishes, along with forward-thinking amenities to make life easier.

What makes The Knolls special is that its planners, architects and designers have created attractive home designs that are flexible and fun to live in. Universal design concepts, strategic functionality and design flexibility are built into each floor plan. Owners may customize each of the 15 floor plans to create their own unique space that fits their lifestyle or encore career.

Key features in each home include: spacious great rooms that provide creative options for intimate seating arrangements, generous dining and entertainment space, open access to the kitchen, and private courtyards that extend the indoor/outdoor living options. Building sites are engineered for no-step accessible entries, enabling individuals to enter the home and access its main rooms without navigating stairs.

Other accessibility features include spacious walk-in showers; creative, accessible toilet rooms; and natural lighting on all four sides of the home. Many have offices, studios, and “flex” spaces. Wide entryways and hallway areas create spacious living areas for comfort, allowing homeowners to reside in their house for decades to come. The overall architectural concept has built-in flexibility for interior design styles as well. Any floor plan can easily accommodate a range of design choices from traditional, rustic, country, contemporary, or an eclectic style depending on an individual’s interior finish selections.

The living space in the homes at The Knolls complements and supports a healthy, vibrant lifestyle in an aesthetically pleasing home design. The Knolls is a maintenance-free community with lock and leave services for active travelers. Bozeman consistently receives national accolades for being one of the best places to live and retire. Trail connections lead from front doors to the “Main Street to the Mountains” trail system.

With intellectual and cultural opportunities within walking distance of downtown Bozeman and Montana State University, The Knolls is uniquely situated to support an active lifestyle.

ERA Landmark Real Estate offers these homes for sale. Contact sales associates Mark Meissner and Doug East at theknollsathillcrest.com and on Facebook at facebook.com/TheKnollsAtHillcrest.

The Bergamot offers 2,010 square feet of living space with two bedrooms, two baths and an office. Building sites are engineered with no-step accessible entries, enabling individuals to enter the home and access main rooms without navigating stairs. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE KNOLLS AT HILLCREST

Any floor plan can easily accommodate a range of design choices from traditional, rustic, country, contemporary, or an eclectic style depending on an individual’s interior finish selections. Every building style features natural light on all four sides of the home.

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IN THE END, IT'S NOT THE YEARS IN YOUR LIFE THAT COUNT.
IT'S THE LIFE IN YOUR YEARS.

~ABRAHAM LINCOLN