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#### ON THE COVER:

Voted on by you, EBS' annual 'Best of Big Sky' survey showcases the top businesses, places, and people in town. Check out the 2016 winners in the special section of this paper. ILLUSTRATION BY TAYLOR-ANN SMITH

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## **TEDx coming to town**



Lukas **Nelson** to rock Big **Sky Resort** 

#### **New West:**

Investigating a grizzly bear attack

Forum explores post-election clean energy options

special section

**2016 Best of Big Sky** 

#### **BEST OF BIG SKY**



There's nothing quite like star gazing over Lone Mountain on a clear night. PHOTO BY ETHAN SCHUMACHER

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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**4** Dec. 23 - Jan. 5, 2016 Explore Big Sky



## NEWS IN BRIEF



**EBS STAFF** 

## **Community recycling site** returns to Big Sky

**BIG SKY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION** 

After going without for more than a year, a community recycling site located off Highway 191 opened in Big Sky on Dec. 20 thanks to Haas Builders.

The site is located at 47280 Gallatin Road on a frontage road between Gallatin River Guides and the Whitewater Inn off Highway 191. Gallatin Solid Waste Management district will provide the bins, recycling pick up and site cleaning at no charge to the community. Delzer Diversified will plow the site during the winter months as a donation.

The site is only temporary. Community stakeholders will continue to work with the Gallatin Solid Waste Management District to find a viable long-term solution.

The new location will not be able to house as many recycling bins Big Sky's previous Town Center site, so residents who have access to curbside recycling are encouraged to maintain their current services or sign up with either Republic Waste Service or L & L Site Services. The site is not for commercial use, and businesses should contact Four Corners Recycling for cardboard recycling pick-up services.

The site will be under 24-hour video surveillance to ensure it's properly cared for and used only for recycling material, which includes cardboard, plastics, paper, and steel and aluminum cans.

Garbage disposal and glass recycling is not accepted. This site can be permanently closed at any time if it's vandalized or improperly used.

## MSU's WTI releases mobile version of real-time traffic tool

BY DENISE HOEPFNER MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – The Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University has released a mobile version of its award-winning One-Stop-Shop online traffic tool for travelers looking for up-to-theminute information on weather and road conditions.

Like the desktop version, the OSS mobile version provides road conditions and weather information for 11 Western states, including Montana, and includes enhanced features while putting the information right at the motorists' fingertips, said Doug Galarus, senior research scientist and manager of WTI's Systems Engineering, Development and Integration Program.

"The mobile version provides closed-circuit television camera images, electronic sign messages, road incidents, chain restrictions, weather conditions and Google traffic information," Galarus said.

He added that a big advantage of the userfriendly mobile version is that drivers can find this information in one place, which is especially important with the increased number of motorists and quickly changing road conditions that can occur during the winter holidays.

The systems group at WTI created the mobile version to reach a wider audience, realizing that the traveling public turns to smartphones and tablets for their information. However, Galarus cautions that drivers should not use the OSS while driving.

Last December, the desktop version of the One-Stop-Shop had more than 63,000 user sessions, with 6,190 of those user sessions on Christmas Eve, Galarus said.

Visit westerntransportationinstitute.org for more information.

## 7 Lone Peak seniors granted early admittance to universities around the country

EBS STAFF

The future is looking bright for Lone Peak High School's class of 2017. Seven seniors in the 18-student senior class were notified this month that they've been granted early acceptance to top colleges around the country.

"Lone Peak High School is delivering on its promise to make students ready to attend universities around the country," said Big Sky School District Board Chair Loren Bough.

His daughter Dasha Bough learned this month that she was accepted early to his alma mater, Harvard University. She'll be the first Lone Peak graduate to attend Harvard. "As a parent, it's such a relief to have something out of the way in December," Bough said. "It's great."

Other seniors notified of early admittance include Ellie Quackenbush's acceptance to Emerson University in Boston, Massachusetts; Luisa Locker's acceptance to Chapman University in Orange, California; Sayler Tatom's acceptance to the University of Alabama Honors College; Eddie Starz's acceptance to Carroll College in Helena and University of St. Thomas - Minnesota; and Bridger Babcock's and Bella Butler's acceptance to Western Washington University.

## Big Sky park planning meeting scheduled for Jan. 10

**BIG SKY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION** 

As the Big Sky area continues to add community services and businesses, it will undoubtedly attract diverse citizens who seek a connection to the outdoors. Surrounded by an abundance of national forest and other lands available for recreation, will Big Sky need traditional parks and open spaces typically found in other communities? The Big Sky Community Organization and the Big Sky Meadow Park District have funded a planning effort to address that question and other related issues.

They hired Peaks to Plains Design, a firm that specializes in parks planning and design, to lead the community in a strategic planning process to define the future for parks and open spaces in Big Sky. They conducted focus group meetings in October and are working with a volunteer advisory committee that's guiding the planning effort.

Additional community input will occur with a public meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 10 at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.

"We are excited to learn more about what the Big Sky residents feel are important to them with regards to parks during such a critical time of growth for our community," said BSCO Executive Director Ciara Wolfe. "As our community continues to grow, the parks that are currently developed with traditional park amenities are heavily used. This process will engage the public to help us find ways to program these lands better or identify other areas [where] amenities are needed."

Both Madison and Gallatin county representatives are participating on the committee, and the intent is to have a publicly supported guiding document by late-summer 2017. Additional public input will be attained throughout this process.

Parents are encouraged to bring their children to the public meeting. Year-round, seasonal and temporary residents of Big Sky are encouraged to attend as well.



# 2016 was a very eventful year globally. What was your own highlight of the past year?



**Spencer Crider** *Big Sky, Montana* 

"Catching a tarpon in the Florida Keys—my first one ever. I was in the Keys visiting my cousin, who is also a fly-fishing guide in Big Sky in the summer."



Amy Langmaid
Big Sky, Montana

"The highlight of my year personally was that I went on a fantastic trip to Italy. But as a Big Sky community member, I'd say the highlight of my year was enjoying the summer activities and how much busier it's gotten in Big Sky. And I always love the [Big Sky] PBR. Enjoying the summer and it being a [busy] season now, instead of just winter."



**Rebecca Locke** *Big Sky, Montana* 

"Going to Nepal. I was volunteering out there with All Hands Volunteers; they were rebuilding schools that had been destroyed in the earthquake last year. That was definitely the highlight of my year."



Will Norris
Big Sky, Montana

"We had some epic catches this year [while] fly fishing. I'd say my favorite part of the year was the spruce moth hatch ... it doesn't happen every year. It was amazing this year and it coordinated with my [August] wedding, so everyone was in town. I got married, the fishing was awesome and all my friends had a good time."

## President-elect Trump selects Rep. Ryan Zinke for Secretary of the Interior.







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## Obituary: Frank" Craig Germo



Francis "Frank"
Craig Germo, 63,
of Big Sky, passed
away Tuesday, Dec.
13, 2016, after a
courageous battle
with cancer.

Frank was born in St. James,
Minnesota, on
Jan. 25, 1953. He graduated from
Mapleton High
School in 1970,
where he was
homecoming king
and captain of the football team.

He later attended Mankato Vocational Technical School and served in the Navy from 1976 through 1980. In addition to Minnesota, Frank lived in Hawaii while serving in the Navy and in Big Sky for 40 years.

Frank worked as a geological surveyor and tended bar at the Karst Bar, Halfmoon Saloon, Bunker Bar and Corral Bar. He was active in the American Legion Post 99, Pool League, Karst Volleyball and BO BBQs. He enjoyed watching the San Francisco 49ers, golfing, skiing, camping, floating the river, pool, darts, cards, dancing and music.

Frank will be remembered for his smile that could light up a room, his twinkling baby blue eyes, his positive outlook on life, and as a thoughtful, caring and generous friend. Frank was deeply loved and will be greatly missed.

Frank was preceded in death by his father, Willard Francis Germo; his mother, Zella Jean (Hislop) Germo of Mankato, Minnesota; his uncles, John Midthun of New Ulm, Minnesota, Gerry Pettit of Mapleton, Minnesota, Burnell Schubbe of Mankato and Harvey Hislop of Mapleton; and his aunt, Vivian Schubbe of Mankato.

Frank is survived by "his girls": Amy (Brian) Kimmel of Gallatin Gateway, Karyn (Patrick) Lawless of Bozeman, Deseri Ladd of Bozeman, and Cassandra (Chris) Jensen of Manhattan; his five grandchildren: Ivy Ladd, Audrey and Harvey Kimmel, Lily Lawless, and Josephine Jensen; his brother, Michael Lee Germo of Longview, Washington; his aunts, Audrey Hislop of Mapleton and Margaret Midthun of Mankato; his cousins Scott and Michelle Hislop and family of Winnebago, Minnesota, Cheryl Nienow and family of Mankato, and George and Jan Leary and family of Mapleton.

A memorial service and celebration of life will be held in Big Sky on June 10, 2017. Memorials may be sent in Frank's name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at stjude.org.

Condolences and memories may be shared with the family at dahlcares.com.





217 GOSHAWK TRAIL | \$4,225,000

Stunning ski-in/ski-out property situated in a pristine setting. Breathtaking views, groomed ski access and the elegant home create this masterpiece. This 6 bedroom, 6.5 bathroom home is ideal for entertaining guests with large open living spaces, three ensuite bedrooms, two guest bedrooms, and a bunk room. Extensive log and stone detail highlight the surrounding mountain environment. Spanish Peaks Mountain Club membership required. Golf membership included in sale. // JACKIE MILLER | 406.539.5003



THE HOMESTEAD CHALETS | \$1,750,000

Come experience Big Sky's newest ski-in/ski-out neighborhood! With spaciously designed interiors, oversized windows, and ample outdoor living spaces, these 5-6 bedroom, free standing condominiums combine a mix of contemporary and rustic design. Nestled at the base of Lone Mountain, these chalets provide close proximity to the base area of Big Sky Resort as well as unparalleled ski access to the White Otter chairlift. // MARY WHEELER | 406.539.1745



9D RED CLOUD LOOP | \$990,000

Arguably the best location in Powder Ridgel This immaculate four bedroom, three bathroom cabin sits DIRECTLY on the White Otter ski trail and offers unobstructed views and privacy. This charming log cabin boasts vaulted ceilings, a well-appointed kitchen, a cozy dramatic rock fireplace in the living room, two large decks, a private hot tub, a spacious family room, and a single car garage. Sold fully furnished and turn-key. // SANDY REVISKY | 406.539.6316



MM 66 GALLATIN ROAD | \$2,497,000

Endless Business Park Possibilities! 25 acres in beautiful Gallatin Canyon along US 191, the main corridor between Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport, Big Sky and West Yellowstone. Backing NFS lands and offering Gallatin River views, capture highway exposure from this ideal lot as approximately 2,000,000 vehicles a year pass by on the way to and from Big Sky and Yellowstone National Park. No covenants and non-restrictive zoning. // LYNN MILLIGAN | 406.581.2848



60 CRAIL RANCH ROAD | \$1,195,000

Beautifully situated in the heart of the Big Sky Meadow Village, this immaculate condominium is a rare find! Tucked in the center of the development for maximum privacy, the residence features four bedrooms, four baths, den, two decks, balcony, lower level walk out to the stream and pond and a heated 2 car garage. Walking, biking and cross-country ski trails are all close by as well as all Meadow Village amenities. // MICHAEL THOMAS | 406.581.2400



2830 LITTLE COYOTE ROAD | \$725,000

This wonderfully located, 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom Meadow Village home has a lot to offer, including a main level master suite, open floor plan great room and beautiful views from the spacious back yard. The Crail Ranch trailhead is at the property's corner, conveniently leading you in a scenic course around the Meadow and easily to the community park, golf course, Meadow and Town Centers, post office, restaurants and all area amenities. // MARY WHEELER | 406.539.1745





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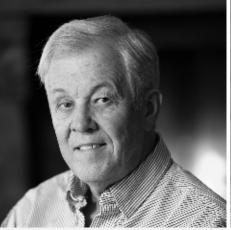
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#### News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

## **'Ideas worth spreading'** TEDx brings big ideas to Big Sky

BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR EBS EDITOR

BIG SKY – What began in 1984 as a conference to share new ideas concerning technology, entertainment and design has become the most renowned speaking series in the world. TED Talks now encompass nearly any conceivable topic, and occur around the globe in more than 100 different languages.

And now an independently organized version of TED, called TEDx, is coming to Big Sky.

On Jan. 28, the first-ever TEDxBigSky will offer six hand-picked speakers at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center to tell their unique and groundbreaking stories related to the 2017 event's theme: "Big Ideas Under the Big Sky."

Outlaw Partners—the media, marketing and events company that also publishes this newspaper—launched the idea to bring a TEDx event to Big Sky when its Media and Events Director Ersin Ozer reflected on the journalism and stories coming out of the region.

"I was inspired by our magazine, Mountain Outlaw, to put on this event on a live platform," said Ozer, who chose a group of Big Sky community members to sit on the TEDxBigSky committee and bring the concept to fruition. "Outlaw has mastered the art of storytelling. We tell stories with our media, graphic design, videos, marketing and events, so producing TEDxBigSky brings it all full circle."

Past TED speakers have included Bill Gates, Jane Goodall, Al Gore, Bono, author Elizabeth Gilbert and Sir Richard Branson, among scores of others. Just like TED

event speakers, TEDxBigSky presenters will have up to 18 minutes to deliver their talk to the audience.

In an effort to reflect the spirit of TED's objective to share "ideas worth spreading," the organization in 2009 created TEDx, events that allow independent organizers to put on TED-like talks in their respective communities around the world.

While TED conferences are held annually in Vancouver, Canada, along North America's west coast, numerous TEDx events are underway at any given day and time at multiple locations on Earth. The TEDx concept is to bring big ideas and profound conversation to issues and ideas at local levels. These events use similar formatting to TED events through free licenses provided to successful applicants by TED.

Under these license agreements, TEDx organizers cannot profit from the event. It's all about the speakers' stories and the reflection they inspire.

Ozer and the committee have spent the past 12 months planning for TEDxBigSky, searching for speakers that would leave an impact on viewers.

"We networked and researched and found some special people who would tell their stories and share ideas that will leave the audience members inspired and with their jaws to the floor," Ozer said. "People can expect an event that will grow into an annual destination celebration. It's something that I think Big Sky is hungry for."

Visit tedxbigsky.com for more information, updates and ticket availability.

## Linda Wortman

Linda Wortman has accomplished more than most – the 23-year Big Sky resident has scaled Mount Kilimanjaro with Conrad Anker, she's run a 5K race in every U.S. state, and is working on running a 10K on every continent. And she's done it with one lung.

**Explore Big Sky:** What inspired you to give a TEDxBigSky talk?

**Linda Wortman:** Nine years ago I was diagnosed with lung cancer and I never smoked. The shock could have blown me over with a feather. Most people do not know that lung cancer is the No. 1 cancer killer worldwide.

EBS: Tell me about the instant you were diagnosed with lung cancer. What went through your mind?

**L.W.:** I was going to die. The crazy thing is that when you ask about statistics, the numbers haven't changed since 1960. You ask what the survival rate is [and] they give you a 15 percent chance of living five years after diagnosis. The reason is that lung cancer is a silent killer.

**EBS:** And they removed one of your lungs? **L.W.:** Most people do not know that you have five lung lobes, and a lot of people do not know you have two lungs, each about the size and shape of a football. Doctors at the Mayo Clinic removed all of my upper left lobe and most of my lower left lobe.

Below are Q-and-As with three of the six speakers. See the Jan. 6 edition of EBS for Q-and-As with the remaining three speakers.

EBS: You and your husband Jerry started the Wortman Lung Cancer Foundation two years ago, you've climbed Mount Kilimanjaro with Conrad Anker and run a 5K race in every U.S. state. Do you feel like you have something to prove to yourself or to others?

L.W.: Yes, I want to create awareness about lung cancer. If you catch it in time you're going to have a great quality of life and you can come run with me. And with [our] foundation, when we have our races, the medals say, "Race plus Research equals Results." And our logo is a right lung. I tell people that the Mayo Clinic took out my left lung and put in a running shoe. And that began my lifelong passion for spreading education and awareness for this disease.

**EBS:** What has your experience with lung cancer taught you about bravery and resilience in the face of adversity?

**L.W.:** Lung cancer has become my blessing. At the Mayo Clinic, they gave me an opportunity to accept cancer. How many people or doctors do that and say it's OK to have cancer? Their research includes every continent in the world, and they have doctors at the Mayo Clinic from all over the world. That creates a mindful atmosphere for doctors and patients.

When I became mindful and was given permission from this medical team to learn how to take time out and to accept cancer, I was able to take time with meditation and visualization of the disease to better fight it. You can do anything, and I wanted to share this with other people. – *J.T.O.* 





### Parisa Khosravi

Parisa Khosravi reported for CNN from nearly every major world event in the last three decades. She and her family immigrated to the U.S. from Iran in 1979, working her way up from an entry-level position to senior vice president for Ted Turner at the world's first 24-hour news network. Khosravi, who won numerous distinguished awards for her journalism, now owns a consulting company and speaks to audiences about a variety of topics from Iran and Cuba to women in leadership roles, journalism and team building.

Explore Big Sky: Over your 28-year journalism career, you covered Tiananmen Square, the Rwandan Genocide, both Iraq wars, Hurricane Katrina and the end of apartheid, among many others. What stands out to you when you look back on your years at CNN?

Parisa Khosravi: I feel truly privileged to have been in the front-row seat of so many historical events. It's really humbling and the responsibility was truly awesome and sobering. I've seen the [media] business change so much in the past few decades... The flow of information and the access we have to information is unprecedented. But at the same time, I question whether we're more informed.

**EBS:** In what ways during your time at CNN did you come across issues we're seeing today where people are having trouble discerning between fact and fiction in the news?

**P.K.:** I think the world of Ted [Turner], and his vision in creating CNN. Part of his motivation was to better inform the world and through

information bring about more understanding and compassion for one another. Education is a huge part of it. From young ages we should be teaching critical thinking and questioning, and how to be able to distinguish between credible and invalid news sources.

EBS: You were senior vice president in charge of global relations for CNN Worldwide, and the network's first ambassador. How did these positions inform your ability to communicate more effectively? P.K.: All of us are so vulnerable, no matter where we are and who we are. That's the reality of life and is so important to keep us humble and grounded. Our reporters were reporting across the globe, to the globe. You have to connect on a human level and that is the most effective communication no matter where you are.

My perspective and mindset has certainly evolved throughout the years as an immigrant, as a journalist and as a mother. Each has had its challenges and opportunities. I've taken the lessons from all of them and thought of them as gifts.

EBS: Tell me why you feel your voice at TEDxBigSky is an important one.

P.K.: This story I'm going to talk about I've never spoken about. It's very private and personal to me. It's about my son and his voice. I'm telling his story and he cares so deeply about what he has to say that I feel it's my duty to become his voice. My whole background ... I feel like all of that was to prepare me to be his mom, to be part of telling my son's story and making sure his message is heard. – J.T.O.



### **Andrew Crawford**

Andrew Crawford's story sounds like fiction the first time you hear it. The Montana native was a symphony violinist and spent a decade as a professional snowboarder. Crawford then began an academic journey at Flathead Valley Community College, earned a mechanical engineering degree with a minor in aerospace from Montana State University, and interned at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Crawford then was offered a job at X, Google's "moonshot factory," working as a program manager on Google's self driving cars—that program has now become its own company called Waymo, owned by Google's parent company Alphabet.

Explore Big Sky: I understand you spent time as a symphony violinist. Do you still play?

Andrew Crawford: I was raised on the classical violin and played with orchestras and symphonies all through high school. I played in the Central Oregon Symphony in Bend, Oregon, and now I just play for fun—I love the violin but it was hard to travel with it snowboarding.

EBS: You were also a professional snowboarder, interned with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and are now working on self-driving cars. What has been the most challenging experience of your life?

A.C.: I think school was the most challenging, but was also the most rewarding because it showed me that I was capable of much more than I thought. As you go through a degree like mechanical engineering there are lots of different areas of expertise that you can think about. And for me, I just gravitated toward space.

Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would intern with NASA—twice with the Jet

Propulsion Lab, once at NASA Ames [Research Center]—and meet with astronauts and work on spacecraft. While I was at MSU, I worked at the Space Science and Engineering Laboratory ... and helped build and launch MSU's (and Montana's) first satellite in space [called] HRBE, and that was a darn good feeling.

**E.B.S.:** What inspired you to speak at TEDxBigSky? **A.C.:** I'm a huge advocate of education. I'm a non-traditional student and went back to school when I was 31—I started at the lowest level algebra class. Over the years I've just really grown to appreciate how important education is, and if I can help promote that I feel it's my civic duty. And because I got my degree from MSU, it's wonderful [that TEDxBigSky] is in a place near my alma mater.

**E.B.S.:** What would you tell a young person in Montana who dreams of becoming an engineer? **A.C.:** To absolutely go for it. And that they have what it takes. Some of the smartest people I've ever met are from Montana, including my professors and classmates. If I can go back to school at 31, anyone can do it. I wasn't a straight-A student. I had to work really hard to get B's and A's. Montana provides the environment to really learn, primarily because of the people.

