

Big Sky's Mark Urich sets sights on 2018 Paralymic Games

Special section: holiday gift and gear guide

Big Sky entities propose town council

Fire department mill levy passes

Locals react to potential NPS fee hike



explorebigsky.com



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PUBLISHER Eric Ladd

EDITORIAL MANAGING EDITOR Tyler Allen

SENIOR EDITOR Amanda Eggert

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Sarah Gianelli

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT Bay Stephens

CREATIVE LEAD DESIGNER Carie Birkmeier

GRAPHIC DESIGNER Marisa Specht

SENIOR VIDEO EDITOR Ryan Weaver

LEAD VIDEOGRAPHER Jennings Barmore

SALES AND OPERATIONS CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER Megan Paulson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SALES AND MARKETING E.J. Daws

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION Alexis Deaton

MEDIA AND EVENTS DIRECTOR Ersin Ozer

DISTRIBUTION DIRECTOR Doug Hare

MARKETING MANAGER Blythe Beaubien

CONTRIBUTORS

Julia Barton, Matthew Brown, Jackie Rainford Corcoran, Jeff Daniels, Amy Beth Hanson, Amy Hunter, Ted Kooser, Michael Kowalski, Sydney MacDonald, Scott Mechura, Brook Nuanez, Colter Nuanez, August O'Keefe, Ken Ritter, Acra Samuels, Chris Samuels, Kene Sperry, Patrick Straub, Andy Watson, Todd Wilkinson, Ciara Wolfe, Jessianne Wright

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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ON THE COVER: Mark Urich has been skiing since he was inspired to try out the sport by a girl when he was living in Denver after college. The Big Sky local has his sights set on the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games in South Korea. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK URICH

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Letters to the editor allow EBS readers to express views and share how they would like to effect change. These are not Thank You notes. Letters should be 250 words or less, respectful, ethical, accurate, and proofread for grammar and content. We reserve the right to edit letters, and will not publish individual grievances about specific businesses or letters that are abusive, malicious or potentially libelous. Include: full name, address, phone number and title. Submit to media@outlaw.partners

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Montana has experienced an especially snowy November thus far. The base at Big Sky Resort is already up to 2 feet on the upper mountain—it's looking like winter is here to stay. VIDEO STILL BY JENNINGS BARMORE

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.



MARTHA JOHNSON VICE PRESIDENT OF SALES, FOUNDING BROKER MARTHA@BIGSKY.COM 406.580.5891

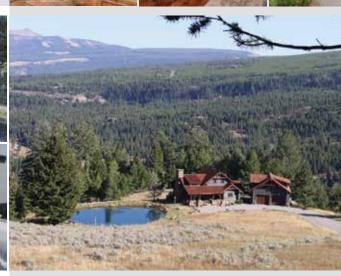
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NEWS IN BRIEF



Skyline establishes bus services leading into winter season

EBS STAFF

Commuters making the trip between Big Sky and Bozeman will have expanded options on the Link Express bus system run by Skyline come Monday, Nov. 20, when the winter schedule goes into effect.

Skyline has added three additional round-trip rides from last winter's schedule, which could help alleviate the issue of overly full buses. "We do have a couple busses in the morning that will kind of mirror each other that will help with some capacity issues," said Big Sky Transportation District Coordinator David Kack.

Kack said the winter service starts at 4:30 a.m. and picks up its last group of Big Sky passengers bound for Bozeman at 2:15 a.m. "We're basically 24 hours a day going back and forth between the communities."

It costs between \$135,000 to \$140,000 to offer a new roundtrip commuter route given the cost of drivers and fuel, Kack said.

"I just keep saying that more and more employees need it [and] until that housing issue gets addressed in Big Sky, it means more and more commuting," Kack said.

Kack said he's grateful for Madison County's decades-long support and Gallatin County's funding approval for the past two years. "I think those are going to be partnerships we need moving ahead as we look at the growth of Big Sky."

For a detailed route map and schedule for Skyline Bus Service, visit skylinebus.com.

Deer suspected of carrying chronic wasting disease

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

A chronic wasting disease sample collected by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks in late October from a hunter-killed deer was found to be suspect for chronic wasting disease.

The sample was collected from a mule deer buck harvested in hunting district 510 south of Billings. A second sample collected from the animal was sent to the lab at Colorado State University for further testing. If the result is positive, it will mark the first time CWD has appeared in wild deer, elk or moose in Montana.

State taking applications for suicide prevention grants

HELENA (AP) - Montana's health department is taking applications from schools and communities for suicide prevention grants.

The Legislature appropriated \$1 million to support prevention programs. School-based programs can seek money from a \$250,000 grant pool. Community-based programs supervised by a health care provider, veterans' programs and others can seek money from a \$500,000 appropriation. Another \$250,000 was set aside to continue implementing a plan to reduce suicide among Native American youth.

Sheila Hogan, director of the Department of Public Health and Human Services, says proposals must be submitted by 2 p.m. on Dec. 1.

To be eligible, an organization must provide evidence that the activity it plans is effective at preventing suicide.

Big Sky voters grant funds to fire department

By Jessianne Wright EBS Contributor

BIG SKY – Preliminary results for the Big Sky Fire Department's mill levy request indicate local approval for BSFD plans to expand. As of EBS press time on Nov. 8, initial tallies found 515 votes in favor of and 335 opposed to the \$1.5 million request.

Fire Chief William Farhat says the news is great for the department as well as the people they serve. "It's a great opportunity for us to be able to expand our ability to provide services to the community," he said. By 2021, after both of Big Sky's two fire stations have been renovated and 11 employees have been hired, Farhat said "we'll be in a much better position to provide services."

There were a few provisionary ballots waiting to be tallied as of EBS press time but Gallatin County election administrator Charlotte Mills said these likely wouldn't change the final results.

"It's a relief, but now the work starts," Farhat said.

In 2016 the fire department contracted Emergency Services Consulting,

"We've suspected it wasn't a matter of if, but when CWD would show up in Montana," said Ken McDonald, FWP wildlife division administrator. "Fortunately, we've done a lot of work to prepare for this, and are hopeful the prevalence will be low as we work toward managing the disease."

CWD is a progressive, fatal disease affecting the central nervous system of mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk and moose. It is a slow-moving disease. However, left unmanaged, it could result in long-term population declines within affected herds.

All the states and provinces that border Montana, other than Idaho and British Columbia, have found CWD in their wild cervids.

Though there is no evidence CWD is transmissible to humans, it is recommended to never ingest meat from animals that appear to be sick or are known to be CWD positive. If hunters harvest an animal that appears to be sick, the best thing to do is contact FWP and have the animal inspected.

For more information and to look at CWD test results, go online to fwp.mt.gov/cwd.

International to perform an evaluation of Big Sky and the department. This study identified a need to expand fire department facilities and increase staffing as the area's population continues to boom.

Following the passage of this mill levy, BSFD will begin designing station renovations this winter. Station 1 will see facility updates to the bathroom, kitchen and bedrooms and the leaking roof will be repaired. At Station 2, BSFD plans to add bedrooms to accommodate 24-hour occupancy.

Ground breaking on these renovations is expected to come in the spring, with completion anticipated by the beginning of 2019.

Next year, the department plans to hire a fire marshal who will help with wildfire prevention and education, and firefighters and a fire inspector will be hired in stages so that by 2021 there will be 9 additional firefighters working in the department.

406 Forum

What do you think about NPS's proposed fee increase?



Kami Hussey Big Sky, Montana

"From \$30 to \$70, that seems pretty drastic, being over double what it was. I guess I don't really understand the difference now between the daily fee and the multiple use throughout the year. They're basically the same."



David Simon Big Sky, Montana

"I feel as if \$70 for park entrance will severely discourage people such as myself from going into the park. I guess if you have five people in your car that's not that bad. I've visited the park at least eight times and at no point have I had more than one person with me. It just seems prohibitive."



