

Explore

Happy Holidays!

FREE

Big Sky

December 9 - 22, 2016
Volume 7 // Issue #25

The biz buzz in Big Sky

Inside the Water Solutions Forum town hall

Madrigal Dinner:

A photo collage

Vote for Best of Big Sky!

Spotlight:

Native American artist Ben Pease

Winter 2017 Real Estate Guide



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. P A R T N E R S .

Dec. 9 – Dec. 22, 2016
Volume 7, Issue No. 25

Owned and published in Big Sky, Montana

PUBLISHER
Eric Ladd

EDITORIAL
EDITOR / EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MEDIA
Joseph T. O'Connor

SENIOR EDITOR/DISTRIBUTION DIRECTOR
Tyler Allen

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Amanda Eggert

CREATIVE
SENIOR DESIGNER
Taylor-Ann Smith

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Carie Birkmeier

VIDEO DIRECTOR
Wes Overvold

VIDEO EDITOR
Ryan Weaver

SALES AND OPERATIONS
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
Megan Paulson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SALES AND MARKETING
E.J. Daws

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
Alexis Deaton

MEDIA AND EVENTS DIRECTOR
Ersin Ozer

MARKETING COORDINATOR
Amy Delgrande

DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR
Doug Hare

CONTRIBUTORS
Jen Bennet, Matthew Brown, Alan Bublitz, Nicole Campbell, Jackie Rainford Corcoran, Jeff Daniels, Dan Egan, Sarah Gianelli, David Johnson, Ted Kooser, Derek Lennon, Scott Mechura, Chelsi Moy, Brandon Niles, John Nunnes, Rachel Richardson, Auden Schendler, Milosz Shipman, Patrick Straub, Matt Volz, Jennie White, Todd Wilkinson, Ciara Wolfe, Jeremy Wood

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ON THE COVER:

Fresh scents of pine, glistening lights on rooftops and neatly hung ornaments are signs that the holiday spirit is here! MURIKA/BIGSTOCK.COM

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1: News

Opinion.....	5
Local.....	7
Montana.....	15

Section 2: Environment, Sports, & Health

Environment.....	17
Sports.....	21
Business.....	25
Health.....	27
Dining.....	31

Section 3: Inside Yellowstone, Outdoors & Fun

Outdoors.....	33
Gear.....	42
Fun.....	43

Section 4: Events & Entertainment & Back 40

Events & Entertainment.....	45
Back 40.....	60

2017 Winter Real Estate Guide



12

The biz buzz in Big Sky

7 **Vote for Best of Big Sky!**



45

Spotlight: Native American artist Ben Pease



OPENING SHOT

Cameron and Ian Pecunies, 8 and 9 years old, throw two big thumbs up for the start of another winter season at Big Sky Resort. PHOTO BY DAVE PECUNIES

Do you want to see your photography in the pages of EBS? Submit a maximum of three images via email to carie@outlaw.partners or use #explorebigsky on social media to be eligible. One photo per issue will be chosen for the opening shot.

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The Yellowstone Preserve is a 1,580 acre collection of eight mountain ranches located in Big Sky, Montana and is situated between the restricted enclaves of The Yellowstone Club, the Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and the Gallatin Preserve. This unique Collection of spectacular ranches is approximately 40 minutes south of Bozeman, Montana and only 45 minutes from Yellowstone National Park, the world's first national park.

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MSU Extension offers new MontGuide on climate science in Montana

MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – Montana State University Extension has published a new MontGuide factsheet, which details weather and climate in Montana.

The newly released MontGuide explains the difference between weather and climate. The color, four-page guide includes definitions of weather and climate, compares weather forecasting versus climate projections, defines the greenhouse effect and details climate change through time.

“We are excited to offer this new guide that gives Montanans the background to understand an important topic that affects us all,” said Brad Bauer, MSU Extension natural resources agent in Gallatin County and co-author of the MontGuide, “Climate Science 101.”

“There are several misconceptions related to climate and climate change,” said Fabian Menalled, MSU cropland weed Extension specialist and co-author of the guide. “We wrote this MontGuide to provide Montana citizens with easy-to-access, science-based information on a relevant topic. We hope the information presented will help everyone in Montana understand the causes and implications of climate change.”

A copy of “Climate Science 101” can be obtained at no charge from local county Extension agents or it can be printed for free from the web at http://store.msuextension.org/Products/Climate-Science-101-for-Montana__MT201614AG.aspx.

Tester introduces legislation to increase government transparency

OFFICE OF JON TESTER

Sen. Jon Tester in late November called on President-elect Donald J. Trump to stand by his promise to “drain the swamp” in Washington, D.C., of former officials lobbying the government after leaving service. He also introduced legislation to increase transparency of public records and hold the federal government accountable.

Tester’s Public Online Information Act will make all public records from the executive branch permanently available on the Internet in a searchable database at no cost to constituents.

“It’s time we shine some light on government and hold federal agencies accountable to the public,” said Tester, whose bill aligns with the Freedom of Information Act in exempting matters of national security, personnel records, and pending law enforcement investigations from the database.

Following news that Trump is filling his administration with former lobbyists, Tester said he was deeply troubled that the president-elect would make this decision after promising to “drain the swamp.”

Tester is sponsoring the Close the Revolving Door Act, which would prevent former members of Congress from becoming lobbyists. He also holds himself to a high ethical standard, posting his daily schedule online.

“I look forward to working with President-elect Trump to create good-paying jobs, strengthen our economy, and make responsible investments in infrastructure, education and health care,” said Tester. “But when he doesn’t uphold our Montana values, I will hold him accountable.”

Gallatin County Sheriff’s Office close to nabbing suspect in Casey’s Corner robbery

EBS STAFF

Capt. Jason Jarrett said the Gallatin County Sheriff’s Office is close to issuing a warrant for the felony arrest of a male suspect in a robbery at Casey’s Corner gas station in Four Corners near Bozeman.

On Saturday, Nov. 26, a male suspect entered Casey’s Corner, walked through the store and into the bathroom where he remained until the store was empty of patrons.

The suspect then donned a ski mask, as seen in video footage captured during the crime, and detained the store clerk in a back room by threat of force with two 12-inch kitchen knives.

The suspect was in the store for more than 15 minutes until the robbery was complete. The Gallatin County Sheriff’s Office would not provide details about the robbery while still under investigation.

The suspect exited the back of the store when a patron entered. It is believed the suspect ran past the Carriage House Car Wash and possibly Summit Motorsports to an unknown location or vehicle.

The Sheriff’s Office released photographs of the suspect wearing the stocking cap and another that partially revealed his face.

Jarrett said the Gallatin County Sheriff’s Office received a tip based off the photographs and announcement released on Gallatin Valley Media Center on Dec. 6 and that he expected the suspect to be in custody shortly, but could not provide any more information at this time.

Malfunctioning propane tank causes fire, one minor injury at Montana Dinner Yurt

EBS STAFF

The Big Sky Fire Department and Yellowstone Club Fire Department responded to a Nov. 30 fire at the Montana Dinner Yurt, a seasonal dining yurt on Andesite Mountain accessed by snowmobiles and snowcats during the winter.

The valve of a propane tank in a nearby tent was stuck open. When the propane gas met with heat from a burner that was on, it started a fire that burned the tent down.

Big Sky Fire Department Chief William Farhat said five people were present at the time of the fire—the owners of the yurt were preparing to open it for the season—and one person sustained minor injuries. The tent burned down, but the yurt sustained only minor damage.

“The fire burned itself out,” Farhat said. “There wasn’t too much to it.”

Big Sky Ski Patrol and Mountain Operations assisted the fire departments by helping them access the fire on snowmobiles and snowcats.

Farhat said the owners of the malfunctioning propane tank would be contacted and an investigation is underway.

Chelsi Moy, Big Sky Resort’s Public Relations manager, said the Montana Dinner Yurt will continue operations as planned this season.

Conservation groups laud mining pause near Yellowstone

EBS STAFF

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced a two-year pause on mining on public land neighboring Yellowstone National Park at a Nov. 21 meeting held at Chico Hot Springs Resort in Pray, Montana, and attended by more than 100 community members.

The Yellowstone Gateway Business Coalition, of which they are more than 250 members, celebrated the announcement, which will prevent any new mining claims from being staked or mining activity being approved in some 30,000 acres of public land in Emigrant Gulch and Crevice Mountain for two years while a longer-term ban is considered.

“There are good places to mine for gold, but the doorstep of Yellowstone National Park is not one of them,” Jewell said in a Department of the Interior press release.

The action by the department does not apply to mining claims on private land. Two proposed mines in the area—one near Chico Hot Springs, and another in Jardine, Montana, near Yellowstone’s northern border—will not be directly impacted by the action since they are located on private land.

However, any attempts to expand those mines onto public land would be limited by the mineral withdrawal proposal. If a more long-term mineral withdrawal is approved after further study on environmental impacts, new mining could be blocked for up to 20 years.

“The bottom line is that the border to Yellowstone National Park is no place for exploratory mining, and the Yellowstone Gateway Business Coalition has taken their message all the way to our decision makers in D.C.,” said Marne Hayes, consulting director of Business for Montana’s Outdoors in statement by the Greater Yellowstone Coalition.

406
Forum

The holidays are around the corner. What's the best gift you've ever received (or given), and why?



Gary Senn
Big Sky, Montana

"My friend Kisha Calix in Louisiana because she is the most honest, greatest woman I have ever met in my life. We're both kind of growing through [some] issues we've had."



Angell Zamora
Big Sky, Montana

"A vacation to visit family—my parents bought me a plane ticket to go home. I'm one of six siblings, so to be able to go see all of them and the rest of my family and spend time with them is a great gift."



Aaron Yoder
Bozeman, Montana

"Last year, I was home in Pennsylvania for the holidays. I was able to be there for my sister and my nephew and see a bunch of family and I think that was one of the best years—just being around family and helping them. It's more about being around family and the friends that you love."



Jason Vore
Big Sky, Montana

"The gift of music is always good. I gave my nephew a guitar once, and he's starting to learn [how to play it] pretty good now."

State and Federal wildlife management are considering delisting the grizzly bear.



Op-ed: How to fix exclusive resort towns

It's time to rethink urbanization in mountain communities

BY AUDEN SCHENDLER

This fall, a landscape architect named Nick stood up at a town meeting in Basalt, in western Colorado, where I live. He said he'd sold his condo and was probably the last young professional to ever try to live here.

He griped that the community had abandoned urban planning, forsaking people like him and putting the town's future at hazard: No affordable places to live, no reasonably priced offices, and the council wanted to convert much of the town core into a park.

How did we get here?

People who choose to live in the West do so because they appreciate its natural beauty. Many labored to protect it, as developers filled green spaces with subdivisions. Some smaller towns got wise: They created urban growth boundaries, protected open space, and established zoning to preserve character. Eventually, though, the problems facing people like Nick—along with the traffic—metastasized.

The issue was the way town governments and their electorate saw the world. "No growth" and "land preservation" were their hammers, and every challenge was a nail. Even today, if you want to win an election, it's smart to run on a platform of "protecting small town character." Use the term "slow growth" as a dog-whistle that means no growth. Oppose sprawl. Oppose density. Oppose height.

Congratulations, you've won! But now you've inherited a mess of your own creation. Like Aspen, you have gridlock traffic from bedroom communities down-valley. Like Jackson, Wyoming, you have a crisis-level worker housing shortage. Like Telluride, your land values are now worth more than the silver underground.

The result: Banks become more viable than bakeries, luxury condos displace lodges. As in Boulder, Colorado, the problem is exacerbated because high buildings were deemed ugly and out of character. Your police chief commutes from 30 miles away, your teachers and nurses and carpenters from even greater distances. And the community believes it's got to close the doors.

But opposing density and height under the guise of historical preservation and environmentalism is what created Aspen's West End, where empty single-family mansions surround empty parks. It's literally a museum of an old mining town. Has this neighborhood been "saved"?

Urban policy reporter Emily Badger writes in The Washington Post that the notion that a place is "full" is more about perception than reality: "We can always make choices to make more room, to build taller and denser, to upgrade schools and rethink roads to let more people in. That we don't isn't a limitation of physics. It's a matter of politics disguised as physics."

The politics creates inequality. Why should one person be allowed to live in Shangri-La, and not another? And since you can't actually stop people from coming in, a "close the doors" land-use policy means only rich people can play.

The New York Times reported that "a growing body of economic literature suggests that anti-growth sentiment, when multiplied across countless unheralded local development battles, is a major factor in creating a stagnant and less-equal American economy."

Meanwhile, developers are forced by space constraints and zoning into smart growth. These projects add height and density inside the town core, with smaller size and selective deed-restriction creating affordable housing for young families and encouraging foot traffic. But though they provide exactly what towns need, townspeople don't welcome developers. Instead, they resist them, seeing the same villains that ruined Denver, Phoenix and Los Angeles.

Of course, mountain communities can't accommodate all the people who might want to live here. But many towns haven't tried all that hard. Aspen Skiing Company, which operates in Aspen and Snowmass, lacks beds for 600 workers. Yet when writer James Howard Kunstler suggested Aspen ought to add another story to the downtown, he was swiftly run out of Dodge.

Recently, the White House weighed in. The Times reported that the administration published "a toolkit of economic evidence and policy fixes to help local ... leaders fight back against the NIMBYs that ... hold sway over municipal zoning meetings ... [calling] for more density, speedier permitting and fewer restrictions on ... basement and garage apartments. The plan rejects some of the arguments made by environmentalists, labor unions and other liberal constituencies."

But the battle roils on. In Aspen, voters have fought off several hotels that would have replaced guest rooms lost as older lodges converted to condominiums. Instead, Aspen gets townhomes. These buildings often sit empty or invite car travel, which hotels do not.

This result might be just what townspeople want. Mountain and resort communities are increasingly occupied by older, wealthier people. Peace and quiet is what they prefer. But do these residents only care about numbers, and not community character?

The places we live, absent families, young people, commerce and foot traffic, can't really be described as towns, much less communities. They are, instead, locations in which to reside, "houses," as Nick has noted, "with no rooms, just four walls and no doors."

Auden Schendler is a contributor to Writers on the Range, the opinion service of High Country News, which first published this op-ed on bcn.org on Nov. 30. Schendler is a town councilman in Basalt, Colorado, and a vice president at Aspen Skiing Company.



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News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

Vote now for Best of Big Sky

BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

If the long, brutal election season left you weary and jaded, Explore Big Sky has a cure: vote for something you can get excited about.

The 2016 Best of Big Sky survey went live Nov. 16 and closes at midnight on Tuesday, Dec. 13. We went entirely paperless this year to save some trees and fossil fuels, and through the first three weeks of this year’s survey already had a record number of responses.

This is your opportunity to recognize the people, businesses and organizations that make this corner of the Greater Yellowstone so special. It’s also a chance for businesses and nonprofits to rally their fan bases, as voters are allowed one vote per email, per day.

According to some on our staff, being a favorite in this world-class resort community can lead to greater glories.

“Winning Best of Big Sky is one step closer to world domination,” said EBS Associate Editor Amanda Eggert.

And speaking of domination, the Lotus Pad is vying for its sixth consecutive win as Big Sky’s Best Restaurant, which would be the last title earned in its

cramped Westfork Plaza confines—the Asian eatery is moving in January to a bigger space in the new building at 47 Town Center Ave.

Ophir fourth-grade teacher Jeremy Harder has a chance to repeat in the Best Teacher category, which made its debut in last year’s survey. Harder demurred last year and told us after his win it was thanks to an area-wide network of aid and encouragement.

“Without continued support of staff, administration, parents, community and school board I would be unable to explore the awesome things we do in fourth grade,” Harder said. “To be recognized makes me truly humble and appreciative of the Big Sky community.”

And if you need any further convincing to get out the vote, Best of Big Sky winners will be recognized in two consecutive issues of EBS and earn a plaque to display in their business. Each vote will also be entered in a raffle to win two tickets to the 2017 Big Sky PBR or a \$50 gift certificate from a local business.

Visit explorebigsky.com and click on the Best of Big Sky slider to make your voice heard.

Holiday Home Tour to benefit Big Sky Discovery Academy

EBS STAFF

Tour four festively-decorated Big Sky residences on Saturday Dec. 17 from 3-7 p.m. in a fundraiser event to benefit Big Sky Discovery Academy. The first annual Holiday Home Tour provides free transportation to homes in Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, and in the Sweetgrass Hills, Meadow Village and Beaver Creek neighborhoods. Drinks and hors d’oeuvres will be served at each residence while homeowners provide a detailed description of their home, including architect, builder, decorator and designer information. Auction items and gifts for sale will also be available.

Attendees also have the option to drive separately and will be provided with a map and informational brochure. Childcare is offered for an additional fee.

The idea for the home tour—Discovery Academy’s primary fundraiser for school programming and scholarships—came from a student’s grandmother who started a similar event in her hometown and found it to be a huge success.

“Big Sky Discovery Academy wanted to start a ‘tradition’ for the school and our area,” said Karen Maybee, founder and president of the school board. “Our Parent Action Committee recognized the continued generosity of local businesses and people who donate to so many area fundraisers. Our focus is to create an experience. We want the Holiday Home Tour to be a unique event that celebrates our community coming together.”

Join Big Sky Discovery Academy and Community Learning Center for a day of architectural and décor inspiration in a social atmosphere while supporting these local nonprofit organizations.

For more information and to purchase tickets visit bigskydiscoveryacademy.org or call (406) 993-2008.