**E.B.S.:** How long will it be before we start seeing self-driving cars on Montana's roads? **A.C.:** I hope very soon. I would love that and it's really, really neat to see them on the roads here in California. It would be a dream of mine to see them in Montana someday. – Tyler Allen

## **Renowned rocker returns to Big Sky**Lukas Nelson and POTR to play January show at Big Sky Resort

**OUTLAW PARTNERS STAFF** 

BIG SKY – Last summer, Lukas Nelson and his band Promise of the Real thundered into Big Sky to play the Music in the Mountains concert before the Big Sky PBR weekend at the end of July.

In January, the band returns to a snowier town, and one that's pining for the return of the man with a croon reminiscent of a legend. Lukas Nelson and POTR will rock Big Sky Resort on Jan. 27 from the stage at Montana Jack restaurant, and tickets, which go on sale Dec. 28, are sure to fly.

"We are really excited to be a part of this community event," said Tom Nolan, Food and Beverage Manager for Big Sky Resort. "Lukas Nelson is an exceptional artist and brings the Big Sky music scene to the forefront."

This past summer and fall, Nelson and POTR have been touring with legend Neil Young, after whose 1974 song "Walk On," they named their band: "Some get stoned, some get strange," the lyrics read, "but sooner or later, it all gets real."

And if you've seen this band live, you understand the hype. They've dubbed their sound "Cowboy hippie surf rock," and their on-stage energy is infectious. "They can play the whole range from soulful acoustic songs to high-energy rock and have a great mix of original songs and covers," said EBS Associate Editor Amanda Eggert, who saw the band for the first time at the Music in the Mountains show last summer.

Indeed, a broad influence of talented musicians runs deep in Nelson's repertoire. His father, Outlaw Country hero Willie Nelson notwithstanding, Lukas counts among his muses celebrated artists ranging from Jimi Hendrix and Bob Dylan to Eddie Vedder and Ray Charles.

The Jan. 27 show at Big Sky Resort's Montana Jack is sure to be a barn burner and one for the ages, but tickets will go fast.

Visit bigskyresort.com for tickets and more information.



Lukas Nelson (center) stands with his brother Micah (back left) and his band, Promise of the Real, (clockwise from back right): Corey McCormick, Anthony LoGerfo and Tato Melgar. PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTEREY INTERNATIONAL

## Resort tax groups collectively address affordable housing, legislative session

BY TYLER ALLEN EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – Nine Montana resort communities or areas collect a tax to fund local services and programs. On Dec. 12, seven of them were represented on a conference call spearheaded by the Big Sky Resort Area District board.

Four of the five BSRAD board members—Heather Budd, Kevin Germain, Ginna Hermann and Jamey Kabisch—met in Big Sky Resort's Shoshone Board Room and discussed a wide range of topics facing resort areas and communities with representatives on the call from West Yellowstone, Red Lodge, Whitefish, Gardiner, Virginia City and Cooke City.

Issues including short-term vacation rental collections, economic development hurdles and legislative efforts were on the docket, and the discussion indicated that each district has unique challenges.

Lanie Gospodarek in West Yellowstone and Whitefish's Chuck Stern both described problems collecting tax from travel or guide companies located outside of their districts, but picking up clients inside of those districts.

"This is obviously one of those muddy topics," said Kabisch, adding that he'd like to look at West Yellowstone's ordinance and revisit Big Sky's. "This is something we've struggled with, with some specific industries, but I think it could become a bigger issue so that we're not double-taxing the people that are providing the services. We all want to be pro-business and pro-growth."

Germain then spoke about the legislative issues he's been working on, particularly in regards to workforce housing and resort tax.

He said Mona Jamison, BSRAD's attorney since its inception in 1992, is retiring after the 2017 legislative session but has been employed to do some "defensive lobbying" for the district this session.

"We pay Mona to spend a lot of time in Helena looking at bills that are being drafted and coming down the pipeline," Germain said. "[She's] specifically

looking at bills that could impact us as a resort tax community." Jamison is looking at 17 state legislative bills that could affect resort tax.

Jamison said the state Legislature is more conservative after November's election, which could be a hurdle for passing a bill that would raise the resort tax option from 3 to 4 percent.

Germain recalled the 2015 session and a bill that would have allowed resort tax communities to vote to increase the cap to 4 percent. The increase was earmarked specifically to fund historic preservation but Big Sky worked with Representative Kerry White to have it amended to include workforce housing. It passed the House decisively but failed in a 25-25 tie in the Senate.

"We here in Big Sky see workforce housing as the biggest hurdle to economic growth," said Germain, adding that a 2014 affordable housing study showed 83 percent of Big Sky's workforce commutes from elsewhere.

"I'm wondering if by calling it something more like 'affordable housing' or 'community housing' ... if you have people saying they're adamantly opposed to 'workforce housing,' can you sell it differently?" suggested Rebecca Demaree from Gardiner.

"We will work on what the best word is," Jamison said. "Certain words conjure up certain emotions, stereotypes, etcetera ... Workforce housing is the word we've been using and it ties in directly to economic development."

The attendees touched on a number of other issues facing each community, including subsidizing daycare, infrastructure needs and delinquent tax collectors.

Kabisch closed the nearly two-hour summit by saying it would be helpful to circle back and repeat the conference call with the parties involved during the legislative session.



## Inside the Big Sky | By Derek Lennon

## Where to take an avalanche course in Big Sky Country this winter

#### BY DEREK LENNON EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Whether you're skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, or fat biking, anyone who spends time in the mountains of the West will benefit from proper avalanche education. We highly encourage you to take an avalanche course in southwest Montana this winter—it can save your life.

When you head into a backcountry environment covered in wild snow, you're on your own. You are responsible for every decision you make including where you go and what you do.

It's your responsibility to read the daily avalanche advisory from the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center; invest in the proper backcountry gear (beacon, shovel, probe) and learn how to use it; read avalanche books that teach you about snow science; and then do the most important thing: Take an avalanche course.

In an avalanche course you'll participate in both classroom and field sessions where you'll learn about safe travel, group dynamics, avalanche rescues, beacon searches, snow science, stability tests, mountain hazards, and more from seasoned avalanche professionals and educators. If you recreate in the mountains of Montana it's time and money well spent.

Are you ready to take an avalanche course in southwest Montana this winter? The following businesses and organizations will offer avalanche education in this region during the 2016-2017 winter season (be sure to check for availability):

**AAI** – The American Avalanche Institute is one of the premier avalanche education organizations in the United States. They provide snow science courses and avalanche certifications across the western U.S. Below are the courses they will offer in Montana this winter.

**Level 1 –** Dec. 28-30, Jan. 5-8, Jan. 19-22, Feb. 9-12 **Level 2 –** Jan. 14-17

**Beartooth Mountain Guides –** Beartooth Mountain Guides is based in Red Lodge, Montana. They offer a wide variety of guided mountain experiences in the Beartooths, including avalanche courses out of Cooke City, Montana.

**Level 1 –** Feb. 3-5, Feb. 18-20

**Beartooth Powder Guides –** Beartooth Powder Guides provides hut trips, education, and guided trips in the Beartooth and Absaroka Mountains around Cooke City.

Level 1 – Dec. 9-11, Dec.16-18, Jan. 6-8, Jan. 13-15, Feb. 3-5 Level 1 (Snowmobile Specific) – Jan. 27-29

**Level 2** – Jan. 19-22

**Bell Lake Yurt** – The Bell Lake Yurt offers camps, guided and unguided trips, and avalanche education in the Tobacco Root Mountains.

**Level 1** – Jan. 6-8, Jan. 13-15, Jan. 20-22 **Level 2** – Feb. 2-5

**BSAFE** – Big Sky Avalanche Foundation for Education offers convenient avalanche education in and around Big Sky.

**Level 1** – Jan. 20-22, Feb. 10-12 **Level 2** – Feb. 28 – March 3

**Hellroaring Powder Guides** – Hellroaring Powder Guides provides guided and unguided backcountry hut skiing in the Centennial Mountains of southwest Montana.

Custom courses available - Consult website

**MAG** – Montana Alpine Guides is based in Bozeman, Montana. They guide rock climbing, ice climbing, mountaineering, and skiing and provide avalanche education courses in southwest Montana.

**Level 1 –** Feb. 3-5, March 3-5

**Yellowstone Ski Tours** – Yellowstone Ski Tours is based in Cooke City and offers guided skiing and avalanche education throughout Yellowstone National Park.

**Level 1 –** Jan. 14-16, Jan. 27-29



If you're going to travel in the southwest Montana backcountry during the winter, being avy savvy is critical—because avalanches, like this one photographed in Beehive Basin, are an ever-present concern.

PHOTO BY DEREK LENNON

If the above dates don't work for you, many of these companies also offer custom avalanche education courses as well. Reach out to these businesses to see how they can help you learn the mountain skills you need.

If you're not interested in a full multi-day backcountry course, there are always opportunities to take avalanche awareness classes. Learn more about these courses at mtavalanche.com where the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center features a full calendar of events in southwest Montana.

If you venture into avalanche terrain, you put yourself at risk. The avalanche hazard in the mountains of southwest Montana—the Tobacco Roots, Madisons, Bridgers, Absarokas, Beartooths, and Gallatins, among other ranges—is a very real thing.

Courses are filling up quickly, so book yours soon. Have fun and travel safely in the backcountry this 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/avalanche-course-montana/. Read more interesting content about the area on Visit Big Sky's blog at https://visitbigskymt.com/category/blog/.

## LPHS seniors plan service trip to Nepal

BY BELLA BUTLER EBS EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

BIG SKY - On March 12, eight high school seniors, two business owners, a dentist and his adopted daughter will board a plane to Katmandu, Nepal. At first glance, it seems like a rather unlikely group, but when examined closer, it's not peculiar at all. These are each individuals with very distinct common ground—they all have a passion for service.

In the summer of 2014, I joined my friends Luisa Locker and Bianca Godoy on a trip deep into the forests of Paradise Valley. Earlier that year, we'd been nominated and selected by the Rotary Club of Big Sky to attend Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, a camp aimed at fostering leadership through the power of service. We walked away from the camp with T-shirts, some new friends and a big idea.

RYLA inspired us to found the Lone Peak High School chapter of Interact, the high school division of Rotary International. Since then, our club has done amazing things. Interact's non-exclusive policy has allowed us to assemble the largest club in the school, which we've used to our advantage as an organization.

The Interact Club has sent mosquito nets to Nepali orphans, school supplies to Guatemalan students and personally assembled care packages for Montana



The Lone Peak High School Interact Club members traveling to Nepal in March (left to right): Eddie Starz, Bridger Babcock, Bianca Godoy, Devin Quinn, Maria Lovely, Ellie Quackenbush, Luisa Locker and Bella Butler. PHOTO BY SAYLER TATOM

soldiers overseas. This summer, the group raised nearly \$3,000 to help Rotary in its efforts to finally eradicate polio worldwide.

In addition to our own projects, Interact members frequently volunteer at Rotary events. This past summer, Dr. Peter Schmieding of the Rotary Club of Big Sky asked Interact members to help out at a fundraiser for his organization Tsering's Fund.

Tsering's Fund is a non-profit that provides "help to the needy of Nepal," according to Schmieding, which it is has done through earthquake relief efforts,

finding sponsorships for deserving young girls to attend school, and many other life-altering projects for the people of Nepal.

At this specific event, I not only became better acquainted with the mission of Tsering's Fund itself, but also with a Nepali man, Pem Dorjee Sherpa. Pem Dorjee regaled us with stories of unimaginable despair and hardship, but also enlightened us with the powerful marks left by the efforts of Tsering's Fund within the struggling nation. I left the event that night feeling emotionally stirred and inspired, which led me to wonder how I would feel given the opportunity to experience Pem Dorjee's accounts first-hand.

Today, this curiosity has blossomed into a reality. Alongside Interact advisors Dale and Gayle Palmer, and Schmieding and his adopted Nepali daughter Tashi, eight senior Interact members will make the long journey over the ocean to Nepal. During our 16-day trip, our group plans to do hands-on work in schools, orphanages and an elderly home.

We will also be traveling to the Mount Everest region, where we'll trek through mountain villages and meet people living lives so unlike our own.

"I am most looking forward to the reaction that you kids [will] have," Schmieding said. "How it changes your perspective of your own lives is unbelievable."

My fellow travel companions and I are just as thrilled as Schmieding to be a part of something so big. One of the seniors going on the trip, Maria Lovely, expressed her excitement about the service aspect.

"We are given the opportunity to help others in need and without a doubt I want to take this opportunity and do everything I can," Lovely said. Part of the trip will also involve working with Tsering's Fund administrators, including Schmieding, to find young girls in need of educational sponsorships, a portion of the adventure that Lovely said she's most excited for.

Interact is about forging lifelong relationships between young people and service, and this is something we hope to achieve by traveling and experiencing helping others at a primary level. Schmieding has set this expectation high, saying that watching others succeed and being part of their transition is one of the greatest joys a person can know.

The cost for each student to go to Nepal is expensive, but with the outstanding support we've received from the Big Sky community in the past, we have no doubts about reaching our goal. This isn't to say we won't be working hard to get it, though. Fundraising has already begun, and events and contribution opportunities will continue into February.

Sponsorships and donations are greatly appreciated, but showing up at these fun gatherings is equally helpful. On Jan. 28 at Buck's T-4 in Big Sky, we will host "Winter Ball for Nepal," a prom-style dinner and dance for adults. The final fundraiser will take place at Alberto's in the Town Center for a Valentine's Day dinner on Feb. 14.

For more information about how you can become part of Interact's Nepal experience, contact advisor Dale Palmer at (406) 581-2857 or nordichottub@aol.com, or myself at bellabutler@bssd72.org or (406) 570-8446.





## Zinke appointment exposes potential flaw in state law

BY MATT VOLZ **ASSOCIATED PRESS** 

HELENA (AP) - Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke's decision to join President-elect Donald Trump's cabinet has exposed a potential constitutional flaw in the first test of a new state law on filling vacancies in the U.S. House and Senate.

The law calls for a special election to be held between 85 and 100 days of a vacancy. It also gives the governor the option of appointing a temporary replacement from the same political party of the departing representative or senator who would serve until the election results are certified.

However, Secretary of State Linda McCulloch says the U.S. Constitution allows only for the appointment of an interim senator, and not for an interim representative. "The bill and subsequent annotation is contrary to the United States Constitution which requires a special election, but no appointment," McCulloch said in a statement Dec. 14.

The lawmaker who sponsored the 2015 bill disputed that interpretation, saying Dec. 15 that Bullock should make an interim appointment because it is critical that the state's one congressional seat is filled.

"Until they take it to the Supreme Court and they say we can't do it, we should go ahead as the law is written," said Sen. Brad Hamlett, D-Cascade.

Zinke will become Trump's Interior Department secretary, according to an announcement by the president-elect's transition team on Dec. 15. It is not clear when Zinke will vacate the U.S. House seat that he was re-elected to in November, but when he does, Democratic Gov. Steve Bullock will have to call a special election for voters to pick a replacement to serve out Zinke's House term.

The state law says Bullock "may" appoint an interim replacement from a list of three candidates selected by the state Republican Party. Bullock's office,

GOP chairman Jeff Essmann and political observers began to question that provision when Zinke's potential departure from the House surfaced Dec. 13.

McCulloch's statement asserting that the state law runs against the U.S. Constitution cites a 2003 Congressional Research Service memo to Congress that says the state executive's authority to fill U.S. House vacancies is to issue a writ of election.

"The Constitution thus requires that all House vacancies be filled by special election," the memo said. "There is no constitutional provision for the appointment of interim representatives."

Hamlett responded that his bill went through legal reviews in the Legislature and by Bullock before the governor signed it into law, and that any conflict with the U.S. Constitution would have come up then.

No lawsuit has been filed challenging the state law and a judge has not ruled on whether it is constitutional.

Hamlett urged the state GOP to prepare its list of candidates immediately and for Bullock to make his choice as soon as Zinke vacates the seat.

Bullock spokeswoman Ronja Abel said the governor would take a close look at the law when he returns from a meeting of the Western Governors Association in San Diego.

The bill had only three dissenting votes out of 150 Montana representatives and senators. Essmann voted for the measure.

The law passed in the wake of Bullock appointing his former lieutenant governor, John Walsh, to the U.S. Senate in 2014 when Max Baucus left that office to become the U.S. ambassador to China. Republican leaders at the time criticized Bullock for making the appointment without adequate public comment.

Associated Press writer Matthew Brown in Billings contributed to this report.



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**Section 2:**ENVIRONMENT,
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### **The New West:**

## A guru of bear spray seeks answers in Madison griz attack



BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

When Montana hunter Todd John Orr was attacked twice by a grizzly bear on Oct. 1, the mauling, thanks to social media and the victim carrying a video

camera, captured instant attention from around the world.

To date, more than 39 million people have viewed footage of the bloodied sportsman from Bozeman via Facebook and YouTube. Many people are astonished how a badly wounded Orr, after walking three miles out of the backcountry, had the wherewithal and composure to interview himself before seeking medical attention.

One of those who saw the video, Chuck Bartlebaugh, became gravely concerned about the message being communicated to the masses as news of the incident circulated virally, accompanied by media reports which were, in some cases, sensationalistic.

Bartlebaugh, founder of a campaign called Be Bear Aware, specializing in educating the public about using bear spray, decided to turn gumshoe detective of sorts. He interviewed the 50-year-old Orr seeking answers to a pair of key questions: Did the bear spray Orr carried with him work? And why did the grizzly attack him twice?

This week, Bartlebaugh released his findings, a week after he presented them to Gregg Losinski, chairman of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee at its annual year-end meeting in Missoula, Montana.

The basic facts are these: In early October, Orr had been hiking solo, scouting for elk, in the North Fork of Bear Creek on the western face of the Madison mountains in southwest Montana. Figuring grizzlies were probably in the area, he told Bartlebaugh that he had shouted "Hey bear!" to let his presence be known. Then, seemingly out of nowhere, an agitated sow grizzly about 80 yards away stood up and charged.

The mother with cubs disappeared momentarily in trees before the protective adult bruin reemerged 50 yards away bearing down on Orr. The hunter was carrying two cans of bear spray. He clutched one and started blasting the spray in the direction of the grizzly when she was about 25 yards away.

"The grizzly bear ran right through the cloud of bear spray. Just moments before contact, Mr. Orr turned and dropped to a fetal position on the ground to protect his face, neck and vital organs," Bartlebaugh writes. "Mr. Orr believes that he had less than 10 percent of the bear spray in his can after he had dispersed it."

Bartlebaugh shared a few theories in his report on why the normally effective non-lethal deterrent didn't work:

"Mr. Orr waited to spray the charging bear until it was 25 feet away. At this distance, the grizzly bear, traveling at approximately 30 miles per hour, met the bear spray cloud somewhere between 10 and 20 feet. This is only two tenths of a second away from contact. The grizzly bear would have had less than a half a second to feel the effects and divert its charge."

Bartlebaugh continued: "[Orr] described aiming for the bear's face. The National Rifle Association states that 'aiming' takes just less than one second for an experienced person to do. Bear spray was designed to be dispersed in a powerful, well-atomized and expanding cloud to eliminate the need for aiming. In a charging situation, do not waste time trying to aim—it's one second you may not have."

For years, Bartlebaugh has been teaching proper use of bear spray to thousands of people, including employees of natural resource agencies and the general public. He tells people that it's vitally important to emit a dense atomized cloud as soon as possible when a bear is charging forward and to angle it downward toward the front of the bear so the mist lifts up.

Important is that a can holds enough spray to project and maintain an expanding cloud to ensure a bear encounters it before it is mere feet away. Essential is that there be enough left in the can to thwart a potential additional advance.

As Orr dropped and curled into the fetal position, the grizzly bit into his scalp, ear, shoulder and arms, then left the scene.

"Mr. Orr did not lie flat, which has been the recommended procedure for the past 20 years, but instead curled up into a ball giving the bear more of a target to maul," Bartlebaugh writes. "This is another scenario demonstrating how the public is not properly informed in regards to knowing what to do if being mauled or attacked by a bear."

Rather than curling into the fetal position, the latest suggestions from the National Park Service and others is to lay flat, belly down, with backpack still on your back, and cover one's head with hands.

The fact that the bear left the scene suggests it was dealing with the effects of bear spray in its eyes, mouth, nose and lungs. As Orr got up, he told

Bartlebaugh, he saw the sow and cubs running away up a mountain slope.

Orr headed in the other direction but 5-10 minutes later as he was hiking down a trail, the sow reappeared, probably having turned around because the terrain was too steep to climb. It put the sow on a collision course with Orr.

"Because the bear appeared behind him," Bartlebaugh notes, "Mr. Orr did not have time to retrieve his second can of bear spray he needed to defend himself."

This time the grizzly was just 30 feet away and on him in a split-second. "The bear began to maul him for the second time. Mr. Orr responded to the pain by flinching and gasping for breath, which brought on even more aggressive biting and clawing from the grizzly," Bartlebaugh reports. "He determined his best bet was to remain as still as possible and stay quiet. The grizzly then stopped, stood up on top of him, and then just like she did the first time, she was suddenly gone."

