

Explore

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region

FREE

Big Sky

March 18 - 31, 2016
Volume 7 // Issue #6

**Yellowstone Club
wastewater spill:**
*Modification may have
led to pipe failure*

**Raptors reign this time
of year**

Montana snow kites flying high

**Jitro Czech Girls Choir
closes WMPAC season**

Fur Fashion:
Montana Sweater Co.




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March 18-31, 2016
Volume 7, Issue No. 6

Owned and published in Big Sky, Montana

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ON THE COVER:

A red-tailed hawk surveys its hunting ground from a safe perch. Look for raptors in the southwestern Montana skies this time of year, as migrants are returning to join the resident populations. PHOTO BY JERRY TAYLOR

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Explore Big Sky WHAT IS THIS PUBLICATION?

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

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



Frequency
EVERY 2 WEEKS

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

49,500
Readership per issue



Annual Readership
OVER 1 MILLION



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

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“If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great way.”
-Napoleon Hill



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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

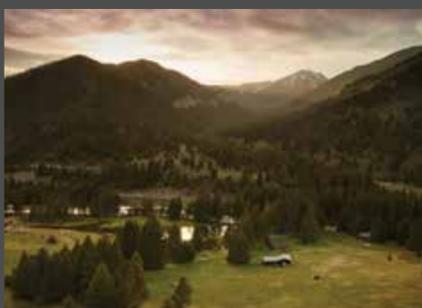
A fully furnished 6 BR, 6.5 BA home that will absolutely blow you away! With a prime location in Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, one can revel in 6,550 square feet of exquisitely decorated space that offers an open living room with gas fireplace and a dining area where you will enjoy spending leisure time 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!

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Pie Auction aims to raise \$100K for school district

EBS STAFF

The 36th annual Pie Auction fundraiser will be held March 25 at Buck's T-4 from 6-10 p.m., with a "Black and White Ball" theme this year.

The Big Sky Parent Teacher Organization hosts the March event to raise money for enrichment, supplements and special programs for students and staff of the Big Sky School District. The nonprofit Big Sky PTO provides funding for the fourth grade Expedition Yellowstone, the eighth grade Washington D.C. trip, and other field trips throughout the year. It also provides financial support for the school library; athletic and music programs; and prom and graduation, among others.

The auction raised nearly \$85,000 last year, according to Shana Seelye, Big Sky PTO president and chair of the Pie Auction. This year they hope to raise \$100,000, she said. Last year's event saw a 36 percent increase in gross income over 2014's Pie Auction.

More than 40 pies and other baked goods will be up for auction, in addition to other live and silent auction items and a raffle. Seelye encourages all attendees to dress in black and white.



Competitors line up for the Nordic Race Series hosted by Big Sky Discovery Academy on March 15. Thirty-five skiers turned out for the event, which took place near the dog loop in Town Center and included a 5k, 3k and 1k. PHOTO BY SUZY SAMARDICH

Easter in the mountains

EBS STAFF

Big Sky Resort will host the annual Easter sunrise service on Sunday, March 27. The service begins at the top of Swift Current chairlift at 7 a.m. and lasts approximately 30 minutes.

The chairlift will begin operating at 6:30 a.m. with complimentary loading, and the resort strongly encourages alpine ski or snowboard equipment for a descent down Mr. K after the service. However, foot traffic will not be turned away and attendees without gear will be offered a slow download ride on Swift Current.

For those who would rather worship indoors, All Saints in Big Sky begins its festival service and Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m. Easter morning, followed by coffee and fellowship time in the Big Sky Chapel's lower level at 10:40 a.m. All Saints in Big Sky is a shared ministry of the Episcopal and Lutheran churches and the chapel is located in the Meadow Village.

Local snowboarders win trip to British Columbia

EBS STAFF

Four Big Sky Resort snowboarders won a trip to compete against 10 sponsored skier and rider teams at the Fernie 4, a four-minute film competition held at Fernie Alpine Resort in British Columbia.

The collaboration between two local film companies – SkyLab Media House and Love Street Media – won Trevor Harapat, Chris Kamman, Chance Lenay and Erik Morrison a five-day trip to Fernie April 5-9, free lodging and lift tickets, and a chance at the \$4,000 prize.

The contest, hosted by Teton Gravity Research and Bozeman's Bomb Snow magazine, offered a wild-card spot to one team of four – and a combination of only four – athletes and videographers. Teams had between Jan. 12 and Feb. 21 to put together their best cut and submit it on TGR's website. The Big Sky crew cut "Journey 4 Fernie" and was the only all-snowboard team to enter.

"We were pretty stoked to hear TGR, who was the one judging all the entries, gave us a unanimous vote for the wild card," said Morrison, owner of Love Street Media.

The "Journey 4 Fernie" team will have four days to ride and film at the steep Canadian ski resort, cut another four-minute edit, and submit it along with the rest of the shorts to be judged by the competitors.

Visit SkyLab Media House's Facebook page to view the Big Sky team's winning entry.

Custer Gallatin National Forests starts forest plan revision

EBS STAFF

The Custer Gallatin National Forest has undergone big changes since its forest plan was drafted more than 25 years ago: landscape-level wildfires, a huge growth in invasive weeds, significant changes in land ownership patterns, and a sharp increase in visitors.

The Forest is now in the early stages of rewriting its forest plan to reflect those changes.

"[The forest plan] guides what we do, where we do it, and how we do it," said Virginia Kelly, who is the forest plan revision team leader. Kelly presented information about the process at the Big Sky Chapel on March 3.

The early stages involve an assessment of existing conditions and regular meetings to garner public input.

"The forest plan does not authorize any site-specific uses or activities,"

Kelly said, adding that uses do have to be "consistent with the plan."

In later stages, Environmental Impact Statements and National Environmental Policy Act assessments will play a larger role. The revision process is expected to take approximately four years to complete.

According to Lisa Stoeffler, a district ranger based out of Bozeman, the Custer Gallatin National Forest has approximately 3.1 million visitors annually, enough to make it the ninth-most visited national forest in the country.

Stoeffler said that number represents a 60 percent increase from five or six years ago. "Those kinds of trends are pretty mind-boggling to us."

The Custer Gallatin National Forest will hold additional meetings and continue to garner public input as the revision progresses. Find out how you can participate at fs.usda.gov/land/custergallatin/landmanagement.

DEQ: 2015 modification to YC wastewater pond may have led to pipe failure, spill

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – According to a March 16 report released by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, a change made to the inlet screen of the Yellowstone Club wastewater pond last year might be responsible for the pipe failure that led to the discharge of 30 million gallons of treated effluent into the Gallatin River in early March.

The pond, which was constructed in 2005, has twice been repaired for leaks in the past two years.

According to the report, Yellowstone Club officials notified DEQ in August 2012 that the pond was leaking at a rate of approximately 15 gallons per minute – a big enough leak to merit DEQ notification according to the agency's standards.

DEQ advised the Yellowstone Club to drain the pond down “within a couple of years” to evaluate and fix the problem, according to the March 16 report. No enforcement actions against the Yellowstone Club were taken at that time, according to Kristi Ponzozzo, public policy director of Montana DEQ.

In summer 2014, the pond was completely emptied and inspected. Several small punctures in the liner, along with a tear in the liner boot at the base of the outlet pipe were found. The original liner installation company made the necessary repairs, according to Ponzozzo.

The pond was drained again in 2015 because it was still leaking, at an estimated rate of 4 gallons per minute. A tear was found at the same liner boot location and the boot was reinforced by a local pond contractor, who reported that the previous fix may not have been done properly.

In a March 15 email to EBS, Ponzozzo wrote, “At this time, the YC operator attached clamps to the inlet screen in an effort to eliminate the annual process of retrieving and reinstalling the screen (believed to be lifted by the ice each year) onto the top of the outlet pipe.

“We believe the clamps may have contributed to the severing of the outlet pipe,” Ponzozzo continued.

Yellowstone Club Vice President of Development Mike DuCuennois wrote in a March 16 email, “Several issues played into the failure of the liner. [Yellowstone Club], engineers and the DEQ have all inspected the site and have made the determination that ice definitely played a role in this. It is not totally known if the ice pulled the pipe or the screen or all of it together.”

According to Ponzozzo, the DEQ was unaware of the addition of the clamps until recently. They were not involved in the 2015 repair because the pond was not discharging at a rate meriting their oversight.

The DEQ approves designs for wastewater ponds like the Yellowstone Club's before initial construction, but does not conduct routine inspections.



Treated effluent cascades into Second Yellow Mule Creek from the Yellowstone Club's breached wastewater pond March 5. PHOTO BY WES OVERVOLD

“We do not do inspections on these ponds for a number of reasons, mostly related to staffing and budget and just our regulatory role in these wastewater ponds,” Ponzozzo said in a phone interview.

She said DEQ is reevaluating its role in such inspections. “We are looking at the importance of potential inspections and what it might involve for DEQ to take on that regulatory role. We are also looking into risk and whether this incident was an anomaly, or if inspections are something we need to prioritize,” she wrote on March 15.

The Yellowstone Club and DEQ have been moving forward with the pond's repair. On March 11, engineers submitted a repair plan to the DEQ. Following DEQ's recommendation, the Yellowstone Club revised and resubmitted their plans and expected to get approval to continue repairs by March 18.

DuCuennois said he expects it will take about six days to complete the repair once the necessary DEQ approval has been secured.

Impacts to fishery uncertain

Although a number of organizations have taken samples of the Gallatin River and its tributaries impacted by the spill, limited results were available when EBS went to press March 16.

DEQ collected water samples at 10 sites in the Gallatin watershed and sent them to Energy Labs in Helena for analysis. DEQ is testing for phosphorus, ammonia, pharmaceuticals, nitrate plus nitrite, and total nitrogen. These samples are still being analyzed and DEQ expects to have a full report “in the coming weeks,” according to Ponzozzo.

DEQ also monitored turbidity, a measurement that reflects the amount of suspended sediment in the water. On March 11, the agency reported that by March 9, turbidity returned to pre-spill levels on the Gallatin River, but was still elevated

in impacted tributaries including Second Yellow Mule Creek, and the South Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin.

Turbidity levels far exceeded DEQ thresholds in the first days of the spill, and Ponzozzo said the DEQ is working on an enforcement action against the Yellowstone Club for Water Quality Act violations. It's a several-month-long process, she said.

Preliminary E. coli results from samples collected March 7 indicate that E. coli, a type of bacteria found in the feces of warm-blooded animals, was detected.

“There were no [E.coli] exceedences of the state's water quality standards at any of DEQ's ten sampling sites,” Ponzozzo wrote, adding, “The actual results for each site will be presented in a more detailed report that will be available later this week.”

Kristin Gardner, executive director of Gallatin River Task Force, said E. coli tests can come back positive due to the impact of wildlife. “Generally speaking, that [Yellowstone Club] pond tests negative for E. coli most of the time that they test it,” she said.

GRTF also took water samples in the days after the spill. The organization has received some results, is analyzing it against historical data, and will write a report once the analysis is complete.

Two GRTF employees assisted with fish population March 10, joined by a Confluence Consulting project manager and six Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks employees.

Dave Moser, a fisheries biologist with FWP, said the team hiked into the confluence of Second Yellow Mule Creek and the West Fork of the South Fork of the Gallatin to electrofish four sections of water, one upstream of the confluence and three downstream of it, on March 10.

continued on pg. 6

They found five westslope cutthroat mortalities just downstream of the confluence. The mortalities likely came out of Second Yellow Mule Creek, Moser said in a phone interview.

“The first quarter mile [beyond the confluence] there were definite effects,” Moser said. “Whether it was displacement or mortality, I don’t know.”

The team found approximately 90 cutthroat per 100 meters upstream of the confluence, 30 directly downstream of it, and 140 a quarter-mile downstream.

“It’s a snapshot in time,” Moser said of the surveys the team conducted. “The trout seem OK, but there’s still all that sediment in there and potentially nutrients we won’t know [about] until we do further sampling.”

Guy Alsentzer, executive director of Upper Missouri Waterkeeper, wrote in an email to EBS that it’s important to remember that some deceased fish may have flushed downstream given the significant amount of water moving through tributaries during the discharge.

He also said long-term impacts from the spill – like increased sedimentation and decreased dissolved oxygen – won’t be known for some time. “Recent surveys alone do not fully characterize the spill’s impacts,” Alsentzer wrote.

Moser said there’s still a plug of sediment that might come down Second Yellow Mule during spring runoff. The wastewater spill was different from other spring runoff events into the Gallatin – like the sediment release that regularly happens from the Taylor Fork – because of its abrupt nature.

“In a normal spring runoff event, you don’t have a large amount of sediment that is [suddenly] dropped out and fills those voids in the stream,” he said. “Hopefully spring runoff will flush those out and the stream will go back to its previous quality.”

Moser plans to return in the summer and fall to collect more data on the long-term impacts on the Gallatin’s fisheries.

According to Moser, people don’t give fish enough credit for their resilience. “They’re pretty tough,” he said. “It’s one of those things, time will tell.”



A response team enters the emptied wastewater pond March 7. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BIG SKY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT



The ice-damaged outlet structure lays at the bottom of the drained pond.

Opinion

As the Yellowstone bison head to slaughter an old song gets a make over.





The Custer Gallatin National Forest is in the process of rewriting its Forest Plan, which was originally written more than 25 years ago.

What changes would you like to see in the management of the Custer Gallatin National Forest?



Steve Johnson, Big Sky, Mont.
Retired

"I would like to see the [Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area] get resolved ... It's been frozen in time since 1977. And what's happened since 1977? Big Sky. After 39 years, it's time to figure out what to do with this thing."



Bob Zimmer, Bozeman, Mont.
Waters Program Director, Greater Yellowstone Coalition

"[I'm] primarily [interested in] water issues and watershed management inside and outside the forest ... As soon as you put dams or diversions in your streams, they tend to lose ecological function. On a personal basis as well as an advocacy basis, I would like to see free-flowing, unpolluted, clear streams in our forest."



Will Norris, Big Sky, Mont.,
Retail Associate, Grizzly Outfitters

"As an avid mountain biker, I'd like to see less emphasis on wilderness protection areas. Mountain biking gets a bad reputation by being associated with other wheel-based sports, such as dirt bikes ... In reality it creates less emissions and has a considerably lower impact on the trails. Plus, it's an activity that brings people to the area and into nature, which boosts the support of the forest."

Op-ed: The future of wastewater

BY JEFF SAAD
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

I have a solution for the ongoing storage needs for treated wastewater in Big Sky. The recent spill of wastewater into the Gallatin watershed is unfortunate, and an accident. Accidents happen.

It was a genius idea to pipe treated wastewater to irrigate golf courses, which minimizes the need to release effluent into the Gallatin River.

The issue that most concerns the Big Sky Water and Sewer District is the total volume of treated wastewater produced. We are nearing capacity and looking at massive growth ahead. The golf courses simply cannot use enough of it, so it will be dumped into the Gallatin River.

We have two choices ahead: We can build more storage facilities at huge taxpayer costs, or we can decrease the total amount of treated wastewater produced. Short of a moratorium on all growth and development, we will be dumping into the Gallatin River nonstop. It will be business as usual.

Solution

My premise is simple: it shouldn't be cost prohibitive, provides all necessary water needs to those who need it, and reduces the amount of future treated wastewater by 70 percent.

Sewage and garbage have stomach-upsetting stigmas. However, all sewage is not the same. This plan only includes new development on the centralized water-sewer system including residences, hotels, etc., and excludes all existing structures both in the centralized system and those using well and septic systems.

Wastewater can be separated into two classes:

- Blackwater – anything you use toilet paper for, and kitchen sink disposals
 - human waste
 - food
- Greywater – everything else (shower/bath, laundry, bathroom sinks, etc.)
 - hair, skin, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, cleaning products

The plan is not to use the greywater as drinking water (although you could). The plan includes sending only blackwater (30 percent) for wastewater treatment, which requires little additional storage capacity and will eventually be used for golf course irrigation. With simple, large-particle/small-particle filtration, greywater could be kept on-site for several uses:

- Toilet flush water
- Greenhouse (food, plants and flowers love greywater)
- Irrigate landscaping (summer)
- Snowmaking (winter)

With minimal filtration, greywater is relatively clean, and excess can be discarded on premise as needed and welcomed back to the ground for final filtration in the earth.

Benefits

- Reduce stress on groundwater and deep-ground aquifers
- Increase aquifer supply
- Reduce volume of water needing chemical treatment
- Relieve as much as 70 percent stress on wastewater storage
- Cessate the need for further dumping of treated wastewater
- Less "new" water used

The key is to use the least amount of potable water by reusing semi-clean greywater for purposes that will tolerate it.

This proposal is simply an exercise in plumbing rerouting. We can set the standard in resort water management.

For the last three years, Jeff Saad has lived in an energy efficient Big Sky home that uses the water management system described above. This is how Saad's home is plumbed and manages its water on a daily basis, and he says this method can be expanded to include multiple homes on a larger scale.



6TH ANNUAL **BIG SKY**

PBR'S BEST COWBOYS & BULLS

LIVE MUSIC

7/29: THE OUTLAWS

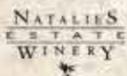
7/30: JASON BOLAND &
THE STRAGGLERS



MUTTON BUSTIN'



ENTERTAINMENT BY FLINT RASMUSSEN



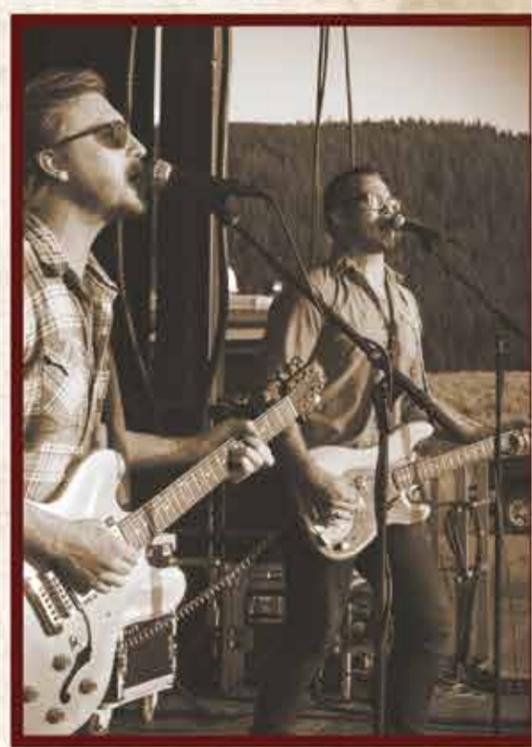
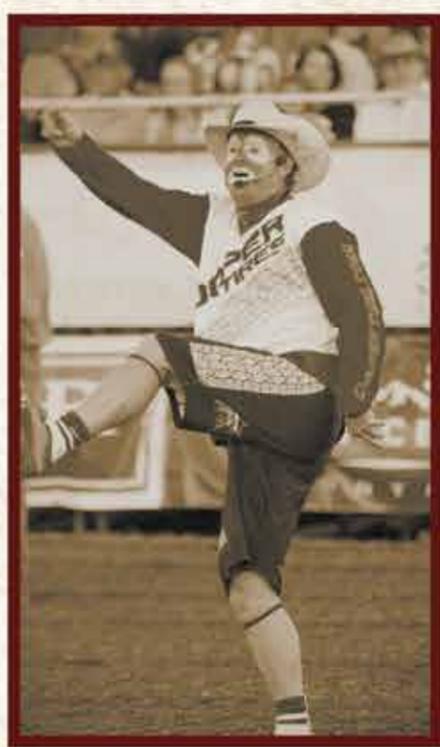


BIG SKY PBR

JULY 29 & 30, 2016
BIG SKY TOWN CENTER

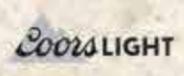


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3X EVENT OF THE YEAR



BSSD Students of the Month: February

As part of its Student of the Month program, the Big Sky School District honored five students in February for their commitment to being open-minded.

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

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



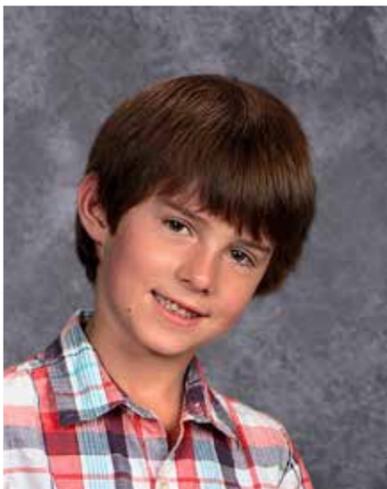
K-2 Student of the Month - Lola Morris, kindergarten

We're proud to announce this month's student of the month is Lola Morris. Lola exhibits open-mindedness by accepting everyone in class. She is objective, always willing to try new things and loves to explore. We're always impressed by the way she treats her classmates, her teacher and her school. Congratulations, Lola!



Ophir Middle School Student of the Month - Amelia Fischer, seventh grade

An open-minded classmate makes a terrific group member, class member and friend. Amelia Fischer is that classmate. She's receptive to the ideas and opinions of others, while not prejudging her peers. This doesn't mean she has no beliefs or opinions of her own, just that she listens to what others have to say, including her teachers. You won't hear her shouting her opinions before others can open their mouths. Congratulations to Amelia, our student of the month.



3-4 Students of the Month - Finn McRae, third grade; Colter Smit, fourth grade

Finn is not only open-minded in his pursuit of knowledge, but also demonstrates this skill when working with peers of all ages. Finn is committed to furthering his success as a student and learner, and is open to the ideas and opinions of teachers, students, and other resources that help him in his pursuit of knowledge. Finn is willing to see all sides and work with his peers to foster relationships, and respectfully communicates differences in thought while still being open to his classmates' perspectives.



Lone Peak High School Student of the Month- Anna Alvin, 10th grade

Anna consistently demonstrates a positive outlook on life and an extraordinary openness to ideas, beyond their initial introductions. She digs in, sticks with them, and explores them deeply on all fronts. Whether it's picking up a saxophone for the first time or singing second soprano in the a cappella group, she has a proven track record of maintaining an open mind. When it comes to the written word, Anna excels. While drafting, editing and revising, she is more than willing to accept and ask for help.



A student who demonstrates respect for the opinions and suggestions of others is open-minded, and the fourth grader who practices these life skills and qualities is Colter Smit. Students who make positive comments whether or not they agree with others' ideas are open-minded, and Colter truly understands that everyone may like different things for different reasons. He appreciates cultural differences and others' needs, and is open to new ideas and perspectives.

Even when she has an established idea for a story or essay, she keeps options open for the possibility of change. We're very happy to give this award to such a deserving student. Continue to be open-minded, Anna, and your infectious personality will rub off on others.



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THE RAM'S HORN



BY DUSTIN SHIPMAN
BSSD SUPERINTENDENT

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

The third quarter ends March 31, which means the end of the school year is right around the corner. In this column, I'll address our strategic plan from the perspective of governance and community outreach.