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Big Sky

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BIG SKY

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Ania Bulis
Vice President of Sales, Broker
406.580.6852
ania@bigsky.com



Martha Johnson
Vice President of Sales, Broker
406.580.5891
martha@bigsky.com



Jeff Helms
Broker
406.539.0121
jeff@bigsky.com



Shawna Winter
Supervising Broker
406.581.2033
shawna@bigsky.com



Michael Schreiner
Broker
406.580.5624
michael@bigsky.com



Suzanne Schreiner
Broker
406.570.4935
suzanne@bigsky.com



John Bauchman
Sales Associate
406.570.1920
john@bigsky.com



Jason Carrico
Sales Associate
208.720.4699
jason@bigsky.com



Michelle Horning
Sales Associate
406.570.8901
michelle@bigsky.com



Mia Lennon
Sales Associate
406.641.0051
mia@bigsky.com



Allen Potts
Sales Associate
406.451.1203
allen@bigsky.com



Anne Staudt
Assistant to Jeff Helms, Broker
406.539.1552
anne@bigsky.com



Matt Zaremba
Sales Associate
406.580.6134
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Obituary: Alan Hassman

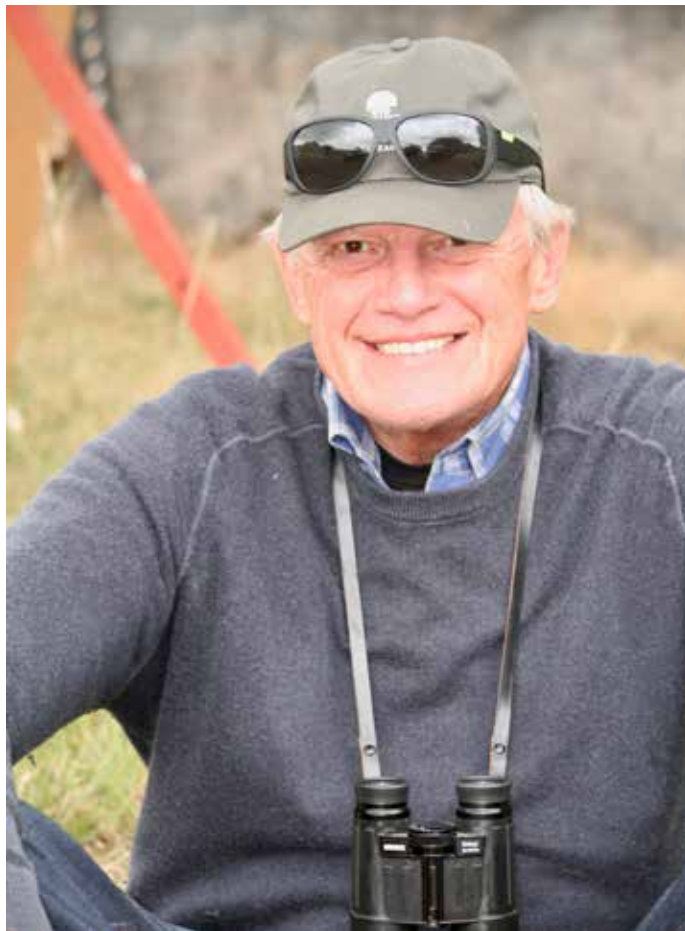
Alan Hassman, 77, of Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, and Big Sky, Montana, died unexpectedly on Sunday, Nov. 27, 2016, at the Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Born on Nov. 2, 1939, in Hew Hampton, Iowa, he was the son of the late Elmer and Ina (Zierath) Hassman.

Alan served in the National Guard, and was a graduate of Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, where he studied business and became an all-state wrestler. He was a member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Camp Hill.

Al is best remembered by those who knew him as a man who lived life to its fullest. Most comfortable in jeans and well-worn cowboy boots, he was a striking man with loads of charisma. You knew when he was close, by his unmistakable and unabashed laugh that could fill any room. He had a big personality and was always ready with one of his (in) famous jokes. He had incredible stamina and he believed that anything was possible through hard work.

Al was selfless and gave much of himself. It gave him great pleasure to be the one who could bring joy to others. Despite his many business successes with McDonald's, Metro Bank, Dame Media, hotels and others, he maintained a child-like curiosity for the world. He was happiest helping Alex with a



construction project or mowing the fields around Alison's house. As much as he gave to others, he gave the most to his family, and particularly his grandchildren who became the center of his universe.

Alan is survived by his wife of 55 years, Gloria (Arnold) Hassman, of Camp Hill, Pennsylvania; daughter, Alison Hassman Ballantine and her husband Peter, of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania; son Alex Hassman and his wife Suzanne Samardich, of Big Sky, Montana; five grandchildren, Sally, Eleanor, and Axel Ballantine, Kjetil and Wren Hassman; and a sister, Dixie Abbas, Plainfield, Iowa.

A memorial service was held on Monday, Dec. 5, 2016 at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, with Pastor Nancy Easton and Pastor Mark Huggenvik officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Harrisburg Academy at 10 Erford Rd., Wormleysburg, Pennsylvania 17043, or to Big Sky Discovery Academy at P.O. Box 161548, Big Sky, Montana 59716.

24 / 7 E M E R G E N C Y S E R V I C E S

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Water primer

Town hall meeting covers availability, ecological health, wastewater treatment

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – Approximately 120 people attended a town hall meeting held by the Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum at Buck's T-4 on Dec. 7. The gathering was an effort to familiarize residents and interested parties with the area's water challenges before the forum drills into solutions.

Before introducing the scope of the forum's efforts, Gallatin River Task Force Executive Director Kristin Gardner outlined some of the problems coming down the pike.

Gardner said planning for climate change will be important as earlier snowmelt leads to decreased streamflows in the summer and early fall. She said watersheds will be further impacted by rising water temperatures, which make fisheries more susceptible to increased algae, depleted oxygen levels, and bacteria and disease proliferation.

Gardner then pulled up a growth chart that shows the Big Sky Water and Sewer District bumping up against its capacity for both water availability and wastewater treatment and storage by 2022 given projected development.

"We have about five years to come up with these additional options, and this is going to take some real serious thought," Gardner said. "Where, when and how you dispose of wastewater and/or how you withdraw water within a watershed makes a huge difference on water quality and the amount of water that's moving throughout the watershed."

Currently, Big Sky's water supply comes from wells and springs in the area, with the most productive aquifer in use located in Meadow Village underneath the golf course.

Mike Richter, a research scientist with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, said that although the water supply has been pretty stable long term, there's been a fair bit of demand on the resource.

"We've been busy in the last 20 years," said Richter, a Big Sky resident, in reference to the number of wells that have been drilled. He also highlighted the fact that the groundwater is fed by snowmelt, streams, precipitation and infiltration and that alluvial wells are vulnerable to contamination.

Gallatin Basin is a closed basin, meaning small groundwater uses can still be developed but anything over 35 gallons per minute needs a permit, said Kerri Strasheim, a regional water manager with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

Strasheim added that the water commissioner on the Gallatin evaluates water-right priorities by date awarded. Rights granted after 1890 are considered inferior to those granted prior to that date. New water uses in a closed basin can be mitigated by reallocating old water uses, but Strasheim said Big Sky does not have much historic use that can be applied toward such mitigation.

A representative from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality voiced his support for community-based water solutions that don't require regulatory intervention from state agencies. "I'm going to talk myself out of a

job tonight and really promote this grassroots effort," said Eric Urban with the DEQ's Water Quality Planning Bureau.

Nearly all of the nine panelists who spoke at the meeting expressed their support for a voluntary, community-based effort. A couple of similar efforts, namely those in Lake Tahoe and Yampa Valley, Colorado, were mentioned.

After the presentations wrapped up, forum facilitator Karen Filipovich asked the panelists approximately a dozen questions that attendees wrote down on note cards.

One regarded how using treated effluent for irrigation impacts the watershed. "I think that's the main cause of the water-quality impairment that we have on the West Fork," Gardner said, referencing nutrients that are introduced to the stream



Nine panelists presented on topics ranging from ecological integrity to wastewater storage and disposal at a well-attended town hall meeting hosted by the Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum at Buck's T-4 on Dec. 6. PHOTO BY AMANDA EGGERT

via golf course irrigation. Gardner added that engineering equations don't always agree with how water moves through the system.

Several panelists expressed their belief that there would be no silver-bullet solution to the area's water issues—wastewater treatment and disposal in particular—and it's likely that a number of solutions will be implemented.

Another attendee wanted to know how many of the Yellowstone Club's members are year-round residents. Mike DuCuennois, Vice President of Development at the Yellowstone Club, said that of 570 memberships, five or six are full-time residents.

Kevin Germain, vice president of development at Lone Mountain Land Company, which funded the forum's initial efforts alongside the Yellowstone Club, reiterated the importance of protecting the area's water resource.

"I don't kid myself, people don't buy a home from us because we build a nice home, they buy a home here because of the natural resources," Germain said. "It's imperative upon us to be stewards of this land and make sure we protect the golden goose."



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RECYCLE



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Town Center on the rise

New buildings under construction in the shadow of Lone Mountain

BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – If you’re reading this on your annual ski trip to Big Sky Resort, or haven’t driven south from Bozeman in a few months, you may be surprised by the changing landscape of Big Sky Town Center.

In addition to the townhouses and condos springing up east of Ousel Falls Road, commercial construction in Town Center is populating the vertical skyline of this resort hamlet.

Lone Mountain Land Company is nearing completion on the 19,000-square-foot building at 47 Town Center, and its butterfly-roofed neighboring structure at the corner of Lone Mountain Trail and Ousel Falls Road is set for completion in early summer 2017. LMLC was formed in 2014 by CrossHarbor Capital Partners specifically for CrossHarbor’s development of Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and Moonlight Basin—CrossHarbor is also the principal owner of the Yellowstone Club.

Rotherham Construction is adding an addition to the Peaks Building, which is home to Beehive Basin Brewery, and should be finished in March. When the building is completed, the brewery will have additional basement storage and bathrooms, and two commercial spaces will open with businesses yet to be determined.

Big Sky’s The Lotus Pad will be one business finding a new home at 47 Town Center. The Asian restaurant is moving from its Westfork Plaza location into the larger space and is slated to open by Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 16, according to Bayard Dominick, LMLC’s vice president of planning and development.

The 10,000 feet of commercial space will also host The Tea & Spice Exchange, a national chain that also has a Bozeman location. Bozeman-based SAV Digital Environments will have a showroom and retail space, and two other restaurants have signed letters of intent as of EBS press time on Dec. 7, but Dominick wouldn’t identify those businesses since these letters only indicate a preliminary business agreement.



An artist rendering of the building at 25 Town Center Ave, slated to open in early summer 2017 (plans subject to change). IMAGE COURTESY OF LONE MOUNTAIN LAND COMPANY

On the second and third floors are 16 residential apartments, including 14 two-bedroom units and two one-bedroom units. The two-bedroom apartments are listed for rent between \$1,900 and \$2,150 per month and 10 of the rentals were leased within the first 10 days they were offered.

Once construction is complete on the 38,000-square-foot 25 Town Center Ave building, the second floor will be headquarters to Lone Mountain Land Company and The Big Sky Real Estate Co., the luxury real estate company that LMLC formed earlier this year.

The ground floor will have an “experience center,” to learn about Town Center and the Big Sky area, Dominick said, as well as a café run by Bozeman-based Sola Café and Montana-themed outdoor retail store.

“We’re hoping that with the completion of the Town Center [buildings], ‘Main Street’ will really come together,” Dominick said. “It will start building that critical mass of people living there, shopping, [going to] restaurants that will really make Town Center a destination.”



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Inside the Big Sky | By Derek Lennon

13 things you need to survive the winter in Big Sky

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DEREK LENNON
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The first day of winter officially occurs on Dec. 21, also known as the winter solstice. In Big Sky Country, it often seems like winter comes a bit earlier than that.

As the peaks start to collect their annual blanket of snow, the temps linger at or below freezing, and the days start getting shorter, people in Big Sky begin their annual preparation for the long winter season.

Proper preparation for winter is a part of the life in this resort community. In order to do it right, there are certain things you need to survive winter in Big Sky, including:

1. Big boots – A good pair of warm boots will keep your feet warm and dry during the winter season.
2. Warm layers – Staying warm starts with proper layering. Get the clothes that you need in order to keep your core warm. That may include long underwear, fleeces, sweaters, puffy jackets, lined pants, warm hats, and other odds and ends.
3. Ski pass – One of the best ways to get outside and enjoy Big Sky's winter wonderland is to get a ski pass to Lone Mountain Ranch or Big Sky Resort.
4. Sunglasses – When the sun hits the snow, it will reflect back towards your eyes, making it hard to see. Get a good pair of sunglasses to protect your windows to the world.
5. Warm gloves – It's hard to do anything when your fingers are cold. Invest in a good set of gloves that keep your fingers warm when you're out and about, walking the dogs, or hitting the slopes.
6. Cords of wood – A hearty fire is a good way to stay warm and heat your home. If you use a wood stove, be sure you have plenty of firewood to burn.
7. Snow tires – Snowy and icy roads are a major hazard. No matter where you're driving to, it's a good idea to have a trusty set of snow tires. They can save your life.
8. Vitamin D supplements – Big Sky sits halfway between the equator and the North Pole at 45 degrees latitude. Combine our location with the short



Whether backcountry skiing, fishing or snowshoeing, outdoor gear can make all the difference for a winter well spent.

days of winter and it might be a good idea to take a vitamin D supplement to combat the inadequate sun exposure.

9. Outdoor gear – Everyone benefits from time spent in the great outdoors. Whether you ski, snowshoe, sled, or fish you need the gear that keeps you going.

10. Frozen food – When it's cold and you don't want to drive to the store, it's nice to have some frozen meals stashed in the freezer.

11. Snow removal equipment – It's beautiful to watch the snow fall, but as it piles up you're going to need to move it. Get a shovel, a snow blower, and some ice melt to clear your porches, roofs, driveways and walkways.

12. Brush/scrapper – Snow can make it hard to see out of your car windows. Pick up a good brush to wipe away the snow and a good scraper to remove the ice that builds up on your windshield.

13. Thermos – There's something nice about getting home, turning on the electric kettle, and enjoying a nice cup of tea or a warm thermos of coffee.

Even though it can be cold and snowy for a good part of the year in Big Sky, it's still one of the best seasons in our mountain town. Whether you need new gear or you're new to town, be sure to invest in the things you need to keep yourself safe, warm, and smiling during the winter season.

Most of these things you can pick up right here in Big Sky at stores like Ace Hardware, outdoor gear shops, or one of the grocery stores. Have a great winter!

Derek Lennon is a skier and writer who lives, works, and plays in the mountains of the world. He is based in Big Sky, Montana, where he lives with his wife Mia and two dogs.

A version of this story was originally published on the Visit Big Sky blog at <https://visitbigskymt.com/survive-winter-big-sky/>. Read more interesting content about the area on Visit Big Sky's blog at <https://visitbigskymt.com/category/blog/>.



Having the appropriate layers allows you to enjoy a full day outside during the Big Sky winter.

Collage: Madrigal Dinner celebrates 20 years in Big Sky

The Arts Council of Big Sky hosted its 20th annual Madrigal Dinner at Buck's T-4 Lodge on Dec. 5, when more than 175 guests gathered to ring in the coming holiday season. Traditional themes highlighted the dinner, including a boar's head procession, Wassail bowl, a flaming pudding dessert and the annual Christmas toast.

The sold out event featured festive décor and a three-course feast prepared by Buck's T-4 chefs, which included a salad with roasted butternut squash and feta cheese, a roasted New York Strip entrée, and a dessert featuring chocolate cake and a brûléed banana.

Throughout the evening, eclectic holiday music performed by Montana State University's Chorale, the MSU Brass Quintet and the MSU Montanans drifted in and out of guests' conversations at the long dinner tables. The MSU School of Music has been performing the Madrigal Dinner for 51 years, 20 of those in Big Sky.

"It's a way to showcase the talent that's at MSU for the student singers and the school of music," said ACBS Executive Director Brian Hurlbut. "It represents a cross section of people in Big Sky. You have people in their 20s and people in their 80s."

Overall, the historic event represents a festive tradition, and one that Hurlbut equates to the beginning of the giving season.

"Like all Madrigal dinners, I enjoy seeing all the people who come and watching everyone get into the holiday spirit," Hurlbut said. "It's a real warm, fuzzy event. Everyone tells me it's the kickoff to the holiday season." – *Joseph T. O'Connor*



Eastern Montana adjusts to life after oil boom

BILLINGS (AP) – Businesses and government officials in eastern Montana increasingly are pinning their hopes on tourism now that the recent oil boom has subsided.

Drilling in the Bakkan shale in nearby North Dakota pumped millions into the economy of Eastern Montana before falling off a few years ago. Now, cities in the area now are working to improve tourist attractions and trying to use newly built hotel rooms to attract groups and events.

The state collected \$3.5 million in lodging taxes in Eastern Montana in the first nine months of this year, the Billings Gazette reported. The Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development reported that’s down 6 percent from last year.

The 4-percent lodging tax on room rentals supports state tourism promotion and local conventions and visitors bureaus. Local groups are using money to highlight amenities and businesses that might entice visitors into Eastern Montana.

Katelynnne Eslick operates The Sugar Plum jewelry store in downtown Glendive. She launched the business about three years ago after operating out of her home.

Eslick said she sees an increase of tourism in the summer months. Visitors are seeking authenticity in their visit to Montana, she said, and boost sales at her business.

“Tourists would come in and say, ‘Do you have Montana agate pieces? Do you have yogo sapphire silver?’ ... I think there’s something about ‘Made in Montana,’” Eslick said.

A few blocks away, the Enchanted Living store is its own draw for traveling quilters. Owners Laura Glueckert and Myrna Quale opened the new store in a remodeled church two years ago and have operated their original shop, Enchanted Room, for decades.

“Quilters have a following, and they plan their trips,” Glueckert said. Improvements to a nearby Makoshika State Park and increasing regional tourism in general would be a big boost to business, she said.

“It’s an important draw. The badlands, the dinosaur park, bringing families to the area,” she said. “We are very much advocating improvements to Makoshika.”

At Makoshika, supporters are seeking money for additional improvements, including a new, \$3-million full-service campground and potable water to be piped in from nearby Glendive.

About 77,000 visitors come to Makoshika annually. Rep. Alan Doane, R-Bloomfield, plans to sponsor a bill in the 2017 legislative session to fund improvements at the park.

Brenda Maas is marketing manager for Visit Southeast Montana, a 13-county region that stretches from Billings to the North Dakota border. She said people want to visit the area because of “that Montana mystique.”

“Tourists want a more authentic experience,” Maas said. “They want to eat where the locals eat.”

Elsewhere in Eastern Montana, visitors have declined, but tourism officials remain optimistic.

The numbers of hotels in Sidney more than doubled during the oil boom, but times are tougher now, locals say.