The bear could have killed him if she had wanted. Bartlebaugh shares two thoughts, one praising of Orr. "It's one thing to say 'remain still and quiet' but it's a whole different story when it comes to actually doing it. Mr. Orr did a remarkable job of this, and it couldn't have been an easy thing to do. It should be noted that at this point, Mr. Orr's first bear spray was nearly empty. This is a good example of why bear spray quantity and duration is essential."

With the bear gone, Orr, lacerated with severe bites, hiked another 45 minutes to his truck and drove to seek medical attention in Ennis. He still is recovering.

At the same meeting of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee, federal and state officials voted to suspend the so-called "six-second rule" pertaining to the recommended duration a can of pepper spray should project a mist. Next week, we'll look at how and why the action took place and what it means potentially for people traveling through grizzly country.

Todd Wilkinson has been a journalist for 30 years. He writes his New West column every week, and it's published on explorehigsky.com on EBS off weeks. Wilkinson authored 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. His new article on climate change, "2067: The Clock Struck Thirteen," appears in the winter 2017 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine, on stands now.



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## Judge keeps Superfund cleanup talks in Montana secret

BY MATT VOLZ ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – A federal judge in Montana has decided not to make public the long-running secret negotiations on the cleanup of the nation's largest Superfund site involving the U.S. government and the company responsible for the mining waste.

U.S. District Judge Sam Haddon on Dec. 7 denied a request by The Montana Standard and Silver Bow Creek Headwaters Coalition to intervene in the case between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Atlantic Richfield Co.

The case has lasted 27 years after the government sued Arco in 1989 over the cleanup of a century's worth of mine waste from the soil and water of copper-rich Butte Hill.

The case comprises just one part of the nation's largest Superfund site that also includes Berkeley Pit, a former open pit mine filled with toxic, acidic water where thousands of geese recently died after landing during a snowstorm.

Haddon, who made the settlement talks confidential with orders in 2002 and 2003, said in the Dec. 7 ruling that the request from the newspaper and advocacy group came 13 years too late. The public will be able to read and comment on the final settlement once it is reached, the judge said.

"It will have ample opportunity to be publicly heard," Haddon wrote in the order.

Montana Standard editor David McCumber said a decision has not yet been made on whether to appeal. Regardless, he said, the newspaper will continue to cover the issue aggressively.

"By filing this action, we were able to underscore the helplessness that a lot of people in Butte feel," he said. "There's a lot of dissatisfaction here in Butte with the status quo."

An attorney for the newspaper argued in November that nothing is more important to the citizens of Butte than the environmental cleanup. They once had faith that the EPA would do right by them, but they have lost that faith as negotiations dragged on, attorney James Goetz said.

Attorneys for the government and Arco argued that complex environmental cleanup negotiations are typically conducted out of the public eye. They said other units of the Butte Superfund cleanup site have been the subject of settlements.

Making the Butte Hill talks public now, and releasing 13 years' worth of documents that already have been exchanged on the settlement, would likely cause the collapse of the negotiations, Arco attorney Kyle Gray and Justice Department attorney Jim Freeman said.

Haddon agreed, ruling that The Montana Standard's request was untimely and would prejudice the parties involved in the talks. The newspaper knew about and reported on the original confidentiality orders but did nothing to challenge them then, the judge wrote.

Haddon also rejected claims that the EPA was not protecting the interest of Butte's residents.

"Nothing before the court supports the conclusion that the United States has betrayed the public's interest in environmental remediation," Haddon wrote. Longtime Butte environmental advocate Fritz Daily called it ironic that Haddon's order to keep the cleanup talks secret came the same day as news spread of the snow goose deaths at Berkeley Pit.

"The EPA has totally failed the community of Butte for the past 30 years in not providing the quality cleanup and restoration the community deserves and they once again have failed the community of Butte by hiding behind the cloak of confidentiality," Daily said.



## Montanans seek local clean energy solutions in wake of Trump's election

BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BOZEMAN – Given that President-elect Donald Trump has settled on several climate change skeptics sympathetic to the oil and gas industry for top cabinet positions, Montanans focused on clean energy and climate change have cause for concern.

But that frustration hasn't deteriorated into despondent hand wringing in Bozeman. People are looking for ways to make a difference on these issues at a local level, as evidenced by a robust turnout for a Dec. 13 meeting about clean energy and climate change policy held at the Bozeman Public Library.

The meeting was attended by approximately 100 people and organized by Dave Dittloff, a Missoula-based representative of the National Wildlife Federation.

"People want to find a constructive place to put their efforts and promote climate change policy and clean energy policy," said Dittloff, adding that he hopes to hold similar forums in Billings, Missoula, Great Falls and Helena.

Ditloff said a considerable amount of carbon reduction can occur at the city and state level and such efforts in Bozeman are laudable. In September, the city of Bozeman launched the Bozeman Solar Project near I-90 and 19th Street, designed to produce enough electricity to power approximately 54 homes. "If more cities [follow Bozeman's lead], we could drive the carbon emissions down drastically," he said.

Dittloff started the meeting by discussing some of Trump's cabinet picks that concern him, like Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt for administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and former Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson for secretary of state.

Ditloff then changed the tone of the meeting by pointing out that the market favors clean energy right now. "Economic trends are on our side," he said. "[Solar energy] is cheaper than ever, wind is cheaper than ever, and coal is—relatively speaking—more expensive than ever."

Presentations were given by representatives from a Missoula-based renewable energy nonprofit, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, a Bozeman-based solar contractor, the city of Bozeman's Sustainability Program, and a Montana state senator.

Laura Andersen with the DEQ's Energy and Pollution Prevention bureau highlighted some renewable energy projects in the works at the state level including utility-scale wind development, a nascent effort to install solar panels on public buildings, and a potential electric vehicle charging corridor between Glacier and Yellowstone national parks.

Andrew Valainis, executive director of the Montana Renewable Energy Association, said several bills are in the works that would advance efforts related to net metering, a system that allows people who produce more energy than they use to add it to the power grid. The proposed bills would incentivize and protect investment in net metering.

JP Pomnichowski, who represents Bozeman in the Montana Senate, said the state legislative process is ripe for public participation and urged constituents to be vocal about bills they don't support. "Silence implies consent," she said, adding that laws that are passed in the state Legislature have a profound impact on Montanans' daily lives.

"I really believe that your diligence at the [state] legislative level is important," Pomnichowski told the crowd.



### **Online course on wetlands and** riparian management set to begin Jan. 9

**MSU NEWS SERVICE** 

BOZEMAN - Montana State University's Extended University will offer a 15-week online course on wetland and riparian ecology and management beginning Jan. 9.

The course provides a thorough introduction to wetland and riparian ecology of the Rocky Mountains and Northern Great Plains; the regulations and public mandates that guide management; and the human and global disturbances that continue to shape these systems.

The course is designed for both practitioners and educators, including tribal, state and local regulatory staff; agency professionals; consultants; and teachers. The course may also be of interest to city, county and state government officials, particularly those in areas where population growth and land use changes put great pressure on wetland and riparian resources.

The course will run through April 28. Scheduling is flexible: assignments are required during each week and have a due date, but students are not

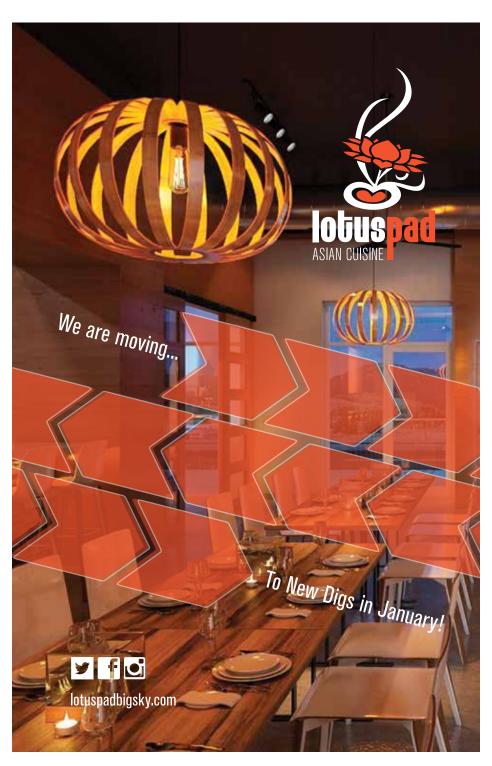
required to be online at a specific time. The course is open to anyone across the country. Participants should have general background knowledge in biology and ecology.

The instructors are William Kleindl and Rebecca Diehl. Kleindl has 28 years of experience working as an aquatic ecology research scientist and consultant throughout the United States, assisting private and public clients with policy development; permit assistance; resource delineation and mapping; and mitigation design, implementation and monitoring.

Diehl has more than 10 years of experience researching, teaching, and consulting on the physical processes that shape river systems and the characteristics of riparian upland/ wetland complexes.

The course is \$500 and is now open for registration at eu.montana.edu/ noncredit/.

For more information, contact Janine Hansen at (406) 994-5240 or jbansen@montana.edu or MSU Extended University at extendedu@montana.edu.



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### **EYE ON THE BALL**

## Top coaching candidates for the Los Angeles Rams



BY BRANDON NILES EBS SPORTS COLUMNIST

Following an ugly Week 14 loss to the Atlanta Falcons, where the Los Angeles Rams were outscored 42-14, the Rams fired head coach Jeff Fisher after nearly five years and five losing seasons. After starting the season winning three of their first four games, the Rams lost eight of the next nine under Fisher before letting him

go and promoting special teams coordinator John Fassel as interim head coach.

Fisher's resilience is actually surprising. It took the Rams nearly five seasons to fire him in a league that typically gives coaches no more than two or three seasons to prove themselves.

Sure, Fisher took the Tennessee Titans to an AFC Championship following the 1999 season, but in 22 years as a head coach, Fisher has had just six winning seasons, and has a career winning percentage of only 52 percent. For such mediocrity, it's hard to believe he's held a top job for so long.

Now that the Rams have moved on from Fisher, it remains to be seen if general manager Les Snead will be on the chopping block as well, but if not, he'll lead the campaign to find a new coach to help the Rams get back into contention.

So who should Snead be looking to? While the strength of the team lies on the defensive side of the ball, the Rams need to prioritize the development of their rookie, first-round quarterback Jared Goff, so a brilliant offensive mind should be at the top of Snead's shopping list. Here are a few of the top candidates likely to be considered:

**Jim Harbaugh** – The current Michigan head coach led the San Francisco 49ers to an NFC Championship only four seasons ago. Harbaugh has done a tremendous job getting Michigan back to being a superpower in college football, and the general thinking is that he'd relish the opportunity to go back to California and

try his luck again as an NFL coach. Harbaugh has the offensive prowess and the high profile that should put him at the top of the list for all head coaching positions.

**Kyle Shanahan** – Son of long-time NFL head coach Mike Shanahan, Kyle Shanahan has made a name for himself in recent seasons as an offensive coordinator. He's spent the last two seasons with the Atlanta Falcons, who lead the league in points scored per game this season and were seventh last year. Shanahan has held a coordinator job since 2008 and seems ready to take the next step.

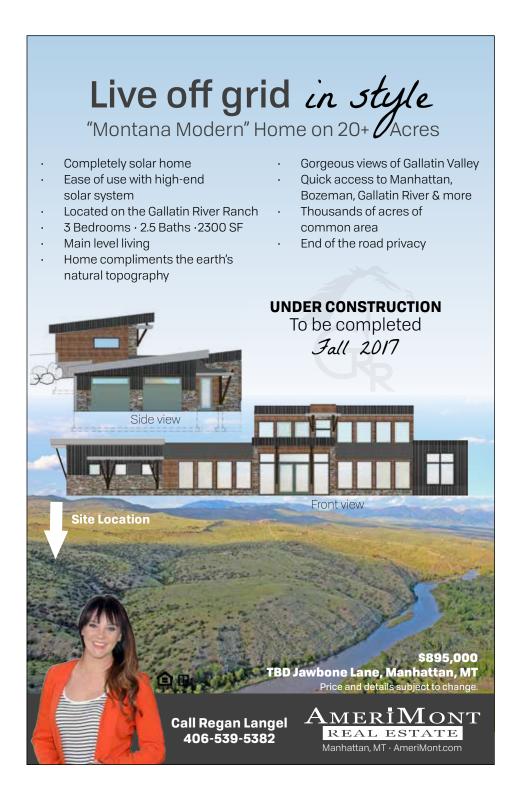
**Josh McDaniels** – McDaniels made some questionable personnel decisions during his time as a head coach for the Denver Broncos from 2009 to 2010, but there's no questioning his ability to coach an offense.

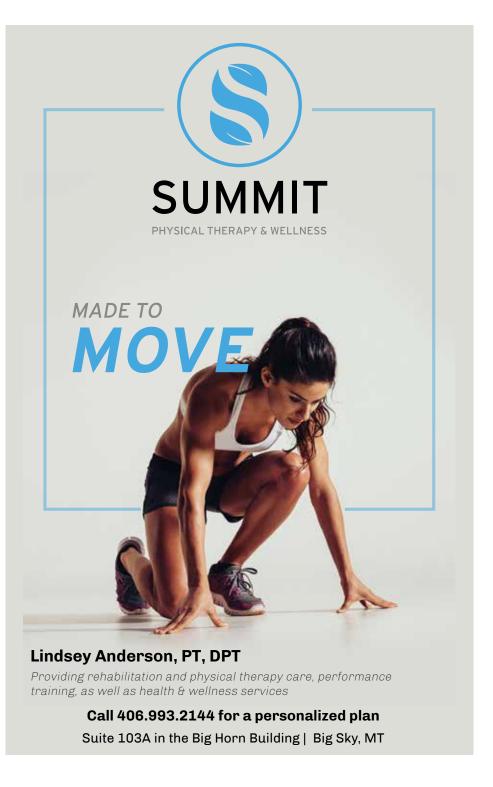
McDaniels was the offensive coordinator for the New England Patriots during Tom Brady's record-breaking 2007 season, and he's returned to that role over the past five seasons. McDaniels looks ready for another chance at a head-coaching job and would likely relish the opportunity to work with Goff.

While other names will likely pop up over the next month or so as the Rams flesh out potential candidates, these should be the top three names on the list for a franchise looking to escape mediocrity. Keep an eye on how the Falcons and Patriots do in the postseason, because the Rams may not want to wait for Shanahan and McDaniels to become available before making their selection.

However, if no one is hired by mid-January, take that as a hint that one of the top coordinators for a playoff team is being heavily considered. Whoever it ends up being, the new coach will have a talented roster, a young quarterback, and a heap of expectations.

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-bost of the 2 Guys Podcast.





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## **Lone Peak girls celebrate first-ever win over Manhattan Christian**Boys fall to Eagles

BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY- The Manhattan Christian Eagles brought a crowd with them when they played Lone Peak on Dec. 17, and they played impressive games against both the Big Horns and Lady Big Horns.

Luisa Locker drives toward the basket for a layup against the Eagles on Dec. 17. PHOTO BY MILOSZ SHIPMAN

The gym was filled to near capacity when the boys stepped on the court at 7 p.m. for their first conference matchup of the season. Lone Peak started off on a high note when senior guard Eddie Starz tipped the ball to junior Jackson Wade, who made a layup in the first shot of the game.

But in short order the Eagles turned on the scoring heat—and kept it up for the next three quarters. Two minutes into the game, the Eagles went on a nine-point scoring streak in the course of one minute. By the close of the first quarter, the score stood 26-9 in Manhattan Christian's favor.

"We got down early and we had a hard time recovering," said Lone Peak head coach Al Malinowski. "We played mostly zone [defense] that game trying to handle their bigger players on the inside and the outside shooters got pretty hot knocking down 3-pointers."

Manhattan Christian is an experienced team with impressive scoring capability and heaps of defensive hustle for such a big team; the height for the Eagles' starting lineup averages 6 feet, 4 inches compared to the Big Horns' 5 feet, 11 inches.

By the close of the fourth quarter, the Eagles sank 12 total 3-pointers on the way to an 86-43 win. Five Eagles reached double digits in scoring, while Eddie Starz led Lone Peak with more than half of his 20 points scored in the fourth quarter.

"We battled and we found areas where we found some success, but we have to find more consistency against a bigger and deeper team," Malinowski said. "We'll look forward to playing them [again] in a couple weeks."

The Big Horns' record is 3-1 overall and 1-1 in conference play following their 54-45 road win against Shields Valley on Dec. 20

The Lady Big Horns celebrated a different outcome against the Eagles on Dec. 17: a first-ever win against their rivals to the north. "It was a great win for the program," said head coach Nubia Allen. "They outplayed the other team and I was extremely proud of their effort."

Lone Peak won 52-29, which sounds like a comfortable margin, but the game felt much closer due to the Eagles' tough defense. They demonstrated dogged persistence with their full court press, which resulted in a handful of Lone Peak turnovers.

"They pressed us the whole game—that's what they do," Allen said. "They're definitely a good team [and] the score really doesn't show how close that game was. It was a battle."

Manhattan Christian's shots weren't falling. Junior Alex Veltkamp led the Eagles in scoring with eight points. Junior forward KP Hoffman led Lone Peak with 15 points, followed by senior point guard Luisa Locker with 14, and senior guard Dasha Bough with 11.

The girls' record stands 3-1 overall and 1-1 in conference play after losing 71-67 at Shields Valley on Dec. 20.

The next home games are Thursday, Jan. 5, against Gardiner. The Lady Big Horns play at 5:30 p.m., followed by the boys at 7 p.m.





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## MSU business students raise over \$5,000 for local non-profits

MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – Teams of Montana State University business students turned \$25 each into more than \$5,200 in just three weeks, and the students then donated those funds to three local non-profit organizations of their choice this fall.

The students were participating in the "Entreprentice Challenge," part of an upper-division class on entrepreneurship in the MSU Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship. As part of the course—taught by management professor Brent Rosso—student teams were given \$25 in start-up capital and asked to launch real businesses that were as profitable and impactful as possible in just three weeks.

Rosso challenged the students to think beyond their perceived constraints and act entrepreneurially to maximize their impact.

Representatives from Habitat for Humanity of Gallatin Valley, the MSU VOICE Center and Special Olympics Montana listened to presentations demonstrating the different entrepreneurial ventures the students built to raise money. At the end of each class period, the students gave representatives of those organizations checks.



The MSU "Enterprentice Challenge" Special Olympics team holding its giant check PHOTO COURTESY OF MSU NEWS

Students launched a variety of creative ventures this year, including instant pumpkin spice lattes, apparel, handmade goods, equestrian training, professional portraits, and a number of other unique products and services.

The representatives from the local non-profits expressed gratitude for the students' ingenuity, resourcefulness and impact.

David Magistrelli of Habitat for Humanity Gallatin Valley said that the funds will allow the organization to put another roof over a family in need. Alanna Sherstad from the MSU VOICE Center said the funds will allow the center to help rebuild its Survivor Fund, which assists domestic abuse survivors in crisis situations.

And Mandy Patriarche of Special Olympics Montana said the students' contributions will provide new athletic opportunities for intellectually disabled children and adults in the Gallatin Valley.

"A benefit of this project is that students have an opportunity to put their classroom learning into practice right from the start of the semester," Rosso said. "But I think it is equally important that students experience how their entrepreneurialism can impact their communities in tangible ways. This gives us the opportunity to discuss how entrepreneurs can do good while doing well, and vice versa."

The combined total the students raised this year for the three non-profits was \$5,265.80, Rosso said. He added that it brings the total amount students participating in the Entreprentice Challenge have raised over the past six years to more than \$25,000.

# **DOCTOR'S NOTE**

## Don't take a shoulder dislocation lightly



BY DR. JEFF DANIELS EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

How do I convince a 20 year old, who just dislocated his shoulder, to hang up his snowboard for the remainder of his vacation in Big Sky? He arrived here after a 20-hour bus ride from California, and proceeded to land on his shoulder during his first run.

And now that his shoulder dislocation is reduced and doesn't hurt anymore, what's stopping him from throwing himself down the mountain once again?

His friends—unhurt and seemingly unconcerned about the consequences of re-injury—are egging him on. We've got his injured arm tethered to his body in a shoulder immobilizer, something that would make it very difficult to snowboard because you really need both arms to move freely and easily. This contrasts with a decent skier who might be able to at least ski the groomers with only one arm.

So I try to explain the anatomy to this guy who seems to disregard anything I tell him. When the shoulder dislocates, a big ball of bone called the humeral head—attached by nothing but soft tissue—travels about 4 inches from its original location against the glenoid, taking all of that soft tissue with it.

The rotator cuff tendons are a big player in keeping the shoulder bones in place, and they emanate from the back of the shoulder. Here you have an injury that is stretching them forward, because that's where the ball of the humerus ends up in an anterior shoulder dislocation.

I ask them, "Do you have any friends whose shoulders constantly dislocate?" When they say "Yes," I explain that not letting the shoulder rest in an immobilized position and risking another dislocation by landing on that arm or shoulder too soon after the initial injury—is why they have that problem. Then I demonstrate how waving goodbye or rolling over in your sleep can cause dislocations in "loose" shoulders.

