

**Explore**

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

FREE

# Big Sky

Feb. 19 - March 3, 2016  
Volume 7 // Issue #4

## **Business follow-up: Beehive Basin Brewery**

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PBR bucks up for summer 2016 return

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*Todd Wilkinson's 'The New West'*

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A second 'Journey Through Yellowstone'

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**Plus: Snakes, chicken sutures and Zika**  
Inside the Wilderness Medicine Conference



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Feb. 19 – March 3, 2016  
Volume 7, Issue No. 4

Owned and published in Big Sky, Montana

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**ON THE COVER:**

Standing on the relatively warm, geothermally heated ground, this bison was among many coping with one of Yellowstone's typical February mornings. By holding very still or moving slowly in the cold, bison conserve energy, which also allows frost to accumulate on their bodies. PHOTO BY TOM MURPHY

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Explore

# Big Sky

## WHAT IS THIS PUBLICATION?

### 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**

Our 2 week shelf-life allows for extensive exposure for our advertisers.

**49,500**

Readership per issue



### Annual Readership

**OVER 1 MILLION**



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

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*"In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on."*

-Robert Frost



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



**39 SWIFT BEAR**  
*Offered for \$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!

**MARTHA JOHNSON**  
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**MONTANA LIVING**  
**BIG SKY REAL ESTATE**







# Bison capture operations begin at Stephens Creek

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GARDINER (AP) – Bison wandering outside the northern boundary of Yellowstone National Park can now be captured at the Stephens Creek facility.

The Interagency Bison Management Plan called for the facility to open Feb. 15.

The management plan calls for removing 600 to 900 bison that migrate out of the park’s northern boundary this winter to reduce population growth and the potential for a larger migration in coming years.

Hunters have killed more than 300 bison outside the park this winter, and tribal hunting is expected to continue, but likely wouldn’t reach the management goal.

Additional animals will be captured and transferred to tribal groups for slaughter and distribution of meat and other parts to their members.

# Michaelangelo’s Ristorante Italiano to open Big Sky locale

EBS STAFF

Italian cuisine is coming to the Meadow Village in Big Sky.

Michaelangelo’s Ristorante Italiano, named for its Zagat-rated chef Michael Annandonono, will open by mid-March in the newly renovated building that housed the Big Sky Furniture store adjacent to the post office, according to Michael’s sister and business partner Emily Annandonono.

The siblings have been planning a Big Sky location for approximately two years, and decided to use the name of the original restaurant, which is this May celebrating its 10-year anniversary in Cleveland, Ohio.

It’s not a chain, according to Emily, but Michael, who was named among the Best Chefs of America in 2013, decided to keep the name after Big Sky friends asked when he was going to open a Michaelangelo’s here.

“My brother started coming out [to Big Sky] five years ago,” said Emily, who is also the restaurant’s general manager. “It was his dream since he became a chef to open a location in a ski town.”

Michaelangelo’s will serve traditional food from northern Italy – a fitting choice since Michael trained as a chef in the Piedmont region of the country.

“The area is very influenced by French cuisine,” Emily said. “[The menu includes] a lot of braised meat and creamed sauces.”

Handmade pastas, risotto and a broad wine list from Italy, California, Washington and Oregon will round out offerings.

# Interact Club sends shoeboxes to soldiers

EBS STAFF

On Feb. 16, the Lone Peak High School Interact Club mailed 24 care packages to Montana National Guard soldiers stationed in Kuwait.

Company Bravo, 640th Aviation Support Battalion is a Helena-based Montana National Guard unit that provides Blackhawk helicopter maintenance for the 29th Combat Aviation Brigade.

Big Sky Rotary founded the Interact Club last March for kids ages 12-18. Nearly 30 local students participate. The club members are required to complete both an international and local service project each year, and last spring they raised money to fund Nepal earthquake-relief efforts.

The students raised more than \$300 at the Rotary’s Jan. 22 Gold Auction to buy supplies for the soldiers, which included games, puzzle books, chap stick, deodorant, soap, pens and pencils, batteries, hard candies, and gum.

“Things that aren’t going to melt in a desert climate,” said Dale Palmer, who along with his wife Gayle is a liaison between Rotary and the Interact Club.

The Big Sky Interact members mailed approximately 80 pounds of goods to the Montana soldiers who will be stationed in Kuwait for another year.

# Madison Conservation District celebrates 70 years

EBS STAFF

Madison Conservation District, an Ennis-based organization established in response to topsoil loss during the Dust Bowl, turns 70 this year.

The organization, one of 58 conservation districts in Montana, is funded by Madison County and supplemented with grants. MCD has been working with farmers and ranchers in the Madison River watershed since 1946, when awareness of unsustainable land-use practices exacerbated by the drought of the early 1930s resulted in the establishment of local conservation districts across the nation.

Sunni Heikes-Knapton, MCD’s watershed coordinator, said the group has placed water quality, minimizing

sediment collection in waterways, and direct communication as the district’s top priorities.

“We learn more from our neighbors when we see them trying things rather than being told what to do from someone far away,” Heikes-Knapton said. Concerns in the Madison watershed include range health, noxious weeds, and water quantity and quality.

MCD is involved with several educational programs including a three-week summer camp for first through sixth graders centered on natural resources; winter landowner workshops; and GROWW, a k-12 program in Ennis schools where students learn about gardening, resources, outdoors, watersheds and wildlife.

# Fire destroys Beehive home

EBS STAFF

The Big Sky Fire Department was dispatched to 12 Beehive Basin Road in Big Sky Feb. 12 at 6:14 a.m. for a structure fire discovered by a passing motorist.

The first arriving units found the home completely engulfed with flames reaching more than 50 feet in the air.

No one was in the home at the time of the fire, but the structure was a total loss and BSFD cleared the scene at 4:30 p.m. The house had no smoke alarms, according to BSFD Chief Bill Farhat.

“This was an unfortunate example of where having automatic fire sprinkler systems and fire alarm systems would have made a huge difference,” said Farhat, indicating that the blaze had been burning for hours before his crew arrived.

“A great deal of damage could have been averted had the fire department been sent to the address during the beginning phase rather than after it was an inferno,” he added.

Assisting BSFD on scene were the Yellowstone Club Fire Department, the RAE/Sourdough Fire Department, the Gallatin County Sheriff’s Office and Madison County Emergency Management.

The Montana State Fire Marshal’s Office also assisted in the incident. There is an ongoing investigation into the cause of the fire.

# Big Sky Chamber hires new membership director

BIG SKY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce on Feb. 16 announced Big Sky local Margo Magnant as its new membership director.

In this new role, Magnant will further develop relationships with new and existing members and grow the local, state, regional and national membership base of the Big Sky Chamber.

After graduating in 2008 from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., with a degree in government and a minor in English, Margo returned to Montana where she most recently worked as the wedding and conference manager at Big Sky Resort.

“[We’re] thrilled that Margo is joining the team,” said Kitty Clemens, the executive director of the Big Sky Chamber. “Her in-depth knowledge of Big Sky, along with her previous sales and marketing experience, will make her an invaluable asset to both the Chamber and its members.”

As Membership Director, Margo will be directly responsible for Chamber memberships, sponsorships, advertising, and events. She is keen to meet both current and future members and learn more about their wants and needs so that the Big Sky Chamber can continue to help businesses be successful.





# PURE

*big sky*

BIG SKY • MOONLIGHT BASIN • SPANISH PEAKS • YELLOWSTONE CLUB



### 2 HIGHPOINT DRIVE

This elegant Pinnacle Condominium is nestled near the base of Lone Mountain with stunning views and close access to both of the base areas of Big Sky Resort and of Moonlight Basin via the White Otter and Cascade Lifts. The three level home has three full master suites and a bunk room, four and one-half baths, a security and entertainment system, gourmet kitchen, large deck, hot tub and an attached, heated garage. Sold fully furnished, turnkey. MLS #: 207204

**Offered at \$1,495,000**

*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. At 3,161 +/- 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*



### 11 CABIN HOLLOW

Spectacular views combine with unparalleled ski access to make this charming log cabin one of the most sought-after properties in Moonlight Basin. The two bedroom ski-in/ski-out cabin is perfectly poised over Powder River Ski Run, overlooking the slopes of Big Sky and Moonlight Basin. During the winter months, click on your skis and launch right from the deck! MLS #: 210221

**Offered at \$729,000**

*Listing Agent: Ania Bulis | 406.580.6852*



### 389 FIRELIGHT DRIVE

The perfect Big Sky getaway! This beautiful end unit Firelight Chalet features 3 bedrooms with 3 bathrooms and an attached single car garage. The original owners have never rented the property and it has been used only occasionally during ski and summer months. Upgrades include custom interior paint, stainless steel appliances and new flooring. Sophisticated, smart and enduring furniture is included. MLS #: 210864

**Offered at \$349,900**

*Listing Agent: Michael Thomas | 406.581.2400*



### 755 EAGLE VIEW TRAIL

Grandeur and elegance are the defining tones set in this artfully designed home situated in the Elk Ridge neighborhood of Spanish Peaks Mountain Club. Heavy timber accents combine with exquisite masonry and craftsmanship to create a residence that is refined, yet comfortable. The master suite and the junior master both have fireplaces, as well as outdoor patios and decks, and all bedrooms are well-proportioned with en-suite baths. Sold fully furnished. MLS #: 205461

**Offered at \$3,095,000**

*Listing Agent: Ania Bulis | 406.580.6852*



### LITTLE THUNDER LOT 71A

For the first time, Cascade Ridge is offering a single family home adjacent to the Cascade Ridge Lodge. The 5,987 square foot residence offers eight bedrooms and nine bathrooms, a main level kitchen, living and dining area that is perfect for entertaining, as well as 2 large master sites, and a large ski/mud room. The lower level boasts a large family room, four en-suite bedrooms, a bunk room and a theater/media room. MLS #: 210920

**Offered at \$3,495,000**

*Listing Agent: Sandy Revisky | 406.539.6316*



### TBD GALLATIN ROAD

Endless business park possibilities on 25 sprawling acres in the beautiful Gallatin Canyon along US 191, the main corridor between Gallatin Airport, Big Sky and West Yellowstone. Backed by Forest Service and offering Gallatin River views, this parcel is just 18 miles north of Big Sky. Capture highway exposure as approximately 2,000,000 vehicles a year pass by on the way to and from Big Sky Resort and Yellowstone National Park. MLS #: 197416

**Offered at \$1,875,000**

*Listing Agent: Lynn Milligan | 406.581.2848*



### ULERY'S LAKES LOT 7

Located within the gated community of Ulery's Lakes of Moonlight Basin Ranch, this 20 acre home site maximizes privacy and views. Drive through majestic Lodge Pole Pines to an open meadow offering incredible views of Lone Mountain. Enjoy fishing across the street and hiking, snow shoeing and cross country skiing in your own back yard. A short drive will take you to the Moonlight Lodge, ski hill, golf course and Big Sky Ski Resort. MLS #: 200945

**Starting at \$387,500**

*Listing Agent: Lynn Milligan | 406.581.2848*



**CHRISTIE'S**  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

BigSkyLuxuryRealEstate.com

Big Sky , Montana

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Earlier this month, a coffee shop opened near Town Center, and an Italian restaurant is slated to open in March. What other business would you like to see in Big Sky?



Zach Ford, Big Sky, Mont  
Lift Operator, Yellowstone Club

“As a ski town, I think we need more activities. It would be sweet if there was a bowling alley or something like that. Something other than another bar or restaurant. A bowling alley would make a killing.”



Lance Kelly, Bozeman, Mont.  
Guest Services Representative, Big Sky Resort

“There seems to be one of everything ... Just considering that there are more guys up here than females, a barber shop would be a good idea.”



Edson Martin, Kauai, Hawaii and Big Sky, Mont.  
Retired Firefighter

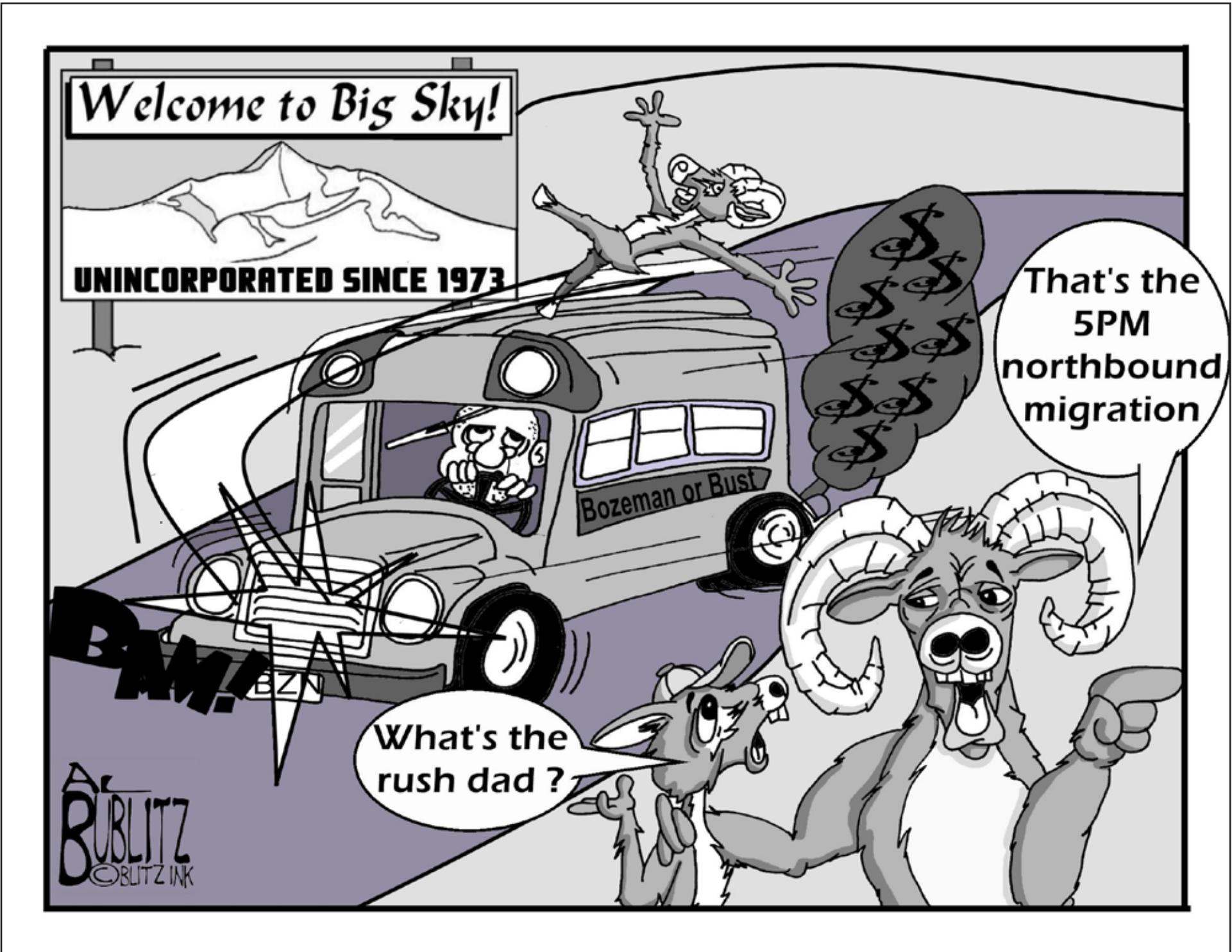
“All I can say is that I’m stoked at what’s happening ... It’s turned into a real community that has everything everybody needs. I started coming here 30 years ago and I built a house out here 10 years ago. In the last 10 years, this place has really blossomed. What else would I like to see out here? Honestly, not too much else.”

Letter: Wages, not housing, are at root of Big Sky’s affordability issue

Big Sky doesn’t have an affordable housing problem, it has an affordable wage problem. Higher wages will solve the affordable housing problem.

In 1980, I worked for \$25 an hour in an oilfield and a new truck cost \$7,600. Now I work in construction for \$20 an hour and a new truck costs \$35,000. Wages aren’t keeping up with the cost of living. Simple.

Lance Hossack  
Manhattan, Mont.







News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

## Hiball Energy adds new flavors to the fold

Hiball Energy, the pioneer of organic energy drinks, recently released two new flavors - Ruby Red and Blood Orange - adding to their fleet of fair trade, organic energy drinks, sparkling waters and cold brew coffees.

“Both the grapefruit and blood orange energy drinks have just the right amount of juice flavor without the sickly sweet taste of soda that reminds you it’s rotting your teeth and shortening your life,” said EBS Senior Editor Tyler Allen. “Plus, they give a great kick of energy to shake off the lunch coma and get you through the early afternoon hours.”

Since its founding in 2005, Hiball’s mission has been to create the healthiest energy drinks, free of synthetic, artificial ingredients, sweeteners or colors. And since May 2015 Outlaw Partners has been dedicated to creatively and effectively market the Hiball brand.

Hiball incorporates organic and fair-trade ingredients whenever possible, which is better for the farmers who cultivate them, more sustainable for the planet and healthier for its customers. – Megan Paulson

Hiball products are available at [shop.biballer.com](http://shop.biballer.com) and ship for free. Use coupon code GoodEnergyOP for 20 percent off your first order.



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# Big Sky Resort’s Challenger lift down for season

BY TYLER ALLEN  
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – Feb. 5 was the end of an era at Big Sky Resort, as the storied history of the original Challenger chairlift came to a close.

Opened in 1988, the double lift rose 1,672 vertical feet, carried riders 12 minutes to the top and accessed some of the most extreme terrain on the mountain. That terrain is now only accessible from the Moonlight side of the resort, via the Headwaters chairlift. At least until next year.

“After exhaustive efforts to make Challenger operational for the rest of the season, we have determined that the best course of action is to replace it with a completely new lift,” Big Sky Resort General Manager Taylor Middleton wrote in a Feb. 15 email to season pass holders.

The Challenger lift was scheduled for replacement this summer along with the Lone Peak Triple chair, as part of the resort’s capital improvement plan. As of EBS press time on Feb. 17, the resort had not released specific plans regarding the capacity of the new lifts.

“When Boyne first came to Big Sky in 1976 there were five ski transportation machines, today there are 34,” Middleton wrote in an

email received by EBS on Feb. 17. “Upgrading lifts and expanding terrain is a big part of what created The Biggest Skiing in America, and a bigger part of what will keep us competitive in the future.”

While the resort is looking to compete in the future, numbers would indicate it’s doing a good job at present.

Skier visits for President’s Day Weekend – as well as the season to date – were up more than 10 percent, according to Big Sky Resort Director of Marketing Lyndsey Owens.

“We’re having a great year,” Owens said.

For the balance of the 2015-2016 season, intrepid powder hounds can find more untracked snow in the Challenger terrain if they’re willing to work for it.

“Challenger is definitely my little happy place because that’s where I worked as a lifty. It’s easier to find untracked stuff for sure [now that Challenger isn’t running],” said Ross Downer, a ski technician at Grizzly Outfitters Ski and Backcountry Sports. Downer worked for Big Sky lift operations in 2012-2013.

“They need that terrain there,” Downer said. “That’s the type of terrain people buy tickets for.”



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

## February is library lovers’ month

BIG SKY COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The American Library Association has designated February as “Library Lovers Month.” This is a time to recognize the important role libraries play in the cultural and economic success of local communities and the nation as a whole.

Whether they depend on the library for bestselling books, children’s story times, special programs, DVDs, audio resources, or access to computers and the Internet, residents of the Big Sky community are encouraged to show how much they love their library this month.