“They definitely would like more rooms to be booked. It’s a little slow for the hotel industry now,” said Laura Schieber, interim director of the Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.

The city of about 6,500 people saw six new hotels earlier this decade to accommodate workers and oil executives who wanted to be near the Bakken, Schieber said. Sidney now has 10 hotels and more than 500 rooms, she said.

None of the Sidney hotels has closed, despite the drop in business. Schieber said the added supply has been a boost for major school sports tournaments. The tournaments attract hundreds of out-of-town fans who had struggled to find rooms in years past, she said.

In Miles City, locals are recognizing the value of visitor dollars for the local economy.

“They’re happy that people are here, and that’s a draw in itself,” said John Laney, director of the Miles City Area Chamber of Commerce.

Businesses in Miles City realize they can’t attract visitors on their own. Boosting tourism is a regional effort for all of Eastern Montana, Laney said. “If we’re going to make it, we’re going to have to make it together,” he said.

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Section 2: ENVIRONMENT, SPORTS & BUSINESS



The New West

A Greater Yellowstone scientific thinktank helps us make sense of ecosystem's parts



BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

For those unfamiliar with Greater Yellowstone—the elements that set this ecoregion apart in America—let's start with a refresher. At 22.5 million acres, Greater Yellowstone is one of the last, still-essentially-intact and interconnected masses of wildlands left in the world.

Because it is located in the backyard of a wealthy developed nation with more than 320 million people, this alone makes its status something of a 21st century miracle.

Owed to its geographical remoteness and the work of generations of conservationists, the region today boasts all of its original native mammal, avian, reptilian, amphibian, and fish species that were here 10,000 years ago. That includes grizzly bears and gray wolves, bald eagles, peregrine falcons, trumpeter swans, bison, and black-footed ferrets, every single one of these rescued by intervention or due to shielding by the federal Endangered Species Act.

Greater Yellowstone still has epic migrations of elk, deer and pronghorn, eliciting comparisons to the Serengeti Plain of eastern Africa. Yellowstone, the mother of all national parks and the preserve situated at Greater Yellowstone's core, still has 10,000 living, breathing geothermal phenomena, more than can be found in the rest of the globe combined.

The ecosystem is a watershed birthplace of three major river systems—the Snake-Columbia, Green River-Colorado, and Missouri-Mississippi, which means that the water gathering here shapes human lives, communities and economies hundreds if not thousands of miles distant.

As for the things that fuel Greater Yellowstone's commerce, no longer is it logging, mining or ranching. The region's two crown-jewel national parks, Yellowstone and its Jackson Hole neighbor, Grand Teton, are responsible for generating \$1 billion in annual commerce based on nature tourism. Ecosystem-wide, Ray Rasker of Bozeman-based Headwaters Economics says, non-consumptive natural resource amenities account for at least another \$3 billion in direct and indirect economic activity.

"You can't protect what you don't know is there, but you can easily lose it and never know it's gone if you don't pay attention."

In terms of Greater Yellowstone's value in shaping the lifestyles of her 600,000 human residents scattered across 20 counties—and in attracting six million visitors every year—just one word characterizes the assessment: priceless.

Greater Yellowstone possesses something else: one of the highest per-capita concentrations of professional conservationists on Earth. Yet only one, the Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative, inhabits a niche unlike any other.

Thirty years ago, around the time I began writing about Greater Yellowstone, NRCC was just getting off the ground. Dr. Susan Clark, an

ecologist by training, had been researching the sudden discovery of a wild remnant population of black-footed ferrets near Meeteetse, Wyoming. The species had been long thought to be extinct.

She had already, however, distinguished herself as an out-of-the-box thinker. In the late 1970s, for example, she and co-author Robert Dorn, produced the first-ever comprehensive compendium for rare and endangered vascular plants and vertebrates in Wyoming.

"You can't protect what you don't know is there, but you can easily lose it and never know it's gone if you don't pay attention," she told me recently. "Unfortunately, there are lots of things that are interrelated; you lose one and you can lose others; it may happen at the soil level or it might be apparent in a trophic cascade when you, say, eliminate an important system driver like the wolf."

As Clark, who still spends part of her year teaching at Yale University, remembers, there was no truly unified thinking being applied to wildlife and other issues in Greater Yellowstone.

The prevailing paradigm was one of approaching conflict piecemeal, agency by agency, silo by silo; seldom was planning applied across the artificial human boundaries of the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Fish and Wildlife Service that oversees, in total, a land mass larger than New England.

In the beginning and subsequently over the years, NRCC has brought hundreds of scientists with international experience together to apply their knowledge.

Clark, who was among the early voices giving rise to creation of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, played an instrumental role in Greater Yellowstone being treated as an ecosystem and pushing to establish a baseline for assessing the health of individual species. But she realized that science alone does not ensure better management. Without quality data, problems go undetected. The work of NRCC (nrccooperative.org) matters as Congress moves to cut budgets of federal agencies. It's a great group to support with your donation.

"Everyone, because of what hats they wear and how they identify culturally, socially, ideologically, and even spiritually, has different ways of making meaning of Greater Yellowstone," Clark says.

"NRCC is operating at the leading edge in terms of pushing the discourse to a place, sometimes out of people's comfort zones, where creative solutions can emerge. Knowing we can get there is, for me, not only a statement of faith that we can still save the best of Greater Yellowstone but I have a pragmatic hope that we can rise together to meet the challenge."

Todd Wilkinson has been a journalist for 30 years. He is author of the recent award-winning book "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek: An Intimate Portrait of 399, the Most Famous Bear of Greater Yellowstone," featuring 150 astounding images by renowned American nature photographer Thomas Mangelsen (mangelsen.com/grizzly). His new article, "2067: The Clock Struck Thirteen," appears in the winter 2017 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine, on shelves now.

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Newspaper: Butte citizens have lost faith in Superfund talks

BY MATT VOLZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – Confidential Superfund settlement negotiations to clean up a century’s worth of mining waste in Butte need to be opened to the public because residents have lost faith that the U.S. government will protect their interests, an attorney for a Montana newspaper said Nov. 29.

Butte residents once had trust that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would look out for them, Montana Standard attorney James Goetz told U.S. District Judge Sam Haddon in a court hearing.

But that trust has been eroded as the agency’s negotiations with Atlantic Richfield Co. have dragged on more than 14 years after Haddon ordered the talks to be held in secret, Goetz said.

“They’ve come to realize their interests may not be protected by the federal government,” Goetz said.

The Montana Standard and the Silver Bow Creek Headwaters Coalition have petitioned Haddon to let them intervene in the long-running case that will decide how pollution in the creek and in the soil of the nation’s largest Superfund site is cleaned up.

Haddon did not make an immediate ruling Nov. 29 but said he planned to issue a written order at an unspecified date.

If Haddon grants the request, Montana Standard editor David McCumber said, the newspaper will seek documents from the negotiations dating back to 2002 or 2003. The newspaper also will seek to open the settlement talks going forward, so the public can be a part of the process “in real time,” McCumber said.

Arco and U.S. Department of Justice attorneys oppose opening the talks to the public, saying it would likely kill the negotiations.

Congress meant for complex environmental cleanups to be resolved through settlements when it passed the law regulating Superfund sites, Arco attorney Kyle Gray said.

“It doesn’t get more complex than Butte,” Gray said. “This case is moving forward the way Congress envisioned.”

Talks have intensified over the past three years and a newspaper reporting on the confidential discussions would “make settlement pretty much impossible,” she said.

Gray and Justice Department attorney Jim Freeman argued that the Montana Standard should have made its argument 13 years ago, before the EPA and Arco had exchanged documents they trusted would be kept confidential under Haddon’s order.

The Justice Department sued Arco in 1989 over the cost of cleaning up the mining pollution left in southwestern Montana by Anaconda Copper Mining Corp. The company mined copper for decades from what was dubbed “the richest hill on Earth” in Butte. It dumped tailings into Silver Bow Creek and smelted the ore in Anaconda.

Arco bought Anaconda in 1977.

The newspaper seeks to make public the talks related to the Superfund site covering the pollution of Silver Bow Creek and in the soil throughout the city of 33,000 people.

The Butte mining pollution cleanup also includes Superfund sites in Anaconda and the Milltown Reservoir downstream along the Clark Fork River.

EPA to require mines to offer cleanup assurances

BY MATTHEW BROWN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) – The Environmental Protection Agency on Dec. 2 said it plans to require mining companies to show they have the financial wherewithal to clean up their pollution so taxpayers aren’t stuck footing the bill.

The proposal follows a 2016 agreement reached under court order for the government to enforce a long-ignored provision in the 1980 federal Superfund law.

The requirement would apply to hardrock mining, which includes mines for precious metals, copper, iron, lead and other ores. It would cover mines and processing facilities in 38 states, requiring their owners to set aside sufficient money to pay for future cleanups.

The EPA is considering similar requirements for chemical manufacturers, power generation companies and the petroleum refining and coal manufacturing industries.

From 2010 to 2014, the EPA spent \$1.1 billion on cleanup work at abandoned hardrock mining and processing sites across the U.S.

The new rule “would move the financial burden from taxpayers and ensure that industry assumes responsibility for these cleanups,” EPA Assistant Administrator Mathy Stanislaus said.

Companies would face a combined \$7.1 billion financial obligation under the new rule, the EPA estimated. The agency said the amount could be covered through third parties such as surety bonds or self-insured, corporate guarantees.

Contaminated water from mine sites can flow into rivers and other waterways, harming aquatic life and threatening drinking water supplies. Companies in the past avoided cleanup costs in many cases by declaring bankruptcy.

Last year, an EPA cleanup team accidentally triggered a 3-million gallon spill of contaminated water from Colorado’s inactive Gold King mine, tainting rivers in three states with heavy metals including arsenic and lead.

Representatives of Earthworks, an advocacy group that has pushed for mining companies to be held accountable, said the EPA proposal would give the industry an incentive to reduce its pollution. But key to its success, said Earthworks’ Bonnie Gestring, will be making companies post cleanup bonds rather than offer corporate guarantees that they might not make good on.

The National Mining Association blasted the rule as “unnecessary, redundant and poorly constructed,” because existing programs prevent mines from becoming Superfund sites.

The group accused government officials of overstating the potential risks from modern mining techniques, in a rushed attempt to put a new rule in place before President Barack Obama leaves the White House next month.

Echoing the industry’s concerns were U.S. House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop of Utah and Energy Committee Chairman Fred Upton of Michigan. The Republicans said programs in place at the state level already ensure the environment is protected.

In documents released with the new rule, the EPA said that since 1980, at least 52 mines and mine processing sites using modern techniques had spills or other releases of pollution.

There are about 300 hardrock mines in the United States. Combined they produced about \$26.6 billion worth of metals last year, according to mining association Senior Vice President Ashley Burke. Of those mines, the EPA said 221 would be subject to the rule.

The agency took the first step toward seeking financial assurances on cleanups from hardrock mining companies in 2010 in response to a lawsuit from environmental groups.

In 2014, frustration with the agency’s slow progress prompted Earthworks, the Sierra Club and other groups to file a second suit that resulted in last year’s court order. A subsequent order in that case requires the EPA to finalize its rule by Dec. 1, 2017.



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Lone Peak basketball teams nab wins in season openers

BY AMANDA EGGERT
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – The Big Horn boys bested the Roberts Rockets in their first game of the season on Dec. 3, but the Rockets gave them a run for their money, coming within one point of Lone Peak a couple of times during the fourth quarter.

“The most important thing that we learned from that game is how much we matured as a team over last year,” said head coach Al Malinowski. “Our returners have a lot of experience from last year, and I think that showed in [the Dec. 3] game.”

Just four players are upperclassmen on Malinowski’s 14-player roster. Seven are freshmen and three are sophomores.

Senior and team captain Eddie Starz led the team in scoring with 21 points despite fouling out early in the third quarter. Sophomore point guard Kolya Bough stepped up to the plate, scoring 13 of his 20 points in the second half of the Big Horns’ 66-63 win.

Despite being significantly outsized—the Rockets have one player who is 6 feet 8 inches tall and the Big Horns’ two tallest players are listed at 6 feet 3 inches—Malinowski said Lone Peak held their own on the boards.

The Big Horns grabbed an impressive number of steals, 20, which was somewhat overshadowed by an equally high turnover count of 19.

Malinowski said he’s proud of the team’s performance for their first game of the season. “I think we’re much improved over last year, but we’re also excited to see how much further we can improve by the time we get to the district tournament.”

The Big Horns will play Manhattan Christian at home Saturday, Dec. 17, at 7 p.m.



Sophomore Kolya Bough scored 20 points in the Big Horns’ game against the Roberts Rockets. PHOTO BY MILOSZ SHIPMAN

Lady Big Horns cruise to 55-22 win over Billings Christian

Both teams struggled to find a rhythm during the first half, but the Lady Big Horns were able to shrug off their first-game jitters when they squared off against Billings Christian on Dec. 3.

“We were getting the shots up, but they just weren’t going in,” said Lone Peak head coach Nubia Allen. “I think everyone can agree that the second half was a lot stronger.”

At the end of the first quarter, the score was tied at six. By halftime, Lone Peak led 16-8.

“In the second half, Kuka Holder started getting hot,” Allen said, adding that the junior guard scored a game-high 13 points. “That really got us going.” Lone Peak scored 47 of its 55 points during the second half and tripled the Warriors’ score by the start of the fourth quarter.

There are three seniors—Luisa Locker, Dasha Bough and Bianca Godoy—on the team this year as well as two juniors, KP Hoffman and Holder.

Allen said the team would take a “practice like you play” approach in the coming weeks, working on game-like shooting drills and defensive adjustments before they play Manhattan Christian at home Dec. 17 at 5:30 p.m.

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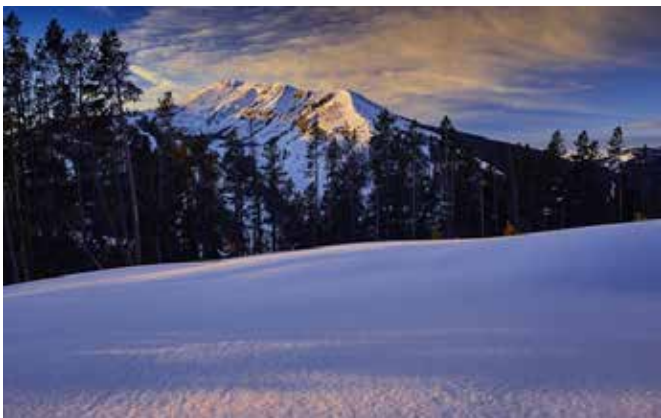
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EYE ON THE BALL

Why not the Tennessee Titans?



BY BRANDON NILES
EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

Jockeying for first place in the AFC South division with a 6-6 record isn't exactly the best way to catch the attention of the

national media, but the Tennessee Titans are quietly putting together a solid season. Led by second-year quarterback Marcus Mariota, the Titans are 5-3 in their last eight games and have put themselves in a strong position to make the playoffs, just a year after finishing with the worst record in the NFL.

The Titans promoted Offensive Coordinator Mike Mularkey to head coach during the offseason, and in Mariota's second year in the offense he's blossomed. Mariota has thrown 21 touchdowns and only three interceptions over the past eight games and now has a top-five quarterback rating of 101.9 on the season. Aided by a bevy of quality pass catchers, and an evolving offensive line, Mariota has the Titans in position to contend for a division title and their first trip to the playoffs since 2008.

Mariota has undoubtedly been helped by the arrival and success of free agent running back DeMarco Murray, who floundered in Philadelphia last season but already has more

than 1,000 yards rushing this year. Murray has teamed up with rookie Derrick Henry to create a two-headed rushing attack that keeps defenses from focusing too much on Mariota, and allows a balanced offensive scheme that has at times looked dominant this year.

The Tennessee defense is still a work in progress. While they've improved over last year's squad that allowed 26.4 points per game, they still rank in the bottom third of the league at 24.7 this year. The team has some talent growing though, as third-round rookie safety Kevin Byard out of Middle Tennessee State has played quality snaps and looks like a long-term starter. Pass rushers Derrick Morgan and a (finally) healthy Brian Orakpo have combined for 17 sacks this season as well.

Regardless of the defensive struggles, it's exciting for Tennessee fans to see their team thriving on the offensive side of the ball. The team went from 28th in the league last year in points scored all the way to third this season at 25.7 points per game. The fact that much of that improvement comes from their 23-year-old quarterback is a good sign for the future.

The Titans have a tough road if they're going to make the playoffs ahead of the Houston Texans—who have everything but a quality quarterback—and the Indianapolis Colts, who have nothing but a great quarterback. If they can

win the division though, they have the type of game that often translates well to the postseason.

The Titans run the ball well, have a quarterback who improvises and can extend plays, and have a defense that is generating pressure—they rank just inside the top half of the league with 39 sacks this season. Those kinds of traits can get you far in the playoffs, and while it's hard to imagine anyone defeating the New England Patriots in the AFC, you have to ask the question, why not the Titans?

The spotlight has been on the upstart Dallas Cowboys, the always-dangerous New York Giants, and the prolific Oakland Raiders offense, but nobody is talking about the gritty, power-running team in Tennessee that could end up with a top-four seed by winning a weak division.

The Titans are a flawed team that still might be a year or two away from competing for a Super Bowl, but if I'm looking for surprising teams that could make noise in the postseason, the Titans are the most complete second-tier contender in the AFC, and arguably have the most dynamic quarterback.

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

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Abuzz with business

Big Horn Center sees revitalization

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Drivers zooming up toward the more established retail hubs of Meadow Village, Town Center and Big Sky Resort have often overlooked the Big Horn Center for their shopping needs. But Big Horn business owners have joined together to reverse this trend, and have reason to believe that it might be destined to change.

For the first time in memory of retailers who have been there the longest, the entire complex—located north of the intersection of U.S. Highway 191 and Lone Mountain Trail and consisting of three multilevel buildings—is at full capacity, with 15 eclectic businesses that are proving to generate more clientele for all.

Ryan and Angi Turner, of Ryan Turner Photography, have been exhibiting Ryan's nature and outdoor adventure photography in the Big Horn Center since 2010, and in their current gallery next to Bugaboo Café since January 2015.