And yet, I couldn't convince this young man that he was risking a chronic problem by ignoring my warning, removing his immobilizer, and going right back onto the slopes. At least he didn't do what one skier did a couple of years ago: When we left him alone in the exam room, he decided to get dressed after the reduction, and when he raised his injured arm upward, we heard a pop and a scream. He had re-dislocated the shoulder 10 minutes after we had fixed him!

There's no exact consensus on how to treat a first time anterior-dislocated shoulder. How long should it stay in strict immobilization? We tell people that it should be held in the immobilizer for at least a week. After the week of immobilization, we recommend seeing a physical therapist.

Rehab for anterior shoulder dislocations is a common therapy, and most physical therapists are very good at guiding the healing process—allowing everything to tighten up so that it would require a similar accident to cause another dislocation.

I've learned here over the years, dealing with so many acute injuries, that there are several ways to "skin a cat." My best advice, particularly to people visiting Big Sky, is to see a physical therapist or orthopedist as soon as they get home, and see what their approach is to rehabbing a first-time dislocation.

For those with a shoulder that won't stop dislocating, hurting or feeling unstable, there are procedures that can tighten up the soft-tissue structures. The Bankart technique seems to be the most common procedure, where either bone anchors or sutures are used to secure the torn labrum, which is the tough, cartilage-like ring of soft tissue that emanates from the glenoid of the scapula and is a major stabilizing factor.

I've reduced approximately 1,000 dislocated shoulders over the past 22 ski seasons in Big Sky, and there have been two already this winter. Have a happy and safe holiday 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 be implements has attracted more than 700 medical students and young doctors to train with the Medical Clinic of Big Sky.





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## Simple productivity tips for the New Year



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

What does productivity have to do with health? A lot, actually—feeling chronically underproductive and overwhelmed triggers the stress response.

Chronic psychological stress is associated with harmful inflammation, which in turn negatively affects our health. Inflammation has been linked to the common

cold, weight gain, arthritis, high cholesterol, arteriosclerosis, and some cancers, among other diseases.

So as 2017 approaches—and we gear up for new beginnings by breaking bad habits and cultivating new constructive ones—it seems appropriate to share some tips on how to be more productive in order to reduce stress, prevent inflammation and stay healthy.

In November, the Art of Manliness podcast aired an interview with Chris Bailey about his new book "The Productivity Project: Accomplishing More by Managing Your Time, Attention, and Energy."

I'd like to offer you some of the key takeaways from the interview that you can apply to your own life today.

For starters, Bailey says the most productive people have a strong "Why" (i.e., we want to be more productive so we can start our own business, build a dream home or retire by age 50). He claims that a meaningful and powerful "Why" keeps us motivated in spite of the roadblocks and setbacks that life will invariably put in our way.

Here are some questions to help you discover your "Why": What are you passionate about? What are your greatest strengths? If money weren't an object, what would you do? What do people come to you for help with? What do you want to be known for? Writing your answers down will create greater impact by helping you clarity your "Why."

Secondly, Bailey suggests that we get clear about our "What." He says filtering out important tasks that we do throughout the day from those that aren't important goes a long way in helping us become more productive.

He explains that we often operate on autopilot and while we can have very "busy" days filled with meetings, messaging and social media, we might be sabotaging actual productivity. For example, a study from Rescue Time (a time-saving assistant app) says that professionals check their email an average of 41 times per day. These constant distractions create time-sucks throughout the day.

Try "batching" similar tasks in order to streamline your work and prevent distractions. For example, instead of responding to emails as they randomly pop up, batch them into one session each day from 3-4 p.m. You can let people know via auto-responder that is when you'll get back to them.

And lastly, Bailey says his favorite productivity tool is the "Rule of Three." This simple ritual is performed each morning before you start your day. Think forward to the end of the day and get clear on the three most important tasks that need to be accomplished, and are in alignment with your "Why."

The Rule of Three allows us to work with intention and can increase our productivity exponentially. It only takes a few minutes and you'll earn that time back 100-fold using this method.

Bailey emphasizes that it's in each moment that we actually practice productivity. While we might want a six-pack stomach by July, a juicy après burger and nachos are very appealing. The choices we make moment-to-moment, day-by-day, are what keep us from, or get us to, our goals.

Tailor your productivity rituals to meet your unique lifestyle and if at first you don't succeed, try and try again.

May your New Year be filled with awe inspiring productivity and amazing accomplishments.

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

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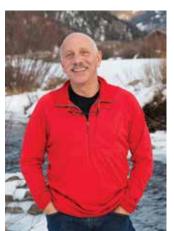
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### **AMUSE-BOUCHE**

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.

## Elk, its what's for dinner. At least this time of year



BY SCOTT MECHURA **EBS FOOD COLUMNIST** 

Each December, processers all over the state are busy butchering the thousands of elk killed by hunters around the state last fall. Some hunt for sport, but most everyone I know shoots their elk with the intention of consuming it.

Native to North America and Eastern Asia, the elk, or wapiti, as the Shawnee Indians called it, is one of the largest mammals on our continent. Only moose and bison are larger. And while there are a few species of elk that are now extinct, the U.S. is still left with four: the Roosevelt, Tule, Manitoban and Rocky Mountain. And—the name is a dead giveaway—the Rocky Mountain elk is the one we see here in Montana.

Historically the name elk has been confusing and even misleading at times. The first European settlers believed the elk they encountered here in the U.S. were related to the moose rather than the red deer. "Elk" is what they called a moose, and to make matters worse, red deer and our elk are considered the same species.

Elk is a lean animal, with only 22 percent of its energy derived from fat as compared to beef, which comes in at 35-47 percent. Additionally, elk meat is high in iron and riboflavin, and extremely high in vitamin B12. It's also low in cholesterol. And it is, without a doubt, a flavorful and nutritious alternative to beef, though I hardly need to tell Montanans that.

I once purchased an entire side of beef. And when I gave my requirements to the processer as to how I wanted the carcass butchered, he was dumbfounded.

"What's the deal with this guy?" he asked my friend from whom I had purchased the side of beef. "He's a chef," my friend replied. "Ah, that makes sense now" the butcher said.

My point? Most consumers who go through this process often ask for premium cuts of steak such as tenderloin, rib eye, and New York strip. The majority of what's left they ask to have ground in to burger. Or, in the case of elk, ground and made into sausage.

Whether this stems from a simple lack of knowledge about the many other options or they simply don't care for anything more, I'm here to tell you there is so much more to enjoy from one of America's finest trophies and sources of red meat.

The dressing percentage of elk is virtually as high as cattle, coming in, on average, at 55 percent and 58-60 percent, respectively. So there are relatively similar cuts to be acquired.

For example, both the front and hind shanks can be processed to make osso buco. This is a horizontal cut with the bone in the center that is located above the knee and stretches about 10 inches up. It has tremendous flavor and is great for braising or very slow cooking.

Directly above the shank area is the entire hindquarter. This large area can look like one giant roast. But talk to your butcher and get him to separate all the individual muscles. There are about six or seven. They can be cut into smaller steaks or grilled as is after some marinating or perhaps your favorite dry rub.

The rib chops are, to me, one of the top cuts, and you'll see these on the Buck's T-4 menu this winter.

But there are many more cuts to take advantage of. Reach out to me anytime and I'll fill your head with ideas.

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.

#### **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

#### Blue Ribbon Builders

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



We offer comprehensive benefits packages and training and an exemplary work environment.

Housing is available. Apply online at: http://blueribbonbuilders.com/employment/. 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.

#### Big Sky Fire Department

The Big Sky Fire Department is looking for a Construction Manager to help manage the process of building a new Fire Station 1, which would include everything from site selection, architect selection, creation of bid documents, etc., all the way through building completion. For complete information please visit



http://bigskyfire.org/cm-rfp/ If you have any problems opening the web address please call (406) 995-2100

#### Big Sky Build - Carpenters

Carpenters wanted for a Big Sky custom home builder. This is a full time position with benefit package. Minimum 5 years carpentry experience, vehicle, references, and a background check are required. Inquiry by email only to info@bigskybuild.com

#### Private Ski Instrutor Wanted

Skier looking for ski instructor/guide for local mountain. Please contact scott@blueservicescorp.com



**Section 3:** INSIDE YELLOWSTONE, **OUTDOORS & FUN** 







## INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



## Yellowstone open for winter Cross-country skiing in season

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

At 8 a.m. on Dec. 15, Yellowstone National Park roads opened to the public for motorized oversnow travel.

Visitors are able to travel the park's interior roads on commercially guided snowmobiles and snowcoaches from the north, west, and south entrances. Visitors who have proper permits can also participate in the Non-commercially Guided Snowmobile Access Program.

Travel through the park's east entrance over Sylvan Pass was scheduled to begin Dec. 22, the day after EBS went to press.

The road from the park's north entrance at Gardiner through Mammoth Hot Springs to Cooke City is open to wheeled vehicle travel all year.

Are you planning a winter trip to the park? Weather is extremely unpredictable and road closures or delays can occur with little or no warning. Carry personal emergency survival equipment and dress appropriately for outside activities in extremely cold weather.

Most stores, restaurants, campgrounds and lodges are closed during winter. The following list outlines when certain winter visitor services will open:

#### Old Faithful

- Dec. 15: Old Faithful Visitor Education Center, Geyser Grill, and Bear Den Gift Shop (includes the ski shop)
- Dec. 16: Old Faithful Snow Lodge, cabins and Obsidian Dining Room

#### **Mammoth Hot Springs**

- Dec. 16: Terrace Grill, Ski Shop

Open year-round: Albright Visitor Center, Yellowstone General Store, 24-hour gasoline pumps, medical clinic, campground, and post office

#### **Tower Junction**

- Open year-round: 24-hour gasoline pumps

A series of warming huts throughout the park provide shelter. Some huts are staffed during business hours with food, restrooms and water available.

In addition to unique winter travel opportunities, Yellowstone also offers a variety of activities such as ranger-led programs, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

Visit nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/visiting-yellowstone-in-winter.htm for information on visiting Yellowstone in winter. Visit nps.gov/yell/learn/management/ngsap.htm for information on the Non-Commercially Guided Snowmobile Access Program.



Yellowstone National Park's Roosevelt Arch at sunrise. The road from the park's Gardiner entrance to Mammoth Hot Springs and Cooke City is open year-round, weather permitting. NPS PHOTO

## Yellowstone National Park for beginners

YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

Yellowstone visitors new to cross-country skiing—as well as families looking for easier trails for children—have plenty of choices that pass through beautiful areas of the park. Here are Yellowstone Forever's picks for beginner-friendly trails:

Mammoth area: Less experienced skiers will enjoy the 2.2-mile Indian Creek Loop, which is not groomed, but is tracked by skiers. Another good option is the 1.5-mile Upper Terrace Loop, which passes several hydrothermal features. Start on the left and travel clockwise for the easiest route.



A cross-country skier enjoys the sunrise at Grotto Geyser. NPS PHOTO

Northeast entrance: If you're hoping to spot wolves on your winter trip, Lamar Valley is your best bet. Bannock Trail (2 miles) and Barronette Trail (3.5 miles) each parallel and connect to the Northeast Entrance Road on both ends.

**Tower area:** The Tower Fall Trail is a fantastic route for skiers of all levels. You can park your vehicle at the entrance to Roosevelt Lodge at Tower Junction, and ski the snow-covered road 2.5 miles to Tower Fall.

**Old Faithful area**: The Lone Star Geyser Trail is a favorite choice for an easy, groomed trail. The trail is flat most of the way and follows the Firehole River for 2.5 miles to Lone Star Geyser. Be sure to check the visitor center for estimated eruption times. Or hop on the Upper Geyser Basin Trail right at the Old Faithful Inn to see several geysers and hot springs on your way to Biscuit Basin, a 2.5-mile trip one way.

Ski shuttles from Mammoth and Old Faithful are available.

Download and print maps and descriptions of these and other winter trails at nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/skiyellmaps.htm

Yellowstone Forever is the official education and fundraising partner of Yellowstone National Park. To learn more about the organization, visit yellowstone.org.

### Safe passage

### Fence modifications bolster pronghorn population

BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BOZEMAN – The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem's pronghorn—sometimes mistakenly referred to as antelope—have at least two notable second-place distinctions.

They are the world's second-fastest land animals after cheetahs, and prior to European settlement pronghorn were one of the region's most prolific land mammals, second only to bison.

But for all of the distance they can cover at speeds up to 60 mph, pronghorn are quite literally tripped up by fences.

"Pronghorn evolved way back in the Pleistocene [so] they're used to unbroken habitat, just running for miles," said Robb Krehbiel, a Yellowstone wildlife fellow with the National Parks Conservation Association who's worked on pronghorn habitat improvement. "They're runners, not jumpers."

Unlike deer and elk, pronghorn—a faster North American ungulate than the true antelope species of Africa and Asia—generally prefer to crawl under fences rather than jump over them.

Aversion to fences becomes problematic when the pronghorn of Yellowstone National Park attempt to migrate north to lower elevation winter forage in Paradise Valley, or west toward Centennial Valley.

Some fences they encounter were installed long ago by land management agencies like the Custer Gallatin National Forest. Others belong to private landowners. But both hinder the movement of pronghorn, which have one of the farthest land migrations in North America.

Since 2010, the National Parks Conservation Association has worked with public land managers and private landowners to remove fences that are no longer needed, and to make necessary fences more wildlife-friendly.

Modifications typically go in one of two directions: raising the lowest wire so it's 18 inches off the ground and replacing it with a smooth wire, rather than barbed; or dropping the top section of the fence so there's less height for animals to clear.

Trina Smith, the guest services supervisor at the B Bar Ranch, worked with NPCA in Paradise Valley this past summer to remove one section of fence on a 20-acre plot south of Emigrant, and to lower fencing on a nearby parcel.



Robb Krehbiel of the National Parks Conservation Association works with a volunteer to build a wildlife-friendly fence. PHOTO COURTESY OF NPCA



Pronghorn graze in Gardiner Basin, near the North Entrance to Yellowstone National Park. NPS PHOTO

Under the new system, the top two wires can be dropped down and clipped in place to facilitate wildlife movement when cattle are grazing other pastures, and clipped back up to standard height when cattle are present.

Smith said the migrations tend to work well with their operation. Typically B Bar doesn't graze cattle in that area—known as the Old Yellowstone property to distinguish it from the ranch's larger spread in Tom Miner Basin—in the late fall and spring when pronghorn are traveling to and from winter forage.

During the summer, pronghorn eat their fill in the park and in Gardiner Basin, but by winter their survival often depends upon successful migration to lower pastures.

"Bison, elk and deer [also] graze [Gardiner Basin] all summer, and when you add a bunch of ice and snow on it, pronghorn are essentially digging through a freezer for leftovers," Krehbiel said. "When that happens, their population crashes and they're not able to sustain much more than 150, 180 individuals."

But as they head north to Paradise Valley, pronghorn encounter a "pinch point" as they attempt to pass through Yankee Jim Canyon, a rocky and steep piece of topography dissected by the Yellowstone River.

By pinpointing their efforts on targeted sections of the landscape near Yankee Jim Canyon, NPCA has yielded outsized results.

Prior to their efforts, pronghorn were often getting hung up in Yankee Jim Canyon, but now they've successfully traveled as far north as Big Creek, nearly 10 miles from the canyon as the crow flies.

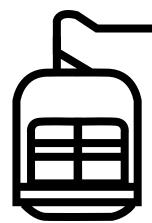
Krehbiel said the Yellowstone population has doubled since the project began in 2010. There are between 350 and 400 pronghorn in the park now—a significantly more sustainable number, but still markedly diminished from a historic standpoint. European settlement of the West resulted in habitat loss and unregulated hunting, which drove populations of pronghorn down significantly, much like bison populations.

Smith has noticed an increase in wildlife sightings since the modifications were made. "I have seen pronghorn further north than I have historically, and we're in that corridor not far from Yankee Jim Canyon," she said.

Erin Clark, the Yellowstone Program project manager with Ecology Project International, has been working with Krehbiel by supplying student volunteers. Last summer, 49 EPI volunteers from all over the country participated in fence projects for pronghorn conservation.

Clark said involving youth in conservation can be difficult because the process often happens on a long-term timeline and young people like to see immediate results. This project provides that—the fence that was there is now changed, or gone.

"That ends up being very powerful for them," she said.





### **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

Skiing is the perfect family activity, and the holidays are the perfect time to get together. Big Sky Resort has activities and events for the whole family this holiday season.

Plus, Mother Nature has given us the gift that keeps on giving—more snow!

Celebrate Christmas Eve in the Huntley Dining Room with a special Christmas Eve dinner. Appease your taste buds with roasted turkey with chestnut stuffing, lamb shanks with mint demi-glace, or walleye with clams, bacon and pepper. Reservations are required.

Keep an eye out for Santa Claus walking the resort grounds on Dec. 24, and then hunker down in the Huntley Lodge Sunken Lobby at 7 p.m. to listen to Kris Kringle read "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Then head outside for the traditional torchlight parade down Andesite Mountain beginning at 8 p.m.

Kids have endless amounts of energy during the holidays, which is why Big Sky Resort is hosting the Ballroom Bonanza. From 4-7 p.m. each night from Dec. 26–30, kids ages 4 to 11 can play board games, lawn games, jump on the bungee trampoline and scale the climbing wall in the Missouri Ballroom. There is also a special New Year's Eve party for kids and teens on Dec. 31.

Speaking of New Year's Eve, Big Sky Resort will have two firework shows that evening, the first at 8 p.m. and another at the stroke of midnight. Then dance the night away at Montana Jack listening to the tunes of The Mighty Flick. The holidays are here, and we're excited to celebrate you!

.....

Visit bigskyresort.com/events for more information.



#### BY NICOLE CAMPBELL SALES AND MARKETING COORDINATOR AT LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH

It's a winter wonderland here at Lone Mountain Ranch! Pine trees are drooping heavy with snow, cabins glow with the warmth of fires, and Nordic skiers glide by enjoying all that winter in Big Sky has to offer. To recap, Lone Mountain Ranch celebrated the new season with an open house Dec. 13. Guests enjoyed festive cocktails and tasty appetizers while checking out the restorations

in our Dining Lodge, Saloon, and cabins.

"The Bitterroot cabin is just lovely and cozy, boasting a beautiful upgrade that only benefits the ranch," said Sleigh and Stay guest and former ranch employee Jennifer Hart.

If you missed us this week, be sure to drop by for a ski, a meal in the lodge and/or saloon entertainment. Live music in the Saloon began Dec. 18 with a performance by Christoph Bayr and Crew. Local favorites like Ric Stienke, Julie Rox, Tom Georges and Bruce Anfinson will play in the coming weeks as well.

Make a night of it by booking our Sleigh and Stay Package. This Christmas, treat yourself with a one-of-a-kind dining experience in our legendary North Fork Cabin, fireside lodging and a ranch breakfast in the Dining Lodge. There's no better way to spend the holidays than here at Lone Mountain Ranch.

Call (406) 995-4644 or email reservations@lonemountainranch.com to book your reservation.



Snow is piling up at Bridger Bowl, and all chairlifts and terrain are open for the season. The ski area will operate from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Christmas Day, and the annual Torchlight Parade is Friday, Dec. 30.

A spaghetti dinner will kick off the Torchlight Parade in the Jim Bridger Lodge at 4 p.m., the torchlight procession and fireworks display begin at nightfall and The Hooligans will perform live music.

Also, mark your calendars for Jan. 7 when the Community Event Series begins with a dual giant slalom race, and the snow sports programs begin. See you on the hill! – *Tyler Allen* 

 $\label{thm:comformation} \textit{Visit bridgerbowl.com for more information.}$ 

#### BY JENNIE WHITE GRAND TARGHEE MARKETING AND SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Winter is officially here and the holidays are jam-packed at Grand Targhee Resort. Upcoming events include s'mores in the plaza where



you can meet the resort's naturalist and avalanche dogs, a visit from Santa, special holiday dinners at the Branding Iron Grill and a rocking après music scene. Ring in 2017 with a New Year's Eve celebration complete with torchlight parade, fireworks and a party at the Trap with a champagne toast.

There's no better way to experience the great snow than a day of snowcat skiing. You'll experience up to 18,000 vertical feet while exploring 600 acres of diverse terrain with professional guides. Book one seat or gather your friends and book the entire cat! Get ready to experience Wyoming's only cat skiing.

Traveling with little adventurers? Kids 12 and under stay and ski free with accompanying adults when you book lodging. The Kids Adventure Zone is the perfect place to explore while building balance, confidence, and improving turns. Make sure you check out our brand new Kids Adventure Zone map to help you plan your ski day.

Relax and enjoy your stay in a Grand Targhee vacation rental. Book three nights and the fourth night is free! These condos, townhomes, and private homes are great for a holiday escape.

Break away and enjoy your turns. Everyone at Grand Targhee Resort wishes you a safe and happy holiday season.

Visit grandtarghee.com for more information.