Abigail Hogan *Big Sky, Montana*

"I think it's great that they're trying to raise more money for the parks in general, but I think it's harder for people who want to come visit the parks [when they] raise the expense for them to get in. But in general, I think it can be seen as a good and a bad thing."



Ody Loomis *Big Sky, Montana*

"I think it's sad to put a price tag on being able to access national [parks] and public lands because the less people that get to see it and be a part of that [the less people that are] willing to support it and give financial backing. [National parks] need the money ... so I do see the need in the fact that they've got to derive money from somewhere, it's just sad that it goes to take away from people getting to see the park."

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Explore Big Sky

Outlaw Partners voted Event of the Year for Big Sky PBR Team accepts fifth-straight award at World Finals in Las Vegas

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – The lights were bright and the flames were hot as team members from Outlaw Partners were called to the stage during night three of the PBR World Finals at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas to accept "Event of the Year" for Big Sky PBR.

This was the fifth year in a row that the Montana-based marketing, media and events agency was honored with the award, chosen over more than 300 events nationwide. The votes are cast by the bull riding professionals, many of whom competed in Big Sky this past July.

"Because PBR riders vote for their favorite, Event of the Year is one of the most prestigious awards a promoter can receive," said Dave Cordovano, general manager of the Real Time Pain Relief Velocity Tour, on which Big Sky is a stop.
"Being acknowledged by the competitors themselves multiple years in a row is a true honor and speaks volumes to the hard work and commitment of the terrific team and community that

produce and host PBR Big Sky."

Event producers and organizers were honored by the recognition.

"2017 was the year of PBR for Montana, from Jess Lockwood winning the world championship title to Big Sky being chosen as No. 1 event big things for Big Sky Country," said Outlaw Partners CEO Eric Ladd.





Team members from Outlaw Partners accepted the "Event of the Year" award for the Big Sky PBR at the PBR World Finals in Las Vegas on Nov. 3. It marks the fifth year in a row the Big Sky PBR has received the honor. PHOTO BY ANDY WATSON

"We have big plans for the 2018 event and want to continue to raise the bar for this great community event."

Ersin Ozer, Outlaw Partners' media and events director, said "it's an honor for everyone involved in Big Sky PBR to win this award five years in a row. We are humbled and appreciative of every PBR cowboy that nods their head in the Big Sky chute gates."

Candace Carr Strauss, CEO of the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce and Visit Big Sky expressed her gratitude for the event's economic impact on the community. "It's truly a testament to the unique experience that this place we call home, Big Sky, brings to a PBR tour event," Strauss said, adding that the impact of the 15,000 spectators who attend the event is enjoyed by the lodges, restaurants, retailers and nonprofits of Big Sky.

Next year's Big Sky PBR will take place July 25-28, with two nights of bull riding on July 27-28. The week's festivities will kick off with a community barn dance on July 25. For traditional and contemporary art enthusiasts alike, the third annual Big Sky Art Auction will take place on July 26, with over \$500,000 of curated art and proceeds going to local charities. Big Sky PBR fans are encouraged to mark their calendars for June 1, 2018—tickets for Big Sky PBR events will go on sale online at 9 a.m. at bigskypbr.com. Last year's bull riding events sold out in less than 24 hours.

Jess Lockwood took third place at Big Sky PBR on July 29. PHOTO BY SYDNEY MACDONALD

"Big Sky PBR is the best event of the year," said Bill Simkins, Town Center's primary developer, and the central location of the event. "The town is really rocking and rolling that whole week—and it keeps it expanding every year. We're thrilled that we can make Town Center available for the PBR—it brings the whole Big Sky community together."

A town council for Big Sky? Idea presented to joint county commissions

BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – The Gallatin and Madison county commissions met on Nov. 1 to receive updates on infrastructure, governance, and bond issues before Big Sky.

Approximately 40 people attended the meeting, which was held at the Big Sky Water and Sewer District board meeting room. All six commissioners three from each county—attended the meeting.

Big Sky Community Organization Executive Director Ciara Wolfe described the nearly \$10.3 million grant that the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce has applied for in conjunction with BSCO. There's an impressive number of applicants for a small number of grants, but it could turn into a big win—and prove to be transformational for Big Sky—if the application is successful, Wolfe said.

It's a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recover, or TIGER, grant, and if it's awarded to Big Sky, a whole host of improvements could result, including left-hand turn lanes along Highway 64, also known as Lone Mountain Trail; a pedestrian tunnel to safely cross Highway 64 at lower Little Coyote Road; trail system expansions in the heart of Big Sky; additional signage for dangerous curves on Highway 64; and the expansion of Skyline's van and motorcoach fleet to relieve strain on the highly-used bus system around Big Sky and between Bozeman and Big Sky.

"They might give a percentage of the \$10 million and they might say, 'We'll do this, but not this,'" said Joe Skinner, a member of the Gallatin County Commission.

Wolfe said Big Sky is at an advantage because it's a rural community—larger areas require matching funds, she said.

Margo Magnant, the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce membership director gave the commissioners a brief run-down on the nascent process to form a local council that would handle issues of overarching concern to the boards of Big Sky's seven distinct districts. She said the process is just taking shape, but the overall goal is to have "an organized format for community members to come together on large issues."

Skinner recommended that whatever form the collective takes, it remain small. "I would challenge you not to get that big," he said, referencing the estimate of 20 to 30 people provided by Magnant. "I would [recommend] more like a city council-type size."

Big Sky Chamber of Commerce CEO Candace Carr-Strauss was ill and unable to attend the Nov. 1 meeting, but in a Nov. 8 interview with EBS, she said the chamber's effort was spurred in part by large infrastructure discussions happening in the community surrounding water and wastewater, energy infrastructure, workforce housing and transportation issues. Strauss said that although the chamber's announcement about their efforts might appear premature, they're trying to be fully transparent about the process and their intentions.

In the joint county commission meeting, Jim Hart with the Madison County Commission proved a bit prescient when he raised the possibility of a special session for the 2017 Montana Legislature to help the state restructure its budget.

Gov. Steve Bullock has since called for the Legislature to meet in a special session on Nov. 14 to address a projected \$227 million budget shortfall.

The shortfall clearly weighed on the commissioners, as they spoke about the kind of funding that could pass from the state to county budgets as the state feels a squeeze on its finances.

"We find that we have new things that have to be paid that used to be paid for by the state legislature," White said, adding that it takes a while for property owners to see those increases in their taxes—up to 18 months.

Hart said that it's rare for the governor to call a special session. "It's rare in part because it's expensive," he said.

The Gallatin County Commissions also spoke at length about their support for a new or remodeled Law and Justice Center—even if that means getting only a portion of what they asked for from voters earlier this year rather than the full project.

White said they might decide to propose a different mill levy next June, perhaps one that would fund only the justice—courthouse—part of the past proposal, or only the law enforcement half.

Another topic of discussion centered on the open space bonds in Gallatin County. The most recent bond ran out this fall. White spoke to his recent decision not to put another open space bond before voters, saying he thinks it's more important that other county needs are met.

"My priority right now is for the L and J," he said, adding that the city attorney's office, Gallatin County Sheriff's Office and Bozeman City Police have asked him not to put an open space bond before voters. He said he wasn't convinced that the proposal submitted to the commission this fall was dedicated to funding publicly accessible projects like trails and regional parks.

"I'm convinced that in the next couple of years, at least in Gallatin County, you're going to see another open space bond," Skinner said. "It's been appropriated twice by the voters, two \$10 million bonds...and I think you'll probably see another \$10 million or \$20 million bond on the ballot in another year or two."

Finally, the commissioners discussed how a shortage of funding for public services presently supported by state dollars might lead to unfortunate

"Is it just making sure that everyone is on the same page [or] is it going to have authority in the future—that remains to be seen," Strauss said.

