

Explore

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

FREE

Big Sky

March 4 - 17, 2016
Volume 7 // Issue #5

Snowmobile EXPO back in West Yellowstone

Big Sky developer to break ground
on affordable housing units

Big Horn hoops - District tourney recaps

Mad Wolf relay returns to Big Sky den

Museum of the Rockies' new photo exhibits



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ON THE COVER:
Young competitors battle for first at one of the many races taking place at the Snowmobile EXPO in West Yellowstone. PHOTO BY MIKE POLKOWSKE

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Mad Wolf relay returns to Big Sky den **41**

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.



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“There may be people that have more talent than you, but there is no excuse for anyone to work harder than you do.”

-Derek Jeter



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
Owner | Broker

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MONTANA LIVING
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NEWS IN BRIEF



WIA hires new executive director

WOMEN IN ACTION

As Women in Action kicks off its 10th anniversary in 2016, we’re announcing the appointment of a new executive director and a role change for current Executive Director Rachel Thesing.

After founding WIA in 2006, Thesing and the WIA board set out to provide much needed services for children and families in Big Sky. In her new role as chairman of the WIA Advisory Committee, Thesing will help ensure the future success of the organization.

Jennifer O’Connor took over as the new WIA executive director on Feb. 1. O’Connor is no stranger to working with nonprofit organizations in Big Sky after spending four years as the president of the Big Sky PTO and more recently as the development director for Morningstar Learning Center. She is an active leader of the Big Sky Boy and Girl scouts and she and her husband David have three children at Ophir schools.

Stop by the new Women in Action office located at 47855 Gallatin Road, Unit No. 1, above Grizzly Outfitters on the River. O’Connor will be in the office Wednesdays and Fridays and looks forward to working with members of the Big Sky community.

Big Sky Business Services changes hands, name

EBS STAFF

After 15 years as Big Sky Business Services, community members will now take their shipping and printing needs to QuickPrint of Big Sky.

Agata Morrill purchased the business Feb. 1 from Sean and Wanda McCarthy, who opened its doors in 2001. She also operates QuickPrint of West Yellowstone, which she purchased in 2010 from Tom Nesbitt who will be working in the Big Sky shop.

“At first I thought, all I need is another business,” Morrill said, adding she came to Big Sky last spring for the first time in a few years. “I was amazed at all the development.”

In addition to continuing shipping goods via UPS, FedEx and the Postal Service, Morrill says she offers services that weren’t previously available in the community, including printing brochures, business cards and carbonless forms, and a Kodak kiosk for customers to print their own photos.

Morrill hopes to eventually have a large-format photo printer in the new location, and in the meantime will provide that option to Big Sky customers from her West Yellowstone location.

While patrons will no longer be seeing Sean McCarthy daily in the West Fork Meadow shop, another familiar face will remain – Lori Ueland, who started working for the McCarthys in 2001, is staying on with Morrill’s enterprise.

“The whole reason I could think about doing it, [is] Lori is still there,” Morrill said.

Bozeman pet store franchising

EBS STAFF

Bozeman pet supply store Dee-O-Gee announced Feb. 24 it is franchising its business. Opened by Josh and Holly Allen in 2008, the business has two locations in Bozeman, on East Main and West Oak streets, selling natural pet food, nutritional supplements, toys, and provide grooming and dog daycare.

Within hours of the announcement, the story was picked up by the online news platforms of Yahoo Finance, Pet Business Magazine, Pet Product News, and Thomson Reuters, among other outlets. Josh attributes the national attention to the successful business model they’ve created in Bozeman.

“We think that it is an attainable entry point for a first-time business owner ... In an industry that reliably grows,” Josh said. “And it’s super fun too. Who wouldn’t want to have a job to help pets thrive – and be their own boss?”

Part of the couple’s decision to go the franchise route instead of expanding with a corporate model was people contacting the Allens about trying to open a Dee-O-Gee in their own towns, Josh said.

“We had to say no before, now we can say yes.”

Big Sky school board candidacy filing due March 24

EBS STAFF

Voters will decide on May 3 who will fill two open seats on the Big Sky School District board of trustees.

The deadline to file a declaration of intent as a candidate is 4 p.m. on March 24, and ballots will be mailed to voters April 13. Ballots must arrive at the County Election Office in Bozeman by the deadline.

The two open seats result from openings left by Laura Michel and board chair Loren Bough, both of whose three-year terms are expiring. As of EBS press time on March 2, Bough had filed his paperwork and Michel had not, according to District Clerk Marie Goode. Whitney Littman and Matt Dodd had also filed their declaration of intent.

The winners of the May 3 election will join current board trustees Matt Jennings, Maggie Luchini and Kim Gunderson.

The next BSSD board meeting is Tuesday, March 22 at 3:30 p.m. in the Ophir Elementary School.

Anyone qualified to vote in Big Sky School District #72 is eligible for the office of trustee. Declaration of Intent forms are available from the school’s main office or by calling District Clerk Marie Goode at (406) 995-4281.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BSFD

BSFD hires deputy chief

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Fire Department is welcoming a new addition to its ranks this month. On Feb. 18, BSFD Chief William Farhat hired Scott Morovits, a battalion chief with almost 30 years of experience with Wisconsin’s Janesville Fire Department, as Big Sky’s new deputy chief.

“Morovits ... is a caring, educated and experienced person who will be able to provide strong support to our staff and enhance the services that we provide,” Farhat wrote in an email to EBS.

Morovits’s resume includes 15 years as an advanced life support ambulance crewmember, nine years as a battalion chief and 10 years as his union’s president.

This past January, Morovits came to Big Sky to interview for the position, a full-day process that included a tactical fire simulation, a public speaking exercise and an operational leadership panel.

“There are times when you default to the level of your training ... I’ve been very fortunate to have good mentors [and] good training officers,” Morovits said of the firefighting experience he called upon during the interview process.

Morovits will start with the department on March 22. He and his wife are looking forward to cruising through Yellowstone National Park on their 2015 Indian Chief Vintage motorcycle.

BIG SKY • MOONLIGHT BASIN • SPANISH PEAKS • YELLOWSTONE CLUB

PURE

big sky



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



42 LOW DOG ROAD

The quintessential Montana log home, "Souvenirs Lodge" is located at the end of the desirable Low Dog Road in Big Sky's Mountain Village, just below Andesite Mountain's ski trails. This mountain retreat has plenty of room for entertaining with 2 living areas, high end finishes throughout, 2 fireplaces, vaulted ceilings and gorgeous furnishings. Ski right down from the slopes into the hot tub on your private deck. This property is being offered fully furnished. MLS #: 210058

Offered at \$2,495,000

Listing Agent: Sandy Revisky | 406.539.6316



300 PORCUPINE CREEK

This is a rare opportunity to own up to 1,412.16 feet of Gallatin River frontage, only minutes from the entrance to Big Sky. Bordered by Forest Service Land and Montana Fish and Game Land, this property is in close proximity to the popular Porcupine trailhead. Fish, hike and horseback ride out your front door in the summer and back-country ski out your back door in the winter. MLS #: 201946

**Offerings: Combined | \$1,195,000
Tract 1 | 635,000 - Tract 2 | \$685,000**

Listing Agent: Sandy Revisky | 406.539.6316



SHOSHONE CONDO #1925

There are great views from this 1 bedroom, 2 bathroom Shoshone condominium on the 3rd level, just steps from the ski lifts in the base area of the Big Sky Resort. This comfortable unit sleeps 6 with a murphy bed and sofa sleeper in the living room, complete with propane fireplace, a viewing balcony and a full kitchen. Amenities include room/bell/housekeeping and concierge services, spa services, valet parking, health club, restaurant and more! MLS #: 208733

Offered at \$235,000

Listing Agent: Mary Wheeler | 406.539.1745



41 BLUE FLAX PLACE

Sold fully furnished and perched at the top of Hidden Village, this well maintained condominium has direct views of both Lone Peak and the Spanish Peaks! 3 bedrooms and 2.5 bathrooms are complemented by an additional bonus room, as the hot tub has been removed, and the living area features a wood burning fireplace. The package is completed by the condo's close proximity to Hidden Village's pool and jacuzzi. MLS #: 208958

Offered at \$395,000

Listing Agent: Michael Thomas | 406.581.2400



211 ANTLER RIDGE ROAD

This three bedroom, three bathroom home features a beautiful designer kitchen and great room, large windows, a three stall garage with an additional 4th stall for your recreational toys and a recent addition of a lower level entertainment room. The lot has adjacent open space and the cross-country ski trail is just across the street. MLS#: 208760

Offered at \$795,000

Listing Agent: Michael Thomas | 406.581.2400



MEADOW VILLAGE CHARMER

This ideal family home is situated in the heart of Big Sky. The 5 bedroom residence is perched above a quiet street in Big Sky's Meadow Village close to golf, cross-county skiing and Big Sky Town Center. The open floor plan includes an updated kitchen, 2 living areas, a lower level study/work space and redesigned laundry, while a terraced and beautifully landscaped back yard complete with southern-facing deck is the perfect place for entertaining. MLS #: 209497

Offered at \$749,000

Listing Agent: Ania Bulis | 406.580.6852



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

Offered at \$985,000

Listing Agent: Lynn Milligan | 406.581.2848



CHRISTIE'S
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

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BigSkyLuxuryRealEstate.com

Big Sky , Montana

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News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

Mountain Outlaw’s Outbound Gallery

Call for summer submissions

Mountain Outlaw magazine’s Outbound Gallery features stunning images selected from artists and photographers of all abilities in the Mountain West. For the upcoming summer issue, Mountain Outlaw is asking artists of all media to submit images pertaining to the theme of water.

We are looking for a range of interpretation on this theme; images could showcase the valuable source of recreation and incredible Mountain West landscapes, or could be more conceptual or abstract, tackling current issues. The floodgates are open.

Up to eight images will be selected for print in the 2016 summer edition of Mountain Outlaw, and \$75 awarded to each published artist.

The Outbound Gallery provides an excellent opportunity for artists to share their work with a broad and diverse audience.

With an annual readership of 1.1 million, Mountain Outlaw is printed biannually and distributed in the communities around Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks. The magazine is also mailed to subscribers in all 50 states. – Kelsey Dzintars

HOW TO ENTER (submissions are free):

Submit up to five high-resolution .jpg images (300 dpi, at least 8.5inwide) to kelsey@outlaw.partners. Please include titles for images in file name and also the body of the email.

Artists of all ages and abilities are eligible and encouraged to submit Imagery is up to interpretation. Subject matter can include but is not limited to portraits, wildlife, landscape, lifestyle, action, etc.

If images are too large to attach in an email, please send a Dropbox folder labeled with your name. Submissions that do not fit within the technical requirements will be disqualified.

DEADLINE: April 15, 2016

Email kelsey@outlaw.partners for more information.



Quote

Colin Powell, former Secretary of State for George W. Bush, on Guantanamo Bay:

"...The fact of the matter is, it has always been slowly closing over the last 10 years. We started with almost 800 people in Guantanamo.

"We're down now to less than 100. Well, where'd the other 700 go? They're gone, they've been sent back because we didn't have charges on them, we didn't know how they'd gotten there in the first place."

- Politico



The federal government has said delisting grizzly bears from protection under the Endangered Species Act is imminent, and is likely to happen this year.

What are your thoughts about delisting grizzlies, and how do you feel about them being hunted once they're delisted?



Darrell Slabaugh, *Big Sky, Mont. and Whidbey Island, Wash.*
Retired

"I don't think they should be hunted. I think they should be controlled ... safely; but hunting them just opens up Pandora's box. I'm scared of them enough when I hike without bear spray, much less if I have to worry about a guy shooting at me.

It would be nice if there was a way to coexist safely with grizzly bears, or any bears for that matter, and not kill them."



Charlie Calamoneri, *Peachtree City, Ga.*
Pilot, Delta

"If it's left up to the states to decide if you can hunt and if you have to have a tag and how many you have to have, I think ... you could still control it. Grizzlies are aggressive versus black bears that aren't going to bother you as much.

I would be against it unless I thought that they became a nuisance. And even then at the state level if they had a one-week season and they only gave out 10 tags for the year or something, that might not be a big deal."



Jackie Miller, *Big Sky, Mont.*
Real estate broker, PureWest

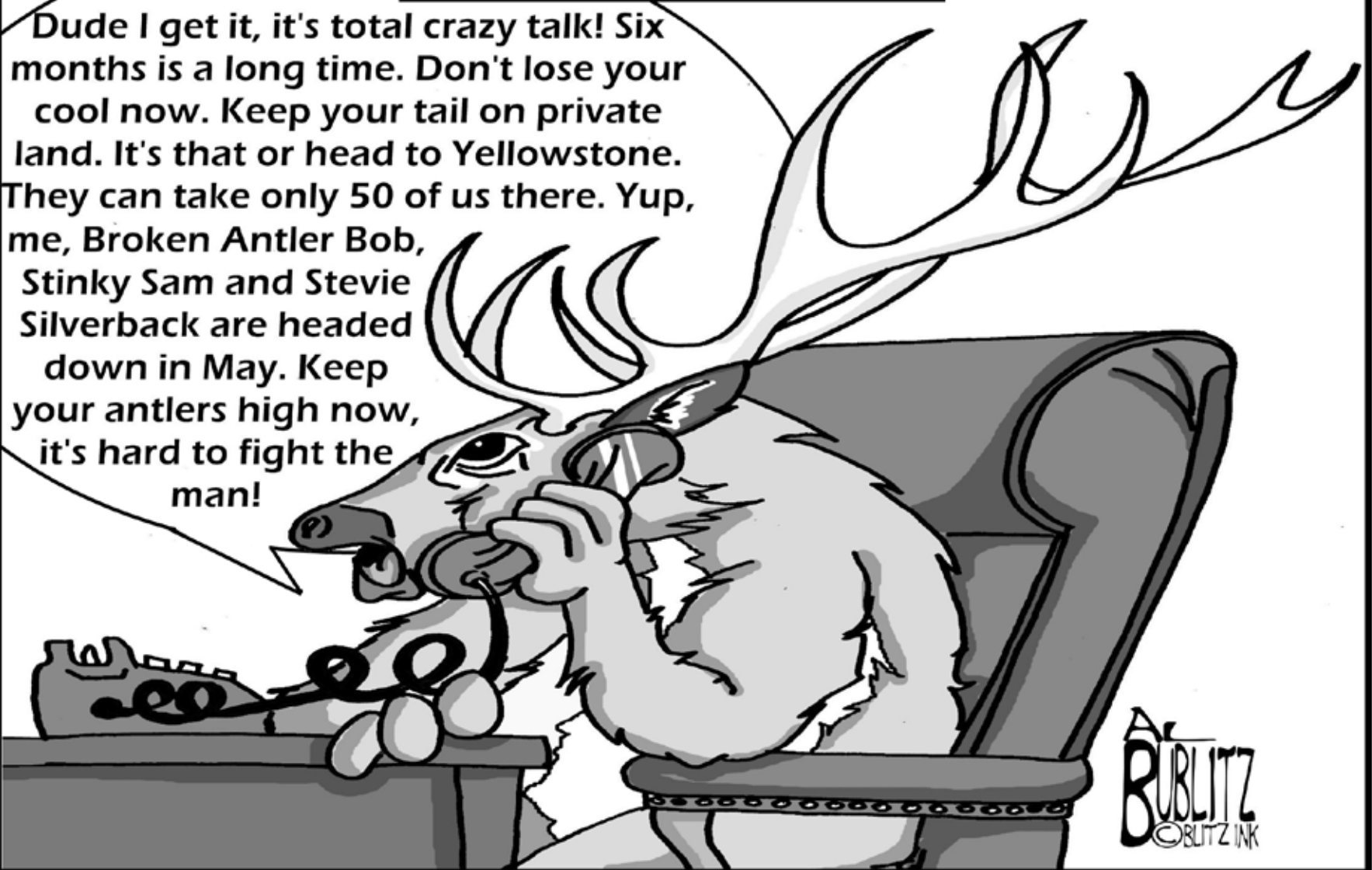
"Grizzly bear numbers are starting to get really high so I feel like hunting with proper regulations is good management. And when I'm out in the forest mountain biking, hiking, doing all those things and the grizzly bears are hunted, they are afraid of humans. Right now they're not afraid.

If you go to Alaska, they're afraid of people because they get hunted. So the maulings in Alaska are slim. The average tourist doesn't understand how aggressive grizzly bears can be, and the difference between grizzly and black is huge. If they run across a grizzly bear and they don't have bear spray and aren't prepared, they could die or get really messed up."

With Montana's shoulder season, it has Elk looking for answers.

ELK HELP LINE

Dude I get it, it's total crazy talk! Six months is a long time. Don't lose your cool now. Keep your tail on private land. It's that or head to Yellowstone. They can take only 50 of us there. Yup, me, Broken Antler Bob, Stinky Sam and Stevie Silverback are headed down in May. Keep your antlers high now, it's hard to fight the man!





6TH ANNUAL BIG SKY



PBR'S BEST
COWBOYS & BULLS

LIVE MUSIC

7/29: THE OUTLAWS

7/30: JASON BOLAND &
THE STRAGGLERS



MUTTON BUSTIN'



ENTERTAINMENT BY
FLINT RASMUSSEN



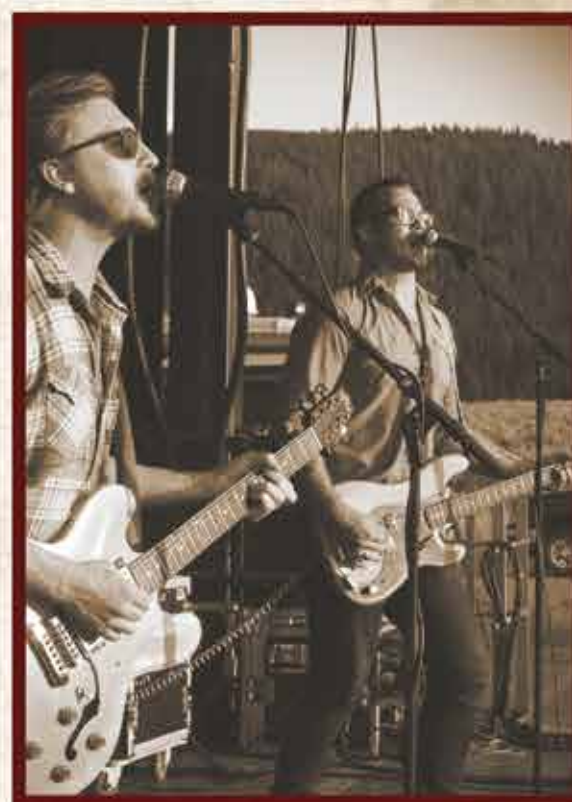
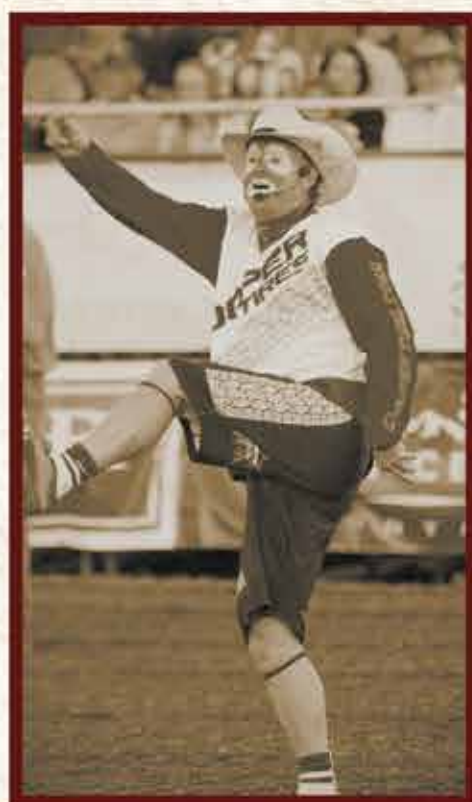


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JULY 29 & 30, 2016
BIG SKY TOWN CENTER

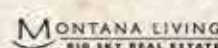
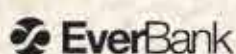
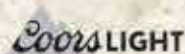


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3X EVENT OF
THE YEAR





RENDERING BY CENTRE SKY ARCHITECTURE

Workforce housing development near Ace moves forward

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – A local developer is on track to break ground in May on a workforce housing unit called Big Sky Lofts, east of the new Ace Hardware building.