### BY DAVID JOHNSON MARKETING AT JACKSON HOLE MOUNTAIN RESORT

With 207 inches of total snowfall in Rendezvous Bowl and a snow depth of 82 inches as of Dec. 16, this marks the deepest December on this date in 40 years at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. Skiers and riders are experiencing one of the best Decembers on record. On Dec. 17, all chairlifts opened for the season, including the new Sweetwater Gondola.

There isn't a better time to visit Jackson Hole than now! We've got great promotions going on through Jackson Hole Central Reservations and Jackson Hole Resort Lodging that can get you here today. With the most snow in the Rockies and exciting holiday events coming up, this is the opportunity to check one off your bucket list.

We've got great events for kids and families going on from Dec. 24 to Jan. 2 as part of our Holiday Roundup. Whether it's Santa coming out of the Aerial Tram or the torchlight parade on New Year's Eve, these are memories you won't want to miss out on.

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!

Visit jacksonhole.com for more information.



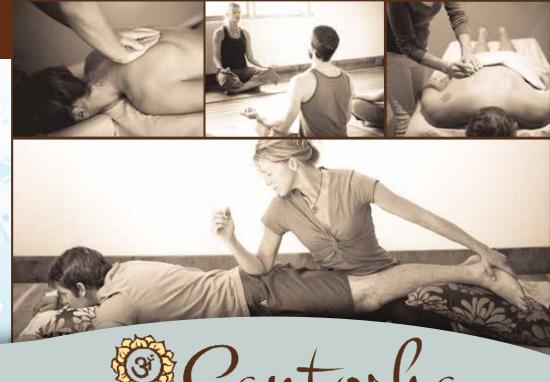
#### WORKSHOPS & SPECIAL EVENTS

### GIVE THE GIFT OF SANTOSHA!

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#### SANTOSHABIGSKY.COM

#### **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

4:15-4:45pm Kids Yoga (K-2nd grade)

(3rd-5th grade)

#### SATURDAY

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



## On the Trail: Chapel Loop and Moose Alley

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



Chapel Loop and Moose Alley are two trails in Big Sky's 85-kilometer network of groomed cross-country skiing trails. PHOTO BY CIARA WOLFE

#### BY CIARA WOLFE **BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Chapel Loop and Moose Alley are the perfect Nordic ski trails to dust off your cross-country skis and skills. Both are beginner trails located on the Big Sky Golf Course found in the Meadow Village.

Chapel Loop is a 1-kilometer loop that starts on Black Otter Road directly across from the Meadow Village Center. After looping behind the Big Sky Chapel, the trail heads west between the homes and condos found on both sides of the golf course.

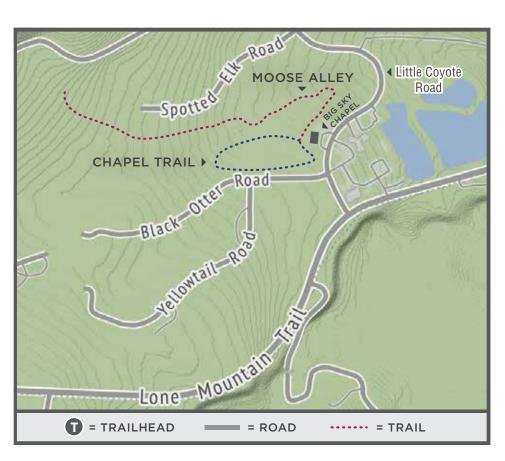
Moose Alley, a 2.5-kilometer trail, provides beginner terrain and forks off Chapel Loop just past the chapel. Moose Alley meanders along the south side of the South Fork of the West Fork between the Silverbow and Little Coyote ponds and ends at Crail Trail. With willows engulfing the streambank and the solitude found on the golf course, this is a common wintering area for local moose—so common that the trail was named after them. Be wildlife aware and keep an eye out for these massive ungulates at all times.

Visitors or residents unable to access the Nordic trail system from their house or lodging can park in Meadow Village Center, the commercial shopping area located along Little Coyote. Several excellent local restaurants and shops are nestled in Meadow Village Center including Lone Peak Brewery, known for its après ski scene. Public parking and restrooms are available at Big Sky Community Park, which connects directly to the golf course trail system.

Please respect the no dog policy on these trails and make sure to pick up your annual season pass or day pass from Lone Mountain Ranch at one of the following locations: Lone Mountain Ranch, Grizzly Outfitters, The Hungry Moose, Gallatin Alpine Sports or East Slope Outdoors. All proceeds from pass sales go toward the cost of grooming our winter Nordic trail system.

Visit lonemountainranch.com/winter-things-to-do/nordic-skiing for a complete map of Big Sky's 85 kilometers of groomed Nordic 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** 

Chapel Loop: 1 km

Moose Alley: 2.5 km



Uses

Cross-country skiing, wildlife viewing



Easy

Difficulty



**Elevation** Gain

0 ft



trails

**Directions from Gallatin Canvon:** Take Lone Mountain Trail west from Highway 191. Drive approximately 2.5 miles and turn right on to Little Coyote Road. Parking is located within the commercial Meadow Village Center—your first right off Little Coyote—or 1 mile farther at the Big Sky Community Park.

## Medical Clinic of Big Sky Urgent Care!

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Urgent Care



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Brett Evertz
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O: 406.556.3214 C: 406.629.0132 bevertz@bigskybank.com



### BY PATRICK STRAUB EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

Snow is piling up. Fresh presents are landing under the tree each day. Kids are out of school for their winter break and the holiday bum-rush is reaching its peak. Thoughts of standing in the Gallatin River casting to rising fish are distant for many of us—and with the cold temperatures of late, not that practical either. But even if we cannot fish, we can think about fishing.

Here are some reflections on angling year 2016 if you have time to put your feet up or have someone read to you in between shopping stops—or, if you're blessed, en route to the mountain or river.

**Yellowstone River closure.** For a week leading up to Aug. 19 anglers witnessed thousands of whitefish dead or dying on the Yellowstone River. On Aug. 19 Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks issued an immediate closure to all water-based activities on 183 miles of the Yellowstone River from the Yellowstone National Park boundary downstream to Laurel, Montana.

According to FWP, test results on whitefish collected from the main stem of the Yellowstone indicated the catalyst for the fish kill was Proliferative Kidney Disease, or PKD. The disease was previously documented in two isolated locations in central Montana during the past 20 years. More recently, outbreaks have occurred in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. The number of trout found dead due to the disease paled in comparison to the thousands of whitefish that succumbed to PKD. Fortunately, trout were relatively unharmed.

Very low in-stream flows and high air temperatures created stressful conditions for fish. On Sept. 1, conditions improved and FWP opened some of the Yellowstone and its tributaries to water based recreation, but kept other sections closed. On Sept. 22, the entire river was reopened.



The confluence of the West Fork and the main stem of the Gallatin River in the days after the Yellowstone Club wastewater pond spill. The brown color is due to high sediment loads carried into the West Fork as the treated efficient traveled downhill. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Fortunately, the fall fishing for trout on the Yellowstone was as good as it's been in past years. The impacts of PKD on the Yellowstone will continue to be studied and it's important to never lose sight of the value of a vital resource such as the Yellowstone. Gov. Steve Bullock said it well: "I want to thank all Montanans and visitors for their ongoing support as we protect Montana jobs and the health of the Yellowstone River, one of the last, great, free-flowing rivers in the United States."

**Effiuent pond failure.** On March 3, residents of Big Sky witnessed something they'd never seen before: the West Fork of the Gallatin River running high and muddy in the winter. The cause: a sewage treatment pond pipe failed, sending the contents of the pond into the Gallatin watershed. Local and state officials reacted quickly to inform the public. By March 7, the effluent flow stopped and clean-up and restoration could begin. The Gallatin River Task Force provided valuable information from their multiple test sites. They concluded that few

## 2016: A challenging year for fly fishing in southwest Montana Rewind and reflect on an interesting year

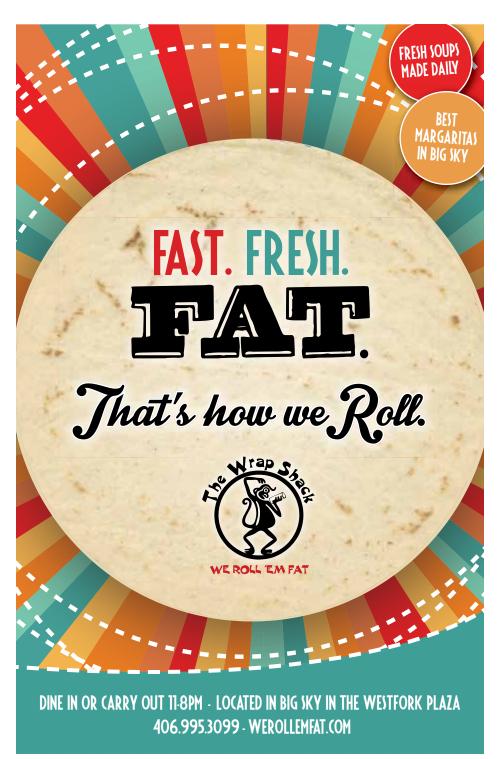
trout were killed and the long-term health of the Gallatin River and its tributaries is still viable—and anglers who fished this summer can attest the river is in good shape.

The pond failure, although inexcusable, is call for continued responsible development in our environmentally sensitive location. If we don't have healthy rivers and water, the reasons to live here are diminished.

Fall election results mean we must advocate for habitat and access. This past year proved anything is possible in an election year. With forthcoming changes in many federal offices and the new make-up of the Montana State Land Board, we must be proactive to protect the progress made in habitat protection, access to public fishing and hunting, and ensuring clean water remains in our rivers. This upcoming year is an important time to be involved in representative government. Leave nothing to chance and ensure we're not caught reminiscing about how great things used to be.

As of this writing, 2016 is nearly in the books. While enjoying time with family and friends the next few weeks, toast or pause to appreciate our good angling fortune here in southwest Montana. And as you enjoy the season, remember now it's as important as ever to be vigilant about protecting and preserving the resources that make our lifestyle possible.

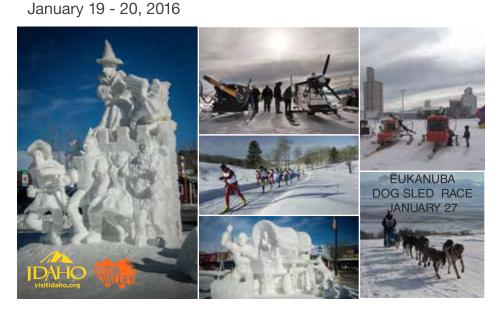
Pat Straub is the author of six books, including "The Frugal Fly Fisher," "Montana on the Fly," and "Everything you Always Wanted to know about Fly Fishing." He and his wife own Gallatin River Guides and he operates the Montana Fishing Guide School and the Montana Women's Fly Fishing School.







A celebration of all-things-snow that's not-to-be-missed! Snow sculpting, a backcountry film festival, Nordic race, fat biking, snow planes, the Snow Ball, and more!













### WHERE BIG SKY COMES TOGETHER

**Town Center to Mountain Village Bus Schedule** *Heading Up* 

DEPARTING TOWN CENTER

8:20a / 8:35a / 9:35a / 10:35a / 11:35a / 12:35p 1:35p / 2:35p / 3:35p / 4:35p / 5:35p / 6:35p 7:35p / 8:35p / 9:45p / 10:35p / 11:35p / 1:35a

ARRIVING
MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

8:35a / 9:00a / 10:00a / 10:55a / 12:00p / 12:55p 2:00p / 2:55p / 4:00p / 4:55p / 5:55p / 6:55p 7:55p / 8:55p / 10:15p / 10:55p / 11:55p / 1:55a

Mountain Village to Town Center Bus Schedule
Heading Down

DEPARTING MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

7:10a / 8:35a / 9:10a / 10:10a / 11:10a 12:10p / 1:10p / 2:10p / 3:10p / 4:10p 5:10p / 6:10p / 7:10p / 8:10p / 9:10p 10:15p / 11:15p / 12:15a / 2:15a

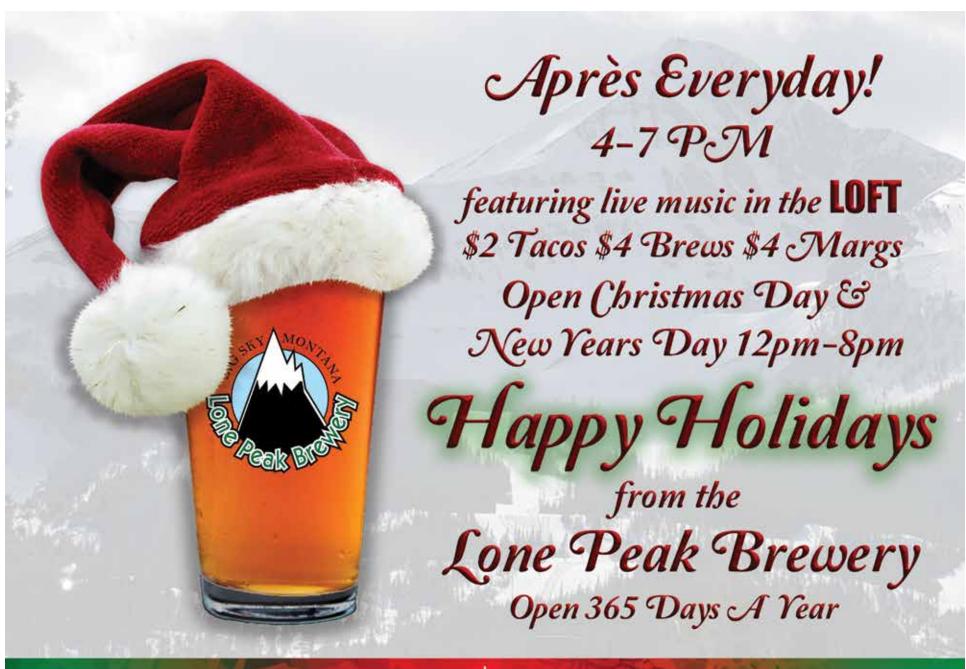
ARRIVING
TOWN CENTER

7:25a / 8:50a \*w / 9:35a / 10:35 a / 11:35a / 12:35p 1:35p / 2:35p / 3:35p / 4:35p / 5:35p / 6:35p / 7:35p 8:35p / 9:35p / 10:35p / 11:35p / 12:35a / 2:35a

\*w = whistle stop

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## Ski tips: The first fall of the season

BY DAN EGAN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

I'm never ready for a fall, especially the first fall of the season. But it happened on my first day, skiing down between the bumps and the ice, and then bam! It happened so quickly.

I went down hard on my left side with my arm tucked in tight against my body—the impact was on my hip, arm and shoulder.

Grunting as the wind got knocked out of my lungs, and while lying there on the slope I took a mental inventory of body parts. Then I stood up, looked around and there was no one on the trail. Chuckling, I said to myself, "I'm good, no one saw it."

As I sidestepped up the hill to get my pole I shook my head and mumbled, "What happened? One minute I was up, the next I was down!"

The whole incident made me think that all summer, while dreaming about the winter season ahead, falling hard on the first day was not part of the plan.

Riding the lift up for another run I came to the following conclusions:

I was skiing a bit passively, my upper body was leaning in and I was daydreaming. This combination had me out of balance with a low edge angle and not enough awareness of the snow conditions.

And as I pushed off to ski the same trail again I realized I was now tentative and skiing with a bit of hesitation, which was creating the same situation as the run before.

So I stopped and refocused, took a couple of deep breaths, looked around at the scenery of the December winter day and became more aware of my surroundings. Then I looked closely at the slope below and visualized myself skiing around and over the bumps and ice.

Next I smiled and shook my body for a few long seconds, the first fall of the season was out of



Even a skiing legend like Dan Egan falls occasionally. PHOTO BY RICH HARRISON/SKI DREAMS PRODUCTIONS

the way, winter was here and I pushed off down the fall line with the anticipation of not falling anytime again in the near future.

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 he teaching 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.

### **Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides**

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



Happy Holidays everyone!

I'm the first one to admit that this is probably the time of year that is least fished in Big Sky country. For the first time in months seeing an angler on the Gallatin is the exception, not the rule. And with sub freezing temps the last several weeks that rings even more true.

That does not mean that you shouldn't be spending time on the water. Winter is a great time to be on the Gallatin and Madison Rivers. Because water temperatures are so cold fish have moved in to slower holding areas and often if you find one fish you've found several.

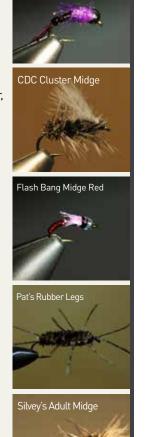
Fly selection tends to be pretty simple too. If you go out there with a Pat's Rubber Legs in 10 or 12 and an 18-20 Zebra Midge trailed behind it you're doing pretty well. Pat's Rubber Legs are used more for weight in the winter, but you can still pick up a good number of fish on them. You could also go with two smaller flies and add some weight. Distance from your first fly to the strike indicator will generally be between 4 and 7 feet.

On the Madison you may start to see substantial midge hatches this time of year, which can bring up a surprising number of big fish to the surface. They can be a bit picky, so be prepared with a variety of small midge dries and consider a lightweight dropper that sits just below the surface. It can be quite challenging, but the reward is great.

On the Gallatin the best water tends to be from the Big Sky junction downstream to about Swan Creek, especially when it's been really cold. The water around Gallatin Gateway can be a great option too, but if it's been really cold you can have a large amount of slush down there. For the Madison, between Earthquake and Hebgen Lakes, Raynold's and \$3 Bridge area and the lower Madison between Ennis Dam and Red Mountain campground are good areas to focus on in winter.

We love to fish in winter. Pack up some hot chocolate and lots of layers and get out there!

Also, please join us for Thursday Night Fly Tying starting at 5pm this winter. Call Gallatin River Guides if you have questions.



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## **GEAR REVIEW**

## Scarpa Men's Cosmo Shoe

This shoe has an identity crisis, and that's a good thing—especially if you live in a mountain town like Bozeman or Big Sky, Montana. Inspired by Scarpa's climbing approach shoes, the Cosmos advertise your proclivity for mountain adventures while you walk the sidewalks and community parks in comfort.

The 1.8-millimeter suede upper feels broken in right out of the box, and the Scarpa Voyager outsole with a rubber toe rand will keep you ready for impromptu bouldering sessions or a stroll to Ousel Falls. The shoes also come with an extra pair of gray laces, for those days you don't feel like peacocking with the Green Glow version.

Keep your mountain attitude alive and well, no matter where the Cosmos take you.

#### \$115 scarpa.com



## **Scarpa F1 Ski Boots**

With a power strap and just one buckle, the Scarpa F1s are built to get you uphill fast. Weighing in at just 2 pounds, 11 ounces each, these alpine touring boots are ideal for the long ski approaches we often endure in Montana.

The Boa closure on the lower shell ratchets the fit precisely and these boots deliver a surprising amount of power on the way down with just one buckle. The carbon core technology offers superior torsional rigidity,







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 powder day, we've got you covered.

The year 2016 was not only politically and socially eventful, but was also full of major releases and changes in the music industry.

Beyonce's surprise single release of "Formation"; the death of numerous music icons, including David Bowie and Prince; the emergence of new artists such as Desiigner and Rae Sremmurd; and the unforgettable song "Hello" by Adele made 2016 one for the books.

The most notable artist of the year was definitely rapper Drake. He broke massive records with the most American Music Award nominations since Michael Jackson in 1984, more than 1 billion streams on Apple music, and was the most streamed artist on Spotify.

Below is a list of the top 10 most Googled songs of 2016 to enjoy, before 2017 brings us a new playlist full of memorable tunes:

- 1. "Formation," Beyonce
- 2. "Purple Rain," Prince
- 3. "Black Beatles," Rae Sremmurd feat. Gucci Mane
- 4. "Panda," Desiigner
- 5. "One Dance," Drake
- 6. "Cake by the Ocean," DNCE
- 7. "Hello," Adele
- 8. "Lost Boy," Ruth B
- 9. "The Sound of Silence," Disturbed
- 10. "I Took a Pill in Ibiza," Mike Posner

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

## American Life in Poetry: Column 613

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

A while back we published a column in which I talked about my delight in the many names of kinds of Apples, and mentioned Louise Bogan's marvelous mid-century poem, "The Crossed Apple." Here's yet another fine apple-name poem for my collection, by Susan Rothbard, who lives in New Jersey.

#### That New

By Susan Rothbard

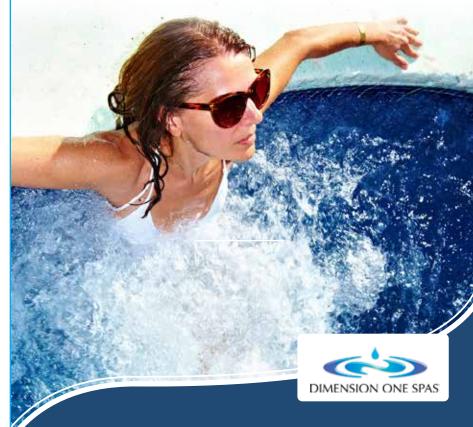
At the market today, I look for Piñata apples, their soft-blush-yellow. My husband brought them home last week, made me guess at the name of this new strain, held one in his hand like a gift and laughed as I tried all the names I knew: Gala, Fuji, Honey Crisp—watched his face for clues—what to call something new? It's winter, only tawny hues and frozen ground, but that apple bride was sweet, and I want to bring it back to him, that new. When he cut it, the star inside held seeds of other stars, the way within a life are all the lives you might live, each unnamed, until you name it.