Strauss said she's been receiving one to two calls per week about how the chamber might help facilitate a dialogue around these big issues and projects Big Sky is grappling with.

The chamber is looking into hiring a facilitator, namely Dan Clark, the director of Montana State University's Local Government Center. If hired, Clark could advise those involved with the effort about what the membership, scope and authority of the group might look like.

It's too early to tell if the council would be elected or appointed, Strauss said. "We want to convene the right group of people to get us on the path to get some answers."

There are a number of communities that serve as blueprints that could be followed in areas like Cooke City, Gardiner and Seeley Lake, Strauss said.

outcomes for Gallatin County.

"The mental health thing—that's a crisis," White said.

"You've got to look at the whole big picture," said Gallatin County Commissioner Don Seifert. "You've got detention, you've got mental health, you've got pre-release, you've got Fresh Start—all of these programs out there...When any part of that system fails, where it shows up is in the detention center."

The next joint meeting between the two commissions has been tentatively scheduled for April, and if it follows the recent pattern, it will be held in the Madison County portion of Big Sky.

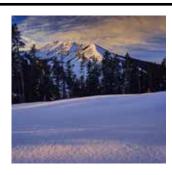
YELLOWSTONE CLUB*



River Runs Through It 13,349 SQ FT / \$14M



388 Andesite Ridge Rd. 5,020 SQ FT / \$6.45M



Lot 338 Bristlecone Dr 14.6 Acres / \$4.95M

BIG SKY



Lot 86 Andesite Ridge Rd. 2.64 Acres / \$3.3M



Lot 472 White Spruce Dr. 2.9 Acres / \$3.3M



SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB*

118 Old Barn Rd. 2.49 ACRES / \$475K



Lot 119 Old Barn Rd. 3.13 Acres / \$450K



Kandahar at **Beehive Basin** 5,409 SQ FT / \$3.45M



2789 Two Moons 2,861 SQ FT / \$1.795M New Construction



25 Lower Dudley Creek 4,076 SQ FT / \$1.65M

BIG SKY



12 Ruby Range 3,133 SQ FT / \$755K



81 Pheasant Tail Unit 2 2,592 SQ FT / \$695K



Summit Hotel 911/912 1,303 SQ FT / \$695K



49850 Gallatin Rd. 2,499 SQ FT / \$595K



281 Village Center 473 SQ FT / \$295K

BOZEMAN

BIG SKY



Lot 1 Ciel Drive 8.03 ACRES / \$415K



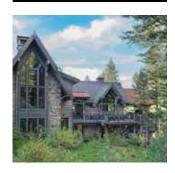
Lot 3 Joy Rd. 6.83 Acres / \$395K



Gallatin Rd. Parcel 1 2.63 ACRES / \$255K



Gallatin Rd. Tract 4 1.4 ACRES / \$254K

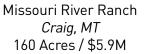


Limestone Creek 40 ACRES / 10,297 SQ FT \$12.9M



SxS Ranch Bozeman, MT 483.78 ACRES / \$7.5M





Mountain Meadows Big Sky, MT 120 Acres / \$3.495M



Homestead at the Beacon Butte, MT 640 Acres / \$1.65M



Rocking S7 Ranch Lot 4 Bozeman, MT 20.232 ACRES / \$650K



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YELLOWSTONE CLUB*



Lot 433 Serpens Trail 1.89 Acres / \$2.95M



Lot 144A Pumice Rd. 2 Acres / \$2.65M

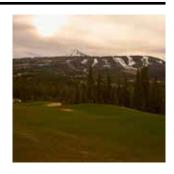
SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB*



Homestead Cabin #6 2,585SQ FT / \$2.2M



Ski Tip Lot 10 1.02 Acres / \$975K



Lot 38 Bitterbrush Trail 1.27 ACRES / \$800K

BIG SKY



245 Rain in Face 3,446 SQ FT / \$1.595M



Mountain Selah 4,574 SQ FT / \$1.35M



Black Eagle Lodge 2,549 SQ FT / \$1.35M



100 Crail Ranch Dr. 3,730 SQ FT / \$1.29M



99 Pheasant Tail Unit 1 2,805 SQ FT / \$759K

BIG SKY



Firelight Condo C-15 1,092 SQ FT / \$274.9K



Big EZ Lot 42: \$339K / 20 ACRES Lot 43: \$375K / 20 ACRES Combined: \$699K



Lot 4 Beaver Creek West 20 ACRES / \$539K

GREATER MONTANA



Lot 287A Rising Bull Rd. 1.04 Acres / \$529K



Big EZ Lot 13 20 ACRES / \$449K

BOZEMAN



353 Little Wolf Road 2,784 SQ FT / \$625K



1800 Skunk Creek Rd. 38.71 ACRES / \$393K

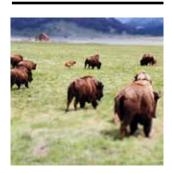


Osprey Cove Lakehouse Hebgen Lake, MT 4,628 SQ FT / \$1.795M



Lot 14 Chokecherry Lane Hebgen Lake, MT 1.08 Acres / \$97.5K

RANCH & RECREATION



Yellowstone Ranch Preserve Hebgen Lake, MT 277.17 ACRES | \$8.365M 239.75 ACRES | Under Contract 236.52 ACRES | \$6.95M Whiskey Jug Cabin : 2,702 SQ FT



Big Sky Entrance Property Big Sky, MT 4.61 Acres / \$3.24M



Marketplace Unit 104

Big Sky, MT

1,204 SQ FT / \$560,920

Lease Option



BeaverPond Plaza Units 8A & 8B Bozeman, MT 3,400 SQ FT | \$390K



RJS Tower Unit 205/207 Big Sky, MT 961 SQ FT / \$339K



Airport Garages Bozeman, MT \$24.9K per unit Taking reservations for building G



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LOCAL

Finding the line An adaptive alpine skier angles for the Paralympics

BY BAY STEPHENS EBS EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

BIG SKY - "Any more questions?" Mark Urich, 32, asked the assortment of first- through fifth-graders after an Oct. 30 presentation at Ophir Elementary.

Little raised hands gave way to exclamations of "I ski too!" Although it wasn't a question, Urich couldn't help but smile. He's as stoked about skiing as the kids that surrounded him, although the way he skis is a little different.

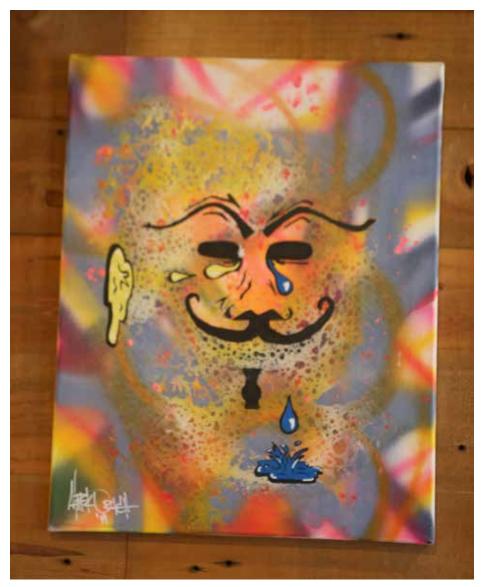
Born with a Proximal Femoral Focal Deficiency (PFFD), Urich's right leg was amputated above the knee when he was 2 so that prosthetics would fit better when he was older. Today, he is ranked seventh in the nation for adaptive alpine ski racing. His sights are fixed on representing the United States in the 2018 Paralympic Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Sports and competition have been key to living a good life for Urich.

Growing up, his mom told him, "You're as disabled as you want to be." Since he was little, Urich has always charged, throwing himself into whatever sport he was doing. With only one prosthetic to work with for most of his life, Urich played baseball, hockey and football and got into rock climbing. At the University of Colorado Boulder, Urich rowed on the varsity crew team.