Montanans believe strongly in local government and local control of issues that directly impact the residents of their communities – this is especially true in school districts. In Montana, all school district residents elect a board of trustees to govern their schools.

District trustees have many responsibilities and one of the most important is hiring the superintendent. A school board must be able to hold one employee accountable to execute the district's vision, and the superintendent is the only employee the trustees evaluate.

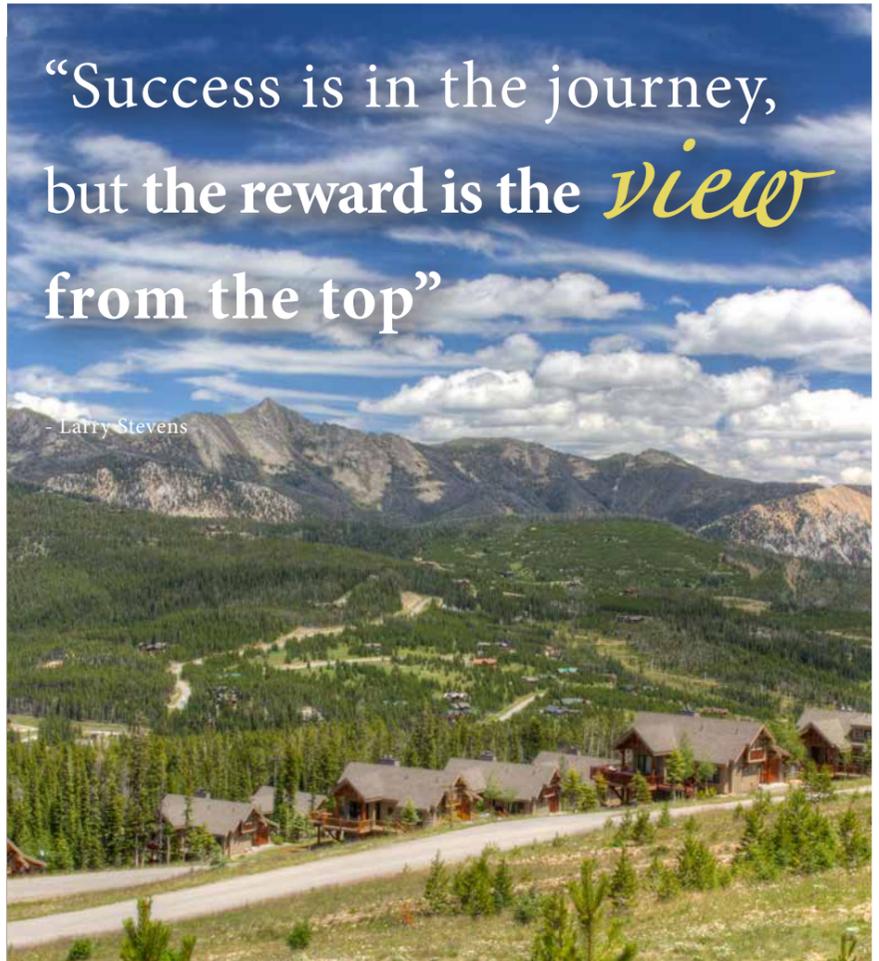
They also approve a budget that accomplishes the district's goals. The school funding formula in Montana is a moving target since schools in the state receive funding based almost exclusively on enrollment. This changes yearly, especially in resort communities like Big Sky.

The trustees are responsible for the facilities where students receive their education, and facility funding in Montana comes almost entirely from local property taxes. Montana currently ranks near the bottom nationally in the contribution of state government to school construction and repair.

District trustees are also tasked with hiring and dismissing staff. According to state law, a majority vote by the board is required for a staff member to be hired or dismissed.

Lastly, the trustees must cultivate a collaborative relationship with their superintendent. Trustees may seek guidance from the superintendent and rely heavily on administration recommendations to collectively make formal decisions.

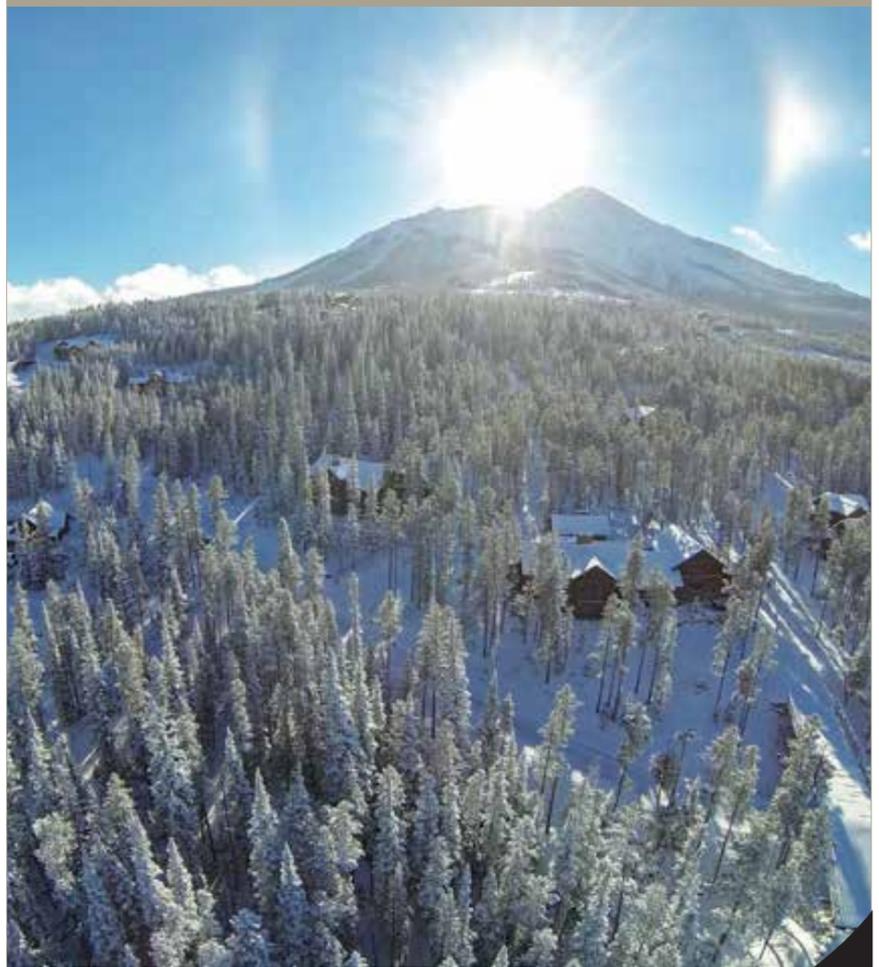
In the continued interest of transparency and community relations, the Big Sky School District board will host a Q-and-A following their March 21 board meeting. The regular meeting will start at 3:30 p.m. in the Ophir Elementary School cafeteria, with the forum to follow. I hope to see you there.



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but the reward is the *view*
from the top"

- Larry Stevens

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3 Rivers Annual Membership Meeting

If you are unable to attend, you can watch the meeting on the Internet at www.3rivers.net or on your 3RTV local access channel.

Monday, March 21, 2016
Fairfield Community Hall

Registration begins at 10:30am
Lunch 11:30am - 1:00pm
Business Meeting 1:00pm

Fairfield office closed 11am to 3pm
Conrad, Big Sky & Shelby offices
and Browning Radio Shack will be open



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BIG SKY VS. BOZEMAN

Designed by Meredith Carsley

The cost of mountain living

EVERYDAY COSTS

BIG SKY  BOZEMAN

A TANK OF GAS
\$21.48  **\$20.28**

A GALLON OF MILK
\$4.39  **\$2.79**

A LOAF OF BREAD
\$4.49  **\$3.69**

A DOZEN EGGS
\$3.99  **\$2.79**

LETTUCE COSTS

3X MORE
 IN BIG SKY

A TUBE OF TOOTHPASTE
\$2.99  **\$2.78**

WOMAN'S HAIR CUT
\$46  **\$13**

A CUP OF COFFEE
\$1.75  **\$1.50**



A 6-PACK OF RED LODGE ALE'S BENT NAIL IPA
\$8.99 ○ **\$7.99**

BIG SKY'S COST OF LIVING INDEX IS

15% HIGHER

THAN IN BOZEMAN

DINING

BIG SKY  BOZEMAN 

Margirita Pizza
 Ousel & Spur Pizza Co. **\$16**
 Pizza Campana **\$9**

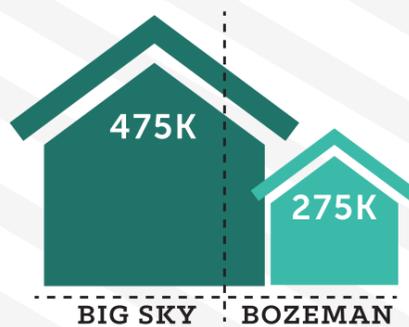
Chicken Pad Thai
 Lotus Pad **\$14**
 Rice Thai **\$13**

Burger
 BYWOM **\$13**
 Open Range **\$14**

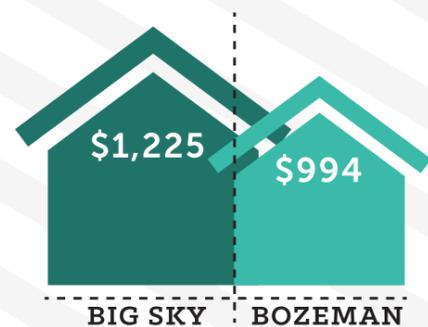
Two Eggs, Bacon & Toast
 Bugaboo Cafe **\$8**
 The Nova Cafe **\$8.50**

HOUSING COSTS

MEDIAN HOUSE COST
 single family home



AVERAGE RENTAL COST
 single & 2-bedrooms



COST OF HOUSING
 compared to the national average



BIG SKY

Jackson, WY 161% Higher
 Driggs, ID 1% Lower
 New York, NY 131% Higher



BOZEMAN

HOUSING IN BIG SKY IS

50% MORE

THAN IN BOZEMAN

Sources: The Big Sky and Bozeman Montana cost of living data displayed above is derived from the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER) for the fourth quarter of 2015 and provided by MLS.

Big Sky resort tax update Funds to be distributed in June

BIG SKY RESORT AREA DISTRICT

The Big Sky Resort Tax Board reports the following highlights from the district's fiscal year that ended in June 2015:

- 2015 gross taxable sales were up 11 percent over 2014.
- 2015 tax collections were the highest in the history of the resort tax.
- Tax collections for 2015-2016 remain strong.

In 2015, the Resort Tax Board appropriated \$3.8 million to 25 applicants. These resort tax dollars provide Big Sky its primary funding for essential community services such as emergency, safety, transportation, parks and trails, the arts, and tourism development.

During the application process, the board asks applicants to project their needs over a three-year period. This helps the board plan for the future. In the past three years, the board also created a sinking fund of \$1.3 million to serve as a reserve for upcoming large projects.

In 2012, the Resort Tax Board completed a strategic planning session to ensure that 20 years from now, when a projected \$100 million of

resort tax funds have been invested back into Big Sky, that it has accomplished what was important to the vitality and growth of the community.

With two new board members recently elected – Heather Budd in 2013 and Kevin Germain in 2015 – since the strategic planning session, it became necessary to review the guidelines established in 2012 and revisions were completed in February. Applicants are encouraged to look at the following revised guidelines when completing their applications for resort tax funds:

1. Does the project benefit the community at large including residents, visitors and tax collectors/the business community?
2. Does the project promote tourism development, help make Big Sky a world-class resort community and increase the visitor experience, and/or increase resort tax revenue?
3. Does the project represent a game changer for the community?
4. Does the project support, improve or maintain critical infrastructure, public health, safety and/or welfare in this world-class community?
5. Does the project involve collaboration among entities in the community to meet common goals?

The Resort Tax Board invites the entire community to be part of the resort tax appropriation process. On May 5, all applications will be posted at resorttax.org. Review the applications and learn what Big Sky's organizations are seeking to accomplish.

At the June 6 Q-and-A meeting, witness the interactive process between the Resort Tax Board and the applicants as they further clarify funding requests. At the June 20 meeting, up to \$5 million in resort tax funds will be appropriated.

Mark your calendar:

Monday, June 6 at 1 p.m. – Q-and-A
Monday, June 20 at 6 p.m. – Final appropriations (note the time change from 1 p.m.)

Both meetings will be held in the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.

This funding for Big Sky's future would not be possible without the businesses that collect Resort Tax.

Visit resorttax.org for more information, or contact the Big Sky Resort Area District office at (406) 995-3234 or info@resorttax.org.

Panel to discuss additional Gallatin wilderness

MONTANANS FOR GALLATIN WILDERNESS

A group has proposed an unbroken, 548,000-acre Gallatin Range Wilderness and will host a panel discussion in the Bozeman Public Library on Thursday, March 31 from 7-9 p.m.

“Your Wild Backyard: A Conservation Strategy for the Gallatin Range” is the topic of the public discussion sponsored by Montanans for Gallatin Wilderness. The informal citizens group consists mostly of Gallatin and Park counties residents.

The proposal for the Gallatin Range Wilderness includes all of the remaining roadless lands in the Gallatin National Forest portion of its eponymous mountains, plus contiguous lands in Yellowstone National Park – this 229,000-acre wildland is the groups' primary focus at this time. The Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area, which extends west to Big Sky, encompasses about 150,000 acres of this national forest roadless area.

The discussion will be a participatory event, with a Q-and-A session following the panelists' presentations. The panel consists of world-renowned Bozeman wildlife ecologist Dr. Lance Craighead; equally prominent bear biologist Dr. David Mattson of Livingston; Bozeman-based conservationist, wilderness advocate and author Phil Knight; retired Forest Service biologist and conservation activist Dr. Sara Jane Johnson of Three Forks; and Sierra Club Organizing Representative Kiersten Iwai of Bozeman.

Longtime Montana wilderness guide and author Howie Wolke of Park County will moderate the panel.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NPS

“Gallatin Range Wilderness is important for maintaining wildness and biodiversity in the Yellowstone Ecosystem,” Wolke said. “This is world-class wildlife habitat supporting species that are sensitive to human intrusion.”

Wolke added that half of the mountain range north of Yellowstone has already been developed and is open to mechanized transportation. “Many people feel that what's left should be protected as designated Wilderness,” he said.

For more information, contact Nancy Ostlie at (406) 556-8118; Howie Wolke at (406) 848-7000; or Phil Knight at (406) 209-4727.

Yellowstone bison sent to slaughter as park trims herd

BY MATTHEW BROWN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

GARDINER, Mont. (AP) – Yellowstone National Park started shipping many of its famous wild bison to slaughter March 9 to drive down the size of the park's herds and respond to concerns by the livestock industry over a disease carried by the animals.

Thirty animals have been shipped to slaughterhouses, and officials planned to send an additional 63 in the following days. The bison were weighed and tested for disease for research purposes, and the remaining animals were crowded into holding pens to await shipment.

The park's actions are driven by an agreement in 2000 with Montana officials that requires it to control its bison herds. The meat will be distributed to American Indian tribes that traditionally subsisted on bison.

"Nobody here wants to be doing this," park spokeswoman Jody Lyle said after the bison were prodded into trailers for shipment. "It's time for a change."

About 150 of the animals have been captured this winter trying to migrate out of the park in search of food at lower elevations in Montana. Ranchers worry about bison infected with brucellosis, a disease that can cause cattle to abort their young.

There have been no recorded bison-to-cattle transmissions of brucellosis, and critics say the slaughters are unnecessary. Captured bison that test negative for it are not spared.

"This is not OK. It's really that simple," said Stephany Seay with the Buffalo Field Campaign, a bison advocacy group.

Rick Lamplugh said he moved last May from Oregon to the small town of Gardiner, at the northern entrance to the park, in large part for the wildlife viewing opportunities. The park and state agencies need rethink their policies on bison so they can be "treated like any other wildlife," he said.

Tens of millions of bison, also known as buffalo, once roamed North America. Commercial hunting drove the species to near-extinction in the late 1800s before conservationists – including former President Theodore Roosevelt – intervened when only dozens were left.

Yellowstone is home to one of the few remaining wild populations. Millions of tourists visit the park each year to see the animals, a top attraction at the nation's first national park. The animals also are the symbol of the National Park Service.

Since the 1980s, worry over brucellosis has prompted the killing of about 8,200 park bison, most of them sent to slaughter. In recent years, state, federal and tribal agencies have tried to emphasize public hunts that occur just outside the park's boundaries.

Hunters so far this winter have killed more than 400 of the animals, said Andrea Jones with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. That's the most since 1989. The vast majority were shot by members of American Indian tribes that have treaty hunting rights in the Yellowstone region.

Detracting from the hunt's success has been an unprecedented number of animals that were merely wounded and retreated to the park after being shot.

Up to 50 wounded bison were killed by state and federal wildlife agents, Jones said.

The park had 4,900 bison at last count, well above the 3,000 dictated under the agreement. Park officials set a goal this year of removing 600 to 900 of the animals. More shipments to slaughter are possible in coming weeks if large groups of bison move into Montana, although a mild winter has reduced this year's migration compared with previous years.

During the past decade, Montana Gov. Steve Bullock and his predecessor moved to allow bison into areas adjacent to the park. Yellowstone administrators have supported those efforts, but they say they are bound under the 2000 agreement to keep the bison herds in check.

Alternatives – such as transferring some Yellowstone bison to lands outside the park – are under consideration but unlikely to take effect soon. Park workers are holding back from slaughter 57 bison calves and yearlings for potential future placement elsewhere if the opportunity arises, park spokeswoman Amy Bartlett said.

If that doesn't happen, the animals will be slaughtered, she said.

Shooting restriction begins in Hyalite drainage

CUSTER GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

BOZEMAN – The Custer Gallatin National Forest on April 20 will implement an expanded interim target shooting restriction in Hyalite Canyon to address public safety issues and resource management concerns.

The restriction will remain in place yearlong, includes all of the Hyalite drainage south of Bozeman – approximately 34,000 acres – but will not affect hunting. Target shooting is an appropriate use of public land in areas where it can be done safely and there are more than 3 million acres of the Custer Gallatin National Forest where people may continue target shooting.

The Hyalite drainage receives more than 40,000 visitors monthly in the summer, over 20,000 monthly visitors in the winter, and is the most heavily recreated drainage on national forest lands in the state. Within the closure area there are 475 developed recreation sites, 185 dispersed camping sites, approximately 70 miles of trails and 65 miles of roads. The narrow geography of this glaciated valley; the density of roads and trails, as well as developed and undeveloped sites; and the volume of people who recreate here make it unsafe to target shoot.

The amount of trash, resource damage and property damage left behind by target shooters is also inconsistent with national forest management.

"Our highest priority for national forest management is always human health and safety. I feel that this closure to target shooting is absolutely critical to provide for that safety and addresses the increasing number of close calls and concerns people have experienced," said Bozeman District Ranger Lisa Stoeffler. "No one wants to inadvertently injure someone else while enjoying an afternoon of target shooting."

Target shooting is defined as any shooting other than in pursuit of game and includes paint ball guns. This closure does not limit your ability to carry or possess a legal firearm, and the Forest Service recognizes the importance for a future public input process. This interim order helps address immediate public safety and resource management concerns until a public process and further analysis is complete.

For more information, contact the Bozeman Ranger District at (406) 522-2520, the Custer Gallatin Supervisor's Office at (406) 587-6701, or visit fs.usda.gov/custergallatin.



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Arch Coal suspends plans for major new mine in Montana

BY MATTHEW BROWN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) – Arch Coal suspended its application for a major mine in southeastern Montana on March 10, two months after the mining giant filed for bankruptcy protection and amid broader struggles for the coal industry that have reversed its once-bright prospects in the state.

The St. Louis-based company cited a weak coal market, a shortage of capital and an uncertain permitting outlook in announcing it was suspending the proposed Otter Creek mine.

The move marks a major blow to longstanding efforts to expand mining in the Powder River Basin along the Montana-Wyoming border, the nation's largest coal-producing region. Arch invested at least \$159 million to acquire coal leases in the area.

“Arch can no longer devote the time, capital and resources required to develop a coal mine on the Otter Creek reserve,” the company said in a news release.

When fully developed, the mine would have extracted up to 20 million tons of coal annually from state-owned and private leases south of Ashland in Powder River County. The fuel was to be sold domestically and in overseas markets.

Plans to build a \$400 million railroad to the mine site were put on hold indefinitely last year.

The loss of the two projects for now sinks hopes of a coal-fueled economic boom in southeastern Montana, a largely agriculture region that has failed to attract

mining on the scale of the massive strip mines just to the south in Wyoming.

A 2012 economic impact study of Otter Creek paid for by the Montana Contractors Association said it would have generated hundreds of high-paying jobs and \$91 million in annual tax revenues.

But the proposal – already more than three years behind schedule – faced strong opposition from nearby landowners, members of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and conservation groups such as the Northern Plains Resource Council and Sierra Club.

They warned a mine would industrialize rural communities and threaten water supplies relied on for irrigation.

“The ranching economy and culture out there is really strong, and we didn’t want that to change,” said Dawson Dunning, whose family operates a ranch along Otter Creek. “It would turn that land from agriculture to open-pit mining.”

Powder River County Commissioner Darold Zimmer said he expects the coal in the area to be developed eventually by another company if not Arch. Zimmer blamed resistance from environmentalists and the Northern Cheyenne for killing the project.

Political reverberations from Thursday’s announcement could help shape the 2016 election. Montana Gov. Steve Bullock defended his administration’s handling of the company’s application, after state environmental regulators last year raised concerns over Otter Creek’s potential to harm local water supplies.

Those worries prompted the Montana Department of Environmental Quality to tell Arch representatives in March 2015 they needed to submit more information before the application could advance.

Arch said in the March 10 news release that the process “had taken longer than anticipated.” Department of Environmental Quality Director Tom Livers said it was up to Arch to take the next step. Republican Greg Gianforte, who hopes to challenge Bullock this fall, accused the Democratic governor of refusing to issue a permit to Arch. But Bullock said the problems facing the coal industry stretch beyond Montana and reinforced the need for a responsible approach to developing the state’s energy resources.

The Otter Creek leases hold an estimated 1.5 billion tons of coal.

The Montana Land Board sold the public mineral leases involved in the mine proposal to Arch Coal in 2010 for \$86 million. The company paid \$73 million for adjacent leases from Great Northern Properties, a Houston-based company that holds coal reserves throughout the western U.S.

What will happen to those leases is uncertain. Arch spokeswoman Logan Bonacorsi did not immediately respond to questions from The Associated Press. The company boasts the second largest coal reserves in the U.S. but was driven into bankruptcy after amassing billions of dollars in debt.

Otter Creek’s critics said the company’s permitting delays offered a convenient excuse for a project that no longer made economic sense. Demand for coal has plummeted in the past several years amid competition from cheap natural gas and increased reliance on renewable energies to generate electricity.