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 © 2012 by Susan Rothbard, "That New," from the Cortland Review, (No. 58,2012). Poem reprinted by permission of Susan Rothbard 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.

#### **CROSSWORD PUZZL** 39 Exclamation 41 Womb (pref.) 42 N. Caucasian ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE **ACROSS** Flood Onager Adopted son of language 45 Braz. fiber plant ADHESIVE Mohammed 47 Complete 10 Two 11 Baseball 50 Sarcasm 52 Pointed arch equipment 12 P.I. food 14 Gumbo 53 Old-fashioned oath 54 Soul or spirit 15 Kier (2 words) (Fr.) 55 Heddles of a 17 Bronze (Lat.) 18 "The Bartered loom 56 Noun-forming CADRE character 19 Collection of (suf.) 57 Prepaid (abbr.) sayings 20 Honey possum 22 Ancient (abbr.) 58 Mountain peak 24 Cue (2 words) 27 Massenet opera 31 Yemen capital instrument Fr.-Ger. region 13 Luzon people DOWN 16 Fellow 32 Legal action Teakettle: Fr. Streak 18 Russ. 34 Grape-vine disease slang 2 Otolite (2 Ibsen character Volcanic scoria community farm 35 Galsworthy words) Ohio college matter 21 Sneezewood heroine 37 Windlass 9 Dayak people 10 Dead on arrival 23 Reliquary 24 Greek letter town 25 Row 26 December (abbr.) 28 Convex molding 29 Amazon tributary 30 Saint (Sp.) 33 Arctic dog 36 Geological epoch 38 Size of coal 40 Medieval goblet 42 Jap. apricot 43 lt. magistrate 44 Persia today 46 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (abbr.) 48 Caper 49 Moon vehicle (abbr.) 51 Banned 50 pesticide 52 S.A. tuber

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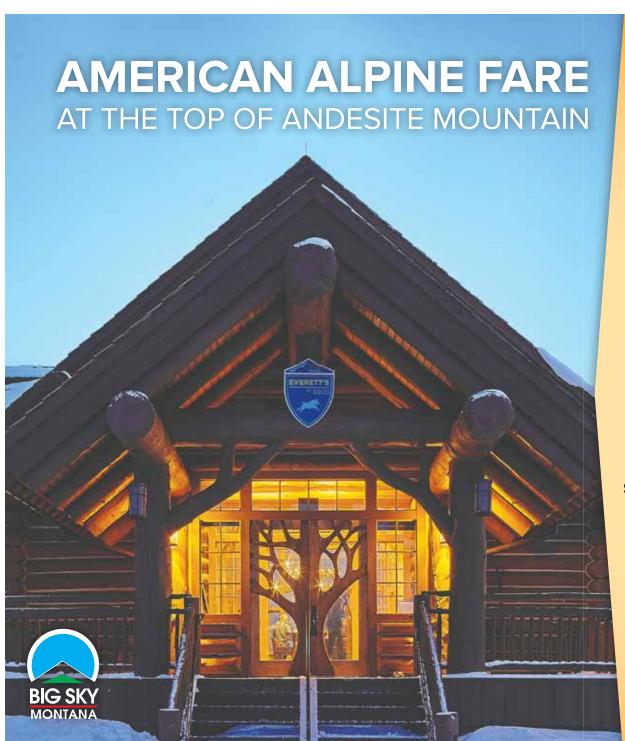
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## **Section 4:**EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT, BACK 40









## **Finding Neverland**Big Sky trio plays The Spoke on Christmas Eve

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Every band needs a front man or woman, and in the case of The Neverland Collective it's Kevin Pillsbury (K.P.). One's attention naturally gravitates to the lead guitarist and vocalist not only because his or her sound takes center stage, but because charisma exudes from his pores as readily as the sweat he works up when he plays.

That being said, Pillsbury gives equals props to his bandmates, longtime friend Jake Steiner on electric bass; and drummer Carlye Luft, who recently opened a naturopathic clinic in the Big Horn Shopping Center, and where the band sometimes practices after hours.

On a Monday evening, a jammed out, jazzy version of "Frosty the Snowman" seeps out into the frosty night from Luft's office with Pillsbury's husky, soulful voice audible over a heartbeat-steady bass line and staccato drums.

The trio is practicing for their upcoming Christmas Eve show at The Broken Spoke where their set list will provide a fun, bouncy and catchy combination of heartfelt originals and irresistible covers—with a healthy splash of comic relief. (Prior to becoming The Neverland Collective, Pillsbury and Steiner were the Gruesome Twosome, and most memorably performed a Tenacious D album in its entirety.)

Their selections reflect Pillsbury's love of a good lyrical story and shared influences like Sublime, Red Hot Chili Peppers, The Devil Makes Three, Talking Heads, Blind Melon and Jack White.

"It's always the story," said Pillsbury, citing Sublime's "Santeria" and "Carolina Drama" by The Raconteurs, both of which the band covers. "If there's a song that really grips me it's because I can really climb into the story."

Two originals are sure to resonate with Big Sky locals—especially "1, 2, 3, Go!" which is about overcoming the fear of bagging a line on the mountain, and the ensuing, yet fleeting, exultation of doing so.

"One Fine Day" is a triumphant breakup song that tells the story of Pillsbury's move from Michigan to Big Sky. One fine day, as Pillsbury tells it, he lost it all—his home, his fiancée, his dog. He had heard Big Sky was a "Neverland" of sorts—a place where you don't have to grow up, you just grow older.

Arriving in the snowcapped mountains, "One Fine Day" describes how the magnificence of a place can transform heartache into possibility. "I'll find my piece of heaven underneath the Big Sky," the chorus goes; "I'll find my slice of heaven in a piece of Big Sky."

Both songs are passionate and sincere while avoiding the pitfalls of corniness—a tricky line to walk in original songwriting.

"That's my drive and my passion," Pillsbury said. "To write songs that are catchy but Jake doesn't say are corny."

The Neverland Collective has only been playing in their current incarnation since May of 2016 when Pillsbury and Steiner—who had been searching for a drummer—were finally connected with Luft, who had recently moved to town to open her practice. Luft seems to have completed the triangle—not only musically by providing what Pillsbury calls the "backbone" of their sound, but also by bringing a feminine component that has a balancing and grounding effect.

All three members of the band have only recently taken a more serious approach to music-making but collectively agree that playing together has exponentially improved their skills and are excited to see where it goes while, most importantly, having a good time.

You can check out The Neverland Collective starting at 10 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 24, at The Broken Spoke in Big Sky. Their next gig is Jan. 7 from 7:30-10:30 p.m at Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, where they'll be playing weekly throughout the winter.



Big Sky's The Neverland Collective plays a selection of lyric-driven originals and danceable covers at The Broken Spoke beginning at 10 p.m. on Dec. 24. PHOTO BY BRANDON LUFT



## Baroque Music Montana performs free concert at Big Sky Chapel

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

The Arts Council of Big Sky presents an intimate evening of baroque music at the Big Sky Chapel on Monday, Jan. 9 at 8 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public.

Baroque Music Montana will present a delightful program from the high German baroque, a wonderful way to embark on the new year. The international cast of musicians include a striking pair of violinists, Bozeman's Carrie Krause and Davina Clarke from London, bolstered by the talented baroque bassoonist Nate Hegleson and lutenist storyteller, John Lenti.

The repertoire will include arrangements of Bach's "Organ Trios," Handel's "Lascia Ch'io Pianga," and Telemann's "Gulliver's Travels." According to The New York Times, when playing together "[Krause and Clarke] added lively, unobtrusive melodic embellishments and, in the absence of a conductor, interacted meaningfully with their orchestral counterparts."

Seating for the performance is on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information call the Arts Council of Big Sky at (406) 995-2742 or visit bigskyarts.org.





### **NEW YEARS EVE EVENTS** IN BIG SKY

## New Year's Eve Dinner Everett's 8800

5:30 or 7:30 p.m. Reservations required

### **New Year's Eve Buffet**

Big Sky Resort Huntley Dining Room

Reservations required

#### **NYE 2016**

**Lone Mountain Ranch** 7 p.m.

### Fireworks Show Big Sky Resort

8 p.m.

## **The Mighty Flick**

**Montana Jack** 9:30 p.m.

## **StayKation**

**Choppers Grub & Pub** 10 p.m

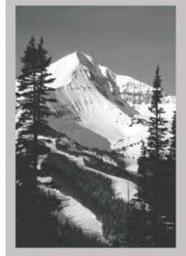
### **Fireworks Show**

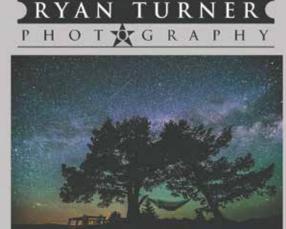
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## EVENTS CALENDAR

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

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23 – THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

\*If your event falls between January 6 and January 19, please submit it by December 30

#### **Big Sky**

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

Live Music Lone Mountain Ranch, 7 p.m.

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Apres Ski Music: KP Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24**

Kris Kringle Reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" Big Sky Resort: Huntley Sunken Lobby, 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve Dinner
Big Sky Resort's Huntley Dining Room,
reservations required

Live Music Lone Mountain Ranch, 7 p.m.

Apres Ski Music: Telemark Tom Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Neverland Collective Broken Spoke, 10 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25**

Skiing with Santa Lone Mountain Ranch, 2 p.m.

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

Live Music Lone Mountain Ranch, 7 p.m.

Apres Ski Music: Stumpy Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 26**

Ballroom Bonanza Big Sky Resort: Missouri Ballroom, 4 p.m.

Tom Marino Lone Peak Brewery, 4 p.m.

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

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

#### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27**

Ballroom Bonanza Big Sky Resort: Missouri Ballroom, 4 p.m.

Kent Johnson Lone Peak Brewery, 4 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28**

Ballroom Bonanza Big Sky Resort: Missouri Ballroom, 4 p.m.

Julia Roberts Lone Peak Brewery, 4 p.m.

Tom Marino Choppers, 4:30

Live Music Lone Mountain Ranch, 7 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29**

Ballroom Bonanza Big Sky Resort: Missouri Ballroom, 4 p.m.

Chuck Denison Lone Peak Brewery, 4 p.m.

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

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

#### Rhythmic Circus Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

Ballroom Bonanza Big Sky Resort: Missouri Ballroom, 4 p.m.

Matthias Lone Peak Brewery, 4 p.m.

Live Music Lone Mountain Ranch, 7 p.m.

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Apres Ski Music: James Salestrom Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31**

Everett's 8800 New Year's Eve Dinner Everett's 8800, reservations required

#### New Year's Eve Buffet Big Sky Resort's Huntley Dining Room, reservations required

NYE 2016 at Lone Mountain Ranch Lone Mountain Ranch, 7 p.m.

Fireworks Show Big Sky Resort, 8 p.m. & midnight

The Mighty Flick Montana Jack, 9:30 p.m.

StayKation Choppers, 10 p.m.

Apres Ski Music: Mark Davidson Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 1**

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

Live Music Lone Mountain Ranch, 7 p.m. Apres Ski Music: Stumpy Scissorbills Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

#### **MONDAY. JANUARY 2**

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

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

#### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 5**

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

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

Adult Ballet
Big Sky Fitness Fusion & Pilates, 6:15p.m

#### Bozeman

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

The Gift of Coffee: A fundraiser for the Community Café
Higher Ground Coffee, 7 a.m.

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

Dirk Alan Lockhorn Cider House, 7 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24**

Bob Britton Kountry Korner Café, 5:30 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 26**

Trivia Bacchus Pub, 8 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27**

Rich Mayo Kountry Korner Café, 6 p.m.

Amber Ikeman MAP Brewing, 6 p.m.

Left on Tenth Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY. DECEMBER 28**

Aaron Banfield Lockhorn Cider House, 7 p.m.

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

'The Eagle Huntress' Soaring Salute to Girl Power The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Verge Improverts Red Tractor Pizza, 7:30 p.m.

Trivia Night Rockin' R Bar, 8 p.m. **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29** 

The Vibe Quartet 406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

MSU Men's Basketball vs. Weber State Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7 p.m. Caskey Zebra Cocktail Lounge, 7 p.m.

Grassy Mountain Bozeman Hot Springs & Fitness, 7 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

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

Bozeman Icedogs vs. Billings Bulls Haynes Pavilion, 7:30 p.m.

Heather Lingle Band Eagles Lodge, 9 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31**

MSU Men's Basketball vs. Idaho State Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 2 p.m.

New Year's Eve Dinner Gallatin River Lodge, 4:30 & 7:30 p.m.

Bob Britton Kountry Korner Café, 5:30 p.m.

New Year's Eve Party Bozeman Hot Springs & Fitness, 7 p.m.

#### New Year's Bull A Rama Gallatin County Fairgrounds, 7:30 p.m.

Heather Lingle Band Eagles Lodge, 9 p.m.

Paige and The People's Band Eagles Lodge Ballroom, 9:30 p.m.

#### ZOSO: The Ultimate Led Zeppelin Experience Emerson's Crawford Theatre, 10 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 1**

Hyalite Tour Hyalite Reservoir Parking Lot, 10 a.m.

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

#### **MONDAY, JANUARY 2**

Trivia
Bacchus Pub, 8 p.m.
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3
Rich Mayo

Kountry Korner Café, 6 p.m. Free Dream Interpretation

Lockhorn Cider House, 7 p.m. Karaoke

Bar IX, 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4
The Violin Alone
The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Bozeman's Original Pub Trivia Pub 317, 7 p.m. Exercises for Consciousness Kaya Yoga, 7 p.m.

9 Energies Natural Energy Identification 9 Energies Center, 7 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 5**

Gallery Opening Voice from the Pains: John Isaiah Pepion and Ben Pease Old Main Gallery, 5 p.m.

The Vibe Quartet 406 Brewing, 6 p.m.

MSU Women's Basketball vs. Eastern Washington Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 7 p.m.

#### Gallatin Roller Girlz Fresh Meat Boot Camp Gallatin County Fairgrounds Building 2, 7 p.m.

Kegs of Counterpoint Cikan House, 7:30 p.m.

Bozeman Icedogs vs. Yellowstone Quake Haynes Pavilion, 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.

Walk for the Health of It Peets Hill, Fridays at noon

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 23

Jazz Night Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Little Jane Pine Creek Lodge, 8 p.m.

Strangeways Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY. DECEMBER 24**

Leif Christian The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

Strangeways Chico Hot Springs, 9 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25**

33rd Annual Livingston Community Christmas Dinner Park County Fairgrounds, 12 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 26**

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

#### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27**

Left on Tenth Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28**

Creek & River Writers Night: Storrs Bishop Pine Creek Lodge, 7 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29**

Chad Okrusch The Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

Jazz Night Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Cool McCool & the Spies Pine Creek Lodge, 8 p.m.

Western Electric The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

New Year's Eve Celebration The Buckhorn Saloon & Theater, 7 p.m.

The Bird Dogs with Drink Me Pretty The Murray Bar, 9 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, JANUARY 2**

Vinyl Afternoon The Murray Bar, 5 p.m.

lan Frye Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

Torrin Daniels Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

Shelter Day RX Coffee, all day

Kalyn Beasley The Murray Bar, 8 p.m.

#### **West Yellowstone**

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

Bingo at the Branch: Ugly Sweater Night The Branch Bar & Restaurant, 6:30 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24**

Christmas Eve Dinner The Branch Bar & Restaurant, all day

#### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25**

Christmas Dinner Buffet The Branch Bar & Restaurant, 3 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 26**

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

#### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27**

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

#### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28**

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

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29

Knit Night Stagecoach Inn, 6 p.m.

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

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

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

Bingo at the Branch: Ugly Sweater Night The Branch Bar & Restaurant, 6:30 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, JANUARY 2**

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

#### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 3**

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

#### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4**

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

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

Knit Night Stagecoach Inn, 6 p.m.

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

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

#### **RECURRING EVENTS**

Christmas for the Critters Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center, through 12/31

Winter Snowshoe Programs Refugee Point, 1 p.m. through 2/3

#### **Ennis**

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

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

Aaron Williams Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Madison Valley Presbyterian Church, 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 7 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25**

Christmas Services Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 9 a.m.

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

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

Jeff Peterson Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

Russ Chapman Norris Hot Springs, 7 p.m

## BIG SKY CHRISTMAS SERVICES

#### THE BIG SKY CHAPEL

#### DEC. 24

Big Sky Christian Services: 1 p.m. / 3 p.m. / 5 p.m.

All Saints in Big Sky Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 p.m. with a visit from St. Nicholas

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols, 9 p.m.

#### DEC. 25

St. Joseph's Catholic Mass, 8 a.m.

All Saints in Big Sky: Festival Holy Eucharist, 9:30 a.m.

## BIG SKY RESORT YELLOWSTONE CONFERENCE CENTER

#### DEC. 24

St. Joseph's Catholic Mass, 5 p.m.

Big Sky Resort Ministries, 7:00 p.m. *Inter-denominational service* 











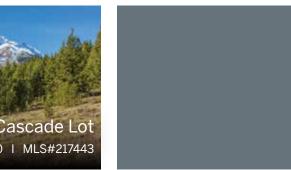






































# WMPAC kicks off winter season with nearly sold out performances

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – As of EBS press time on Dec. 21, only a handful of tickets remained for the Dec. 29 performance of Rhythmic Circus—a tap dance troupe fueled by a powerhouse seven-piece band—at Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, suggesting a successful season to come for the venue.

The following show, a Jan. 7 performance by a genre-bending New York-based a cappella octet called Roomful of Teeth, is also expected to sell out.

John Zirkle, executive director of the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, is especially enthusiastic about this performance—not only for the Grammy Award-winning vocal ensemble's ability to transcend any expectations of a choral experience, but also for the direct connection between the score's composer, Ted Hearne, and WMPAC.

Hearne was the composer in residence for the Big Sky Choral Initiative this past summer as part of the Big Sky Conservatory. This program formed to bring nationally renowned performing artists to the mountains to create new work while mentoring upand-coming performing arts professionals in an immersive learning environment.

Hearne, a freelance composer of international repute, was in Big Sky for a week working with The Crossing, a chamber vocal ensemble dedicated to new music, and fellows from around the country specializing in composition, singing and conducting new works. Two of Hearne's works were performed for a Big Sky audience in July.

"We were very excited to learn that Roomful of Teeth would be performing another work of Ted's," Zirkle said.

While some ensembles decide to add a Hearne composition to their repertoire simply because they like it, "Coloring Book"—a collection of five songs that draw from the words of famous poets and writers to explore the nature of color in society—was written specifically by Hearne for the singers of Roomful of Teeth, with their individual voices in mind.

"This type of crossover among artists is exactly what we love to see in the development of our program out here in the mountains," Zirkle said. "Both Ted Hearne and Roomful of Teeth are well known for producing extraordinary new approaches to vocal ensemble music ... and because Ted's work has already been introduced to the Big Sky community, I hope that this next piece, 'Coloring Book,' will allow audiences to dig a little deeper."

Hearne's music holds a special appeal for lovers of musical and written literature as his work explores the interface of language and sound. Of particular interest to Hearne is the synthesis of music and social justice.

For example, one of the songs in "Coloring Book," "You are not the guy," emulates chords often used in jazz and rhythm and blues vocal groups while tackling the current epidemic of allegedly racially motivated arrests.

Zirkle said the combined experience of Hearne's compositions with Roomful of Teeth's vocals is something more often seen in Philadelphia or New York, but is equally fitting for Montanans who love adventure, new frontiers—and excellence.

Rhythmic Circus will take the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center stage at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 29. Roomful of Teeth performs Ted Hearne's "Coloring Book" at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 7.

Visit warrenmillerpac.org for tickets and more information.

### **WMPAC** winter performance schedule

**Rhythmic Circus** - Dec. 29

**Roomful of Teeth** - Jan. 7

The Winter's Tale - Jan. 21 & 22

**TedxBigSky** - Jan. 28

**Kaia Kater** – Feb. 4

Mike Super - Feb. 18

**International Guitar Night** – Feb. 26

Reggie Watts - March 3

**Hiromi: The Trio Project** - March 10

James Sewell Ballet - March 18

**Ishmael** - March 25











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The charming and elegant 2,270 square foot farmhouse-style home has three bedrooms, 2 full baths and sits on 1.66 acres. The catherdral ceiling in the entryway. Slate floors

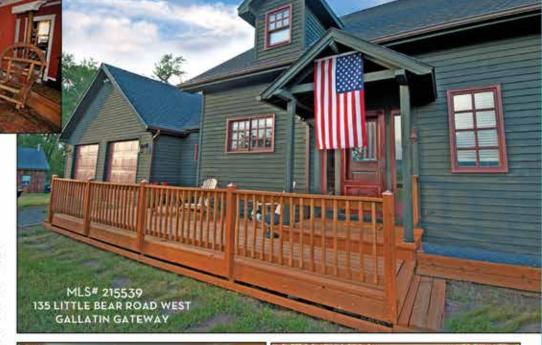
catherdral ceiling in the entryway. Slate floors in the entry, hallway, kichen and dining room. Handsome farmer's sink with custom fixtures. Elegant trim, crown moulding throughout. Both bathrooms have clawfoot tubs.