"There's no better way to get people to not make fun of my leg than sports," Urich said. "Once I figured out that I can use it for my advantage—I just might have to work a little bit harder—[it was] game on."

Although Urich now races on the development team for the National Sports Center for the Disabled, carving out high-velocity turns all over





Urich races down a slalom course with an "outrigger" attached to each forearm. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK URICH

the world, he's been skiing for just six years. When asked about his introduction to the sport, he was straightforward: "A girl," he said.

While managing a bar in Denver after college, a woman in a wheelchair came in and caught his eye. Urich went over to talk to her.

"What's with the leg?" she asked.

"What's with the chair?" he replied. After more banter, she told him he had to try out skiing. Her name was Alana Nichols. A three-time Paralympic gold medalist, Nichols earned her hardware in wheelchair basketball and alpine skiing.

A ski date ensued, comprised largely of Nichols ripping around in her sit-ski, giving Urich a hard time as he struggled to get down the mountain. That was just the beginning for him, though.

"If she can do this, I can definitely get my butt up here and do this," he recalls thinking to himself.

After a few days of skiing, Urich talked to his coach about adaptive racing.

Adorning the walls of Beehive Basin Brewing, Urich's paintings are for sale to raise money for his race travels. Each piece captures a snapshot of his life. PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

"He told me I was crazy. He's like, 'I just watched you take 45 minutes down a blue run, man," Urich laughed. "We still talk about that today because three months after that I went to [the U.S. Adaptive Alpine Championships] and I got ninth in downhill in Alyeska, Alaska."

After that taste of the world of skiing, Urich set his mind to finding a way to do it full time.

After years of hard work—and going on a vegan diet, more recently— Urich is looking forward to another busy winter doing what he loves: training with his team in Winter Park, Colorado, and racing all over North America and Europe.

Skiing brought him to Big Sky, which cultivated a love for the sport beyond racing, namely tackling big mountain and backcountry lines.

In racing, though, Urich's experienced camaraderie while training with

other adaptive athletes that he says is unparalleled. He lives, eats and skis with his competitors—both American and international—so there is no hostility between them, he said, only shared joy in each other's successes.

One of Urich's goals is to garner more recognition for the Paralympics, which don't even have television coverage. He wants "to get people to see how cool some of this stuff is," he says, making the point that watching a blind skier tear down a downhill course is something from another world.

More exposure would also help athletes like himself get sponsored so that, like Olympic athletes, they can compete among the best in the world without having to work multiple jobs.

Although he has several sponsors—including Caliber Coffee, which sells a "Stoke Blend" in his honor—that allow him to get by with income from his graphic and web design business, Urich is always looking for more support. Gifted with his mom's artistic talent, Urich also draws and paints. Several of his paintings adorning the walls at Beehive Basin Brewery are for sale.

Urich hopes speaking to kids like those at Ophir Elementary will help break down the current perception of disabilities.

"I want them to know I have just as much fun in life, if not more. That's our joke," he said of himself and his teammates, "'Our life is your vacation.' Do not pity us."

"I think we need to move away from the 'Oh my goodness, I feel so bad for that person,' [approach] to 'That person lives a different life, I wonder what happened,'" Urich said.

In the end, it's all about perspective. It's never been easy for Urich, but he



Urich travels extensively to participate in ski racing events and sells his artwork to support his athletic ambitions. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK URICH

has chosen a life of richness in the sports he devotes himself to, the art he creates and the relationships he fosters.

"I've gotten to see so many sunrises from the top of the world. Having one leg is not a bad life at all," he said. "I've taken it and used it to be one of the coolest parts of my life."

To learn more about Mark Urich or to support his racing, visit onelegski.com.



LOCAL

Big Sky Resort adds chairlift, expands ski runs and overall season for 2017-2018

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – An array of new improvements at Big Sky Resort will make accessing the "Biggest Skiing in America" even easier this year when the lifts start spinning Thanksgiving Day.

This season will see the addition of three new gladed runs: OxBow, PB&J Way and Wild Bill. Oxbow is accessible from the North Summit Snowfield; PB&J is located off Horseshoe on the mountain's north side, and Wild Bill runs parallel to Swift Current chairlift.

The main arterial from the Madison Base Area back to the Mountain Village, Fast Lane, has been more than doubled in width, which will make traversing back to the Mountain Village from the north side of the mountain both easier and safer.

For the novice crowd, three new magic carpet lifts have been installed at the Mountain Village Base Area and one at the Madison Base Area. One of the conveyor belts is encased in a blue canopy to help protect riders from the elements. Crews have also reconfigured the base area to allow easier transition from one carpet to the next, eventually aiding a trouble-free transition to a chairlift.

Big Sky Resort will operate a new chairlift in the Ulery's Lake area called Stagecoach. The double chairlift will service skiers staying in the real estate area near and unload along Peaks View Drive with an easy ski-out to Derringer or Six Shooter lifts, bringing the total numbers of lifts at Big Sky to 36. For those who like to ride the Tram, the transition into the Liberty Bowl area has been smoothed out with the creation of Liberty Traverse, which is located at the top of Lone Peak. "It will allow easier access from the exit of the Tram into the south-facing slopes near Liberty Bowl," Big Sky Resort Public Relations Manager Chelsi Moy said.

Slopeside amenities on the mountain have increased as well. During the offseason, there was a complete renovation of the Big Sky Sports Demo Center which, following last year's renovation of the Big Sky Sports rental shop, will further enhance flow and access for customers renting equipment.

Also new this year, Big Sky Resort is adding rental delivery services for select residences. Delivery services will fit guests with equipment on appointment, which should slim down lines in rental shops as well.

Improvements made during the offseason are part of Boyne Resorts' Big Sky 2025 plan, a \$150 million road map for capital investment to make Lone Peak "the American Alp." Boyne aims to make Big Sky a ski destination known for world-class amenities and the home of the most high-speed, high-tech lift network in North America.

A number of snowstorms have given Lone Peak a 20-inch base at midmountain with 24 inches on the upper mountain. Nov. 23 will hopefully see much of Big Sky Resort's 5,800 skiable acres and 300 named runs open for business.

And, finally, Big Sky will be open for an additional week. In early September the resort announced that it's moved its 2018 closing date from April 15 to April 22, adding an additional week of skiing at the tail end of the season.

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Governor calls special session to address budget shortfall

BY AMY BETH HANSON ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) - Gov. Steve Bullock called the Montana Legislature into special session next week to address a projected \$227 million budget shortfall.

He proposes that a third of the shortfall be addressed through budget cuts, a third through temporary tax increases to pay for the state's cost of fighting fires, and a third through transfers and other legislation.

Bullock, a Democrat, said Monday he has been negotiating with Republican legislative leaders to find a way to avoid making \$227 million in budget cuts, which would have included \$105 million in cuts for the Department of Public Health and Human Servicesharming some of the state's most vulnerable residents.

The proposal released Monday "represents where my negotiations with members of the Republican and Democratic Party leaders stand," Bullock said in calling lawmakers into special session at noon on Nov. 14. Committee hearings would be held Nov. 13.

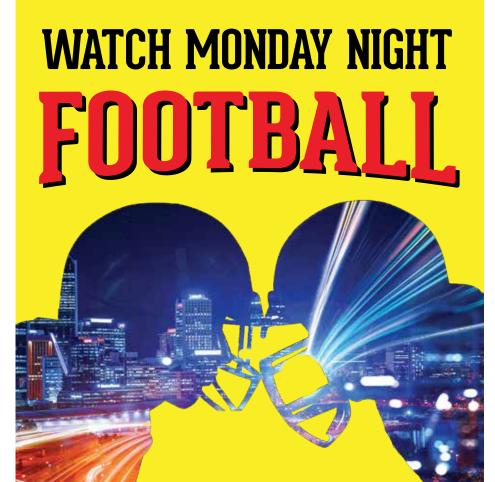
"It's time Montana leaders fulfill our responsibilities to the people we represent and balance our budget in a way that makes sense for Montana taxpayers, workers, and families," Bullock said.