"It used to be very empty," Angi said. "[The gift shop] Moosely Montana had left. There was really nothing going on. But recently we filled up the entire building, which is really exciting because it's never been full since we've been here."

When former NFL player Tom Newberry bought the property in August 2014, it was nearly a third empty. "I don't think we really did anything different," Newberry said. "I think Big Sky was turning in the right direction and we're a little bit less expensive than the Meadow, which a lot of small businesses need when they're just starting out."



Ryan and Angi Turner kept the doors of Ryan Turner Photography open late and the wine flowing to generate awareness of the eclectic array of businesses in the Big Horn Center.



You can watch ceramicist Jill Zeidler create her hand-built functional and decorative stoneware while you shop at her Big Horn Center studio and retail space. Here, Zeidler [center] and friends celebrate during the Big Horn Center holiday kick-off sale on Dec. 2.

Newest to the Big Horn Center are Carlye Luft's naturopathic clinic Mountain Restorative Health; Lindsey Anderson's practice Summit Physical Therapy and Wellness; and ceramicist Jill Zeidler, who recently transitioned from a home-based studio to a working retail space.

"It's fun to be in this building," said Anderson, whose spacious physical therapy loft is just down the hall from the Turners' photography gallery. "A lot of us are very different; some of us are complimentary but everyone is so supportive. It's like a little family down here."

The family vibe was reinforced when Big Horn proprietors hosted a well-attended holiday open house on Dec. 2.


Luft celebrated the official opening of Mountain Restorative Health with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the event.

"I'm very optimistic about opening my business here," Luft said. "Every tenant was very warm and welcoming when I moved here. There's a great camaraderie—even more so after the party. I'm really fortunate and grateful to be a part of it."

The new businesses have joined the Bugaboo Café—which re-opened after closing briefly in August and gets universal credit for drawing a steady stream of people to the building—and other long-standing Big Horn businesses like Jaci Clack's Mountain Haven hair salon; Misty Castle's Easy Pieces alterations and hand-crafted designs; and Consignment Cabin.

Perhaps slightly under the radar at Big Horn are also Kuhl Tattoo, Big Sky Community Food Bank, Lone Peak Caregivers, Veterinary Clinic of Big Sky, an English as a Second Language tutor and SkyLab Media House, which provides a recording studio, video production and event technology services.

"We hosted the open house to remind people we're down here," Angi said. "It's a huge help to have these destination businesses—Carlye, the vet, the salon—people come to them on purpose. There are a lot of successful professionals here now and their clientele keeps things humming ... And it's really great to have Bugaboo open again. When the traffic is flowing in the restaurant it's really great for us retail businesses."



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DOCTOR'S NOTE

The season has begun at the mountain medical clinic



BY DR. JEFF DANIELS
EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

At the Medical Clinic of Big Sky, we look forward to opening day at the ski resort every year. It's when we open up our mountain clinic and start seeing more trauma cases, which generally is a lot more exciting than giving flu shots or treating colds (we still treat colds and other medical problems as before).

This year, the weather wasn't very cooperative in terms of producing November snow, or giving Big Sky Resort cold enough temps to make snow, so that only the lower half of one run was available on opening day. But it was better than most Western resorts, like Jackson Hole that couldn't open as planned on Thanksgiving Day. So there were plenty of revved-up skiers, anxious to get some runs in after a long hiatus.

The line to the Explorer chairlift looked like it was going to back up all the way to the clinic on Thanksgiving Thursday. There were enough icy patches to cause a couple of accidents, mostly resulting in shoulder injuries. We had several AC separations (where the clavicle separates from the scapula) and broken clavicles, and one dislocated shoulder. There were no knee injuries treated, but a Nordic skier from West Yellowstone came in with a thumb injury. We'll have to wait for a few more trails and lifts to open, as well as an influx of tourists, before we start getting busy.

Traditionally, the beginning of the ski season—during the first half of December—is relatively quiet on the hill, and subsequently very quiet in the clinic. Then, Big Sky will start filling up for the holiday season, and in the previous 22 years that I've been in Big Sky, we will be set to experience the busiest week of the entire ski season just after Christmas. Also in those 22 seasons, the snow after Dec. 15 has typically been wonderful, despite early season conditions.

As the number of skiers increase, so does the activity at the medical clinic. No one can be sure how many injuries to expect coming off a ski hill in a given season, but I'm convinced that out of every 1,000 skiers, there will be at least 20 significant injuries. Not everyone will come to the clinic; some people will try to walk it off. Others will go directly to the hospital, either by private vehicle, ambulance or helicopter. And some will wait a day or two before seeking medical attention.

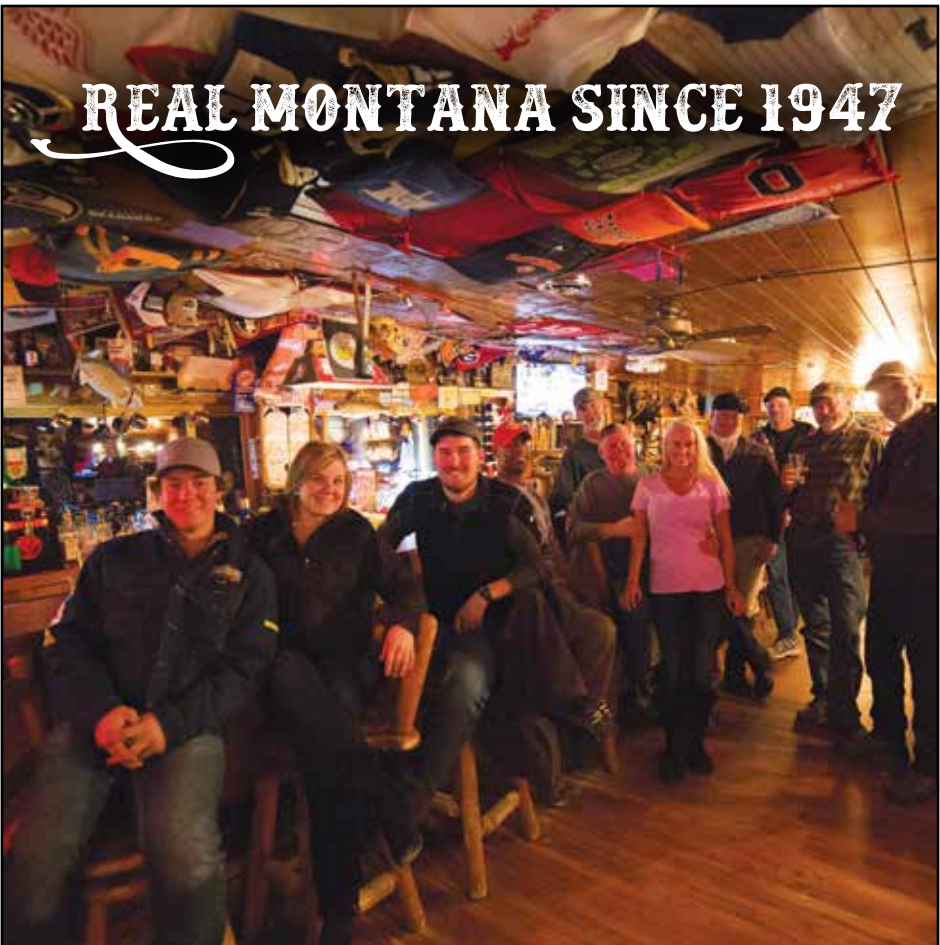
My best guess is that for every 1,000 skiers we see at the clinic, we'll treat between five and eight injuries—none of them life-threatening, but possibly vacation- or season-ending. By the end of the ski season, we'll probably see about the same number of shoulder injuries as knee injuries. Thumb injuries on the hill are the most common—the leading cause of surgery required after a ski vacation is to fix the so-called "skier's thumb" injury, which is a torn ligament in the hand that, if not fixed, can lead to chronic arthritis at the base of the thumb.

But most skiers—and it can happen in snowboarders too—who incur these injuries don't feel that bad, so they won't seek immediate medical attention. A week after they get home, when their thumb hasn't improved, they may get it checked out and referred to a hand surgeon.

I could write a book on all the different types of ski and snowboard related injuries that we've experienced here over the past 22 years. My collection of interesting X-rays is almost overflowing the memory capacity of my computer!

I hope you have a safe and successful ski season.

Dr. Jeff Daniels was the recipient of the 2016 Big Sky Chamber of Commerce Chet Huntley Lifetime Achievement Award and has been practicing medicine in Big Sky since 1994, when he and his family moved here from New York City. A unique program he implements has attracted more than 700 medical students and young doctors to train with the Medical Clinic of Big Sky.



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From Jackie *with love*

Provocative holiday conversation



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

This Thanksgiving, my husband and I visited his parents. We enjoyed dinner and conversation with them and a few of their friends. After getting to know each other a bit better, I asked this group of thoughtful and socially engaged baby boomers a question: “What would it take for the U.S. to become the No. 1 healthiest country in the world by 2040?”

Everyone eagerly, and at times passionately, shared his or her opinions. Suggestions ranged from radically changing the U.S. food supply chain, to increased prevention education. Each suggestion sparked tangent conversations and further solutions were generated.

Jim Loehr, a world renowned performance psychologist and author of 16 books—including his most recent, “The Only Way to Win”—teaches that our story is our destiny, whether it leads to victory of self defeat.

What if we Americans changed our story and got on board in co-creating the healthiest country in the world by 2040? While we wouldn’t all be in agreement on how to get there, we would be in alignment. This collaborative momentum could be exactly what we need to turn this ship around.

If trying to answer the question, “What would it take to be the No. 1 healthiest country in the world by 2040?” (WIT 2040 for short) conjures up serious doubt or overwhelming feelings, let’s consider recent and radical culture shifts that we’ve created in our country.

While we now automatically buckle-up when we get into cars, in the 1980s virtually no one used seat belts. And consider cigarette smoking: It was only 20 years ago when bartenders (myself included) smoked behind the bar in certain Big Sky restaurants—today, that’s inconceivable.

There are several organizations that study the health of nations and each has it’s own complex measuring system.

Bill and Melinda Gates funded a 2015 study produced by the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals division. The Global Burden of Disease study analyzed data from public surveys, pharmaceutical manufacturer reports and medical records. Iceland and Sweden came out on top, while the U.S. came in 28th out of 188 total nations.

According to the Harvard Health Blog, the National Academy of Medicine proposes using 15 “vital signs” to track the health of Americans: life expectancy, well-being, overweight and obesity, addictive behavior, unintended pregnancy, healthy communities, preventive services, access to care, patient safety, evidence-based care, care that matches patient goals, personal spending burden, population spending burden, individual engagement, and community engagement.

So what do you, your friends and family think it would take to become the No. 1 healthiest country in the world by 2040? Strike up the conversation this holiday season and share your ideas at WIT2040 on Instagram and Facebook followed by #wit2040. Let’s rewrite our story of declining health to one of strength, vitality and incredible comeback. We can do it.

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

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AMUSE-BOUCHE

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

The biggest cost a chef incurs is replacement



BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

I occasionally relate sports and athletes to cooking and chefs. There are many similarities, and I find more all the time. But one in particular stands out above all others in recent years. To me, it’s the most striking comparison to sports I can think of: the cost of replacement.

A chef friend named Michael and I correspond on a semi-regular basis via LinkedIn. He currently resides in Chicago, but has lit the pilot lights of ovens all over the country for more years than I have.

We were talking once about some of our not-so-wonderful experiences as chefs, and he told me of a time when he was constantly under pressure to produce better bottom-line numbers. This isn’t unlike a coach needing to produce wins.

Ultimately he simply couldn’t agree on the terms and direction of ownership and was let go. He explained that they were being unrealistic and that he had many systems in place and costs moving in the right direction, but to no avail. When I heard his story, it made me realize how similar that is to a college football or NFL coach.

We recently saw the release of University of Texas head coach Charlie Strong. We know that oftentimes when an athletic program expunges a head coach, it can take more than a few years to elevate the program’s expectations or to return the team to its former glory.

There is a culture—good or bad—that has been created, an atmosphere unique to that individual. There are systems in place. There are certain expectations.

And it can have costs that extend past the coach’s salary. There is new training and a new playbook. Generally, a new head coach wants to bring in his own assistants, and if he can’t then he must mesh with existing ones because he will have his own style and methods of teaching.

Chefs too have playbooks. It may not have X’s and O’s, but rather cups and tablespoons. Their collection of recipes represents their style and identity. And if they leave any behind, the incoming chef will most likely have no interest in using them, no matter if he likes them or not. What coach wants to run another coach’s plays?

When a chef is replaced, there are also changes beyond simply replacing the individual. Chefs come with a style and personality all their own.

Just as a coach wants to bring in his own coaching staff, a chef likes to bring along a cook they know and trust; someone they’re familiar with. And sometimes there are cooks that work or stay at a restaurant solely for that chef. I have had one young cook follow me two times to new adventures.

A coach inherits players he either didn’t recruit or didn’t draft. It takes some time to replace those players with their own, and ones that fit their system.

For a chef, their inheritance comes in the way of a menu. Just as you can’t just replace every athlete on the field all at once, it is a shock to the guest to simply present an entirely new menu overnight.

Generally, a coach has about a three-year window to win, or turn things around as they say. Unfortunately, in an industry that makes five cents on the dollar, a chef does not have three years to generate success or right the ship.

But the best comparison of all is that like a coach, we chefs get to discover young cooks and mold them and teach them. We get to mentor them so that when they move to the next team, they can take a set of skills with them we are both proud of.

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.

CLASSIFIEDS

NOW HIRING

BIG SKY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

The Big Sky Community Organization is hiring a .5FTE Outreach Coordinator. If you are looking for flexible hours and love spending time with people from our community outside on our trails and in our parks, then this is the job for you. For more information and a full job description visit www.bscomt.org/about/employment-opportunities

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is currently hiring experienced/skilled lead carpenters and journeyman carpenters for full time, year round work in Big Sky.

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Send resumes to: hr@blueribbonbuilders.com, or for more information call 406-995-4579.



BIG SKY COUNTY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

Big Sky County Water & Sewer District No. 363 is seeking a qualified individual for the position of full-time District Water System Operator. Applicant will be responsible to assist in the maintenance and operations of the public water system at Big Sky, Montana. Experience in water and/or wastewater system operation is desired. Applicant must have State certification as an Operator for water systems, or have the background necessary to obtain State certification as a Class 2A Water Distribution and Class 3B Water Treatment Operator within 12 months of hire.

Send letters of interest and/or resumes to: General Manager, Big Sky County Water & Sewer District, PO Box 160670, Big Sky, MT 59716. Letters and/or resumes must be postmarked no later than Friday, December 30, 2016. Resumes and letters may also be sent by email to wsd363jobs@gmail.com no later than December 30, 2016. Salary range is \$21.63–28.84/Hour D.O.E. For more information and complete job description go to the District’s website at: www.bigskywatersewer.com/employment.htm. The Big Sky County Water & Sewer District is an equal opportunity employer.

LEGAL

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, 2016.

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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PRICE REDUCED
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Ski Tip Lot 10* | 1.02 ACRES | \$995K
Ski-in, ski-out lot located near the Spanish Peaks Clubhouse



Ranch Lot 119 Old Barn Road* | 3.13 ACRES | \$450K
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* Membership upon approval to Spanish Peaks Mountain Club

Section 3: INSIDE YELLOWSTONE, OUTDOORS & FUN

Eddy Line:
Angling-centric gifts pg. 39

West Yellowstone Rodeo Run sled dog
races pg. 40

Kids 'N' Snow program pg. 41

INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



Skype with a Yellowstone Ranger

EBS STAFF

While the best way to learn about and appreciate Yellowstone is to visit the park in person, this isn't always an option for everyone. Luckily—thanks to technology—Yellowstone still has so much to offer those who want to explore its fascinating geology, wildlife and history. Since 2011, Yellowstone National Park has offered the opportunity for classrooms to have a park ranger visit them—virtually—and it has been a huge hit.

Classrooms can Skype with a Yellowstone National Park ranger to learn about geological features including geysers, hot springs and volcanoes; facets of park ecology like wildfire; wildlife such as bears, bison, elk and wolves; the cultural history of Native Americans; and Yellowstone's rich history as the world's first national park.

Students can also interview a ranger about their job, or even participate in a "guess that park" mystery Skype. The subject matter and format can be adapted to a wide range of ages. Many teachers host the session in conjunction with the Yellowstone National Park Service "Expedition Yellowstone" curriculum, or integrate it into Yellowstone-related lessons in their own curriculum.

A YouTube clip of a Skype session between a ranger and a classroom shows the ranger filming a group of bison grazing in a snowy field. The classroom, viewing the encounter remotely, responds with a collective



This park ranger uses an iPad and tripod to give a middle school class a glimpse into Yellowstone's outdoor classroom. PHOTO COURTESY OF YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

"whoa." One kid says, "Go touch one!"

Another student responds, "No, you can't touch them!"

The ranger explains visitors have to stay 25 yards or more from bison in the park. She goes on to share facts about the animals, such as their weight (up to 2,000 pounds) and how they sometimes sidle up to geothermal features in the winter to stay warm.

Together, the ranger and students watch as the herd ambles near a sidewalk through a snow-covered playground at the Mammoth Hot

Springs community center. "I think one's trying to get on a swing," the ranger says, prompting a round of giggles from the kids.

The Skype with a Ranger program has been growing each year to meet demand from teachers who want to share the wonders of Yellowstone with their students, and help foster park preservation and stewardship. Since October of 2015, 17,300 students in 44 states and 17 countries have participated in the program.

More information about the program can be found at <https://education.microsoft.com/Story/VirtualFieldTrip?token=4c5ec>.

Yellowstone Forever is the official education and fundraising partner of Yellowstone National Park, and is a proud supporter of the Skype with a Yellowstone Ranger program. To learn more about the organization, visit Yellowstone.org.

RECYCLE



Enjoy our publication and please remember to recycle.

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EDGE OF YELLOWSTONE**

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morningglorycoffee.net | facebook.com/MGCTwest

Bozeman Ice Festival adds adventure films to its lineup

FRIENDS OF HYALITE

The local outdoor community, ice enthusiasts from near and far, and world-renowned professional climbers will come together to celebrate one of Hyalite Canyon’s most popular and historic pursuits during the 20th anniversary of the Bozeman Ice Climbing Festival.