Last month, Ophir School Library was awarded a \$500 ExxonMobil Educational Alliance grant through Casey’s Corner Store in Big Sky. This educational grant, one of 4,000 available to schools across the country, is one way the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance program invests in the future of local communities.

The Big Sky Community Library is 70 percent funded by allocations from the Big Sky

Resort Area District Tax Board; the remainder of its funding comes from memorial funds, used book sales, memberships to the Friends of the Big Sky Community Library, and grants like the one received from ExxonMobil.

Library Lovers Month is also an excellent time to recognize all of the faithful FOL members who continue to donate their time on a regular basis. The FOL meet the first and third Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m. in the library, feel free to join us – it’s a great way to get involved. The next meeting is March 2 at 10 a.m.

Watch for upcoming opportunities to become a member of this thriving library community.

*Visit [bigskylibrary.org](http://bigskylibrary.org) for more information on the library and ways to support it or call (406) 995-4281. The Big Sky Community library is open on Sundays from 1-5 p.m., Mondays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 4-8 p.m.*

## Caliber opens coffee shop in Big Sky

BY AMANDA EGGERT  
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – Local coffee roasting company Caliber Coffee opened a coffee house on Feb. 1, after owner Opie Jahn operated a roasting business on Highway 191 for the last year and a half.

“It was the next logical step,” Jahn said. “There was a huge need for it.”

Business is going “swimmingly,” Jahn said about his shop, which is open Monday through Saturday at 80 Snowy Mountain Circle in the Blue Grouse Business Center just west of Town Center.

For the time being, Jahn and his wife Annie Burd are staffing the shop, but anticipate hiring another person soon.

Burd prepares quiches, sandwiches and soups, while grilled breakfast burritos and breakfast sandwiches on English muffins will be listed on the menu soon.

Coffee options include drip, pour-over, espresso, cold-brew, and a concoction Jahn calls “Caliber proof” made of drip coffee emulsified with one tablespoon of butter and one tablespoon of coconut oil. Chai tea, hot tea and hot chocolate are available for patrons interested in a little less caffeine.

An eclectic mix of items are positioned throughout the hardwood floor-covered space: antelope and deer mounts that came with the space hang above the counter, and the chalkboard menu of daily food offerings is positioned inside a huge metal vice.

Seating options include a chairlift and a long couch Jahn affectionately calls the “purple people eater.”

Bags of coffee roasted on site are for sale. With the exception of decaffeinated brews, all of the coffee served at Caliber comes from beans heated in Jahn’s 12-kilogram roaster.



Caliber Coffee House owner Opie Jahn opened up shop Feb. 1. “I have all of the interwebs right here in this place,” said Jahn, who said he opened the business because “there was a huge need for it.” PHOTO BY AMANDA EGGERT



# TRIPLE CREEK REALTY



## SPANISH PEAKS CLUB #15

- 2,969+/- sf, 3BR/3BA, large family room
- Spacious kitchen with large windows
- Beautiful finish work throughout
- Attached garage with great storage space

**\$625,000 | MLS 209628**



## JUST LISTED - 91 PAINTBRUSH

- Custom 3,304+/- sf log home w/ 4 car garage
- Family friendly with 4BR/Office/2.5BA
- 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 #D-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**



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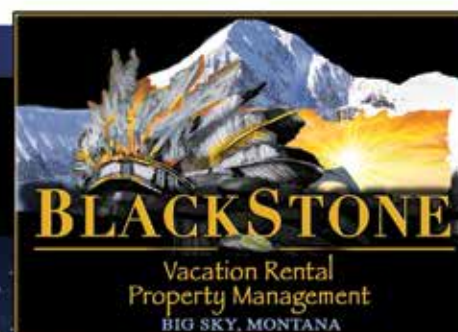
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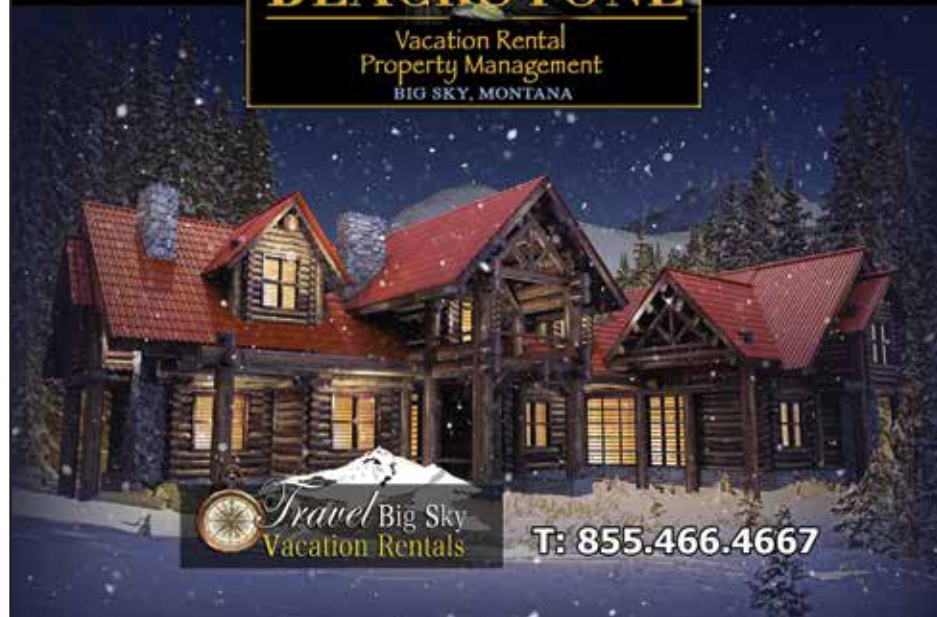
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## Big Sky School District #72 Audit Publication Statement

An audit of the affairs of Big Sky School District #72 has been conducted by Olness & Associates, P.C. The audit covered the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015.

Section 2-7-521, MCA, requires the publication concerning the audit report include a statement that the audit report is on file in its entirety and open to public inspection at the Big Sky School District #72 Business Office and that Big Sky School District #72 will send a copy of the audit report to any interested person upon request.

Sincerely,

Sue Becker  
Business Manager  
Big Sky School District #72  
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PHOTO BY MATTHEW MILLMAN

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# THE RAM'S HORN



BY DUSTIN SHIPMAN  
BSSD SUPERINTENDENT

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

Greetings from the superintendent’s office. Our students celebrated the 100th day of school this week, and as I witnessed their celebrations I also had the opportunity to reflect on the first 100 days of my tenure at the Big Sky School District.

In nearly every interview I’ve been involved with, both as candidate and as employer, the inevitable question arises: “What would be your plan for the first 100 days on the job?”

BSSD has witnessed some great things in the last 100 days. We’ve moved into a new school and, while it’s still unfinished, Ophir elementary is starting to take on a life and culture of its own. The hallways and classrooms are establishing identities and the children’s spirit is more prevalent in all venues in the school.

Additionally, we’ve launched an ambitious and aggressive strategic plan. It seems long ago, however in the last 100 days, we interviewed and hired a consultant; gathered 730 responses to a representative survey and collated that data; had a significant strategic planning retreat; conducted focus groups; revised and finally passed the plan at the board level; and began implementation.

This work has set the tone for the district moving forward and so far the initial implementations of the plan have proven positive.

As part of that plan, we’ve begun moving toward authorization of the International Baccalaureate program. And in the last month we’ve accomplished significant steps toward our goals including sending a group of seven teachers and administrators to IB training in Vancouver, Canada.

IB trainings are popular in North America and hard to find, so we’re exhausting every venue we can in order to make this happen for our teachers and our students. The training is centered on assessment and course modeling for the programs at the high school and elementary levels, respectively.

Each of our teachers had daylong training recently in project-based learning and inquiry-based instruction. Both are going to be key teaching and learning strategies as the school year moves beyond the first 100 days and onto the next decade of excellence.

In 100 days we’ve also exposed our kids to musicians from all over the world and held a spelling bee; made the playoffs in football and had 100 percent acceptance to a postsecondary option for our seniors; taken art students on a retreat and hosted the NPR radio show “From The Top”; created a track team and made the district tournament in volleyball.

We’ve sent the yearbook to the publisher and hosted art café, while producing a student radio play, starting a robotics club, and launching a district Facebook page. And we’re providing students with a great education day in and day out.

The celebration of 100 days of school gave me time to reflect, and the thought that resonates with me is, I can’t wait for the next 100!

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# Forest plan revision meetings hosted throughout region

CUSTER GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

BOZEMAN – The 3.1 million-acre Custer Gallatin National Forest is starting a forest plan revision with a series of community public meetings across the region.

Ultimately, the four-year process instructs a new forest plan, a comprehensive overarching document providing guidance for forest management for years to come. Public involvement in the forest plan early and often helps to create the vision for the national forest in the coming decade.

“Over the next four years the forest plan needs to bring together ecological, social and economic interests,” said Virginia Kelly, forest plan revision team leader. “Communities and the Forest Service will work together to determine what that means across the Custer Gallatin National Forest.”

The first public meetings will be held Feb. 22 through March 9. Each meeting will have similar agendas and will be held in the afternoon or evening depending on location.

Forest plan revision meetings will be the first opportunity for the public to provide local knowledge and information about current conditions, trends, perceptions and concerns, while also introducing the forest plan revision team to communities around the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

Meetings will include a brief district update and move into an introduction and overview of the revision process and how to understand the Custer Gallatin National Forest as a whole. Following the presentation there will be an opportunity to identify important interests in communities, ask questions and speak to Forest Service staff one-on-one.

Early and continued engagement throughout the forest plan revision process is welcomed and encouraged. Additional public meetings further into the assessment of existing conditions process will be hosted in June.

Visit [fs.usda.gov/main/custergallatin/landmanagement/planning](http://fs.usda.gov/main/custergallatin/landmanagement/planning) for more information. You can subscribe for email updates online or by calling (406) 587-6735.

Custer Gallatin National Forest plan revision meetings around the region:

- Big Timber**  
Monday, Feb. 29, 3-4:30 p.m. at the Sweet Grass Co. Annex (adjacent to the Extension office)
- Livingston**  
Monday, Feb. 29, 6:30–8 p.m. at the Duncan Hagemeyer Conference Room in the new Livingston HealthCare Medical Center
- Red Lodge**  
Tuesday, March 1, 6:30–8 p.m. at the Red Lodge Senior Center
- Bozeman**  
Wednesday, March 2, 6:30–8 p.m. in the Montana State Room of the Holiday Inn at 5 East Baxter Lane
- Big Sky**  
Thursday, March 3, 2–3:30 p.m. at the Big Sky Chapel
- West Yellowstone**  
Thursday, March 3, 5:30–7 p.m. at the West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce
- Gardiner**  
Monday, March 7, 5:30–7 p.m. at the Yellowstone Association
- Cooke City**  
Tuesday, March 8, 5–6:30 p.m. at Cooke City Chamber of Commerce

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## SHARK RODEO

Shark Rodeo, created by 2 rogue Cow Tippers, is comprised of a former deranged drummer now Cajonist (Andy Cottrell) and Clintons Front Guy and confessed ADHD poster child, John McClellan. These 2 can tell a joke, test your trivia knowledge and then make you dance until you sweat....a lot. Lots of music and fun to cap off the night!

Sunday, March 13, Buck’s T-4 Lodge  
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# Economists express optimism about Montana's future

KALISPELL (AP) – Manufacturing, tourism and consumer spending are expected to keep fueling Montana's economy this year, economists said at the 2016 Economic Outlook Seminar on Feb. 12.

Norma Nickerson, director of the Institution for Tourism and Recreation Research, projected another big year for national park visitation and ski resorts.

She attributed the positive outlook for the parks to the National Park Service's centennial and an increase in advertising.

Along with the commercial side, she said millennials have found ways to travel more often and at cheaper rates, using services like Airbnb and Uber.

"This just shows that things are changing and we have to pay attention to that," she said.

Todd Morgan from the Bureau of Business and Economic Research said Montana manufacturers are expecting a better year than 2015, the Daily Inter Lake reported.

About 45 percent of surveyed manufacturers said they are planning an increase in employment, while 4 percent said they're expecting to reduce staff.

Another positive indicator, according to Morgan: 36 percent of firms said filling a skilled labor force was the biggest issue of 2015. This year, only 25 percent of firms are worried about that issue.

"That raised some interesting questions," Morgan said. "Did they resolve this issue? We're not quite sure."

Either way, it appears the manufacturing industry can look forward to increased sales, Morgan said.

Patrick Barkey, director of the University of Montana Bureau of Business and Economic Research, said consumers are propelling Montana's economic growth.

"Investment, on the other hand, has throttled back and not contributed as much," Barkey said.

Barkey presented a national outlook, highlighting weakening economies such as Canada and Mexico expected to hurt U.S. product export numbers.

The U.S. economy, which has become stronger in recent years, is pushing up the cost of U.S. goods while continued job growth over the past five years has increased Americans' spending power.

Montana has experienced the same effect with steady job growth and a slightly more rapid rise in wages. Every sector in Montana except mining increased wages in 2015.

"They all tell the same story," Barkey said. "The growth has been pretty broad."

Barkey said the Bureau expects growth to continue this way for at least three or four more years.



# Montana mine gets conditional approval due to water worries

BY MATTHEW BROWN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) – Montana environmental regulators granted conditional approval Feb. 12 to a long-stalled silver and copper mine proposed beneath a federal wilderness area, saying the developer must show before mining can proceed that the \$500 million project won't drain overlying creeks.

Department of Environmental Quality Director Tom Livers said the agency was approving an air quality permit and a transmission line that would connect to the Montanore mine. Yet that leaves its operating permit still in question, drawing a backlash from Republicans in the state's Congressional delegation who urged full approval.

Developer Mines Management, Inc. pledged to move forward despite the state's concerns over water supplies in the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness. The mine potentially could drain groundwater supplies that feed into creeks and a river in the pristine area, an effect that could linger for centuries, according to government studies.

Mines Management can conduct evaluation work on the site under the Feb. 12 decision. But it won't be able to start digging until it demonstrates the mine won't degrade nearby creeks and the East Fork of the Bull River, Livers said in an interview with The Associated Press.

The worry, he said, is that mining will come too close to faults or cracks in the bedrock, opening a pathway for water to drain from the groundwater reserves.

"The company doesn't think it's going to happen, but based on the information we've got from them thus far, that's what's projected," Livers said. "We do not have the option to authorize any water degradation within the wilderness area."

He added that the company could resolve the issue by maintaining large buffer zones around the underground faults.

The U.S. Forest Service authorized the mine in a simultaneous action. That decision is contingent on the mine's backers obtaining permits from the state and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said Kootenai National Forest Supervisor Christopher Savage.

Mines Management, based in Spokane, Wash., previously said anything less than full approval could make it difficult to attract investors or force a sale of Montanore to a larger mining company that might delay the project.

Chairman Glenn Dobbs backed away from that assertion on Feb. 12. He said the company would be able to finance the mine based on the state and Forest Service decisions.

"We believe the Forest Service and Montana [decisions] are something we can live with, we can work with and we can build a mine with," Dobbs said.

Dobbs says the company will proceed with its \$30 million mining evaluation and present the findings to regulators in hopes of quieting their concerns about draining waterways.

A coalition of environmental groups opposed to the mine said the conditions required by the state would fail to safeguard the Bull River and five creeks that come out of the Cabinet Mountains.

"They've been studying this mine for years and years. All the evidence to date shows they can't excavate the deposit under the wilderness area [without] causing irreparable harm," said Bonnie Gestring with the group Earthworks.

U.S. Sen. Steve Daines and Rep. Ryan Zinke urged Gov. Steve Bullock to grant full approval. The Republicans have previously warned that a "staged" approval would delay much-needed job creation and tax revenue for Lincoln County. Lincoln has a 10 percent unemployment rate, the highest in the state, according to the Montana Department of Labor and Industry.

The mine would employ about 500 people during construction and approximately 350 people during mining. It would disturb more than 1,500 acres and remove up to 120 million tons of ore.

Its entrance would be just outside the wilderness area – a rugged, remote landscape that is one of a handful of areas in the U.S. where the government is seeking to restore grizzly bear populations.

Work on the site began around 1990 under different ownership and was suspended in 1991 due to low metal prices. Mines Management later took over and has been seeking a mining permit since 2004.



# MSU helps detect gravitational waves 100 years after Einstein's prediction

## MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN - For the first time, scientists have observed ripples in the fabric of spacetime called gravitational waves, arriving at the Earth from a cataclysmic event in the distant universe.

This data confirms a major prediction of Albert Einstein's 1915 general theory of relativity and opens an unprecedented new window onto the cosmos. Montana State University played a major role in the discovery.

Gravitational waves carry information about their dramatic origins and the nature of gravity that cannot otherwise be obtained.

Physicists have concluded that the detected gravitational waves were produced during the final fraction of a second when two black holes merged to produce a single, more massive spinning black hole. This collision of two black holes had been predicted but never observed.

The gravitational waves were detected on Sept. 14, 2015, at 5:51 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time by both twin detectors operated by Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory, located in Livingston, La., and Hanford, Wash.

MSU has been a member institution of the LIGO Scientific Collaboration since 2007. Neil

Cornish, physics professor and MSU eXtreme Gravity Institute co-director leads the MSU LIGO group.

Cornish, together with current and past graduate students, developed a novel method for extracting gravitational wave signals directly from the LIGO data. This analysis helped confirm the nature of the signal, and the consistency of the signal with the predictions of Einstein's theory of gravity.

"The detection of gravitational waves by LIGO is a tremendous achievement capping decades of work by a large number of people," said Cornish, "but this is just the beginning. I'm even more excited about the discoveries we are going to make going forward, both with LIGO and other gravitational wave detectors."

The eXtreme Gravity Institute at MSU is involved in two other gravitational wave projects: the North American NanoHertz Gravitational Observatory; and the Laser Interferometer Space Antenna - a future space mission led by the European Space Agency with possible NASA involvement.

"The XGI at Montana State University was launched just a year ago, at a historic time," said Renee Reijo Pera, vice president for research and economic development at MSU. "The institute

captures the enthusiasm of MSU and Montana for exploring great unknowns of extreme gravity."

The discovery of gravitational waves also has an unexpected Montana connection - the event horizon of the black hole that formed from the merger shares the same surface area as the state of Montana.

But the similarities end there: The black hole rotates 100 times per second, and has a mass 62 times larger than the Sun.

The power output of the merger briefly exceeded that of all the stars in the Universe. The total energy release was a billion billion billion times greater than the last eruption of the Yellowstone Supervolcano, or a million billion times the energy required to completely blow the Earth apart.

LIGO research is carried out by the LIGO Scientific Collaboration, LSC, a group of more than 1,000 scientists from universities around the United States and in 14 other countries. More than 90 universities and research institutes in the LSC develop detector technology and analyze data; approximately 250 students are strong contributing members of the collaboration.



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Section 2:  
SPORTS, BUSINESS,& HEALTH



Lady Big Horns end regular season with three home wins

BY AMANDA EGGERT  
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – After winning three consecutive home games, the 14-4 Lady Big Horns were ranked third going into the District tournament at Manhattan Christian Feb. 17-20.

Lone Peak High School head coach Nubia Allen said it’s the best district ranking any LPHS sports team has earned in the school’s history.

LPHS won all three of those games by comfortable margins, outscoring their opponents by a minimum of 14 points in each contest. Allen credits greater team cohesion for their strong offensive showings. “I’ve seen more chemistry between the girls. We’re giving up good shots for better shots, and that’s huge,” she said.

Feb. 13, the Lady Big Horns put a generous margin between themselves and the Lima Bears early on. They led 19-7 at the close of the first half, and in the second half, Allen put her junior varsity squad in for several minutes of varsity play.