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Section 2:
SPORTS, HEALTH, &
ENVIRONMENT



Headwaters comp showcases Big Sky Resort's rowdy terrain

STORY AND PHOTOS BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY - More than 100 skiers and snowboarders tested their wits and skills in Big Sky Resort's expert north side terrain March 12-13 during the 11th annual Headwaters Spring Runoff.

Nearly 80 junior competitors, ages 18 and younger, competed in Saturday's qualifiers in the Obsidian area for an opportunity to move on to the Sunday finals. The young rippers took advantage of Obsidian's large drops and fast snow conditions to put on an impressive show for the judges and spectators watching from the bottom of the venue.

Approximately half of the juniors were selected to compete on Sunday, and event organizers moved the competition to the heart of the Headwaters Cirque. Both the adults and junior finalists were given one run in Zone 3, or the Three Forks area, with options to exit the bottom through The Elbow, DTM or Dead Goat.

"I was thrilled that [the venue] was in Zone 3 this year," said Erik Morrison, a longtime Runoff competitor who took 11th in the men's snowboard division. "It was really nice to see a slight change of venue and have the Headwaters competition on new lines. I'd like to continue to see more variety in terrain selection and features."

The top of Three Forks was mostly hardpack after the juniors were given an inspection run before the adult competition - but with a few inches of new snow and filtered sunshine throughout the day, the bottom of the venue was in great shape for big airs and screaming straight-lines into the apron. Morrison was especially impressed with how hard the juniors attacked the venue.

"It is the next generation that's coming up of Big Sky freeriders that gives me hope for the future of the Headwaters Spring Runoff," he said. "The strength and numbers of the juniors coming up will make it so the [competition] lasts for many years to come."

Adult top three results

WOMEN SKI

1. Missy Simula
2. Helen Paris
3. Danielle Menter

WOMEN SNOWBOARD

Leah Bothamley (only competitor)

MEN SKI

1. Maxwell Mackenzie
2. Jeremy Thornton
3. Daniel Bartzick

MEN SNOWBOARD

1. Paul Rumore
2. Josh Katz
3. Trevor Harapat

Junior ages 15-18 top three results

FEMALE SKI

1. Gracely Speth
2. Maria Lovely
3. Avery Beg

MALE SKI

1. Parkin Costain
2. Frank Menolascino
3. Johnny Egan

MALE SNOWBOARD

1. Ryan Hutton
2. Holden Samuels
3. Will Mercer



Top left: Chad Wilkinson airs into Third Fork on his way to a fourth place finish in the men's ski division. Top right: Josh Katz attempting to reach orbit during his second-place run in the men's snowboard division. Bottom: Regan Teat speeds by the talus in the Headwaters Cirque.

Holden Samuels bringing some heat, and a powder cloud, out of The Elbow and into the apron.

Three LPHS players earn All-Conference honors

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – District coaches have recognized one Big Horn and two Lady Big Horns for their talent, leadership and hustle on the basketball court this past season. All three have been named First Team All-Conference.

It's repeat recognition for the trio – last year, Eddie Starz was named Second Team All-Conference, Dasha Bough was named First Team All-Conference, and this is the third consecutive year Luisa Locker has earned All-Conference honors.

Each of the district's 22 coaches nominates players from their own teams for recognition and a list of these players is reviewed during a coaches meeting at the district tournament. Lone Peak High School head coaches Nubia Allen and Al Malinowski had the opportunity to advocate for each of their nominees.

Each coach then compiles a list of 22 players from other teams, and the athletes accrue points based on their relative positions on each list. Coaches can't vote for their own players. The points are tallied, and the top 11 players are named First Team All-Conference, with the balance rounding out the Second Team.

Starz, a junior guard, set a number of LPHS scoring records this season, including most career

points (827), most points in a season (434), most points in a game (39), and most free-throw points in a season (85). He broke several of his own records from last season.

Starz's scoring reached double digits every game this season, and he scored 20 or more points in 10 games. Malinowski said he's pleased with Starz's ability to consistently put points on the board, as well as the leadership he demonstrated over the course of the season.

"He made sure that if his teammates were open, they got the ball," Malinowski said. "That's what made our overall team development stronger and [Starz] showed that he was willing to take on more of a leadership role this season besides just being our leading scorer."

Malinowski also highlighted Starz's contributions in other aspects of the game, noting that his defense has improved and an average of 6.5 rebounds per game is impressive for a guard who takes a lot of outside shots. He also led the Big Horns in steals.

Junior guard Dasha Bough led the Lady Big Horns in scoring this season with an average of 11.4 points per game. She's a well-rounded scorer, making shots from the perimeter as well as in the paint.

"She can do it all," Allen said. "She can penetrate, she can shoot the three and she can shoot the mid-range jumper."

Allen added that other coaches in the district have been impressed by Bough's determination. "I've never seen someone as competitive as her," Allen said.

Bough is also an ace free-throw shooter – she made 69 percent of her shots from the foul line this season.

Junior point guard Luisa Locker led the Lady Big Horns in steals this season with an average of three per game and was the second leading scorer, averaging 10 points per game.

"She has a high IQ for the game," Allen said. "She's a good passer and an excellent penetrator. And she can shoot the three."

Allen noted that she made the Lady Big Horns' final basket of the season, a 3-pointer that brought LPHS to within one point in their 57-56 loss to Shields Valley at the district tournament.

"She has progressed as a true leader," Allen said. "When she's on, she's on, and the whole team is going to feed off of that."

Both teams are looking strong going into next season. The Big Horns will lose just one player to graduation and the Lady Big Horns didn't have any seniors on their roster this year.

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EYE ON THE BALL

NFL free agency winners



BY BRANDON NILES
EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

The NFL year begins every March with a flurry of activity. With player contracts ending, teams scramble to re-sign current stars and bring in veterans from other teams in the hopes of improving their rosters. Within hours, the biggest names are already claimed and teams are forced to develop new strategies at key positions.

This year, free agency was highlighted by impact defenders being rewarded handsomely in the wake of the Super Bowl, which featured two dominant defenses.

However, not all signings are equal. History suggests teams that sign big names for high dollar amounts are usually left with buyer's remorse. There's an old adage that available players are available for a reason, and when there's a bidding war for the services of these available athletes, the risk is often greater than the reward.

With that in mind, here are a few of the teams that did well in the first few days of free agency, either by not spending too much money, or by acquiring significant talent with the money they did spend.

Baltimore Ravens

The Ravens quietly approached free agency with the same deft maneuvering that has made them one of the best run organizations in sports over the past two decades. The Ravens elected not to outbid other teams to retain the services of stellar guard Kelechi Osemele, instead signing former San Diego Chargers safety Eric Weddle to a reasonable four-year deal, averaging under \$7 million per season. The 31-year-old Weddle is a Pro Bowl caliber player at a position of need for the Ravens.

Oakland Raiders

The Raiders spent money, but they were so far under the salary cap it's hard to blame them. They shored up their offensive line with the addition of Osemele, and signed pass rusher Bruce Irvin away from the Seattle Seahawks. They also poached cornerback Sean Smith from division rival the Kansas City Chiefs. Irvin is an athletic playmaker who will pair well with standout line-backer Khalil Mack, and Smith is a tall, physical corner who upgrades the Raider secondary.

New York Giants

The Giants signed former Miami Dolphin defensive end and budding star Olivier Vernon. They also brought in run-stuffing nose tackle Damon "Snacks" Harrison from the New York Jets, and cornerback Janoris Jenkins from the Los Angeles Rams. The Giants spent nearly \$194 million

on this trio of defenders in a quest to improve a defense that last season ranked dead last in yards allowed. While that's a lot of money to spend on three players, none are older than 27 and each fills an area of need on the defense.

Houston Texans

Houston took the biggest risk by signing Denver Broncos quarterback Brock Osweiler to a massive four-year, \$72 million contract. Osweiler, 25, completed more than 61 percent of his passes for the Broncos last season while Peyton Manning was hurt. Houston was ousted in the first round of the last season's playoffs behind a four-interception performance from quarterback Brian Hoyer. The Texans also signed former Dolphins running back Lamar Miller to improve the ground game. Miller, 25, is an excellent signing and a breakaway threat every time he touches the ball.

The Texans and Giants certainly made bold moves that could backfire in the long run, but I like gambling on talented young players that upgrade positions of need. Free agency is an ongoing process, but the big names that switched teams over the course of the past few weeks will be what shape the upcoming NFL draft, and the 2016 season.

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.

PHOTO BY MATTHEW MILLMAN

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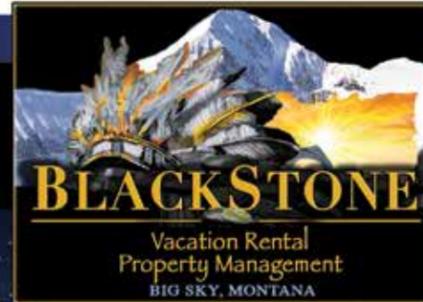
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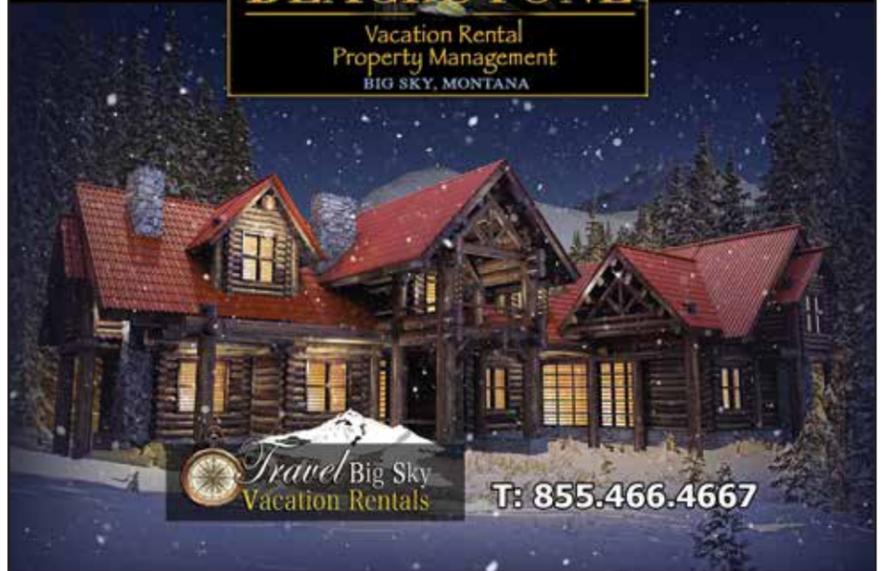
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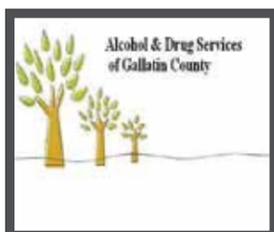
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Fur fashion

Bozeman company makes bison wearable

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Still sinewy with flesh and matted with dirt and dung, 27 bison pelts are stretched taut on large custom frames in Jennifer Olsson's Bozeman backyard.

Once the hides are thoroughly dried by the sun, Olsson begins the long process of transforming the thick, downy bison fibers into wearable garments that rival the softness and warmth of fine wool. She sells her creations – hats, sweaters, mittens, scarves and boot warmers – under the no-frills label Montana Sweater Co.

Before Olsson removes the fur from the hide with industrial power shears, she combs it out, the first in an arduous, multi-step process of cleaning and preparing the raw fibers to be spun into yarn that can be knitted into garments.

"I call it the bison beauty parlor," Olsson said, burying her hands in the surprisingly thick, cushiony fur. "They've never looked as good as they do when I'm done with them."

Olsson collects her hides from several Montana bison ranchers. If she didn't utilize the hides – which weigh close to 175 pounds when fresh – they would end up in the dump. Bison can't be sheared while alive because they don't like to be touched. Doing so raises their stress hormones, ruining their meat for consumption.

"It allows me to get close to an animal I can't pet while alive," said Olsson, who began researching the viability of knitting with bison fibers after spending a day in Yellowstone National Park with



A Montana Sweater Co. scarf, one of many bison fur products offered by the Bozeman company. PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTANA SWEATER CO.



Jennifer Olsson demonstrates how she uses industrial power shears to remove bison fur from each hide, once the sun dries the hides. PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI

her Swedish mother-in-law. Olsson learned the basics of the craft from the Eva Olsson in 2005.

"I know it sounds weird, but I started to feel an affection toward the hides and sort of started talking to them," Olsson said. "For me, it's like they're not dead; they're living on again in the way I use the fiber and the fur."

Once the fur is removed from the skin – which she sells to a local tanner who processes it into leather – she cleans it in a washing machine reserved solely for the bison fur, soaking and rinsing it repeatedly until the water runs clear. After it air dries but prior to washing it, the fibers spend time in a custom built tumbler that removes any remaining grit and dust.

Olsson sends the clean fur to a Michigan mill – one of the only out-of-state companies she works with – that separates the coarse from the fine fibers. The finest, which come from the underfur is similar to cashmere, and will be used for her highest, most delicate "lace grade" scarves or shawls. The coarsest fibers will be worked into felted wool, with many grades in between.

Once separated, Olsson's fibers return to the Gallatin Valley, specifically to Thirteen Mile Lamb and Wool Company, an organic sheep farm and mill in Belgrade that spins Olsson's bison fibers into yarn.

Bison fibers, because they are so short – about 1.5 inches at the longest – have to be blended with other natural fibers before Olsson can knit with them.

"You'd be like a shedding cat if you tried to go with 100 percent bison," Olsson said. She blends her bison fiber with varying amounts of Montana alpaca, llama and sheep fibers to create her line of yarn Montana Bison Wool.

"I'm very proud that almost all of what I do is done in Montana, and all of it in the USA," Olsson said. "Literally from the ground up, from the ranch to the mills, processed and then knit here by me. That to me is a huge selling point."

Most Montana Sweater Co. garments and accessories come in slight variations of natural



Olsson creates some colorfully whimsical pieces, such as her felt appliqué "boot blankets" PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTANA SWEATER CO.

bison brown. The thought of dyeing the fibers is nothing short of absurd to Olsson. The natural color also appeals to the men who comprise her most loyal clientele: fishermen in Alaska, Chicago construction workers, steel mill workers in Indiana, and recently a group of research scientists in Antarctica.

One of the designs she is most proud of is her "multi-mitt," a versatile finger-free mitten whose popular design grew out of her desire as a world class fly fisher for a glove you never have to take off.

Olsson does create some colorfully whimsical pieces though, such as her felt appliqué "boot blankets" that wrap below the knee and clasp with carved elk bone buttons. Attempting to use as much of the animal hide as possible, Olsson is also working on a new design of elegant fur neck collars made from velvet, bone and the tail of the bison.

Olsson's Montana Bison Wool yarns and extensive line of bison fiber clothing and accessories can be found at montanasweaterco.com.



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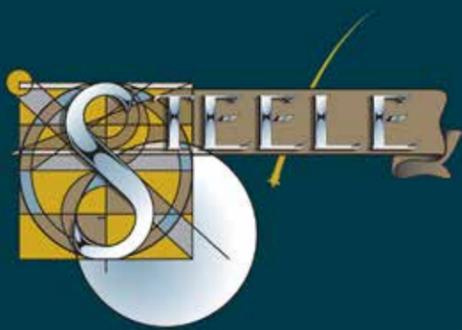
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The children are our future



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

A chef's world is often filled with challenges. But mentoring the young people of today about the prospects of becoming future chefs is not one of them.

While it's true chefs can get caught up in their own windowless, stainless steel, overheated world, we also enjoy the times when we get to step into the light and spend time with the young people who will become our next generation's workforce.

Given that the hospitality industry is the nation's largest trade, statistically, several students will find themselves employed in a restaurant or hotel in some form or another. So on March 8, I had the honor of acting as one of the chef judges for the Montana Prostart competition, held this year in Bozeman.

Founded in 1987, Prostart is a foundation of the National Restaurant Association. Prostart is a two-year program with a mission to educate, mentor, and inspire high school students in the restaurant and hospitality industry.

The program has more than 118,000 students in 1,700 schools in all 50 states. Montana currently has 18 programs across the state, an impressive statistic when you consider we have approximately 1 million residents. Compare this percentage with California, which has just under 40 million residents and 100 Prostart programs statewide.

This annual competition allows students bragging rights, but it's also the only event in a year-round program that fully immerses these young cooks in the culinary world. For the second year in a row, I joined a plethora of chefs from around the state to judge the state competition here in Montana.

The students are asked to prepare three dishes: a starter, an entrée and a dessert. They have one hour and just two butane burners on which to produce these three courses. I was a floor judge last year, but as a tasting judge this year's competition, in the dessert category alone, two teams put out perfectly moist, structured cakes that some pastry chefs couldn't duplicate even with expensive ovens.

Initially, the students spend months planning, discussing, and practicing their dishes. They decide on a menu first, usually trying to focus their three dishes on a theme: Italian, French, southeast Asian, or American, to name a few.

Next, they come up with dish ideas, while keeping in mind they have no running water and a mere two-butane burner cooking station for the allotted 60 minutes. When possible, restaurants like Buck's T-4 Lodge invite students from the area to visit and spend a day with us. And, like sponge cakes being doused in sweet liqueur, these kids soak up the information we offer with fervor.

Besides the gratification of seeing these young people blossom into hardworking adults, the hidden bonus is coming together with other chefs from around Montana to mentor these youths. The camaraderie and respect is simply tremendous.

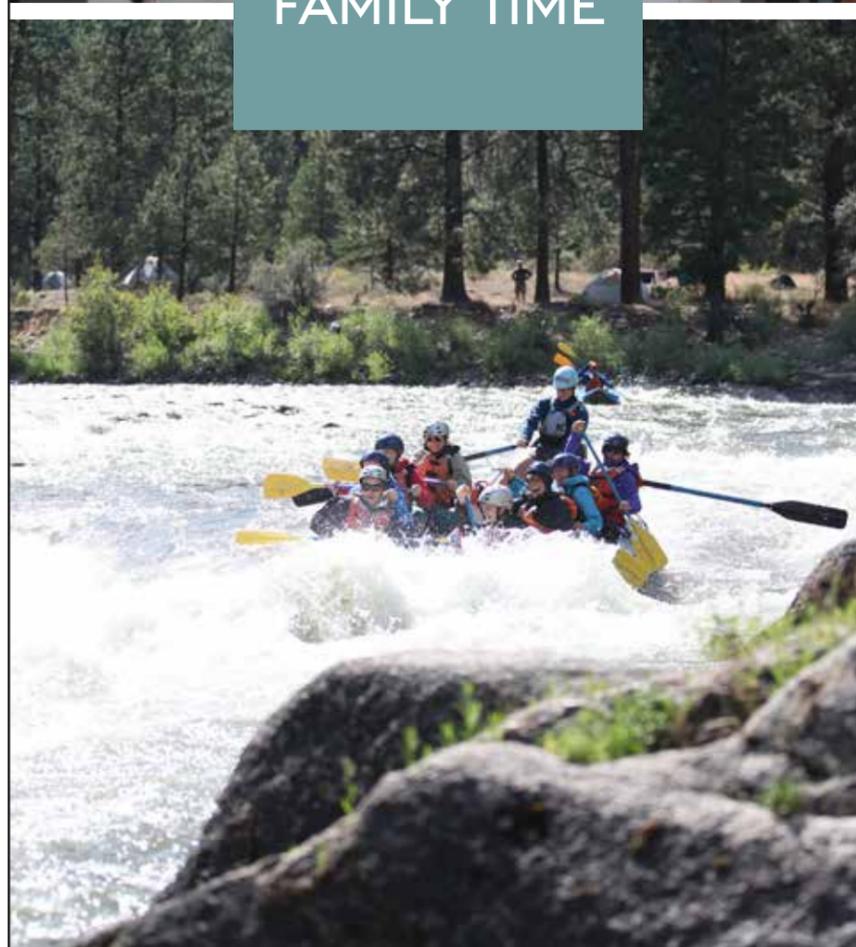
Personally, I was able to catch up with many colleagues, and exchange stories, anecdotes and jokes.

I feel fortunate to be part of an industry that mentors young people to this degree and allows them to see the fruits of their labors.

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



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From Jackie *with love* Dietary fats trending now



BY JACKIE RAINFORD
CORCORAN
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

For readers who grew up learning about nutrition from the Food Pyramid, you might recall that at its base we were advised to eat six to 11 servings of bread, cereal, rice

and pasta. At the pyramid's top we were told to consume fats, oils and sweets sparingly.

Wow things have changed! In today's nutrition news good fats (including nuts, seeds, fish and avocados) are in, and refined carbohydrates (like flour based and sweetened foods and drinks) are out. A growing population of Americans is turning to a "ketogenic diet" where fats are the majority of food intake.

What happened? Why are we turning the Food Pyramid upside down?

While I'm still sifting through the science behind this new "fat is healthy" way of thinking – although some scientists and advocates have been claiming the health benefits of fats and toxicity of refined carbs since the 1950s – I'm grateful

that we're making radical and scientifically based shifts in food recommendations. The guidelines of the last several decades are clearly backfiring.

Currently, one in three American children are overweight or obese. The journal *Diabetes Care* calls type 2 diabetes "the emerging epidemic" and 31 percent of our total population is considered obese, with that number predicted to increase to 43 percent by 2018 if we stay on this course.

The food recommendations we've been following – high carb and low fat dieting – is one of the main culprits of our current state of health. When we consume refined carbs such as bread, pasta, chips, soft drinks and alcohol, our blood sugar levels spike. High blood sugar is toxic to the body so the pancreas releases insulin (a fat storage hormone) to clear out the sugar we're not using for fuel. Then it is biochemically converted into a fatty acid and stored in our fat cells, resulting in weight gain.

If we eat refined carbs throughout each day, week after week, year after year, the chronically overworked pancreas can begin to fail, leading to type 2 diabetes. When we eat fats however, blood sugar is not affected and therefore insulin is not released.

The argument against eating fat used to be that it has 9 calories per gram while carbs and protein only have 4 calories per gram. If we're operating under the outdated model of "a calorie is a calorie" and that we simply gain and lose weight by how many calories we consume and burn, it stands to reason that we should eat less fat because it's clearly more calorie dense.

Thankfully, we are getting out of this old paradigm and hopefully by doing so, will begin to turn the eating habits of our country around so we can reverse obesity, diabetes and the other preventable diseases stemming from the Standard American Diet (SAD).

In the next issue of EBS I will discuss high fat diet fads and trends, who they are helping and pitfalls to avoid.

In the meantime, check in with your own body. At each meal or snack, ask yourself how many refined carbohydrates you're eating and notice how your body responds to spikes in your blood sugar.

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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The team at AHL has also created the Architect's Wife, Bozeman's destination for furniture, lighting, and decor. The Architect's Wife services AHL clients, customers in the Gallatin Valley and beyond, and other interior designers and industry professionals looking to snag the perfect piece on the spot.

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DOCTOR'S NOTE

'Boot top' fractures painful, often require surgery



BY DR. JEFF DANIELS
EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

One of the most severe injuries on the ski hill is a fracture of both bones in the lower leg, the tibia and fibula, and we treat an average of two or three per month here in Big Sky.