The five-day festival kicked off Dec. 7 at the Emerson Cultural Center in downtown Bozeman and runs until Dec. 11. Festival attendees can participate in ice climbing skills clinics on Hyalite’s world-class ice, check out the community gear demo, watch slide shows and films from some of the top athletes in the world, enjoy a performance by the Bear Canyon Singers and Performers, and partake in après-climb parties.

“Bozeman is a world-class outdoor adventure town, and this year we really want to invite everyone in the community who loves Hyalite and the wilderness that surrounds us to come out and celebrate,” said festival director Joe Josephson.

Josephson is especially excited to introduce the Adventure Film Festival, which will bring inspiring, funny and poignant action sports and conservation films from some of the best independent outdoor filmmakers in the country to Bozeman.

After a ceremonial blessing of events by the Bear Canyon Singers and Performers, viewers will be treated to action sport films about backpacking across the Utah desert with man’s best friend, learning to paraglide, surfing in Iceland, ice climbing in Quebec and more.

The Saturday matinees will feature ski and snow sports and build on a wilderness conservation theme with films about elk migrations across Yellowstone; earthquake recovery in Nepal; and the late Doug Tompkins,

who founded The North Face and developed a reputation as a prolific conservationist. View the entire screening line up at bozemanicefest.com.

“BIF continues to embrace all aspects of our winter experience from Olympic-caliber sporting events like the World Cup we’ve done the past few years to the more introspective storytelling and conservation films we are featuring on our 20th anniversary,” Josephson said.

Mountaineering legends Barry Blanchard, Kitty Calhoun and Jack Tackle, who were among the original Ice Fest and Women’s Clinic instructors, will be coming back for the 20th anniversary of the festival.

All proceeds from the Ice Fest and Adventure Film Festival will go to Friends of Hyalite to support plowing and stewardship efforts in Hyalite Canyon.

“Just a few short years ago Hyalite wasn’t plowed and once the first snows fell, no one could get back there without an epic adventure,” said Josephson, who co-founded Friends of Hyalite as a 501(c)3 nonprofit operating under a unique cost-share agreement with Gallatin County and the Forest Service that doesn’t exist anywhere else in the country.

Since 2010 Friends of Hyalite has secured more than \$87,000 in road plowing funding which costs an average of \$20,000 per year to keep open.

“Anyone who loves playing in Hyalite in the winter or independent outdoor films is invited to come out, watch the films, have a beer and a bratwurst and celebrate this amazing outdoor community we have in Bozeman,” Josephson said.

Visit bozemanicefest.com for more information and a calendar of events.

For more information about Friends of Hyalite, visit hyalite.org.

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Deadlines for youth ski leagues approaching

BRIDGER SKI FOUNDATION

Registration deadlines are approaching for Bridger Ski Foundation’s Youth Ski Leagues for both Nordic and alpine/freestyle skiing. If you have a young child looking to build skills on the snow and have some fun, there are several options for the 2017 winter season.

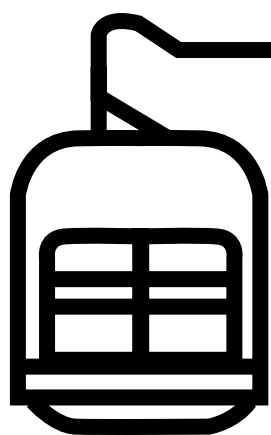
Nordic Youth Ski League beginner instruction in cross-country skiing for kids aged 5 to 12 starts Jan. 10. No ski experience is necessary and the eight-week class is held at Lindley Park on Tuesdays and Thursdays and at Bohart Ranch on Saturdays. Children may participate one or two days per week. The registration deadline is Dec. 19.

Alpine and Freestyle Youth Ski League is a program for intermediate level skiers aged 6 to 12 who would like to work on fundamentals that apply to both ski racing and freestyle/freeskiing in a fun, no-pressure environment. The eight-week session starts Saturday, Jan. 7, at Bridger Bowl. A two-day holiday camp is also available Dec. 29-30. Skiers should be able to ski from mid-mountain down at Bridger Bowl. The registration deadline is Dec. 9.

Bridger Ski Foundation’s coaches are certified by the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association and are committed to teaching the fundamentals as well as the joys of skiing.

Visit bridgerskifoundation.org/ysl for more information.

Bridger Ski Foundation is a non-profit ski club offering educational and competitive programs in Nordic, freestyle, freeskiing and alpine skiing. They also groom a network of community Nordic trails in Bozeman. In addition to the Youth Ski League programs, there are options for intermediate and advanced skiers of all ages.



WORD FROM THE RESORTS

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



BY CHELSI MOY
BIG SKY RESORT PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER

There are many unsung heroes in our community—people doing extraordinary things out of the public spotlight. Big Sky Resort would like to recognize two types of these heroes: educators and military men and women.

Military Appreciation weekend starts Dec. 9. Big Sky Resort is offering lodging specials to military service men and women starting Friday, and free daily lift tickets to active and retired military with

valid identification on Saturday and Sunday. Military families will receive half off daily lift ticket window rates on Dec. 10 and 11.

The following weekend is Educators Appreciation weekend. Teachers and administrators staying at the resort will receive free lift tickets Saturday, Dec. 17, and Sunday, Dec. 18. Those educators not staying at the resort will receive half off the window rate on daily lift tickets on Saturday and Sunday, as will their immediate family members. Educators must present valid identification for the specials to apply.

In keeping with the holiday spirit, Big Sky Resort would like to remind skiers and snowboarders about Carving for Cans, this year on a weekend—Sunday, Dec. 11. We're offering a \$39 ticket to anyone who donates 20 cans of food. We're not accepting turkeys this year (as in the past) because Big Sky Resort would like to stock the food banks shelves with nonperishable foods.

Holiday spirit is in full swing at Big Sky Resort. It's been snowing and Powder Seeker is open! We're pleased to give back to those who give so much. Come on out!

Visit bigskyresort.com for more information.



BY NICOLE CAMPBELL
LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH SALES AND MARKETING COORDINATOR

Gear up for an exciting winter season here at Lone Mountain Ranch, starting with our annual open house on Dec. 13. We're excited to share with you our new and improved cabins, Saloon and dining room renovations. Blending historic charm with a touch of new age décor, we believe the cabins are sure to excite and we would love to welcome your input, too!

Doors open 5–8 p.m. with refreshments and light appetizers available in our Outdoor Shop and dining room. Take a holiday tour through the cabins, visit the Saloon for a hot cider, and enjoy some tasty appetizers brought to you from our new chef, Eric Gruber.

Looking for a perfect gift for that special someone? Enjoy Christmas shopping in our retail shop, now open daily 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Items for sale include locally handcrafted jewelry, pottery, ornaments and ski gear—not to mention unbeatable sale prices on classic and skate skis.

Live entertainment in the Saloon is back and better than ever. Enjoy entertainers Bruce Anfinson, Tom Georges, Ric Stienke, Julie Rox and Christoph Bayr on Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings this winter. Hit the trails and afterwards warm yourself with a specialty cocktail and live music from one of these fabulous musicians.

For more information, call (406) 995-4644 or email reservations@lonemountainranch.com.



Bridger Bowl received 4 inches of new snow the night of Dec. 5, before a cold snap gripped southwest Montana for much of the week. However, temps were expected to rise to near freezing for the ski area's Dec. 9 opening day.

Bridger rolled out a new website for the 2016-2017 season, to accommodate its new online store and keep up-to-date with current design styles, according to Marketing Director Doug Wales. New products on the website include a Young Adult Season Pass for 19-24 year olds, and a Senior Midweek Season Pass for ages 70-79.

The ski area has also begun a two-year construction project on the Saddle Peak Lodge, where the snow sports program will move and additional pass holder lockers will be available for the 2017-2018 season. – Tyler Allen

Visit bridgerbowl.com for more information.

BY JENNY WHITE
GRAND TARGHEE MARKETING AND
SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER



With 7 inches of new snow, a 49-inch base, and 109 inches of snow for the season, skiers lined up at 6 a.m. to get the first chair of the season on Dec

1. The Grand Targhee "Snow Globe" is now officially open for the 2016-2017 winter season. With all systems go, Mary's opened for the first time this season on Dec. 2. Wyoming's only snowcat skiing will open on Dec. 10.

The Trap Bar and Grill has a jam-packed music calendar where you can catch Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs, 86, One Ton Pig, Sweet Thursday, and Papa Chan Trio during the next couple of weeks. Fat bike season is officially here and we're kicking off the first race of the season on Dec. 10. Make sure to mark your calendar for our night fat bike race on Jan. 21.

If you're looking tune up your off-trail skiing and riding, then our "Knowledge is Powder" camp is for you. The first camp kicks off Dec. 16, and includes three days of coaching, video analysis, social events, lift tickets, cat skiing and professional instruction.

A new season brings new changes and additions to Grand Targhee Resort. Construction on the new Blackfoot Quad chairlift began last spring and now it's time to celebrate. Dedication of the new Blackfoot lift is scheduled for Dec. 17. It's time to get out and enjoy your turns. We'll see you on the mountain!

Visit grandtarghee.com for more information.



BY DAVID JOHNSON
MARKETING AT JACKSON HOLE MOUNTAIN RESORT

Following a brief delay, Jackson Hole opened Thursday, Dec. 1. By Dec. 3., four chairlifts—Apres Vous, Teewinot, Teton and Casper—were spinning, giving guests and locals a lot of acreage to be excited about!

Mother Nature has done her part too. The week preceding opening day we received almost 3 feet of new snow, colder temperatures and optimal working conditions for on-mountain employees to get the ball rolling for opening day. Another storm moved in for the resort's first weekend open, dumping 23 inches of snow on JHMR.

This is a great time to begin planning a visit to Jackson Hole. We've got a great Ski Free Christmas promotion going on over the upcoming holidays and with all terrain expected to be open by Dec. 17, it will be a time you won't want to miss! As part of the Ski Free Christmas, if you begin your holiday on or before Dec. 23, you will earn two ski days at JHMR for free when you book a six-night minimum lodging and lift package with Jackson Hole Central Reservations. We've got a fantastic lineup of holiday events going on in Teton Village for families of all ages as well.

On the horizon in January is our favorite promotion, the Golden Ticket. From Jan. 9-31, JHMR will offer season pass holders from any resort worldwide 40 percent off lift tickets here in Teton Village. Bring your season pass from your home mountain and we'll discount your lift ticket. Come out and ski the big one!

For questions about promotions or lift operations, visit jacksonhole.com.

STAY AND
SKI \$99<sup>PP
PN</sup>
STARTING AT

DESTINATION WYOMING

DEC 10	Fat Bike Race # 1
Dec 10	Après at the Trap with Laney Lou & Bird Dogs
DEC 16	"Knowledge is Powder" Off Trail Camp
DEC 16	Holiday Celebration Kicks Off
DEC 16	Late Night at the Trap with "86"
DEC 17	Blackfoot Dedication
DEC 17	Après at the Trap with One Ton Pig

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On the Trail: South Fork Sledding Hill Trail

Explore local hiking, biking and equestrian trails with Big Sky Community Organization’s trail series.



The South Fork Sledding Hill Trail off Spruce Cone Drive is a short trail near Town Center that doubles as a path to a sledding hill in the winter. PHOTO BY CIARA WOLFE

BY CIARA WOLFE
BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This time of year can be difficult to get out on the trail. The snowpack is still low enough that our incredible cross-country ski network is not groomed and ready for skiing, snowshoeing can be difficult, and longer trails can be slick for hikers on foot. Don’t despair, though—Big Sky still has something to get folks outside and on the trail.

Scattered throughout Big Sky are several small neighborhood parks and trails. One of these hidden gems is the South Fork Sledding Hill Trail. Nestled in a developing residential neighborhood, this 1/2-mile out and back gravel path provides nice scenery and a vista of Meadow Village.

The South Fork Sledding Hill Trail is located off Spruce Cone Drive in the South Fork residential neighborhood. The trail and park was designed and put in by the developer of this neighborhood, Cronin Family L.P., with a vision of connecting this trail to others as the neighborhood continues to grow.

Although short, this hike provides a pleasant walk for all abilities and gives you an enjoyable outdoor experience during the offseason. There is a small off-street parking area on the west side of Spruce Cone Drive directly south of Whitefish Drive. At the parking area you’ll see a small trailhead with signs that indicate the trail and the hill for sledding.

The trail meanders up the hillside above the sledding hill and then crosses through an aspen grove before ending at a dirt road. From that point you can turn around and return the 1/4 mile back to your vehicle, but make sure to bring a sled in case you or your children want to take a ride down the sledding hill. Also, stay tuned for future connecting trails.

For more information about Big Sky’s parks, trails and recreation programs, visit bscomt.org. The Big Sky Community Organization is a local nonprofit that connects people to recreational opportunities by acquiring, promoting and preserving sustainable places and programs for all.



TRAIL STATS

Distance	Uses	Difficulty	Elevation Gain	Surface
0.5 miles roundtrip	Hike, dog walk, sled	Easy	>100 ft	Gravel

Directions: Turn off Lone Mountain Trail into the West Fork neighborhood on Big Pine Drive. Turn left when you reach the stop sign at Spruce Cone Drive and continue for about 1/2 of a mile. Look for a place to park after you pass Whitefish Drive. The parking area will be found immediately on the right-hand side of Spruce Cone Drive.

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Walk-In



Cary Wilson, PA-C

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Bridger Canyon Masterpiece
40.24± acres, 4 bd, 8 ba, 10,923± sf
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theater, bar, Incredible craftsmanship
and attention to detail



\$3,995,000 | #199289

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irrigated cropland, owner's residence,
hand's home & live water



\$778,000 | #200670

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views Community water system



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WORKSHOPS & SPECIAL EVENTS

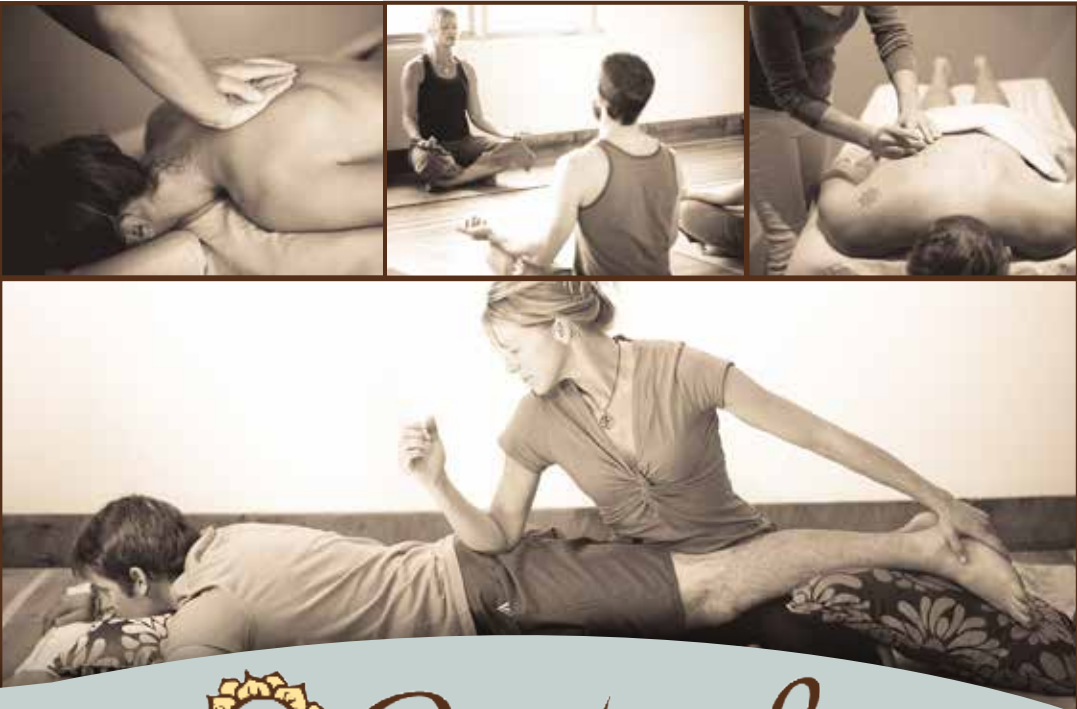
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12/21 6:30 - 7:30PM



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SUNDAY

5:00-6:15pm
All Levels Yoga
8:00-9:00pm
Candlelit Yin

MONDAY

9:00-10:15am
All Levels Yoga
4:30-5:30pm
Apres Ski Yoga
5:45-6:45pm
Pi-Yo
(through December)
5:45-7:00pm
Heated Vinyasa Flow
(beginning January)

TUESDAY

7:00-8:00am
All Levels Yoga
9:30-10:45am
Vinyasa Flow
(all Levels)
6:30-7:45pm
Radiant Body Yoga
(all levels)

WEDNESDAY

7:30-8:30am
Radiant Body Yoga
(all levels)
9:00-10:15am
All Levels Yoga
11:00-12:30pm
The Practice Level
II-III Yoga

THURSDAY

8:15-9:15am
All Levels Yoga
9:30-10:30am
All Levels Yoga
6:30-7:45pm
All Levels Yoga

FRIDAY

9:00-10:15am
Level II Yoga
11:00-12:00pm
Restorative Yoga
3:15-4:00pm
Kids Yoga
(3rd-5th grade)
4:15-4:45pm
Kids Yoga
(K-2nd grade)

SATURDAY

9:00-10:15am
Ashtanga/Vinyasa
Flow (all levels)



THE EDDY Line



BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

If you're reading this, you have made it through Thanksgiving, Black Friday, and the college football playoff selection. If you're like me during this time of year, finding a few hours to hit the stream is akin to the alignment of the collective stars—the weather needs to cooperate with temps in the 30s; holiday parties and performances take over the calendar; and the anticipation of a winter on the slopes is a good reason to make a few turns on the mountain.