The spacious master suite has a big main window and open to a large second floor deck. The master bath is exceptionly large with high ceilings, his & hers sinks and access to a huge, walk-in closet.

Expansive front porch and slate patio are made for watching Big Sky sunsets and wildlife. Rear screen porch and extensive decks are ideal for private summer entertaining, intimate barbeques or for listening to the babbling of the seasonal creek.

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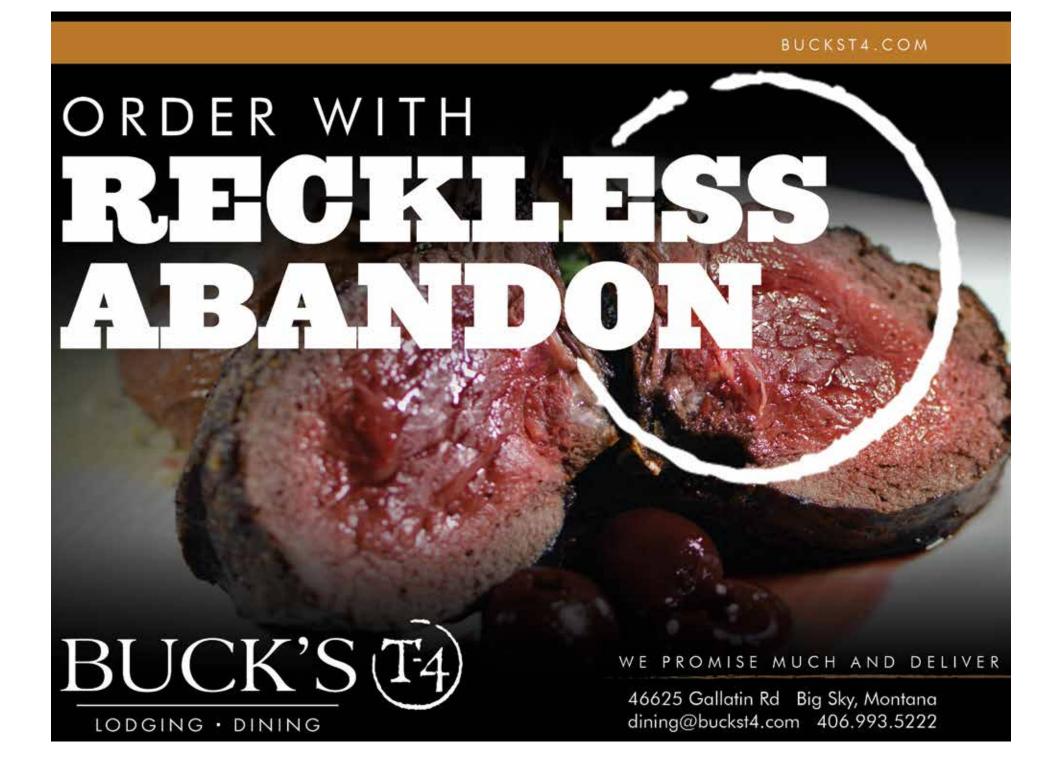












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Photo Credit: Silver Cloud Photography O ... Photo Credit: Christopher D. Daniel O

# Bozeman Film Society presents soaring salute to girl power

**BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY** 

On Wednesday, Dec. 28 at 3:45 p.m. and 7 p.m., Bozeman Film Society presents Otto Bells' soaring, family-friendly documentary, "The Eagle Huntress" at The Ellen Theatre in Bozeman. This coming-of-age story follows Aisholpan, a 13-year-old nomadic Mongolian girl, as she trains to become the first female in 12 generations of her Kazakh family to become a burketshi, or Kazakh eagle hunter.

Set against the breathtaking expanse of the Mongolian steppe, "The Eagle Huntress" features cinematography that gives this intimate tale of a young girl's quest the dramatic force of an epic narrative film.

Narrated by "Star Wars" actress Daisy Ridley, Aisholpan's adventures provide a nonstop rush of exhilaration as she experiences all aspects of this 2,000-year-old tradition—under the tutelage and support of her father and grandfather—from finding and taming her very own eagle to training for an annual competition, where she will compete against 70 eagle hunters on her quest to gain acceptance.

New York Times film critic A. O. Scott said "The Eagle Huntress" is "thrilling! A movie that expands your sense of what is possible." Rolling Stone's David Fear calls it "this season's most family-friendly female empowerment nature doc." Rated G, the film runs 101 minutes.

Loy Maierhauser, education and outreach coordinator for the Montana Raptor Conservation Center will give opening remarks at both showings. All proceeds of the lobby's donation box will benefit MRCC, a nonprofit that improves the welfare of raptors across Montana through rehabilitation of injured birds, community education, and partnerships for raptor conservation and research, in addition to organizing the Bridger Raptor Festival each October.

The Ellen Theatre lobby opens one hour before screenings for concession. Visit bozemanfilmsociety.org for more information.

## Oplontis exhibit closes Dec. 31 at Museum of the Rockies

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – "Leisure and Luxury in the Age of Nero: The Villas of Oplontis near Pompeii"—a rare exhibit of artifacts from the A.D. 79 eruption of Italy's Mt. Vesuvius, most of which have never before traveled to the U.S.—will end its six-month stint at Museum of the Rockies on Saturday, Dec. 31.

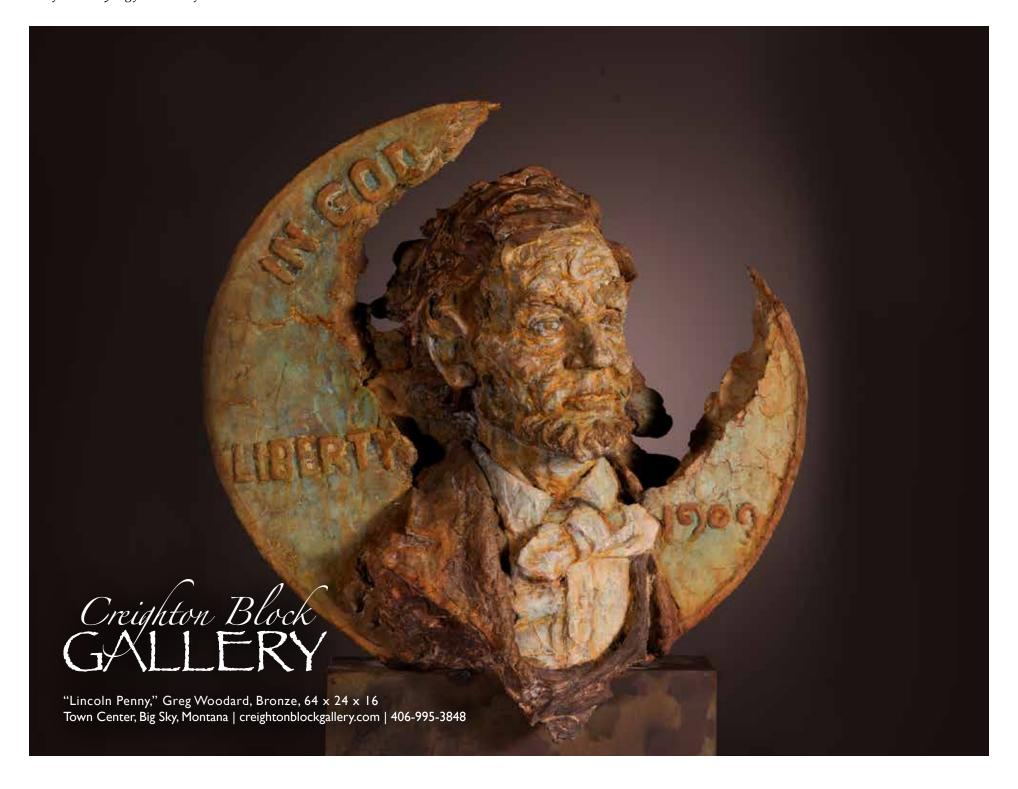
The exhibit, which offers unique insight into the lavish lifestyle and culture of ancient Rome's wealthiest citizens, was in large part coordinated and curated by Montana State University Assistant Professor of Art History Regina Gee.

Wandering through the recreated environs of two Oplontis villas—a country estate approximately 5 kilometers from Pompeii, also decimated and ironically preserved in the cataclysmic eruption—visitors can marvel at astoundingly intact functional and decorative first century relics that include marble statues, authentic fresco fragments, coins, jewelry and vases while steeping in a multimedia, multi-disciplinary learning experience.

A fraction of "Leisure and Luxury in the Age of Nero" as it appears at Museum of the Rockies spent three months at University of Michigan's Kelsey Museum of Archaeology before coming to Bozeman in June of 2016. Upon closing, the exhibit will travel to Massachusetts' Smith College, where its contents and longevity will again be condensed before being returned to Italy.

The next special exhibit at Museum of the Rockies, "Crocs! Ancient Predators in a Modern World," which will include living crocodiles, opens Saturday, Feb. 25.

Visit museumoftherockies.org for more information.



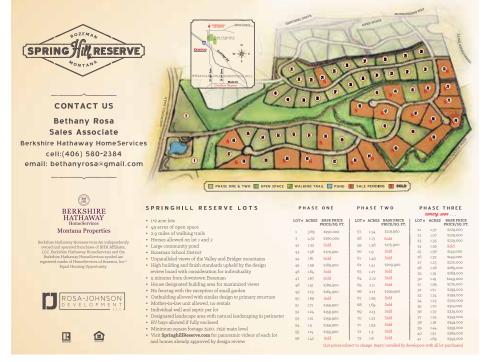
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## Film review: 'Rogue One: A Star Wars Story'

BY WES OVERVOLD EBS STAFF

"It is a period of civil war. Rebel spaceships, striking from a hidden base, have won their first victory against the evil Galactic Empire.

During the battle, Rebel spies managed to steal secret plans to the Empire's ultimate weapon, the DEATH STAR, an armored space station with enough power to destroy an entire planet."

Nearly 40 years ago, those words scrolled across theater screens all over the globe and launched a franchise unlike anything moviegoers had ever seen. Considered the very first blockbuster, "Star Wars Episode IV: A New Hope" took viewers on a journey back in time to a galaxy far, far away, introducing them to myriad heroes, villains and alien planets—fans haven't looked back since.

However, George Lucas's introduction to his epic space opera left viewers with a major question unanswered: Who were these Rebel spies who heroically risked everything to steal the secret plans to the Death Star, sustain the Rebellion, and provide the forces of good with their "new hope?"

"Rogue One: A Star Wars Story," directed by Gareth Edwards and written by Chris Weitz and Tony Gilroy, tells that tale of the Rebel Alliance's desperate mission launched against the Empire. The development of their new super weapon appears to be too strong to overcome, and the end of the Rebellion seems inevitable.

"Rebellions are built on hope," exclaims Jyn Erso, played by Felicity Jones and the latest of a long line of Star Wars heroines. Her family history and fearless attitude put her in a unique position to lead the daring strike.

Disney-owned Lucasfilm tells a story of war, loss and hope in a way that masterfully sets up the original trilogy—episodes IV, V and VI—and depicts the ultimate desperation of the Rebel Alliance, the brutality of the Galactic Empire, and the force of pure terror that is Darth Vader.

"Rogue One" is more than strong enough to stand on its own feet, just as "A New Hope" has long existed without the cinematic prologue it received this holiday season. However, this latest addition to the Star Wars anthology gives fans a deeper insight into the struggle between the forces of good and evil, and light and dark. It will fuel the overwhelming excitement for this franchise that will continue to grow for years to come.



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## Remembering Doug Coombs: Mountain maverick

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

Robert Cocuzzo's "Tracking the Wild Coomba" is an engrossing biography of legendary skier Doug Coombs. The author travels to the mountains where Coombs honed his craft—Tuckerman Ravine, Bridger Bowl, Jackson Hole, endless descents in Alaska's Chugach Range, and finally to the last untrammeled frontiers in the Alps—and illuminates just how Coombs became so revered and admired by the mountaineering community.

Coombs was one of the first extreme skiing champions, but he didn't consider himself an "extreme skier." He was a man who saw snow-covered peaks, spines, and couloirs as white canvasses that he could paint with a little gravity, a lot of athleticism, and the tracks he left behind. After nearly paralyzing himself at the age of 16, shattering most of the vertebrae near his spinal cord, he could have hung up his ski boots for good. He decided not to fall.

The anecdotes from those who knew and skied with Coombs in this biography reveal the man behind the myth. Sure, he was a local hero in Jackson Hole's good ol' days, a pioneer of heli-skiing in Alaska, a consummate ski guide and a star in Warren Miller films. But this biography probes deeper into the allure that drew Coombs to skiing steep terrain in the first place and why his passion for the mountains inspired others wherever he went.

Coombs's epic meeting with his childhood hero Patrick Vallençant, his rise to become the face of the Jackson Hole Air Force, his controversial banishment from Jackson Hole, the avalanches he survived, his ability to guide to so many amateurs on "the best day of their lives"—as well as his action-packed love affair with his wife, Emily, and the birth of his son, David—all come together to create a portrait of a man who should be remembered for more than his virtuosity on the slopes.

At times, the biography reads more like investigative journalism. The author recounts his own journey attempting to ski some of the same lines Coombs did, but Cocuzzo's personal monologues don't detract from the book. In fact, the perspective of literally following in Coombs's tracks offers anyone who's ever clicked into skis a glimpse into the psychology of elite freeskiers and the difficulty of, and inherent risk in, their chosen form of recreation.

How did a kid from Bedford, Massachusetts, do so much to evolve the sport of big mountain skiing? What character traits allow one to face high-risk situations with such grace, fluidity, and precision? Why did Doug Coombs seemingly have a positive impact on everyone he came in contact with?

By the end, Cocuzzo's extensive reporting from the people and places where Coombs's legacy lives on answers these questions, even if he prefers to circle over them like a blackbird playing in wind currents.

Doug Coombs eventually lost his life in La Grave, France, in a rescue attempt after his protégé Chad VanderHam fell off a cliff. Tragically, it seems almost fitting that a man so selfless, passionate, and humble died trying to save a friend while doing what he loved.

Coombs' life was cut short, but it was a life fully lived. Somehow, "Tracking the Wild Coomba" blends adventure with love story, betrayal and heartbreak with tragedy into an uplifting tale that leaves the reader to ponder the importance of sacrifice and redemption. Here is a book that will remind you of the precariousness of our existence, the preciousness of our time here, and why we should live life on our own terms.

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



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## BACKLI

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"

## A Merman's Tale

## Assimilating into the culture of the Sip 'n Dip's merpeople

BY EDNOR THERRIAULT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

What do you do when you're wearing a mermaid tail and you have to pee? Well, when a bar full of people is watching, you can't just smile and whiz in the pool like you're at the Holiday Inn. You have to leave the water.

Forget about the ladder—I still have a big purple bruise on my right foot from trying to negotiate that thing while wearing the tail. My solution was to grab the lip of the pool, heave myself out of the water and flop onto the deck like a trained seal. Once I managed to struggle to my feet, I did the "mermaid shuffle," a series of tiny steps to the bathroom.

Being a merman is harder than it looks.

I had the chance to wear a tail and swim with the merfolk at the infamous Sip 'n Dip Lounge at O'Haire Motor Inn in Great Falls. It was ladies' night, and they'd recently started plopping mermen into the pool to provide some eye candy for the rowdy gals at the bar. I wanted in.

We're talking about a Montana icon here. The Sip 'n Dip was named the "Top Bar on Earth Worth Flying For" by GQ magazine in 2003, and when you stroll inside it's easy to see why. The retro, tiki-themed lounge has a real you're-on-vacation feel, with its bamboo wall coverings, seashore-print vinyl booths and lacquered rattan ceiling.

Strings of lights crisscross the room and there's a piano bar near the door where "Piano" Pat Spoonheim has been playing most nights for more than 50 years. And there, behind the smiling staff making colorful drinks at the bar, is the main attraction of the Sip 'n Dip: two large windows revealing the mermaid tank.



The author maneuvers through plastic seaweed in the Sip 'n Dip's famous mermaid tank. PHOTO BY JEFF MANGAN

A dark-haired mermaid and two fit, tail-clad mermen perform lazy loops in the pool, frequently swimming over to the glass to smile, wave and blow air-bubble kisses to the delighted patrons.

One of the mermen, Perseus, glides past the glass as two women eyeball him from the bar, sipping from enormous tiki drinks bristling with umbrellas and straws. "I bet that one's a Marine," says one. "I'd know a military body anywhere." She winks and gives a little wave to Perseus, who waves back and surfaces for a gulp of air. The woman puts a conspiratorial hand next to her cheek, saying sotto voce to her companion, "I want to put him in my suitcase and take him home."

Unlike Perseus, I do not have a military body. I have the kind of physique that elicits comments like, "I see you wintered well." I'm covered with a layer of what

I like to call relaxed muscle. When it's time for me to enter the pool, which is a comfy 89 degrees, I wriggle into my tail, fit my goggles over my eyes and swim toward the deep end. Well, "swim" isn't really the right word. It's more like doggie paddling with only the front paws, dragging around this spandex and lace contraption that pins my legs together.

A modified breaststroke allows me to plunge to the bottom of the 8-foot-deep tank, fighting the buoyancy of my relaxed muscle, and I smile and mug at the colorful shapes moving around behind the glass in the bar.

I assume they're people—I can't see squat because every time I dive my poorly fitted goggles immediately fill with chlorinated water. Within 10 minutes my eyes are burning and I look like I've just come from a Cheech and Chong movie marathon.

Perseus, his fellow merman Archer and the mermaid Venus are patient and helpful with this pudgy, middle-aged writer whose main objective is to avoid drowning. Venus, a high school senior, teaches me how to blow kisses and do barrel rolls. Archer shows me how to execute a slow back loop, sucking in air at the water's surface like a whale clearing its blowhole.

The bar begins to fill up and I pull a few stunts for the customers. At one point I come up for air after a particularly agile (I thought) set of moves through the plastic seaweed on the bottom. "Hey, Flounder," says Venus, using my merman name. She's resting at the edge of the pool, checking her phone. "My mom says you're losing your tail."

I look down and sure enough, my rig has slipped down several inches exposing the top of my black compression shorts.

My tail, like all the tails, was fabricated by Sandi Thares, the hotel's general manager and mermaid wrangler. "The more I sew, the better they get," she said. Her family has owned the O'Haire since 1968, she told me that afternoon as we sat in her cluttered office piled high with boxes spilling wigs, leis, tails and glittery bras.

An entire wall is covered with dozens of framed, autographed photos of celebrities including Keith Urban, Eric Church and Barry Manilow, who've visited the Sip 'n Dip over the years. The idea for the mermaid bar, she said, was inspired by a visit her dad made to the Playboy Club in Chicago. In 1996 they duct-taped a green tablecloth around the waist of a willing O'Haire housekeeper, and the mermaid program was born.

The tail I'm swimming in that night is much nicer than a tablecloth, and after a half hour of looking more like a cat in a bathtub than a mythical ocean creature, I finally start to feel like I'm working it. The next day I would be sore in ways I never could have dreamed of but tonight I'm having a blast. My only real mishap comes when I swim toward the window and bang my face into the glass, suctioning my right goggle so hard to my eye socket that it takes me a couple minutes to pop it free.

After a few more swoops and loops and "flexing" of "muscles," I decide to call it a night. Flopping out of the pool, I dry off and pull on my jeans. I'm exhausted. My sinuses feel bleached, and every light I see has a rainbow around it.

In the bar I order up a well-earned pint of local Black Eagle IPA and watch the experts in the pool twist and glide effortlessly through the water. Venus sinks down to the bottom of the window, finds me at the bar, smiles and blows me a bubble kiss. I move to return the gesture, but let out a gasp. I wonder how long I've been holding my breath.

A version of this story first appeared in the summer 2016 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine.

Big Sky

Big Sky

BIG SKY

## THE RESULTS ARE IN!

**Best Restaurant** 

**Best Burger** 

**Best Pizza** 

**Best Apres** 

**Best Bartender** 

**Best Business** 

**Best Hotel / Lodging / Guest Ranch** 

**Best Annual Event** 

**Best Outdoor Retailer** 

**Best Trail in Big Sky** 

Best Ski Run in Big Sky

**Best Real Estate Agency** 

**Best Architect** 

**Best Builder** 

**Best Teacher in Big Sky** 

**Best Artist / Photographer** 

**Best Nonprofit** 

**Big Sky Community Member of the Year** 





OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTOS

## **BEST RESTAURANT** OLIVE B'S

Perennial best restaurant contender Olive B's was voted the No. 1 dining option in Big Sky, topping five-time winner the Lotus Pad, in the biggest upset of 2016. Fresh seafood, a favorite of owners and New England natives Warren "Bibber" and Jennie Bibbins, anchors an exquisite dinner menu that also features diverse salads and carne options.