Because of the rigid nature of ski boots and the forces put on the leg by the weight of the ski and boot during a tumbling or twisting fall, the two bones of the lower leg are very vulnerable to breakage.

This injury is sometimes referred to as a "boot top" fracture. Because of the anatomy of this area and possibility of severe swelling, surgery to fix this fracture is considered an emergency and usually done within 24 hours of the injury.

Adults nearly always require surgery but kids, whose bones are softer, don't experience the same devastating breaks and can often heal just with a cast. Kids' fractures are usually of a spiral nature, whereas adult fractures are like taking a thick branch and breaking it over your knee. Metal rods, plates and screws are needed to hold everything in place after the ends of the bones are realigned.

A more benign lower leg fracture just involves the fibula, the thin bone on the outside of the leg. It starts at the outer side of the knee and ends at the ankle, and if broken in the middle is somewhat painful. But the leg retains its stability because the much thicker tibia remains intact. Casts and crutches are usually unnecessary if the knee and ankle aren't injured. This type of break usually occurs by a simple sideways fall, with the top of the boot pressing into the fibula and snapping it.

When we see a tib-fib fracture in the clinic, our first objective is to x-ray the leg, and then stabilize the fracture with the ski boot off. We make sure that the bones have not punctured through the skin, causing what is called an "open" fracture, which is more serious due to the possibility of infection. However, in my 22 years of experience in Big Sky, I've seen very few open tib-fib fractures.

Getting the ski boot off might be a challenge and pain medication or sedation is sometimes required. We will never try to cut off a ski boot – we did that once and two hours into the process regretted the decision. The room was full of burnt plastic and we couldn't cut through the metal cables effectively. It was a mess.

Once the leg is exposed, we wrap it in fast-drying splinting material to hold it steady, because preventing any movement is the best way to control the pain. Nearly all patients are stable enough to get to an orthopedic surgeon in Bozeman in a private vehicle, avoiding an expensive ambulance ride.

Recovery after surgery takes a couple of months. If the knee and ankle joints aren't involved, full recovery is expected without any long-term problems or effect on athletic ability. Although one might ski a little more cautiously, as would happen after any serious injury. Or you could make skiing down the Big Couloir your proof of recovery.

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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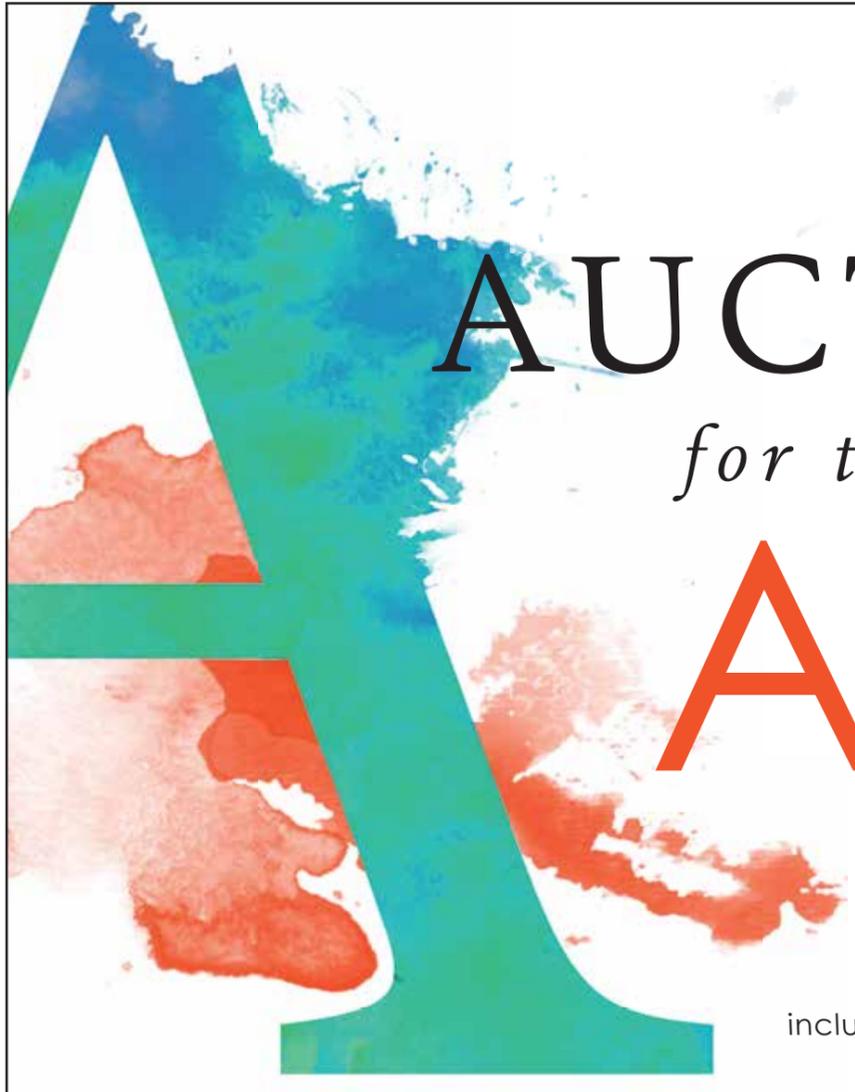
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Is Wildlife Services a rogue agency out of control?



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL
COLUMNIST

What is it with the rural West's devout loathing of coyotes – the culturally reinforced, knee-jerk impulse to

raise the rifle and shoot one from the pick-up for no other reason than it's there?

There's no convincing scientific reason that says the haphazard, indiscriminate mowing down of individual coyotes imparts any lasting benefits for big game prey species or for protection of private livestock on public lands.

Nor is there a biological basis or compelling rationale found in the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation – that guides wildlife management and policies on the continent – for holding coyote derbies.

As a lifelong hunter, I know. Ethical hunting, as it was taught to me, isn't about killing animals out of spite or negative aggression. It's about sustenance (eating what you kill), love of the outdoors, reverence, expressing gratitude (in the West, for public lands) and leading new generations by example.

So what's the anti-coyote thing really about?

Brooks Fahy has invested a lot of time – 30-plus years – ruminating on the topic. No conservationist has devoted more continuous attention to what he calls “America's war on wildlife,” and it has nothing to do with hunting.

The founder of Predator Defense, Fahy says an arm of the federal government few urban Americans have ever heard of leads this war. Wildlife Services, a branch of the Department of Agriculture, is in his words, “a rogue agency out of control.”

Sure, Wildlife Services does some vital work, such as preventing birds from striking passenger

jets landing at commercial airports, rabies control, and repelling pests, such as exotic starlings, that lay waste to farmer's crops.

But Fahy says it's merely cover for Wildlife Service's intensive focus on killing wildlife predators, sometimes using banned or dangerous poisons; gunning animals from airplanes; trapping and snaring carnivores based upon dubious evidence; killing imperiled non-target species; and even accidentally slaying people's pets.

Fahy's award-winning documentary “Exposed: USDA's Secret War on Wildlife” is now free for viewing on YouTube at [youtube.com/watch?v=qSV8pRLkdKI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSV8pRLkdKI), but be forewarned: while the half-hour film sails along, it's tough to stomach the conduct of Wildlife Services illuminated by former employees turned whistleblowers, some of whom lay out damning conduct of the agency's activities in Wyoming.

Oregon Rep. Peter DeFazio has pushed for a major overhaul of Wildlife Services, saying the outfit is utterly incapable of reforming itself. He has been an ally of a push by Predator Defense, Project Coyote and other groups to get the ultra-lethal biocide 1080 and the poison ejector devices known as M-44s, filled with sodium-cyanide, banned because of dangers they pose to people, pets, non-target animals and the environment.

I've been writing about Wildlife Services, formerly known as Animal Damage Control, since the early 1990s and over the last quarter century little has changed. Yes, Wildlife Services is involved with researching non-lethal methods of preventing conflict between predators and wildlife, but state directors have been callous to legitimate criticism.

One irony is that during this age in which rural Westerners accuse federal agencies of being incompetent, unaccountable, and non-transparent, Wildlife Services has been given a free pass from Sagebrush Rebel lawmakers. Yet if any government entity is guilty of evading oversight, it is Wildlife Services.

Reporter Ben Goldfarb penned an excellent piece titled “Wildlife Services and its eternal war on predators” for the Jan. 25, 2016 edition of High Country News. This excerpt from his story tells us pretty much all we need to know: “In 2014, Wildlife Services exterminated 796 bobcats, 322 wolves, 580 black bears, 305 cougars, and 1,186 red foxes. And that's nothing compared to coyotes. That year, the agency killed 61,702, one coyote every eight and a half minutes.”

Hundreds of millions of tax dollars have been spent killing public wildlife, sometimes far in excess of the value of private livestock receiving subsidized protection on public lands.

In the third week of March, former Wildlife Services and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service trapper Carter Niemeyer told me that over the last couple of decades one wolf has been killed for every documented dead beef cow.

Sometimes lethal control is necessary, but Niemeyer says Wildlife Services is guilty of overkill based on exaggerated, unverified claims.

In the March 2016 issue of Harper's Magazine, Christopher Ketcham wrote a hard-hitting examination of Wildlife Services that closely echoes Fahy's documentary. It also mirrors revelations brought to light in an explosive series by reporter Tom Knudson that appeared in The Sacramento Bee.

No recent Republican Congress, contemptuous of the federal government, has subjected Wildlife Services to intense scrutiny. Why is that?

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.

Washington Legislature OKs bill for Montana coal plants shutdown

BY WALKER ORENSTEIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP) – Washington state's largest utility would be able to create a fund to pay for the eventual shutdown of two coal-powered electricity plants in Montana under a bill approved March 4 by the Legislature.

Senate Bill 6248 sailed through the House on a 92-5 vote after being easily passed by the Senate in February. It now heads to Gov. Jay Inslee's desk, where it can be signed into law.

The bill would let Puget Sound Energy put money aside to cover future decommissioning and remediation costs of the power plants in Colstrip, Mont., if they're closed after 2023. The Colstrip Power Plant has four units, and the utility owns half of the older Colstrip Units 1 and 2.

Rep. Jeff Morris, D-Mount Vernon, said the Legislature should start putting money away now

for the eventual shutdown. Morris sponsored the House version of the measure.

“This money should be protected from being swept by future utility commissions,” he said during debate on the floor.

Colstrip is a company town, with a population of 2,300. The plant employs hundreds of people, and four lawmakers from the state told a Washington Senate committee recently that even a partial shutdown would create huge economic consequences for the city and industrial users in Montana that depend on the plant's cheap power.

The bill initially called for closing Units 1 and 2, but was amended.

The four units emit 13.5 million metric tons of greenhouse gases annually, according to the EPA, making it the fifteenth biggest producer of greenhouse gases in the country. Units 1 and 2 are the biggest polluters.

It's likely the plant won't be shut down for another generation, said Rep. Norma Smith, R-Clinton, adding that passing the bill was important because “those of us who have benefited from that low cost power” can “accept responsibility for our consumption.”

Rep. Bruce Chandler, R-Granger, joined three other Republicans and one Democrat in voting against the bill. He said closing the two plants might not go according to the plan passed by the Legislature.

“It could end up being far more expensive and take quite a bit longer than what the Legislature is expecting,” he said in an interview.

Puget Sound Energy has said shutting down the plants and cleaning them up would cost between \$130 million and \$200 million. Six companies own the Colstrip plant, but none of them are headquartered in Montana.



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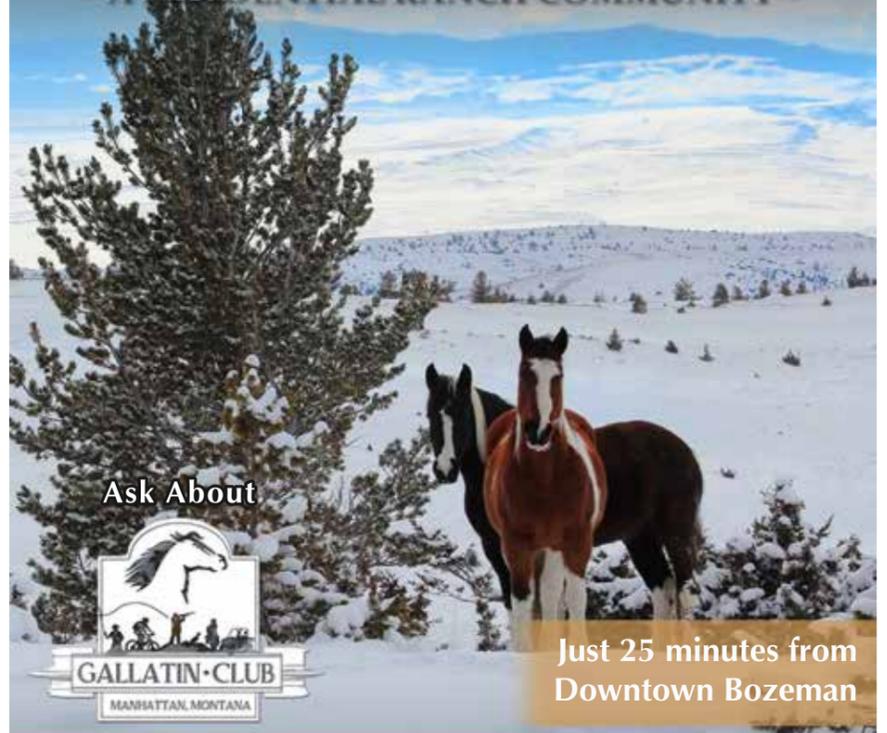
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US seeks end to Yellowstone grizzly protections

BY MATTHEW BROWN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) – The federal government is proposing to lift threatened-species protections for hundreds of Yellowstone-area grizzlies, opening the door to future hunts for the fearsome bears across parts of three states for the first time since the 1970s.

The proposal caps a four-decade, government-sponsored effort to rebuild the grizzly population and follows the lifting of protections in recent years for more than a dozen other species, including the gray wolf, brown pelican and flying squirrel.

Hunting within Yellowstone National Park would still be prohibited. But the proposal could allow animals to be taken in surrounding parts of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming.

“By the time the curtain closes on the Obama administration, we are on track to have delisted more species due to recovery than all previous administrations combined,” U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe told The Associated Press. “We’ve done that because of several decades of hard work, like with the grizzly bear.”

Grizzlies once roamed much of North America and came to symbolize the continent’s untamed wilderness. Hunters and trappers had nearly wiped them out across most of the Lower 48 states by the late 1800s.

Thursday’s announcement came as conflicts between humans and grizzly bears have been on the rise, including six people fatally mauled since 2010. A record 59 bears were killed by humans last year, often by wildlife managers following attacks on livestock.

That’s resulted in pressure to turn over management of the animals to states, in part so hunting can be used to control the population. But wildlife advocates declared the government’s announcement premature and warned that it could reverse the species’ gains.

“There’s still a lot of uncertainty facing this population,” said Sylvia Fallon, senior scientist for the Natural Resources Defense Council.

A final decision on the proposal is due within a year. It could come sooner if state wildlife commissioners act quickly to adopt rules on how much hunting is allowed. Those rules are not mandatory under the federal proposal, federal officials said.

Montana Gov. Steve Bullock said the bear population would be responsibly managed by state wildlife officials. If a public hunt for the animals is pursued, the Democrat said, it could be done in a way that avoids killing bears that live on the periphery of Yellowstone.

“Yellowstone wildlife is treasured. We understand that. We’ll manage them in a way that addresses that sensitivity,” Bullock said.

Republican Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead said ending federal control over grizzlies would be

“good for the species, for Wyoming and for the West.” In Idaho, Republican U.S. Sen. James Risch said the state’s track record on other predators, including gray wolves, shows it can manage bears at a sustainable level.

The federal government has spent roughly \$20 million to \$30 million to date on grizzly recovery efforts in the Yellowstone area, according to Fish and Wildlife Service spokeswoman Serena Baker.

Protections would remain in place for about 1,000 bears in and around Glacier National Park and smaller populations elsewhere in Montana, Idaho and Washington state. Grizzlies are not protected in Alaska, where hunting has long been allowed.

Grizzlies in the Lower 48 were added to the endangered and threatened species list in 1975. In the intervening years, the Yellowstone population has increased from 136 animals to an estimated 700 to 1,000 today, according to government researchers.

Yet after years of growth, the grizzly population plateaued in recent years, and some of the wildlife advocates say it’s too soon to allow hunting. Also opposed are dozens of American Indian tribes that view the grizzly as sacred.

Formal consultations between the tribes and the Interior Department are ongoing, although Ashe said the issue is unlikely to be resolved.

Federal and state officials said limits on how many bears can be killed will safeguard against a collapse in the bear population.

If bear numbers drop below 600, intentional killings through hunting and the removal of bears that attack livestock would be prohibited. Exceptions would be made for bears that threaten public safety. More hunting would be allowed when bear numbers increase.

Grizzly numbers rebounded despite declines in some of their key food sources, including cutthroat trout and the nuts of whitebark pine, a high-elevation tree devastated by bark beetles and an invasive fungus.

Environmentalists argue that those declines are good reasons to keep protecting the region’s grizzlies.

The last legal hunts for Yellowstone-area bears happened in the 1970s. The animals were taken off the threatened species list in 2007, but that move was struck down and protections were restored two years later after environmental groups challenged the government in court.

Subsequent government-sponsored studies have shown grizzlies are able to adapt easily to different types of food.

State officials and members of Congress have pointed to the case of the grizzly bear as an example of how the Endangered Species Act needs changes so animals do not linger under federal protections once they are recovered.

Ashe said reforms are not needed as much as money to help species recover.

Milestones in the recovery of Yellowstone grizzly bears

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) – U.S. wildlife officials are proposing to remove federal protections for grizzly bears in and around Yellowstone National Park. Here’s a look at some significant events leading to the March 3 proposal:

1890 to 1940s

Yellowstone National Park visitors are entertained by nightly “bear shows” at garbage dumps frequented by grizzlies seeking easy meals.

1970

Last of park’s garbage dumps closes, largely to end visits by bears that were becoming habituated to humans and threatening visitor safety.

1975

Grizzly bears across the Lower 48 states are protected under the Endangered Species Act after widespread extermination; Yellowstone population is estimated at 136 bears.

1993

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service adopts grizzly bear recovery plan.

2007

Yellowstone grizzlies are removed from the threatened species list.

2009

U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy orders bears back onto the protected list, citing potential threats to their food supplies due in part to climate change.

2011

Two hikers are killed by grizzlies in separate attacks, the first bear-caused human fatalities in Yellowstone in almost 25 years.

2013

Government scientists recommend lifting bears’ protected status, citing studies that show the animals can adapt to changes in food supply.

2015

An estimated 717 bears live in the 19,200-square-mile Yellowstone region.

2016

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposes to again remove the animals from the threatened list.



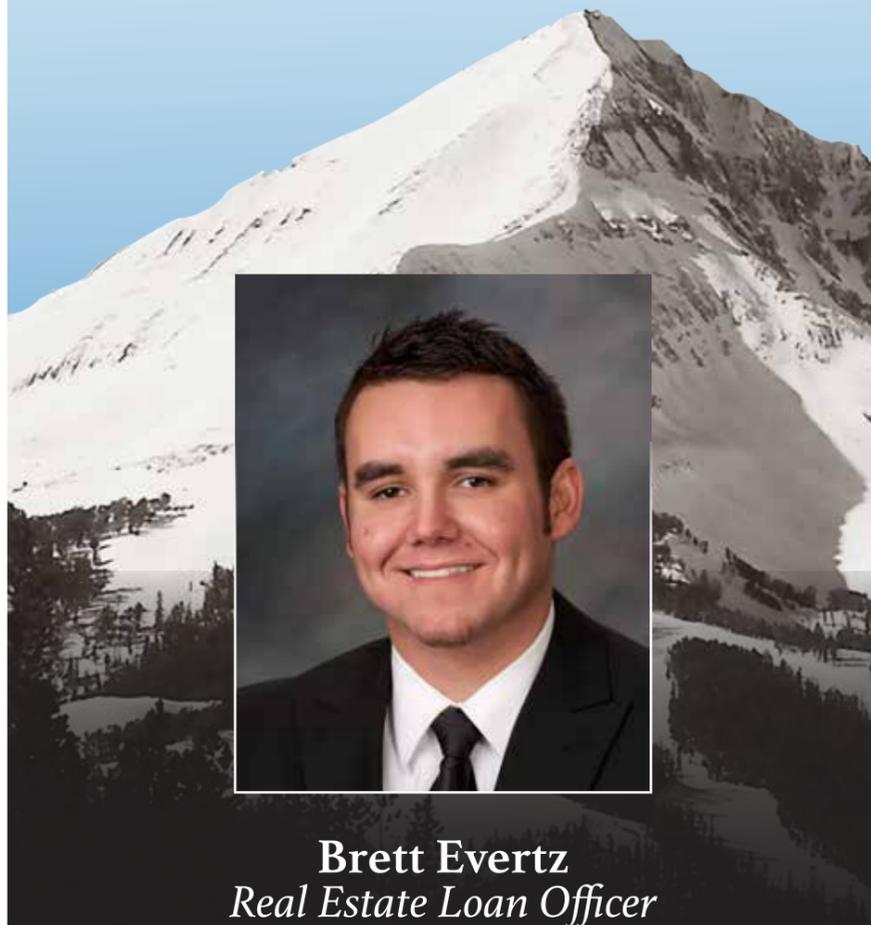
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Raptors in the Big Sky

BY JEANNIE COUNCE
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Look to the skies this spring and you're likely to see an incredible display of birds of prey migrating, pairing up and nesting. Raptors, which include eagles, owls, hawks, falcons and vultures, are built to hunt and eat meat.

Nature outfits these large feathered carnivores with keen eyesight, sharp beaks, and gripping talons to make them highly efficient predators – though vultures are the exception as they scavenge all their food.

Amazing species-specific adaptations, including the osprey's moveable talon that allows it to aerodynamically fly while holding a fish, or the owl's flight feathers that virtually eliminate any audible warning of its approach, make raptors especially interesting to observe.

Since 1988, Montana Raptor Conservation Center has been rehabilitating injured birds of prey from across the state and educating the community on the importance of raptors in the environment. As the hillsides turn green and the rivers begin to flood, the experts at MRCC suggest you watch for seasonal raptor behaviors.

The largest and perhaps most revered of the raptors, eagles are plentiful in southwest Montana now. Attracted by a burgeoning food supply, migrants are arriving from the south and mixing with local residents.

"These birds are beginning to pair up now," said MRCC Director Becky Kean. "They are monogamous and tend to use the same nest year after year to raise their young. The male usually arrives at the nest site a week or so before the female to make repairs."

Bald eagles have a 7-foot wingspan and golden eagles a 9-foot wingspan, and both feast on ground squirrels and other rodents, although they're also opportunistic scavengers.

"We see many eagles with lead poisoning this time of year because they've been surviving on gut piles left behind by hunters all winter," says Kean, adding that MRCC is currently detoxing two golden eagles in hopes that they can be released in time to find their mates.