Scott Altman, also a realtor with Montana Living - Big Sky Real Estate, said there aren't many pieces of property in Big Sky that have the right zoning as well as water and sewer access to support such projects.

"With this one, we're lucky to have all three. This one we can make work," said Altman, who has been working on the project for two years.

The development, if approved by Gallatin County Commissioners, will be located on a 16-acre plot of land presently called the Sweetgrass Hills Subdivision. Ace Hardware and Big Sky Vacation Rentals are currently located on part of the plot.

To ensure Big Sky's workforce reaps benefit from the project, occupants would be required to show proof of employment with a Big Sky business, Altman said, adding that local employers have already inquired about approximately half of the project's units.

"I think the whole goal in employee housing is to make people more invested in the area," Altman said. "Our goal is to have them in close. We'd like them to be involved in Big Sky, spend their money in Big Sky and support businesses in Big Sky."

The number of units is yet to be determined, but Altman said they're aiming for 40 to 46 lofts split between two buildings. He's hoping to complete at least one building by next winter.

The ground floor of each building would contain a 1,500-square-foot commercial property, which would help the project meet county zoning restrictions for the area. The area's zoning is designated as "community-commercial," and Altman said a number of businesses have expressed interest in the commercial spaces.

Centre Sky Architecture is designing the development plans, which have yet to be finalized. Under the current plans, each 1,500-square-foot unit will have four bedrooms with individual bathrooms, a shared kitchen and great room. The buildings would be two or three stories, Altman said.

Target rental costs have not yet been set. "We're trying to [offer them] under market rate by a good little bit if we can. It all just depends on what our build costs come in at," Altman said.

Build costs are often 25 percent higher in Big Sky than Bozeman, but Altman said the high volume of construction going on in Bozeman has led to an increase in build costs since Bozeman builders favor work closer to home. "Build costs are our biggest hurdle," he said.

Although Altman said the project has been green lighted by the Big Sky Water and Sewer District, some county approvals are still needed: a certificate of subdivision approval (COSA) from the Gallatin City-County Health Department, and ultimate approval from the Gallatin County Commissioners.

Denise Moldroski, an environmental health specialist with the Gallatin City-County Health Department, said the COSA looks at drinking water, wastewater treatment, solid waste disposal and storm water drainage. She said as of March 2, a COSA for the Big Sky Lofts had not been filed.

Altman said he intends to subdivide the property into two lots to keep the commercial area surrounding Ace separate from the Big Sky Lofts, which will cover approximately two-thirds of the plot's 16 acres.

On Feb. 22, Altman submitted a preliminary plat application to the Gallatin County Planning Department. Sean O'Callaghan, a planning director with the Gallatin County Department of Planning and Community Development, said the application is intended to give the developer feedback before he goes through the final design process.

O'Callaghan said that two months to make it through the preliminary plat review process is a reasonable timeline, but added that the status of other approvals would play a role as well.

"We're working full bore to make this happen," Altman said. He's hoping Big Sky Lofts will help generate momentum for future projects in the area.

"There hasn't been even a ray of anything coming for quite a while, so [the] response so far has been super, super encouraging," he said. "Everyone's been offering to do what they can to make it work."

Affordable housing has been a prominent issue in the community the past several years, spurring a 2014 housing study that found 83 percent of Big Sky's workforce commutes from elsewhere in Gallatin County.

A 2015 preliminary architectural report funded in part by the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce identified eight potential sites for affordable housing. The high cost of land has been a significant hurdle to potential developments like those outlined in the report.



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.

Our varsity Lone Peak High School basketball teams recently finished long and successful seasons, coming to a close in late February at the District tournaments hosted at Manhattan Christian High School. Unfortunately, both Big Horn teams lost early in the double elimination tournaments.

Attending these tournaments, I saw students, teachers, administrators and community members from as far away as White Sulphur Springs and West Yellowstone cheering on their teams. In addition, I witnessed the shouts of jubilation following a victory and tears of sadness as seasons ended in close games.

Having recently returned to Montana from a career overseas, I reflected on my own youth and what a large part my adolescence was spent engaging in extracurricular activities in Montana, and how little things have changed.

In the Big Sky School District, and across the U.S., a plethora of extracurricular activities are offered to students. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 57 percent of students participated in at least one extracurricular activity in 2013, split nearly evenly between sports and other pursuits.

A 2012 study published by the National Institutes of Health indicates that between five and 14 hours per week is healthy for students; however, more than 14 hours spent on extracurricular activities can negatively impact academics.

While up to 14 hours may seem to be a lot of time in addition to homework, as well as family, social, and relaxation time, the opposite is true. Youth who participate in extracurricular activities will likely see an improvement in academics and social life, as well as improved discipline, leadership, teamwork and accountability.

Students will find themselves better prepared for post-secondary education and will take lessons they learned in their extracurricular activities to face challenges in their future.

We continue to promote and support extracurricular participation in Big Sky schools; however, the participation of our students is really about the journey for the kids. We want to foster successful adults, enhance the learning experience, and prepare students for life beyond the Big Sky School District.


NOTICE OF INTENT TO DISPOSE OF EQUIPMENT

The Trustee of Big Sky School District #72 have resolved to sell or otherwise dispose of miscellaneous personal property because it has become obsolete, undesirable or unsuitable for purposes of the school district. A copy of the list of obsolete property can be obtained from the Big Sky School District office at 45465 Gallatin Road, Gallatin Gateway, MT, Telephone 995-4281, or at www.bssd72.org


The effective date of this resolution is March 18th, 2016. Any taxpayer of the district may appeal this resolution prior to that date in the manner specified in MCA 20-6-604.

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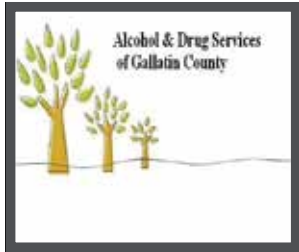
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On Feb. 22, John Haas and Diane Dowd with the Spanish Peaks Community Foundation presented an \$87,000 check for Ophir School's new playground to BSSD Superintendant Dustin Shipman. PHOTO BY AMANDA EGGERT

Spanish Peaks Community Foundation funds Ophir School playground

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – Ophir School students returned from their winter break with a welcome addition to the school grounds: a new playground made possible by an \$87,000 donation from the Spanish Peaks Community Foundation.

The donation was a donor-directed gift made by a member of the SPCF, which has been supporting local causes since 2011, when Spanish Peaks filed for bankruptcy.

After the bankruptcy, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club members rallied to raise \$110,000 and donated about \$75,000 to Spanish Peaks employees who lost their jobs virtually overnight in the bankruptcy. The remaining money was used to start the foundation, which has been a 501(c)(3) nonprofit since 2013.

Playground construction started in late September 2015 and ended mid-January of this year. It includes tetherball poles, a jungle gym, a swing set and a multi-level structure with two slides.

Before the playground was completed, Ophir's 153 k-4 students walked to the old playground

near Lone Peak High School. "When the snow came, well, you couldn't get over there," said Big Sky School District Superintendent Dustin Shipman. "[The playground] was badly needed ... It's a lot of physical development for the kids, too – it's climbing, it's running."

"I really like the new playground," said fourth-grader Henry Flach. "It can hold more kids than the other one. Not everybody's fighting for the slides."

Chairman of the SPCF board John Haas said about 25 percent of the Spanish Peaks' 231 members donate to the foundation.



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Yellowstone bears emerging from dens

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

Grizzly bears are emerging from hibernation in the Greater Yellowstone area, which means hikers, skiers and snowshoers should stay in groups of three or more, make noise on the trail, and carry bear spray.

If kept handy and used according to directions, bear spray is an effective last line of defense when a bear is approaching within 30 to 60 feet.

The first confirmed report of grizzly bear activity in the park was Feb. 22, when wolf biologists observed a large grizzly bear in the Nez Perce drainage.

Bears begin looking for food soon after they emerge from their dens and are attracted to elk and bison that have died during the winter. Carcasses are an important food source, so bears will sometimes react aggressively while feeding on them. The park implements seasonal bear management area closures to reduce encounters between bears and humans in areas where there is a high density of elk and bison carcasses.

Yellowstone regulations require visitors to stay 100 yards from black and grizzly bears at all times. The best defense from a bear encounter is to stay a safe distance from the animals and use binoculars, a telescope or telephoto lens to get a closer look.



A Grizzly bear looks for food after a long hibernation in Hayden Valley. NPS PHOTO

Firearms are allowed in the park, but the discharge of a firearm by visitors is a violation of park regulations. Yellowstone's law enforcement rangers who carry firearms on duty rely on bear spray, rather than their weapons, as the most effective means to deal with a bear encounter.

Visitors must keep food, garbage, barbecue grills and other attractants stored in hard-sided vehicles or bear-proof food storage boxes – this helps to prevent bears from becoming conditioned to human food, and helps keep park visitors and their property safe.

Yellowstone visitors should report bear sightings to the nearest visitor center or ranger station as soon as possible.

Updated bear safety information is available at nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/bearsafety.htm and in the park newspaper available at all park entrances. Visit nps.gov/yell/parkmgmt/bearclosures.htm for a listing of bear closures.

Montana gubernatorial race puts spotlight on low wages

BY BOBBY CAINA CALVAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – As he introduces himself to Montana voters, Republican Greg Gianforte has tried to take the sheen off the state's mostly glowing economic numbers.

Montana's unemployment rate is a full point below the national number, and incomes are rising. And Gov. Steve Bullock, who is campaigning for a second term, is touting what some outside analysts call an "ecosystem of entrepreneurship."

But as Gianforte makes his bid to oust Bullock from the governor's mansion, the Bozeman businessman has pounced on one particular statistic: Montana's rank as 49th in the country in wages – behind only Mississippi.

There's little dispute that wages in Montana are among the lowest in the country, but the metric is a lot more complicated, economists say.

"When people have discussions about Montana's economy, I have a problem with sweeping statements and people using numbers out of context," said Ray Rasker, the executive director of Headwaters Economics, a nonpartisan Bozeman think tank partly specializing in rural economies.

Wages in rural states like Montana, he said, should not be compared with the powerhouse urban-driven economies of California, Massachusetts and even Colorado.

"What drives up the wages in most states are the higher-paying jobs in the cities," Rasker said. "We don't have a Denver, or a Seattle or a Phoenix. We just don't have a big metropolis."

Rasker argues that a more fair comparison would exclude urban centers from the equation. So he developed an algorithm that sifts through federal wage data and controls for population. When excluding communities larger than Montana's most populous county, Yellowstone County – home of the state's largest city, Billings – the resulting list buoys Montana into the middle of the pack.

"At the end of the day, the thing that matters to Montanans is the wage that goes into their pockets. Whether we're 47th or 49th, there's no denying that we're near the bottom of the country," Gian-

forte said in an interview. "So it's no surprise our young people are leaving the state."

The statistic Gianforte has been using on the campaign trail comes from the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse, which analyzed 2013 federal tax returns. The analysis showed Montanans earning an average wage of \$33,180 – \$10,000 below the national average and \$27,000 below that of the list-topping Connecticut.

"In politics, both the left and the right fight over competing informational frames," said David Parker, a political scientist at Montana State University. "In this case, Republicans want you to think the economy in Montana is awful while Democrats want you to believe it has never been better. The truth is likely somewhere in the middle: the economy shows sign of vitality and strength, but we are behind relative to our peers on some measures."

While average earnings might rank Montana low, a look at per-capita income shows the state ranked 37th in the country in 2014.

Focusing on one statistic, Bullock said, does not show the breadth of Montana's economic health.

"I don't think that trying to pick the worst number possible and tearing down Montana's progress for political gain is responsible," Bullock said.

Montana's economy is indeed much more robust these days, according to Patrick Barker, the director of the University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

But he doesn't fault Gianforte for making an issue of the state's low wages.

"It's important because low wages limits how we can address things, from infrastructure to schools," Barker said.

"It's a shame it's become politicized," Barker said. "It should be a bipartisan issue that both sides are working to address."

Barker acknowledged that Montana has for decades had among the country's lowest wages, regardless of which party held the governorship. There are no easy fixes, he said.

"It's not [an] easy problem to solve," he said, "it's a very, very difficult one."



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Section 2: SPORTS & HEALTH



Ten ways to be healthier pg. 24



Lady Big Horns end strong season with tournament losses

BY AMANDA EGGERT

EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – When White Sulphur Springs showed up to play LPHS at the District 11/12C tournament Feb. 18, they had the Lady Big Horns’ number.

The two teams played once during the regular season, and LPHS walked away with a 47-33 win. This time, the Hornets defeated the Lady Big Horns by 16 points.

“They did a good job scouting us,” said LPHS head coach Nubia Allen. “They knew we were a more guard-oriented team.”

The Hornets adjusted their defense accordingly, holding LPHS top scorers Luisa Locker and Dasha Bough to six and nine points, respectively. Throughout the season, junior guard Bough averaged 11.4 points per game, while Locker, a junior point guard, averaged 10. The two averages were the highest on the team.

The Lady Big Horns couldn’t gain traction in the paint to put more points on the board. Posts Bianca Godoy, Jenna McKillop and K.P. Hoffman scored just eight points between them. “Our inside game wasn’t on, it wasn’t as effective as usual,” Allen said.

LPHS held on to the lead in the first half – they were up 21-19 at the buzzer – but gradually ceded ground to White Sulphur Springs.

Junior guard Bella Butler played an aggressive game, penetrating for layups and sinking two 3-pointers. Butler led the Big Horns in scoring with 12 points. “She came to play,” Allen said. “She was just attacking the basket like I’ve never seen before.”

White Sulphur Springs junior Mesa Williams earned a game-high 25 points. “We let her get hot and we just couldn’t stop her,” Allen said. “We couldn’t find an answer for her.”

The Hornets established a 32-27 lead by the start of the fourth quarter and stretched it to 51-35 by the game’s close, scoring 19 fourth quarter points to LPHS’s eight.

The following day, the Lady Big Horns took on the Shields Valley Rebels, a team they beat by 19 in early January and lost to by 11 in late January.

Locker and Bough had banner nights, scoring 70 percent of LPHS’s points. “Luisa and Dasha shot the lights out,” Allen said. “They were both on.” They each drained two 3-pointers, and Bough scored 21 points total. Locker wasn’t far behind with 18 points on the night.

LPHS and Shields Valley traded leads throughout the game. At the end of the half, the Lady Big Horns were up 27-20, but by the start of the fourth quarter, they were leading by just two points.

Allen said the two teams were evenly matched in many respects – shooting percentages, rebounds and turnovers – but the Lady Big Horns’ relative lack of postseason tournament experience hurt them.



Luisa Locker goes up for a jump shot against White Sulphur Springs during the Lady Big Horns’ 51-35 loss to the Hornets at the District 11/12C tournament. PHOTO BY JILL BOUGH

“The difference in that game was us making mistakes in critical situations,” Allen said. “[Shields Valley] handled important situations better than we did.” Ultimately, the Rebels won 57-56.

Even so, Allen said she’s proud of the girls’ performance in the tournament. “The best thing about losing like we did – being the third seed and not making it to Divisionals – is that the girls are ready. They’re already talking about next year.”

The outlook is good for the Lady Big Horns’ 2016-17 season, as Allen won’t lose any players to graduation. Open gym practices are already underway.

“I think we are where want to be and we can see the bright side of losing the way we did. I think it just puts a fire under the girls, especially the [six juniors].”

Big Horns finish post-season play with one win, and two losses

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY - The Lone Peak High School Big Horns entered the 11/12C District tournament strong with a win against rival West Yellowstone, but subsequently lost to two tough teams and were knocked out of contention.

On Feb. 18 the LPHS boys lost to Ennis, the number one-ranked team going into the tournament that went on to win it all. In the consolation bracket the next day, they lost to Shields Valley, who would secure third place.

The highlight for LPHS in Districts, however, came on Feb. 17 when they faced West Yellowstone for the third time this season. The Big Horns lost to the Wolverines by one point on Jan. 15 and beat them 51-44 at home during the Big Horns' last regular season game on Feb. 12.

LPHS head coach Al Malinowski said the Big Horns' strong rebounding, solid defense and commitment to making it to the foul line helped them secure their most recent win, 45-34.

"We got to the free throw line 33 times, so I think we did a good job of being aggressive and getting fouled," Malinowski said, adding that the boys sunk 20 of the 33 free-throw attempts.

Down low, posts Chris Tompkins and Jackson Wade had strong games, scoring nine and 10 points, respectively. The Big Horns outrebounded the Wolverines 32-29, while junior guard Eddie Starz led the charge on that front with eight, and sophomore Wade followed with seven.

Starz scored a game-high 23 points. "I really thought Eddie had a really good tournament on the whole," Malinowski said. "You saw an increased intensity in teams trying to focus on stopping him, starting with West and continuing

with Ennis and Shields, and he found a way to continue scoring."

The following day the Big Horns lost 53-32 to Ennis, a team with a deep bench of big, experienced players.

Malinowski said neither team played to its full potential, and the Big Horns appeared to be off mentally, perhaps from playing such an emotional and close game the day before.

"Unfortunately that resulted in way too many turnovers," Malinowski said. "You can't play a top-ranked team, turn over the ball 29 times and expect to win." The Mustangs scored 15 points off turnovers.