“It’s nice to see them play varsity and hold their own,” Allen said. Nine of 12 LPHS players scored points on the way to a 45-22 win.

Sophomore guard Kuka Holder led both teams with 11 points. Junior forward Jenna McKillop led the Lady Big Horns’ rebounding efforts with nine boards.



Junior guard Dasha Bough squares up to shoot a 3-pointer. LPHS handily won the game against White Sulphur Springs 47-33 on Feb. 6.  
PHOTO BY AMANDA EGGERT

The night before, the Lady Big Horns faced off against West Yellowstone, an aggressive team and their biggest rival. Supporters for both squads came out in force.

The Lady Big Horns took some time to find their footing against the Wolverines, putting up just nine points in the first quarter.

“[The Wolverines] are fighters on both ends of the court,” Allen said. “Everything that they do, they’re going to do 100 percent. Once we were able to handle that aggressiveness, they got deflated.”

In the second quarter, LPHS started attacking the basket and sinking shots. They opened up their lead to 28-11 by the halftime buzzer.

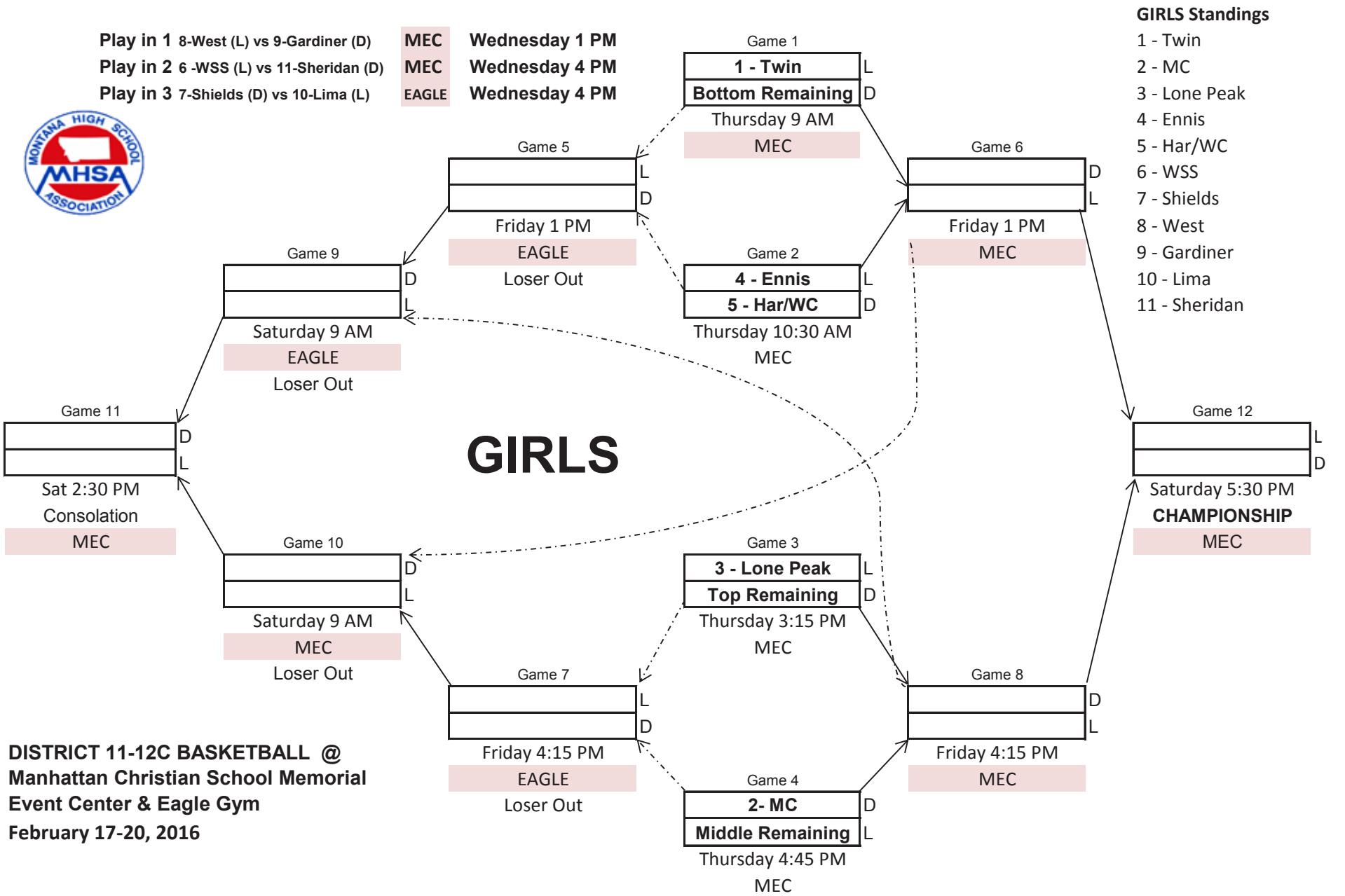
The Lady Big Horns’ 16 field goals were shared among seven players. Junior point guard Luisa Locker, sophomore center KP Hoffman and junior guard Dasha Bough tied for the most LPHS points in the contest with nine a piece. Bailee Parker led the Wolverines with 10 points.

Hoffman and Locker had particularly strong nights from the free-throw line, each making five of six attempts. As a team, the Lady Big Horns shot 65 percent from the foul line.

Feb. 6, LPHS took on White Sulphur Springs for their first and only regular-season matchup. They defeated the Hornets 47-33, grabbing 32 rebounds and making five 3-pointers along the way. Four of those 3-pointers belonged to Locker, who led both teams with 14 points.

On Feb. 18, the Lady Big Horns faced the sixth-ranked Hornets in the first round of the District tournament. As of EBS press time on Feb. 17, Allen was feeling good about the opportunity the Lady Big Horns had to make a splash in the tournament.

“We put ourselves in the best position possible,” Allen said. “If everything goes according to plan, we’ll be playing Manhattan Christian on [Feb. 19]. I think we have a very, very good chance of winning Districts.”





# Big Horns finish regular season on high note

BY AMANDA EGGERT  
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – The Big Horns wrapped up their regular season of play with three solid showings at home, winning two games and losing one close contest.

Feb. 13, the Big Horns nearly doubled the Lima Bears’ points for a 71-38 win, bringing their record to 6-12. All nine players contributed at least one basket and one rebound.

“Everyone that went in played well and contributed,” said Lone Peak High School head coach Al Malinowski, adding that four players reached double-digits with their scoring.

The game’s trajectory was established early on - by the end of the first quarter, LPHS was up 22-4.

Lima has a small team, so when one of their five players fouled out, the Big Horns finished out the fourth quarter by matching up their four youngest players against the remaining Bears in four-on-four fashion.

Eighth-grader Frankie Starz had a particularly solid showing, scoring six points in the fourth quarter. “It was really good to see him show that as far as his talents and abilities go, he deserves the opportunity [to play on the high school team],” Malinowski said.

The previous night, LPHS defeated West Yellowstone 51-44 in a game that remained close all the way through the fourth quarter. Malinowski said the crowd was so worked up they made the game video footage blurry with their bleacher-shaking cheering.

“I’m sure having that much support behind them gave our guys more of a push to find energy in the fourth quarter. It had an impact,” Malinowski said. When the two teams faced off Jan. 15, the Wolverines bested the Big Horns 44-43.

The two teams traded the lead several times throughout their Feb. 12 game. LPHS was up

15-10 at the end of the first quarter, but the Wolverines had a strong second quarter, scoring 15 points to the Big Horns’ eight. At halftime, the Wolverines led 25-23.

Junior guard Eddie Starz spurred the Big Horns’ momentum during a close third quarter with one basket outside the 3-point arc, one inside it, and two free throws. He scored 26 points on the night, nearly double the next closest scorer, West Yellowstone’s Bryce Loamis who had 14 points.

Early in the fourth quarter, the Big Horns initiated a scoring streak that carried them to victory.

Frankie Starz hit a 3-pointer to tie the game, and sophomore guard Liam Germain followed it with a steal he converted into two points at the other end of the court.

A couple of possessions later, senior post Chris Tompkins fed Kolya Bough who drained a 3-pointer to open his scoring for the night. Bough followed it by making five-of-six from the free-throw line.

The Big Horns shot 17 free throws during the fourth quarter alone. They made 58 percent of their 31 attempts. “I’d like to see us get in the high 60s and maybe hit 70 [percent], but getting there 31 times [was] really important,” Malinowski said.

The Wolverines played a competitive game all the way through. “We made more plays in the fourth quarter, and that gave us the win, but they were certainly fighting, too,” Malinowski said.



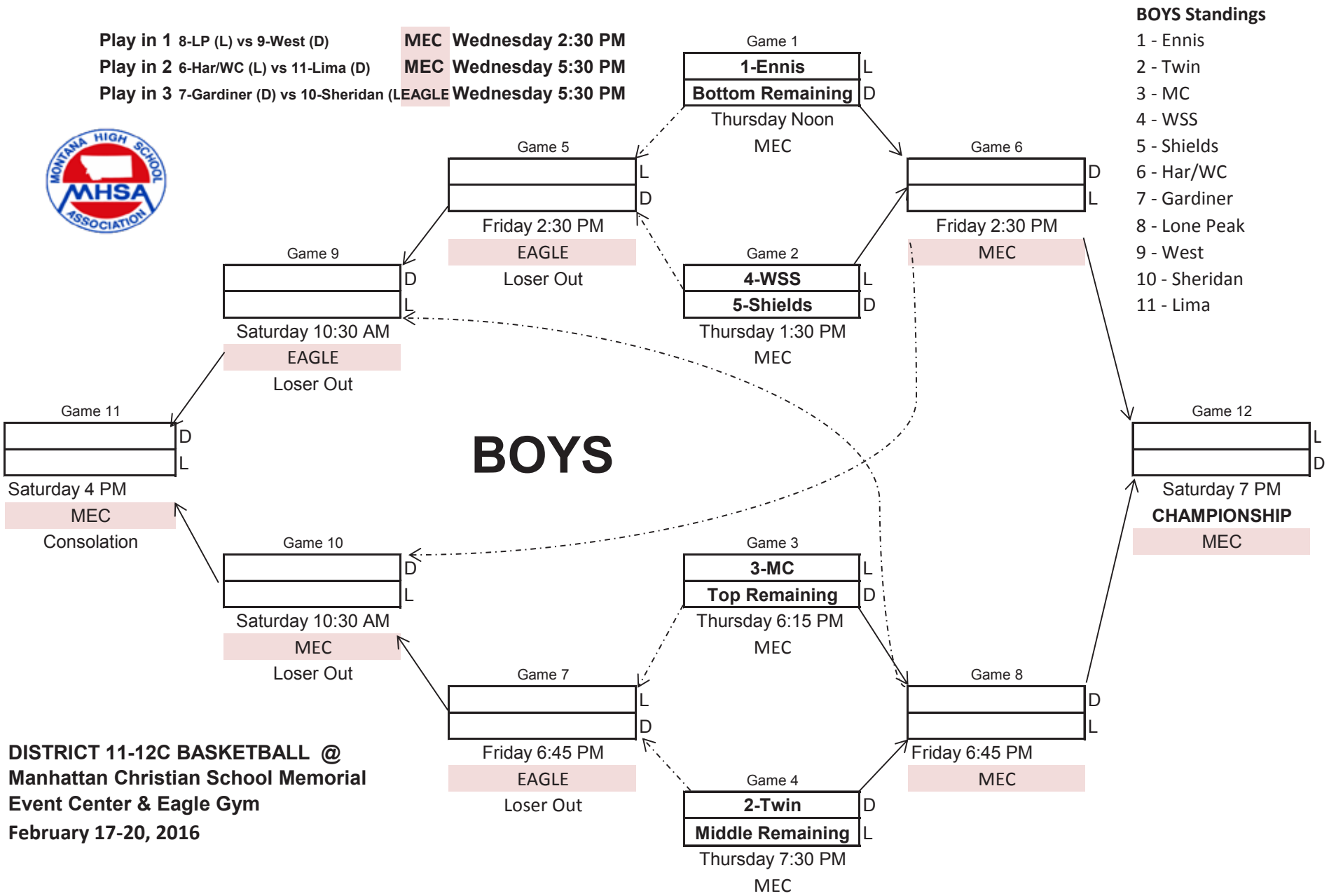
Sophomore guard Liam Germain snags a steal and heads down court for a layup during the Big Horns’ Feb. 6 69-61 loss to White Sulphur Springs. PHOTO BY AMANDA EGGERT

Feb. 6, the Big Horns lost 69-61 to the fourth-ranked White Sulphur Springs Hornets in a close home game.

As of EBS press time on Feb. 17, the eighth-ranked Big Horns were preparing to play the ninth-ranked Wolverines again. The teams were seeded against each other in the first round of the District 11/12C tournament, which takes place at Manhattan Christian Feb. 17-20.

Malinowski said he was hoping for another game where multiple Big Horns make strong contributions on offense. “I think the team that gets more production from more players has a better chance of winning that game,” Malinowski said.

The top four teams from the District tournament will advance to the western Divisional tournament held in Hamilton, Mont. Feb. 24-27.







# EYE ON THE BALL

## Defense prevails in Super Bowl 50



BY BRANDON NILES  
EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

Throughout the off-season, many remarks will be made about the Denver Broncos and their Super Bowl victory over the Carolina Panthers.

People will point to the off-field allegations against Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning, and will discuss the leadership of Panthers quarterback Cam Newton after he ended a post-game press conference short. However, all the noise surrounding these stories has overshadowed what was an amazing Super Bowl.

The offenses struggled in the 24-10 Broncos victory. There were no helmet catches or heroic drives and it was the lowest scoring Super Bowl since 2008.

Instead, fans were treated to two incredible defensive performances. There's an old adage that defense wins championships, and watching Broncos linebacker and Super Bowl MVP Von Miller rack up two-and-a-half sacks and a forced fumble recovered for a touchdown demonstrated that theory.

The Denver defense held the Panthers to only 10 points after averaging more than 31 points per

game during the regular season, best in the NFL. Denver's ability to frustrate Newton and stymie his potent offense was the difference in the game and the reason for the victory.

Von Miller established himself as a household name during a matchup in which he dominated the Panthers offensive line. In addition to the sacks he caused, Miller harassed Newton the entire game, notching two hits on the athletic quarterback and batting down a pass.

Miller was the clear choice for Super Bowl MVP, marking only the second time in the past 13 years that a defensive player has claimed the honor. Miller is set to be a free agent this offseason, and if he avoids the franchise tag, he could become the highest paid defensive player in league history.

The Denver defense not only had to contain Newton, but also overcome the struggles of their own offense. Manning had two turnovers and only 141 yards passing. In fact, the only two touchdowns the Broncos scored were off two Carolina fumbles, one that was recovered in the end zone and another on the Carolina 4 yard line.

The Carolina defense turned in an elite performance as well. Linebacker Luke Kuechly had a game-high 10 tackles to go with a sack, and second year defensive end Kony Ealy notched three sacks and an interception. Had the Panthers won the game, Ealy would likely have been the MVP.

Many people will remember this game as being an ugly one to watch, but I think that impression is simply a product of the way the game has changed. With the emphasis on offense over the past decade, fans have been spoiled with high-scoring games.

However, what this game lacked in prolific offense, it more than made up for with ridiculous defense. Both teams battered the opposing quarterback en route to the most combined sacks ever in a Super Bowl.

Each team has different questions to answer going into the offseason, but assuming Denver can bring back Miller, both defenses should be elite again to start next year.

Unfortunately, I have that sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach that I get every year when I realize another football season is over. At least I can remember that from opening kickoff to the final seconds of the Super Bowl, I enjoyed the opportunity to watch strong defense from both teams. And it provided a glimmer of hope that the old-school brand of football I grew up loving might still have a place in the modern NFL.

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

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# Big Sky Freeride athletes podium at Targhee event

BY AMANDA EGGERT  
EBS STAFF WRITER

ALTA, Wyo. – Five of 15 athletes from the Big Sky Freeride team podiumed at the Grand Targhee Junior Freeskiing Inter-Mountain Cup on Feb. 6 and 7, which drew approximately 100 skiers and snowboarders 10 to 18 years old.

“We put a ton of kids in the top 10,” said BSF coach Cooper Raasch. “We did incredible.”

BSF athletes compete at International Freeskiers and Snowboarders Association events throughout the Rockies, from Kicking Horse, British Columbia to Taos, N.M. And BSF has had a strong season so far. “This year has been a banner year for Big Sky Freeride,” Raasch said. “We’ve podiumed at every event we’ve gone to so far.”

Athletes are scored on each of two runs, which are then added to determine their total score. There are five categories to guide competition judges in their scoring: line, technique, control, fluidity, and style and energy.

A BSF athlete finished in the top six in each of the age groups at Grand Targhee, Raasch said. Snowboarder Holden Samuels was given the coveted “sick bird” award. “It means you were above and beyond what everybody else that you competed against did,” Raasch said. Samuels earned nearly double the points of the second place finisher.

The Big Sky Freeride team will compete on their home turf at the Headwaters Spring Runoff March 11-13. All of the competitors will ski terrain off the Lone Tree chair, and finalists will take on the cliffs, chutes and gullies of the Headwaters terrain during the finals.



Chase Samuels finished 17th in the Male Skier 15-18 category. PHOTOS BY COOPER RAASCH



Beck Trebesh finished 25th in the Male Skier 15-18 category



Jackson Raden finished 9th in the Male Skier 15-18 category.

## Big Sky Freeride results: IFSA Jr. Freeskiing Inter-Mountain Cup

### Female Skiers U12

2nd Place Skylar Manka Final Score: 54.43

### Female Skiers 12-14

1st Place Lila Mann Final Score: 54.80

2nd Place Nehalem Manka Final Score: 54.27

### Male Snowboard 15-18

1st Place Holden Samuels Final Score: 63.07

### Male Skier 15-18

3rd Place Carter Gall Final Score: 62.77

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# Bullock introduces Montana Business Navigator

## Online service improves efficiency for new business startups

OFFICE OF GOV. STEVE BULLOCK

BOZEMAN – Montana entrepreneur Will Price and Bozeman business leaders joined Gov. Steve Bullock in early February to introduce the Montana Business Navigator to the Bozeman business community.

The Business Navigator is a new online service that guides prospective business owners and entrepreneurs through a streamlined process of identifying the necessary registrations, licenses and permits needed to start enterprises in the state.

“Montana’s small businesses are a driving force of our state’s growing economy,” Bullock said. “The Montana Business Navigator is the result of direct feedback we solicited from entrepreneurs and small business owners across the state who told us about the need to streamline information, cut red tape and make it easier to create jobs.”

The service offers a checklist as a guide for Montanans to identify the

state permits and licenses needed to open and operate a business in Montana, and the checklist is tailored to the specific business input by the user.

Since the site went live on Jan. 14, more than 3,500 people have visited the Navigator website, and 200 individuals have used the Business Checklist portion of the Navigator.



The Governor’s Office of Economic Development led the development of the Business Navigator under the directive of the Governor’s Main Street Montana Project to cut red tape for small businesses and increase government efficiency.

“The Business Navigator is the result of hundreds of discussions and working sessions with a diverse group of stakeholders in government, economic development, and private business,” said John Rogers, Chief Business Development Officer for the State of Montana. “We are all very proud of the final product.”

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# Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



Balmy weather in February has made for some great fishing!