The sharp-shinned hawk is the smallest hawk in North America and feeds on songbirds and mice.



Ospreys sitting on their nest at dusk – the birds make their stick and sod nests atop telephone poles and other vertical structures near water, dining almost exclusively on fish. PHOTOS BY JERRY TAYLOR

"As sea eagles, bald eagles take advantage of melting rivers and lakes to hunt for fish," Kean said. "Look for their enormous nests, which can be five to nine feet across, in trees along waterways."

Hawks also migrate and pair up, but lag behind by a few weeks, according to MRCC Assistant Director Jordan Spyke. "They are known as 'the farmer's friend,' because of their appetite for nuisance animals, such as mice, voles and rats, which are all beginning to be active right now," he said.

Osprey, which make their stick and sod nests atop telephone poles, channel markers, and other vertical structures near water, dine almost exclusively on fish, Spyke adds.

"Springtime brings red-tailed hawks from the southwest and Mexico as well as Swainson's hawks and osprey from South America, while rough-legged hawks who wintered here prepare to fly back to their breeding grounds on the tundra," he says, noting that "roughies" are one of two species of hawk with feathers on their legs and feet to protect against the cold – the other is Ferruginous hawks.

"Look for hawks hovering on windy days," Spyke said. "They face into the wind so they don't have to use energy flapping while searching for prey."

Owls are typically "on the nest" this time of year, according to Kean. "Their jobs are made easier by the fact that they use old nests abandoned by crows, hawks, and magpies," she said. "By mid-March and early April, females are spending most of their time incubating eggs and males are doing the majority of the hunting," she said.



Great horned owls are typically "on the nest" this time of year.

"Vultures are harbingers of spring," adds Spyke. "They are not equipped for our winter – think bald heads – so when you see a vulture, you know it's warming up."

This time of year MRCC sees an uptick in injuries because of the increased drive to hunt and feed young, according to Kean. "Raptors will crash into trees and even cars," she said. "Often they'll try to make an easy meal of road kill – if they eat too much, they can't get airborne and out of the way quickly enough."

If you see an injured raptor, report it to Montana Raptor Conservation Center (406) 585-1211 as soon as possible.

Jeannie Counce is a Bozeman-based writer and editor. She is the communications volunteer for the Montana Raptor Conservation Center, which has a mission to improve the welfare of raptors across Montana through rehabilitation of injured birds, community education, and partnerships for raptor conservation and research.

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Section 3: OUTDOORS, BACK 40



Flying high in Big Sky p. 34



Eddy Line:
Blue Winged Olives p. 37



Back 40:
Tracking Montana's big cats p. 48



Brook trout in Patagonia from "Finding Fontinalis," one of nine films selected for the 2015 F3T. PHOTO BY BRYAN GREGSON.



Top: Jeff Currier hauls in a northern pike in Saskatchewan in "Turning Points North." Bottom: Peter Christensen fishing Montana waters in "The Scandinavian Way." PHOTO BY FREDERIK MOGENS LORENTZEN

Fly Fishing Film Tour lands in Big Sky March 24

BY DOUGLAS HARE
EBS STAFF WRITER

The Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T) returns to Big Sky Thursday, March 24 at the Lone Peak Cinema, with two showings at 5 and 8 p.m. Now in its 10th year, the F3T features nine of the finest fly-fishing short films from around the world.

"The independent filmmakers behind each F3T submission continue to raise the bar," said tour spokesperson Ryan Thompson.

"From the hunt for the world's largest brook trout to the pursuit of billfish on the fly, gargantuan pike, acrobatic Golden Dorado, ferocious GTs and herculean [British Columbia] steelhead these films showcase remarkable places, larger-than-life characters and fish that will haunt your dreams," according to the F3T website.

"Finding Fontinalis" follows a native Montanan as he chases brook trout deep in the Patagonian backcountry of South America. "The Scandinavian Way" takes a humorous look at the differences between European and American anglers as they both try to wrangle wily trout in the Treasure State. "Chanos Chanos" offers a glimpse into how to catch the elusive milkfish in the flats of the Indian Ocean's Seychelles.

From exploring Bolivian jungles with a fly rod, and pursuing the carnivorous tiger fish on the Zambezi River, to pike fishing in Saskatchewan, the lineup for this year's F3T promises to take viewers to some magnificent settings in search of the perfect cast.

Regardless of the exotic locales, the F3T features some of the finest angling cinematography available anywhere.

The F3T continues to partner with charities and local conservation organizations around North America, and raised more than \$350,000 during the 2015 tour. Proceeds from the Big Sky event will go to the Gallatin River Task Force, a local nonprofit dedicated to the preservation of the Upper Gallatin River watershed.

Tickets for the Fly Fishing Film Tour are available at Gallatin River Guides, Grizzly Outfitters, Eastslope Outdoors, Lone Mountain Ranch and Lone Peak Cinema. Previews of this year's films can be found on the F3T website flyfilmtour.com.



Kevin Johnson finds some wind power in Big Sky.

Flying high in Big Sky

Snow kites find home in Montana's open spaces

STORY AND PHOTOS BY RHYAN MCLAURY
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Floating, leaning, launching, spinning. These words describe the spectacle known as snow kiting. Powered completely by wind, snow kites harness themselves to kites generally ranging from 3-12 square meters, which allow them to carve turns and get airborne. Snow kiting encompasses both skiing, which is more popular, and snowboarding, which crosses over from kiteboarding on water.

Kite skiing got its start in the Alps during the 1960s and 70s with augmented parachutes. The technology began accelerating in the Great Lakes Region in the 1980s, and was even used in long distance polar expeditions.

Montana is unique in that kiting locations are ubiquitous, whether on snow or water. The hardcore riders may do both in the same day, and even at the same time, with the help of a dry suit.

"Kiteboarding is such a dynamic sport ... getting out on the snow or on the water, exploring the backcountry, gliding off hill sides," said Kevin Johnson of Big Sky. Johnson tried kiteboarding several years ago

on water, and was quickly drawn to the sport. He moved to Long Beach, Calif., to get his fill of kitesurfing on the ocean while working in a kite shop.

"I had no choice but to become a kitesurfing bum that summer," Johnson said.

After time abroad snow kiting in the French Alps, Johnson opted for a career switch to ski bumming and landed in Big Sky, where he can now downhill or kite ski on any given day.

"Better to do both and choose depending on conditions," he said. "Others might complain when it's really windy on the mountain but that's when I'm most stoked to get dragged around on a kite."

Hans Scherthner, of Big Sky, is an eight-year veteran of kite skiing, and says he enjoys the sport because there are no lines, tickets or chairlifts required.

"Everybody has the same wind and the same snow all day long. You can ski powder, [even] making turns uphill."

Scherthner is originally from Austria and got his start as a wind surfer, but was drawn to kiting by the terrain Montana offers.

"We came to realize very quickly that [the land] we have here is really the big factor," Scherthner said. "There is nothing like it in the entire country [of] Austria: open space, and access to it. Out here is absolutely perfect."

Reynolds Pass, Island Park, Henry's Lake and Georgetown Lake are just some of these open, windy places in Montana and Idaho that Big Sky kites target.

Each season, Jackson, Mont. hosts the annual Montana Snow Kite Rodeo on Big Hole Pass, which took place this year in mid-February. The gathering features a race and rider-judged big air and freestyle competitions.

"Montana kites themselves are unique," said Josh Smith, who's been kite skiing since 2004. "[Here we have] very gusty winds which breeds some rugged kites." Smith won the big air event four of the past six years, reaching heights of 250 feet or more.

Smith, a Bozeman resident, began snow kiting when he was 11 after seeing kites on Georgetown Lake. "We stopped and watched, and decided we're getting into kiting next," Smith said.

continued on pg. 35



Josh Smith catching air at Reynolds Pass. Smith has won four of the last six big air competitions at the annual Montana Snow Kite Rodeo.



Hans Scherthner prepares his inflatable kite for launch at Reynolds Pass on the Montana/Idaho border.



Josh Smith using his kite's power to carve deep turns.

While the sport of snow kiting is growing, according to Smith, several factors keep participation small, including its extreme physical demand, the up-front investment, and a prerequisite of knowing how to ski, snowboard or surf.

Smith recommends that people new to snow kiting start with a trainer kite, which are small in surface area. They produce less power but move quickly and are “twitchy,” teaching control without too much consequence. According to Smith, this will help beginners figure out if they like to fly.

“When you decide you are committed, start buying bigger kites,” Smith says.

Most of the sport’s participants have a quiver of kites in multiple sizes, so they can adapt to changing wind conditions. There are also two types of kites: Inflatables, which have to be pumped up, are used on water, have more power and are better for gliding; and foil kites, which have their leading edge open allowing cells to fill with air, are lighter and easier to pack. This makes them more appropriate for backcountry travel.

New kites can cost \$1,000 or more, and used ones can go for around \$400. Many people just buy and sell from fellow kites, and the Montana group is tightly knit, according to Smith.

“We consider each other family,” he said. “Since kiting is hard and dangerous to learn, we are always looking out for each other and anyone learning.”

As the weekend approaches, Montana kites watch the weather and connect to spend another day out in the wind.

“After a week we really get kite fever,” Scherthner said. “It’s like a drug. You walk away from something like this so invigorated.”

Rhyan McLaury is a professional ski bum originally from the Pacific Northwest, and enjoys capturing unique ways of getting out and exploring.



Eight-year veteran kiter Hans Scherthner carves a turn at Reynolds Pass.

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THE EDDY Line

Blue Winged Olives

Discover the first mayfly of the spring



BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

March is a month of transition on our local waters. With warmer temperatures, a longer duration of daily sunshine, and lower elevation snowpack beginning to melt, it's time to shift out of the winter fishing mode. Don't fret just yet night owls – there's still no need to get to the river early and you can feel good about returning in time for happy hour, as fish do most of their early springtime feeding between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The most welcome sign of spring is the arrival of Blue Winged Olives. Midges are nice and they can ease the winter doldrums, but in the next few weeks both trout and anglers relish in the season's first legitimate hatch. Here's some advice to help you navigate this hatch.

BWOs are in most trout streams. Because of the insect's small size, many streams will have multiple generations over the course of the year. Unlike salmonflies, golden stones, and most species of caddis, Blue Winged Olives often have three to four cycles of nymphs and adults. This means more bugs, which means happier trout and anglers.

Get your naming right. Or not. If you want to impress anglers during a high society cocktail party, then study your Latin classification tables.

They are most commonly called *Baetis*. But over time, anglers have gravitated to simply calling them "Blue Winged Olives" or "little olive mayflies" due to their olive bodies and bluish wings. The most abundant species locally is *Baetis tricaudatus*. Several other species exist, but be ready for some obtuse looks if you walk into your local fly shop and say, "The fish ceased rising to genera *B. tricaudatus* and commenced their post meridiem caloric intake of *B. brunneicolor*."

Timing is everything. BWO nymphs cling and crawl along rocks and underwater structures during most of their existence. When water temperatures are in the low 40s F, the nymphs become more active. During the next several weeks, you'll find the warmest water temperatures between noon and 3 p.m. The rise in water temp creates internal gases in a nymph's body, which force the nymph to drift or swim to the surface. As the nymph hits the surface, these tiny bugs often struggle to break through the water's surface tension. The colder and wetter the weather is, the more these hatching insects struggle and the more crippled or stillborn bugs occur.

Fish the correct habitat. Most BWOs will be found in slower sections of freestone streams. On the Gallatin this will be the back end of longer pools and runs. On spring creeks and tailwaters, many insects can also be found on aquatic growth. Keep in mind the nymphs will be moving through the water column before you see insects on the surface, so position yourself accordingly.

Emergers are very important. For many anglers, this may be the biggest adjustment you make this spring. When trout are feeding on mayflies, the emerging stage – gas bubble formation to fully winged insect on the surface – is the stage when they are most susceptible to hungry trout. During this long transition, these little bugs must cast off the nymphal shuck, penetrate the surface film, and then become airborne. This may take only a few seconds on our clocks but to a mayfly it must feel like hours.

Adults are the prize. Mayfly adults floating on the water's surface epitomize dry fly fishing for trout and allow us to endure three long winter months of fishing double-nymph rigs. Mayfly adults, also called "duns," float along the surface with their wings upright like the mast of a miniature sailboat. Trout rise slowly and deliberately to adult BWOs, as if they've been preparing all winter.

As the seasons move from winter to spring, so goes the fishing. The beauty of March is the answer to the most often asked question in Big Sky, "To ski or to fish?" It's easy, do both.

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, he is co-director of the Montana Fishing Guide School, and co-owns a guide service on the Missouri River.



Being at the right place at the right time during a Blue Winged Olive hatch is a very memorable experience. Knowledge and timing play key roles, but so does a little bit of luck. PHOTO BY PAT STRAUB/GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES



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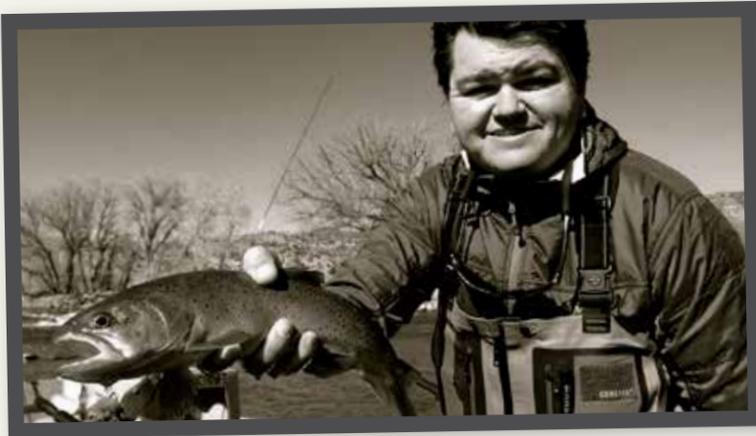
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Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



Whew...a lot of drama on the Gallatin the past couple of weeks, but we're back to some great fishing and it feels like nothing has changed. The verdict is still out on the long term affects, but for now all signs point to minimal damage.

Fishing all over SW Montana is heating up! Everywhere you go you have a good chance of fooling fish with dries, streamers and of course nymphs. In general, midges are going to be the main game for dry flies right now, but there are a few spring baetis starting to bop around too. Some dries to have handy are Silvey's Adult Midges, CDC Cluster Midges, Para Adams and Sprouts.

The streamer bite has been the least consistent, but if you're patient and swing or dead-drift through some of your favorite runs the rewards could be great. Natural colored sculpin patterns like Olive Mini-Loop Sculpins and Sculpzillas have been producers for us.

Preferred nymphs right now are a bit of a mixed bag. On the Gallatin fishing a Pat's Rubber Legs with Zebra Midges, Flash-Bang Midges, worms and eggs is a good call. Not too different on the Upper Madison, but maybe consider some hot bead patterns like a Tung Sunkist or Ray Charles.

This is a good time of year to freshen up on some river etiquette, especially related to spawning habitat and handling of fish. As rainbow and cutthroat trout gear up for another spawning season it is important for us to be able to recognize spawning redds and actively spawning trout. Let's help ensure a healthy future by allowing them to spawn without being disturbed by us during a very crucial time.

I also highly recommend researching how to properly handle trout in order to minimize any injury or risk of fatality. Keeping them wet, handle them with wet hands and avoid squeezing are three easy ways to minimize stress.

Tight lines and wet hands!

CDC Cluster Midge



Bruised Baetis



Flash Bang Midge Red



Rainbow Czech



Silvey's Adult Midge



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GEAR REVIEW

Ski-Key assists with boot buckling, bottle opening



BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – Benjamin Randall, the mastermind behind Randall Innovations, developed Ski-Key after a row with his ski boots in Deer Valley.

“It took a guy who was like 280 pounds putting his entire force into it to buckle my boots, and I was like, ‘Really?’ There has to be something that’s better and easier.”

In fact there was, but Randall was overwhelmed by what he found: boot-buckling assisters made of hand-numbing metal and expensive products prone to breaking.

A self-described tinkerer, Randall set out to develop a more effective, less expensive product in 2012. He learned everything he could about plastics – and found them to be underrated. “A lot of plastics coming out now are just as strong as steel,” he says.

Randall moved in May 2015 to Big Sky from California, where he worked in aerospace manufacturing. “I came out here

to ski a couple times and just completely fell in love with it,” Randall said. “And I was over the [Los Angeles] attitude, to be honest.”

Now he works with injection molders in Montana to manufacture Ski-Key, which weighs in at just under 1 ounce and doubles as a bottle opener and boot carrier.

Randall Innovations’ flagship product is steadily garnering interest – enough that an expansion to a larger space in Four Corners and a couple new hires are planned for the young company. The Yellowstone Club, East Slope Outdoors, Big Sky Resort and Amazon.com currently carry Ski-Key.

Randall is also developing a boot heater “like Hotronic without the electronics” and a high-performance adaptive ski. Big Sky local and Paralympic Games-hopeful Mark Urich is collaborating with Randall on the adaptive ski.

\$17 randallinnovations.com

Ski-Key is the flagship product of Randall Innovations, a local company with two other products in development—a boot heater and a high-performance adaptive ski.
PHOTO BY TYLER ALLEN



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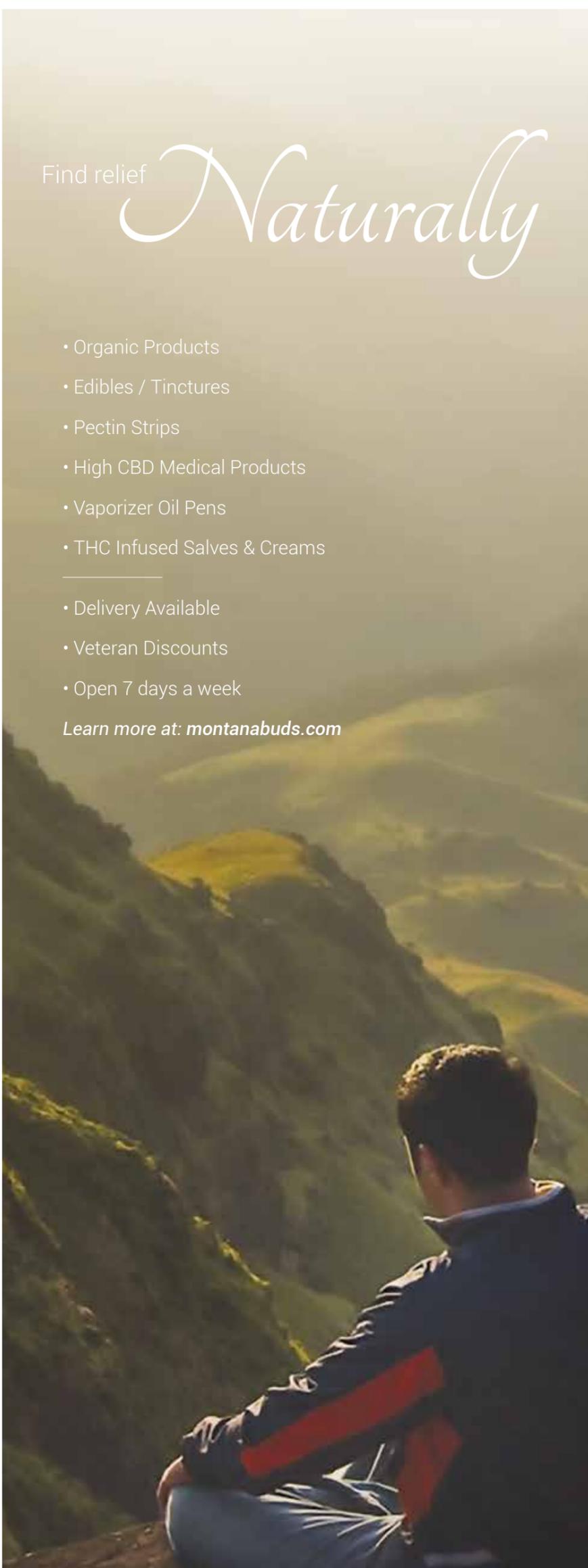
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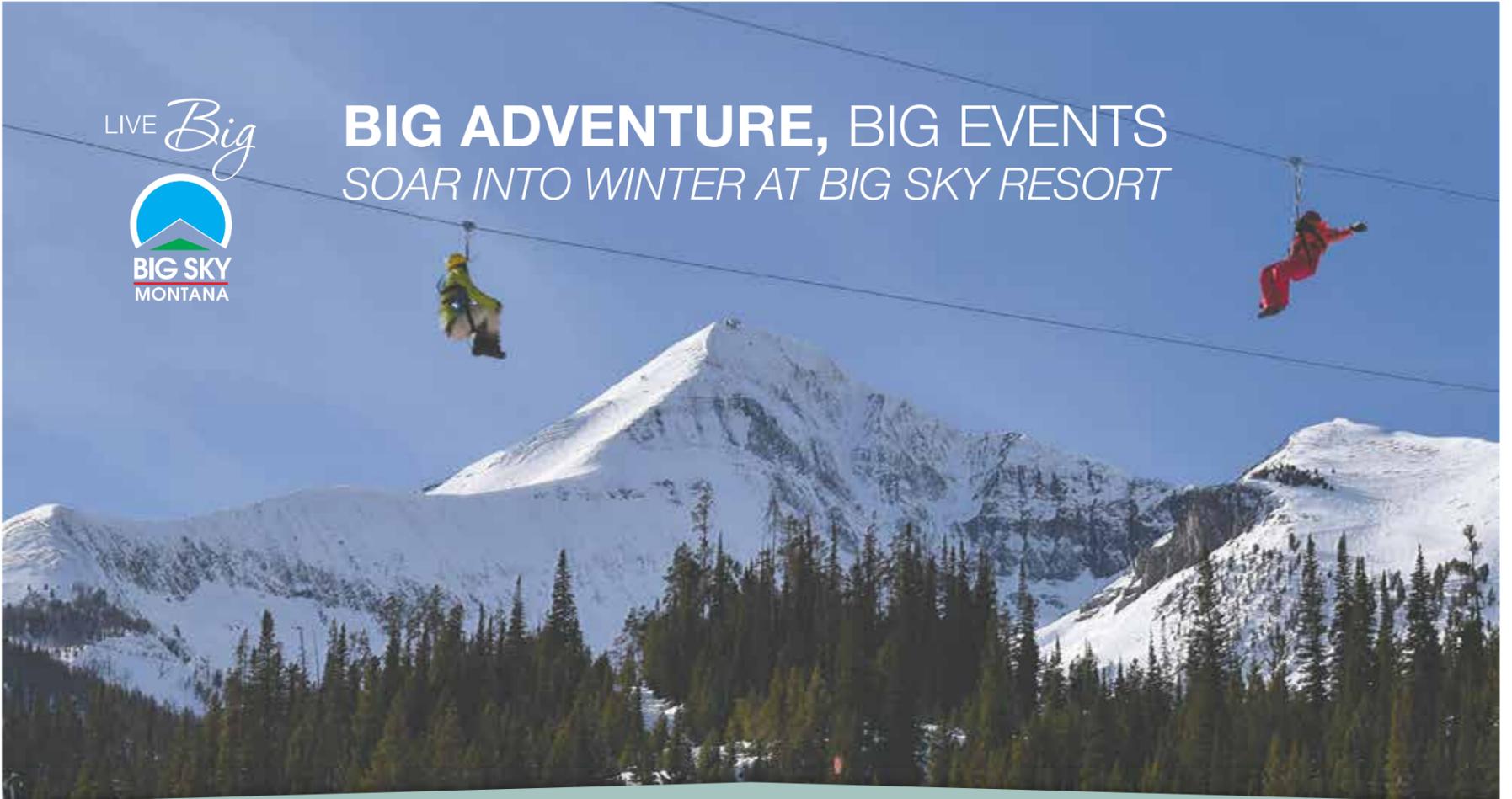
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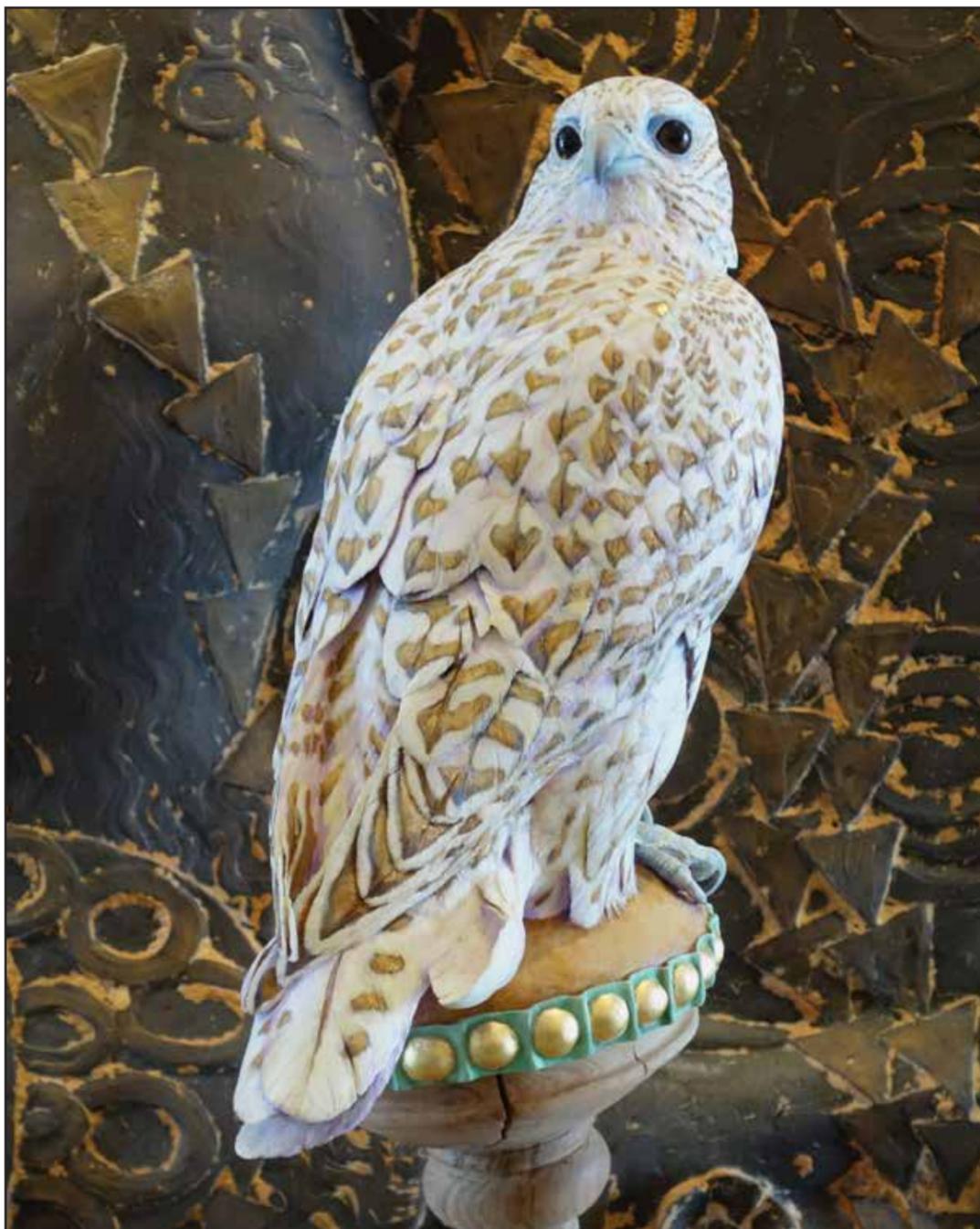
MARCH