The Big Horns played a close game Feb. 19 against the Shields Valley Rebels, another close rival. "We both want to win like crazy, but I think there's a lot of mutual respect between the coaches and players of those two teams," Malinowski said. The two squads squared off at the District tournament several times in recent years.

More assertive playmaking, a few more buckets from the 3-point line and more aggressive rebounding might have made the difference in that game.

The Big Horns made 4 of 21 attempts from behind the 3-point arc and stepped up to the free-throw line just seven times. They also racked up 16 team fouls, five of which belonged to Eddie Starz, who fouled out in the third quarter.

"I would have obviously much rather had Eddie in there for the fourth quarter, but at the same time I was really impressed with how the remaining five players rallied and competed and played very well against the team that ended up winning third place," Malinowski said.

Malinowski said it's like watching two different teams when he compares game footage from the start of the season to the end. "I've never graded our team's success on a certain number of victories or winning by a certain number of points [but instead] where did we start [and] where did we finish," he said. "As an overall team, I'm very proud of the improvement."

Starz set records for most career points with 827, most points in a season with 434, most points in a game with 39, and most free throws in a season with 85. "He's pretty much got the record book in his name at this point," Malinowski said.

The Big Horns also set a record for highest scoring game when they beat Sheridan 87-54 on Jan. 23.

Next season, Districts will be configured so that 11C and 12C won't be combined. Under the new boundaries, LPHS, West Yellowstone, Manhattan Christian, Gardiner, White Sulphur Springs and Shields Valley will be in the 11C district.

Ennis, Harrison, Twin Bridges, Lima and Sheridan will be in 12C, and will be joined by Drummond and Phillipsburg's Granite High School.

"I think we should have a better seeded tournament because everyone in your district will play everybody twice, once home and once away," Malinowski said. The Big Horns will still play teams from outside 11C, but those games won't figure into District tournament seeding.

During the 2015-16 season, game scheduling didn't allow for each team to play every other team in the district twice. As a result, some teams played a tougher schedule, which subsequently affected their record and seeding going into the tournament.



Senior post Chris Tompkins shoots through a foul against West Yellowstone. "He had a heck of a senior year," said LPHS head coach Al Malinowski, adding that he finished the season with 149 points. PHOTO BY TORI PINTAR



EYE ON THE BALL

Trade deadline quiet for NBA stars



BY BRANDON NILES
EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

The annual trade deadline has become one of the most interesting points in the NBA season, providing opportunities for teams to make final personnel moves in hopes of making a splash in the playoffs.

Fans have become accustomed to active trade deadlines. Big name players like Carmelo Anthony, Andrew Bogut, and Goran Dragic have all been moved recently at the deadline. In 2008, the Los Angeles Lakers became a title contender by acquiring Pau Gasol from the Memphis Grizzlies.

This year, the usual rumors swirled, with all-star talents like the Houston Rockets' Dwight Howard and Blake Griffin of the Los Angeles Clippers both rumored to be on the move. Instead, the league saw surprisingly few deals as the Feb. 18 deadline expired.

The biggest names that switched teams were Markieff Morris going to the Washington Wizards from the Phoenix Suns, and Tobias Harris moving to the Detroit Pistons from sunny Orlando.

While Morris and Harris are both quality players, neither is the type of talent that moves the proverbial needle for their new teams.

What this year's crop of trades represents is deft maneuvering by team officials to add specific skill sets supplementing their current rosters.

No team made a franchise-altering move that will change its current course – instead, teams tinkered. This includes the addition of a scorer like Harris to a Detroit team that lacked perimeter shooting.

In another example of roster tinkering, the Cleveland Cavaliers gave up a first-round pick to the Portland Trailblazers for absorbing the contract of oft-injured Anderson Varejao so they could acquire stretch forward Channing Frye from the Orlando Magic. The Magic received a developmental guard and a second round pick in the deal.

The Cavs got another shooter, the Trailblazers got a draft pick, and the Magic freed up minutes for their younger front-court players. This was a move in which everybody involved came out ahead, but no team altered its long-term strategy.

This change is indicative of two things going on in the NBA right now. First, a large increase in the salary cap is expected next season, which will mitigate the need for teams to create cap room by unloading contracts at the deadline. Second, the recent collective bargaining agreement has increased the number of short-term deals.

While this can help players achieve their value quicker – and can alleviate the long-term

problems associated with teams giving out large contracts to underachieving players – the adverse effect on trades is palpable.

Most teams are simply unwilling to give up a bounty of assets for a star player with only a year or two left on his contract. This was undoubtedly why Dwight Howard didn't garner a tremendous amount of attention from other teams who were likely eyeing the opt-out clause he can exercise this summer.

Perhaps the lack of big-impact trades this year will prove to be an anomaly, and we'll see a flurry of deadline deals next year. I hope instead that this is a trend.

This year showed a change in league behavior that suggests a more long-term approach to team construction. General managers throughout the NBA making smart, calculated moves can only improve the product on the court. While a team mortgaging the future for aging veterans makes a juicy headline, I'd much prefer watching well-run organizations take calculated risks that improve the franchise and the league.

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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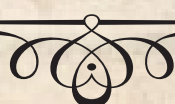


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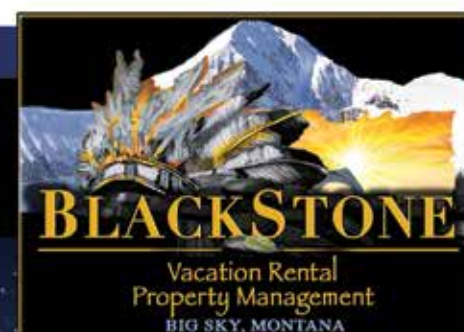
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Special Olympics Montana Big Sky Area Games athlete Becky Lockie hugs volunteer Michelle Frederick.
PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE FREDERICK

Annual Special Olympics winter games held at Big Sky Resort

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – Big Sky Resort played host to the seventh annual Special Olympics Montana Big Sky Area Winter Games Feb. 29 beneath a bluebird sky.

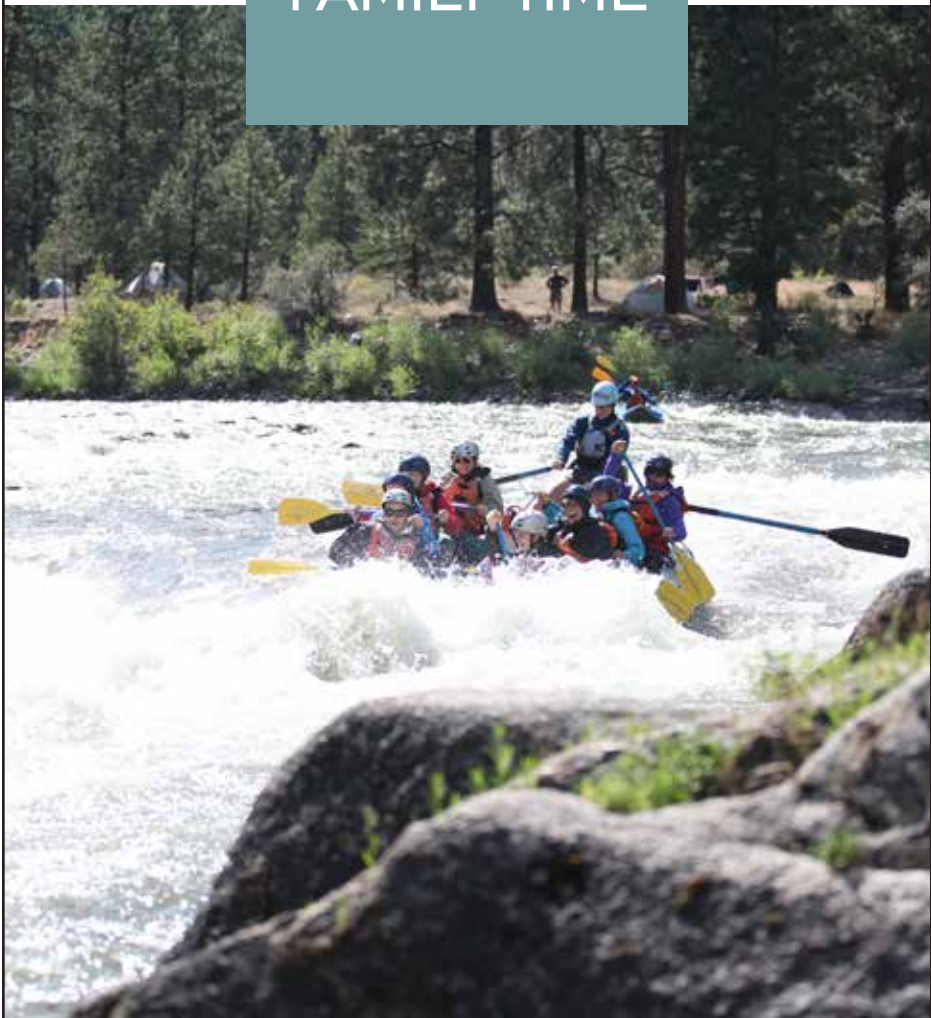
More than 50 Montana athletes competed in alpine skiing, snowboarding and snowshoeing events near the resort’s Madison Lodge base area. Athletes represented southwest Montana’s Gallatin, Park, Sweetgrass, and Madison counties. An award ceremony was held on the patio of the lodge after competition to honor all of the athletes.

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience the joy of athletic endeavors.

Special Olympics Montana adheres to national governing body rules for all its competitions. Athletes and teams train for a minimum of eight weeks before participating in local, area or state-level competition.



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AMUSE-BOUCHE

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

On the road again



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

A chef's day-to-day grind can get monotonous. We create and prepare great food and experiences, but one of the most important elements of our repertoire is consistency. That consistency can at times get shrouded in boredom, but once in a while you get to be a part of something that turns the minutia upside down.

In late February, I attended the Democratic Governors Association conference in Washington, D.C., along with Chuck Schommer, one of our owners at Buck's T-4 Lodge, and Valerie Edwards, our director of sales and marketing.

Chuck and I were fortunate to be invited back for a second consecutive year. I say fortunate because they only invite 10 chefs from states with Democratic governors, and rarely invite chefs a second time.

While this is, in fact, a Democratic event, the platform for this particular gathering is "Share our Strength" with its main campaign being "No Kid Hungry."

Founded in 1984 by siblings Billy and Debbie Shore after being struck by the devastating hunger ravaging Ethiopia, the mission of Share Our Strength's NKH is to end childhood hunger by ensuring all kids get the healthy food they need every day.

In addition, they strive to improve food access by increasing participation in school breakfasts, summer meals, and after-school meal programs; improving resources for families to empower kids and parents to make healthy food choices; and raising awareness for this important issue by engaging youth.

After watching a documentary last year called "A Place at the Table," put together by some of the nation's top chefs, Valerie was so moved that she felt compelled to attend this year's event with me and Chuck.

Nearly 800 guests attended the event, and the format called for each chef and mixologist to prepare one small appetizer and cocktail, respectively. Following customary protocol, chefs made plates to deliver for the other visiting chefs to taste. That included mixologists as well.

The chefs concocted everything from foie gras panna cotta to roasted beet salads, and fish tacos to salmon pastrami. While they are a competitive bunch, chefs simultaneously possess unusually strong support and respect for one another. We love sharing our dishes, especially with chefs from around the country.

After attending the DGA for the second year – and having already been invited back next year by NKH– the Buck's T-4 team has become increasingly passionate, so much so that Buck's is hosting our own NKH event in early April.

I enjoy every day I come to work here at Buck's, but when we have an opportunity to be part of something as meaningful as this event, I'll gladly leave Buck's behind for a weekend.

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.



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



Since 2012, the Spanish Peaks Community Foundation has supported the greater Big Sky area by funding community service projects, the arts, education, and management of the outdoors.

Grants are awarded in the Spring and Fall. The deadline for submission this Spring is April 1st, 2016 and the grants will be awarded May 1st, 2016.

To apply for a grant, to donate, or for more information, visit:

spanishpeaksfoundation.org



Spanish Peaks Community Foundation

PO Box 161303 Big Sky, MT 59716

john@spanishpeaksfoundation.org



From Jackie *with love*

Ten ways to be healthier



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

It’s easy to feel ambushed and overwhelmed by contradictory nutrition advice from the nightly news, tabloids or diet books. The ever-changing diet du jour creates a sense of confusion that can be a psychological barrier to improving the way we eat.

It’s for this reason that I’m grateful for author and food activist Michael Pollan. When it comes to what and how much we should eat, Pollan encourages us to use common sense and intuition. His guidelines take us back to the basics while refuting the intentions of the current U.S. food industry. Pollan reminds us that the food industry often doesn’t have our best interest at heart.

“The expert message we hear the most is the message of industry, which spends more than \$30 billion a year to market food to us,” Pollan writes. “By comparison, the government’s voice, the doctor’s voice, the voice of sanity gets drowned out. And so we walk into a treacherous landscape in the supermarket, where we’re bombarded with health claims that are very often deceptive.”

Here are my top 10 favorite suggestions that Pollan offers in his small and elegant book, “Food Rules: An Eater’s Manual.” I hope the simplicity in this list brings you clarity to make your own diet healthier.

1. **“Avoid food products that contain more than five ingredients.”** The more ingredients a food has, the more processed it is. Don’t be fooled by junk food claims, like Tostitos corn chips that boast having only three ingredients. It’s still junk food with little to no nutritional value.
2. **“Avoid eating food products containing ingredients a third grader cannot pronounce.”** Don’t expect our bodies to know how to process something that isn’t real food.
3. **“Sweeten and salt your food yourself.”** Food made by corporations has far more sugar and salt than adults, and even children, would add themselves.
4. **“It’s not food if it arrived through the window of your car.”** Fast food restaurants are not feeding you for your health and many of their products have ingredients that aren’t food at all.
5. **“Don’t get your fuel from the same place your car does.”** While it may seem convenient to eat gas station food, your body and mind will serve you better when you put more time and energy into the fuel you ingest.
6. **“Eat your colors.”** Colors that occur naturally in plants are powerful anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer agents.
7. **“Eat animals that have themselves eaten well.”** Cows that provide red meat, milk and cheese are meant to eat grass. However, the food industry often feeds them grain in order to fatten them up quickly and get their products to market. They are not equipped to eat this foreign diet so their health, and therefore the by-products of their bodies, are negatively affected. Wild animals are among the healthiest to eat for this reason.
8. **“Treat meat as a flavoring or special occasion food.”** There is mounting evidence proving that our meat-centric diets are too heavy in protein and can create health risks like heart disease and weight gain.



9. **“Eat when you’re hungry, not when you’re bored.”** Find a healthy way to combat boredom. Some examples include physical activity, drinking water, or calling someone you’ve been thinking about.
10. **“Avoid food products with the word ‘lite’ or the terms ‘low-fat’ or ‘nonfat’ in their names.”** The war against fat that began in the 70s was based on bad science. Fat is not the enemy to our health, because when fat is reduced or removed, sugar is often added, and too much sugar is fattening and inflammatory. There are many current scientific studies proving that inflammation caused by lifestyle choices – like diets high in processed foods – is the root of many chronic diseases.

For more inspiring, and eye opening information from Michael Pollan, watch the documentary “In Defense of Food,” released in October 2015. It’s terrific food for thought.

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



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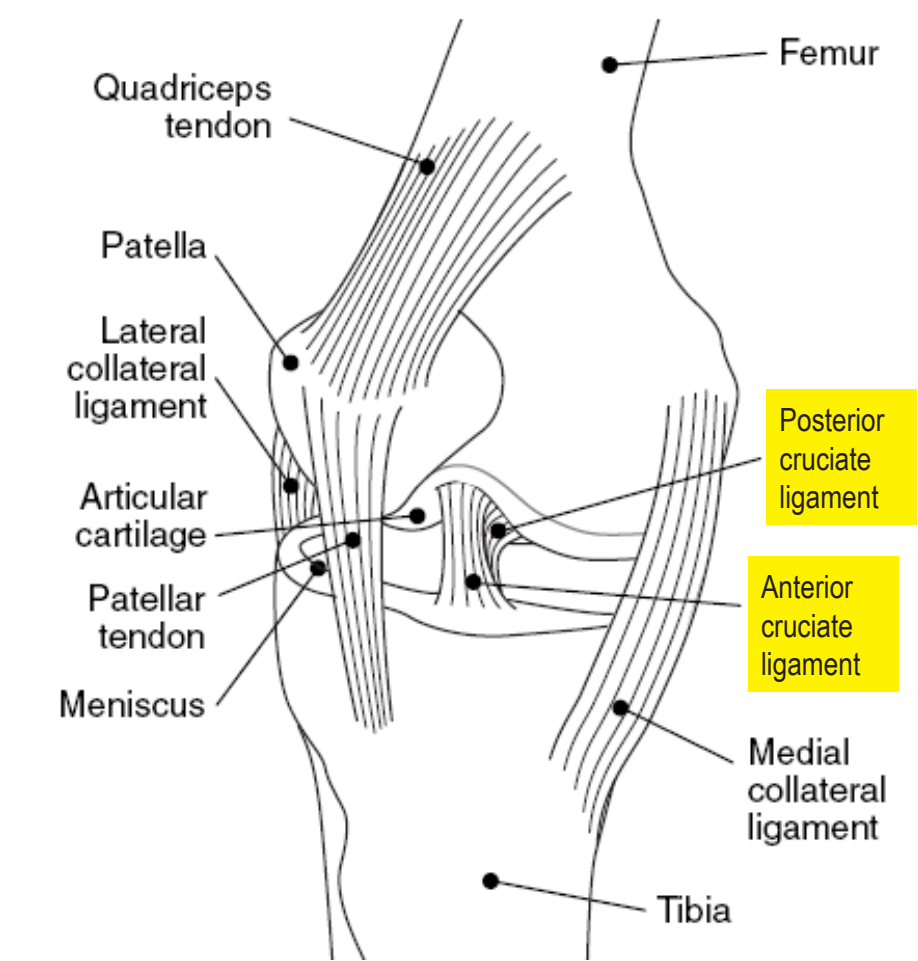
Mechanisms of ACL injuries



BY DR. JEFF DANIELS
EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

Why are there so many knee injuries during the winter? From my perspective, the joy of ski season is diminished by every anterior cruciate ligament injury that comes through the ski patrol's doors and into our clinic. In late February, during a day with new snowfall and a noontime warm-up, we saw 10 skiers with torn ACLs.

While plenty of skiers hurt other ligaments in the knee, particularly the medial collateral ligament, the ACL is particularly vulnerable when the knee sustains a twisting injury. It doesn't require a disastrous tumble down the Big Couloir – a slow fall coming down from the magic carpet may be all it takes to turn a bluebird day into several months of limping, surgery and rehab.