Warmer days this time of year makes for more active fish and aquatic insects. Midge hatches are bringing more fish to the surface and anglers are more motivated to trade in their skis or snowboard for fly rods.

Fishing hasn't been off the charts good, but we're seeing a gradual improvement every week. As March grows closer we can expect to hear about those great days that SW Montana rivers are known for.

Whether you are on the Gallatin, Madison, Yellowstone or anywhere else in SW Montana this time of year make sure to have in your box some good midge dry and larvae patterns like Silvey's Hatching and Adult Midges, Zebras in a variety of colors and sizes, T-Midges and CDC Cluster Midges. Generally speaking you'll have to find areas where water is moving slowly to find good midge activity on the surface and good numbers of trout feeding on them.

Nymphing is pretty simple in the spring. Pat's Rubber Legs, Pheasant Tails, aforementioned Zebra Midges, Green Machines, anything with a hot bead, worms and eggs all are good calls. You may have to play with sizes and colors depending on the day and river, but these are producers all year long.

The streamer bite will also improve with warming water temperatures. Smaller patterns tend to be more productive in late winter, early spring like Mini Scupzillas and Buggers. Vary retrieves from dead-drifted or swung to long, fast strips. When fish are cold they tend not to work too hard for their food, so slower is usually better.

Hope to see you on the water and don't forget to join us for Thursday Night Fly Tying at 5pm every Thursday.

CDC Cluster Midge



Green Machine



Keller's Hot Worm



Pat's Rubber Legs



Zebra Midge



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# New brewery finds success in small batches

BY SARAH GIANELLI  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – In the six months since its July grand opening in Big Sky, Beehive Basin Brewery has released 35 different styles of beer.

With the exception of its staples – the Working Guys Cream Ale, Green Bridge IPA and .50 Cal Coffee Porter and soon, due to repeated requests, the Saison – it hasn't repeated a single recipe. Due to increasing demand and limited quantities, tasting every one of brewer Andy Liedberg's carefully crafted beers requires becoming a "regular regular." In other words, they go fast.

Patrons often ask Liedberg and business partner Casey Folley when they plan to start distributing. Besides a handful of Big Sky restaurants, the only place to experience Liedberg's eclectic creations is onsite at their rustic, industrial taproom and brewery adjacent to Roxy's Market.



Locals and tourists stop by to sip on a favorite beer or try one of brewer Andy Liedberg's latest concoctions.

"That was never really our vision," Folley said about mass distribution. "Our vision was always to be the best small brewery we can possibly be."

Their seven-barrel brew house is nearing capacity, far exceeding the 200-barrels they estimated to produce in the few short months they were open in 2015. Beehive is on track to more than double that amount this year.

"The beauty of making small batches is that I can continually make different beers," Liedberg said. "I'm not locked into tap accounts where I have to make the same five beers every day. It keeps it fun for me and for the locals."

It also enables Liedberg to experiment with aging in wine and bourbon barrels, creating a gluten-free option that actually tastes good, and to make specialty beers like the Monticello, an ale based off of Thomas Jefferson's recipes released on President's Day weekend in mid-February.



Beehive Basin Brewery opened six months ago and is going strong. PHOTOS BY TAYLOR-ANN SMITH

The brewery owners met on Big Sky Resort's golf course in 2012 after Folley left Denver and a career in finance for a more peaceful life in Big Sky. (No, Folley wasn't homeless before striking it rich in the penny stocks as one of the more amusing rumors speculated).

When Folley learned that Liedberg, a longtime Montanan, was an avid home brewer with professional experience at numerous breweries including Lone Peak and Bridger Brewing, he offhandedly suggested they open a brewery.

"I really wasn't out there trying to find a brewer and open a brewery," said Folley who, along with his accountant wife Leisha, is a graduate of the University of Montana business school. "I knew I wanted to have my own business someday, but when I met Andy it lit the spark and I was like 'OK, this is something we can do.'"

With Folley's business savvy and Liedberg's brewing and construction knowhow, the foundation was in place for a successful endeavor.

Being the best small brewery it can be isn't just about the beer. Beehive Brewery's owners source ingredients

and equipment locally when possible, and utilize geothermal equipment to pump heat produced during brewing back into the building. Their next big project is to install a biomass generator to compost the increasing heaps of spent grain into an additional source of renewable energy.

"With the biomass generator, and looking ahead to incorporate solar energy, we could potentially be one of the greenest breweries in the country," Folley said.

But in the end it does come back to the beer, and it only takes a sip to know that Liedberg is a master. Like many an artist, he's guided by a combination of intuition and technical knowledge. When asked if he keeps detailed notes on his concoctions, Liedberg laughs and presents a pile of crumpled papers as his response.

"You can give two people the same recipe and it's going to come out somewhat different," Liedberg said. He compares brewing to the craft of a chef, another notch in his tool belt of experience that informs his brewing today.

"We're a small-batch brewery and we're focused on the beer," Folley said. "We might not have what you had last week, but we have something else and it's going to be great."



Coltrane enjoys a free sample from some generous customers.



# Wilderness Medicine Conference returns to Big Sky

## Medical professionals talk heat stroke, Zika and snakebites

STORY AND PHOTOS BY AMANDA EGGERT  
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – Dr. Timothy Erickson peppered his Feb. 12 presentation on snake envenomation at Big Sky Resort’s Huntley Lodge with snake-related trivia, tossing out rubber snakes for correct answers.

At the Wilderness Medicine Conference, held Feb. 10-14, the audience refuses to be stumped, especially when Erickson, a National Geographic Explorers Club member, ups the ante and starts distributing micro-brews, which he graciously opens.

They know which snake kills the most people worldwide – Russell’s viper. They know physical characteristics of venomous snakes of North America: arrow-shaped heads, heat-sensing pits between eyes and nostrils, and elliptical, cat-like eyes. They even know which state has the most snakebites per capita – North Carolina.

Erickson parts with 20-plus snakes during his 50-minute presentation. He also polls the crowd. About half the audience’s hands go up when he asks if anyone went skiing earlier in the day. Some are still wearing snow pants, vests and beanies.

“That was a heaven-kissed day, wasn’t it,” he says. “... All that sunshine, hardly any wind, a little powder in the morning?”

Approximately 400 people traveled from all over the U.S. as well as Canada, Australia and New Zealand to attend the National Conference on Wilderness Medicine, but it’s not all work. There are breaks built into each day for optional outdoor activities – think guided backcountry skiing, ice climbing and snowmobiling in Yellowstone National Park. Back indoors, attendees learn about topics like Zika virus and other mosquito-borne diseases, altitude illness prevention and treatment, and fracture and dislocation management in the backcountry.

Halfway through his presentation, Erickson asks if anyone’s been bitten by a snake. One hand goes up.

“Timber rattler,” she says.

“Where were you?”

“Tennessee.”

“Were you at a worship service?” Erickson quips, to appreciative laughter.

As the woman walks up to accept her Moose Drool Brown Ale from Erickson, she says, “I know you.” The two figure out they worked together in Antarctica years before.



Lanny Johnson, a Jackson Hole, Wyo.-based Physician Assistant, demonstrates proper stitching technique on a chicken breast during an afternoon workshop. “When you’re closing something, as far as sutures go, less is more,” Johnson said. “You don’t have to make it super, ultra tight every time you close something.”



Wilderness Medicine Conference attendees practice a tree well extraction using a vacuum splint under the direction of Steve Emerson (left), Big Sky Ski Patrol’s Medical Supervisor.

He calls her in for a hug and says, “I am just so touched. Jenny, it’s just so wonderful to see you.”

When Eric Weiss co-founded the Wilderness Medicine program 25 years ago, he aimed to create a platform for medical education specific to wilderness and international settings.

“Before I went to medical school, I was a commercial raft guide. I used to see a lot of injured people in the wilderness and didn’t know how to take care of them,” he says. “After medical school [this] was a way for me to combine my passion with my profession.”

Weiss, now the course director, delivered a number of the conference’s lectures himself, including one titled “1001 Uses for Duct Tape & Safety Pins: Improvised Care in Austere Environments,” as well as others addressing medical issues related to temperature extremes. He’s a mountaineer, whitewater enthusiast and a professor of emergency medicine at the Stanford University Medical Center.

Attendees come from a broad range of medical backgrounds. Wilderness Medicine faculty have taught EMTs, search and rescue volunteers, psychiatrists, physicians from every specialty, radiologists, and physician assistants along with nurses; even Secret Service and military personnel.

“People love it,” Weiss said. “They’re learning about things they never learned in medical school and it’s info that’s vastly useful because it deals with stuff from day-to-day living.”

The conference, held at Big Sky for the past 21 years, is a mix of large lectures and optional smaller workshops that address the nuts and bolts of specific medical and backcountry skills.

Physician Assistant Lanny Johnson led one such workshop, a suture lab and basic

wound-management class, where about a dozen people practiced stitching up chicken breasts.

Johnson opened the workshop by stressing that it’s often best not to close wounds in the backcountry due to the difficulty in adequately cleaning them.

“There are almost no wounds that absolutely have to be closed, particularly on a backcountry expedition, even on a long expedition,” he said, adding that all backcountry wounds should be considered contaminated.

Sea wounds and snow wounds are no exception. “Don’t be fooled by snow. Snow is absolutely unclean. I’ve seen some of the worst pussied-out wounds from snow rash,” said Johnson, who serves as a medical advisor to the Jackson Hole Mountain Resort Ski Patrol.

Much of Johnson’s workshop is oriented toward the kind of wisdom-via-improvisation you might expect from a former climbing park ranger who is also a pilot: Always bring a headlamp with extra batteries, he says, but if you’re in a pinch you can use tinfoil to reflect light to better see inside a wound as you repair it.

Another tip: T-shirts boiled in water for 10 minutes will work if you don’t have sterile dressing available. Cover them with dry dressing and change them every one to three days.

“Every time you pull [the packing] out, that’s when [your patients] don’t like you,” he says in an almost offhand manner. “They’re going to hurt for a minute and you’re going to repack it.”

When it’s time to demonstrate different kinds of sutures, Johnson handles his instruments with ease and emphasizes the importance of stitching together similar tissue types: “‘Fascia to fascia, fat to fat. God doesn’t like people who don’t do that.’ When you sew, you have to recognize what you’re sewing together.”

After practicing running stiches and discussing the pros and cons of absorbable and non-absorbable sutures, Johnson’s workshop participants clean up.

He shares a couple more war stories, tells them to buy some chicken breasts to continue practicing, and leaves them with a final piece of advice: “If you feel like a goofball when you do this, don’t worry. It’s normal, totally normal.”



## DOCTOR'S NOTE

### The injury unique to snowboarders



BY DR. JEFF DANIELS  
EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

One of the most unique injuries we see at the Medical Clinic of Big Sky, an injury not seen in any other sport or activity, is a fracture deep inside a snowboarder's ankle.

Never described before snowboarding started in the early 90s, this injury can have devastating consequences if not properly diagnosed and treated. And, amazingly, few snowboarders know about it.

In Vail, Colo., when snowboarding was a new sport, a group of orthopedists observed several young men who were limping months after suffering ankle injuries. A majority of these injuries were on the left side, the front or lead foot for most snowboarders. All had X-rays taken immediately after their injuries, and when no obvious fracture was noted, the doctors diagnosed ankle sprains.

People generally recover from sprained ankles within a week or two, but these patients did not. When re-evaluated several months later, X-rays showed a poorly healed, fractured bone deep inside the ankle. And each break was in the same spot: the lower, outer edge of the talus bone, one of the three important bones in the ankle joint.

The Vail orthopedists decided to study this phenomenon, and quickly noted that the mechanism of injury in the majority of these cases was related to a jump, or more precisely, a jump that was not landed well. The ankle pain and swelling was enough to get these guys to seek emergency care, and the ankle X-rays that were taken, even after close review, did not reveal the crush fractures that were noted later.

These astute orthopedists realized that by missing these fractures, the ankle sustained irreversible damage because the bone fragments solidified in abnormal ways, leaving the ankle permanently arthritic.

The Vail doctors set up the study to identify these injuries before damage became irreversible. When the mechanism of injury involved a jump, and resulted in ankle pain and swelling in the lead foot, a CT scan was offered. It became apparent that even though X-rays were negative, a CT scan could easily demonstrate the crush injury of the bone. The doctors then determined that surgery would be necessary to return the ankle to normal.

Many doctors now recognize and diagnose this type of snowboarder ankle injury, more formally know as a fracture of the inferolateral border of the talus. However, I'm amazed that most snowboarders who come in with this injury, as well as most students and residents I teach in my clinic, have no clue as to what it is.

The way I recognize this injury in snowboarders, after matching the mechanism of the injury to the original reports, is by examining the ankle and finding more swelling and black and blue than what I would expect in a simple sprain of the same area.

Pain is on both sides of the ankle, even though the injury is on one side. We perform X-rays because we sometimes see the fractures, but if we can't, a CT scan of the ankle is highly recommended.

Over the years since I heard the lecture from those Vail orthopedists in 1997, I've identified this injury in about 50 snowboarders, or about three per ski season. If the injury would have gone undiagnosed, they all might still be limping today.

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



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# From Jackie *with love*

## How seaweed can save your diet



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN  
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

Have you ever been grocery shopping and found yourself in the ethnic foods aisle wondering how one incorporates seaweed into one’s diet outside of eating sushi?

The next time you’re there, do yourself and your family a favor and pick up a bag of kombu, a member of the kelp family found in oceans around the world. It costs about \$5 and will provide added nutrients to many meals.

Here’s how to use it: Tear off a 2-by-4-inch strip of kombu, and add it to your grains, beans, legumes or soups before you turn on the heat. Cook your food as usual, and the kombu will expand and stay intact.

As this sea vegetable cooks with your food, it releases essential trace minerals and vitamins like calcium, iron, vitamin B, vitamin A, potassium, magnesium, iodine and zinc to name a few.

Kombu has anti-cancer and anti-inflammatory properties, and is alkalizing, meaning it balances your body’s pH so it can optimally perform basic functions. It also improves digestibility, reduces gas and bloating, and tenderizes grains, beans and legumes.

Once you remove the sheet of kombu after cooking, you’ll notice a subtle and unique aroma, but one that has little impact on the flavor and salinity of your food.

You might also enjoy the taste and texture of the kombu. If so, chop it up and add it to your meal. If you’re eating with others who have a squeamish appetite, keep it on the side and invite them to try a small piece.

If eating kombu isn’t for you, try feeding it to your dog. It’s considered a superfood for your furry friend, and is easy to digest. If that fails, add it to your compost – your soil will be better for it.

It’s worth noting that sea vegetables like kombu are an abundant source of iodine. Until the 1920s, America had many communities that were iodine deficient and experienced severe thyroid disease.

Our bodies don’t make iodine, so we have to get it from food. And without it, our thyroid can’t function properly.

In 1924, after the discovery that iodine supported healthy thyroid function, Morton Salt started an effective trend by adding iodine to table salt, which greatly reduced thyroid disease related to insufficient iodine.

Today, there’s much debate about iodine deficiency in the U.S. In recent decades, several factors have depleted our iodine intake. Please note: if you have a hyperthyroid (overactive thyroid) condition like Grave’s disease your physician may want to limit your iodine intake. Ask their opinion.

Kombu is easy to come by, affordable and has a long shelf life. Store it in an airtight glass container at room temperature. Keep it near your grains, beans and legumes as a reminder to add it before cooking.

Let me know how it goes. I’d love to hear about other unique ways you’re adding sea vegetables to your diet.

*Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach, a public speaker and health activist. Contact her at [rainfordcorcoran@gmail.com](mailto:rainfordcorcoran@gmail.com).*



### Recently, a number of factors have depleted our iodine intake. Here are a few:

1. American’s consume large amounts of highly processed and salty foods, but most food companies don’t use iodized salt.
2. When cooking at home, many of us have switched to gourmet salts that have not been iodized.
3. Our soil has been depleted of naturally occurring iodine, which diminishes iodine levels in the plants that grow in it or the animals that graze on it.



Adding Kombu is a simple way to add a list of vital nutrients to your meals. CC PHOTO BY NETTIE CRONISH





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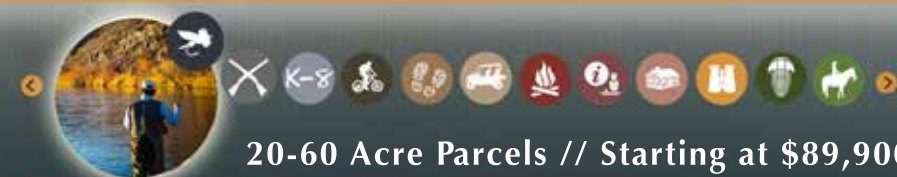


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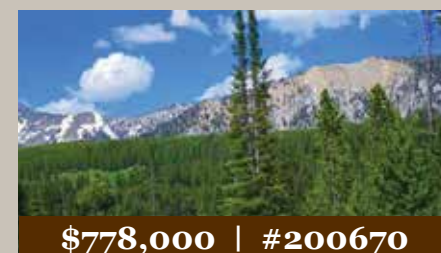
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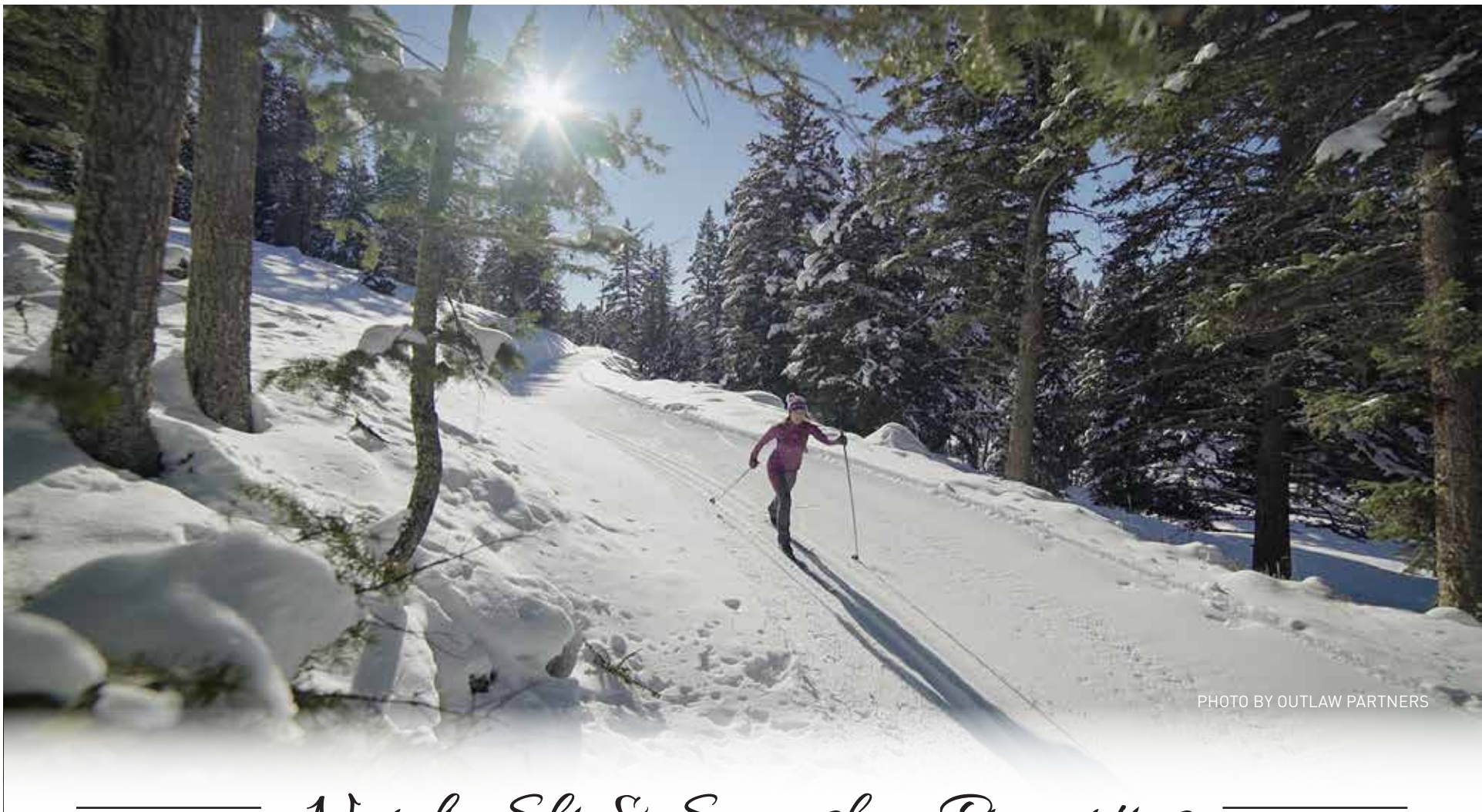


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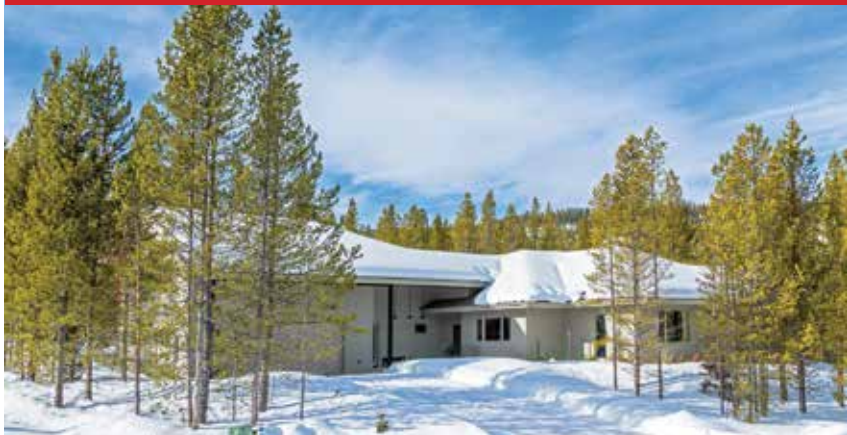
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## Section 3: ENVIRONMENT & OUTDOORS



Whitebark pine in danger p. 34



Eddy Line: Winter streamers p. 41



Dining with a fox p. 46

# The New West Remembering a true hero of public lands



BY TODD WILKINSON  
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL  
COLUMNIST

Alex Diekmann and I were the same age, living on the same street, raising kids that went to the same schools. No dear friend gave me more grief for being a writing hermit and I loved him for it. He died from a rare form of cancer Feb. 1 and would've turned 53 on Feb. 10.