With a full platter of family, fishing and skiing, finding time to shop is only one more layer to my holiday sandwich that is about to topple over. Always one to take one for the team, and to make you or the angler in your life happy this season, here's my list of the year's best gifts:

Yeti Hopper Flip 12. Since Yeti's inception in 2006, they've been known for the best coolers on the planet. With the Hopper Flip 12 you have the best gift on the planet. It's a leakproof, tough-as-nails, carry-the-day soft cooler. Like the original Hopper, the Hopper Flip 12 can withstand serious abuse in the field, even with everyday use. Its wide mouth opening makes for easy loading and access to your food and drinks and its compact, cubed body allows for ultimate portability, never slowing you down. And it fits nicely under the tree.

Sage X. In fly fishing, Sage is synonymous with innovation. Their rod designers pride themselves in using technology to create the finest fly rods made. The Sage X solidifies their reputation as the makers of amazing tools that will help you catch more fish. The magic of the Sage X is how light it feels, how easy it is to cast, and how dosh garn far it allows you to cast. Whether it's trout in Montana or Belizean bonefish, the Sage X is one of the rare products that comes along and truly improves your skills the moment you buy it.

Fitz OTC sock. If you care about your angler, you want them to be warm and dry. Start with their feet. This over-the-calf wader sock comforts the entire lower leg with super soft Merino wool and keeps it warm in ice cold waters. Best of all? Pull them up once and they'll stay up all day.

Clic magnetic reading glasses. As a rookie fly shop staffer back in the early 90s, I snickered at my boss as he put on his readers to tie a size 16 on 5X. Fast-forward 20-plus years and now I'm the one using readers. A few years ago I started using Clic's and have been thankful ever since.

Orvis Hydros SL reel. Orvis has been innovating reels for over 50 years. Enter the new Hydros SL. This reel is a great value with performance to match, and from a company with strong ties to conservation. This reel delivers a 12 percent increase

Want the best holiday season ever? Give or get these angling-centric gifts

in line retrieval rate, has a narrow spool to eliminate line stacking, and offers increased backing capacity. To top it off, it has a fully sealed drag mechanism, which means it's good to go for fishing the salt.

Simms Bounty Hunter roller luggage. Montana winters can be long. As much as we love winter here in Big Sky, it is sometimes nice to get away. Be sure to have one of the Simms Bounty Hunter rolling bags with you. They come in two sizes: The 100, which weighs in at 6,102 cubic inches and measures 30 inches tall, 18 wide and 14 inches deep; and the 2,746-cubic-inch Carry-On Roller, which clocks in at 22 inches tall, 14 inches wide and 10 inches deep.

RL Winston Air fly rod. Winston rods are made in Montana, which is a unique state. It's fitting that rods made here are as unique as Montana is. Lighter and more accurate than a Boron III X, especially with 30- to 40-foot casts, the Winston Air will delight any Winston fan. If you think you need to cast further, consider another rod. If you like to buy Montanan and enjoy fishing at close ranges—feeling each move of a hooked fish through the rod and down into the handle—then buy this new Winston rod for yourself or the angler in your life.

The holidays come only once a year. Let's hope you get out to fish more than once a year, and chances are good that if you live in our fishy corner of Montana you do. Take the guesswork out of holiday shopping for the angler in your life and visit your local fly shop where you can find these products.

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



It's that time of year again—time to buy the angler in your life what he or she really wants. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

Ski tips: Are your ski legs ready?

BY DAN EGAN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

It seems that no matter how many miles we rode our bikes, or number of ski conditioning classes we attended, our legs always feel the burn early in the ski season.

There are a couple of reasons for this.

The first is that the ski movement is hard to duplicate off of the snow, and this lack of specific training creates fatigue in our legs.

The other factor is that the sport of skiing is a passive aerobic activity, unlike biking or a workout class. Passively gliding on snow lulls our body into state of non-action, then boom we turn, creating a squat like motion and eventually our legs fatigue.

The contradiction between being passive and exploding into action is why our legs burn. Early in the season it's especially important to wake up our bodies for the ski day ahead.

Start with stretching, prior to arriving at the mountain. Then, before you step into your skis swing each leg back and forth several times. Do a few squats to warm up your lower back and legs. After riding the lift, take off your skis and repeat this warm up.

Once you start skiing be very proactive and intentional with your movements, and don't forget to breathe. Try to inhale between turns and exhale during the arc of your turns. This combination of being intentional with your movement and taking deep breaths will help your legs react.

The final thing to do in the early season is to shorten up your turn radius and ski slower than you normally do. This will maximize your aerobic workout and get your ski legs in shape faster than if you bomb down the mountain making big, wide turns.

Extreme skiing pioneer Dan Egan has appeared in 12 Warren Miller Ski films and countless others. Today he teaches clinics and guides trips at locations around the world including Big Sky, where he'll be teaching Dec. 10 and 11, Feb. 23-25, March 2-4 and March 9-11, and throughout the season (contact Big Sky Mountain Sports for availability). Find more ski tips from Dan Egan at skiclinics.com/education/skitips.



Shorten up your turn radius early in the season to maximize your aerobic workout.
PHOTO BY JEN BENNET/RUMBLE PRODUCTIONS

West Yellowstone hosts Rodeo Run sled dog races Dec. 17-18

WEST YELLOWSTONE CHAMBER

West Yellowstone Sled Dog Races is hosting the first event of the season Dec. 17-18, 2016. The Rodeo Run features Pro/Open, six-dog, and four-dog junior race classes covering varying distances. In 2015, 85 teams—a record number—participated during the two-day event. The public is encouraged to come meet the mushing teams and cheer them on at the start and finish.



Mushers can enter in a pro/open, junior four-dog, or junior six-dog race. PHOTO BY JOHN NUNNES

The race was established in 2008 as the West Yellowstone Classic and renamed in 2010 in memory of Roger “Rodeo” Vincent. One of the highlights is watching the kids have so much fun competing in the junior class. Organizers know how important it is to have the junior interest in order for the sport to continue.

Because of West Yellowstone’s early season snow, mushers bring their teams from across the country to participate. For many teams, this is the first race of the season, and for some, the first time on snow. Mushers use this time to evaluate their canine athletes and put together their top teams for later races.

“It is a well organized race with well marked trails, so people tend to return year after year,” says organizer and musher, Charlotte Mooney.

West Yellowstone is becoming a hot spot for sled dog racing and training. In addition to the area’s early snow, locals rally to organize races and spread the word that it’s a safe place to train following the changes in snowmobile regulations for Yellowstone National Park.

The community also works hard to prepare trails before grooming starts and keep ungroomed training trails in good shape throughout the season. Local organizers have meat and hay to sell to the mushers while they are here training, making it convenient for them to stay.

Races start at 9 a.m. daily at the old airport located on the west end of town, off Iris Street.

For more information, including a detailed schedule of events, visit wysleddograces.com.

Award-winning West Yellowstone event returns on Dec. 17

WEST YELLOWSTONE CHAMBER

With the return of the Kids’N’Snow program, West Yellowstone is hosting four family-friendly weekends filled with events and activities for everyone.

The Kids’N’Snow program, which was awarded the “Tourism Event of the Year” by the Montana Office of Tourism in 2014, is offered one weekend each month from December through March. Through this program we offer all kids, both from our community and winter visitors, the opportunity to try new things in a safe and fun hands-on learning environment. Hopefully, they develop lifelong, healthy habits along the way.

Imagine snowshoeing through the snow-covered forest with a Yellowstone National Park ranger, meeting a live raptor, learning to ice fish or riding behind a team of sled dogs. Attendees can also find animal tracks in the snow, go sledding, ride a snowmobile, or make a s’more over the fire. Each weekend varies by activities and schedule so many families come for multiple weekends. Most of the activities are free and the program has expanded to over 1,000 participants, so pre-registration is offered since space is limited for certain events.

This season’s dates are Dec. 17-18, Jan. 14-15, Feb. 4-5 and March 4-5. The Kids’N’Snow headquarters will be located at the West Yellowstone Visitor Center, where families can register and pick up their supplies for the weekend.

Join the West Yellowstone Chamber on Facebook to stay up to date on the program. As events grow and more activities are solidified, they will be added to kidsnsnow.org.

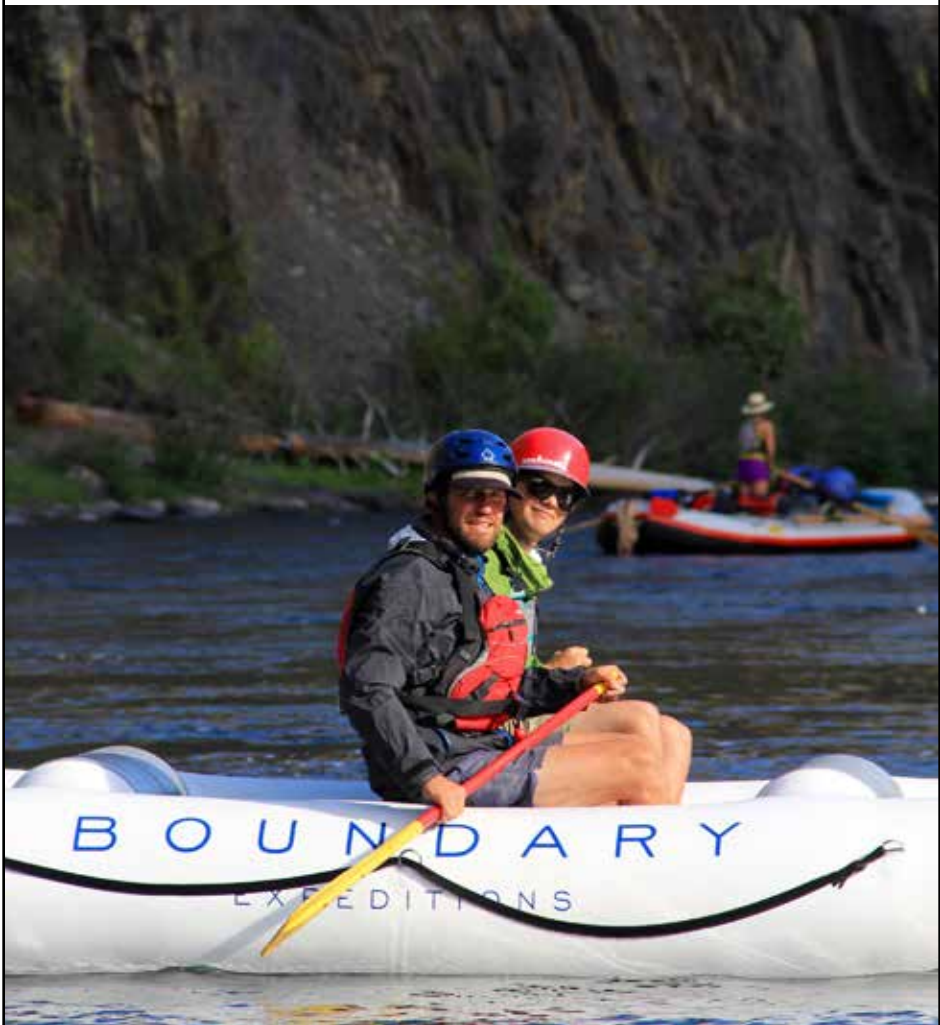


Kids can interact with sled dogs after they take a ride behind them. PHOTOS COURTESY OF WEST YELLOWSTONE CHAMBER

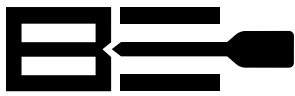


One of the most popular activities during Kids’N’Snow weekends is riding the M120 snowmobiles for kids aged 6 to 12.

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THE ART OF TRAVELING
3 MILES PER HOUR



WHITEWATER RAFTING ON THE MIDDLE
FORK OF THE SALMON RIVER IN IDAHO



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GEAR REVIEW

Mustang Survival Regulate Base Layers

Made by North America’s only sailing brand, Mustang Survival is a great addition to your outdoor wardrobe and can be used for year-round recreation. I tested these baselayers during a bitterly cold nighttime ski tour in Big Sky, and here is my report card:

Weight: A- The Regulate baselayer system is offered in both 230 weight and 175 weight, in tops and bottoms. EBS tested the 230 weights, which proved incredibly lightweight and breathable. You will hardly notice you’re wearing them.

Warmth: A+. The union of synthetics and wool wicks moisture away from your skin and regulates temperature during exercise. The layers keep your core as cozy as if you’re sitting by a fire during sub-freezing weather.

Comfort: A. These duds can also double as pajamas.

Fit: A. Not too tight or too loose. The stretchy design retains fit and reduces wear and tear.

Function: A+. The quick-drying synthetic material results in dry yet cool summer use while the blend of Merino wool keeps you warm during winter activities. These don’t just hang up to dry until next season. – *Ersin Ozer*

230-weight top \$105; 230-wieght bottoms \$95
mustangsurvival.com (for dealer locator)



A large, succulent king crab leg, partially covered in a vibrant red sauce, sits atop a bed of crushed ice. A bright yellow lemon wedge is placed next to it, adding a pop of color. The background is dark, making the crab and lemon stand out.

KING CRAB FEAST

WEDNESDAY

DEC 14TH

The logo for Lone Peak Brewery features a stylized mountain peak with a snow-capped summit. The words "BIG SKY MONTANA" are written in a semi-circle above the peak, and "Lone Peak Brewery" is written in a semi-circle below it.

\$45 PER PERSON
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BY TAYLOR-ANN SMITH
EBS GRAPHIC DESIGNER

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

While I do love the traditional Christmas songs, I tend to get tired of them by the time the holidays actually arrive. Therefore, I’ve found covers of the classics, and original songs by modern artists, to keep me in the holiday spirit and avoid turning into the Grinch.

This edition of Big Sky Beats features folk artists and their take on holiday tunes. The mix of upbeat banjos and violins paired with sultry, soft voices make me daydream of being in a cabin with a cup of peppermint hot chocolate, gazing at Christmas lights on the trees and sparkling fresh snow.

In an attempt to keep spirits bright, below is a playlist of folk-based holiday songs:

- 1. “Winter Eclipse,” Beta Radio
- 2. “Jingle Your Bells,” Jill Andrews & Peter Groenwald
- 3. “Sleigh Ride,” SHEL
- 4. “Deck The Halls,” The Last Bison
- 5. “Snow Angel,” Sugar & The Hi Lows
- 6. “Orange Rind,” Beta Radio
- 7. “As Soon as Winter Comes,” The Bird and the Bear
- 8. “I’m Coming Home,” Holley Maher
- 9. “Winter Wonderland,” The Sweepings
- 10. “Begin and Never Cease,” The Oh Hellos

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

American Life in Poetry: Column 611

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

What would our lives be like if we didn’t have imagination? Here’s a poem by Rachel Richardson, who lives in California, from her book, “Hundred-Year Wave.”

Astronomer
By Rachel Richardson

A child climbs into a cardboard house,
shuts its doors and windows
to hold in the dark, and lies on her back
inside, looking up through its cut-out moon
and stars. She knows she is not looking
at the sky. But she calls out, still,
It’s nighttime! I’m looking at the sky!

We do not accept unsolicited submissions. American Life in Poetry 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 ©2016 by Rachel Richardson, “Astronomer,” from “Hundred-Year Wave,” (Carnegie Mellon University Press, 2016). Poem reprinted by permission of Rachel Richardson and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2016 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction’s author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.

Sudoku

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

8	7			6				3
					1	2		
2		6		5	4			8
			1		5			
		8				4	1	
1				2			6	5
			7	8				
		5		4				7
7							3	

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DOG OF THE MONTH

DIGGER

BREED:

Basset Hound

AGE:

9 years old

OWNER:

Taylor-Ann Smith

LIKES:

Apple fritters, chasing marmots, having his ears rubbed

DISLIKES:

Baths and non-flavored chips

CLAIM TO FAME: The trail of drool he leaves EVERYWHERE

Season of Audi Sales Event



2016
Audi A6
Premium Plus quattro 2.0

\$496
/month
lease + tax*

\$795 Acquisition Fee
\$3,600 Down Payment
\$4,395 Total Due at Signing*
(Excludes taxes, title, other options and dealer fees)
*Must qualify for \$1,000 Audi Owner Loyalty
Stock #36105
Lease term: 36 months
Mileage: 10,000 miles per year
MSRP: \$55,995
Residual Value: \$31,357

2016
Audi Q3
Prestige quattro

\$419
/month
lease + tax*

\$795 Acquisition Fee
\$2,200 Down Payment
\$2,995 Total Due at Signing*
(Excludes taxes, title, other options and dealer fees)
*Must qualify for \$500 Audi Owner Loyalty
Stock #36107
Lease term: 36 months
Mileage: 10,000 miles per year
MSRP: \$43,380
Residual Value: \$25,594

2016
Audi A3 E-Tron
+ Premium Plus FWD

\$415
/month
lease + tax*

\$795 Acquisition Fee
\$2,900 Down Payment
\$3,695 Total Due at Signing*
(Excludes taxes, title, other options and dealer fees)
*Must qualify for \$1,000 Audi Owner Loyalty
Stock #36098
Lease term: 36 months
Mileage: 10,000 miles per year
MSRP: \$47,135
Residual Value: \$22,153

2017
Audi A3
Premium quattro

\$365
/month
lease + tax*

\$795 Acquisition Fee
\$2,200 Down Payment
\$2,995 Total Due at Signing*
(Excludes taxes, title, other options and dealer fees)
*Must qualify for \$500 Audi Owner Loyalty
Stock #36116
Lease term: 36 months
Mileage: 10,000 miles per year
MSRP: \$38,545
Residual Value: \$21,585

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Section 4: EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT, BACK 40

Gallatin River Gallery group exhibition
pg. 47



WMPAC's 2016/2017 season pg. 53



Back 40:
Slope angle and snow stability pg. 60



The art of Ben Pease

Layers imbued with meaning

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BELGRADE – Ben Pease does not hold himself exempt from the complex, and often controversial, questions about cultural appropriation that tumble from his mind onto the canvas in layers as literal as they are figurative.

The 27-year-old Belgrade artist is of Crow descent, a tribe of Native Americans who historically lived in the Yellowstone River valley—a region that extends from Wyoming, through Montana and into North Dakota—and have since been relegated to a reservation south of Billings. Pease spent much of his youth on the Crow reservation and considers it home.