Located in the interior of the knee joint, the ACL is an important stabilizing ligament. The flat ends of the femur and the tibia meet to form the knee joint. Many ligaments, tendons and other types of soft tissue hold these two bones together and allow for the knee joint to function normally. One of the most important components providing stability is a pair of ligaments that crisscross one another, hence the term “cruciate.” The ACL inserts into the anterior part of the tibia, while the posterior cruciate ligament emanates from the back, or posterior, of the tibia.

The PCL is a robust piece of fibrous tissue and it's rarely injured in a ski or snowboard accident. The ACL is much thinner and becomes vulnerable to injury when it twists around the PCL. Many different types of falls can produce ACL injuries, but with so many people throwing themselves down mountains on two thin slats of laminated steel, wood, and fiberglass, I wouldn't be surprised if skiing causes the greatest number of ACL tears among all sports.

It's hard to study this phenomenon scientifically, but certain patterns of falls are more likely to cause ACL injuries. Watching videos of people falling and then following up on their injuries, the Vermont Safety Council – comprised of ski professionals and physicians – was able to identify a consistent fall pattern.

VSC named this the “phantom foot” injury, where the tail of the downhill ski, along with the stiff back of the downhill ski boot, serve as a lever to combine twisting and bending of that ski.

The phantom foot injury pattern occurs when a skier who is losing his or her balance tries to recover that balance, particularly when falling backwards. The fight made by the muscles of the leg and the rest of the body to resist the fall is what sets up the ACL for injury.

Skiers commonly injure ACLs when they are thrown off balance and fall backward causing the uphill arm to swing further back, and the hips to bend and sink below the knees. All the weight is on the downhill ski, and when hitting the slope, the upper part of the body is facing the downhill ski. The downhill knee is then injured.

When this sequence of events occurs in the order described above, the ACL is likely to tear, often accompanied by an audible pop. Pain is variable, but the knee immediately becomes unstable and will swell within minutes.

Learning how to fall, throwing yourself forward instead of settling backward, and not fighting a fall are all ways of reducing the risk of an ACL injury.

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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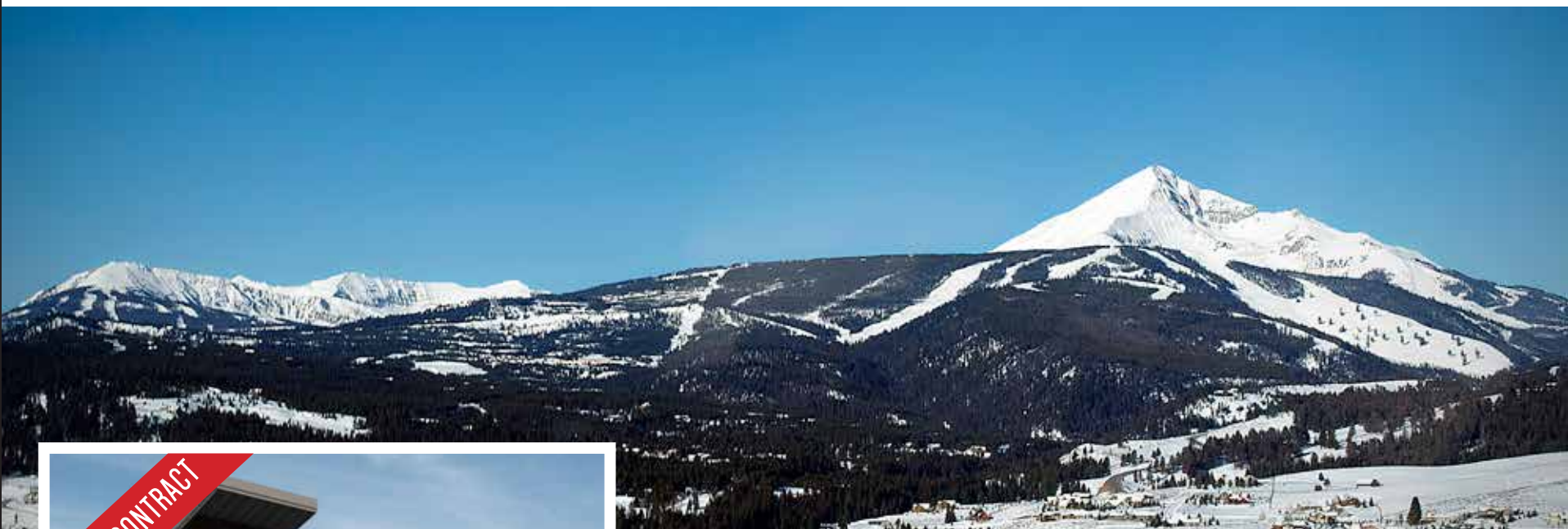
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Priced to sell, this ski-in / ski-out, south facing, end unit on green space is 2 doors from the Bear Back lift, has views of Lone Peak, the Spanish Peaks, and Andesite Mountain. Upgrades include tiled entry, granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances, custom breakfast bar, and more. Sold turn key.

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DIAMOND HITCH ROAD, LOT 26

\$795,000 | #210453 | Call Stacy or Eric

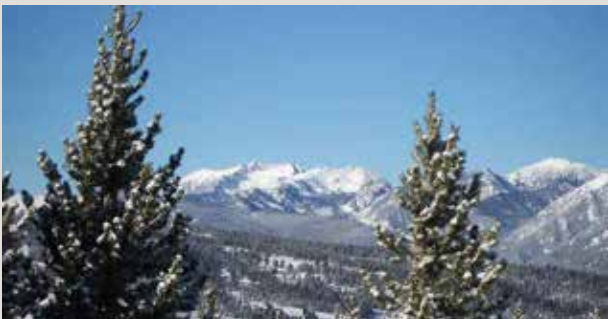
Click in and ski-in ski-out from this beautiful 1± acre lot in Diamond Hitch. Stunning views to the Spanish Peaks and Lone Peak.



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Mountain Selah / Big Sky Mountain
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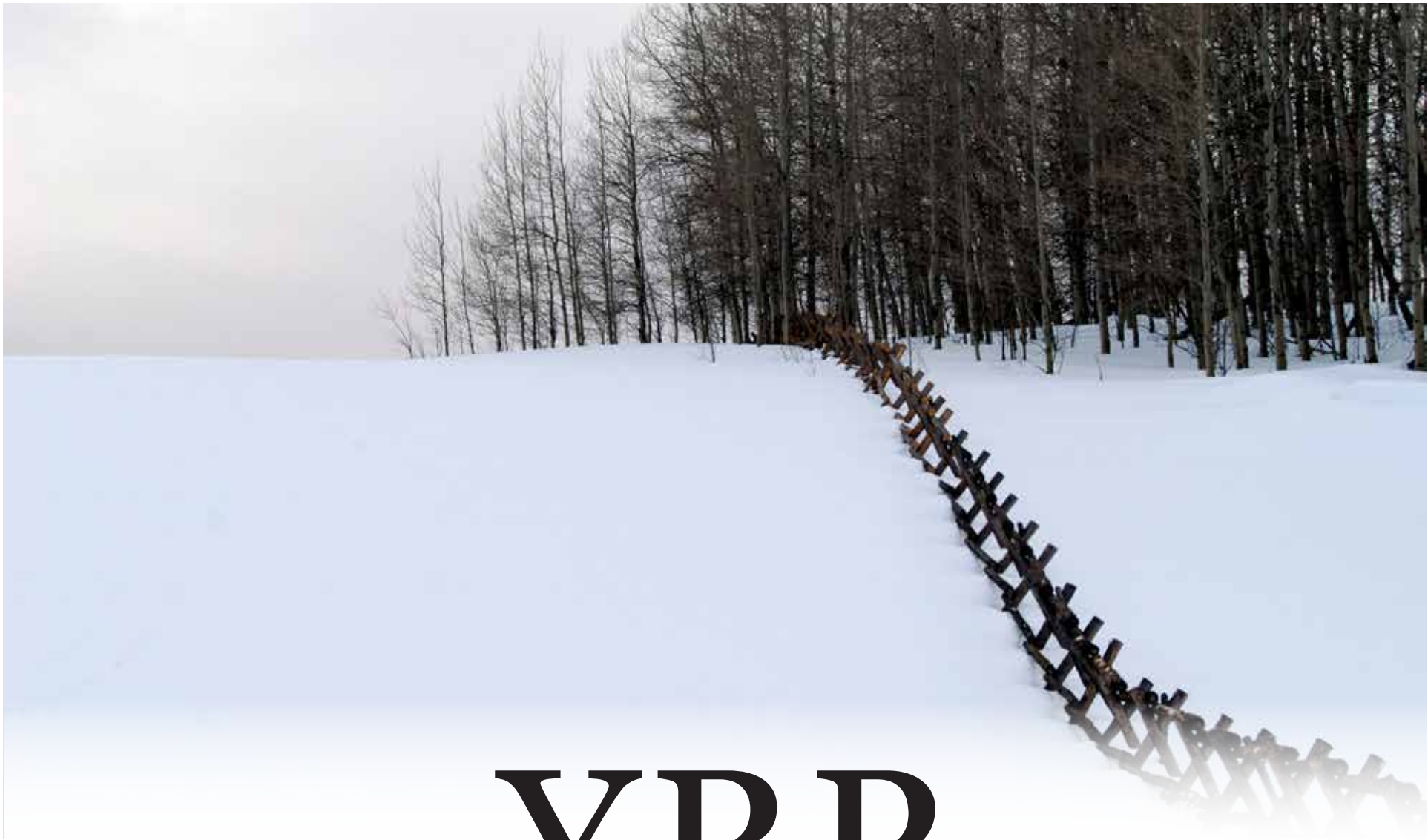


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Snowmobile Properties

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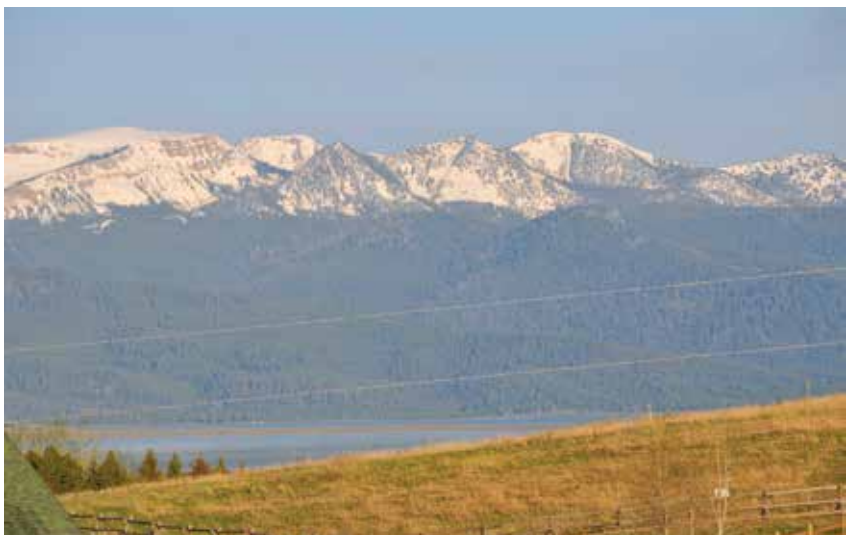
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Section 3:
OUTDOORS



Snowmobile EXPO returns to West p. 35



'Mad Wolf' race was one for the books p. 41



Preparation for the backcountry p. 48

Middle Fork of the Salmon River outfitter partners with local yoga teacher for adventure wellness retreat

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – Santosha Wellness Center owner Callie Stolz and Los Angeles-based healer and yoga teacher Kishan Shah are teaming up for a six-day Wellness and Whitewater adventure retreat this summer.

Boundary Expeditions, a rafting company specializing in custom Middle Fork trips for smaller groups, will handle the river navigation and camping logistics on the June 27 - July 2 retreat. Stolz and Shah will focus on the restorative and transformative elements of yoga.

The pair plans to lead sunrise meditations, ritualistic practices and yoga classes along with hikes and campfire discussions. They hope clients will integrate new practices and rituals from the river trip into their post-retreat lives.

“This is different from a regular rafting trip. It’s an adventure retreat,” Shah said. “We’re going to utilize the river as a catalyst for inner work and transformation.”

The Middle Fork is located in the heart of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, part of the largest roadless area in the lower 48. “We’ll go through this amazing wilderness corridor [where] there are hot springs all along the sides of the river. I think that will add a lot of magic to the trip,” Stolz said.

Boundary Expeditions co-owner Justin Howells said the retreat is slated for a special time on the Middle Fork.

“Late June trips have great water, beautifully green landscapes and blooming flowers,” Howells said. “Pairing a trip during this time with meditation and yoga will truly be a unique Middle Fork adventure.”

The seed for this retreat was planted at another one – the Esalen Institute, a workshop and retreat center in Big Sur, Calif. Visiting last fall, Stolz piqued Shah’s interest during a discussion about her passion for weeklong whitewater trips.

Stolz brought Shah to Big Sky from Feb. 19-21 to lead a weekend of workshops centered on yoga, meditation and Ayurveda. Several workshop attendees expressed interest in the Middle Fork adventure.

Both Stolz and Shah have backgrounds in healing and Ayurveda. Tomás Reyes – a chef to celebrities in Los Angeles who specializes in sustainable, health- and energy- supporting nutrition – will prepare organic meals for the retreat’s 19 clients. Stolz will discuss the “why, when and how” of eating an Ayurvedic diet throughout the week.

Howells said 84 Class II-Class IV rapids cover the 104-mile stretch of water clients will run. Shah is looking forward to the potential for transformation offered by adrenaline-inducing rapids. “When you put yourself in intense situations you get to look at what’s really going on deep inside you,” he said.

Stolz said she’s looking forward to immersion in the natural world and the opportunity to leave behind technology. “The intention is to allow people to take home a lot more than a good time on a river,” she said.

Those interested in signing up for the retreat can visit boundaryexpeditions.com/wellness-retreat or call 1-888-948-4347.



The Middle Fork of the Salmon River runs through the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness, the largest wilderness in the lower 48. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BOUNDARY EXPEDITIONS

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Snowmobile EXPO returns to West

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WEST YELLOWSTONE – The annual Snowmobile EXPO and Powersports Show returns to West Yellowstone for a 26th year from March 10 through March 13.

EXPO combines a weekend of snowmobile and snowbike racing, motorcycle freestyle exhibitions, concerts on snow, and a snowmobile airshow, along with the premiere of manufacturers new 2017 snowmobile models. OHV's, boats, trailers, RV's, aftermarket parts and clothing will also be on display at the EXPO hall located at the West Yellowstone Holiday Inn Conference Center.

“It’s the best end-of-season power sports weekend in the West,” said Marge Wanner, West Yellowstone Chamber snowmobile events coordinator. “EXPO is kind of like a family reunion – people bring their friends, look at new stuff and come to have a good time.”

National circuit snow bike racing is new for this year’s EXPO. Snow Bike MX will present Round #3 National Snow Bike Race Series with plenty of knock-down, bar-banging, jaw-dropping, ski-to-ski action featuring fast guys on fast bikes. Practice starts March 13 at 9 a.m., and the racing begins at 10 a.m. There will also be on-site demo rides available for those 18 and over.

Arctic Cat manufacturer reps and regional dealerships will also be offering the public a chance to not only look at their new 2017 models, but to ride them.



PHOTO BY MIKE POLKOWSKE, COURTESY OF WEST YELLOWSTONE CHAMBER

Vintage snowmobiles and vintage racing are more popular than ever, and EXPO provides the opportunity to see both. The 13th annual Vintage Snowmobile Exhibit and Show returns on Saturday March 12, hosted by Western States Vintage Snowmobile Association, and is located at the EXPO Race Track on Iris Street.

This annual show, competition and display is one of the largest gatherings of vintage and antique snowmobiles in the West with U.S. and Canadian participants from across the “snow belt.” This year’s featured year class is 1975. Prizes and special awards will be presented for People’s Choice, Best of Show, and WSVSA Sled of the Year.

Mountain West Racing vintage racing return again with expanded classes, races, and a specially designed, oval racecourse. MWR Vintage Snowmobile Oval Races start Friday at noon with two qualifiers and finals starting at 2:30 p.m. Saturday races will follow the same schedule. Classes will include stock and mod single cylinder; 340 and 440 fan cooled; 340 and 440 free air; 440 Early Fan (74 and Older); 340 L/C Mod; and 440 L/C Mod.

Races are limited to snowmobiles from 1980 and earlier. MWR will also run Junior SnoCross racing includes Junior 10-13, Transition 300, and Transition 500. Junior SnoCross classes are offered Friday and Saturday mornings.

The 120 Western Grand Championship brings upcoming super stars together to own the 2016 “Champion 120 Title.” Racing 120 cc snowmobiles is special for all youngsters who can compete in three different classes: 120 stock, speed limited, and 120 Champ. Kids from 4-12 years old have a chance to try racing for the first time or gain experience.

Kids coming to EXPO can try out their own kid-sized snowmobiles with free M120 snowmobile rides. Stop at the M120 demo track located just south of the Vintage Snowmobile Show area on Iris Street. These rides are no charge and for kids from five to ten years of age offered on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information about lodging options, restaurants, shops, snowmobile rentals, and other winter activities, visit yellowstonedestination.com or call (406) 646-7701.



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Big Sky snowboarder notches fifth win at 'Legendary' competition

BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – Tanya Simonson had just one chance Feb. 21 to cement her legacy at the 30th Mt. Baker Legendary Banked Slalom in Washington's Cascade Mountains, and she didn't let the opportunity pass her by.

Each competitor in the finals of this venerated snowboarding contest has two runs to post their fastest time, but due to a last-minute scheduling change the Big Sky local missed her first start.

Yet one run was all Simonson needed to win the Women Masters division by more than a second over Rel Friedman of Claremont, Calif. With a time of 2 minutes, 18.31 seconds, Simonson locked up her fifth title and was joined on the podium by fellow Montanan Audra Bintz of Red Lodge, who placed third.

Simonson plans to race in the Pro Master division next season, along with Missoula's Sarris McComb who bested Simonson in this winter's Smash Life Banked Slalom at Big Sky Resort.

"I'll be racing [Pro Master] next year because I can't keep sandbagging it," she said, adding that the weekend is more camaraderie than competition. "Nobody is there being super

competitive – everybody is there having a good time."

And the good times were amplified this year by nearly 3 feet of snow that fell at Mt. Baker before the weekend finals. Simonson was able to enjoy the powder instead of competing in the Thursday and Friday qualifiers since she was invited to the finals as a "Legend" thanks to her previous wins.

Simonson took home more than \$2,500 in gear and merchandise, including a custom Jamie Lynn snowboard, which she plans to hang on her wall instead of ride. Watching Lynn and other snowboarding legends race is a big draw for the more than 400 competitors in the annual banked slalom.