In the highest public sense, at least in the way we like to exalt ourselves as being good neighbors, engaged citizens, patriotic Americans, and joint stakeholders concerned for the future of our country and the world our kids inherit, what does "in perpetuity" mean?

Alex delighted in providing answers by taking you to places on maps, reminding that you-me-we hold title to the deed.

Diekmann was lesser known to folks beyond Bozeman. But the work he did as an unrivaled dealmaker with the Trust for Public Land in Greater Yellowstone and the northern Rockies was extraordinary.

As his wife, Lisa, says, passion for his job was only slightly less than the protective ardor he held for his boys, Logan and Liam.

Diekmann graduated from Yale University where he was a nationally ranked varsity swimmer, and went on to earn Master of Business Administration from UCLA. Along the way, he worked on Wall Street and brokered commercial real estate in Seattle. He could've easily become a cocky fast-lane hotshot; instead, he discovered that public land protection was far more personally rewarding.

Ten years ago, I was hiking with Alex and his then 8-year-old son Logan, through a rugged valley south of Big Sky called the Taylor Fork in the Madison Mountains.

The drainage functions as an irreplaceable ancient passageway for wildlife in southwest Montana, especially as huge numbers of elk move east to west seasonally between the Gallatin Range and Madison Valley. A few days

prior to our arrival, the state had counted 11 grizzlies and later documented wolf packs.

Someday soon, the Taylor Fork could become home to a resident herd of wild bison migrating from Yellowstone.

"Isn't this place great," Alex said. "We're standing at the spot where it all comes together."

"Who owns this land, Dad?" Logan asked.

"You do," Alex said. "We do. We all do."

That day I was researching a story about a complicated series of private land purchases and exchanges with the Forest Service which Alex was instrumental in executing. The deals consolidated the Taylor Fork into public ownership, preventing it from being checkerboarded with development.

We vowed that we would return to the Taylor Fork with Logan and Liam when Alex's boys became our age. The Taylor Fork alone would've been career defining, but it was just Alex's start in making really big things happen.

---

**"...We still have a lot of work to do, but I'm optimistic. You have to be optimistic if you want to accomplish anything worthwhile."**

---

As important as that remarkable drainage is as a crossroads, it was Diekmann who to all of us represented our confluence.

Dick Dolan, TPL's regional director, says Alex in 16 years oversaw 55 projects as chief manager that cumulatively preserved more than 100,000 public acres.

Rancher Jeff Laszlo, who collaborated with Diekmann in protecting O'Dell Creek on

the family's Granger Ranches, an important wetland and trout-spawning tributary to the Madison River, says the multiple deals Alex forged there solidified the Madison Valley as a miracle of open space protection in the West.

Flyfisherman and conservationist Craig Mathews says Alex's deeds may be unsung but he ranks among the greatest public land protectors ever in our region.

Whitefish, Mont. Mayor John Muhlfeld cites Diekmann's recent involvement in working with Stoltze Land and Lumber Co. to protect his town's source of drinking water in Haskell Basin near Glacier National Park.

Alan Front, one of Diekmann's former TPL colleagues and a national authority on the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, said Alex, by force of personality, financial savvy and charming persuasion, got land deals completed that no one else could.

His fans included the late U.S. Sen. Craig Thomas of Wyoming, who worked with Diekmann to safeguard Devil's Canyon Ranch on the western flanks of Wyoming's Bighorn Mountains, and former U.S. Sen. Conrad Burns of Montana.

"So often you read about intractable environmental problems," Alex said as we wandered the Taylor Fork a decade ago. "But what's happening with protection of wildlife corridors in the greater Yellowstone region is about finding win-win solutions. We still have a lot of work to do, but I'm optimistic. You have to be optimistic if you want to accomplish anything worthwhile."

Diekmann the conservationist wasn't seeking immortality or accolades for his efforts; he believed in public lands and the public having access to them in perpetuity. He invited us to know and act upon the power of thinking beyond generations for the public good. He showed us what selfless perpetuity means.

*Montana journalist Todd Wilkinson has been writing his column, "The New West," for the Jackson Hole News & Guide for nearly 30 years. Going forward, the New West will also appear weekly in the printed or online versions of Explore Big Sky. Look for it here.*



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# Whitebark pine: A species in turmoil

BY JESSIE WIESE  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Whitebark pine is a hardy, five-needled conifer classified as a stone pine that grows on aspects and high elevations where other species cannot survive. It’s a familiar sight in the Big Sky area, but several environmental threats are now challenging its ubiquity.

Known by its scientific name *Pinus albicaulis*, the whitebark is a candidate species for the Endangered Species Act and may be danger of extinction within two to three generations. Indeed, field research conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey’s Northern Rocky Mountain Science center, showed that whitebark pine is functionally extinct in more than a third of its range in northern Rocky Mountain ecosystems.



A close up of white bark pine. CC PHOTO BY MIGUEL VIEIRA

It’s been heavily impacted during the last several years – threats to the species include habitat loss; mortality from white pine blister rust; fire and fire suppression; the inability to manage the species across large landscapes; and the mountain pine beetle.

The pine beetle epidemic has now subsided after impacting an estimated 95 percent of stands in the Greater Yellowstone, 50 percent of which have complete overstory mortality, according to Ellen Jungck, subcommittee chair for the Greater Yellowstone’s Coordinating Committee Whitebark Pine group.

The species is well-known throughout the region due to its relationship to climate change, grizzly bears, and threats from disease. It is known as a “keystone species” that helps facilitate the health of several other species in the area.

“[Whitebark pine] helps hold water longer in the season by slowing [the] process of snowmelt, [and] provides site amelioration, allowing other key species like spruce and fir establish,” Jungck said.

The tree also reduces soil erosion by quickly regenerating after fire and other disturbances, and provides food for many birds and mammals – it’s a key dietary staple for grizzly bears.

One of the most complex issues of whitebark pine restoration is that the species is mainly located at high elevations on federal lands, which can make research and management difficult. Maintaining communities requires a coordinated effort across federal, state and other land management agencies.

*continued on pg. 35*



*continued from pg. 34*

“Often agencies will resort to helicoptering the trees in for restoration efforts, which leads to massive expense,” said Jungck, referencing volunteer groups like the Jenny Lake Climbing Rangers in Grand Teton National Park, which have been enlisted to assist in the efforts.

“Finding funding for these projects can be challenging, [because] the area they are trying to cover is huge,” Jungck added.

Another challenge is that many whitebark forests exist in wilderness or wilderness study areas where ecosystems are not managed at all, in accordance with federal guidelines.

Outside of these wilderness areas, land managers in the most highly impacted regions of whitebark pine ranges are using several restoration techniques including protecting mature cone-producing trees from wildfire; protecting potentially blister rust-resistant trees from mountain pine beetles; planting seedlings in accessible, competition-free areas; and in some cases removing competing tree species from whitebark pine stands.

The Big Sky area has a unique opportunity to work with the species due to private landownership over a large whitebark pine range. And the environmental team at the Yellowstone Club, a private residential community located in Big Sky, is one land manager taking an active approach.

Since 2009, with help from consulting foresters, the Y.C. has been working on seeding and seed-plant restoration as well as thinning less desirable species within the whitebark pine communities. The team is also treating whitebarks in key areas with verbenone flakes, an anti-aggregating pheromone that tells beetles a tree is off limits.

“The effort started out of our curiosity over whitebark mortality due to the mountain pine beetle outbreak, and it created a partnership with several agencies,” said Rich Chandler, the environmental manager for the Yellowstone Club, referring to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Department of Natural Resources Council, and foresters and entomologists from Montana State University.

“It can take years for these groups to get approval on public lands and we were able to allow them access to start research right away during the peak of the mountain pine beetle outbreak,” Chandler said.

In 2015 alone the Y.C. contributed more than \$100,000 toward whitebark pine research and management on its property.

The club’s environmental team is currently mapping, taking inventory and thinning whitebark pine areas slated for future recreational and residential development. This includes more than 65 study plots over a 200-acre area in whitebark-specific habitat.

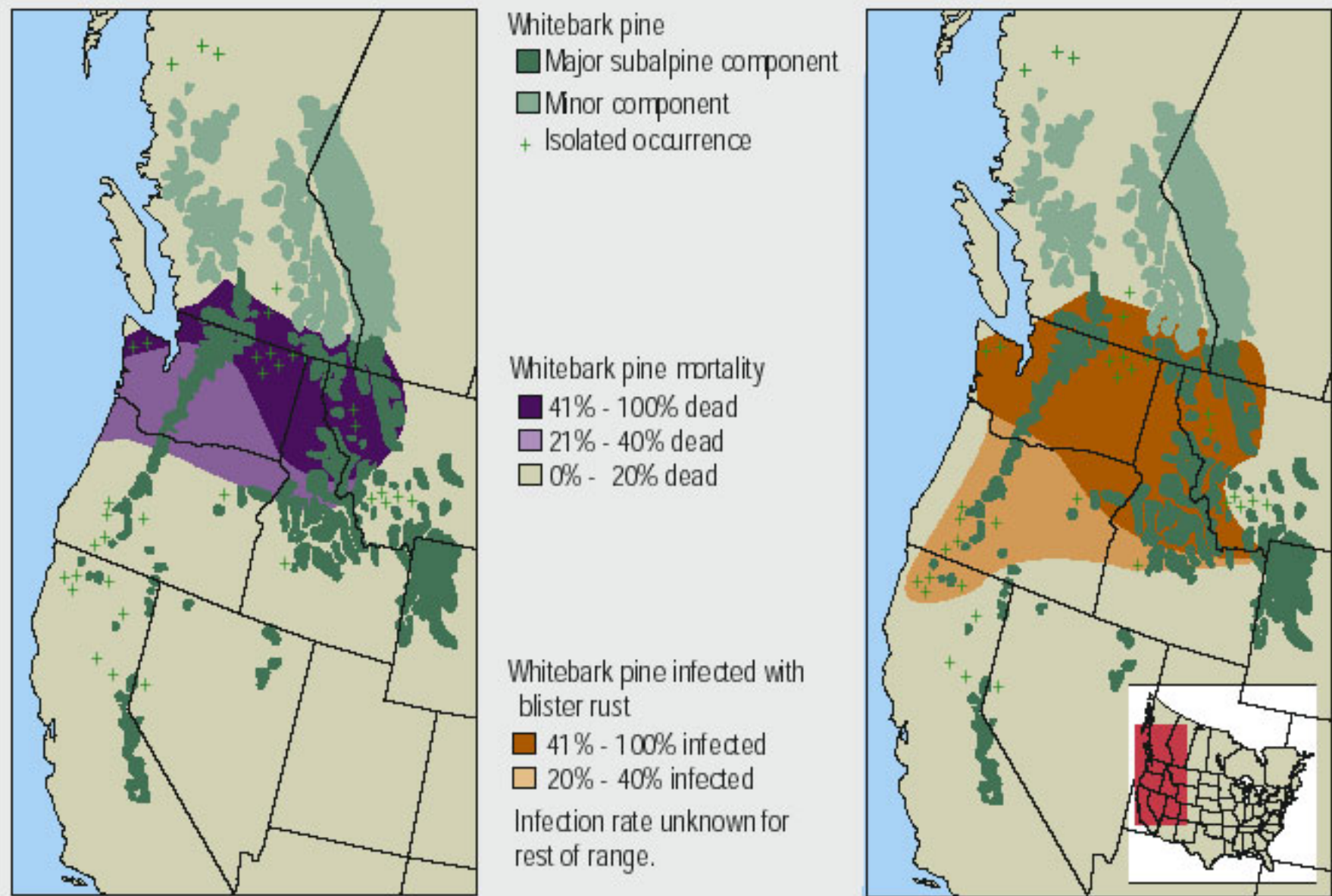
The effort focuses on understanding the species’ history, density and composition to best influence future management practices and establish guidelines for low-impact development.

Even with the existing threats to the species, Jungck has hope for the future of whitebark.

“Do I think white bark pine is doomed to extinction?” Jungck said. “No, I think that climate change predictions are showing decline but restoration activities can be maintained on the landscape.”

**What can you do if you have whitebark pine on your property? Brad Bauer, an MSU/Gallatin County resource extension agent, shares some tips:**

- Reduce risk of wildfire
- Thin out competitors
- Create microclimate areas for seed establishment
- In late June, place two verbenone packets on the north side of the tree 10 feet aboveground
- Prune branches that are infected with whitebark pine blister rust



Source: Kendall, K.C. 1999. Whitebark pine. In: Status and trends of the Nation's Biological Resources. Pp. 488.



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# Ventenata: Invasive weed takes root in Gallatin County

BY EMILY LOCKARD  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Cheatgrass has gained notoriety in the West, with concern about the invasive weed Japanese brome trailing behind. But the new invasive weed in the area is ventenata, or *Ventenata dubia*, a grass that hails from southern Europe, western Asia and northern Africa.

While its spread is not as vast in Montana yet, ventenata has found its way to parts of Gallatin County. In other states it's been known to out-compete cheatgrass and take over – a solution for our cheatgrass problem? Not necessarily.

Cheatgrass and Japanese brome, both native to Eurasia, and ventenata are all winter annual grasses. Like winter wheat, they germinate in the fall and start growing when the snow melts. Where desirable grasses don't take hold, invasive species like cheatgrass, Japanese brome and ventenata can take advantage of the lack of competition.

These grasses take up soil moisture and nutrients all plants compete for, but since they start growing earlier in the spring, they can take over before other grasses have a chance to compete. Cheatgrass and Japanese brome have their own unique role in a changing fire regime, and cheatgrass is a perpetual problem in winter cropping systems, especially those that don't have rotations to counter the cheatgrass growth cycle.



Ventenata, an invasive grass that's becoming established in parts of Gallatin County, is taking over some plots of land that were previously overgrown with cheatgrass. PHOTO BY MATT LAVIN

Ventenata is coming into play in the West because like other invasive species, it takes advantage of disturbed, bare ground and plant communities that are struggling to compete from overgrazing or drought. Other states experiencing an influx of ventenata have found it can be even more invasive than cheatgrass.

While cheatgrass is palatable to grazing livestock in the early spring and fall before plants turn purplish brown, it doesn't appear that ventenata is very palatable. High levels of silica prevent it from being a desirable grass for grazing animals, but while there is some evidence it may be palatable early in spring, more research is needed.

Proper identification is key if you suspect any of these grasses are on your property. Early spring identification can be difficult with any grass, but especially ventenata, so summer identification is easier and possibly more accurate.

Ventenata is typically 6-27 inches tall and with a tawny to light yellow color. Key characteristics include reddish-black nodes in May and June, and upper awns that are twisted and bent in July and August. Often it looks similar to cheatgrass.

If you identify undesirable winter annual grasses, flag them off or mark the area with GPS points so it's easy to identify their location in early spring. Other ventenata control options are limited due to a lack of research in this newly spreading grass. Other states have found that Imazapic applied in the fall to semi-dormant perennial grass stands has been effective, followed by an application of nitrogen fertilizer that can help perennial grasses recover from herbicide damage and be more competitive.

To prevent ventenata's arrival, maintain healthy grasslands and reduce introduction by ensuring you don't bring contaminated hay to your place.

For more resources read the MontGuide "Cheatgrass: Identification, Biology and Integrate Management" and Weed Post "Ventenata" from August 2013, or call Emily Lockard at the MSU Extension – Gallatin County office (406) 388-3213.



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# Bullock suspends work of Clean Power Plan panel after ruling

BY MATT VOLZ  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – Montana Gov. Steve Bullock on Feb. 9 suspended the work of a panel appointed to address new federal carbon dioxide emissions rules after the U.S. Supreme Court temporarily blocked the key component of President Barack Obama’s climate change plan.

Montana is one of 27 states suing to halt implementation of Obama’s Clean Power Plan. The Supreme Court ruled to block enforcement of the plan while the litigation is pending.

Under the federal plan, Montana faced the steepest cuts to its emissions rates of any state – 47 percent by 2030 compared to 2012 levels – to meet the target set by the Environmental Protection Agency. Nationwide, the Clean Power Plan aims to cut emissions by 32 percent by 2030.

The Democratic governor has previously said the Montana cuts were unfair, but the state had to move ahead with planning for them. In November, he appointed an advisory council to begin shaping a plan and

to justify extending to 2018 the deadline for submitting that plan.

On Tuesday, Bullock said he was putting the advisory council’s work on hold.

“What we cannot put on hold, however, is the need to address climate change and embrace Montana’s energy future, and I am committed to ensuring we do so on our own terms,” he said in a statement.

Attorney General Tim Fox, who made the decision to join the multi-state lawsuit, called the Supreme Court’s decision a victory and the first step toward getting the new regulations nullified.