Bullock is recommending cutting \$76.6 million in general fund spending, temporarily raising taxes on hotels and rental cars to help cover the state's estimated \$70 million cost of fighting this summer's wildfires while suspending state contributions to the employee health plan and the judge's retirement system—both of which are running a surplus.

The health department would see a loss of \$49 million in state funding through June 2019, with a corresponding loss of \$60.5 million in federal funds. If forced to cut \$227 million, the health department's proposed \$105 million in cuts would have brought a loss of another \$136.6 million in federal funding.

Republican House Speaker Austin Knudsen of Culbertson said he didn't believe a special session should be the first step in fixing the state's budget.

"Let's be clear here, the governor expects the legislature to raise taxes on hardworking Montanans before any effort to reduce non-essential services has been made," Knudsen said in a statement. "There is a distinct lack of leadership from the executive branch, but my caucus will do what needs to be done to address the budget head-on while doing what Montanans elected us to do ... keeping in mind the taxpayers and those who utilize government services."



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Bullock said he's confident lawmakers "recognize that the budget that they passed funded services that Montanans rely upon, and that's what makes me hopeful that they will do the right thing and reach a deal."

After the session, Bullock said he would order the \$76.6 million in cuts.

It's not clear how many jobs would be lost, but the recommendations include closing 19 offices of public assistance, some adult protective services offices and would require prior authorization for some Medicaid services. The departments of Corrections and Justice and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education would each see about \$4.4 million in cuts.

The state needs a solution by Nov. 27, the point at which it must make \$120 million in payments to schools.



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Explore Big Sky

Republican facing charges described as seasonal resident

BOZEMAN (AP) - U.S. Senate candidate Troy Downing paid non-resident taxes and referred to California as "home: on social media during the same period when authorities allege he illegally purchased Montana resident hunting or fishing licenses, according to an investigation.

The Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks investigation began in December 2013 when the Department of Revenue notified wardens that Downing was believed to have illegally purchased resident licenses, according to The Bozeman Daily Chronicle.

The Republican has pleaded not guilty to nine misdemeanor violations in a case pending in state District Court in Gallatin County.

If he's found guilty, the businessman from Big Sky likely would be exposed to criticism from opponents as an out-of-state interloper. His campaign said Tuesday that Downing was a full-time Montana resident throughout the period at issue.

Downing filed income taxes as a non-resident during at least two years when he bought resident hunting or fishing licenses, 2013 and 2014, according to an affidavit in a search warrant application submitted by a state game warden in April.

He paid his taxes as a full-year Montana resident in 2015, the affidavit said.

Authorities say Downing illegally bought licenses each year from 2011 to 2016, illegally loaned an elk license to another hunter, and helped his adult son obtain a 2015 Montana resident license even though the son had a California driver's license.

A person must live in Montana for 180 days prior to buying a resident hunting and fishing license. The person also must register a vehicle in Montana, file state income tax returns as a resident and not possess or apply for any residential hunting, fishing or trapping privileges in another state.

Investigators characterized Downing's time in Montana as "seasonal at best" based on postings to a personal blog titled "Troy's World-Random Rants and Related Run-On Retarded Rhetoric," in which Downing mentioned spending time with family in his Montana vacation home and returning home to California.

He's among at least five Republicans seeking to challenge Democratic Sen. Jon Tester next fall. Downing's campaign chair is Lola Zinke, wife of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, a former Montana congressman. The candidate tweeted a photo of himself last week posing with two of President Donald Trump's sons, Eric and Donald Jr., at what his campaign said was private reception in the Judith Basin area during a hunting trip by the Trumps.

Campaign manager Kevin Gardner told The Associated Press that Downing has been a full-time Montana resident since 2009. It "makes no sense" for Downing to skirt the law, Gardner said, to avoid paying non-resident license fees at the same time he was paying tens of thousands of dollars to support Montana fishing trips for veterans.

"We also cannot fathom the corruption of the judicial system that is taking place where details of this case are being leaked to the press before Troy is being afforded due process in the court of law," Gardner said in an emailed statement. He added that the state wildlife agency was on a "witch hunt" against the candidate.

The warrant cited by the Chronicle had been unsealed by Judge John Brown last month at the request of the County Attorney's office, which asked for the document to be made public after Downing was charged in July.

Gardner declined to elaborate on what corruption might have taken place.

But he suggested it was part of an orchestrated attack by Tester allies and pointed out that Brown was appointed in 2005 by former Gov. Brian Schweitzer, a Democrat. Gardner declined to provide tax records or other documents to corroborate the claim that Downing has been in Montana full time since 2009.

Downing still has property in California, Gardner said.



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* Explore Big Sky reserves the right to edit letters

Groups sue for details on Trump plan for national monuments

BY MATTHEW BROWN ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) - Environmentalists sued the administration of President Donald Trump on Thursday seeking to pry loose details of plans to shrink national monuments and marine areas and open them to more resource development.

The lawsuit alleges the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the Interior Department illegally ignored Freedom of Information Act requests for documents related to the issue.

At the end of October, Trump said he intends to shrink two monuments in Utah—Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, according to Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch.

Additionally, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has recommended shrinking Nevada's Gold Butte, Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou and two marine monuments in the Pacific Ocean. More logging would be allowed at Maine's Katahdin Woods and Waters and grazing and commercial fishing at other monuments.

Plaintiffs in the lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C., include the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society and Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. "If the Trump administration thinks what they are about to do is legal, why are they keeping it secret?" asked Yvonne Chi with Earthjustice, the law firm representing the environmentalists. "We expect the record to show that the administration has been speaking with industry groups."

Administration officials declined comment.

Trump ordered Zinke to review 27 national monuments and marine areas in April. The monuments are protected under the Antiquities Act, a 1906 law that gives presidents broad power to set aside lands of "historic or scientific interest."

Trump has complained it's been used as a "massive federal land grab" by former presidents including Democrat Barack Obama, placing millions of acres of lands and vast areas of ocean under onerous restrictions, at times over the objections of local communities.

Environmentalists and American Indian tribes have said the Trump administration's actions threaten to degrade scenic landscapes, valuable archaeological sites and important wildlife habitat.

The Associated Press also has sought documents related to the monument review through a Freedom of Information Act request filed in August. The AP has yet to receive a response from the Interior Department.

Trial to start in Vegas for rancher Bundy in 2014 standoff

BY KEN RITTER Associated press

LAS VEGAS (AP) - Trial opens Tuesday in Las Vegas for Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, two of his sons and a co-defendant accused of leading an armed standoff in 2014 against government agents in a decades-long cattle grazing dispute.

Prosecutors will tell a jury that the 71-year-old Bundy, sons Ryan and Ammon Bundy, and co-defendant Ryan Payne of Anaconda, Montana, conspired to enlist a self-styled militia to defy government authority at the point of a gun. Each man refused to enter a plea, saying he didn't recognize the authority of the government. A magistrate judge entered not-guilty pleas for the men, who are expected to testify.

Bundy argues that his family has used the same public range for more than a century and the land belongs to the state, not the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Acting U.S. Attorney Steven Myhre argues that the federal agency was enforcing lawful court orders to remove Bundy cows from what is now Gold Butte National Monument after the rancher racked up more than \$1.1 million in unpaid fees and penalties.

Defense attorneys say the men didn't conspire with anyone, didn't wield weapons and didn't threaten anybody.

The standoff near Bunkerville, Nevada, about 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas, was an iconic moment in a decadeslong turf battle about federal control of vast rangelands in the Western U.S.

The men are accused of calling for a "range war" to stop government enforcement of lawful court orders to round up Bundy cows for failure to pay federal grazing fees and penalties.

The Bundys and Payne have been jailed since early 2016 as a danger to the community and at risk to not follow court orders or return for hearing dates.