"It sure is nice to be appreciated by the public," Bibber said. "I've tried to assemble a crew here that cares about what they do. We're glad we're in people's hearts."

olivebsbigsky.com (406) 995-3355

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Lotus Pad

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Lone Peak Brewery and Taphouse



## **BEST BURGER** LONE PEAK BREWERY & TAPHOUSE

Eating a burger at Lone Peak is truly a custom experience.

Diners start with their pick of beef, bison, chicken or veggie burger and dress it up to their liking. Feeling spicy? "Make 'em angry" with pepperjack cheese, jalapeno spread and chipotle aioli. Craving a meat-lover's dream? Go with "The Monster," which includes two kinds of pig (provolone and bacon) and two kinds of onion (fried and caramelized).

Don't worry, vegetarians—they've got you covered too. Try "The Hippy," a

veggie burger topped with mushrooms, feta and sautéed onions and peppers.

Wash it all down with one of their rotating brews served on nitro.

lonepeakbrewery.com (406) 995-3939

2<sup>nd</sup> place: The Corral 3<sup>rd</sup> place: By Word of Mouth



## **BEST PIZZA**OUSEL & SPUR PIZZA CO.

If gourmet specialty pizzas are your shtick, look no further than the winner of Big Sky's Best Pizza: Ousel and Spur Pizza Co. Sourcing farm fresh ingredients from Montana farmers, Ousel and Spur tantalizes the taste buds with a range of entrees, but za is their thing.

Try their classic, the Montanan, which combines elk sausage and mozzarella with sage, pickled red onion, mushroom, potato and rosemary. Or, for a more traditional pie, the Margherita is one for the ages. A full bar greets adults, while the Bambino menu provides little ones with delicious options.

ouselandspurpizza.com (406) 995-7175

2nd place: Milkie's Pizza and Pub3rd place: Blue Moon Bakery

## **BEST APRÈS**SCISSORBILLS SALOON

With live music provided Friday through Sunday at 3:30 p.m.— featuring local talents such as Brian Stumpf, Jeff Bellino and Mark Davidson, among many others—Scissorbills Saloon is where Big Sky pass holders go to swap powder-day stories with friends.

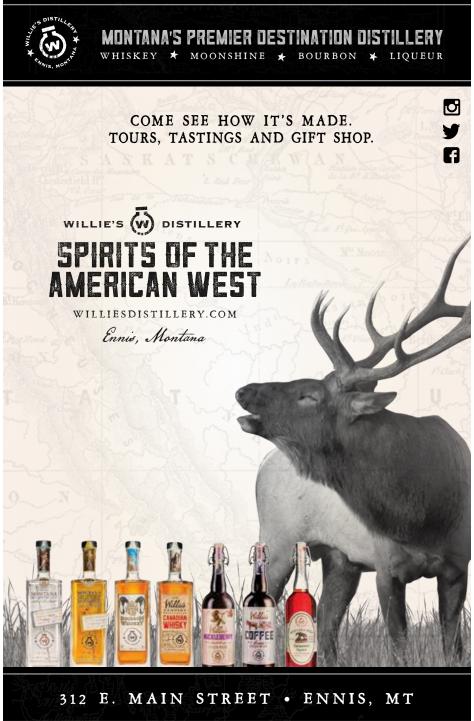
Cocktails and fine Montana beers flow, while après-ski patrons consume mountains of nachos and an array of signature sandwiches. Best of Big Sky voters, with strong enough legs after skiing to climb the Arrowhead Mall stairs, have spoken.

scissorbills.com (406) 995-4933

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Gallatin Riverhouse Grill
3<sup>rd</sup> place: Beehive Basin Brewery







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Award-winning jewelry by Ellie Thompson





## Y

## **BEST BARTENDER** GREG "CARNIE" LISK



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Gallatin Riverhouse Grill co-owner Greg "Carnie" Lisk and his partner Kyle Wisniewski have hit upon a magic formula with their mix of grub, drink, atmosphere and entertainment.

Patrons coming to the Riverhouse on a weekend night have to get a little creative with their parking if they want to chow down on Wisniewski's legendary barbecue and chat up Lisk at the bar. But oh boy, is it worth it.

And next summer it will be even better when a new outdoor bar and music venue open. "I'm just thankful that everyone voted for not only myself, but the Riverhouse crew," Lisk said. "I couldn't do it without this badass team."

gallatinriverhousegrill.com (406) 995-7427

2nd place: Mitchell Bernhard 3rd place: Jeremy Harder Editors' Pick: Frank Germo

Frank Germo lived in Big Sky nearly as long as Big Sky Resort has been open. Sadly, Germo lost his battle with cancer Dec. 13 of this year.

Most recently a bartender at The Corral—he also worked at Karst Bar, Halfmoon Saloon and Bunker Bar and Grill—Germo was known for his optimistic nature and twinkling blue eyes. He'll be missed by fellow employees and regulars alike.





## **BEST BUSINESS** EAST SLOPE OUTDOORS

In 1986, Dave and Katie Alvin opened up shop in Big Sky. Thirty years later, "Super Dave" and Katie are sitting on one of the Best of Big Sky's most prestigious awards: Best Business.

East Slope Outdoors staff specializes in knowing the wild outdoors that Montana offers, and sets up locals and visitors with some of the best gear, guides and gadgets around. Stop in for retail ski gear, rentals or custom bootfitting in winter and tap into their fishing guides' insider knowledge in summer.

eastslopeoutdoors.com (406) 995-4369

**2**<sup>nd</sup> **place:** Lone Peak Cinema **3**<sup>rd</sup> **place:** Gallatin Riverhouse Grill

## BRAND PROMISE







Photographer: Kene Sperry

bigskydiscoveryacademy.org

info@bigskydiscoveryacademy.org

406.993.2008

### шш

## BEST HOTEL / LODGING / GUEST RANCH 320 GUEST RANCH

In a new category this year, 320 Guest Ranch near the border of Yellowstone National Park triumphed among tough competition. Located at the site of Sam Wilson's 1898 homestead along the Gallatin River, 320 offers stunning mountain views, fine food and cozy accommodations.

During summer, guests take in horseback trail rides, fly fishing, casting clinics and barbecues. In winter, visitors bundle up for sleigh rides and to watch 320's annual ski joring competition.

320ranch.com (406) 995-4283

**2**<sup>nd</sup> **place:** Lone Mountain Ranch

3<sup>rd</sup> place: Buck's T-4 Lodge



PHOTO COURTESY OF 320 GUEST RANCH



## **BEST ANNUAL EVENT** BIG SKY PBR



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

For four years running, professional bull riders have recognized what this community knows, too: Big Sky puts on a damn good show.

This past July, forty bull riders came down to test their mettle against award-winning bulls all too eager to buck them off. At the close of the tour, the riders once again voted Big Sky PBR as the Event of the Year.

In 2016, more than \$75,000 was raised for charities, and attendees were treated to an art auction, the unforgettable antics of rodeo clown Flint Rasmussen, three nights of live music, and lots of raucous bull riding.

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Farmer's Market 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Music in the Mountains Editor's pick: Big Sky Christmas Stroll

With sleigh rides, cocoa, Christmas treats, visits from Santa Claus and the merry tunes of carolers, it's easy to get sucked into the holiday spirit during the annual Christmas Stroll. There's nothing like seeing Meadow Village and Town Center bedecked in snow while catching up with locals and visitors to drive away any lingering Grinch or Ebenezer Scrooge feelings.

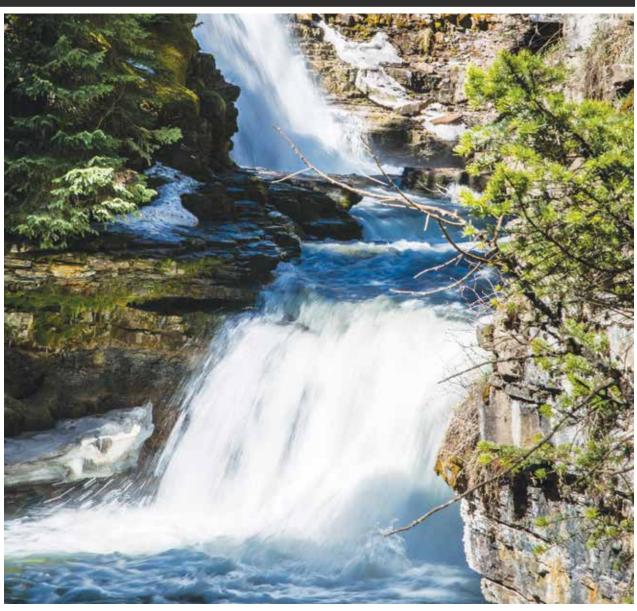




## BEST TRAIL IN BIG SKY OUSEL FALLS TRAIL

The thundering, 100-foot-tall Ousel Falls is a Big Sky landmark and the trail that bears its name was a runaway winner in this inaugural year for the category. Big Sky Community Organization's flagship trail officially starts in Town Center and the stunning cascade is 0.8 miles down the canyon from Ousel Falls Park trailhead.

The easy stroll to the falls is a must for out-of-town visitors, and locals looking for a quick jaunt to the river. It also provides access to the Yellowmule trails, favorites among area mountain bikers.



**OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO** 

## **BEST OUTDOOR RETAILER** GRIZZLY OUTFITTERS & BACKCOUNTRY SPORTS



**OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO** 

Returning to the top of the heap among area outdoor retail shops, Grizzly Outfitters Ski and Backcountry Sports was voted Best Outdoor Retailer in Big Sky for the second year in a row.

Banking on its talented team of bootfitters, ski techs, sales representatives and outdoor enthusiasts, the shop was named among the 10 Best Ski Shops in the U.S.A. by Unofficial Networks in 2015. Stop by Grizzly for all things outdoor retail as well as ski rentals, demos, and custom ski bootfitting all winter.

grizzlyoutfitters.com (406) 551-9470

2<sup>nd</sup> place: East Slope Outdoors 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Gallatin Alpine Sports





## BEST REAL ESTATE AGENCY PureWest Christie's International Real Estate of Big Sky



bigskyresort.com (800) 548-4486

Specializing in the community of Big Sky, PureWest Christie's took the throne for the area's Best Real Estate Agency. Christie's depends on its talented and nimble team of agents, says broker Lynn Milligan.

"With all the great offices in the community, it's an honor to have been selected as the best in Big Sky," Milligan said. "We're fortunate to have a small team that has strong results. Each of our agents has many years of individual experience. We're all dedicated to fulfilling our clients' needs and keeping informed about the market."

2<sup>nd</sup> place: L&K Real Estate 3<sup>rd</sup> place: ERA Landmark Real Estate

## **BEST ARCHITECT** CENTRE SKY

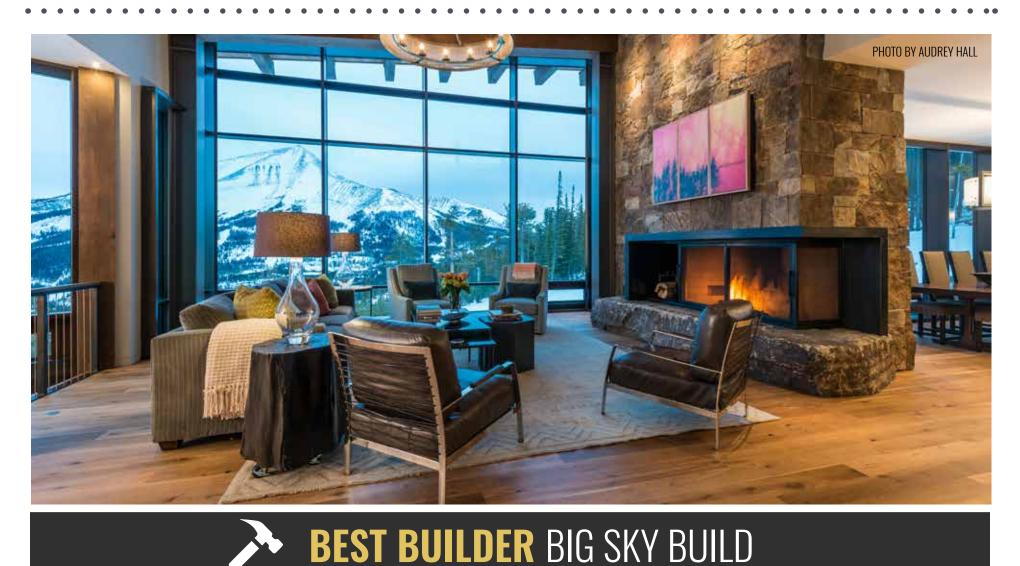
For the second year running, owner Jamie Daugaard and his team at Centre Sky took home the prize as Best Architect in Big Sky. The challenges of designing homes in this high-elevation community are many, including heavy snow loads and complicated topography—but Centre Sky works hard to translate a client's aesthetic sensibility into its designs.

Whether the goal is to implement a heating system to reduce utility costs, or an "off the grid" home that requires zero fossil fuels to operate, sustainability is a critical part of the Centre Sky design process.

**centresky.com** (406) 995-7572

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Reid Smith 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Locati







As it enters its second decade, Big Sky Build continues to grow its reputation for using top-notch craftsmanship in the construction of custom homes—think light-filled residences with stunning geometry.

Owner John Seelye's loyalty to both clients and employees led the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce to recognize him as the 2016 Business Person of the Year, prompting one of the shortest award acceptance speeches of the night. Seelye said the recognition was appreciated and unexpected.

It shouldn't have been, though. This is the second year running that voters named Seelye and his crew the best builders in Big Sky.

 $\textbf{bigskybuild.com}\ (406)\ 995\text{-}3676$ 

**2nd place:** Teton Heritage Builders **3rd place:** Haas Builders

#### Restaurant at Rainbow

Happy Hour: 4-6pm Daily Dinner: 5-10pm Daily

#### **Holiday Happenings**

Christmas Eve: 4-10pm featuring live music and a special menu

Christmas Day: 4-10pm featuring a special menu

New Year's Eve: 4pm-1am featuring a special menu and a champagne toast

New Year's Day: 4-10pm featuring a special menu

Reservations Recommended and necessary for New Year's Eve!



RESTAURANT \* BAR \* HOTEL \* WEDDINGS \* EVENTS

RainbowRanchBigSky.com

406.995.4132 | 42950 Gallatin Road, Big Sky MT

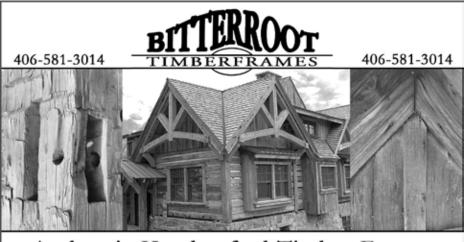






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## BEST TEACHER IN BIG SKY Renee Zimmerman

Ophir School fourth grade teacher Renee Zimmerman dethroned her counterpart and colleague Jeremy Harder as Big Sky's Best Teacher this year. Harder says the upstate New York native was once his teacher's aid but has since come into her own as an educator.

"What's unique about Renee is that she's fired up every day," Harder said. "She's really good at seeing the kids' individual needs and will spend time with a kid all day to get them caught up if that's what they need. It's been fun to watch her grow and create that craft of teaching over the years."

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Jeremy Harder3<sup>rd</sup> place: Tony Coppola



## O

## BEST ARTIST / PHOTOGRAPHER Ryan Turner



There are many talented creatives in Big Sky, and it's no wonder with Lone Mountain and the surrounding landscape providing a muse. Photographer Ryan Turner also won this category in 2015, its inaugural year. He and his wife Angie have a gallery in the Bighorn Shopping Center where his large-format prints are displayed, and Turner's images can be found in publications like Powder, Skiing, Mountain Magazine, Outside, and the Wall Street Journal.

"I'm inspired by the amazing activities and nature that surround us here in Montana," he said. "Thanks, Big Sky, for all of the support and inspiration!"

ryanturnerphotography.com (406) 580-5997

**2**<sup>nd</sup> **place:** Kene Sperry **3**<sup>rd</sup> **place:** Dave Pecunies



## BEST NONPROFIT GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE



Gallatin River Task Force Executive Director Kristin Gardner and her staff of three have a tough line to walk: How does Big Sky accommodate growth without degrading one of the natural resources that brings people here in the first place?

The conservation organization on the front lines must be doing something right, as evidenced by financial and volunteer support from the community for projects like the Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum, stream bank stabilization on the West Fork of the Gallatin, and watershed monitoring following the March effluent pond spill.

"We've had a lot of strong partnerships over the past year or two that have driven larger projects forward," Gardner said.

gallatinrivertaskforce.com (406) 993-2519

**2nd place:** Women in Action 3rd place: Eagle Mount Editor's Choice

Montana Land Reliance is the largest land trust in the state, protecting nearly 1 million acres under conservation easements. In April, the organization opened a regional office in Big Sky and hired Jessie Wiese as its southwest manager.

Conservation easements are a tool for private landowners to ensure preservation of open spaces, wildlife habitat, agricultural uses and other conservation values. MLR will be an asset to this community as it experiences explosive growth.

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#### MILL CREEK RANCH - MOONLIGHT BASIN Not all backyards are created equal: HUNT, FISH, SKI \* 2,636 +/- acres \* The LARGEST tract of land available in Moonlight Basin\* Multiple homesites and one existing home\* Magnificent views \* No covenants\* No HOA \* Unparalleled privacy \*Abuts the Lee Metcalf Wilderness\* Deeded access through the gated Jack Creek Road to Big Sky or Ennis \* Co-listed with Swan Land\* \$18,750,000. \* Virtual tour online



#### 1214 SILVERADO TRAIL -SPANISH PEAKS NORTH

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#### **CAMP ARROWHEAD - BEEHIVE BASIN**

Extraordinary property near Beehive Basin trailhead in Big Sky Mountain Village \* Main house and guest house totaling 8 Bedrooms and 7.5 Bathrooms \* +/- 7,672 Sq. Ft \* 25 acres \* Fully turn key \* Fabulous Lone Mountain and Beehive views \* Solar and Wind power \* No covenants \* No HOA \* The rarest kind of Big Sky property \* \$4,995,000 \* Virtual tour online \* MLS 208912



#### **4 LITTLE PLUME - CASCADE SUBDIVISION**

\* Mountain Village \* Direct ski/in ski/out access to White Otter lift on two sides \*Finely crafted post and beam timber frame throughout\* 4 Bedrooms and 5 Baths in the Main House. \*Fantastic VBRO apartment over garage has 1 Bedroom and 1 bath, fully equipped kitchen, laundry and living room with gas fireplace. Oversized 1.7 acre corner lot. Dramatic Lone Mountain view. \$2,900,000 \* MLS 216922





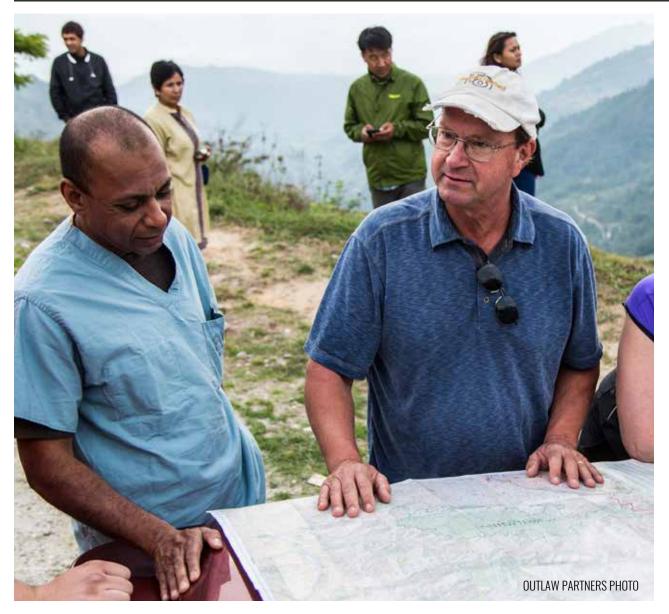
Stacy Ossorio, Broker C: 406.539.8553 stacy.ossorio@gmail.com

Eric Ossorio, Broker C: 406.539.9553 eric.ossorio@gmail.com

BHHSMT.COM II MLS (2)



## **COMMUNITY MEMBER OF THE YEAR** PETE SCHMEDING



Dr. Peter Schmieding has practiced dentistry in Big Sky for more than 20 years, working from his office here two days a week. But his work for the nonprofit Tsering's Fund for the past 10 has become his true passion and Best of Big Sky voters recognized this in 2016.

The organization has raised approximately \$600,000 to educate young Nepali girls who would not otherwise have the opportunity, and more recently to fund earthquake relief efforts after the devastating tremors that hit the country in 2015.

"I really believe it's not about me," Schmieding said.
"I'm only out there to try to help raise money for others. But I'm very appreciative that people recognize that, it means we're getting the word out."

Eight Lone Peak High School Interact Club members will accompany Schmieding on his next service trip to Nepal in March. "They're the future, these kids," he said. "The future of Tsering's Fund."

2<sup>nd</sup> place: Sally Fisher3<sup>rd</sup> place: Barbara Rowley



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