“Today’s ruling will prevent Montana families, energy workers, businesses and public agencies from bearing the burden of regulations that we believe will be overturned ultimately,” he said.

The Supreme Court’s freeze on the Clean Power Plan will very likely last through the November elections, in which Bullock and Fox are both seeking second terms. That may ease the pressure of what has already become

a politicized issue.

Bullock’s Republican opponent, Greg Gianforte, had made his opposition to the federal regulations part of his campaign. Other opponents seized on a University of Montana study funded by NorthWestern Energy to blast the federal plan.

The study by the university’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research analyzed the economic effects of shutting down all four units of the Colstrip power plant – the second-largest coal-fired plant in the West – to comply with the Clean Power Plan. The study found a shutdown would have serious repercussions for the town of Colstrip and for the state’s economy.

Researchers acknowledged a complete shutdown was only one possible scenario.

Regardless of the federal rules, the future of Colstrip’s two oldest units is already threatened. Pending legislation in Washington state written by the Colstrip co-owner Puget Sound Energy could lead to their shutdown.



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## Strippin' in the snow

### Fishing streamers in winter



BY PATRICK STRAUB  
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

When my wife and I first started dating, I knew her father fished. Each Christmas Day the two would venture

to the Bighorn River. And as if being vetted, my first Christmas with her family involved loading up in the big truck and heading to the river.

Cut to the scene: ankle deep snow crunched under our boots while we rigged up. My cold fingers are futzing around an indicator, two size twenty flies, some split shot, and several spools of tippet. Her father ties on one fly, a black Woolly Bugger, and has made five casts before my pack is even strapped to my waist.

"Oh! There was one," he shouts. "Had a good strike." A minute or so later, "Another hit. They're on it today."

"Nice work dad," the woman I hope to marry exclaims.

I finally get my line in the water, and on my first drift see the indicator stop mid-drift. I set the hook. A buttery Bighorn brown comes to hand. I say nothing and no one acknowledges anything.

"Oh yeah! Another hit!" my potential father-in-law yells.

When fishing in winter, nymphing below an indicator will get it done, but fishing streamers is a lot of fun. Here's some help with wintertime streamer fishing.

**Less is more.** This cliché, like a Prince Nymph, is used way too often. But for streamers in winter, it rings true. Tie and use patterns that are sparser than you'd use in spring or fall. Keep color variations simple – mostly black, brown or olive. Lots of colors, articulated hooks, and gaudy heads look sexy in the fly bins, but save those patterns for later in the season.

**Weight the fly, not the hook.** If you tie your flies, add weight to the fly itself. If you buy your flies, ask the shop clerk if the fly has

weight built in. A fly that's already weighted will sink faster and act more natural in the current. Adding weight to your leader creates a slight pull on the tippet, which creates an unnatural action. If you must add weight, add it as close to the fly as possible, being careful not to crimp the knot that connects fly to tippet.

**Dead-drift and swing more than strip.** For many this is a big adjustment. Trout, and the baitfish they eat, are lethargic in winter. Rarely will a trout swim far to eat, even for a baitfish. Refine your dead-drifting tactics by keeping your line hand engaged at all times in case of a strike, and always allow your fly to swing up and out of the drift before casting again. While dead-drifting watch your fly line as your indicator: if it moves unnaturally or stops, give a small trip, if feels tight, set the hook.

overhanging branch. Consider a sinking leader or a sink-tip fly line. On the Gallatin a sinking leader will get the job done, but for a larger river like the Yellowstone or Lower Madison, a sink-tip is helpful.

**Choose your location wisely.** Being mobile on freestones and smaller rivers is important. Predatory trout on a freestone river are more impulsive than on a spring creek or tailwater. Once you've worked a run or a hole, move on to the next one. This will also help you keep warm. On a spring creek or tailwater, consider patience over real estate. The way my now father-in-law fishes the Bighorn is a great example: he will fish the same run multiple times and catch plenty of fish using the same pattern – a weighted black Woolly Bugger.

Simplicity in the wintertime streamer game goes a long way. It may feel a little old



Simple streamers, like the time-tested Clouser Minnow, are your best choice for wintertime streamer fishing in the Big Sky and Bozeman area. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

**Short strikes are common.** Trout will often strike violently at prey, but not always commit to eating it immediately. Once a baitfish is stunned then it's consumed. If you miss a strike, resist stripping faster. Stop stripping all together or slowly strip. Feel for resistance or a soft hit. Many streamer anglers catch wintertime fish on the second take, not the first.

**Refine your tackle selection.** Shorter and stouter leaders are essential. A shorter leader will give you more control to drop the fly closer to bank-side structure or under an

school to fish a single fly on a short leader, but it's good to keep your fishing simple. Sometimes understanding the opposite sex is complicated enough.

*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. Along with his wife, owns Gallatin River Guides in Big Sky and operates the Montana Fishing Guide School and the Montana Women's Fly Fishing School.*



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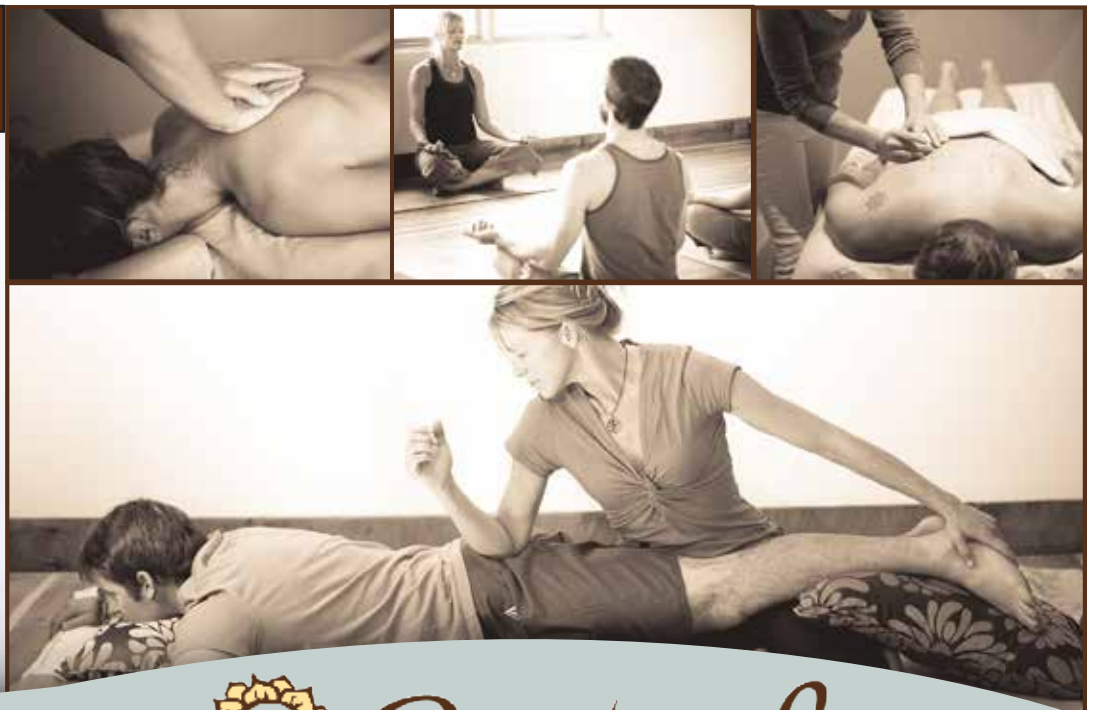
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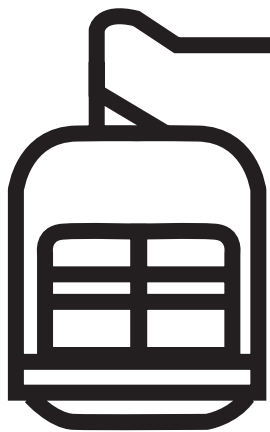
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## WORD FROM THE RESORTS

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



BY SHELBY THORLACIOUS  
BIG SKY RESORT SALES AND MARKETING OFFICE MANAGER

Mother Nature brought snow and warmer temperatures that made for great skiing in early February. More snow is in the forecast with plenty of season left to check new lines off the bucket list.

Saturday, Feb. 20 is the resort's 13th annual Dummy Jump and the launch starts at 2 p.m. on Ambush Headwall. And on Saturday, Feb. 27 the Madwolf Winter Relay, a multisport team event, will start at Big Sky Resort and finish at Lone Mountain Ranch.

Steep and deep skiers who are looking to take their skills to the next level can sign up for the Dan Egan Steeps Camps. Starting March 3, you can partake in three days of guided and individualized instruction. A second session will be offered the weekend of March 10.

To sign up for the camp, contact Mountain Snowsports at (406) 995-5743. Visit [bigskyresort.com/events](http://bigskyresort.com/events) for more information on upcoming events.



Come down to Lone Mountain Ranch on Saturday, Feb. 27 to participate in a resurrected Big Sky classic, the Mad Wolf Winter Relay. The race was popular for about 10 years in the 70s and 80s before falling by the wayside. LMR and Big Sky Resort are teaming up to bring it back.

Competitors will start with a downhill segment on Andesite Mountain, cruise into a Nordic middle section, with a fat bike to the finish at LMR where the Hooligans will play live music from 4-6 p.m. in the saloon. Dressing up for the relay is encouraged and the best costume will receive a prize.

Big Sky's own Jeremy Harder will serve as master of ceremonies for the awards presentation. Competitors and spectators who bring a donation for the Gallatin Valley Food Bank receive a complimentary craft beer or soft drink.

Mark your calendars for the Glide and Gorge on Sunday, March 6, a fundraiser for the Ophir School Council/PTO where participants feast on a four-course meal and burn it off with a 3-mile cross-country ski or snowshoe.

Gastronomical offerings include a charcuterie platter with wine pairings, a dessert station with s'mores and schnapps, and a barbecue and chili sampling. Bust out a cape for the occasion as this year's theme is superheroes. - A.E.

Call (406) 995-4734 to register for either event and visit [lonemountainranch.com](http://lonemountainranch.com) for more information on the ranch.



Despite warm February temps, an 18-inch cold smoke snowstorm on Feb. 2 and 3, as well as smaller wet storms kept Bridger Bowl's base depth holding at 5 feet when EBS went to press Feb. 17.

The ridge terrain should be prime when competitors drop in for the Bridger Gully Freeride on Saturday, Feb. 20. Beginning at 10:30 a.m., 60 skiers and snowboarders will have one run

to show the judges their talents as they pick the spiciest line they're willing to shred.

An awards ceremony will be held at 4 p.m. in the Jim Bridger Lodge where the top three male and female finishers will receive cash prizes. Groove Wax will perform live music after the winners have been crowned.

On Saturday, Feb. 27, Bridger will host the Terrain Park Jam, a slopestyle competition with two judged runs. Race day registration is from 8:30-10 a.m. in the Jim Bridger Lodge, where the awards ceremony and live music by Milton Menasco will be held at 4 p.m.

The skiing at Bridger gets better with every storm and there's no better time to ski Bozeman's community-owned ski area. - T.A.



BY JENNIE WHITE  
GRAND TARGHEE RESORT MARKETING MANAGER

If you haven't skied Grand Targhee yet, here's one more reason to make the trip: USA Today's Top 10 Readers' Choice Awards has placed Grand Targhee in the top 10 ski resorts in North America. In fact, we are good ol'

lucky number seven!

Mountain conditions continue to be incredible and the view of the Teton Range never ceases to amaze. Whether you're a skier, rider, snowshoer or fat biker, it's time to pack the car and hit the road to Grand Targhee.

Stay slopeside and enjoy 20 percent off your room when you arrive Sunday through Tuesday. With over 2,600 acres of terrain, 15 kilometers of groomed Nordic trails and 4-plus miles of fat bike singletrack, you're sure to find fun for everyone.

Top off a day exploring Targhee's trails with events slated for the next two weeks that are not to be missed. You'll find the best après in Alta, Wyo., at the Trap Bar and Grill with Blaze and Kelly, The Dirt Road Band and The Nate Robinson Band.

Looking to throw down and win great prizes and some cash? Don't miss the Slopestyle Terrain Park event Feb. 28 and the Big Mountain Telemark Competition March 4-6.

Visit [grandtarghee.com](http://grandtarghee.com) for more information.



# Photo Essay: Breakfast with a Yellowstone foxy lady



1) Waiting for breakfast ... her eyes closed, her audio senses focused, this fox's ground-probing ears are fully deployed listening for giveaway sounds under the snowpack. PHOTOS BY STEVE FULLER



2) Up! She hears a sound in the underworld ... between the snowpack and the earth where rodents are active throughout the winter.



3) Launch ... Gravity's rainbow ... maximum ballistic velocity for deep snow penetration.



4) Boom! She pierces through the ceiling (from the vole's perspective) to snare her quarry.



5) The misfortune of one sustains the other. Sometimes we eat, other times we are eaten ...



# 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 bitter side of cooking



BY SCOTT MECHURA  
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Some time ago, I wrote about food TV, and what it's done to bring chefs into the light. From the über-talented to the wildly entertaining, and to cupcakes and desserts getting recognition by the hour, we have finally arrived. Some chefs have even been elevated to celebrity status.

But with this sweet fame and exposure to our industry and craft, there is a bitter side.

A few weeks ago, Switzerland, along with the rest of the world, lost one of the world's greatest chefs when Benoît Violier took his own life in his home. Those closest to him said he carried a tremendous amount of stress over the fear of potentially losing a Michelin star.

In 1991, Bernard Loiseau, a French chef who had achieved the coveted 3-star rating from the Michelin Red Guide, killed himself shortly after the very guide that named him among the best in the world downgraded him from 19 out of 20 points, to 17 out of 20.

We know that suicide is a product of depression, and that this disease ultimately assists in the decision to take one's life. But it seems these chefs, as well as countless others the world may have never heard of, take their own lives while at the top of their game, and cite an external, social pressure for their ultimate demise.

I am not on Facebook. I am not on Twitter. I am, however, on LinkedIn. I love it for networking and having conversations with others in my profession. I belong to several LinkedIn groups, some of which have thousands of members while others have less than 100.

One such group is called Cutting Edge Chefs. We're small in numbers but vast in our opinions, I assure you. We talk about everything from how to season the perfect steak to why some bands are not in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

As we branch off and private message within our group, we form intimate bonds and friendships having never met each other face-to-face: something we considered unlikely before the tsunami that is social media came along.

A couple weeks ago our group lost one its founding members, Matthew McNulty, to suicide. He was 45 years old, a father and a chef.

Matty, as he was called, and I spoke often both in the group and also privately. When we would get involved in a heated group discussion and the temperatures would rise, Matty and I gravitated toward one other, and backed each other in almost every situation. Thanks to social media, we were fairly close, having never met in person.

As with virtually all suicide cases, depression is to blame. But those closer to Matty spoke in unison about the unprecedented stresses of his latest job: the physical demands, the economical demands, but most of all, the social demands placed on him and his craft.

There is a saying, "The wind blows the same for all of us, but it is how you set your sail that determines where you go." We all choose our own career path, and could ostensibly get out at any time. But many of us also know we choose what we choose because of love, passion and talent.

We, as chefs, want so badly to please you, the guest. It's why many of us are here. I care deeply everyday for the job I do and the product I put forth, but in the end, it is, after all, only food.

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



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## Section 4: EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'The Journey Through Yellowstone' pg. 50



13th Annual Dummy Jump pg. 55



Back 40:  
Winter camping pg. 60

# Big Sky PBR bucks competition, returns as premier summer weekend event July 28-30

BY TYLER ALLEN  
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

**BIG SKY** – This summer the Big Sky Pro Bull Riders event will be gunning for a four-peat as PBR Event of the Year, and its chances are strong given the growth of this signature summer affair.

Each year, the top bull riders in the world vote on their favorite PBR-sanctioned event, one that's not yet part of the Built Ford Tough Series. The past three Octobers, organizers of the Big Sky PBR have claimed their prize on the BFTS World Finals arena dirt in Las Vegas.

This summer marks the second year the Big Sky event will be part of the BlueDef Velocity Tour but it's moving to a premier weekend slot on the PBR calendar. Friday, July 29 and Saturday, July 30 the country's meanest bulls will be matching strength and toughness with elite riders from around the world.

"This event has experienced exponential growth from the ground-up in just five years, evolving from a one-night weekday event on an entry-level circuit into a multi-day weekend event in one of the most prestigious divisions," said Ersin Ozer, media and events director for event co-sponsor Outlaw Partners.

Also the publisher of EBS, Outlaw Partners produces the Big Sky PBR with Freestone Productions and Continental Construction in the Town Center outdoor arena, drawing thousands of bull-riding fans to Big Sky to watch the action with Lone Mountain looming in the distance.

"The thing about Big Sky is it's one of our few outdoor BlueDef events on the PBR calendar. You can't even explain the beauty in words ... having a bull-riding event in that gorgeous part of the United States," said Justin Felisko, PBR's senior writer and editor.

Felisko has worked for PBR since May 2013 and has attended more than 60 PBR events in that time. He first came to Big Sky last summer and says he hopes to make a repeat appearance this year.

"In terms of marquee events, Big Sky is one of the major ones," Felisko said, referring to non-BFTS stops. "It's one of the more intimate

outdoor venues because the crowd is so close to the action. It's like the Built Ford Tough Series [events] where the fans are on top of the pit – [Big Sky] fans are on top of the action."

Felisko credits the setting and the outdoor opportunities – including horseback riding, whitewater rafting and fishing – that attract such a great crop of riders annually who have thrown their support behind the Big Sky PBR the last three years. He says it's a win-win for the riders because they "escape from the daily grind" of the Built Ford Tough Series, while staying in great riding shape matching up against Chad Berger's world-renowned bulls.

This year, the festivities will kick off Thursday night with Music in the Mountains as the Big Sky PBR partners with the Arts Council of Big Sky to throw a pre-party concert with cowboys and event sponsors. The free musical act is still to be determined.

After the bull riding on Friday night, southern rock legends the Outlaws will play the free after-party concert, and Jason Boland and the Stragglers will close the bull riding festivities in Town Center Saturday night.

"It's no secret this [tour stop] was awarded PBR's Event of the Year for the third year in a row," Ozer said. "This is no small feat, and largely due to our community's involvement that this event has held its title over hundreds of other events nationwide."

Big Sky Resort returns as the official lodging sponsor and Ozer encourages bull-riding fans to book their accommodations early as it's one of the summer's busiest weekends.

The Big Sky PBR attracts hundreds of sponsors every year, but new in 2016 will be the opportunity to sponsor a cowboy's event registration and travel fees. This will give individuals or businesses a vested interest when their sponsored rider comes tearing out of the chute gates.

"The goal is to sell enough of these to subsidize the event registration fees as well as some travel money for every Big Sky athlete," Ozer said.

It will be tough for another PBR event to dethrone Big Sky this year.

*Tickets go on sale June 1 at [bigskypbr.com](http://bigskypbr.com).*



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

## BIG SKY PBR GROWTH BY THE NUMBERS

### TOTAL ATTENDANCE PER YEAR



2011 - 1,500

2014 - 5,000

2012 - 3,500

**2015 - 7,000**

2013 - 4,500

### TOTAL MONEY RAISED FOR CHARITIES



**OVER \$200K TOTAL**

including Big Sky Community Corporation, Yellowstone Park Foundation, Gallatin River Task Force, Arts Council of Big Sky, Big Sky Community Food Bank, Big Sky Fire Department, PBR Rider Relief Fund



**3X PBR EVENT OF THE YEAR**

as voted on by the PBR bull riders



# 'The Journey Through Yellowstone'

## New film to document wildlife photographer's Yellowstone return

BY MARIA WYLLIE  
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

*"The solitude you find in Yellowstone promotes an independence of spirit. These experiences refresh our lives, teach us self-reliance, and reveal the wisdom of the cycles of the land."*  
– Tom Murphy, "Silence & Solitude"

LIVINGSTON – Wildlife photographer Tom Murphy isn't like most people.