- 19 Smokin' Aces Championship
- 20 Big Sky Lady Shred
- 24-27 MSI Freeride Series

APRIL

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

COMPLETE INFO at bigskyresort.com/events



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ART BY: SOLAE SWENSON

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WORD FROM THE RESORTS

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



BY SHELBY THORLACIUS
BIG SKY RESORT SALES AND MARKETING OFFICE MANAGER

Old Man Winter is flexing his muscles! We've been getting great snow over the last few weeks, and it's sure to continue if past March snowfall totals are any indication.

On Saturday, March 19, the Smokin' Aces: Royal Flush Championship Slopestyle competition will be held at Big Sky Resort. Get ready to watch the steeziest skiers and

riders take on the best Big Sky's terrain park has to offer. Registration is still available online, so sign up for your chance to call yourself the 2016 Smokin' Aces Tour Champion - or just enter a single slopestyle event with no strings attached.

The Mountain Sports International Freeride Series is coming to Big Sky Resort March 23-27 for the final competition in North and South America's premier big mountain series. Check out the athletes' chops as they participate in the oldest competitive big mountain freeskiing tour in the history of the sport.

For more information on competitions registration, visit the events page at bigskyresort.com/events.



BY NICOLE CAMPBELL
LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH SALES & MARKETING COORDINATOR

With only a few weeks of winter left and cabin fever knocking on your door, now is the time to visit Lone Mountain Ranch. While there's still time, call up your closest friends and get together for an evening of live cowboy music, a magical horse-drawn sleigh ride, and a delicious prime rib dinner in the historic North Fork Cabin. A Big Sky tradition for more than 35 years, Lone Mountain Ranch's sleigh ride dinner promises an evening of camaraderie, fine dining and memories for years to come.

As we settle into March and look ahead to spring, think blue bird days and cross-country skiing. Snow conditions are prime and temperatures are comfortable with the promise of warmer days to come. After an afternoon cruising the Ranch Loop or riding the ranch shuttle to ski down from Summit, stop in the Saloon for our après ski menu and daily cocktail specials. Enjoy a velvet hot toddy and live music from local artists Bruce Anfinson, Julia Roberts, Montana Exit, James Salestrom and Tom Marino.

The Saloon at Lone Mountain Ranch is open daily from 2-10 p.m. with live music Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7-9 p.m. So come over for an hour or two, kick back and enjoy some Western tunes. Or make an evening of it with Big Sky's original sleigh ride dinner. Either way, we hope to see you this winter!

LMR is taking sleigh ride reservations through April 3. For more information, call (406) 995-4644 or email reservations@lonemountainranch.com.



After a prolonged February and early March drought, it began snowing again at Bridger Bowl Ski Area in mid March. The rain falling in Bozeman has deterred some skiers and riders, but longtime locals know that rain in town often means some of the best conditions at Bridger.

"Ski season is over in town, but it's going off at the mountain," said Joshua Boulange, a 12-season Bridger veteran.

There are a number of events at Bridger prior to the ski area's projected April 3 closing day, including the Point and Chute film contest Saturday,

March 19. The pre-juried film festival begins at 4:30 p.m. in the Jim Bridger Lodge, where the top seven short films will be shown to the public. In accordance with contest rules, all entries contain footage shot entirely within the Bridger Bowl boundaries. Cash and door prizes will be awarded and Livingston's Neptune Brewery will host a beer promotion.

On Saturday, March 26, Bridger will host its fifth annual Carve Out Hunger food drive for the Gallatin Valley Food Bank. Participants who bring 15 cans or 15 pounds of non-perishable bulk food will be given a voucher for a discounted lift ticket. Last year's event resulted in 1,865 pounds of food for Gallatin Valley residents. - T.A.

to mention, ZRankings.com scored Grand Targhee as a top five spring skiing destination for our stellar conditions.

Plan your getaway today and enjoy the best ski-and-stay package in the Intermountain West, with deals on slopeside rooms when you book four or more nights. Looking for an Easter trip? Celebrate the holiday with top-notch skiing and a tasty Easter brunch at the Branding Iron Grill. Let your little adventurers hunt for a golden egg in the Kids Fun Zone while you search for another special golden egg on Dreamcatcher - this one with a 2016-2017 season pass inside.

And save the date for Grand Targhee's third annual Crazy Horse Hillclimb and Bonus Skiing Weekend April 22-24.

Visit grandtarghee.com for more information on upcoming events.



BY KATE HULL
GRAND TARGHEE MARKETING COORDINATOR

Attention skiers and snowboarders: the season is not over yet! Head to Grand Targhee Resort and visit one of the best spring skiing destinations during our fifth annual Spring Break Away celebration kicking off March 20, the first day of spring.

Every weekend through April 24, you'll find spring celebrations, must-see live music and open mic nights at the Trap Bar & Grill. Events include a big air and throwback sick trick competition, a banked slalom, the annual cardboard box derby, pond skimming and the Crazy Horse Snowmobile Hillclimb. Not

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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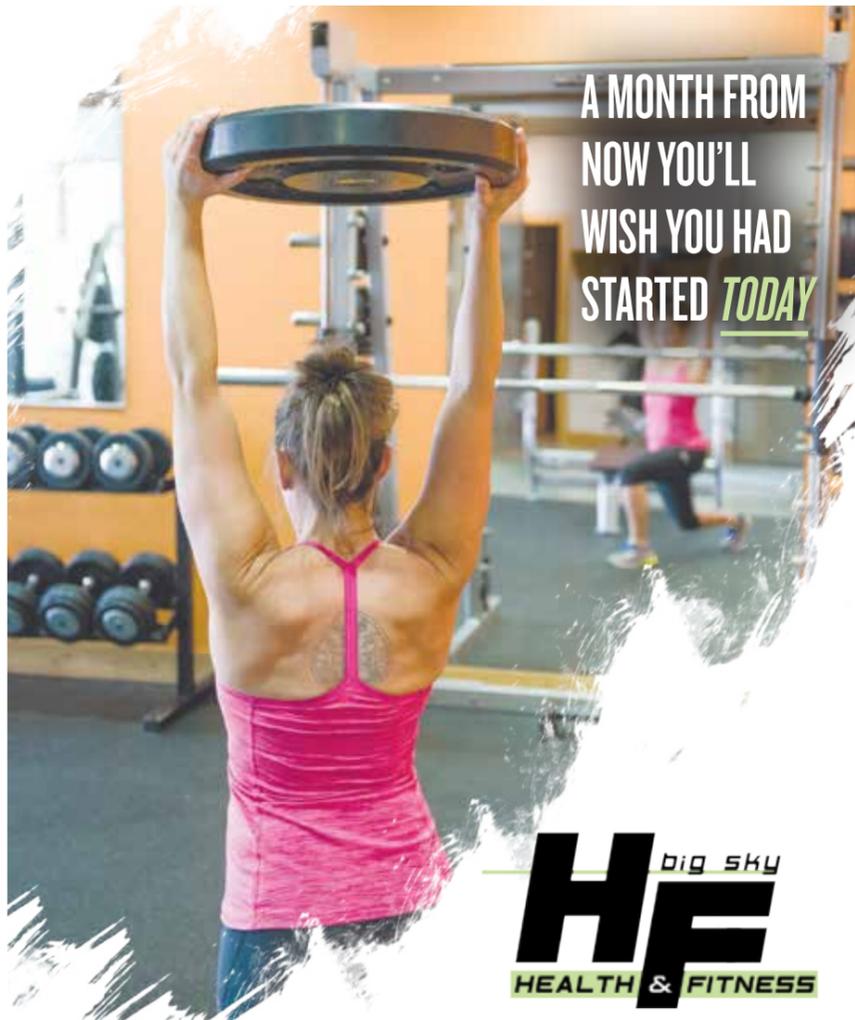
AUDIT PUBLICATION STATEMENT

An audit of the affairs of Big Sky Resort Area District has been conducted by Holmes & Turner (a professional corporation). The audit covered the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015.

Section 2-7-521, MCA, requires the publication concerning the audit report include a statement that the audit report is on file in its entirety and open to public inspection at 11 Lone Peak Drive, Suite 204, Big Sky, Montana, and that the Big Sky Resort Area District will send a copy of the audit report to any interested person upon request.

Sincerely,

Big Sky Resort Area District



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Big Sky School District #72

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



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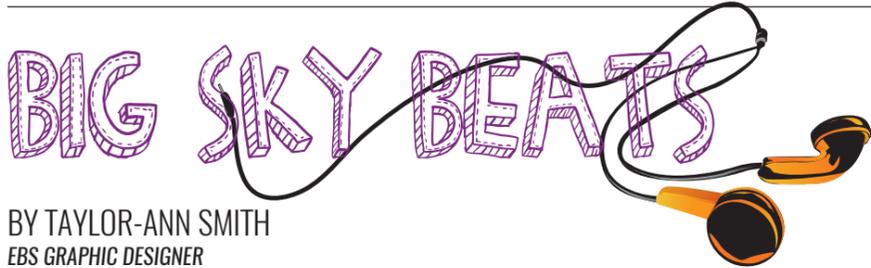
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HELENA 98.1

LIVINGSTON 89.5

GARDINER/

MAMMOTH 107.1



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.

South by Southwest (SXSW) is an annual music, film, and technology festival in Austin, Texas where creative innovators gather for inspiration during 10 days of conferences, trade shows and concerts.

This year the iconic festival is celebrating its 30th anniversary, and for three decades SXSW has helped attendees develop their careers by bringing together people from around the globe to meet, learn and share ideas. Principal speakers at this year's event include President Barack Obama; Hollywood director J.J. Abrams; chef and TV personality Anthony Bourdain; and actress Kerry Washington to name a few.

Although the festival began March 11, mark your calendar for next year as this is a worthy bucket-list item!

The playlist below features some of the top artists playing at SXSW this year.

1. "Dancing On Glass," St. Lucia
2. "Don't Turn The Lights On," Chromeo
3. "Quick Fast feat. Wale," Audio Push
4. "Off The Rip feat. N.O.R.E.," French Montana
5. "What Am I Becoming?," POP ETC
6. "Two Fingers," Jake Bugg
7. "Arm's Length," Kacy Hill
8. "Follow Your Arrow," Kacey Musgraves
9. "Future Starts Slow," The Kills
10. "Purple Rage," Dilly Dally

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Compass direction
- 4 Caviar
- 7 To be announced (abbr.)
- 10 Other (Sp.)
- 11 Yale student
- 12 Heat
- 14 Charged lepton
- 15 Apt
- 17 Aid to Dependent Children (abbr.)
- 18 Flexible wood
- 19 Noun-forming (suf.)
- 20 Ironwood
- 22 Nose (pref.)
- 24 Fort
- 27 19th century rifle bullet
- 31 Blue (Fr.)
- 32 Stool pigeon
- 34 Estrade
- 35 Showy flower

DOWN

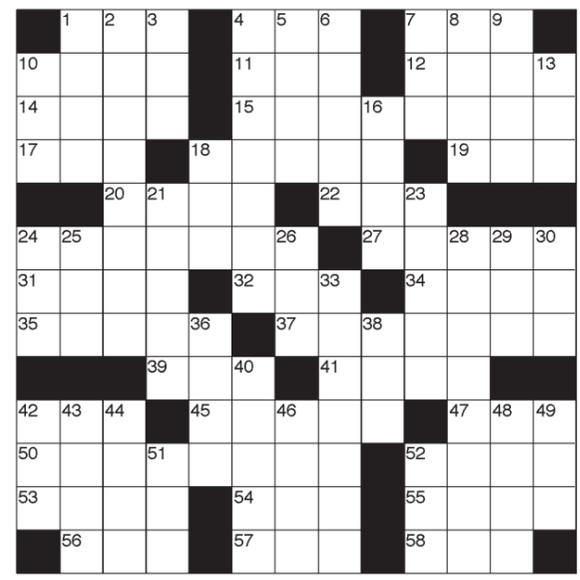
- 37 Therm
- 39 Crab-eating macaque
- 41 Wool (Lat.)
- 42 Dead on arrival (abbr.)
- 45 Aloe derivative
- 47 Possesses
- 50 Slub (2 words)
- 52 False friend
- 53 Half a ticket
- 54 Indo-Chin. language
- 55 Trolley
- 56 This one (Lat.)
- 57 Finesse
- 58 Trouble

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	M	A	S	A	A	L	S	V	E	N
C	O	L	U	M	B	E	T	A	M	A
H	U	A	C	O	B	A	R	L	I	P
T	E	E	H	E	R	A	T	I	T	E
			B	L	O	N	D	E		
E	A	T	A	A	M	A	L	I	S	T
K	E	O	S	H	E	B	O	L	P	E
G	R	O	U	P	G	E	D	A	A	L
			S	A	F	A	R	I		
A	R	C	A	N	A	G	A	R	A	N
A	A	A	E	G	O	T	A	B	O	O
R	A	D	L	I	B	O	C	C	U	R
E	D	E	A	N	E	M	E	S	N	E

- 6 Iron (Ger.)
- 7 Brace
- 8 Low
- 9 Son of Zeus
- 10 Tumor (suf.)
- 13 Physicians, for short
- 16 Carriage
- 18 Old times

- 21 Seal with oakum
- 23 Ancient Syrian port
- 24 Can. Broadcasting Corp. (abbr.)
- 25 Bantu language
- 26 Shellac
- 28 4th incarnation of Vishnu
- 29 3 (Rom. numeral)
- 30 Compass direction
- 33 Palm
- 36 Russ. inland sea
- 38 Swed. county
- 40 Bastard wing
- 42 Abnormal (pref.)
- 43 Pledge
- 44 Aoudad
- 46 Mosque in Jerusalem
- 48 Bedouin headband cord
- 49 Benedictine title
- 51 Television channel
- 52 Thus (Lat.)



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American Life in Poetry: Column 573

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

Philip Terman is a Pennsylvania poet who, with his family, lives in a former one-room schoolhouse. And whenever there's a one-room schoolhouse you can count on just a little wilderness around it. This is from his new and selected poems, "Our Portion."

Deer Descending

By Philip Terman

Perhaps she came down for the apples,
or was flushed out by the saws powering
the far woods, or was simply lost,
or was crossing one open space for another.

She was a figure approaching, a presence
outside a kitchen window, framed
by the leafless apple trees, the stiff blueberry bushes,
the after-harvest corn, the just-before-rain sky,

a shape only narrow bones could hold,
turning its full face upward, head tilted to one side, as if to speak.

I want my life back.

Morning settles around her like a silver coat.
Rustling branches, hooves in flight.

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 Philip Terman, "Deer Descending," from "Our Portion," (Autumn House Press, 2015). Poem reprinted by permission of Philip Terman 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.

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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"

Thrill of the chase Tracking Montana's big cats

STORY AND PHOTOS BY BRYCE CONNERY
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The distant music of the dogs disappeared into the frigid air as they dropped into the next drainage. Judging by the size of the mountain lion track and its upward trajectory, it was going to be a long day.

To see a mountain lion in the Montana wild without a trained pack of dogs is a rare, often fleeting experience. This solitary and primarily nocturnal animal leaves its mother around two years of age, and can travel amazing distances to establish its home range.

While dependent upon prey density, it is not uncommon for a mature mountain lion to have a home range of more than 150 square miles. This past fall, a lion traveled 450 miles from British Columbia to the Big Belt Mountains of Montana, according to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Mountain lions can sprint 40 mph and pounce over 20 feet from a standstill. They are one of the most deadly and efficient hunters in North America. Using the terrain and vegetation to their advantage, lions are typically ambush predators – they wait until the right moment before delivering a lethal bite to the base of their prey's neck.

As snow deepens during the winter months, mountain lions will follow deer and elk into lower elevations. Successfully tracking these cats over great distances in the mountains requires a strong relationship between you and your hounds.



Unlike dogs, mountain lions don't drag their feet through snow. Their rear heel pad has three lobes and their sharp retractable claws rarely show, leaving toe prints instead.

Similar to a springer spaniel working a brushy fence line or a lab diving into icy waters after a fallen mallard duck, a successful hunt depends on the dogs' performance. A highly trained pack of hounds, bred specifically for the job, is the only



Mountain lions have incredible speed but lack endurance, and eventually they seek safety by climbing a tree. The hounds are trained to follow the scent to the base of the tree and locate the cat, known as "treeing."

effective way to consistently observe the elusive mountain lion. While one dog can effectively tree a mountain lion, most houndsmen have two or more dogs and common breeds include blue tick, treeing walker and black and tan.

Because lions travel such great distances, the dogs are fit with electronic GPS collars that give their location every few seconds. This technology allows monitoring of the chase as it unfolds miles ahead of the hunter.

The collars also provide a level of safety for the dogs that charge well ahead, noses down. They are bred for the task at hand and live for the chase. For most hounds, their success is expressed through both their vocal excitement and speed.

The track left behind in the snow can suggest a lot about the lion's behavior, but there is constant uncertainty. Many areas of Montana are roadless, and without being able to circle-in the lion track there is no absolute way of telling how far the lion has traveled.

The dogs could pursue the track 100 yards down into a creek bottom and tree the animal, but more often will leave you miles from where you started.

Following the barks over the mountains as the dogs follow the track is truly exhilarating and physically challenging. Once you release the

hounds, there is a level of physical commitment to stay on the track until the dogs tree the lion.

Mountain lions will take you to places you never knew existed and you otherwise would never hike to, often leading you through the most unforgiving terrain imaginable.

The short, choppy barking can only mean the dogs have the mountain lion treed, and it's an amazing sound to hear after miles of hiking. To watch the dogs' excitement at the base of the tree and observe Montana's most elusive animal, often just several feet above you, is a truly wild experience.

While hunting is used to manage mountain lion populations, for most houndsmen the joy of watching their dogs hunt and leaving with a few photos to remember the day and the lion is more than enough. Knowing the large cat is still roaming the mountains with the hope of someday crossing its path again is what the sport is all about.

If you ever get the chance to follow the sound of hounds hunting through the mountains, it will be something you will never forget.

Bryce Connery is a realtor for Big Sky's L&K Real Estate. He grew up in New Hampshire and is an avid outdoorsman who has been exploring the mountains and rivers in the Big Sky area for more than 10 years, often with his two hounds.