As is the way of his people, nothing in his multi-media creations is arbitrary. Every layer, every mark, every image, every choice, holds significance and meaning, whether symbolic or purely representational.

Pease often creates a base layer on his canvases out of antique ledger paper—historically used in record or bookkeeping—sometimes sourced from the oversized, cloth-bound tomes stacked in the corner of his studio. These include issues of The Anaconda Standard newspaper from 1910, real estate assessments from 1887, warrants and bonds from Deer Lodge prison, and a petty cash account book from a Bozeman-area boot and shoe maker.

Not only do the pages he incorporates into his work provide an aesthetically pleasing visual depth but, more importantly, contextual depth. They are specific to a pertinent time and place, and pose questions about rights, ownership and monetary value—themes that reoccur in Pease's imagery and are significant not only for the Crow, but for all Native Americans.

Ledger art is also a specifically Native American art form, emerging in the 1860s when, as Pease explains, hunting rights were restricted and,

in turn, tribes no longer had hides on which to paint and chronicle their dreams, visions and war stories. What they did have access to was the disposable paper used by U.S. government agents.

And this is just the first layer of works that fuse drawing, paint and decoupage techniques into powerful, visually and conceptually compelling compositions. Pease paints over the ledger papers (or other official documents—in one case a \$1,000 Great Falls water bond), often leaving them only faintly discernible. He then overlays them with enlarged black and white photographs of his ancestors, prominent tribal figures and provocative imagery that ask more questions than Pease can answer.

In “Medicine Lodge,” one of five pieces hanging in Big Sky's Creighton Block Gallery, Pease has respectfully rendered a Crow teepee—with the minimum requirement of 18 poles; and stakes carved with the number of bands that would denote it as his family's domicile—over 1887 linen ledger paper from Butte's Silver Bow County.

continued on page 46



Artist Ben Pease in his Belgrade studio with examples of his multi-media artwork that explores issues inherent to his Native American heritage PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI



Pease's 'Wealth of a Nation' won the People's Choice Award at the Out West Art Show in Great Falls in March 2016. PHOTO COURTESY OF CREIGHTON BLOCK GALLERY

continued from page 45

But affixed on the bottom of the teepee is graffiti-like and to Pease, offensively co-opted native imagery—a skull adorned with a feather headdress, a man in traditional dress holding a machine gun—all of which were created by non-native artists. Pease’s reclamation of this imagery for use in his own art gets down to the fundamental questions constantly rolling around his head.

“It’s taking shots at cultural appropriation,” Pease said. “Do they get to do this? Do I? Is it right? Is it right for the people they’re portraying, for the tribes? Who sets the boundaries for that; who gets to say this is right and this is wrong, and why? It boils down to questions of misuse and misuse can oftentimes lead to a disrespect. And disrespect can lead to discomfort.”

Pease gives the example of walking into a white-owned gallery specializing in Native American art and seeing an artifact that, in his culture, would have been used in a death ceremony.

“That makes me feel uncomfortable,” he said. “Like I’m not welcome, like I shouldn’t be here, that I shouldn’t be around this, and it makes me ask questions like ‘Why do you get to do this?’ Why should you do this and why should you want to do this?”

Pease’s art—while posing difficult, racially charged and perhaps unanswerable questions—is not angry or aggressive. And being of mixed blood himself, Pease applies these questions to himself as much as anyone else.

Is he participating in cultural appropriation by selling his work to the oftentimes-white collectors wealthy enough to buy it? Was he

encouraging the objectification of women, Native American and otherwise, in a vintage movie poster he altered to depict a scantily clad white woman wearing a headdress, for which he was shamed into taking off his website?

“Isn’t this why art is created? To bring issues to light?”

“It’s a constant line that I have to walk, a barrier that I’m always working against and with,” Pease said. “Do I try to continue to be a Native American artist or an American artist or just an artist? Who

am I speaking to? Who is it for? Could I explain [my art] to someone if they asked?”

At one point Pease was nearly paralyzed by questions like these, but was able to move through his existential crisis by taking a more exploratory approach to art-making—allowing his work to reveal its own nebulous answers and making peace with the questions.

“Isn’t this why art is created? To bring issues to light?” Pease asked. “It’s a reconciliation. It’s a projection, a conundrum; it’s asking questions I don’t have the answers for, but the answer isn’t any more interesting than the end of a magician’s trick. It’s the questions that propel us forward.”

Ben Pease is the featured artist at Creighton Block Gallery in Big Sky from Dec. 15 through Dec. 30. An opening reception for his show, “Visions: an Indigenous Retrospective,” will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, in the Creighton Block contemporary gallery in Town Center. Pease’s work can also be found locally at the Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture in Bozeman and online at benpeasevisions.com.

Gallatin River Gallery’s annual group exhibition focuses on nature

GALLATIN RIVER GALLERY

Gallatin River Gallery, located in Big Sky Town Center, presents “The Earth & Sky XVII.” The ninth annual group exhibition runs through Feb. 4, with an opening reception beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 9, during the Big Sky Christmas Stroll.

Featured in this themed exhibition are a diverse group of artists creating pieces that reflect the beauty of nature. Included are paintings, bromoils, metal, encaustic mixed media, and ceramic works by local Montana artists and beyond.

Gallatin River Gallery is located at 114 Ousel Falls Road in the Big Sky Town Center. The gallery showcases paintings, sculpture, jewelry, ceramics and photography; and offers art-consulting and installation services.

Visit gallatinrivergallery.com or call (406) 995-2909 for more information.



‘Earth and Sky,’ 2016, original watercolor by Jennifer Almodova. PHOTOGRAPH BY JENNIFER ROBERTS ALMODOVA

‘Holiday Vaudeville Extravaganza!’ returns for a two-weekend run at The Shane

THE SHANE LALANI CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts’ ninth annual “Holiday Vaudeville Extravaganza!” returns to the Dulcie Theatre for two weekends of performances beginning Friday, Dec. 9, and running through Sunday, Dec. 18. Friday and Saturday performances begin at 8 p.m., with a Sunday matinee at 3 p.m.

One of The Shane Center’s most popular events, this two-hour variety show is a high-energy romp through the cherished chestnuts of the season. Another intrepid squad of community performers ranging from the sublime to the spastic, will amaze, amuse, and mystify with songs, skits, and vigorous acts of vaudevillian virtuosity—all served up with a heaping helping of humor and heart. It’s a performance geared to get the whole family into the holiday spirit.

The Dulcie Theatre at the Shane Lalani Center for the Arts is located at 415 E. Lewis Street in Livingston.

For tickets and more information visit theshanecenter.org or call the box office at (406) 222-1420.



Andrew Reichert portrays a flying Rudolph in the 2014 ‘Holiday Vaudeville Extravaganza!’ PHOTO BY KEEGAN NASHAN.





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EVENTS CALENDAR

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9 – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

***If your event falls between December 23 and January 5, please submit it by December 14**

Big Sky

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

Military Appreciation Weekend
Big Sky Resort, all day

Big Sky Western Bank Holiday Open House
Big Sky Western Bank, 2 p.m.

Christmas Stroll
Big Sky Town Center & Meadow Village, 5 p.m.

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10
Military Appreciation Weekend
Big Sky Resort, all day

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11
Military Appreciation Weekend
Big Sky Resort, all day

Carving for Cans
Big Sky Resort, all day

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13
Big Sky Chamber Board Meeting
Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, 8:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14
King Crab Feast
Lone Peak Brewery, RSVP

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15
Visit Big Sky Board Meeting
Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, 8:30 a.m.

Visions: An Indigenous Retrospective
Creighton Block Contemporary Gallery, 11 a.m.

Fly Tying with Gallatin River Guides
Gallatin River Guides, 5 p.m.

Business After Hours
Consignment Cabin, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16
Educators Appreciation Weekend
Big Sky Resort, all day

Visions: An Indigenous Retrospective
Creighton Block Contemporary Gallery, 11 a.m.

Star Wars Premiere
Lone Peak Cinema, 6 p.m.

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17
Educators Appreciation Weekend
Big Sky Resort, all day

Visions: An Indigenous Retrospective
Creighton Block Contemporary Gallery, 11 a.m.

Holiday Home Tour by Big Sky Discovery Academy
Private Homes, 3 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18
Educators Appreciation Weekend
Big Sky Resort, all day

Visions: An Indigenous Retrospective
Creighton Block Contemporary Gallery, 11 a.m.

Bells of the Bridgers: Bozeman Handbell Choir
Big Sky Chapel, 4 p.m.

Ice Rink Opens
Big Sky Town Center Park, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19
Kids Hockey
Town Center Park, 5:30 p.m.

Adult Drop-In Hockey
Town Center Park, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20
Visions: An Indigenous Retrospective
Creighton Block Contemporary Gallery, 11 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21
Visions: An Indigenous Retrospective
Creighton Block Contemporary Gallery, 11 a.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22
Visions: An Indigenous Retrospective
Creighton Block Contemporary Gallery, 11 a.m.

Kids Hockey
Town Center Park, 5:30 p.m.

Bozeman

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9
Walk for the Health of It
Peets Hill, noon

Emerson's Celebration of the Arts Exhibit
The Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, 5 p.m.

New Works in Oil by Paul Reevis
Four Winds Gallery, 5 p.m.

Claudia Williams
Kountry Korner Café, 5:30 p.m.

Sharon Iltis & Jim
Wildrye Distilling, 5:30 p.m.

Winter Art Walk
Downtown Bozeman, 6 p.m.

A Winter's Madrigal
Kaleidoscope Youth Theatre, 6:30 p.m.

Jazz Night
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Play: A Christmas Carol
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

School of Film & Photography Presents:
An Evening of One Acts
MSU Black Box Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Bozeman Icedogs vs. Gillette Wild
Haynes Paviion, 7:30 p.m.

Adventure Film Festival
Emerson's Crawford Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Jimmy's First Christmas on Parole
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Arkheron Thodol + Piranha Dog + Cavenger
Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 8 p.m.

Eddie & The Incredibles
Eagles Lodge, 9 p.m.

Defunk + Sodown
The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10
One Stop Holiday Shop
Belgrade Special Events Center, 10 a.m.

Adventure Film Festival
Emerson's Crawford Theatre, 1:30 p.m.

A Little House Christmas
Verge Theater, 2 p.m.

EchoDrive
Wild Joe's Coffee House, 6 p.m.

A Winter's Madrigal
Kaleidoscope Youth Theatre, 6:30 p.m.

Holiday Collage
Willson Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

Play: A Christmas Carol
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

2nd Saturday Swing Dance
The MAC, 7:30 p.m.

School of Film & Photography Presents:
An Evening of One Acts
MSU Black Box Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Bozeman Icedogs vs. Gillette Wild
Haynes Paviion, 7:30 p.m.

Jimmy's First Christmas on Parole
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Eddie & The Incredibles
Eagles Lodge, 9 p.m.

Best Damn Punk Show
The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11
Santa at the Hot Springs
Bozeman Hot Springs & Fitness, noon

Holiday Collage
Willson Auditorium, 2:30 p.m.

Play: A Christmas Carol
The Ellen Theatre, 3 pm.

A Winter's Madrigal
Kaleidoscope Youth Theatre, 3 p.m.

Petty John's Underground
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Chris Cunningham & Friends
The Story Mansion, 6:30 p.m.

Bridger Mountain Big Band
Eagles Lodge, 7 p.m.

Shaun Ray
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12
Artisan Gift Event
MAP Brewing, 4 p.m.

Amber Ikeman
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

Trivia Night
Bacchus Pub, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13
Tours for Tots: Touch History
Museum of the Rockies, 10 a.m.

National Screwdriver Day
Wildrye Distilling, 3 p.m.

A Lantern Fudnraiser for Interchange Symposium
Blunderbuss, 6 p.m.

Mike & Mike
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

BFS Film Screening: Moonlight
The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14
Tours for Tots: Touch history
Museum of the Rockies, 2 p.m.

Gallatin History Museum Lecture
Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Lane Norberg
Outlaw Brewing, 6 p.m.

Bozeman's Original Pub Trivia
Pub 317, 7 p.m.

Trivia Night
Rockin' R Bar, 8 p.m.

Cackling Eagles Stand Up Comedy
Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15
Tours for Tots: Touch History
Museum of the Rockies, 10 a.m.

The Vibe Quartet
406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

Too Short & Mistah Fab
Cat's Paw, 7 p.m.

Cory Leone Johnson
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Play: A Christmas Carol, 7:30 p.m.

Jimmy's First Christmas on Parole
Verge Theatre, 8 p.m.

Fresh Presents: Illumni Stole Christmas
The Filling Station, 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16
Walk for the Health of It
Peets Hill, noon

Shaun Ray
Wild Joe's Coffee House, 5 p.m.

Claudia Williams
Kountry Korner Café, 5:30 p.m.

Jazz Night
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Play: A Christmas Carol
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Jimmy's First Christmas on Parole
Verge Theatre, 8 p.m.

The Mighty Flick
Eagles Lodge, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17
Bozeman Winter Farmers Market
Emerson Ballroom, 9 p.m.

Barnes & Noble Book Fair
Gallatin Valley Mall, 9 a.m.

Play: A Christmas Carol
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Jimmy's First Christmas on Parole
Verge Theatre, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18
Santa at the Hot Springs
Bozeman Hot Springs, noon

MSU Men's Basketball vs. South Dakota
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 2 p.m.

Play: A Christmas Carol
The Ellen Theatre, 3 p.m.

Jeff Carroll
Outlaw Brewing, 4 p.m.

Tommy Georges
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Bridger Mountain Big Band
Eagles Lodge, 7 p.m.

Little Jane & the Pistol Whips
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19
Neil Beddow
Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

Open Blues Jam
The Filling Station, 7 p.m.

Improv on the Verge
Verge Theater, 8 p.m.

Trivia
Bacchus Pub, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20
Dirk Alan
MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

MSU Women's Basketball vs. Cal Poly
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7 p.m.

Richmond Slim
Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Play: A Christmas Carol
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21
MSU Men's Basketball vs. Central Michigan
Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7 p.m.

Jeff Peterson
Lockhorn Cider House, 7 p.m.

Bozeman's Original Pub Trivia
Pub 317, 7 p.m.

Verge Comedy Night
Red Tractor Pizza, 7:30 p.m.

Play: A Christmas Carol
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Trivia Night
Rockin' R Bar, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22
The Vibe Quartet
406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

Jazz Night, 7 p.m.

Play: A Christmas Carol
The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

RECURRING EVENTS:
Pints with Purpose
Bridger Brewing, Mondays at 5 p.m.

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

Open Mic Night
The Haufbrau, Sundays, Mondays, and
Wednesdays at 10:30 p.m.

Monday Metamorphosis
Mountain Yoga Bozeman,
Mondays at 4 p.m.

Karaoke
American Legion, Mondays at 9 p.m.

Service Industry Night
Wildrye Distilling, Tuesdays at 3 p.m.

Cribbage Night
Eagles Lodge, Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Music & Mussels
Bridger Brewing, Wednesdays at 5 p.m.

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

Bluegrass Thursdays with The Bridger
Creek Boys
Red Tractor Pizza, Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Karaoke
Eagles Lodge, Thursdays at 8:30 p.m.

Yoga for All
Bozeman Public Library,
Tuesdays at 11 a.m and 12 p.m.

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

Bingo
American Legion, Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Bowl for Kids’ Sake
Bozeman Bowl, Fridays at 4 p.m.

Learn to Skate Classes
Haynes Pavillion, Sundays at noon

Livingston & Paradise Valley

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

Swinging Christmas Ball
Elks Lodge, 7 p.m.

Holiday Vaudeville Extravaganza
Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 8 p.m.

Play: Same Time, Next Year
Blue Slipper Theatre, 8 p.m.

www.TWANG
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

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

Tucker Down
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

St Mary’s Children’s Christmas Store
Saint Mary’s School, 10 a.m.

The Nutcracker: Yellowstone Ballet
Company
Sleeping Giant Middle School, 4 p.m.

Amber Ikeman
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Play: Same Time, Next Year
Blue Slipper Theatre, 8 p.m.

Holiday Voudelville Extravaganza
Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 8 p.m.

Denny & The Resonators
The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Tucker Down
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Play: Same Time, Next Year
Blue Slipper Theatre, 3 p.m.

The Nutcracker: Yellowstone Ballet
Company
Sleeping Giant Middle School, 4 p.m.

Holiday Voudelville Extravaganza
Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 3 p.m.

Livingston Film Series: Namuli
Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

Shelly Besler 7 Tony Polecastro
The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

The Last Free River
Shane Lalani Center for the Arts,
6:30 p.m

Kalyn Beasley
The Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

Gary Small & The Coyote Brothers
The Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

Justin Case Band
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

Someday Miss Pray
Pine Creek Lodge, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Ian Thomas
Katabatic Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Gary Small & The Coyote Brothers
The Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

Justin Case Band
Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

Christy Hays
The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

Livingston Film Series: The Polar Express
Shane Lalani Center for the Arts, 6:30 p.m.

Dan Bradner
The Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

West Yellowstone

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

Bingo at the Branch
The Branch Restaurant, 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

Christmas Stroll,
Downtown West Yellowstone, 10 a.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Biathlon Cup #1
Rendezvous Trails, all day

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

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

Knit Night
Send it Home, 6 p.m.

Yoga For Everyone
Povah Center, 6:15

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

Bingo at the Branch
The Branch Restaurant, 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Kids’N’Snow Weekend
West Yellowstone Ice Rink, all day

Rodeo Run: Dog Sled Races
Old Airport, 5:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

Kids’N’Snow Weekend
West Yellowstone Ice Rink, all day

Rodeo Run: Dog Sled Races
Old Airport, 5:30 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

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

Ennis

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

Live Music
Willie’s Distillery, 5:30 p.m.

Shea Stewart
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Tom Catummull
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Chamber Board Meeting
Ennis Chamber of Commerce, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

Live Music
Willie’s Distillery, 5:30 p.m.

Chad Ball
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Tom Georges
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

Weston Lewis and Micah Swanson
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Live Music
Willie’s Distillery, 5:30 p.m.

The Cooks
Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Rotary Club seeks families for Giving Tree

The Christmas Giving Tree is an annual program that helps families during the holidays by providing gifts for the children and a Christmas dinner for the family.