The defendants have been attending court wearing red jail scrubs, to protest their nearly two-year detention without trial. Ryan Bundy is serving as his own lawyer. Bundy's lawyer, Bret Whipple, says Bundy was willing to pay his fees, and even tried to send a check in March 1994 to Clark County. It was returned with a letter saying the payment should go to the federal government.

Federal prosecutors in Nevada have twice failed to win full convictions at trial of men who had guns during the tense confrontation involving hundreds of protesters who stopped government agents from rounding up Bundy's cattle.

Defense attorneys cast the standoff as a peaceful protest, with no shots fired and no one injured before overreaching government officials abandoned the cattle roundup and went home.

The men each face 15 felony charges, including conspiracy, assault and threats against federal officers, firearms counts, obstruction and extortion. Stacked together, convictions on all charges carry the possibility of more than 170 years in prison.

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ENVIRONMENT



The New West: Why don't we hunt bald eagles for the sport of it?

BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

Explore Big Sky

In case you're wondering where the thinking of some Westerners is—note, I am using the adjective "some" here—you need look no further than social media.

This week a few citizens from the great state of Idaho informed me that I am a bunny-loving, tree-hugging, greenie who is anti-hunting, anti-predator-killing, and an "anti-human snowflake libtard" who does not understand "Western culture."

Actually, most of those sentiments were expressed in more, shall we say, "colorful" language—words my wife and I typically don't use while sitting around the family dinner table with our kids.

In their Facebook valentines, the commenters let me know my brain is comprised of the material that normally comes out a horse's backside, and that my head itself resides in that part of the anatomy where the sun doesn't shine.

They were responding to a long story I'd written on the science behind bear spray titled "To live or die in bear country: Counting the seconds in your grizzly moment of truth" posted at mountainjournal.org.

They made it clear that nobody was going to tell them what to do, that they don't have to believe the statistical data related to bear spray if they don't want to, and that if they ever run into a grizzly, their way of resolving a perceived conflict will be with a gun.

They said that because I've raised questions over the years about the rationale for trophy hunting of Greater Yellowstone grizzlies, the staging of predatorshooting contests, and the government's ongoing use of deadly cyanide poison and aerial gunners to kill coyotes, wolves and other animals. They say I am "anti-hunting," "anti-rancher" and "anti-western heritage."

While EBS's policy on expletives prevents the publication of one comment in its entirety, there was a healthy smattering of words starting with the letter "F" and suggestive of disgust. The commenter wrote that the ESA says that when animals are removed from the list, then we "F---IN' HUNT THEM, you stupid,



Composite image by August O'Keefe depicting a bear spray deployment.

commercial buyers. We don't have wildlife management agencies claiming they need to balance budgets based on revenue generated through the sale of bald eagle tags. Why is that?

Why do most Westerners accept that bald eagles, even after removal from the Endangered Species Act, ought not be hunted for sport?

Bald eagles, even after ESA delisting, remain protected by federal laws. No one invokes "states' rights" to say we should kill them—save maybe outlaws who, nodding and winking, might declare that, by God, they're going to poach an eagle to get back at the government or practice the so-called sacred rural code of "shoot, shovel and shut-up."

Most Westerners don't scream bloody murder because they can't legally wingshoot a golden eagle after eagles kill young domestic sheep or pronghorn fawns, or demand varmint status for osprey because they feast upon another huntable game species (trout), or argue that peregrines need to "managed" by sport hunters because they're preying on huntable revenuegenerating waterfowl.

The Idahoans are correct in their assertion that I struggle to find the logic both with using cyanide to control coyotes and the staging of predator-killing contests for the sheer fun of it. As for their assertion that wolves are destroying elk herds, it is not supported by fact.

worthless enviro LIBTARD!!!!! It's the law, you f---head!!!!!" This person also wrote that predators are "destroying our elk herds, b----!!!!"

So, here's the thing. I acknowledge, humbly, that only a few of their assertions are inaccurate.

The following are a couple of corrections (including the false claim I am antihunting and anti-rancher): Nowhere in the language of the federal Endangered Species Act does it state that once an animal is removed from the list of imperiled species it shall be hunted.

The Endangered Species Act was instrumental in bringing back bald eagles and peregrine falcons from the brink. They are also "recovered" and they, too, are "predators." So are golden eagles, osprey and red-tailed hawks.

Like grizzlies, humans don't eat bald eagles and peregrine falcons. Somebody could probably argue that they'd make great decorative stuffed trophies on the wall.

Yet as a civilized society, we don't hunt them, nor do we sponsor or allow eagle and peregrine-killing derbies in which prizes are offered to those who bag the most birds. We don't trap them for their plumage and sell their feathers to Official information circulated by state game agencies in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho shows that most elk hunting units are at, near, or above population objectives. Hunter success is pretty high in most places—a fact trumpeted even by outfitters and guides throughout the Rockies advertising pricey hunts to prospective clients.

If you want to know where the mythology of the old West still lives large, where facts and truth exist as casualties in a parallel universe detached from reality, you'll find it on social media—and along with it, scriveners who are very fond of using exclamation points.

Todd Wilkinson, founder of Mountain Journal (mountainjournal.org), is author of "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek" about famous Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear 399 featuring 150 photographs by Tom Mangelsen, available only at mangelsen.com/ grizzly. His profile of Montana politician Max Baucus appears in the summer 2017 issue of Mountain Outlaw and is now on newsstands.

Conference explores conservation challenges and opportunities

FUTURE WEST

The American West is one of the fastest growing regions in the country. How will this growth affect our rural landscapes, wildlife and water, and how we can avoid negative impacts? This will be the subject of a unique regional conference to be held in Bozeman on Nov. 29, at the Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture.

"Everyone's talking about how quickly the West is changing, but do we really understand these trends and what they mean for the future of our natural environment?" asked Dennis Glick of Bozeman nonprofit Future West, the host of the conference.

This event will put a spotlight on growth and its impacts. It will also highlight stories of how communities, agencies and individuals are working to ensure that as we grow and change, our abundant wildlife, clean water and wide-open spaces are conserved and restored.

"Sustaining the New West: Conservation Challenges—Conservation Opportunities" will be one of the first conferences to examine what many people consider priority conservation issues of the 21st century West: rural sprawl, intensive outdoor recreation, expanding transportation infrastructure and climate change.

"More importantly, we'll learn about the actions people and communities are taking to overcome these problems," Glick said. Speakers include a lineup of individuals with extensive knowledge on these topics. Ralph Becker, former two-term Mayor of Salt Lake City, will share his experience overseeing one of the fastest growing cities in the West. Ray Rasker from Headwaters Economics will share research on growth trends such as development at the wildland–urban interface.

Additionally, several scientists will delve into the impacts of expanding highway systems, sprawl and intensive recreation, and Steve Running, a co-winner of the Nobel Prize for Science, will shed light on how climate change could affect the lands and waters of the Northern Rockies.

The afternoon will feature stories from people who have recognized these conservation challenges and are working to overcome them. For example, Wyoming Department of Transportation is building underpasses and overpasses to facilitate the safe passage of wildlife across busy highways, and the State of Montana is collaborating with local watershed groups to implement a landscape-scale drought management plan to deal with ever diminishing surface and ground water supplies.

Conference organizers hope that this event will shed light on a new conservation agenda for the 21st century and spur further dialogue on ways we can ensure a bright future for the people, lands, wildlife and water of the Northern Rockies.

To register for this event, visit future-west.org/sustaining-the-new-west or contact Hannab Jaicks at hannab@future-west.org or (406) 587-2974.



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Explore Big Sky

Strictly For the Birds Raptor Center seeks to build new mews barn

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Bozeman's Montana Raptor Conservation Center has wrapped up its first year of on-site informational classes, making use of the newly constructed outdoor amphitheater. And after a successful summer of programming, MRCC is looking to expand their educational outreach by building additional housing for resident birds.