His happy place is most folks' misery. But he's OK with that. It means he gets far-off places all to himself, save for the wild animals and changing landscape that serve as subjects of his photography.

"I'm an oddball. I like to be outside, and I like to be out in bad weather," he said. "That's when it's more interesting."

Murphy has traveled the world for his photography, but Yellowstone National Park remains his favorite location. He was the first person licensed to lead photography tours in Yellowstone, and every year he spends an average of 80-100 days in the park.

Drawn to the wilderness, Murphy is interested in seeing that hard-to-get-to country others rarely see.

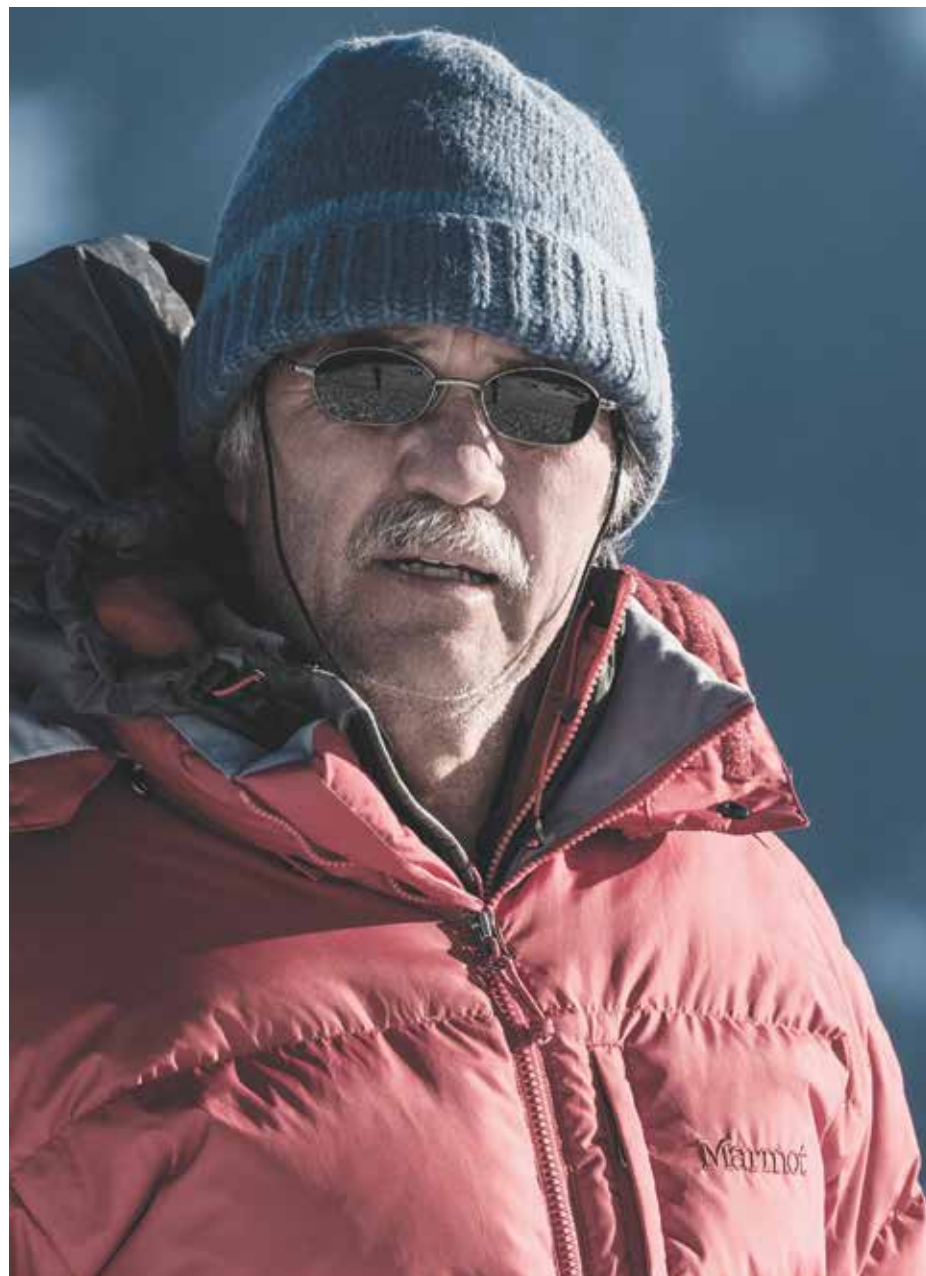
That draw motivated him to ski through Yellowstone's backcountry alone in 1985. With only a blue tarp for shelter, he covered 125 miles in a blinding snowstorm in 14

days. It was a trip he says tested his mettle.

"The truth is that solo trip ... gave me a lot of confidence," Murphy said. "Not just that I can ski across Yellowstone National Park but that I can do anything I want."

Now, at 66, Murphy is retracing that same route, but this time with a film crew to document the excursion.

Five skilled outdoorsmen will join Murphy on the expedition: retired YNP Park Ranger Brian Chan; Murphy's nephew and regular camping partner Clay Dykstra; award-winning filmmakers Shane Moore and Rick Smith; and Porter John Williams, who will be shouldering much of the supplies and video gear.



Tom Murphy, 66, is the only person to ski solo across Yellowstone National Park. He is also the first person licensed to lead photography tours in Yellowstone and spends an average of 80-100 days there each year. PHOTOS COURTESY OF TOM MURPHY

The film, called "The Journey Through Yellowstone" will not only showcase Murphy's trek as he discusses how the park has changed in the last three decades, but will also explore his life as a photographer and his lifelong pursuit of Yellowstone's wildest places. Film producers plan for a fall 2016 release date.

The team of six leaves Feb. 20 from Flagg Ranch, located a few miles from the park's southern entrance. The entire route will cover at least 135 miles and lead through the most remote area in the lower 48, known as the Thorofare. With possible route deviations, Murphy estimates it will take two to three weeks to complete.

"With this film, I want to show viewers what it's like back there, how beautiful it is, and ultimately how valuable it is," Murphy said. "If people see it as beautiful, then they assign value to it, and if they assign value to it, they are more likely to save it. That's always been a motivation of my photography."

One of the film's producers, Rick Smith, met Murphy 10 years ago while earning his master's in the Science and Natural History Documentary Film program from Montana



In 1985, Tom Murphy's solo, 125-mile ski trip across Yellowstone took him up and over Big Game Ridge. Looking south, he could see the Tetons, and looking north, shown here, he could see the Red Mountains and Heart Lake area.



State University. Murphy invited Smith on a winter camping trip, and as Murphy puts it, “he was one of the few people that wanted to go on another.”

Through this project, Smith says he looks forward to helping realize Murphy’s passion in sharing these wild places with people around the world.

“Not everyone has the chance to visit Yellowstone, and even if you do, not many people go where Tom goes,” Smith said. “I think this film is an extension of that.”

While Murphy avoids technology (he doesn’t own a cell phone), his team will provide updates along the way to journey followers via a live GPS tracking app on the project website and social media channels like Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

Spending winter in Yellowstone’s most remote areas during its harshest season is a way of life for Murphy. In a way, it always has been.

Originally from South Dakota, Murphy grew up on a 7,500-acre cattle ranch with his parents, brother, and five sisters near the forks of the Cheyenne River. “It was really cold on the prairie in South Dakota – colder and windier than here,” said Murphy, who currently resides in Livingston. “I just survived I guess.”

Growing up on the ranch, Murphy spent most of his time outside, whether he wanted to or not.

“I was basically my dad’s cow dog,” he said.

“We’d have to feed these cattle and drive around in this ‘51 Chevrolet pickup, [I’d feed them, then] he’d pick me up and take me to another bunch, so I was just running along chasing cows, freezing my feet off.”

At 20 years old, Murphy decided to try winter camping. Alone and nervous about the cold, he drove his car to a campsite in the



This map shows Murphy’s 1985 solo route across Yellowstone traced in white, and this winter’s proposed route traced in red. The journey is expected to cover at least 135 miles through the Yellowstone wilderness.

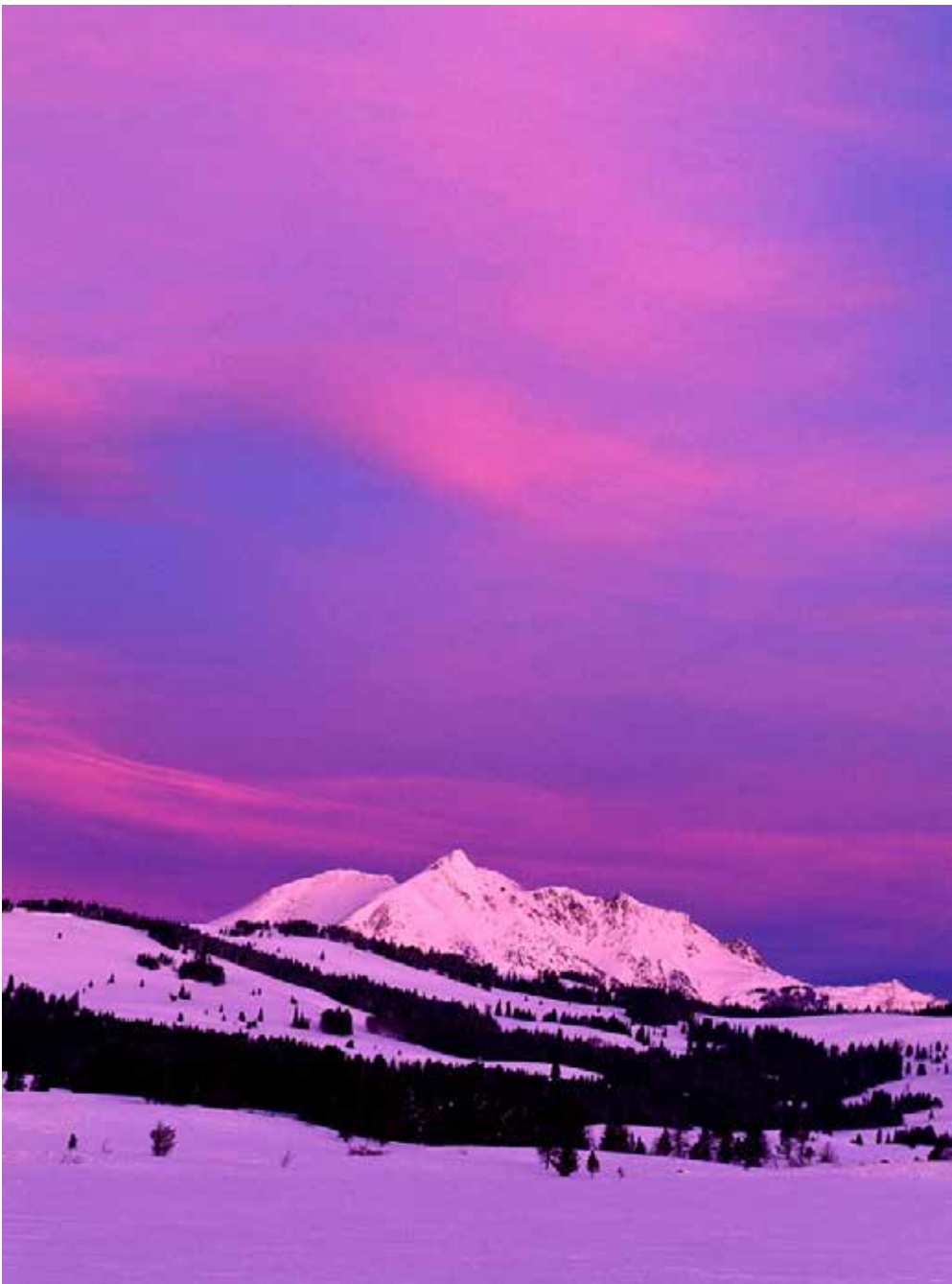
Black Hills. He didn’t trust his sleeping bag, so he slept within 30 feet of the car in case he needed to retreat to its warm interior. He made it through the night without any issues.

“After that I was perfectly confident,” he says. “I did it in one baby step the first time, and after that I knew I could do it.”

Now he ventures into the backcountry to capture images that tell the stories of wild places. But, as the upcoming project will reveal, it’s more than just a job or hobby for Murphy.

“I think everyone has an obligation to give back to their profession and their community, he says. “And Yellowstone is both of that to me.”

*Visit [yellowstone.film](#) to follow the upcoming journey or learn more about the project.*



Electric Peak, five minutes before sunrise.



# EVENTS CALENDAR

PLANNING AN EVENT? LET US KNOW! EMAIL [MEDIA@THEOUTLAWPARTNERS.COM](mailto:MEDIA@THEOUTLAWPARTNERS.COM), AND WE'LL SPREAD THE WORD.

FRIDAY, FEB. 19 –  
THURSDAY, MARCH 3

**\*If your event falls between  
March 17 and 31, please  
submit it by March 10.**

## Big Sky

FRIDAY, FEB. 19

Trivia Night  
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Level 1 Avalanche Course  
Big Sky Resort, 5:30 p.m.

Lauren Jackson  
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

The Sugar Daddies  
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

Yoga Workshop w/ Kishan Shah  
Santosha, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 20

Yoga Workshop w/ Kishan Shah  
Santosha, 11:30 a.m.

13th Annual Dummy Jump  
Big Sky Resort, all day

Level 1 Avalanche Course  
Big Sky Resort, 8 a.m.

**Gilson Snowboard  
Demo  
Big Sky Resort, all day**

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

SUNDAY, FEB. 21

USSA Northern Division Junior  
Speed Race  
Big Sky Resort, all day

Gilson Snowboard Demo  
Big Sky Resort, all day

On-mountain Church Services  
Big Sky Resort, 1:30 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 22

Open Mic  
Black Bear Bar, 10 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 23

Cooking Class  
Gourmet Gals, 6 p.m.

Level 1 Avalanche Course  
Big Sky Resort, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24

Wine Wednesday  
Mountain Maven, 11 a.m.

Level 1 Avalanche Course  
Big Sky Resort, 8 a.m.

M.O.T.H & Digital Beat Down  
Lone Peak Brewery,

THURSDAY, FEB. 25

Biz to Biz  
First Security Bank, 9-10:15 a.m.

Level 1 Avalanche Course  
Big Sky Resort, 8 a.m.

Tom Marino  
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 26

Trivia Night  
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Level 1 Avalanche Course  
Big Sky Resort, 8 a.m.

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

SATURDAY, FEB. 27

The Dybbuk  
WMPAC, 7:30 p.m.

**Mad Wolf Winter  
Relay Race  
Big Sky Resort/  
Lone Mountain  
Ranch, 2 p.m.**

Brian Stumpf  
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEB. 28

On-mountain Church Services  
Big Sky Resort, 1:30 p.m.

Kronos Quartet  
WMPAC, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 29

Forrest & Friends  
Black Bear Bar, 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

Wine Wednesday  
Mountain Maven, 11-6 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

Biz to Biz  
First Security Bank, 9-10:15 a.m.

Dan Egan Steeps Camp  
Big Sky Resort, all day

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

Dan Egan Steeps Camp  
Big Sky Resort, all day

Double Barrel  
Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

Parent's Date Night  
Morningstar Learning Center,  
6 p.m.

## Bozeman

FRIDAY, FEB. 19

Railroad Earth  
Emerson Culture Center, 8 p.m.

Art Alexakis  
Faultline North, 8 p.m.

Aaron Banfield  
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Marshall McLean & Bart Budwig  
Wild Joe's, 7 p.m.

My Fair Lady  
Black Box Theater, 7:30 p.m.

International Guitar Night  
Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Next to Normal  
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Bent Bones  
Filling Station, 9 p.m.

Adam Greenberg Band  
Eagles Lodge, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 20

Berning Down Bozeman  
Filling Station, 8 p.m.

PULSE  
Zebra Lounge, 9 p.m.

SnowBall Gala  
The Commons, 4:30 p.m.

Open Mic  
Bozeman Public Library, 7 p.m.

Winter Farmers Market  
Emerson Ballroom, 9 a.m.

Silly Moose Comedy Improv  
Verge Theater, 2 p.m.

**33rd International  
Street Food Bazaar  
SUB Ballroom, 4 p.m.**

Joe Schwem  
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Next to Normal  
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Shakewell  
Filling Station, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEB. 21

Remote control car racing  
Legion Bar, 12 p.m.

My Fair Lady  
Black Box Theater, 3 p.m.

Coyote Gypsies  
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Open Mic  
Haufbrau, 10:30 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 22

Jess Atkins  
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

Cider Night for BSF Community  
Nordic Trails  
Lockhorn Cider House, 5 p.m.

Pints with Purpose:  
Longfellow Fort  
Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Irshad Manjii lecture  
SUB Ballroom, 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEB. 23

WWA Backcountry Film Festival  
Emerson Culture Center,  
6:30 p.m.

GVYP Meet-Up  
Wildrye Distilling, 5:30 p.m.

Brews & the Big Sky  
Museum of the Rockies, 5:30 p.m.

Open Mic with Eric Bartz  
Lockhorn Cider House, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24

Papadosio + Cure for the  
Common  
Emerson Culture Center, 8 p.m.

Lobster Feast  
Lone Peak Brewery, 6 p.m.

Music & Mussels: Dan Dubuque  
Bridger Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 25

Wine Tasting 101  
Bozeman Eagles, 5:30 p.m.

A Place to Stand  
Emerson Culture Center, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 26

Netherfriends  
Zebra Lounge, 9 p.m.

Bozeman Running Film Festival  
Emerson Culture Center, 7 p.m.

Custom Kings Reveal Party  
Yellowstone Harley Davidson, 5 p.m.

The Lil Smokies  
Faultline North, 7 p.m.

Neil Filo Beddow  
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Chris Proctor  
Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 27

Brianna Moore & The Sasquatch  
Funk  
Zebra Lounge, 9 p.m.

Shea Stewart  
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MSU Women's bball vs. Idaho State  
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 8 p.m.

The Hollowtops w/ Laney Lou &  
The Bird Dogs  
Filling Station, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEB. 28

Iration & Pepper: Hawaiian  
Punch Winter Tour  
Emerson Culture Center, 8 p.m.

Dino Derby Cardboard sled races  
Gallatin County Regional Park,  
12 p.m.

Lang Termes  
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Open Mic  
Haufbrau, 10:30 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 29

James Salestrom  
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

Pints with Purpose: Central Asia  
Institute  
Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

The Brothers Comatose  
Filling Station, 8 p.m.

CAROL  
Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Music & Mussels: Lang Termes  
Bridger Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Bingo  
Legion Bar, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

Sam Outlaw & Whitney Rose  
Live From the Divide, 7 p.m.

MSU bball vs. Northern Colorado  
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7 p.m.

Karaoke  
Eagles Lodge, 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

**Brantley Gilbert  
Brick Breeden  
Fieldhouse, 7 p.m.**

## Livingston & Paradise Valley

FRIDAY, FEB. 19

Big Ol'  
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 20

Hawthorne Roots Trio  
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Marshall McLean Band  
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 22

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

TUESDAY, FEB. 23

Beer for a Cause: Draft Horse  
Sanctuary  
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24

Russ Chapman  
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

John Derado  
Murray Bar, 7:30 p.m.