"I got to watch Terje [Haakonsen] race which was rad," Simonson said, adding the course and viewing conditions – with a backdrop of Mount Shuksan and other glaciated peaks – were the best she's ever seen. "It had been snowing and the vis



Tanya Simonson drops into the Mt. Baker Legendary Banked Slalom Course in late February.
PHOTO BY NATALIE LANGMANN

was terrible the first two days, but it opened up for the weekend."

The Bozeman native spent more than half a decade living in both Bellingham, Wash., near Mt. Baker, and Whistler, British Columbia. Simonson credits that time, as well as the balance of her experience riding at Bridger Bowl and Big Sky Resort, for her banked slalom success.

"I've done it for so long that I feel like I kind of have an edge," she said. "I've always been kind of competitive."



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THE

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The greatest fly-fishing river in the world



BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

I'm often asked what my favorite river or place to fish is. It's both an easy question to answer ("The river I'm fishing at the time") and a

hard one ("the Yellowstone, because it is a wild, temperamental freestone river"). However, if I'm forced to narrow the list, it's an easy task.

New Zealand is the land of heli-fishing, hobbits, and brown trout so wary they all have nicknames. Chilean and Argentinian Patagonia have diversity, big trout, asados, and Malbec served in half-gallon glasses.

Alaska's landscape is as grand as it gets, and its waters hold a variety of species of big fish. But Montana's waters still delight the most traveled angler, and here I'm giving a serious shout-out to the Gallatin River as the greatest fly-fishing river in the world. Here's why:

Wild, free flowing and beautiful. The Gallatin begins in Yellowstone National Park and flows unimpeded for nearly 100 miles before it joins the Jefferson and Madison to create the Missouri River. During runoff it flows fast and high – this is not a quiet, dam-controlled river. In the first 60 miles, mountains frame the river, and the last 40 miles are dominated by cottonwoods and expansive views of the Gallatin Valley.

Wild or native fish. Native westslope cutthroat trout, as well as wild rainbow and brown trout, can be caught on any good drift. The river is also home to native Rocky Mountain whitefish. These four species ensure an angler a good chance of reward, but if not, the scenery is a substitute if the fishing is slow.

Accessibility. The river flows through Yellowstone and Gallatin National Forest for most of its run, allowing for an array of public access. Once the river leaves Gallatin Canyon, access points are more spread out, but Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks has done an excellent job of providing several fishing-access sites.

A year-round fishery. The Gallatin is not a large river, and therefore fishing it on foot is most effective. Coupled with accessibility and not requiring a boat, the river can be easily fished any month of the year. Around the Big Sky area several springs create ice-free water even during the coldest winters, and for locals the perfect day is skiing in the morning and fishing in the afternoon. Many consider this the best day ever.

Variety of water and habitats. The upper reaches near the source have willow-lined banks, some of which are deeply undercut, offering a safe haven for some surprisingly large brown trout. Here, anglers willing to hike can be rewarded. The canyon section near Big Sky is chocked with sections of pocket water, deep pools and fishy runs. As the river leaves the canyon near Storm Castle and heads to Gallatin Gateway, riffled corners and



The Gallatin River may be the greatest fly-fishing river in the world. It's beautiful, accessible and right in our backyard. Home field has to count for something. PHOTO JIMMY ARMIJO-GROVER

longer runs dominate. From Manhattan to the river's mouth north of Three Forks, the river becomes a broad prairie stream with many channels and the potential for a few trophy trout.

Hatches. A dry-fly angler will find delight in the Gallatin. Midges are abundant in February and March. Blue-winged olives may appear in March along with some early season black stoneflies. Late April and early May will see caddis in the valley sections, but cloudy water during spring runoff may prevent fishing. As soon as runoff wanes, salmon and stoneflies hatch providing exciting fishing with large dry flies. Summer brings caddis, spruce moths and tricos, and late summer means fishing with grasshoppers, ants and beetles.

Just when you think the river has hatched itself out, fall mayflies like blue winged olives, pseudo-mayflies, and October caddis appear. Even if the fish are not rising to the surface, abundant hatches result in feeding fish.

I've traveled and fished throughout the world, but believe Montana is the best destination for fly fishing – and in The Treasure State, the Gallatin tops the list. However, my declaration of the greatest fly fishing river in the world is not without bias – I fished the river as a boy and today am fortunate to take my daughter fishing in its clear and cold water.

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

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When ‘Mad Wolf’ and thunder snow collide

A winter relay race for the history books

BY ANDREA SAARI
LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Ski Education Foundation partnered with Lone Mountain Ranch and Big Sky Resort on Feb. 27 to rekindle a classic race.

The Mad Wolf Winter Relay Race brought 21 teams and six individuals together to compete on the challenging and exciting course, with proceeds benefiting BSSEF and the 200-plus kids who participate in its alpine, freeride and Nordic programs.

The race started with edge-of-your-chairlift excitement on Big Sky Resort’s Silver Knife trail – just as course inspection began at 1:30 p.m., snow and thunder rolled in. Chairlifts were closed as competitors waited 30 minutes for a thunder- and lightning-free sky.

Once ski patrol deemed everything safe, the bullwheels started turning and the delayed start kicked off at 2:45 p.m.

The alpine leg began with a LeMans start, where racers placed their gear downhill and ran to their respective equipment. Elbows were thrown and at least one run-away snowboard began the race without its rider.

Alpine racers sped downhill before handing off to the next leg of the relay to the Nordic skiers, at the top of the Bear Back Poma.

The Nordic skiers had the most harrowing stretch of the relay. Racers tore down Blue Room to Mine Shaft until they hit the easier Low Dog trail. Ski patrol was prepared for carnage as skiers power-wedged and butt-slid their way down the Poop Chute.

The thunder snowstorm proved fortuitous for the skinny skiers, making conditions more forgiving but still challenging as they plowed through 3 inches of unexpected fresh snow. Nordic skiers handed the third leg off to fat bikers or snowshoers at the Lone Mountain Ranch tunnel, where a huge crowd was gathered to cheer on the spectacle.

The fat bikers and snowshoers charged up the Sleigh Trail, ripped around Kid’s Loop, and crossed the finish line in the main yard of the ranch, where they were cheered in by supporters, and emcee Jeremy Harder.

The Mad Wolf racers proved an enthusiastic and colorful crowd. Disco dancers, bedazzled movie lovers, and many other great characters hustled their way down the trail along the wild North Fork of the Gallatin River through a herd of elk.

Once back at the Lone Mountain Ranch, racers danced the night away to the Hooligan’s, munching on appetizers provided by the ranch, and drinking Cold Smoke Scotch Ale in exchange for a donation to the Big Sky Food Bank.

The Mad Wolf Winter Relay Race will return next year on Feb. 25. Expect the event to be bigger and better with some course modifications. We’ll see you again next year!



Above, L to R: Sam Ried, Denise Simmons, Traci Sessions, Sarah Gaither pose at the finish of the Mad Wolf Winter Relay Race. PHOTO BY SAM JOHNSON
Below: Competitor Emerson Frank ready to roll at the start of the race. PHOTO BY PAUL ROBERTSON



Mad Wolf competitor Tom Marshall skiing in style PHOTO BY PAUL ROBERTSON

RESULTS

MEN IRONMAN

- 1. Koy Hoover
- 2. Eric Ladd
- 3. Jesse Coil

WOMEN IRONMAN

- 1. Chelsey Frank

YOUTH TEAMS

- 1. The Rough Riders
- 2. The Secret Society of Chocolate Syrup
- 3. Crazy Cowboys

MIXED TEAMS

- 1. The Outlaws
- 2. DTM
- 3. Big Sky Build

WOMENS TEAMS

- 1. YC Patrol Chicks
- 2. Gallatin River Task Force
- 3. Lone Peak Physical Therapy

MENS TEAMS

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- 2. Old Guys
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Irish Proverb



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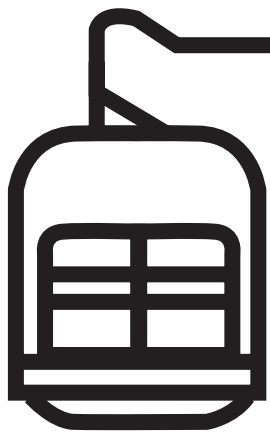
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WORD FROM THE RESORTS

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Watch true steep and deep seekers from all over the region test themselves on the chutes, gullies, and cliffs on the north side of Lone Mountain during the 11th annual Headwaters Spring Runoff. Spectators can view the March 11-13 competition from Stillwater Bowl.

Big Sky Resort is ushering in the March 13 daylight saving time with Sunset Saturday, meaning you'll get an extra hour of rippin' turns off the Ramcharger chairlift. Starting a day early on March 12, Ramcharger will stay open until 5 p.m. every Saturday through the April 17 season close.

Visit bigskyresort.com/events for live music listings and information on upcoming events.

BY SHELBY THORLACIOUS
BIG SKY RESORT SALES AND MARKETING OFFICE MANAGER

As we head into March, think powder and blue bird days – goggle tan season is on its way! And there are plenty of awesome events at Big Sky Resort to keep busy.

Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter's 12th annual Snowshoe Shuffle comes to the Madison Base Area March 5. Bring your four-legged friends for a torch-lit snowshoe hike,



BY NICOLE CAMPBELL
LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH SALES AND MARKETING COORDINATOR

Join Lone Mountain Ranch on March 6 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the sixth annual Glide and Gorge fundraiser. Participants will enjoy a 3-mile Nordic ski or snowshoe combined

with stops to feast on four courses of gourmet fare.

Stations include a charcuterie platter with wine pairings, a dessert station with s'mores and schnapps, and a barbecue and chili sampling in the North Fork Cabin. Portions of the proceeds will benefit the Ophir School Council/PTO.

Looking for a midweek skier getaway? Through April 3, couples can enjoy complimentary breakfasts and discounted lodging and Nordic passes when they book a Monday-Thursday stay. Avoid the weekend crowds and recharge your battery with a couple of nights by the fire and miles of freshly groomed trails.

Visit lonemountainranch.com or call the LMR Outdoor Shop at (406) 995-4734 for more information or to purchase your Glide and Gorge tickets.



March is typically the best month for skiing and riding at Bridger Bowl Ski Area. With the ridge terrain's chutes and gullies filled in and a late-season base on the lower mountain, every March storm provides great schussing for skiers and boarders of all abilities.

Saturday, March 5 is the Sluice Box Slalom where snowboarders compete in a banked slalom through Sluice Box Gully under the Bridger chairlift. The race starts at 10:30 a.m. with an awards ceremony and music by the Dusty Boxcars to follow in the Jim Bridger Lodge at 4 p.m.

The Pinhead Classic returns to Bridger for its 35th year on Saturday, March 12 with the theme "Space Glam: A Tribute to David Bowie." Participants with boards of any type are encouraged to dress up in glam-rock garb and shred down the dual slalom course.

The Pinhead moves to the Eagles upstairs ballroom on Main Street in Bozeman, with an afterparty at 6 p.m. followed with music by MOTH, along with Brianna Moore and the Sasquatch Funk.

Proceeds from this year's Pinhead benefit the Friends of the Gallatin National Avalanche Center and the Darren Johnson Avalanche Education Memorial Fund. Johnson was a Yellowstone Club ski patroller killed in an avalanche on Jan. 19. – T.A.



BY JENNIE WHITE
GRAND TARGHEE RESORT MARKETING COORDINATOR

March is here and spring is just around the corner. With more than 60 percent of Targhee's terrain facing west you know you'll find some great snow, as the days grow longer through the month.

ZRankings.com completed its most recent analysis of North American ski resorts last month and our typically abundant March snowfall helped put us in the top five for "Best Snow in North America." Not only will you find great snow in March, you'll enjoy not-to-be-missed events and a top-notch lineup of music at the Trap Bar and Grill.

Join us for our final "Knowledge is Powder" camp March 11-16. Take your off-piste skiing and riding to a new level, and consider upgrading your camp with a day of snowcat skiing.

Catch the future of freeskiing March 16-20 as the top juniors on the International Free Skiers Association circuit descend upon the resort's expert terrain.

And don't miss the annual St. Patrick's Day celebration Thursday, March 17. Follow the clues to the "Pot O' Gold" and you'll win a 2016-2017 Grand Targhee season pass. After a day on the mountain, hit up The Trap where the party continues with live music from Hans Chew.

It's time to start planning that spring break getaway and you won't find a better stay-and-ski package in the Rockies than Grand Targhee's. Save big on a slopeside room when you book four or more nights - so pack up the car, hit the road and head for Grand Targhee Resort.

Visit grandtarghee.com for more information on lodging and upcoming events.

GEAR REVIEW



Gilson All-Mountain Twin Pioneer snowboard

Gilson snowboards are giving riders a buttery cruise down the mountain with their innovative snowboard design that makes your ride faster and smoother. Nick Gilson needed for more speed, and he founded Gilson Boards through a series of trials and errors to create his own, faster snowboard.

With a team of visionary friends, Gilson eventually crafted a design never before seen in the industry. Gilson snowboards feature raised planes along the outer edges of the base that lift the metal edges off the snow surface.

This design stabilizes the board, making it slick and speedy on flat surfaces, and also creates a secondary “soft edge” that allows you to drift into turns as opposed to shifting weight onto your edge to carve. But don’t worry, the extra edge on this board also allows for some powerful, sharp carving if needed.

The Pioneer lives up to its all-mountain pedigree by coasting you down low-angle groomers and giving you extra edge hold on steep slopes. The super-flex design gives it tons of pop making it an ace in the terrain park or when you take to the air. And to top it off, Gilson makes its boards in the USA.

– Taylor-Ann Smith

\$519 gilsonboards.com

Mountain Lion (*Puma concolor*)



Did you Know?

The mountain lion population is estimated between 26 to 42 in Yellowstone National Park.

As part of predator removal campaigns in the early 1900s, cougars and wolves were killed throughout the lower 48 states, including national parks. Since this time the cougar population has slowly increased in the park.

Cougars prey primarily on elk and mule deer, and are frequently displaced from their kills by bears and wolves.

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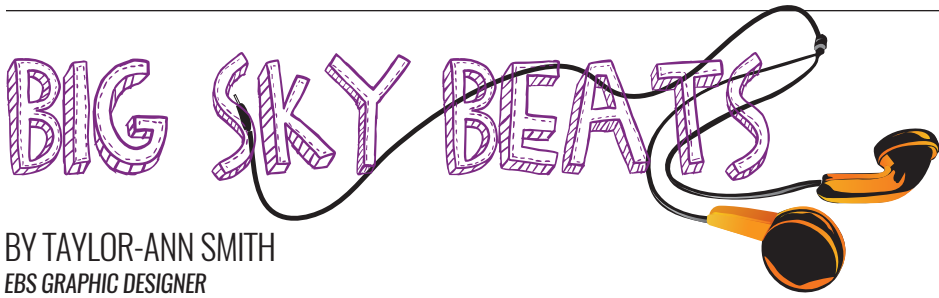
Lone Mountain Land Company - Office Manager
Real estate sales office in Big Sky seeking a full-time office manager with minimum of 2-3 years' experience. Must have excellent interpersonal, telephone, and customer service skills. Must be highly organized and proficient in various computer programs including Word, Excel, Outlook, Acrobat, and Photoshop. Previous experience in real estate a plus. Please contact Shawna Winter at swinter@lonemountainland.com or 406.581.2033 for job details.

All Saints in Big Sky – Communications & Clerical Assistant
\$18/hr; 10 hrs/wk. Help produce weekly worship bulletins. Assist in weekly newsletter production. Maintain the website. Maintain the Facebook page. Maintain the database. Publicize church events to the greater community, using most appropriate media outlets. Maintain church files and/or forms. Instruct church members in the use of office equipment as time allows so they may do their own productions. Procure office supplies/stamps. Secure maintenance of office equipment as needed. Turn in a monthly timesheet to Treasurer. Assist Pastor/Priest as requested. Assist church members working on church programs or activities. Required: Experience with Constant Contact and general database and website management; MT State background check. Contact Pastor Miriam Schmidt, pastor@allsaintsbigsby.com, 406.570.8632 with resume and references.

Big Sky Fire Department - Part-time Deputy Fire Marshal
The Big Sky Fire Department has an opening for a part-time Deputy Fire Marshal. The Deputy Fire Marshal is responsible for assisting the Fire Chief in the delivery of the Big Sky Fire Department's fire prevention activities. This position is not meant to address all fire prevention needs but is designed to reduce the workload of the Fire Chief and other employees in this area. The hourly wage for this commensurate with training and experience. This position is not subject to the Department's collective bargaining agreement. Health insurance benefits will be extended to part-time employees, if they are eligible. Part-time employees are entitled to vacation benefits if they work for the 6-month qualifying period and sick leave benefits if they work the 90-day qualifying period, as dictated by Montana state law. Candidates must be available to perform site inspections and other work at least one day per week in Big Sky. Minimum of 10 years of demonstrable experience in fire prevention, fire inspection, plan review and code enforcement, especially in large projects with buildings over 100,000 square feet. Documented training and certifications in fire inspection, building plans review and fire sprinkler system plans review. Excellent written and verbal communication skills, even temperament, self-motivation and flexibility in order to accomplish the duties and functions of the position while maintaining good relationships with staff and the community in emergent and non-emergent situations. Strong organization and time management skills and ability to prepare clear and concise statements and reports using a computer. Strong knowledge of the International Fire Code, 2012 edition and relevant NFPA standards. Ability to successfully obtain and keep a valid Montana driver's license. Ability to satisfactorily pass a background check. Candidates can obtain an application packet from the BSFD office and must fill it out completely. To obtain an application packet, please email afischer@bigskyfire.org or go to www.bigskyfire.org. An original, completed application packet must be submitted to Office Administrator Alecia Fischer by March 16, 2016 @ 3:00pm. If mailing/shipping, the packet must be postmarked by March 14, 2016. USPS Mailing Address: Big Sky Fire Department, P.O. Box 160382, Big Sky, MT 59716. UPS/FedEx/Drop-off: Big Sky Fire Department, 650 Rainbow Trout Run, Big Sky, MT 59716.

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Big Sky Owners Association - Request For Bids
The Big Sky Owners Association is seeking bids to perform winter road maintenance on approximately 11 miles of roads in Gallatin County and 10 miles of roads in Madison County. Effective date of the contract is October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2021. To receive a bid packet, contact the BSOA at 406-995-4166 or e-mail Casey Drayton at casey@bigskyoya.org. Responses will be received until 5PM on Friday April 1, 2016.



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.

With more than one month left to ride chairlifts at Big Sky Resort some of this season’s best days on the mountain could still be ahead of us.

Music gets me in the zone when I’m on the mountain. I always snowboard with tunes to build excitement while riding the chairlift, or get me focused before a big run down Liberty Bowl.