Section 4: EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT



BFS screens two acclaimed films pg. 51



LPHS filmmakers premiere March 26 pg. 52



Brews & the Big Sky pg. 57

Jitro Czech Girls Choir closes WMPAC winter season

BY JOHN ZIRKLE
WMPAC ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

The girls choir Jitro, which means “daybreak” in Czech, is an extremely successful and world-renowned arts organization that has no single “leading player.”

The international touring act will perform at Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on Saturday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. This is the final act of the 2015-2016 WMPAC winter season and the choir will perform pieces from the contemporary, classical, and folk repertoire of the Czech Republic.

For more than 40 years, the choral institution has successfully nurtured thousands of Czech girls to become expert musicians before they're 20 years old. There are comparable organizations that focus on youth and music education around the

world, like the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra in Venezuela and the Vienna Boys Choir, but Jitro is truly unique. When you experience the group's sound you find yourself caught in an almost paradoxical combination of simplicity and complexity, levity and density, clarity and awe.

The formula is simple, but the dedication to that formula over multiple decades is what makes this group so special. Every August since 1976, Jitro's conductor Jirí Skopal has traveled to all the primary schools in Hradec Králové, the choir's hometown, and surrounding villages, to listen to every new kindergartner and first grader sing Czech folk songs. He and his wife Květa then invite the best singers from each class to join the choral organization.

Once they sign up, the girls begin rehearsals and work their way up the ranks for up to 14 years.

They sing with the same girls, under the baton of the same conductor, and tour with the same red costumes the entire way through.

As the singers grow, they pay constant attention to negotiating the territory of finding balance, correct intonation, and mature interpretations of phrasing. Over the span of 10-plus years, they learn to sacrifice the individual's need to shine and instead master what it means to be a part of a greater whole.

It's an oddly socialist sentiment – benefit the group before yourself – that rings especially true for a group from Eastern Europe, but that's how great choral music works. If the girls make it to the top 25 in the choir – out of about 350 girls – they get to spread the Czech gospel of choral music around the world. For the Montana tour, they are bringing their top 17 singers.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JITRO CZECH GIRLS CHOIR

As the WMPAC artistic director, every now and then I get to reach within my own personal networks to bring artists to our community. That was the case with Antonii Baryshevskiy, the Ukrainian pianist we presented in our debut season, and I had the opportunity to meet and work with Jitro nearly a decade ago on a Watson Fellowship.

When I heard the group for the first time, my life was changed forever in an instant. When they sang their first chord, I became fully aware of the potential of youth and their ability to bring something to light that was not merely excellent, but heart-shatteringly inspiring.

My journal entry from that day in Czech Republic sums it up perfectly: “... Today is the best day of my life.”

Visit warrenmillerpac.org for more information or to purchase tickets.

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5:45-7:00pm Weekend Wind Down All Levels Yoga	9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga 6:00-7:15pm All Levels Yoga	7:00-8:00am All Levels Yoga 8:15-9:15am Pilates 9:30-10:45am All Levels Yoga 5:30-6:30pm Barre 6:45-7:45pm All Levels Adult Ballet	7:30-8:30am All Levels Yoga 9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga Noon-1:00 All Levels Yoga 4:30-5:30pm Apres Ski Yoga	8:15-9:15am Pilates 9:30-10:45am All Levels Yoga 5:30-6:30pm Pi-Yo	8:30-9:30am Level II Yoga 10:30-11:30am Yin/Restorative Yoga	9:00-10:15am Ashtanga/Vinyasa Flow All Levels Yoga

An exchange of ideas LPHS filmmakers premiere original work March 26

BY BARBARA ROWLEY
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

An original film conceived and created by Lone Peak High School students and their teachers called “The Exchange Project” will premiere March 26 at Big Sky’s Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, during an evening of cultural dialogue that culminates with a performance by the Jitro Czech Girls Choir.

The film was conceived following an inspirational conversation with iconic filmmaker Warren Miller. It features local students and their families explaining their life in Big Sky and inviting other students around the world to make their own expository films in response.

LPHS juniors Dasha Bough and Ellie Quackenbush took the lead on the two-year-long project, which was created with the assistance of teacher Patty Hamblin who has two filmmaker brothers. WMPAC Artistic Director John Zirkle’s directorial acumen and musical composition skills were also invaluable to the young filmmakers.

An avid art student, Bough took the lead on the cinematography and also translated the entire film into Russian. Quackenbush, a former film student at Interlochen Arts Camp in Switzerland who hopes to study filmmaking in college, managed the editing process. The girls have also been designing a web page to encourage responses to their film and expect to show a film they’ve received in response from Russia following the premiere, if Bough can make a translation from Russian to English quickly enough.

The film features interviews with local Big Sky families and Bough says the process not only taught her about the craft of film, but also about the depth of her community.

“I came to understand my community on a more intimate level,” Bough said. “It allowed me to rediscover and pay tribute to this place I’ve called my home for 11 years, and this is what we hope others will gain from the experience as well.”

Quackenbush said she especially valued the skills she learned – including how to shoot video using a drone, and how to conduct interviews in the most flattering and interesting ways – as well as the unique benefits of living in such a connected community.

“It’s amazing to be able to live in a place where so many people can teach us and connect us to great sources and professionals,” Quackenbush said. “I think we both feel really lucky.”

“*The Exchange Project*” screens at 6:45 p.m., following an authentic Czech meal by private chef Lizzie Payton at 6 p.m. The event culminates with Jitro’s performance at 7:30 p.m.

Stuart Weber and friends perform in downtown Bozeman

THE ELLEN THEATRE

Gallatin Valley guitar luminary Stuart Weber will be joined on stage Tuesday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. by the young guitar talent Garardo Zarate Tarrazas from Mexico, and New York flutist Morgan Pappas. The three musicians will present a lively evening of guitar solos, as well as duets and trios in the superb acoustics of The Ellen Theatre.

In addition to works by Piazzola, Pujol, and Rodrigo, Weber will present a set of original guitar duets that haven’t been performed in nearly four decades. Pappas is a rising star in the New York City music scene and a sought after flutist by chamber orchestras across the country. She has appeared on stage at Avery Fisher Hall, Carnegie Hall and Symphony Space. Pappas is currently a graduate student at Aaron Copland School of Music at New York City’s Queens College.

Tarrazas began his guitar studies at the Conservatory of Music in Puebla, Mexico at the age of 13, and now performs in several established duos, trios and festival orchestras throughout Mexico.

Reserved seats are available at theellentheatre.com, by calling The Ellen Theatre box office at (406) 585-5885, or by visiting the box office Wednesday through Saturday from 1–3 p.m. Tickets may also be purchased two hours before the performance in the theater lobby.



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- **FRIDAY 3/18**
DIVERGENT SERIES:
ALLEGIANPT. 1 - PG-13 5:00 & 7:45
ZOOTOPIA - PG 4:30 & 7:00
- **SATURDAY 3/19 - NO MOVIES TODAY, SORRY!**
LIVE MUSIC BY “NOBODY” 6 - 8 PM
- **SUN. 3/20 - WED. 3/23**
DIVERGENT SERIES:
ALLEGIANPT. 1 - PG-13 5:00 & 7:45
ZOOTOPIA - PG 4:30 & 7:00
- **THURSDAY 3/24**
FLY FISHING FILM TOUR: 5:00 & 8:00 \$15
ZOOTOPIA - PG 4:30
DIVERGENT SERIES:
ALLEGIANPT. 1 - PG-13 7:45
- **FRIDAY 3/25**
PREMIERE OF: “INTERGALACTIC SPACE BUSK” 7:00
FREE! With Q&A by film maker Ian Volpi and
BATMAN vs. SUPERMAN: DAWN OF JUSTICE 7:45
DIVERGENT SERIES:
ALLEGIANPT. 1 - PG-13 5:00 & 7:45
- **SAT. 3/26 - THURS. 3/31**
BATMAN vs. SUPERMAN:
DAWN OF JUSTICE - PG-13 4:30 & 7:30
DIVERGENT SERIES:
ALLEGIANPT. 1 - PG-13 5:00 & 7:45
- **FRIDAY 4/1**
BIG SKY SHOOT OUT PREMIERES! 7:45 \$8
AFTER PARTY WITH MUSIC BY M.O.T.H.
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* MOVIES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CALL 995-STAR FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE FILM SCHEDULE.

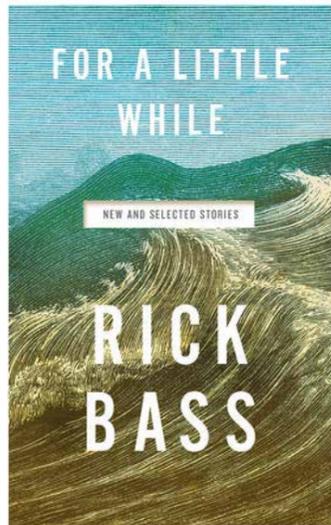
Book Review: “For A Little While”

Little, Brown

\$28

480 pages

BY BRIAN HURLBUT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR



Shortly after moving to Montana in the summer of 1993 as a hopeful creative writing student, I discovered the writing of Rick Bass. First I read his nonfiction, most notably “Winter: Notes from Montana” – which at the time, being the first winter spent in my new state, seemed to reinforce my decision to move 2,500 miles from western New York. When I discovered “The Watch,” Bass’s first collection of short stories, I knew he was a writer that I would follow for a long time.

More than two decades later, it’s fitting that Bass gets a well-deserved compilation in the recently released “For A Little While.” This career-spanning collection includes 18 previously published stories and seven new works, showcasing the vivid, often gritty style that Bass is revered for.

Since Bass is often considered a writer of the West, it’s easy to forget that he grew up in Texas and honed his fiction while living in the South. Early stories in this collection feature characters from that region – Mississippi, Texas, the Gulf Coast – as well as places as far apart as New York and Utah.

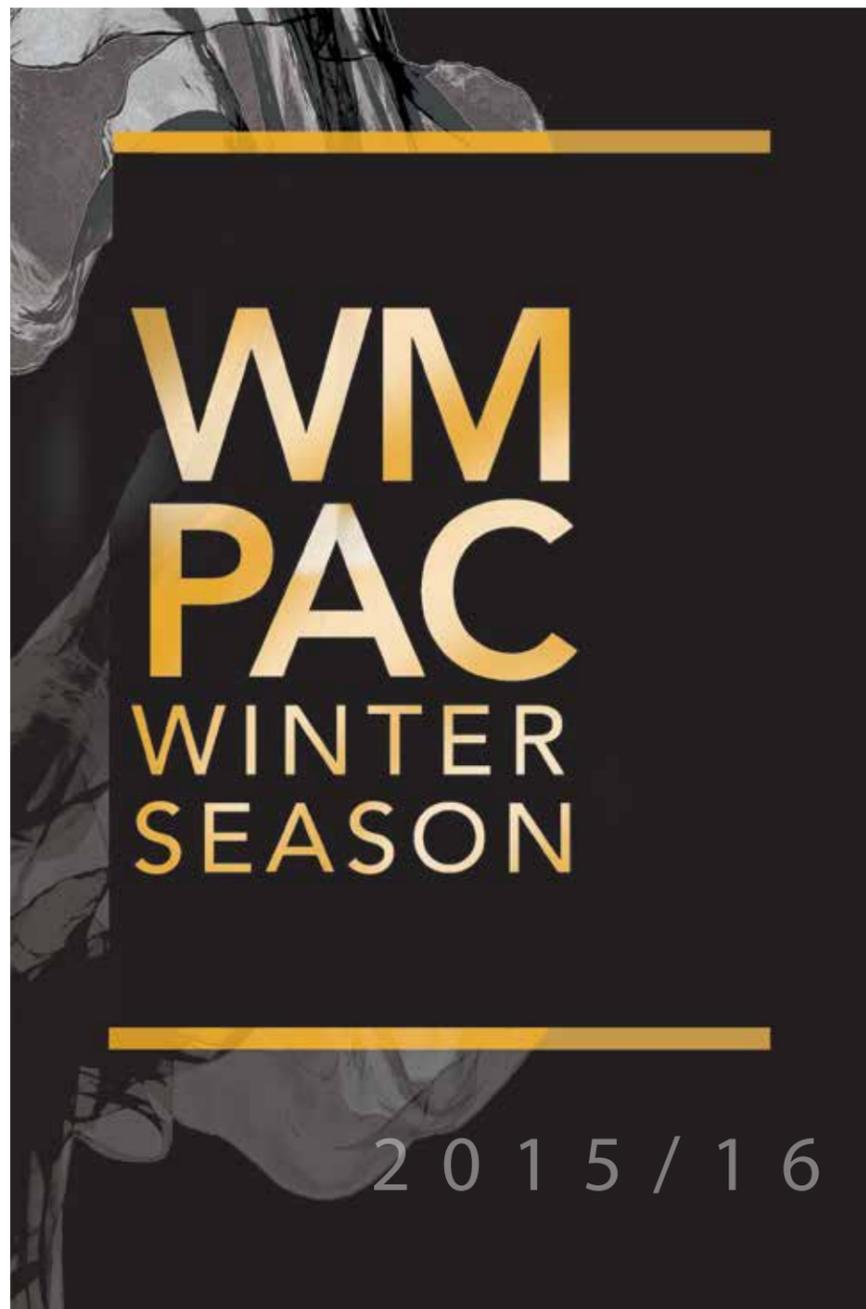
In “The Legend of Pig Eye,” we follow a young bar fighter as he tries to brawl his way toward winning 100 fistfights so he can escape to New York City to be a professional boxer. In “Wild Horses,” bronc-buster Sydney tries to tame his grief by falling in love with his dead friend’s fiancée. Perhaps the most stirring work is “In Ruth’s Country,” in which Bass masterfully illustrates the inherent conflicts of growing up in Mormon country. A young, non-Mormon boy and a Mormon girl spend the summer falling in love over gin and tonics and late night rides in the desert, only to be torn apart by the rules of the church and a local bishop who seems to have it out for both of them.

As good as the older stories are in this collection, it’s the new ones that bolster the case for Bass as one of the best writers of his generation. Anyone who has followed small-town sports will appreciate “Coach,” where a teacher and lifelong coach gets hired to turn around a high school girls basketball team.

We follow the story of down and out logger Wilson, first in “The Blue Tree,” where an annual Christmas tree gathering excursion with his daughters becomes another example of why his wife is fed up with him. In An “Alcoholics Guide to Peru and Chile,” Wilson – now broke and separated from his wife – runs up his credit card in a last-ditch effort to bond with his daughters while struggling to hide his compulsion to drink.

For those new to Bass’s writing, “For A Little While” is a great introduction to a writer who deftly portrays the complexities of the human condition through his characters. If you’ve been following Bass during his lengthy career, this compilation serves as a brilliant reminder of his importance in American fiction, and as evidence that his best work might still be ahead of him.

Big Sky freelance writer Brian Hurlbut is the author of the “Insider’s Guide to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks” (Globe-Pequot Press) and “Montana: Skiing the Last Best Place” (Great Wide Open Press). His writing has appeared in *Montana Quarterly*, *Montana Magazine*, *Big Sky Journal*, *Mountain Outlaw*, and *Western Art and Architecture* magazines, among others.



Saturday, March 19, 7:30 p.m.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

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**FRIDAY, MARCH 18 –
THURSDAY, MARCH 31**

*If your event falls between
April 1 and 14, please submit
it by March 25.

Big Sky

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

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.

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

One Leaf Clover
Montana Jack, 10 p.m.

Comedy Night
Lone Peak Brewery, 7:30pm

SATURDAY, MARCH 19
**Smokin' Aces: Royal
Flush Championship
Slopestyle
Big Sky Resort,
8:30 a.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.

Chuck Denison
Choppers, 4:30 p.m.

James Sewell Ballet
Warren Miller Performing Arts
Center, 7:30 p.m.

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

Riot Act
Montana Jack, 10 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

Big Sky Lady Shred
Big Sky Resort, 9 a.m.

On Mountain Church Services
Big Sky Resort, 9 a.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 21

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

Dan Dubuque
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

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

Mike Haring
Carabiner Lounge 4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

MSI Freeskiing World Tour
Big Sky Resort, 8 a.m.

Wine Wednesday
Mountain Maven, 11 a.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 24

MSI Freeskiing World Tour
Big Sky Resort, 8 a.m.

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

Mike Haring
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Auction For The Arts
Lone Mountain Ranch, 5 p.m.

Fly-Fishing Film Tour
Lone Peak Cinema, 5 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 25
MSI Freeskiing World Tour
Big Sky Resort, 8 a.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.

Pie Auction
Ophir School / Lone Peak High
School, 5 p.m.

Erin & The Project
Choppers, 7 p.m.

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

MSI Freeskiing World Tour
Big Sky Resort, 8 a.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.

Kent Johnson
Choppers, 4:30 p.m.

**Jitro Czech Girls' Choir
Warren Miller
Performing Arts
Center, 7:30 p.m.**

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

SLOMO JOE
Montana Jack, 10 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

MSI Freeskiing World Tour
Big Sky Resort, 8 a.m.

Easter Sunrise Service
Top of Swift Current, 7 a.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 28

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

Dan Dubuque
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

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 30

Wine Wednesday
Mountain Maven, 11 a.m.

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.

Comedy Night
Lone Peak Brewery, 7:30pm

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

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

Mike Haring
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

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

Bozeman

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

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

These Shining Lives
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Quenby & The West of
Wayland Band
Eagles Lodge, 9 p.m.

Comstock Lode
American Legion, 9 p.m.

Cure for the Common + Jelly
Bread + Roosevelt Collier
Eagles Lodge Upstairs, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

Winter Farmers' Market
Emerson Ballroom, 9 a.m.

Weston Lewis
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

These Shining Lives
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Quenby & The West of
Wayland Band
Eagles Lodge, 9 p.m.

Comstock Lode
American Legion, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

Aaron Williams
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 21

Teen Writer's Group
Bozeman Public Library, 4 p.m.

Pints with Purpose
Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Improv on the Verge
Verge Theater, 7 p.m.

Karaoke
American Legion, 9 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

Free Tax Help
Bozeman Public Library, 10 a.m.

Yoga For All
Bozeman Public Library,
11 a.m. & 12 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

BPW Honors Awards
Ceremony
The Emerson Center for the
Arts & Culture, 5:30 p.m.

Extreme History Project
Lecture
Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Pickin' in the Parks
The Story Mansion, 6:30 p.m.

Creativity and Madness:
"Laundry for Strangers"
Bozeman Public Library, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

**Grand Opening Party
Red Tractor Pizza, 6 p.m.**

Dan Dubuque
Red Tractor Pizza, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

Red Tractor Pizza Grand
Opening Party
Red Tractor Pizza, 5 p.m.

Bluegrass Jam Session
Red Tractor Pizza, 5 p.m.

Cole Thorne
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Laney Lou & The Bird Dogs
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Teahouse Tango
Townshend's Bozeman
Teahouse, 7:30 p.m.

These Shining Lives
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Tom Cook Band
Eagles Lodge, 9 p.m.

DJ Walker
American Legion, 9 p.m.

The Magic Beans with
Solidarity Service
Eagles Lodge Upstairs, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

Grand Opening Party
Red Tractor Pizza, 2 p.m.

Kids Pizza Making Party
Red Tractor Pizza, 2 p.m.

Alex's Jazz Trio
Red Tractor Pizza, 5-7 p.m.

Kalyn Beasley
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Hawthorne Roots
Red Tractor Pizza, 7:30 p.m.

These Shining Lives
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Satsang Album Release Party
The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

Tom Cook Band
Eagles Lodge, 9 p.m.

DJ Walker
American Legion, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 27
Scottish Music Jam
Townshend's Teahouse, 5 p.m.

Nathan North
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Adult Meditation Group
Bozeman Dharma Center, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 28
Pints with Purpose
Bridger Brewing, 5 p.m.

Aaron Williams
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29
Tom Ahern on Fundraising & Donor
Communications
The Baxter Hotel, 9 a.m.

Free Tax Help
Bozeman Public Library, 10 a.m.

Yoga For All
Bozeman Public Library,
11 a.m. & 12 p.m.

Kiln-Formed Glass Course
Tad Bradley Designs, 4 p.m.

**Brews & The Big Sky:
High Flyers in the Big Sky
Museum of the Rockies,
5:30 p.m.**

An Evening for the Land
Montana Ale Works, 5:30 p.m. &
7:30 p.m.

Modern Dance Class for Adults
MBC Studios, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30
Aerial Fabric and Trapeze Class
Aerial Arts of Bozeman, 5:30 p.m.

Elise R. Donohue Lecture: The
Nonpartisan League in North
American Politics
Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Pickin in the Parks
The Story Mansion, 6:30 p.m.

Edible Backyards Series
Broken Ground, 6:30 p.m.

Spiritual Rez
The Filling Station, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31
Your Wild Backyard: A
Conservation Strategy for the
Gallatin Range
Bozeman Public Library, 7 p.m.

Mobb Depp
The Molly Brown, 7 p.m.

Livingston & Paradise Valley

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

Jesus Christ Superstar
Shane Center, 8 p.m.

The Fossils
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Exit 288
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19
The May Brothers
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Jesus Christ Superstar
Shane Center, 8 p.m.

Western Electric
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Exit 288
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

The Max
Timber Bar, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20
Jesus Christ Superstar
Shane Center, 3 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 21
Andrea Harsell
The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 22
Beer for a Cause:
Spay & Neuter Project
Katabatic Brewing, 5 p.m.

Meru-Believe in the Impossible
Shane Lalani Center for the Arts,
6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23
Larry Hirshberg
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24
Erin & The Project
The Murray Bar, 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25
Jesus Christ Superstar
Shane Center, 8 p.m.

Gallatin Grass Project
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

AMERICAN LEGION BIG SKY POST 99 MEETINGS / BINGO

The American Legion Big Sky Post 99 is changing it's monthly meetings from Tuesdays to the first Monday of every month beginning April 4. The Legion meets at 17:30 (5:30 p.m.) at Lone Peak Cinema and the public is welcome to attend.

Post 99 will also begin hosting its weekly bingo game on Tuesdays at the Gallatin Riverhouse Grill starting April 5. Bingo will begin each week with an "early bird" game at 6 p.m. and run for eight weeks.

Under the Bleachers
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26
Kaylan Beasley
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Jesus Christ Superstar
Shane Center, 8 p.m.

Tom Catmull's Radio Static
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Under the Bleachers
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 27
Jesus Christ Superstar
Shane Center, 3 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 28
Danny Bee
The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 29
Beer for a Cause:
Park County Veterans Association
Katabatic Brewing, 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30
Cory Johnson
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31
Paul Lee Kupfer
The Murray Bar, 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1
Rumors
Blue Slipper Theater, 8 p.m.

Heather Lingle Band
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Russ Nasset & The Revelators
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

West Yellowstone

FRIDAY, MARCH 18
Chess Club
Public Library, 4 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 21
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24
Adult Co-Ed Volleyball
West Yellowstone School Gym, 7 p.m.