THURSDAY, FEB. 25

Band of Drifters  
Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 26

Heather Lingle Band  
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 27

Andrea Harsell  
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Black Mountain Moan  
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Bowl for Kids Sake  
Treasure Lanes, all day

Wylie & The Wild West  
Livingston Civic Center, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 29

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

Nate Vernon  
Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

Beer for a Cause: Firefighter Stair Climb  
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

Flannel Republic  
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

Scott Tecca  
Murray Bar, 8:30 p.m.

Shelter Day  
RX Coffee, all day

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

One Leaf Clover  
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

West Yellowstone

FRIDAY, FEB. 19

Chess Club  
Public Library, 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 20

5th Annual Taste of the Trails  
Rendezvous Ski Trails, 1 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 22

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

TUESDAY, FEB. 23

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

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 24

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

THURSDAY, FEB. 25

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

Knit Night  
Send It Home, 6 p.m.

Yoga for Everyone  
Povah Center, 6:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 26

Chess Club  
Public Library, 4 p.m.

MONDAY, FEB. 29

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

Yellowstone Special Sled Dog Races  
Wild West Pizzeria, 2 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

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

Yellowstone Special Sled  
Dog Races  
Old Airport, 9 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

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

Yellowstone Special Sled Dog Races  
Dunraven Street, 9 a.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3

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

Knit Night  
Send It Home, 6 p.m.

Yoga for Everyone  
Povah Center, 6:15 p.m.

Yellowstone Special Sled Dog Races  
Old Airport, 9 a.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

Chess Club  
Public Library, 4 p.m.

Yellowstone Special Sled Dog Races  
Power sub-station, 9 a.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

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Club of Big Sky



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businesses and sponsors who supported this year's successful Gold  
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and worldwide, from our local projects to eradicating polio.

Your contribution makes the world a better place—Thank You!

A special thank you to our 2016 corporate sponsors:

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Olive B's Bistro

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Big Sky Conoco  
Big Sky Western Bank  
ERA Landmark  
Lindell & Associates P.C.  
Lone Mountain Land Co.  
Nordic Hot Tub

[www.bigskyrotary.com](http://www.bigskyrotary.com)

Rotary Club of Big Sky meets every Wednesday at 5:30 pm at Buck's T-4.



# Film highlighting power of education comes to the Emerson

BY MARIAH ORE  
CATAMOUNT FILMS

BOZEMAN – On Feb. 25 at 7 p.m., the Emerson Theater will host the celebrated film, “A Place to Stand.” The evening includes a Q-and-A session with Jimmy Santiago Baca a renowned poet and the film’s subject.

When he was sentenced to five years in in Arizona State Prison on a narcotics charge in 1973, Jimmy Santiago Baca was 21 years old. Like many who end up in prison, Baca had been in and out of institutions throughout his life, starting when he and his two siblings were placed in an orphanage when he was a small child.

As a teenager, Baca spent periods of time in school but wound up in trouble often, occasionally landing in juvenile detention centers or jail. By the time he received the five-year sentence in 1973, Baca had still never learned to read.

“The most painful thing about not knowing how to read or write is that you can’t express your emotions,” Baca said. “You can’t conceptualize imaginatively. It takes away that whole realm.”

Now, as one of the best-known living poets in America, Baca has mastered the art of expressing his emotions through the written word.

The documentary tells the story of how Baca first discovered the power of language while behind bars in one of the most violent prisons in the country. The film details his struggle to teach himself to read as well as his radical transformation from violent criminal to beloved poet.

“A Place to Stand” encapsulates an honest, raw tale of personal growth that shows just how possible it can be for anyone to overcome a circumstance.

A VIP reception with Jimmy Santiago Baca and Director Daniel Glick begins at 6 p.m. (by request at [info@aplacetostandmovie.com](mailto:info@aplacetostandmovie.com)), and the screening starts at 7 p.m.

*Tickets are available online at [aplacetostand.brownpapertickets.com](http://aplacetostand.brownpapertickets.com), at Movie Lovers or at the door. Visit [aplacetostandmovie.com](http://aplacetostandmovie.com) for more information.*

# ‘Carol’ casts romantic spell

BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY

BOZEMAN – The Bozeman Film Society continues its streak of award-winning films at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 2 with the romantic British/American spellbinder, “Carol,” screening at The Ellen Theatre.

Set in 1950s New York City, two women from different backgrounds find themselves in the throes of love. Under director Todd Haynes’ sure hand, 2016 Academy Award nominees Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara deliver a tale of intimacy and repression that dares to imagine a happy ending.

“Every glance means something, no strain shows: it’s filmmaking as natural as breathing,” wrote Kevin Harley, critic for the U.K.-based magazine “Total Film.”

Based on the Patricia Highgate novel “The Price of Salt,” the film “Carol” was nominated for six Academy Awards this year.

*Find tickets at [theellentheatre.com](http://theellentheatre.com), by calling The Ellen Theatre box office at (406) 585-5885. Tickets are also available at the box office Wednesday–Saturday from 1-3 p.m., as well as two hours prior to any performance. Membership pass holders and sponsors must call or visit the box office to reserve seats.*

*BFS membership passes are available in The Ellen Theatre lobby before all BFS shows and online at [bozemanfilmsociety.org](http://bozemanfilmsociety.org).*



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



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# 13th annual Dummy Jump flies into Big Sky Resort

BIG SKY RESORT

Saturday, Feb. 20 is the annual Dummy Jump at Big Sky Resort, where competitors build dummies to be launched off a ski jump, high into the air, and crowds witness the carnage of the impact.

The dummy launches will commence at 2 p.m. on the Ambush headwall to the viewing delight of spectators and judges at the bottom of Ambush near the base area. Each dummy receives one run as they are individually shoved out of the starting gate toward a large jump with a flat landing zone to get closest to the bull’s eye.

Teams are encouraged to design, build and modify a dummy competitor that will ski in a straight line and launch off a jump to their demise. Contestants must design their dummies with modesty in mind for the younger audience in attendance, and leave no trace.

Successful dummies have balance, low center of gravity and straight long skis. The better a dummy self-destructs on impact, the better chance of winning.

Dummies will be judged and awarded on creativity, amplitude, structure and destruction on impact. An awards ceremony will immediately follow the contest at Montana Jack.

Dummies can be registered at the Summit Clock Tower from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. the day of the event.

Visit [bigskyresort.com/events](http://bigskyresort.com/events) for rules and more information.



photos courtesy of big sky resort



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- 19 Smokin’ Aces Championship
- 24-27 MSI Freeride Series

**APRIL**

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

**COMPLETE INFO** at [bigskyresort.com/events](http://bigskyresort.com/events)



# 'The Dybbuk'

## An opera tale of star-crossed lovers

BY JOHN ZIRKLE  
WMPAC ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

BIG SKY – For the first time ever, an opera is coming to Big Sky.

On Saturday, Feb. 27, the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center is bringing to the stage "The Dybbuk," a contemporary and critically acclaimed opera, the likes of which you may have never seen before.

But don't rely on whatever vague and likely inaccurate image you may have in your mind. Opera explores life's biggest questions and confirms the turmoil and comedy that permeates the human condition, which makes the genre accessible to all.

Everyone can learn something from opera, and everyone can enjoy it.

Consider the big question that begins "The Dybbuk": "Oh, why and wherefore the soul descends from the highest heights to the deepest depths? From the depths it will rise much higher."

When you think about it, this is the same question Bruce Wayne's father asked his son in the film "Batman Begins": "Why do we fall, Bruce?"

And indeed, "The Dybbuk" is a contemporary show. Written by Ofer Ben-Amots, featuring opera superstars like Jeanne-Michele Charbonnet, and staged with projected imagery, "The Dybbuk" – which is Hebrew for a "malevolent wandering spirit" – is a modern take on a tale as old as time.

Think of the story as a mix of "Romeo and Juliet" and "The Exorcist." Leah is rich. Channan is poor. Leah's father doesn't want Leah to marry a poor man, which puts Channan in a tricky place.

Later in the story, Channan's "dybbuk" finds his way back to Earth and possesses Leah right before they break the glass at the wedding. Leah is confused, not knowing what to do with her dead lover's spirit possessing her body. The Rabbi takes action and decides to perform an exorcism, which is when things really take a turn for the melodramatic.



WMPAC will host Big Sky's first ever opera, The Dybbuk, on Feb. 27. ARTIST CREDIT HANS SIEVERDING

To see if Leah figures it all out, come to the WMPAC production of "The Dybbuk," and become part of local history as the opera comes to Big Sky for the first time.

"The Dybbuk" on Feb. 27 will feature a pre-concert Q-and-A with the composer Ofer Ben-Amots, as well as an art opening at 6:30 p.m., featuring abstract works by local students and regional artists.

Visit [warrenmillerpac.org](http://warrenmillerpac.org) for tickets and more information.



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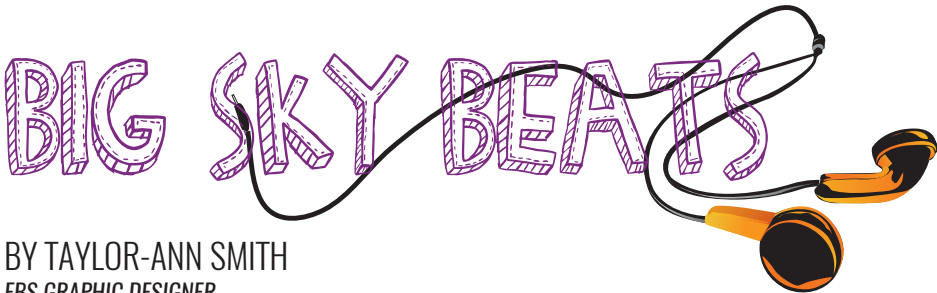


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BY TAYLOR-ANN SMITH  
EBS GRAPHIC DESIGNER

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

In honor of Black History Month in February, this playlist is focused on some of my favorite African-American musicians who have not only made an impact in the music industry, but have used their voices to advocate change.

At the 2016 Grammy Awards, Kendrick Lamar received five awards, including the year’s Best Rap Album and Best Rap Song. He also gave a fiery live performance that further revealed his talent and passion.

Lamar delivered his politically charged lyrics during the performance that involved him bound in chains, rapping without pause and continually faster. A raging fire behind him represented key messages from his winning album “To Pimp a Butterfly” – passion, creation, destruction, and life struggles.

Using music as a microphone and the Grammys as a stage, Lamar called for a national conversation on race equality.

The tracks below feature Lamar and other notable African-American musicians that I admire for promoting change and celebrating their art.

- 1. “Poetic Justice,” Kendrick Lamar, Drake
- 2. “Rise Up,” Andra Day
- 3. “Same Ol’ Mistakes,” Rihanna
- 4. “Right Hand,” Drake
- 5. “November Skies,” Carnage, Tomas Barfod, Nina Kinert
- 6. “Saved feat. E-40,” Ty Dolla \$ign
- 7. “The Morning,” The Weeknd
- 8. “It Gon’ Work,” Mardi Lex
- 9. “I Know,” Big Sean
- 10. “Formation,” Beyonce

Visit [explorebigsky.com/beats](http://explorebigsky.com/beats) for a sampling of the playlist.

# American Life in Poetry: Column 569

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

After my mother died, her best friend told me they were so close they could sit together in a room for an hour and neither felt she had to say a word. Here's a fine poem by Dorianne Laux, about that kind of silence. Her most recent book is “The Book of Men,” and she lives in North Carolina.

Enough Music  
By Dorianne Laux

Sometimes, when we're on a long drive,  
and we've talked enough and listened  
to enough music and stopped twice,  
once to eat, once to see the view,  
we fall into this rhythm of silence.  
It swings back and forth between us  
like a rope over a lake.  
Maybe it's what we don't say  
that saves us.

American Life in Poetry does not accept unsolicited submissions, and is made possible by The Poetry Foundation ([poetryfoundation.org](http://poetryfoundation.org)), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©1994 by Dorianne Laux, “Enough Music,” (“What We Carry,” BOA Editions, 1994). Poem reprinted by permission of Dorianne Laux and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2015 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Fellow

4 Taro

8 Foot (suf.)

12 N.Z. fish

13 Black

14 Great Lake

15 Bachelor of Fine Arts (abbr.)

16 Medal (2 words)

18 Prison: Brit.

20 Ceremonial entrance

21 Belt

23 Palm starch

25 Indian camel

26 Vast

27 Palestine Liberation Organ. (abbr.)

30 Master of Business Administration (abbr.)

31 Cheek bone

32 King (Fr.)

33 Ten decibels

34 Variation (pref.)

35 Ice

36 Scientific name (suf.)

37 Aquarium fish

38 Christmas song

40 Egypt. evil god

41 Saga (2 words)

44 Belonging to (suf.)

47 Silver-iron ore

48 Javanese poison tree

49 Monkey

50 Indo-Chin. people

51 Man's name: abbr.

52 Talk

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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B	I	P	E	D	A	L		Z	A	N	T	E
				R	A	I	L		B	E	L	
O	B	I		S	T	A	A	T		B	I	N
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P	A	V	E		E	R	E		E	N	A	M
E	D	E	N		R	E	L		R	O	S	E

- DOWN

1 Apronlike cloth

2 Television band abbr.

3 Bias

4 Anglo-Saxon

5 Son of Adam

6 Botanical (abbr.)

7 Feminine (suf.)

8 Five of trump

9 Viking

10 Plate

11 Mouse-spotter's
- assembly

cry

17 Beer

19 Or (Lat.)

21 Crest

22 Rounded projection

23 Forage herb

24 Hamitic language

26 Wholesome

27 Augur

28 Circle

29 Unctuous

31 Twin crystal

35 Shorten

36 Father of Jason

37 Alluvial deposit

38 Son of Lamech

39 Killer whale

40 Thick slice

41 Nat'l Park Service (abbr.)

42 Caucasian wild goat

43 P.I. volcano

45 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)

46 One who is (suf.)

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
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50					51					52		

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# BACK 40

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

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

## Winter camping: Like hell, frozen over

STORY AND ILLUSTRATION  
BY MAGGIE SLEPIAN

There are plenty of sensible winter activities in Montana. Most folks ski, snowboard, ice climb, or borrow a kid and go sledding. I’m in the minority of Montana-dwellers. I spend the frozen season dashing from house to car and back, cranking the living room thermostat. Then I tried winter camping.

I was contemplating this decision when I stomped out of the woods, my pack digging into my shoulders and my stupid gaiters sliding down my calves. The final snow-covered meadow stretched out before me, one last godforsaken booby trap on this frigid hike.

I took a tentative step onto the open snowfield, then another. On the third, I plunged through the crust jamming myself so deep I had to flop onto my stomach and rock like a beached whale to free the entrapped leg. I rolled to a solid spot, took three steps, and repeated the torturous process. My fiancé Rocky followed, falling waist-deep and muttering a string of curses under his breath.

We weren’t on an impressive mountaineering trip or backcountry expedition. On this February day, Rocky and I, along with our giant mutt Sako, were just trying to get to Mystic Lake, outside of Bozeman, Montana. We’d spent the past four hours slipping and postholing, and planned to spend the freezing night under ripstop nylon and soggy down.

Our “campsite” at the frozen lake was silent and still on arrival, the area slumbering under a blanket of snow. I turned in slow circles beneath the dull gray sky, looking for a place to set my backpack.

“There’s nowhere dry,” Rocky said, pulling the tent from his pack. “There’s snow. Everywhere. Let’s get the tent set up before my hands freeze off.”

We stamped out a semi-flat area, and pitched the tent with numb fingers. I shoved the stakes into the snow. They instantly popped out as we tightened the fly. In an uncharacteristic show of common sense, we reburied them horizontally, and counted it a short-lived victory.

The most basic of camp chores turned infuriating as we fumbled through crusty snow attempting to keep our gear dry. By the time we’d unloaded our packs and inflated our sleeping pads, the sweat from our hike had dried, and we were both shivering under clammy, synthetic base layers. We changed into dry camp clothes, which I’m convinced saved my life.

As the sky dimmed and Sako began chasing snowflakes, I pictured friends back in Bozeman sitting in a cozy restaurant booth, stuffing their faces with sushi and knocking back \$9 cocktails. Rocky lit our thimble-sized stove and gingerly wedged it in a pocket of snow, balancing the pot on top. Within a minute, the snow under the stove melted and tipped our sad clump of shelf-stable Alfredo to the ground.

I retreated to my sleeping bag and gnawed a half-frozen granola bar, trying not to think about

a warm bed or real food. Rocky trudged off to hang the food bag (to deter hibernating bears) then reappeared and dove shivering into the tent, shoving his Nalgene into his sleeping bag.

“We need to sleep with our water bottles so they don’t freeze.”  
“The fuel canister too.”  
“Someone told me the water filter breaks if it gets too cold.”  
“Put your socks in there so they’ll dry out.”

I shuffled the debris pile at the bottom of my sleeping bag until I could lay flat, then buried my head in the mummy hood and tried to sleep, listening to the dog leaping through branches outside.

It was pitch-black when I opened my eyes, and my watch said 2 a.m. I lay there for a moment, trying to figure out where I was and why I was lying on a canister of fuel. As my mind cleared, I heard a rattle and “clack-clack-clack” from Rocky’s side of the tent.

“Rocky?” I hissed, shaking him. He was shivering.

“I don’t think ... my sleeping bag ... is warm enough.”  
“Which one did you bring?”  
“My 37-degree. I thought I’d be warmer.”

If I hazarded a guess, I’d say the temperature that night hovered around 200 below zero. It might have been 25 F. Instead of berating my popsicle fiancé, I whacked the tent to shatter the crusted ice, unzipped the fly, and stuck my head out, squinting for our dog.

“Sako!” I called hoarsely. He crunched over and stuck his head inside the tent. I knew the added body heat would make the night bearable, so I grabbed Sako’s collar and dragged his bulk inside, wedging him between Rocky and the tent wall. We spent the rest of the night tossing around the stinky nylon sardine can, but at least we weren’t hypothermic.

In the morning, we hacked our way out of the ice-encrusted nylon igloo, frozen shut with the condensation from our breaths. I stuffed my feet into frozen shoes and we shook off the tent, crushing it down to pack into its stiff stuff sack. Without ceremony, we began the six-mile posthole/ice luge back to the truck.



While we wouldn’t win the award for savviest campers, we didn’t die, so points for that. And we did some good ol’ fashioned learning.

It turns out venting your tent is key to escaping it the next morning; a 37-degree bag just will not do; camp clothes will save your sorry life; and snow won’t keep your tent stakes down just because you wish it so. Our glorious shakedown hike also made me bite the bullet and learn to ski. Those people tend to stay on top of the snow.

Maggie Slepian lives in Bozeman and bates winter. She returned last fall from through-biking the Appalachian Trail, which incidentally, was really cold.

This article first appeared in the winter 2016 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine.

### Snow camping savvy

If you still think winter camping sounds fun, here are some pointers to make the process more enjoyable. We learned the hard way so you don’t have to.

- 1) Bury your tent stakes horizontally using a “deadman anchor.” Or invest in snow stakes, aka tent stakes on steroids.
- 2) At camp, immediately remove hiking layers and don dry camp clothes before you get chilled. It’s harder to warm yourself up than to stay warm.
- 3) Melting snow uses more fuel than boiling water – bring enough fuel for melting snow and cooking.
- 4) Bring the right gear. Sleeping bags have two ratings: “comfort” and “lower.” Still screwed it up? Put a bottle of hot water in your sleeping bag. And secure the bottle cap.
- 5) Vent your tent. Condensation builds when warm air can’t escape the tent. Keep the fly pulled tight, but leave the zipper partially open.

Have fun out there.