One of my favorite songs to snowboard to is “Sweet Lovin’” by Sigala. It’s up-tempo beat and joyous lyrics instantly make you smile and want to cruise down the mountain through untracked powder. If you get a chance, check out the music video – it features a woman roller-skating around Los Angeles with colored smoke jets attached to her ankles.

I have a dream to find the manufacturer of those jets and recreate the video at Big Sky Resort with a snowboard and ski posse. Let me know if you’re interested.

The playlist below features some of my other favorite songs to carve the slopes with.

1. “Flashlight (Nick Catchdubs Remix),” Wilde
2. “Keep It Mello feat. Omar LinX,” Marshmello
3. “VYZA,” WITHOUT
4. “Sweet Lovin’,” Sigala
5. “Say Something (Zac Samuel Remix),” Karen Harding
6. “Teenage Craze,” KLOE
7. “Milky Way,” Madison Mars
8. “Calm Down,” G-Eazy
9. “The Grind Date,” De La Soul
10. “Shoulda Known,” Atmosphere

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

American Life in Poetry: Column 571

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

I suppose some of the newspapers which carry this column still employ young people to deliver the news, but carriers are now mostly adults. I had two paper routes when I was a boy and was pleased to find this reminiscence by Thomas R. Smith, a Wisconsin poet. His most recent book is “The Glory.”

The Paper Boy
By Thomas R. Smith

My route lassos the outskirts,
the reclusive, the elderly, the rural—
the poor who clan in their tarpaper
islands, the old ginseng hunter

Albert Harm, who strings the "crow's
foot" to dry over his wood stove.
Shy eyes of fenced-in horses
follow me down the rutted dirt road.

At dusk, I pedal past white birches,
breathe the smoke of spring chimneys,
my heart working uphill toward someone
hungry for word from the world.

I am Mercury, bearing news, my wings
a single-speed maroon Schwinn bike.
I sear my bright path through the twilight
to the sick, the housebound, the lonely.

Messages delivered, wire basket empty,
I part the blue darkness toward supper,
confident I've earned this day's appetite,
stronger knowing I'll be needed tomorrow.

American Life in Poetry does not accept unsolicited submissions, and is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2015 by Thomas R. Smith, “The Paper Boy,” from “The Glory,” (Red Dragonfly Press, 2015). Poem reprinted by permission of Thomas R. Smith and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2015 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.

Sudoku

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

	1						4	3
					9		6	
	7	6						
						3		
5		8	4		3	6	1	
		9	6					8
4					7			
6						8		5
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- DEADPOOL - R
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- BATMAN VS. SUPERMAN:
DAWN OF JUSTICE
7:45

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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”

Preparation and Execution: Tips for a great season in the backcountry

BY ERIC KNOFF
GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST AVALANCHE CENTER

Heading out for a day in the hills is easy and rewarding. But we must follow a few simple preparations that if not practiced routinely can result in drastic consequences.

1. BEFORE YOU GO

Being prepared starts at home, with making sure your equipment is operating correctly and knowing how to use it.

Beacon, shovel, probe

One often-overlooked detail is the lifespan of your avalanche transceiver batteries. Replace them at the start of every winter season, no matter how much use they received the previous winter. Know how to check the transceiver battery power, and when it drops below 50 percent, change them out. Never use rechargeable batteries in a transceiver – they wear out quickly and do poorly in the cold. In addition, an avalanche shovel and probe should always accompany your transceiver. Make sure these important rescue tools assemble properly and weren’t damaged during their hibernation in the gear closet.

Practice

Before heading into avalanche terrain, do at least an hour or two of avalanche transceiver practice with your backcountry partners. Being familiar with all your equipment before you leave the house is a great way to ensure you make it home for dinner.

Education

Gathering valuable backcountry information only takes a minute and is easily done at home. Know the phone number and website address of the local avalanche center (see footer). Stay updated on current local avalanche and weather conditions. Check the schedule of avalanche education classes

offered in your community, and take at least one course geared toward avalanche education and safe backcountry travel.

2. AT THE TRAILHEAD

Preparation continues once you reach the trailhead.

Make a plan

Communicate with your partners and make a plan for that specific day. This plan should be made around each individual’s riding ability and from the information you received at home concerning weather and avalanche conditions. Know if the area you are riding in has cell phone coverage and which members of the team are carrying a cell phone. Communication between partners is often neglected and can play a huge role in the outcome of the day.

Beacon check

When a plan has been made and everyone is comfortable with the agenda, a transceiver check on every member needs to be conducted. This simple procedure only takes a minute. Turn all transceivers to transmit. One member then turns his transceiver to receive and checks for the loud beeping and blinking lights as he gets close to each individual. After transceivers have been turned on and checked, they are strapped to the body under at least one piece of clothing. They must always be turned on at the car and should never go into packs or on the outside of riding apparel. Other equipment checks on probes, shovels and first aid kits should also be done at the car.

3. HAVE A FUN, SAFE DAY OUT

Use your preparations and knowledge to make it a safe day on the slopes. Terrain recognition and good route finding are essential skills for backcountry travel. Venturing into avalanche terrain requires clear communication and a team mentality.

One at a time

Exposing only one skier/rider at a time on avalanche prone slopes is imperative. Putting more than one person on a slope dramatically increases the chance of triggering an avalanche. With one rider on the slope, the rest of the team must be in a safe zone, with a clear view of the rider at all times. This will allow a rapid response in case an avalanche does occur.

Understanding of terrain

Recognition of potentially dangerous slopes, terrain traps and islands of safety are also integral to traveling in avalanche terrain.

Weather

Weather influences daily planning and preparations. Rapid weather changes can quickly change the stability of the snowpack. Consistent temperature observations, wind direction and precipitation should be routinely noted. It doesn’t need to snow for the avalanche hazard to increase. Strong winds can load slopes quickly, making them unpredictable and dangerous. Staying focused and aware of your surroundings will allow you to make safe decisions throughout the day.

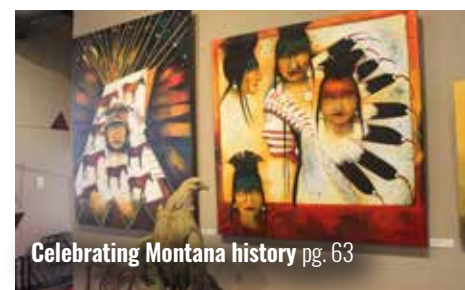
Applying simple preparations to a well-tuned baseline of skills is an effective way to ensure a safe and fun backcountry experience.

Eric Knoff is a forecaster with the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center. Visit GNFAAC at mtavalanche.com, or call (406) 587-6981. This piece was adapted from one originally written for the Montana Snowmobile Association.



A backcountry skier tours outside of Cooke City on Dec. 26. PHOTO BY TYLER ALLEN

Section 4: ENVIRONMENT, EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT



National park heads take a stand for 399, other grizzlies



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

When Cecil the lion was illegally baited out of Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe last summer and killed for sport by a Minnesota

bow hunter, Dan Wenk wasn't surprised by the intense public outrage that rippled around the globe.

The goal of wildlife managers is safeguarding species at population levels, he notes, but often it is the sense of connection people feel to individual animals that enables society to grasp the bigger conservation picture.

Dr. Jane Goodall, who admits to a special fondness for greater Yellowstone grizzlies, shared this observation: "When we come to 'know' animals through those individuals with whom we spend time, we bring them into our hearts, and indeed that's how we protect them."

Wenk agrees with Goodall. He understands why people become so enamored and protective. Not long after the tragedy of Cecil the lion made headlines, the superintendent of Yellowstone National Park was himself on the receiving end of public fury.

A backlash erupted when Wenk made the controversial decision to destroy a mother grizzly bear that fatally mauled and partially ate a Yellowstone hiker. As a result, the sow's two young cubs were left orphaned and will spend the rest of their days in Ohio's Toledo Zoo.

Wenk told me recently he witnessed similar public disgust after radio-collared Yellowstone wolves were shot by sport hunters in Montana. Having given countless Yellowstone visitors joy along the park roadside and generated millions of dollars for the regional economy from people

coming to see them, the wolves were killed to become trophies – and all for the expense of a cheap hunting license.

Today, Wenk and Grand Teton National Park Superintendent David Vela are raising concerns about what might happen to transboundary park bears if Yellowstone region grizzlies are removed from federal protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Passionate discussions are occurring behind the scenes. Wenk and Vela want to ensure bears like Jackson Hole grizzly 399 and her family – widely considered the most famous bears on Earth – are not needlessly killed if states bring back a trophy sport hunt.

Grizzly 399 is a sow who spends much of her life in Grand Teton park but dens within the Pilgrim Creek drainage inside the adjacent Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Within the next few weeks, she is expected to emerge from hibernation as a 20-year-old mama with new cubs. One Jackson Hole outfitter has said that if grizzlies are ever delisted, the first bear he intends to legally target is 399 because he hates the federal government, bear-loving environmentalists and the Endangered Species Act that has given bears special protection since 1975.

"We are concerned about the potential harvest of grizzly bears adjacent to Grand Teton," park spokesman Andrew White said. "We are committed to working with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department since this is a very important issue that may negatively affect grizzlies using the park as well as bear-viewing opportunities for visitors."

Conservationists claim Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead and members of his state's politically-appointed Game and Fish Commission have tin ears when it comes to heeding public concern for valued bears like 399.

Soon the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in collaboration with other federal and state agencies in the Yellowstone region, is expected to roll out its controversial proposed rule for removing bears from ESA protection and a companion document called the Conservation Strategy. Neither document spells out exactly when, how, where and why sport hunting of grizzlies in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho would occur.

National Park Service officials are fearful that if their sport hunting issues aren't addressed up front and subjected to public scrutiny, they will have little say in protecting transboundary bears in Yellowstone and Grand Teton after delisting occurs.

Their concerns have been brought to the attention of Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Park Service Director Jon Jarvis, and Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe.

"Wyoming needs to think long and hard about its approach to bears," said Roger Hayden of Jackson, Wyoming-based Wyoming Wildlife Advocates.








"Regardless of where it happens, the state is going to face an international outcry if it recommences 'sport hunting' of grizzlies. It will be bad for our image and hurt our tourism economy in a way that could take a long time to recover from.

"Wildlife watching is something that sets Wyoming apart globally. Why this state would knowingly put famous bears like 399 at risk to needless killing makes no sense."


New West columnist Todd Wilkinson is author of "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek, An Intimate Portrait of 399, the Most Famous Bear of Greater Yellowstone" featuring photos by Thomas Mangelsen and only available at mangelsen.com/grizzly. Mangelsen is featured in the current issue of Mountain Outlaw magazine, now on newsstands.

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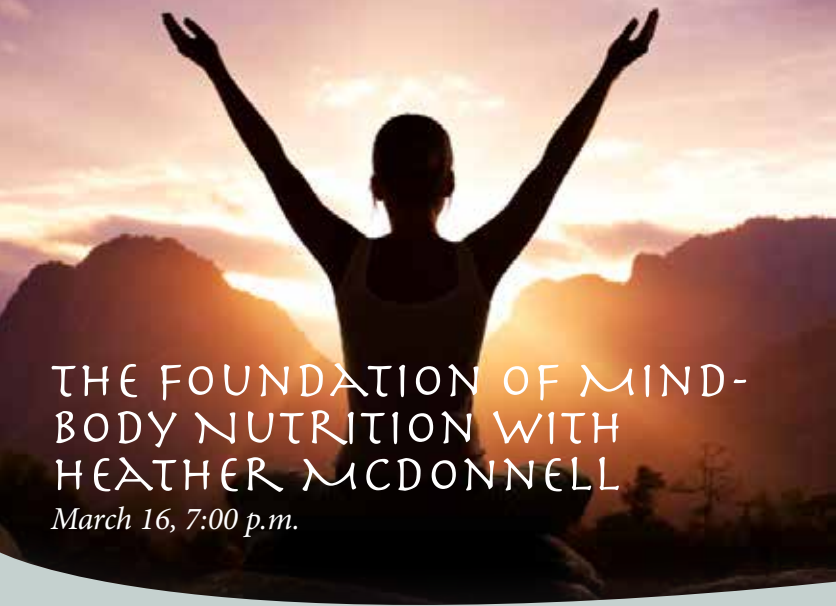
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 KEVIN WRIGHT

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Seas are rising faster than any time in nearly 3,000 years

BY SETH BORENSTEIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS SCIENCE WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) – Sea levels on Earth are rising several times faster than they have in the past 2,800 years and are accelerating because of man-made global warming, according to new studies.

An international team of scientists dug into two dozen locations across the globe to chart gently rising and falling seas over centuries and millennia. Until the 1880s and the world's industrialization, the fastest seas rose was about 1 to 1.5 inches (3 to 4 centimeters) a century, plus or minus a bit. During that time global sea level really didn't get much higher or lower than 3 inches above or below the 2,000-year average.

But in the 20th century the world's seas rose 5.5 inches (14 centimeters). Since 1993 the rate has soared to a foot per century (30 centimeters). And two different studies published Feb. 22 in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, said by 2100 that the world's oceans will rise between 11 to 52 inches (28 to 131 centimeters), depending on how much heat-trapping gas Earth's industries and vehicles expel.

"There's no question that the 20th century is the fastest," said Rutgers earth and planetary sciences professor Bob Kopp, lead author of the study that looked back at sea levels over the past three mil-

lennia. "It's because of the temperature increase in the 20th century which has been driven by fossil fuel use."

To figure out past sea levels and rates of rise and fall, scientists engaged in a "geological detective story," said study co-author Ben Horton, a Rutgers marine scientist. They went around the world looking at salt marshes and other coastal locations and used different clues to figure out what the sea level was at different times. They used single cell organisms that are sensitive to salinity, mangroves, coral, sediments and other clues in cores, Horton said. On top of that they checked their figures by easy markers such as the rise of lead with the start of the industrial age and isotopes only seen in the atomic age.

When Kopp and colleagues charted the sea level rise over the centuries – they went back 3,000 years, but aren't confident in the most distant 200 years – they saw Earth's sea level was on a downward trend until the industrial age.

Sea level rise in the 20th century is mostly man-made, the study authors said. A separate, not-yet-published study by Kopp and others found since 1950, about two-thirds of the U.S. nuisance coastal floods in 27 locales have the fingerprints of man-made warming.

And if seas continue to rise, as projected, another 18 inches of sea level rise is going to cause lots of problems and expense, especially with surge

during storms, said study co-author Stefan Rahmstorf of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany.

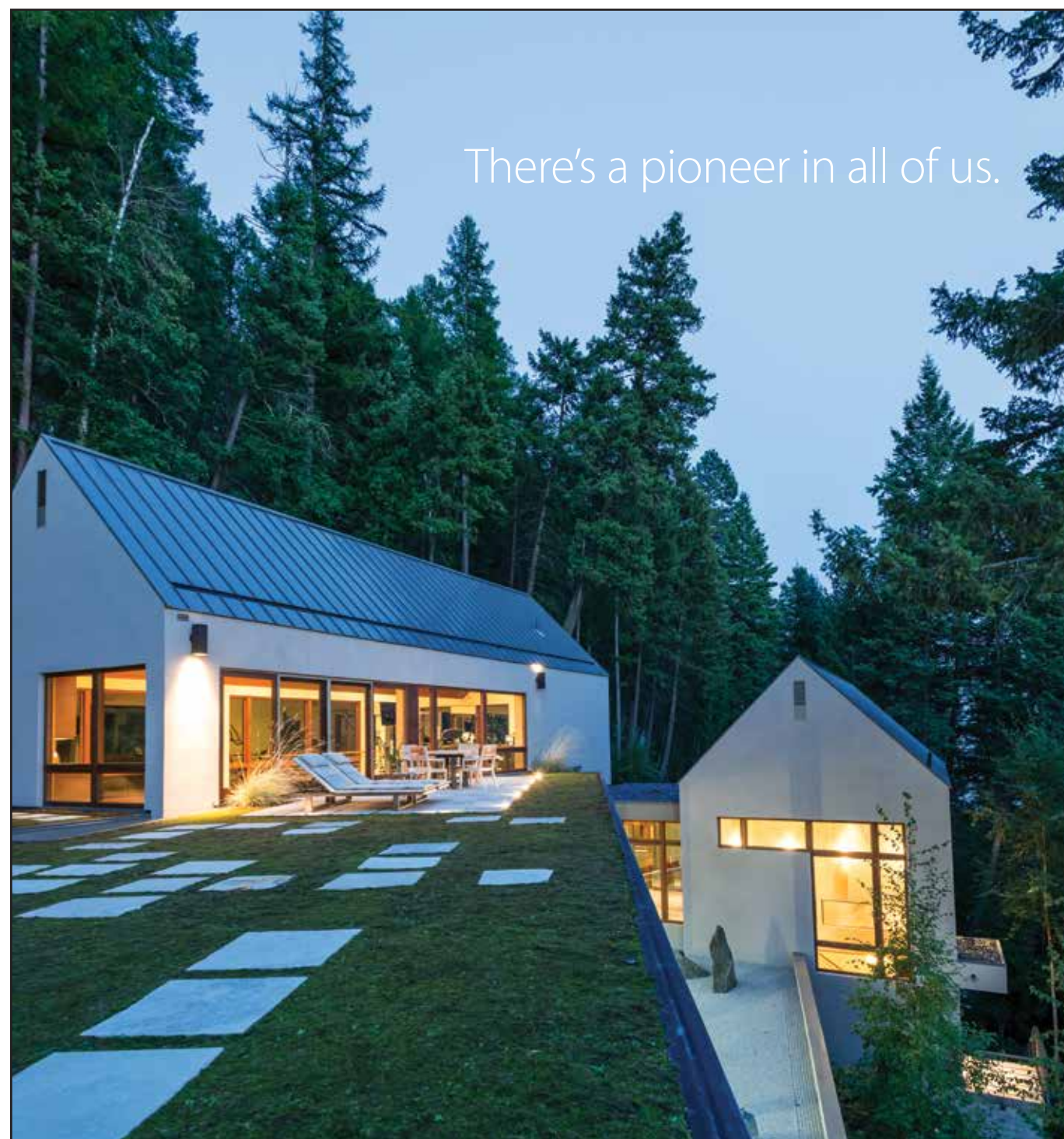
"There is such a tight relationship between sea level and temperature," Horton said. "I wish there wasn't, then we wouldn't be as worried."

The link to temperature is basic science, the study's authors said. Warm water expands. Cold water contracts. The scientists pointed to specific past eras when temperatures and sea rose and fell together.

The Kopp study and a separate one published by another team projected future sea level rise based on various techniques. They came to the same general estimates, despite using different methods, said Anders Levermann, a co-author of the second paper and a researcher at the Potsdam Institute.

If greenhouse gas pollution continues at the current pace, both studies project increases of about 22 to 52 inches (57 to 131 centimeters). If countries fulfill the treaty agreed upon last year in Paris and limit further warming to another 2 degrees Fahrenheit, sea level rise would be in the 11 to 22 inch range (28 to 56 centimeters).