In addition to rehabilitating injured raptors from the area and returning them to the wild, MRCC has adopted 12 birds that live permanently at the center. These birds have either sustained debilitating injuries or have been imprinted by humans and would likely not survive in the wild. They include hawks, an owl and an eagle, and the new structure, a mews barn, would be their new lifelong residence.



Jordan Spyke, Director of Operations and Development for the Montana Raptor Conservation Center, releases a golden eagle after rehabilitation efforts brought him back to health. The raptor center provides medical care to about 200 raptors each year. PHOTO COURTESY OF MONTANA RAPTOR CONSERVATION CENTER

Rehabilitation director Becky Kean said the new structure will be located near the amphitheater so

visitors can easily see the education birds, while allowing them to remain comfortable in their home. "Giving them a good quality of life is everything," she said.

Kean added that MRCC is in the early stages of planning and is currently raising funds for the new structure. She is hopeful construction will begin next year.

Every year an average of 200 birds receive critical care from MRCC, coming from areas throughout Montana and neighboring states. These raptors, all of which are birds of prey, often require specialized treatment for injuries that could inhibit their survival in the wild.

On Oct. 11, MRCC admitted a golden eagle from North Dakota, likely injured by a car. "He's got a lot going against him," Kean said.

According to her colleague, director of operations and development Jordan Spyke, the No. 1 injury they see at the center is caused by cars. They also see many gunshot wounds and injuries from electrocution.

The center is not open to the public, Kean said. "We're mainly a hospital for these birds." But in recent years, MRCC has been able to expand

rehabilitation. "After they've been in this cage for so long during rehabilitation, their flight muscles have atrophied and we need to work on that before we can set them free," she said.

Flight therapy occurs in the flight barns with the assistance of a staff member. "You basically approach them and they fly the other way, then you approach them again and they fly the other way," Spyke said.

"They need to be pretty much back to normal before they can be released," Kean said. "It's a pretty tough life out there for raptors.

"I have a deep respect and appreciation for these birds," she added. She described debilitating injuries they suffer and said, "For them to overcome that, and their will to survive is pretty amazing. I feel very fortunate."

The birds in rehabilitation are fed a diet that mimics their food intake in the wild, and includes mice, quail, rats and game meat, the latter of which is solely dependent upon donation. The center accepts elk, deer, antelope and bison in trimmed cuts, and often receives donations in the fall as hunters clear their freezer of anything remaining from last year's harvest. MRCC cannot accept burger, sausage or smoked/jerked meat, nor whole carcasses or entrails.

educational programming and hosts scheduled open houses and lectures.

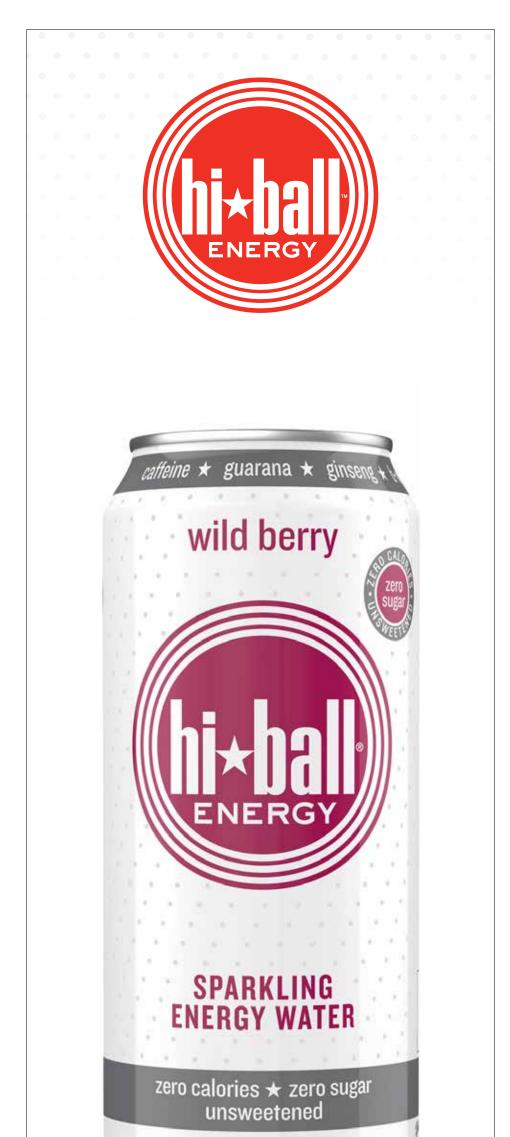
In addition to the new amphitheater and the future mews barn, MRCC facilities include an office building with exam and X-ray rooms, a mews barn for injured raptors, and three flight barns used to exercise the birds.

The larger flight barn, designed by students in the Department of Architecture at Montana State University, is larger on top than it is on the ground, providing enough space for eagles—one of the largest raptors in North America—to fly in laps around the building.

A common injury MRCC treats are fractures, and since birds have hollow bones, a bone often shatters when it breaks, Kean said. With this kind of injury, a raptor will need at least two months of The smallest of birds might eat one mouse per day. "Eagles, they can eat 300 grams per day," Spyke said. Three hundred grams is nearly the equivalent of 1 pound.

This fall, MRCC released some Cooper's hawks and a female Merlin falcon near Three Forks. MRCC has also released several young Swainson's hawks in time for their annual migration to Argentina, something Kean said was important because the young birds need to learn to make that journey. "We like to especially get these young hawks out so they can make their first migration to warmer weather and better food supply," she said.

To learn more about the Montana Raptor Conservation Center, visit montanaraptor.org.



Montana rider becomes youngest PBR World Champion in history

BY AMANDA EGGERT **EBS SENIOR EDITOR**

LAS VEGAS and BIG SKY - On Nov. 5, a 20-year cowboy from Volborg, Montana, became the youngest PBR World Champion in the history of the professional bull riding circuit, and the only rider from Montana to hold that distinction.

In the process, Lockwood, who's been competing in PBR events for just two years, amassed more than \$1.52 million dollars, racking up 4,862 points and hanging on for 49 eightsecond rides.

Just shy of a quarter of the points he collected this season—and \$1.19 million of his total earnings for the year-were won during Build Ford Tough World Finals in Las Vegas Nov. 1-5.



Jess Lockwood's total winnings for this year's PBR circuit topped \$1.5 million thanks to his impressive showing at the PBR World Finals in Las Vegas on Nov. 1-5. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BULLSTOCK MEDIA

PBR public relations representative Andrew Giangola noted that by winning the first three nights of the finals, Lockwood further secured his name in the record books—it's a PBR first.

"Jess is viewed by many Western sports pundits as a young Bryce Harper or LeBron James: a tough, talented, dedicated and driven phenom whose star will rise high and far," Giangola said.

It was an impressive showing for the recently injured cowboy. On Sept. 23, Lockwood suffered four broken ribs, a lacerated kidney and a punctured lung at a PBR event in Uniondale, New York. As can be common with rib and lung injuries, Lockwood endured further complications in the form of a bout of pneumonia that required IV fluids.

Lockwood couldn't be reached for a comment following his precedent-setting finish, but in a June 2016 interview with EBS, he described his early immersion in rodeo. His mother competed in barrel racing events and his father, a saddle bronc rider, won the Montana Pro Rodeo Circuit Championship in 1992.

"I've always grown up in the world," Lockwood said. His family members were in Las Vegas to root for him during PBR Finals week-and then celebrate his victory.

Lockwood has indicated that he's going to invest some of his winnings in livestock, something he did in 2016 well. "I've been saving my money, being smart with my money," he's said. Now the young gun from Montana will have a lot more to save.



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Lockwood atop More Big Bucks on Nov. 3 for a 90.25-point score.