Knit Night
Sent It Home, 6 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 25
Chess Club
Public Library, 4 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 28
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29
Martial Arts Classes
Povah Center, 5:30 & 6:30 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 31
Adult Co-Ed Volleyball
West Yellowstone School Gym, 7 p.m.

Knit Night
Sent It Home, 6 p.m.

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



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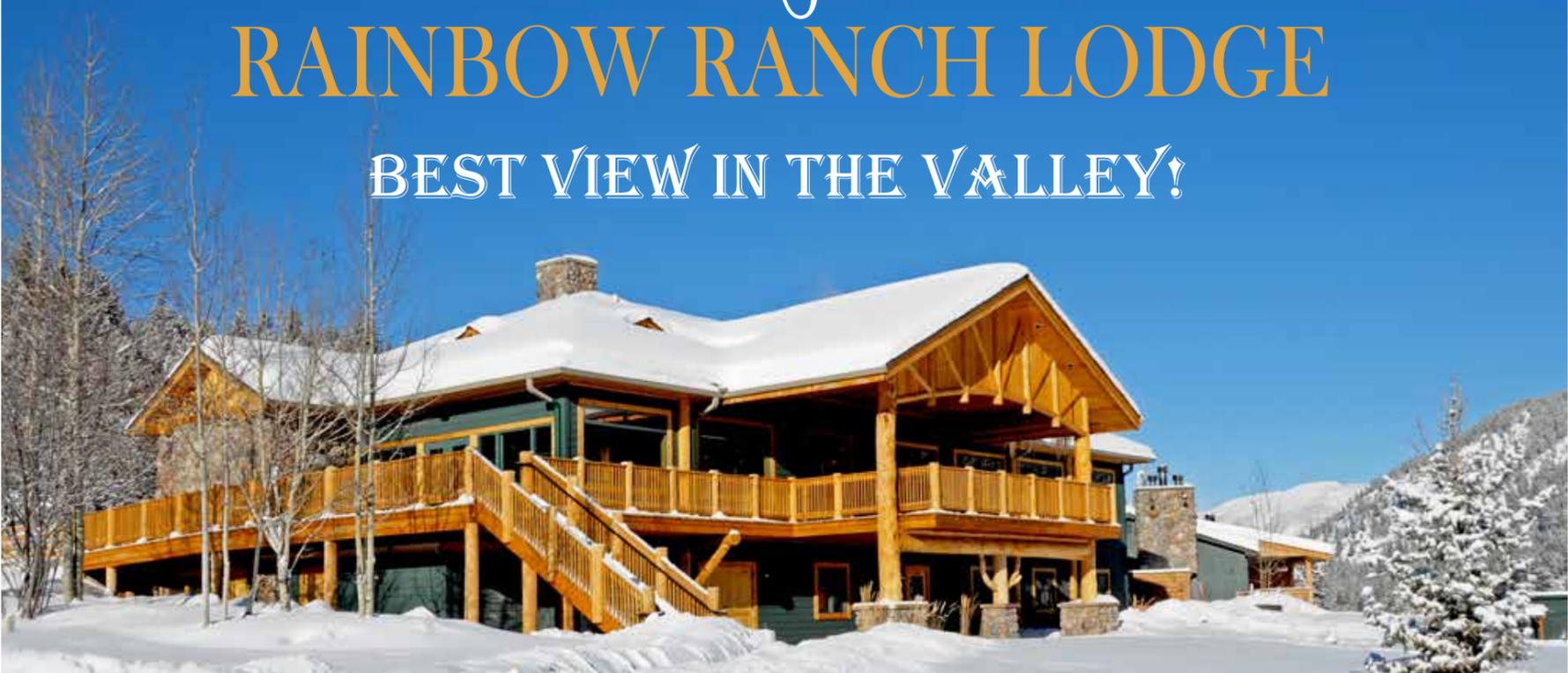
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Brews and the Big Sky pairs Montana beers, industries

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS STAFF WRITER

BOZEMAN – A Museum of the Rockies program that matches a Montana brewery with a Montana business is bringing another evening of beers and economic discussion to Bozeman on Tuesday, March 29.

This installation of Brews and the Big Sky: Montana Made, Montana Brewed will feature libations from Helena-based Lewis and Clark Brewing Company and conversational fodder from Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport and Summit Aviation. MOR's Curator of History Michael Fox will give a presentation on the history of aviation in Montana.

Brews and the Big Sky was developed as a wintertime sister program to Hops and History, a monthly summer event that celebrates the history of agriculture in Montana and the brewing industry's contribution to it.

Still in its first season, Brews and the Big Sky has emerged as one of MOR's more popular offerings. "We've got a good crowd of folks that attend these events regularly, but we also see new faces every time," said Angie Weikert, education and public programs director at MOR. "Obviously it's a crowd that really loves beer."

With their ticket, attendees may sample multiple beers and grab a pint of their favorite. Weikert said those who partake appreciate the opportunity to connect with breweries and businesses influential in the state.

"It's this really great, diverse mix of business and breweries that folks that live in Gallatin Valley might not have exposure to on a regular basis," she said. "Part of the beauty of this program and what draws people in is the ability to make that personal connection with the business sponsoring the event and the brewer." Approximately 150 people turn out for each event held the last Tuesday of the month, according to Weikert.

In April, Bozeman-based fly-fishing gear manufacturer Simms will appear alongside Bitter Root Brewery out of Hamilton for the season's final offering before the Hops and History series begins in May.

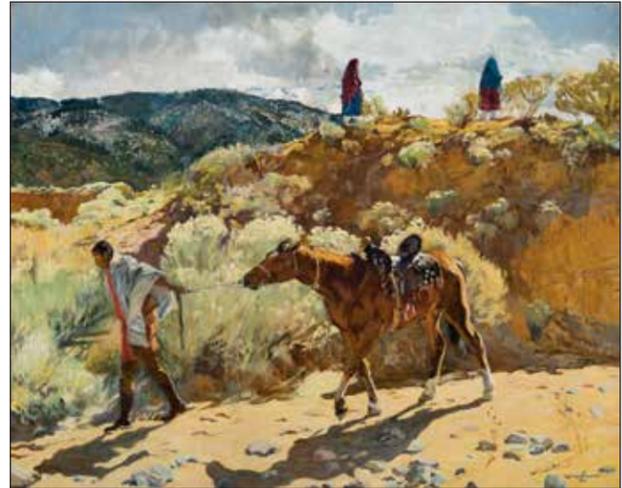
Visit museumoftherockies.org/education/adults for more information or to purchase tickets.



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MARTIN GRELLE

ESTIMATE: \$300,000 - 400,000

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Diamond Bar 7, Big Timber
2,062± acre productive ranch, 5 reservoirs, irrigated cropland, owner's residence, hand's home & live water



\$778,000 | #200670

Lost Trail Retreat, Big Sky
20± acres, mid-mountain location Outstanding building site with mtn views Community water system



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Price Reduced!
MLS # 208168



This condo is your affordable entry into the Big Sky lifestyle! To be sold partially furnished, this 2 bedroom, 1 and 3/4 bathroom, with bonus loft sleeping area comfortably sleeps 4 and easily expands to sleep 6. The location offers close proximity to skiing, mountain biking, shopping, and public transportation.

Hill Condominium #1346

\$207,500

Stuart Butterworth ~ Sales Associate

235 Snowy Mountain Circle Suite 6-2B. Big Sky, MT 59716

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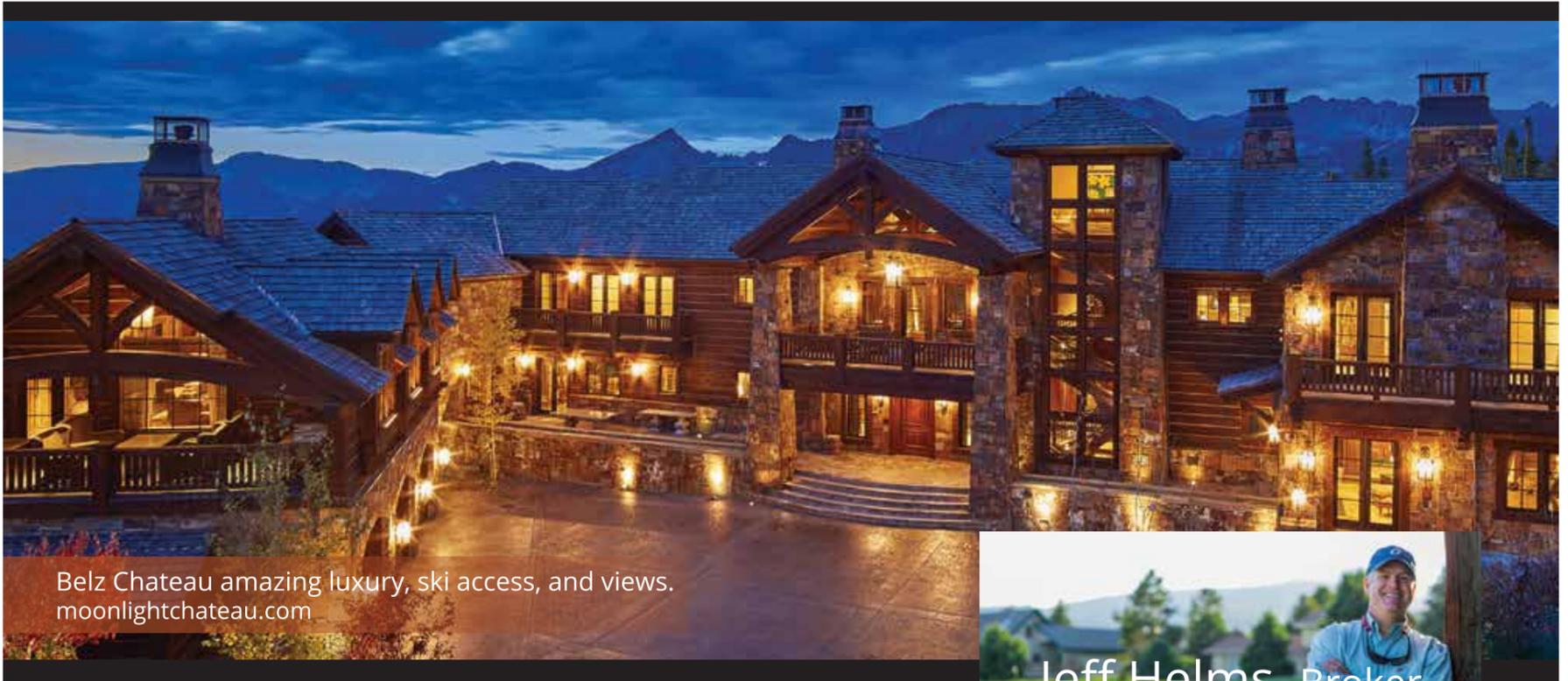


MLS #202300

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.

Big Horn Condominium #39

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Belz Chateau amazing luxury, ski access, and views.
moonlightchateau.com



Jeff Helms, Broker
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jeff@bigsksir.com

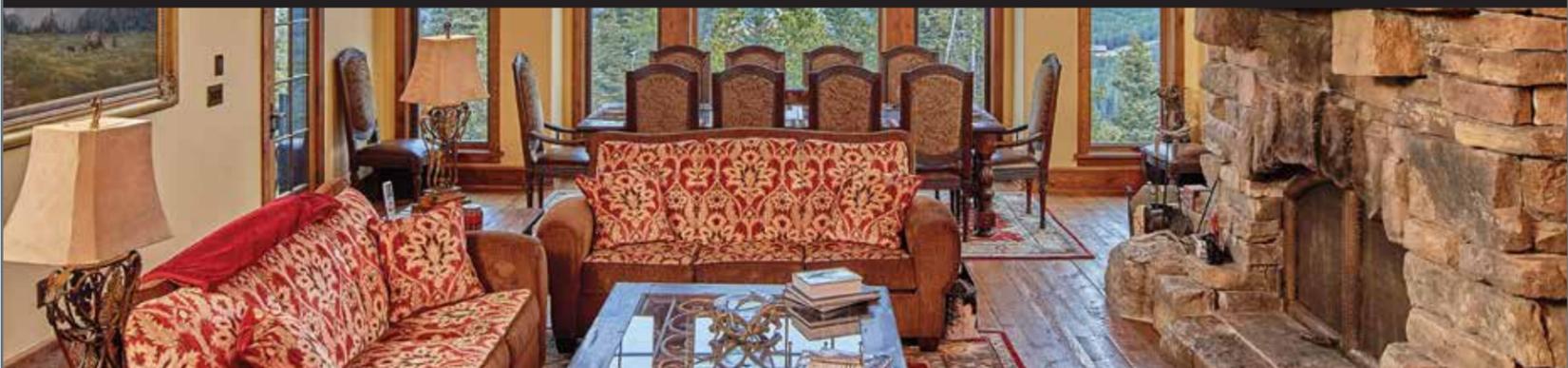
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Moonlight’s Cowboy Heaven - 16 Peaks View



This exquisite home in Cowboy Heaven offers the most ideal ski-in, ski-out location right out the back door.
5,870 sf | 4 BR | 6 BA | \$3,995,000 | MLS: 208611

Moonlight’s Ski Home - 39 Renegade Road



Sophistication and warmth personify this Cowboy Heaven home. This is where rustic meets luxury.
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Ulery’s Homesites



20 Acres Homesites each \$1,100,000
MLS: 12A-210837; 13A-210838; 21-211534

Moonlight Mountain Home



5,560 sf | 3 BR | 5 BA
\$1,595,000 | MLS: 209009

Moose Ridge NEW Development



3,268 sf | 5 BR | 6 BA
\$865,000 | MLS: 210845



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JACK CREEK ROAD

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Located between Ennis and Big Sky. 1,916± acres, via a private gated road. The Ranch includes a custom log home and several other building locations with spectacular mountain vistas. Co-listed with Swan Land Co.



CAMP ARROWHEAD

\$8,350,000 | #208912 | Call Stacy or Eric

25± acre Beehive Basin compound. House, guest house, caretaker apartment. Views to Lone Mountain, Andesite and Beehive. Near Big Sky Resort and Moonlight Basin.



TIMBERLOFT ROAD

\$2,750,000 | #208466 | Call Don

120± acres sited in an alpine meadow overlooking Big Sky. Incredible views of the resort area including Lone Mountain. 3 selected home sites each on their own 40± acre parcel.



SILVERADO TRAIL

\$2,600,000 | #202031 | Call Stacy or Eric

5 Bd, 4 ba, 6,663± sf., on 4.76± wooded acres, views of the Spanish Peaks and Lone Mountain. Attention to detail with carved mantels and wood floors, 6 fireplaces, 3 car heated garage.



NORTHFORK ROAD

\$2,495,000 | #209944 | Call Don

216± Acres, heavily forested with meadows, approx. ¾ mile of Northfork flows through. Borders public land, great cross country ski property.



BIG BUCK ROAD

\$799,900 | #210115 | Call Don

33.95± acres with outstanding views of the Mountains. Great building sites; owned by developers' partner. Lot has never been on the market previously, no worry of tree growth impacting views.



BEAVER CREEK WEST, LOT 13

\$499,000 | #195161 | Call Don

20± acres, spectacular views, located on gentle slope, private driveway, ideal for a new home, well is drilled, short distance to NFS land/trails.



SUMMIT VIEW PH 3, LOT 5

\$498,000 | #211526 | Call Stacy or Eric

One of 5 lots in private, gated, Summit View Phase 111. This 4.5± acre lot is in a premier location in Big Sky Mountain Village and has views toward Lone Mtn and Beehive Basin.



TIMBERLOFT DRIVE RECREATIONAL

\$475,000 #206525 | \$425,000 #206527 | Call Don

Outstanding views of Lone Mountain/ Spanish Peaks, grassy meadows with forested building site! Accessed by private electronically gated road. Additional acreage available up to 140± more acres.



34 LOW DOG ROAD

\$280,000 | #199205 | Call Stacy or Eric

Lovely homesite opportunity to the rear of the lot offers privacy and open views. Close to Big Sky's Mountain Village, conference centers, hotels and restaurants.



CURLEY BEAR CONDO

\$230,000 | #204817 | Call Stacy or Eric

Centrally located Glacier Condo in Big Sky's Meadow Village near the golf course, hiking trails and cross country skiing. This 2 bd, 2.5 ba unit has deck and balcony with eastern views.



BLACK OTTER CONDO

\$210,000 | #210222 | Call Marc

This charming 2 bd, 1 full ba condo has a wonderful central location in Big Sky, Adjacent to the Arnold Palmer designed Big Sky Golf Course, wood burning fireplace, exterior patio and access to the Silverbow pool center.

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2 bedroom / 3 bath / 1307 sq ft
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**LONE MOOSE MEADOWS
CONDO 101D**
• 4BR/3BA/2600 SF
• Ski-in/ski-out
• Fully furnished
Listed at \$1,295,000



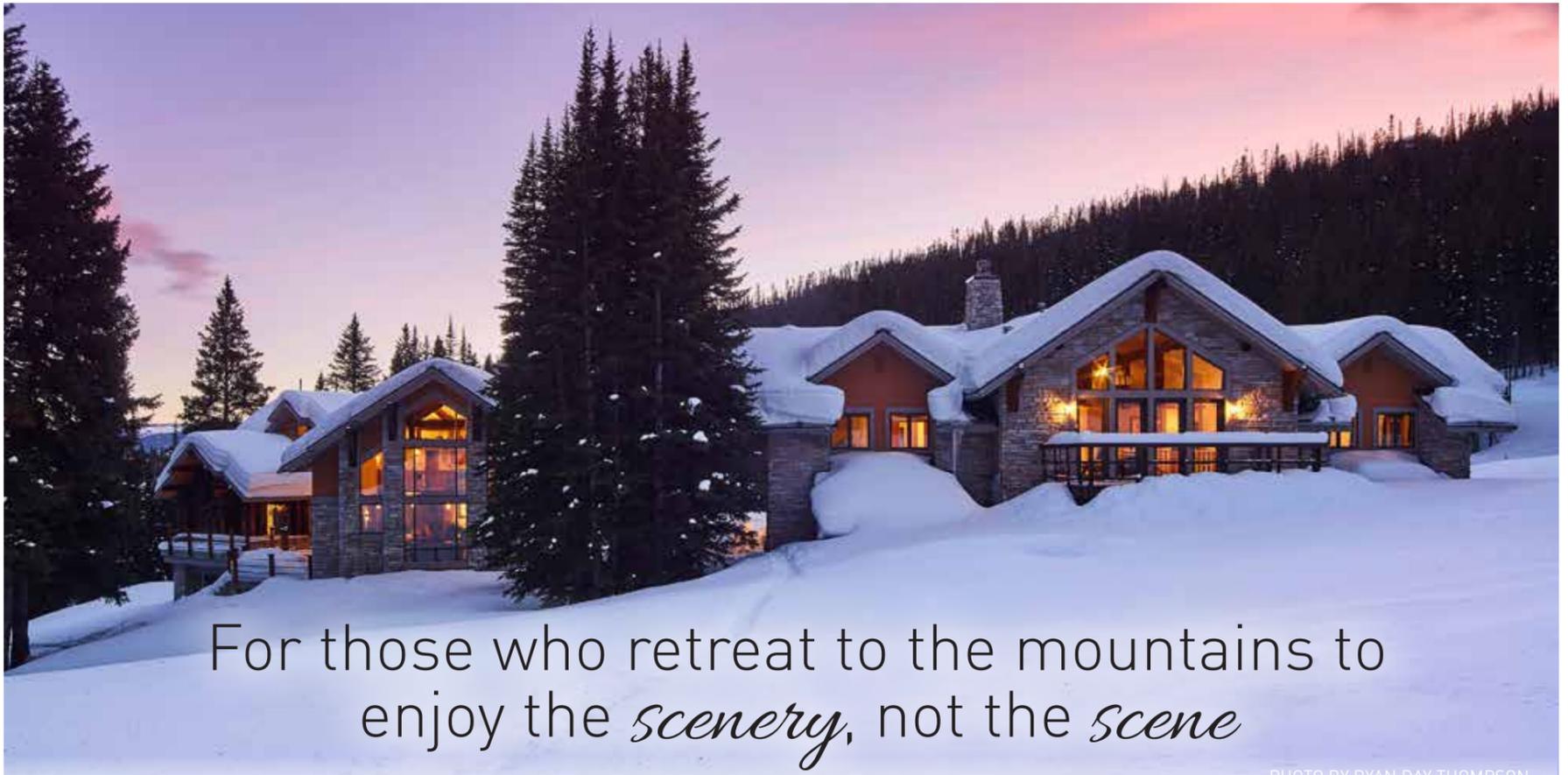
MINOR SUB 227C, CEIL DRIVE
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• 6+ acre Home Site
• Limited covenants
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512 Old Farm Rd. / Old River Farm / Bozeman

4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms
5,497 SQ FT. / 20+ ACRES
-1/2 mile of East Gallatin River Frontage
\$3,250,000



Mountain Meadows / Gallatin Canyon / Big Sky

120 ACRES
Large acreage lot with Lone Peak view
\$3,495,000



214 W. Pine Cone Terrace / Aspen Groves / Big Sky

4 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms
4,268 SQ FT. / .75 ACRES
End of cul-de-sac location
\$1,500,000



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"Buy land, they're not making any more of it"

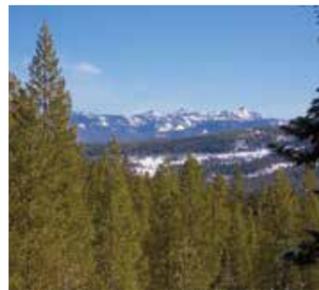
- Mark Twain



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



Lot 144A Pumice Road*
Yellowstone Club
2 ACRES
Lowest priced ski-in, ski-out lot at Yellowstone Club
\$2,650,000



Lot 119 Old Barn Rd*
Spanish Peaks Mountain Club
3.13 ACRES
Private creekside location
\$450,000



Lot 148 Wildridge Drive*
Spanish Peaks Mountain Club
3.05 ACRES
Incredible mountain views
\$545,000



Lot 105 White Butte Road
Big Sky Mountain
2.94 ACRES
Ski access with incredible mountain views
\$415,000



Lot 287A Rising Bull Road
Big Sky Mountain
1.04 ACRES
Double lot with ski access
\$529,000



Lot 43A Half Moon Court
Big Sky Meadow
1.22 ACRES
Streamside location
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Luxury Ski Properties



Treehouse Condo at Warren Miller Lodge* / Yellowstone Club
 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms / 2,191 SQ FT
Unbeatable location as the only condo available in the Warren Miller Lodge
 \$9,800,000



River Runs Through It* / Yellowstone Club
 7 bedrooms, 10 bathrooms / 13,349 SQ FT
Largest ski-in, ski-out home available at Yellowstone Club
 \$13,000,000

NEW LISTING



Homestead Cabin 2* / Spanish Peaks Mountain Club
 6 bedrooms, 8 bathrooms / 3,635 SQ FT
Ski and golf course access location
 \$2,875,000

REDUCED PRICE



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