Jonathan Overpeck at the University of Arizona, who wasn't part of the studies, praised them, saying they show a clear cause and effect between warming and sea level rise.



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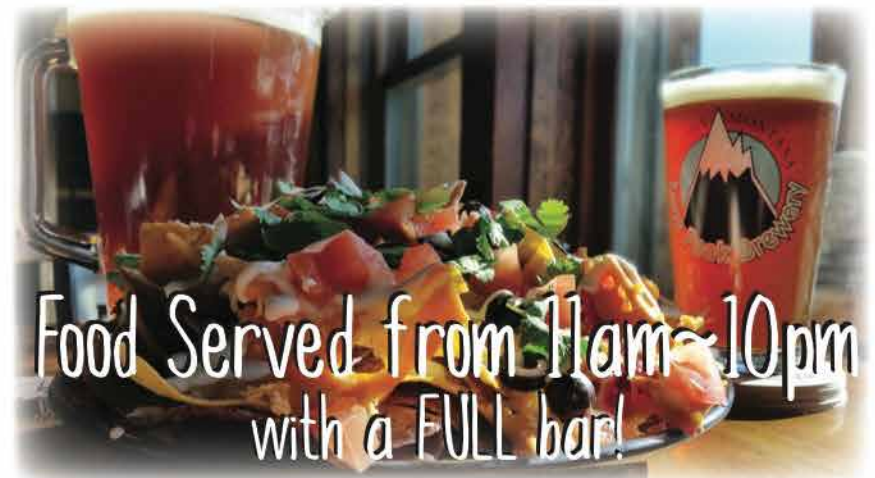
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NOTICE OF MEETING

The Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Zoning Advisory Committee ("BSAC") will consider the following items at its monthly meeting on Monday March 7, 2016 at 9:30 AM, at the Big Sky Water and Sewer District office, 561 Little Coyote Rd, Big Sky, MT. The BSAC is an advisory arm of the Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Planning and Zoning Commission and invites the Big Sky Community to attend meetings and participate in discussions concerning Big Sky planning matters.

1. Public Forum (items not on agenda)

2. Krawczyk Accessory Structure Conditional Use Permit.

2. **Krawczyk Accessory Structure Conditional Use Permit.** Consideration of a request by Mark Krawczyk for conditional use permit approval for to allow for a 2,400 square foot accessory structure, which is larger than what is permitted by Section 31.1.A of the Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Zoning Regulation. The property is 5.5 acres, and described as Tract B-1B of Certificate of Survey 787E, located in Section 8, Township 7S, Range 4E, Gallatin County, Montana, addressed at 350 Lazy T-4 Road.

3. Spanish Peaks Resort Phase 2 Planned Unit Development

Modification. Consideration of a request to amend the Spanish Peaks Resort Phase 2 Planned Unit Development. The size of the parcel that lodge is located on would increase from 8 acres to 9.4 acres. The application requests that the front, side and rear yard setbacks for the lodge project be reduced from 20, 10 and 10 to zero feet respectively for all setbacks. The proposed project is located on land that is described as Lot 1 of Plat J487 and a portion of Tract 1 of Certificate of Survey No. 2190 in Section 4, in Township 7 South, Range 3 East, Gallatin County, Montana, generally located approximately two miles southwest of Meadow Village in Big Sky, Montana.

4. Big Sky Zoning Regulation Text Amendment. The purpose of the hearing is to consider a Zone Text Amendment (ZTA) to correct cross-referencing errors that occur throughout the Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Zoning Regulation. For example, many sections call out parking standards and refer to Section 34, however the parking standards are found in Section 37.

Questions and comments should be directed to the Gallatin County Planning Department, 406-582-3130 or e-mail to tim.skop@gallatin.mt.gov



Amid coal market struggles, less fuel worth mining in US

BY MATTHEW BROWN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) – Vast coal seams dozens of feet thick that lie beneath the rolling hills of the Northern Plains once appeared almost limitless, fueling boasts that domestic reserves were sufficient to power the U.S. for centuries.

But an exhaustive government analysis says that at current prices and mining rates the country's largest coal reserves, located along the Montana-Wyoming border, will be tapped out in just a few decades.

The finding by the U.S. Geological Survey upends conventional wisdom on the lifespan for the nation's top coal-producing region, the Powder River Basin. It also reflects the changing economic realities for companies seeking to profit off extracting the fuel as mining costs rise, coal prices fall and political pressure grows over coal's contribution to climate change.

"You're looking at a forty-year life span, maximum, for Powder River coal," said USGS geologist Jon Haacke, one of the authors of the analysis.

Claims that the U.S. had reserves sufficient to last as long as 250 years came from greatly inflated estimates of how much coal could be mined, Haacke added. They were based on data put out by the U.S. Energy Department last updated comprehensively in the 1990s.

USGS study leader James Luppens said the Energy Department estimates were in "desperate need of revision." But there are no immediate plans to do so or to incorporate the new findings, said Lance Harris, a supervisor with the Energy Department's coal team.

For decades, the agency has made little distinction between coal reserves that reasonably could be mined and those that could not.

The perception of coal's abundance began to shift in 2008, when the USGS team released initial data that called into question the longevity of U.S. supplies.

Yet assertions that America was the "Saudi Arabia of coal" persisted, including in 2010 by President Barack Obama and continuing in recent months by industry supporters. The Department of Energy states on its website that based on current mining rates, "estimated recoverable coal reserves would last about 261 years."

Belying that outlook is both the USGS assessment and the industry's recent changes

in fortune. Mine production has dropped after many electric utilities switched from coal to cheaper natural gas. Two of the three biggest domestic coal companies, Arch Coal and Alpha Natural Resources, declared bankruptcy in the past 18 months.

Leslie Glustrom, an environmental activist from Boulder, Colo., who has urged the Energy Department to change how it tallies up the nation's untapped resources, said she believes the end for the Powder River Basin is coming even more rapidly than the USGS study suggests. And she said it has little to do with a "war on coal" that Republicans frequently accuse the Obama administration of waging.



CC BY 3.0 / PHOTO BY PEABODY ENERGY

"This is not a political problem. It's a geologic problem," Glustrom said.

In Wyoming, which produces about 40 percent of the nation's coal, State Lands Director Bridget Hill said she had no reason to dispute the USGS findings, but found no cause for alarm. Flagging global demand could rebound, she said. Proposed coal ports now stalled on the West Coast could get built. And a rise in oil and gas prices could make coal competitive again.

"The economics might be different from what we know now," Hill said.

It's been four decades since its low-sulfur content first made Powder River Basin coal the fuel of choice among electric utilities that needed to cut their sulfur dioxide pollution. Sprawling strip mines in the region have since removed more than 11 billion tons of coal, the equivalent of 95 million loaded rail cars.

To gauge how much coal remains, USGS researchers since 2004 have analyzed the geology from minerals removed by 30,000

holes drilled deep into the earth. The data revealed almost 1.1 trillion tons of coal buried across the 20,000-square mile Powder River Basin. Of that, only 162 billion tons is within coal seams considered thick enough and close enough to the surface to make extracting them worthwhile.

The amount drops even more drastically when the coal's quality is factored in and compared against current prices. When the USGS data was first compiled, in 2013, Powder River Basin coal was selling for \$10.90 a ton, resulting in about 23 billion tons being designated as economically recoverable.

With coal prices down to \$9.55 a ton, the reserve estimate has plummeted to just 16 billion tons, Haacke said. That's equivalent to 40 years at the current production pace of 400 million tons annually from the basin's 16 mines in Wyoming and Montana.

Meanwhile, mining costs have trended up. That's been driven by an increase in the "stripping ratio" – how many tons of earth must be removed to mine a ton of coal – as the region's thick coal seams curve gradually deeper into the earth.

Before it went bankrupt, Arch Coal saw its profit margin in the Powder River Basin slide from \$1.67 per ton to 26-cents per ton, according to company filings with securities regulators. Other companies have reported a similar trend.

"It became two to one, then three to one, then three-and-a-half to one," Haacke said of the stripping ratio. "That becomes a dirt-moving operation rather than a coal-moving operation."

EVENTS CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 4 – THURSDAY, MARCH 17

***If your event falls between March 18 and 31, please submit it by March 11.**

Big Sky
FRIDAY, MARCH 4
Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Ribbon Cutting ceremony
The Cauldron Botanicals, 4 p.m.

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

Lauren Jackson
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Gallatin Grass Project
Chet's Bar & Grill, 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5
Billy Collins
WMPAC, 7:30 p.m.

Diamond
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Mike Haring
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Lone Mountain Trio
Chet's Bar & Grill, 4:30 p.m.

Snowshoe Shuffle
Big Sky Resort, 5:30 p.m.

Lone Mountain Trio
Chet's Bar & Grill, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 6
On Mountain Church Service
Big Sky Resort, 1:30 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 7
Open Mic
Black Bear Bar, 10 p.m.

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

Dan Dubuque
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8
GRAS HR Consulting
First Security Bank, 11:45 a.m.

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

Mike Haring
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Milton Menasco Duo
Chet's Bar & Grill, 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9
Wine Wednesday
Mountain Maven, 11 a.m.

Solas: All These Years
WMPAC, 7:30 p.m.

Milton Menasco
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Kevin Fabozzi
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Lauren Jackson & Jeff Bellino
Chet's Bar & Grill, 4:30 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 10
Load Bearing Walls
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Mike Haring
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Chuck Denison
Carabiner Lounge, 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11
Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Headwaters Spring Runoff
Big Sky Resort, all day

James Salestrom
Choppers, 4:30 p.m.

Subaru Preferred Parking days
Big Sky Resort, all day

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

Lauren Jackson
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Gallatin Grass Project
Chet's Bar & Grill, 4:30 p.m.

DJ Yinsanity
Montana Jack, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12
Headwaters Spring Runoff
Big Sky Resort, all day

Blue Grass Trio
Choppers, 9:30 p.m.

Subaru Preferred Parking days
Big Sky Resort, all day

Sunset Saturday
Big Sky Resort, 5 p.m.

Diamond
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Mike Haring
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Lone Mountain Trio
Chet's Bar & Grill, 4:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13
Headwaters Spring Runoff
Big Sky Resort, all day

Subaru Preferred Parking days
Big Sky Resort, all day

On mountain church services
Big Sky Resort, 1:30 p.m.

Cow Tipping Comedy
Buck's T-4, 5 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 14
Lauren Jackson & Jeff Bellino
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Dan Dubuque
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15
Kenny Diamond
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Mike Haring
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Milton Menasco
Chet's Bar & Grill, 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16
Milton Menasco
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Kevin Fabozzi
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Joe Knapp
Chet's Bar & Grill, 4:30 p.m.

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

Wine Wednesday
Mountain Maven, 11 a.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17
Biz to Biz
First Security Bank, 9 a.m.

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

Mike Haring
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Chuck Denison
Carabiner Lounge, 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18
Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

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

Lauren Jackson
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Gallatin Grass Project

Chet's Bar & Grill, 4:30 p.m.

One Leaf Clover
Montana Jack, 10 p.m.

Bozeman
FRIDAY, MARCH 4
Brantley Gilbert
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7 p.m.

6th Annual Rainbow Ball
Emerson Culture Center, 8 p.m.

Raptor ID workshop
M.O.S.S., 7 p.m.

Jeff Carroll
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

DJ Walker
American Legion, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5
3rd Annual Casino Night
Hilton Garden Inn, 6 p.m.

Sluice Box Slalom
Bridger Bowl, 10:30 a.m.

Raptor Field Trip
MOR, 8:30 a.m.

Scout Day 2016
MOR, 9 a.m.

MSU basketball v. North Dakota
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 2 p.m.

Chad Ball
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Shostakovich 5th
Willson Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

2nd Chance Prom
Eagles Lodge, 8 p.m.

Danny Barnes
Filling Station, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 6
Bozeman Winter Farmers market
Emerson Culture Center, 9 a.m.

Shostakovich 5th
Willson Auditorium, 2:30 p.m.

Aran Buzzas
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Cesar Millan Live
MSU SUB ballroom, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 7
Alex Koukov
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

Pints with purpose: Valley of the Flowers
Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8
Free Tax help
Public Library, 10 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9
KGLT Benefit night
The Mint, 6 p.m.

Teachings of Thich Nhat Hanh
Bozeman Dharma Center, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11
Rewind to Fast-Forward fundraiser
The Baxter, 7 p.m.

Tevin Apedaile
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Solas
Ellen Theatre, 8 p.m.

Penny & Sparrow
Filling Station, 9 p.m.

Bluebelly Junction
American Legion, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12
Bozeman Winter Farmers market
Emerson Culture Center, 9 a.m.

Run to the Pub
Downtown, 9:45 a.m.

Dan Dubuque
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

The Magpies
Filling Station, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13
Yo Mama's Big Fat Booty Band
Filling Station, 8 p.m.

Tom Catmull
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 14
Pints with purpose: Heroes and Horses
Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15
Books with the Bunny
Gallatin Valley Mall, 5:30 p.m.

Bramble & Rye
Bozeman Spirits, 5:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16
Fiddles, Harps, & Shammrocks
The Food Studio, 6:30 p.m.

Red Lodge Brewing Co. Beer Dinner
Rockin' TJ Ranch, 7 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 18
Juan Soria
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

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

These Shining Lives
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Livingston & Paradise Valley
FRIDAY, MARCH 4
One Leaf Clover
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

The Vibe Tech
49er Diner, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

Prof. Nix
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Windbreakers Swap Meet
Park County Fairgrounds, 8 a.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 7

Russ Chapman
Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

Beer for a cause:
National Wild Turkey Federation
Katabatic Brewing, 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

Bobb Clanton
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

Erin & The Project
Murray Bar, 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

Sean Earmon & The Walkaways
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

Hawthorne Roots
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Dirk Allen
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 14

John Dendy
Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

Beer for a cause:
Livingston Women in Business
Katabatic Brewing, 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

Juan Soria
Murray Bar, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

Erin & The Project
Murray Bar, 8:30 p.m.

Laney Lou & The Bird Dogs
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

The Fossils
Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

New to You Art & Antiques sale
Livingston Depot Center, 5 p.m.

West Yellowstone

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

Chess Club
Public Library, 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

Rendezvous Ski Race
Rendezvous Ski Trails, all day

SUNDAY, MARCH 6
Youth Ski Festival
Rendezvous Ski Trails,
all day

MONDAY, MARCH 7

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

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.

Snowmobile Expo &
Powersports Show
W. Yellowstone, all day

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

Chess Club
Public Library, 4 p.m.

Snowmobile Expo & Powersports Show
W. Yellowstone, all day

2nd Annual Wild Bill Octane Nights
Pioneer Park, 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

Snowmobile Expo & Powersports Show
W. Yellowstone, all day

2nd Annual Wild Bill Octane Nights
Pioneer Park, 5 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

Snowmobile Expo & Powersports Show
W. Yellowstone, all day

MONDAY, MARCH 14

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 17

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, MARCH 18

Chess Club
Public Library, 4 p.m.

RECURRING EVENTS

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


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

TWO-DAY RAPTOR ID
WORKSHOP AND FIELD TRIP


Have you ever wanted to sharpen your raptor identification skills? If so, this is the workshop for you. Everyone will benefit. Beginners will find this workshop quite helpful to understand the basic forms of raptors. Intermediate and advanced raptor-watching enthusiasts will find the identification fine points especially valuable.

Friday, March 4, 7:00 pm – 9:00 p.m.,
at the Montana Outdoor Science School
4056 Bridger Canyon Rd, Bozeman, MT 59715
Phone: (406) 219-0243

Saturday, March 5, 8:30 am – 1:30 p.m.,
meet at the Museum of the Rockies parking lot, NE corner,
600 West Kagy Boulevard, Bozeman, MT 59717



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Celtic connection

Irish-American band brings 20 years of music to WMPAC

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

The Arts Council of Big Sky is bringing one of the best-known Irish-American folk bands in the world to the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, March 9. The Big Sky performance by Solas, dubbed “All These Years,” celebrates the band’s long and acclaimed history.

Solas for 20 years has been considered the most popular, influential and exciting Celtic band to ever emerge from the U.S.

Founding members Seamus Egan (flute, tenor banjo, mandolin, whistles, guitars and bodhran) and Winifred Horan (violins and vocals), form the backbone of the unique Solas sound. They will be joined by longtime bandmate Eamon McElholm (guitars, keyboards and vocals), and Solas’ newest member Moira Smiley on vocals and banjo.

Solas is musically at the top of its game and continues to be the standard bearer not only for great Irish music, but great music in any genre.

“The audience will be in for a real treat when Solas takes the stage,” said ACBS Executive Director Brian Hurlbut. “The songs are melodic and thoughtful, and the musicians play at a very high level. It will be fun to see a band like this at the WMPAC.”

It can be argued that no band has done more than Solas to prove that the Celtic sound is a truly universal musical language, like jazz, rock or bluegrass. The band’s sound is explosive yet seductively personal, and timelessly melodic while rippling with modern muscle.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

Solas can bring edgy urban hipness to ancient reels, and make songs by Tom Waits and Bob Dylan feel like they’ve been aging for centuries in the sweet old casks of Celtic tradition.

Through fresh and unexpected arrangements of age-old tunes, compelling and topical originals and covers, and unparalleled musicianship, Solas continues to define the path for the Celtic music world and drive the genre forward.

This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to see Solas bring the past, present, and future of the band to the stage, with a program sure to delight audiences.

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

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for the 7:30 p.m. concert and tickets are available at warrenmillerpac.org. For more information on this performance, call (406) 995-2742 or visit bigskyarts.org.



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 **WIFI**

‘Shostakovich 5th’ features special guest

BOZEMAN SYMPHONY

BOZEMAN – Maestro Matthew Savery of the Bozeman Symphony has put together an ambitious program for the “Shostakovich 5th” event March 5 and 6 at the Willson Auditorium. The performances will include works by Tchaikovsky, Mozart and Dukas and close with Shostakovich’s infamously brilliant fifth symphony.

The festive polonaise from Tchaikovsky’s “Eugene Onegin” will usher in an evening that couples grace and elegance with tragedy and triumph. The main course will include the elegance of Mozart and the beauty of Dukas’ “Villanelle.” Dmitri Shostakovich’s “Fifth Symphony” will serve as the thrilling finale.

Shostakovich is considered the greatest symphonist of the 20th century, and his fifth symphony is the composer’s most famous and universally adored composition. Attendees will be captivated by the extraordinary depth and beauty of this great work, as well as what is considered one of the greatest and most thrilling finales of the symphonic repertoire.

Eric Ruske, a phenomenal French horn player known for his sophisticated interpretation and technical mastery, will return to Montana to perform this concert with the Bozeman Symphony.