If you would like to participate in this project, pick up a Santa Letter for each child from one of the three Big Sky banks, the food bank or the Country Market. The Rotary Club will schedule gift delivery Dec. 21- 23, and will also provide the family with a Christmas dinner basket at the time of gift delivery. This program is completely confidential.

UPCOMING BIG SKY RESORT EVENTS

Military Appreciation Weekend
December 10 & 11
Active Duty & Retired Military receive a free lift ticket
Lodging Discounts
*must present military id

Educators Appreciation Weekend
December 17 & 18
Lodging Guests – Free Lift Ticket
Other Guests – 50% off Ticket
Lodging Discounts
*provide proof of employment

Carving for Cans
December 11
Donate 20 cans of food and receive a ticket for \$39
Please don’t bring turkeys

INAUGURAL BOZEMAN OPEN STUDIO TOUR

OPEN Studios
Sat: Dec 10, 2016
10:00 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Bozeman OPEN Studios is hosting its inaugural Artist Studio Tour this December 9 and 10. Twelve Artists working in varied mediums in the Bozeman and Bridger Canyon area will be opening their studios to the public.

Participating artists will be present in their studios during the tour to share their art making and work space with the public, and most will be demonstrating some aspect of their art.

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‘Moonlight’ screens at The Ellen Theatre

BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY

Bozeman Film Society will present ‘Moonlight’ at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13, in The Ellen Theatre.

A disarmingly tender and heartbreaking story of a young man’s struggle to find himself, the film was adapted and directed by Barry Jenkins from “In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue,” a never-produced story by black, gay playwright Tarell Alvin McCraney.

‘Moonlight’ follows a boy named Chiron (played at different ages by Alex Hibbert, Ashton Sanders and Trevante Rhodes) whose sensitivity, sexuality and dark skin have left him especially vulnerable in the sunlit streets of 1980s Miami.

The film is an amalgam of Jenkins’ and McCraney’s biographies—both men grew up in Miami’s Liberty Square neighborhood at the same time, and both had mothers who grappled with drug addiction (Jenkins’ mother survived, McCraney’s did not). McCraney is gay, while Jenkins is straight.

Shot on the same city blocks where Jenkins lived as a child, audiences and critics alike have responded to the film’s vulnerability and authenticity, which shows a world rarely seen on the big screen.

Los Angeles Times film critic Kenneth Turan said, “‘Moonlight’ is magic—so intimate you feel like you’re trespassing on its characters’ souls, so transcendent it’s made visual and emotional poetry out of intensely painful experiences. It’s a film that manages to be both achingly familiar and unlike anything we’ve seen before.”

Rated R, the film earned a 98-percent Rotten Tomatoes score and it runs 111 minutes.

The Ellen Theatre lobby opens at 6 p.m. for concession and bar; seating begins at 6:30 p.m.; and shows begin at 7 p.m. Visit bozemanfilmsociety.org for more information.



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Tickets on sale for the WMPAC's eclectic 2016/2017 season

WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Billed as a season of pure, ecstatic, fun, the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center winter performance schedule includes two original theatrical productions featuring top Hollywood and Broadway talent; a comedic musical artist of international renown; one of the nation's top magicians, and a tap-meets-band percussive dance extravaganza.

Tickets went on sale for WMPAC performances on Thursday, Dec. 1, and Executive Director John Zirkle expects sales to be brisk.

"I really believe we've hit the sweet spot this year with our programming," Zirkle said. "It's a combination of the innovative, the international and the inspirational with a heavy emphasis on fun, families and artists at the peak of their careers."

The season begins on Thursday, Dec. 29 with Rhythmic Circus, a tap dance troupe keeping rhythm with a seven-person band (including tuba) providing backup in a combination of dance, comedy, music and artistry. A circus-themed art opening will precede the performance at 6 p.m.

In another nod to family audiences, the WMPAC will present its first ever magician, Mike Super, on Thursday, Feb. 18. Consistently ranked as one of the top magicians in the United States, Super will present an afternoon matinee performance in addition to the 7:30 p.m. show.

On Jan. 7, the Grammy and Pulitzer Prize-winning octet, Roomful of Teeth, perform their own brand of imaginative vocal gymnastics.

Japan's famous virtuoso pianist, Hiromi, rounds out the eclectic music season at the WMPAC. Known by only her first name, The New York Times called Hiromi a "pint-sized piano dynamo" with "a penchant for brisk bedazzlement and hyper-articulated drama." Discover what this means at her March 10 performance.

Broadway comes to Big Sky on Jan. 21 and 22 with an original, debut production of the tragic-comic Shakespeare romance, "The Winter's Tale." This is the first of the two theater productions which are being presented exclusively on the WMPAC stage this year. The second is a 90-minute retelling of Herman Melville's "Moby Dick" with a score provided by the bluegrass band Pert Near Sandstone. Called "Ishmael," the play will have its world premiere in Big Sky on March 25.

On March 3, the much-anticipated Reggie Watts, beat-box musician, comedian and graduate of Montana's Great Falls High School, comes to WMPAC to present the show that has made him a staple of late night talk shows and a TED Talks star. Given the widespread demand for Watts to appear live, this is the show that Zirkle is most surprised to be able to present.

"I'm still pinching myself thinking that we actually got Reggie Watts to agree to come," Zirkle said.

In what has now become a tradition, the James Sewell Ballet returns to the WMPAC stage for the eighth time on March 18. The innovative and athletic dance company from Minneapolis has become a season favorite for Big Sky audiences.

"Big Sky residents like thinking of James Sewell [Ballet] as having a second home in Big Sky," Zirkle said. "They just can't imagine a WMPAC season without them."

Tickets for all performances are on sale now at warrenmillerpac.org. Visit the website for more information on each performance including special art events that occur prior to many shows.



Japanese virtuoso pianist Hiromi brings The Trio Project to WMPAC on March 10 as part of the 2016/2017 winter season. PHOTO BY MUGA MIYAHARA

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Bozeman's Foundry presents ski art by local artist

CHRISTINA NELSON ART

The Foundry gallery in downtown Bozeman will be exhibiting new work by Christina Nelson for the entire month of December, with an artist reception Friday, Dec. 9, from 5-7 p.m.

The pieces in this exhibition range from large canvases to smaller, detailed drawings on vellum. This body of work, titled "Snow Series," features solitary skiers interacting with expansive, snowy landscapes.

Nelson grew up in Montana, interacting with the mountainous landscape at every turn. In 2012, she graduated from Montana State University with two degrees in drawing and English literature. Her thesis show, titled "ValU," paralleled tree figures with the internal structures of the human form.

This early work formed the basis for her ongoing exploration of how we come to understand ourselves through our experiences in nature.

"Snow Series" explores the contrast of a skier's line—at once in harmony with the landscape while leaving a distinct impression on that space. The work in this series explores one major paradox of human existence—we destroy even as we create.

Nelson relies on the visual contrast of black and white to explore and reconcile seeming opposites such as man and nature, order and chaos. The work as a whole is a joyful celebration of humankind's innate desire to return to nature again and again.

This exhibition opened Dec. 1 and will run through the end of the year. The Foundry is located at 16 South Tracy Ave. in Bozeman.



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2	4.39	\$260,000	58	1.13	Sold	22	1.97	\$220,000
43	1.33	Sold	59	1.38	\$275,000	23	1.35	\$220,000
43	1.45	\$275,000	60	1.9	Sold	24	1.39	Sold
44	1.81	Sold	61	1.49	Sold	25	1.65	\$140,000
45	1.59	\$189,000	62	1.41	\$209,000	27	1.33	\$220,000
46	1.73	\$164,000	63	1.77	Sold	28	1.38	\$250,000
47	1.47	Sold	64	2.32	Sold	29	1.19	\$265,000
48	1.51	\$189,000	65	2.11	Sold	30	1.19	\$240,000
49	1.73	\$164,000	66	2.17	\$209,000	31	1.95	\$275,000
50	1.69	Sold	67	1.85	Sold	32	1.71	\$209,000
51	1.71	\$225,000	68	1.65	Sold	33	1.14	\$200,000
52	1.24	\$225,000	69	2.13	Sold	34	1.23	\$230,000
53	1.01	\$225,000	70	1.22	Sold	35	1.70	\$310,000
54	1.5	\$189,000	71	1.53	Sold	36	1.37	\$250,000
55	1.34	Sold	72	1.3	Sold	37	1.25	\$340,000
56	1.47	Sold	73	1.8	Sold	38	1.88	\$240,000
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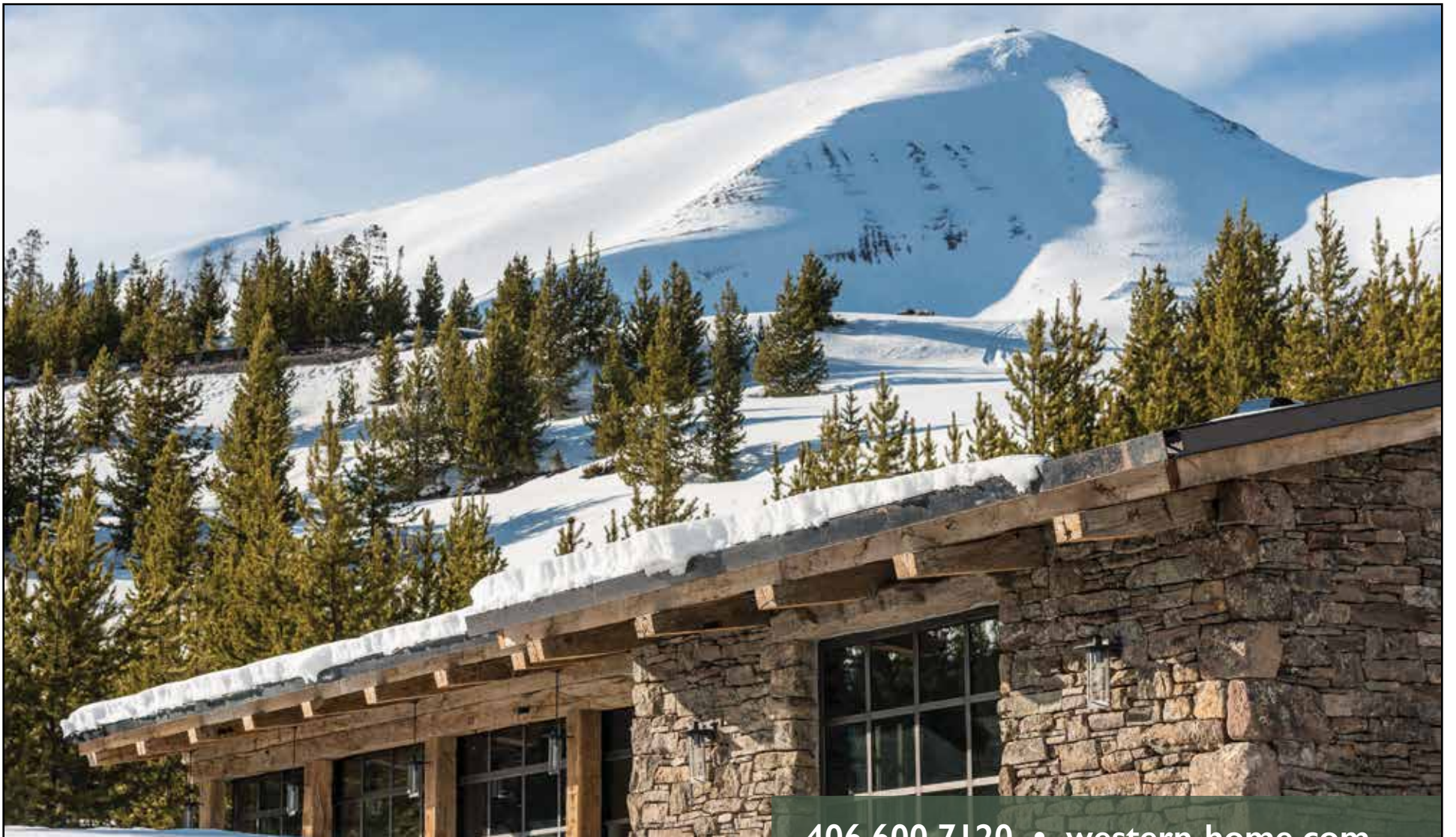
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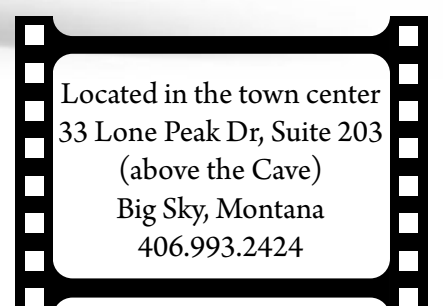


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The American West has produced some of the most thoughtful and moving literature in U.S. history. Read on and enjoy the Cowboy's Quill: insight into the best writers, books and poetry this side of the Mississippi.

Greg French: Scientific angler

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

In his latest book, "The Imperiled Cutthroat," Greg French has written an eminently readable travelogue about fishing in and around Yellowstone National Park. French, an accomplished Australian angler and longtime fly-fishing journal contributor, offers a refreshing, if contrary, perspective on his favorite species of trout and its habitat.

Yellowstone cutthroat are the state fish of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. Today the Yellowstone River is most likely the only stream outside of primitive areas that supports a strong population.

French's investigation into the history, current state, and future of trout species in the Yellowstone region is both technical and impassioned. The author blends history, geology, biology and ecology, and documents his encounters with fellow anglers and wildlife. His passion for Yellowstone's native trout is never far from the surface.

At times, "The Imperiled Cutthroat" reads like an informative memoir about exploits from the Snake River in Jackson Hole up to fishing holes near Bozeman and fly shops in Livingston. At other moments, French makes a point of wading into deeper water. He's not shy about questioning some of our environmental policies and the oversimplified stories that are taken for granted and which seem to miss the complexity of the natural world.

The combination works. His travels, conversations, and experiences dovetail nicely into passages that point out the arbitrariness and sometimes absurdity of our good intentions and quick fixes. Sure, this book centers on the mysterious and illegal introduction of lake trout into Yellowstone Lake in 1989, which decimated the cutthroat population. But it also explores the various conflicting theories surrounding what has happened since then and how to fix the problem.

There is, however, much more to chew on. French debunks myths about hatcheries being a panacea for the conservation of native fish species. He questions commonly held assumptions about brucellosis in elk and buffalo. He makes fascinating comparisons between the sustainability of places like Mongolia and Tasmania to that of the Lamar Valley. And he makes palatable a discussion of various fishing policies on different stretches of water.

French likes to think of fly fishing as a science. He talks about the importance of observation, of the proper use of doubt, about the trial-and-error methodology, of testing hypotheses and finding out what works and what makes sense.

The author does not sound boastful when he claims that those who spend hours on lakes and streams and rivers are the ones who have the best understanding of the health of our waterways and the best instincts for protecting them. Many of French's hypotheses don't float the mainstream, but most of his arguments seem to hold water.

This book should interest not only avid fly fishers, but also anyone interested in the ecology of the Yellowstone region or concerned about conservation of public lands and waterways.

Yellowstone has been a testing ground for ideas about how to protect native species, and we are still making progress figuring out the proper role of human agency in and around a massive supervolcano. If there is any recent publication that will challenge your preconceived notions about preservation in Yellowstone National Park, this is it.

Doug Hare is the Distribution Coordinator for Outlaw Partners. He studied philosophy and American literature at Princeton and Harvard universities.

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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.

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



Mark Staples, former GNFAC forecaster and current Utah Avalanche Center director, investigates the crown of a large avalanche. PHOTOS COURTESY OF GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST AVALANCHE CENTER

Slope angle and snow stability

Two key factors for safe backcountry riding

BY ERIC KNOFF
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Understanding slope angle and snow stability are two important factors in safe backcountry riding.

When skiing, snowboarding or snowmobiling in the backcountry, answering these two questions is essential: Is the terrain capable of producing avalanche? Can the snow slide?

Avalanches happen when four ingredients are present: a slab, a weak layer, a trigger and a slope steep enough to slide. A key problem when assessing slope angle is that most slopes have varying degrees of steepness. It is critical for backcountry users to assess slope angle frequently.

The most common slope angles on which avalanches occur are from 36 to 38 degrees, but not all avalanches start on slopes with these precise angles. A gentle slope of 25 degrees is still considered avalanche terrain if it is connected to a steeper slope above. In addition, convex slopes where angles go from low to high in a short distance, or steep sections near ridgelines, are high probability zones for triggering avalanches.

It is a challenge to effectively and safely assess slope angle—the easiest way is to use an inclinometer, but skiers and riders have to venture on to the slope they’re trying to assess to get an accurate reading. One way to overcome this issue is to measure angles on nearby smaller slopes with similar aspect and angle as the



A snowmobiler rides beneath a recent avalanche, giving other slopes with the potential to slide a wide berth. slope you want to ride. It is vital to visualize and assess the entire slope since slope angles change constantly, and frequent practice with an inclinometer is the best way to become skilled.

Assessing snow stability is as important as assessing slope angle. Reading the daily avalanche advisory, digging snow pits and watching for signs of instability such as recent avalanche activity, shooting cracks and large collapses are valuable tools for assessing snow stability.

If the snowpack is stable it’s acceptable to ride in avalanche terrain. If the snowpack is unstable, it’s best to avoid slopes steeper than 30 degrees, or lower angle slopes attached to steeper slopes above. Triggering slopes from low angle or flat terrain is called remote triggering and is a common way skiers and riders get in trouble.

When traveling in terrain that requires crossing avalanche paths it’s imperative to cross one at a time, and always watch your partners from a safe location. Understanding the two key factors of slope angle and snow stability in conjunction is necessary for making safe and accurate decisions in the backcountry.

Eric Knoff is an avalanche forecaster for the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center. He’s been a public forecaster the past seven winters, and also spent four seasons as an avalanche forecaster for the Going-to-the-Sun Road plowing operation in Glacier National Park.

Visit mtavalanche.com to view the daily avalanche advisory for southwest Montana and send your snowpack observations to mtavalanche@gmail.com.



GNFAC forecaster Alex Marienthal examines the aftermath of an avalanche where slope angle and terrain combined to produce a large slide.