Having performed in virtually every corner of the world, Ruske’s impressive solo career took off when he won the 1986 Young Concert

Artists International Auditions; First Prize in the 1987 American Horn Competition; and the highest honor in the 1988 Concours International d’Interpretation Musicale in Reims, France.

On the heels of these successes, was his appointment as Associate Principal Horn of The Cleveland Orchestra at the age of 20. He also toured and recorded extensively during his six-year tenure as hornist of the Empire Brass Quintet.

The French newspaper Le Mond describes Ruske’s artistry as, “[a] sound both luminous and brilliant, always with a perfect roundness, an impeccable virtuosity.”

Ruske says he is excited about returning to Bozeman to perform with Maestro Savery and the Bozeman Symphony Orchestra.

“Matthew [Savery] is that rare combination of a fiercely talented musician with whom I



PHOTO BY MATT DINE/COURTESY OF BOZEMAN SYMPHONY

love sharing the stage and a great and totally genuine guy that I love hanging out with,” Ruske said. “I can’t wait to see his family, the big sky, and play with the BSO again.”

Shostakovich 5th will be performed in the Willson Auditorium on March 5 at 7:30 p.m. and March 6 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are available by calling (406) 585-9774 or visiting bozemansymphony.org. Concert guests are invited to attend receptions immediately following each concert at 14 North on Saturday and Plonk on Sunday.

LIVE *Big*



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MARCH

5

11-13

12

19

20

24-27

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APRIL

2-3

9

16

Subaru Winterfest

Shedhorn SkiMo

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Pond Skim

COMPLETE INFO at bigskyresort.com/events

LIVE COMEDY SHOW



COW TIPPING COMEDY

Going on 5 years Cow Tipping Comedy has been rocking the Improv scene in Helena with "Whose Line Is It Anyway" games and fun. Scenes are created by the audience and the 'Cow Tippers' play it out in hilarious manner. Stay on your toes because you might find yourself in a scene too!



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 Mclellan. 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
General Admission, Doors open 7:00, show starts 7:30

\$15 in advance, \$20 at the door

Buck's will be open for dinner at 5:00 that evening for pre-show dining

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The best medicine

Lone Peak Brewery hosts stand-up comedy

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Steve and Vicky Nordahl, owners of Big Sky's Lone Peak Brewery, launched a bimonthly comedy night this February in the brewery's second-floor loft space.

If the success of their first "Laughs at the Loft" event on Feb. 12 is any indication, the Nordahls just might have tapped into a niche that was itching to be filled.

The Nordahls had the foresight to open Big Sky's first brewery in 2007, and since they acquired the upstairs space in 2013, they've hosted a number of musical acts. They were eager, however, to bring a different form of entertainment to the community.

Now replete with 10 taps pouring Lone Peak's wide spectrum of brews, a full bar, loungey nightclub seating, state of the art sound system and two-tiered stage, the venue is ideal for stand-up comedy.

The couple found David Tribble, a veteran booking agent who represents hundreds of comedians from around the country and secured Lone Peak Brewery a slot on his western tour circuit. The Feb. 12 performance featured comedians Charlie Stone from Chicago and Alaskan Ryan Wingfield.

"Thankfully we sold out the event and it went flawlessly," Steve said in late February. "The comedians were both so good. They were professional, funny ... and their timing and delivery were spot on. It actually made me nervous to do it again because it went so well."

The response from the audience was enthusiastic and the Nordahls found it rewarding to provide a forum for the best medicine – laughter and, many might argue, beer.

Phil Fluke, a Big Sky resident for nearly a decade, attended the "Laughs at the Loft" premiere.

"I just enjoyed the heck out of it," Fluke said. "It reminded me of my days going to all the big New York City comedy clubs. The talent I saw on Lone Peak's first comedy night was

incredible – very funny guys who weren't amateurs. They were definitely pros."

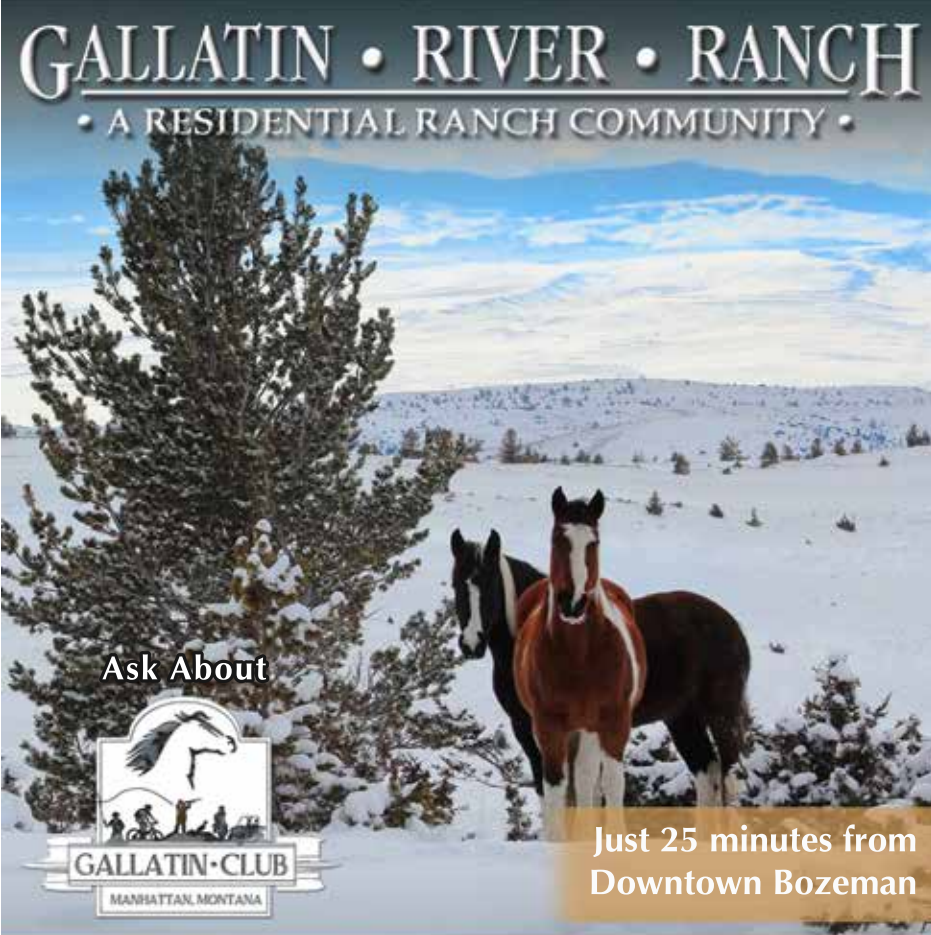
Fluke added that he thinks the venue is set up well – it's intimate and there was good crowd interaction with the comics.

"[It's] everything you hope for from a comedy show," he said. "So long as I'm in town, I won't miss a comedy night at Lone Peak."

Headlining a two-night booking on March 17 and 18 is Portland, Ore. stand-up comic and musician, D.C. Malone. Expect a mishmash of animated spoof songs and story-form bits on the trials and tribulations of marriage, the foibles of single life, the fumbles of childhood, and other universal life experiences.

Malone performs for a 21 year old and over crowd with doors opening at 7:30 p.m. and an opener at 8 p.m. still to be determined. Visit dcmalone.net for a preview of Malone's shtick.

Tickets are available at Lone Peak Brewery & Taphouse and The Cave Spirit and Gifts.



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ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

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TICKETS & MORE INFORMATION:
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Encouraging community adventure

MOR brings on new exhibits

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – Two new photographic exhibits decorate the halls of Bozeman’s Museum of the Rockies, both of which invoke the themes of travel, adventure and exploration of our world.

According to MOR’s Director of Marketing and Engagement Mark Robinson, the exhibits offer a fresh look at our surroundings, and include large-format photographs accompanied by related stories, journal entries and maps.

The first, “National Geographic’s 50 Greatest Photographs,” features iconic images from the 125-year National Geographic magazine history.

The second exhibit, “Across the Andes,” is an inspirational story in itself, Robinson said. The display chronicles the journey of local conservationist Gregg Treinish and environmental filmmaker Deia Schlosberg on their 7,800 mile-long trek through the Andes Mountains.

“This world we all share is an amazing place and these images bring the beauty, emotion and power of people, places and things to each viewer,” Robinson said.

In addition to viewings open to the general public between Feb. 27 and May 22, these exhibits will be incorporated into two MOR events intended to inspire the community’s youth: “Scout Day 2016: Trek Through Time” and “Daring to Adventure with Deia Schlosberg.”

On Saturday, March 5, approximately 300 preregistered boys and girls from around the



Moscow, Russia 1983 | Seven lemons occupy a Moscow windowsill, catching the light of the afternoon sun. PHOTO BY SAM ABELL

region will participate in “Scout Day 2016: Trek Through Time,” having the chance to view and learn about these two new exhibits.

According to Angie Weikert, MOR Education and Public Programs Director, this year’s event will be the most exciting to date in part because of the museum’s effort to “bring about a sense of adventure.”

To introduce this idea, wildland firefighter and wilderness ranger T.J. Flanagan will discuss worldwide adventuring in a presentation to the scouts, drawing on her lifestyle of dynamic exploration within her backyard, across the country and around the world.

Other activities will build on this presentation, as geocaching turns map-reading into an adventure, Weikert said, and the photography workshop will teach scouts how images capture our perceptions of the world.

Additionally, scouts may participate in a dinosaur dig with paleontologist Jack Horner, as well as view a custom planetarium show featuring circumpolar constellations in the night sky.

Continuing its themes of travel, adventure and exploration, MOR will host an evening event for teen girls with Deia Schlosberg on Friday, March 11 from 5-8 p.m. at Bozeman’s REI.

Schlosberg will reference her journey from “Across the Andes,” which led National Geographic to name her a 2009 Adventurer of the Year. She will discuss how exploration and adventure can inspire self-improvement, as well as improvement of the world. Girls between 10 and 14 years old are invited to preregister for the event at MOR’s website.



California, United States 1977 | A camera mounted on the tail of a Lockheed L-1101 captures the lights of an airport runway and city beyond. PHOTO BY BRUCE DALE

Both of MOR’s new photographic exhibits support the mission to “bring the world to Montana and Montana to the world,” Robinson said.

“I think it’s important to show our community the potential all museums have in educating our youth,” Weikert added. “Instilling a sense of adventure in children today is critical to create the next generation of ... creative thinkers who are able to understand the complex relationship between various cultures around the world and our natural environment.”

Visit museumoftherockies.org for more information.



Kabul, Afghanistan, 1967 | Covered by a traditional chadri, an Afghan woman balances caged goldfinches at a market in Kabul. PHOTO BY THOMAS J. ABERCROMBIE



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Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



The only thing crazier than people who devote their lives to chasing fish with brains the size of a pea is the weather we've been experiencing in Montana the past few weeks. Feels like a remake of last spring, which wasn't the best for skiers, but it made for some great fishing.

Midges are starting to hatch in big numbers on the Gallatin. Clouds of them really. For best dry fly fishing find some shady areas with slow moving water or wait for a calm, cloudy day. Midges will hatch on a sunny day for sure, but fish will be less likely to eat on the surface.

Patterns that we like are CDC Cluster Midges, Griffith's Gnats and Silvey's Adult and Hatching Midges. Not a bad idea to drop a small, lightly weighted larvae pattern off the back like a T-Midge or Zebra.

If they're not eating on top the usual suspects to try are Pat's Rubber Legs, Zebra Midges, Pheasant Tails and a variety of other small droppers. The deeper and slower runs have been fishing more consistently, but don't hesitate to throw some casts in riffles and boulder pockets.

Lower Madison has been fishing great with similar flies to that of the Gallatin, but add to the arsenal some pink Ray Charles, Rainbow Czech Nymphs or your favorite pink nymph.

In between Quake and Hebgen on the upper Madison fishes great this time of year, but the stuff that is easiest to access can see quite a bit of pressure. If you push yourself to hike into areas that are less accessible you may be rewarded with better fishing. Same advice goes for the Madison below Quake Lake. Anglers are starting to break out the drift boats too, which should get you to some less pressured water. Water levels are still low though, so it may feel a bit like sledding down a hill that doesn't have snow on it!

Happy fishing and don't forget to join us for Thursday Night Fly Tying every Thursday at 5pm.









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Celebrating Montana history

Art gallery opens new showroom

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – A variety of museum-quality artwork is now on display beneath the clock tower in Big Sky’s Town Center, a result of Creighton Block Gallery opening its third location in January.

The pieces, all forms of Western art, range in date from 1840 to 2015, but all share in their historical accuracy and quality, reflecting owner and gallery director Colin Mathews’ passion for Montana history.

Later this month, Creighton Block will join with Gallatin River Gallery and the Arts Council of Big Sky to host the Auction for the Arts at Lone Mountain Ranch on Thursday, March 24.

The clock tower display room has pieces arranged with plenty of space to create a sense of volume, according to Courtney Collins, assistant to the gallery director. An informational booklet provides background and context to the older works, which were made available by Tierney Fine Arts; however, the gallery staff is a valuable resource into the layers behind each piece of art, including those more recently completed.



On the Creighton Block clock tower gallery wall: “Horse Tipi” and “Chief and his Men” by Kevin Red Star, oil on canvas. “Looks West” by Greg Woodard, bronze statue in the foreground. PHOTOS BY TYLER ALLEN

As one example, Mathews described important nuances and gave context to his early February window display.

The vibrant colors of Kevin Red Star’s depiction of the Crow Indian way of life in “Night Owl” were complemented by a lightly patinaed bronze sculpture by Greg Woodard, titled “Taking on Jupiter,” in which a buffalo charges an on-coming train. Historical accuracy is in the details, Mathews explained, pointing out important cultural motifs in Red Star’s work and historical facts related to Woodard’s title and rendition.

“Art is not just a visual decoration for me,” Mathews said. “When it carries stories, it is most wonderful.”

Mathews also described Tom Gilleon’s modern perception for his new “pixoil” digital creations, which he said, “bridge between historical or representational painting and very contemporary design.”

In one of his new-media digital artworks Gilleon depicts a fox hunting a rabbit near a solitary tipi. A series of paintings were folded together with software technology to produce the video, a process which has been repeated for two other gallery pieces, as well as several commissioned works.

Mathews first opened his gallery in Virginia City, in an 1867 stone building listed on the National Historic Register as a part of the Creighton



“Golden Boy” by Greg Woodard, wood carving

block section of town. The name seemed to fit, and has carried over since the move to Big Sky in 2010. From the gallery’s name to its featured pieces to its historic artists, Montana history is all apparent at Creighton Block.

Artists Tom Gilleon and Greg Woodard, among others, will attend the Auction for the Arts event, participating in a “quick-finish” session where they complete a work of art at the event and the final pieces are auctioned off later in the evening. Half the proceeds will directly benefit the Arts Council of Big Sky, while the remainder will be distributed among participating artists.

“[The auction] is for art lovers, and showcases not only the best artists in Montana, but the growing community of artists we have right here in Big Sky,” said ACBS Executive Director Brian Hurlbut, adding that local artists will be featured in a silent auction. The live auction will highlight the work by the 10 “quick-finish” participants.

Mathews welcomes visitors to his gallery, and also plans to host an artist meet-and-greet either before the Auction for the Arts, or the following day.

Tickets for the Auction for the Arts are available through the Arts Council of Big Sky, and must be purchased in advance. Visit bigskyarts.org for more information.



“Taking on Jupiter” by Greg Woodard, bronze statue

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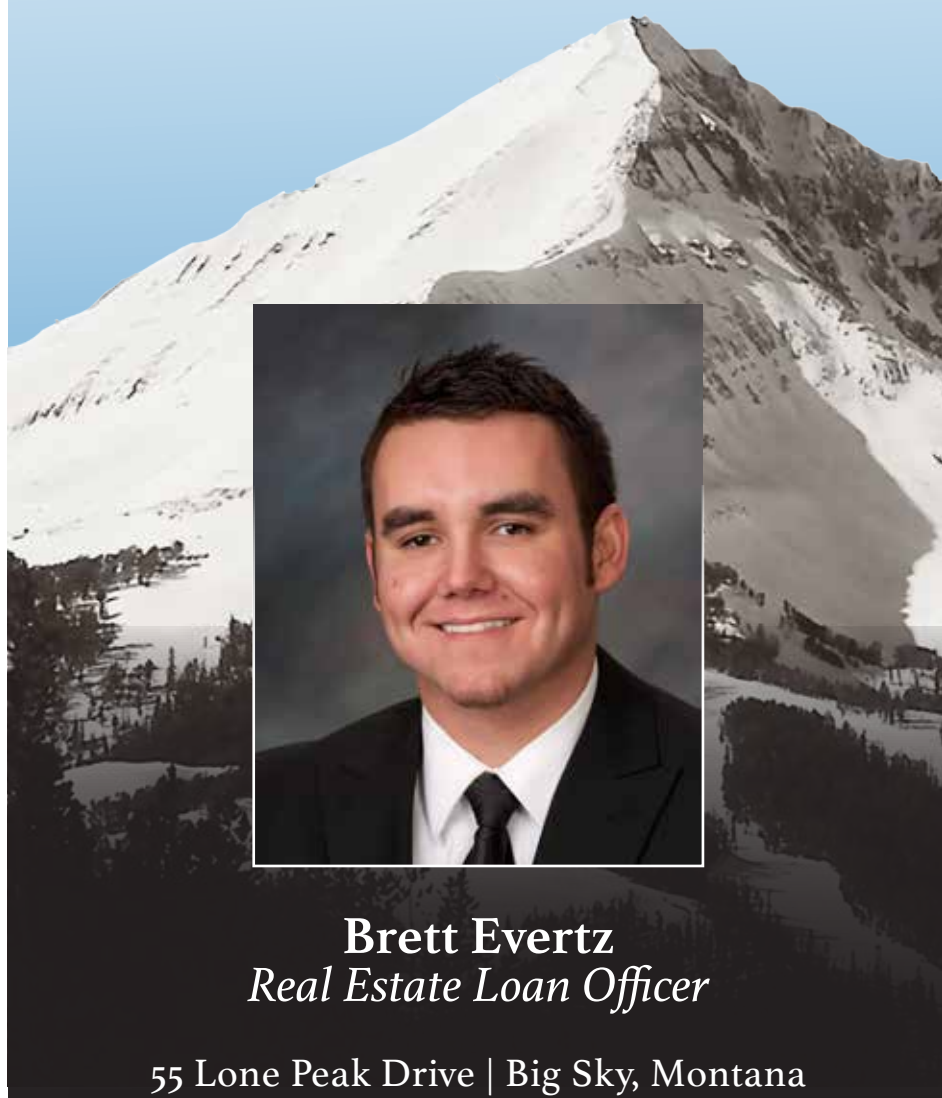


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