SPORTS

Big Horn season comes to an abrupt end in first round of state playoffs

BY CHRIS SAMUELS EBS CONTRIBUTOR

DRUMMOND, Mont. - The Lone Peak Big Horns took their 6-3 record to Drummond Oct. 28 to play the Flint Creek Co-op Titans, and it wasn't pretty for Lone Peak. The No. 1 seeded Titans took control from the opening kick and it was all downhill for the Big Horns.

The home team scored three times in the opening quarter and another three times in the second quarter to bring the halftime score to 36-0. That prompted a running clock in the second half and the Big Horns fell 60-0. Flint Creek Co-op moved on to the quarterfinals of the Class C 8-man state playoffs to play Fairview on Nov. 4, where they won again against Circle on Nov. 11 for a spot in the semi-final round.

There were only a few bright spots in the Big Horns' last game of the season. Sophomore quarterback Frankie Starz intercepted his third pass of the season in the first half and sophomore Austin Samuels intercepted his recordbreaking sixth pass of the season in the second half. Senior Howie Robin again led the team in receiving yards, but his scoring streak was broken. Prior to the game in Drummond, Robin put points on the board for nine straight games. Freshmen Bo Wikan and Caden Daugaard saw their most extensive playing time of the season.

"Coming into this game we knew the Flint Creek Titans were a high-quality team with well-rounded athletes at every position," said LPHS head coach Adam Farr. "Our hope was to catch a couple breaks early to build some momentum, but that didn't happen and we take our hats off to the Titans as they didn't let up from the first snap to the last snap of the game."

Although it ended with a loss, on the whole Lone Peak played one of its strongest seasons to date. This was just their second season playing football at the 8-man level. "To make the playoffs in just two seasons and win six games was a major accomplishment," said Lone Peak assistant coach Dan Wade.



Seven seniors played for Lone Peak High School in 2017, the 8-man program's deepest team to date. The Big Horns lost their Oct. 28 playoff game in Drummond to Flint Creek Co-op and closed the season with a 6-4 record. PHOTO BY ACRA SAMUELS

"Obviously not the final game we were looking for, however when looking at the season as a whole I'm truly proud of our team," Farr said. "It was a season that I doubt any of our players or coaches will soon forget."

The LPHS squad will miss its seven seniors as this was deepest football team Big Sky has fielded. However, the team will return seven veterans from this year as well as adding a host of players that have been excelling on the Ophir Middle School team.

Big Horns volleyball season ends at district tourney in Manhattan

BY AMANDA EGGERT EBS SENIOR EDITOR

MANHATTAN, Mont. – The Big Horns came to the 11C District Tournament with an 11-4 record, but were handed two losses by the Manhattan Christian Eagles, a talented team they've been in tight competition with all season long.

Lone Peak was seeded No. 2 entering the tournament, and fell to the No. 3-seeded Eagles in the Big Horns' first post-season game on Nov. 26.

But even the Eagles fell to the Gardiner Bruins, who won their sixth straight district championship on Oct. 30, sweeping all three sets.

Lone Peak players graduating this spring include Carter Johnsen, Kuka Holder, Peytynne King, Bryn Iskendarian, Julia Barton and Katie Hoffman.

Several of Lone Peak's players could be in contention for All-Conference honors when those selections are announced later this month.

The Big Horns bounced back with an easy win against White Sulphur Springs in three sets before losing again to Manhattan Christian in a thrilling match on the afternoon of Nov. 27.

The Eagles played an incredibly strong game from the front and back rows with a tall line of blockers and an agile libero in the back. Both teams put on their best spiking and blocking games, using increasingly cagey strategy in their hit placement as the match progressed.

Although the Eagles had an edge in terms of height, the Big Horns led in experience—this year's varsity squad fielded six seniors and four juniors.

The crowds for both sides were animated and the Eagles and Big Horns responded with intensity and hustle, igniting a string of suspenseful back-and-forth volleys. But in the end, it was the Eagles who wrapped up the set.



Junior middle hitter Solae Swenson fires off a spike against the Eagles during an Oct. 27 game in Manhattan. The Eagles would win the game and lose in a championship match against the Bruins, a powerhouse team out of Gardiner. PHOTO BY AMANDA EGGERT

SPORTS

Bobcats' playoff hopes dim with home loss to Kennesaw State

BY COLTER NUANEZ EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN — The Montana State football team came so close yet again, but came up short, just as has been the story of 2017 for the young, rebuilding Bobcats.

Montana State posted two straight Big Sky Conference victories to end October. The Bobcats used a last-second field goal to beat Northern Colorado in the team's first trip to Greeley, Colo., since 2013. On the final weekend of October, Montana State again played smothering fourth quarter defense, turning a 14-14 halftime score into a 28-14 late-season win to move to 4-2 in Big Sky Conference play, 4-4 overall.

MSU took an atypical step outside of conference play to begin November. The Bobcats welcomed upstart Kennesaw State to Bozeman. The Owls traveled nearly 2,000 miles from Kenensaw, Georgia, to face MSU on Nov. 4 in the Bobcats' final nonconference game of 2017.

KSU came to Bobcat Stadium with a football program that has only been competing since 2015. But the Owls have a vision built upon the same tenets of Georgia Southern, a powerhouse program that won four Division I-AA national titles between 1985 and 2000 before moving up to the FBS.

Brian Bohannon, a master of the flex-bone triple option offense from his time working at Georgia Southern, Navy and Georgia Tech for the attack's creator, Paul Johnson, is the first and only coach in Kennesaw State history. He led his team across the country in search of an eighth straight victory.

With a deliberate, marching attack, Kennesaw ran the ball at will against the Bobcats on a sun-kissed yet snowy winter afternoon in front of a sparsely populated stadium. The Owls began the game with a dominant 17-play, 89yard drive that resulted in their lone touchdown. Kennesaw State finished the game with a 20-play drive that lasted more than 10 minutes and led to Justin Thompson's third field goal of the afternoon to lift No. 25 KSU to a gritty 16-14 victory over the Bobcats.

"We continue to be close, we continue to be right there but in the end, we weren't able to close out yet another close game," Montana State defensive coordinator Ty Gregorak said in his weekly news conference on Nov. 6.

After Thompson's go-ahead field goal, Montana State still had 1:55 left on the clock. After a first-down strike from quarterback Chris Murray to towering



Montana State defenders Josh Hill (58), Khari Garcia (12), Tyrone Fa'anono (57), Derek Marks (95) & Bryson McCabe (10) tackle Kennesaw State fullback Zach McKenzie (4) in a 16-14 Owls victory in Bozeman on Nov. 4 PHOTOS BY BROOKS NUANEZ

wide receiver Jabarri Johnson, Murray's next pass was intercepted by KSU safety Taylor Kenkle to secure a vital non-conference win in front of about two-thirds of the 16,887 announced fans on a frozen Montana day at Bobcat Stadium.

"Disappointing again because we put ourselves in a position to win and we don't' get a win," MSU offensive coordinator Brian Armstrong said Nov. 6. "The journey continues and we continue to work and try to solve the puzzle."

According to Montana State sports information, the last time the Bobcats played a non-conference game in November, Cal Poly beat MSU 20-19 on Nov. 8, 1997.

The loss is Montana State's fifth this season, essentially eliminating the Bobcats from earning an FCS playoff berth. The one way Montana State could sneak into the 24-team postseason field is if MSU were to win at Northern Arizona on Nov. 11, beat Montana at home on Nov. 18, and see Southern Utah, Weber State, NAU and Montana lose at least one and possibly two of the final games of the regular season. That scenario—an unlikely one—would put MSU at 6-2 in Big Sky play, in a tie with at least three other league teams.

Montana State posted 14 straight winning seasons between 2002 and 2014. Since then, the Bobcats have had two straight losing seasons. MSU will need to win both of its remaining games to secure a winning campaign.

> "You have to get this taste out of your mouth, come back and watch film, get ready for NAU like it's a normal week,"

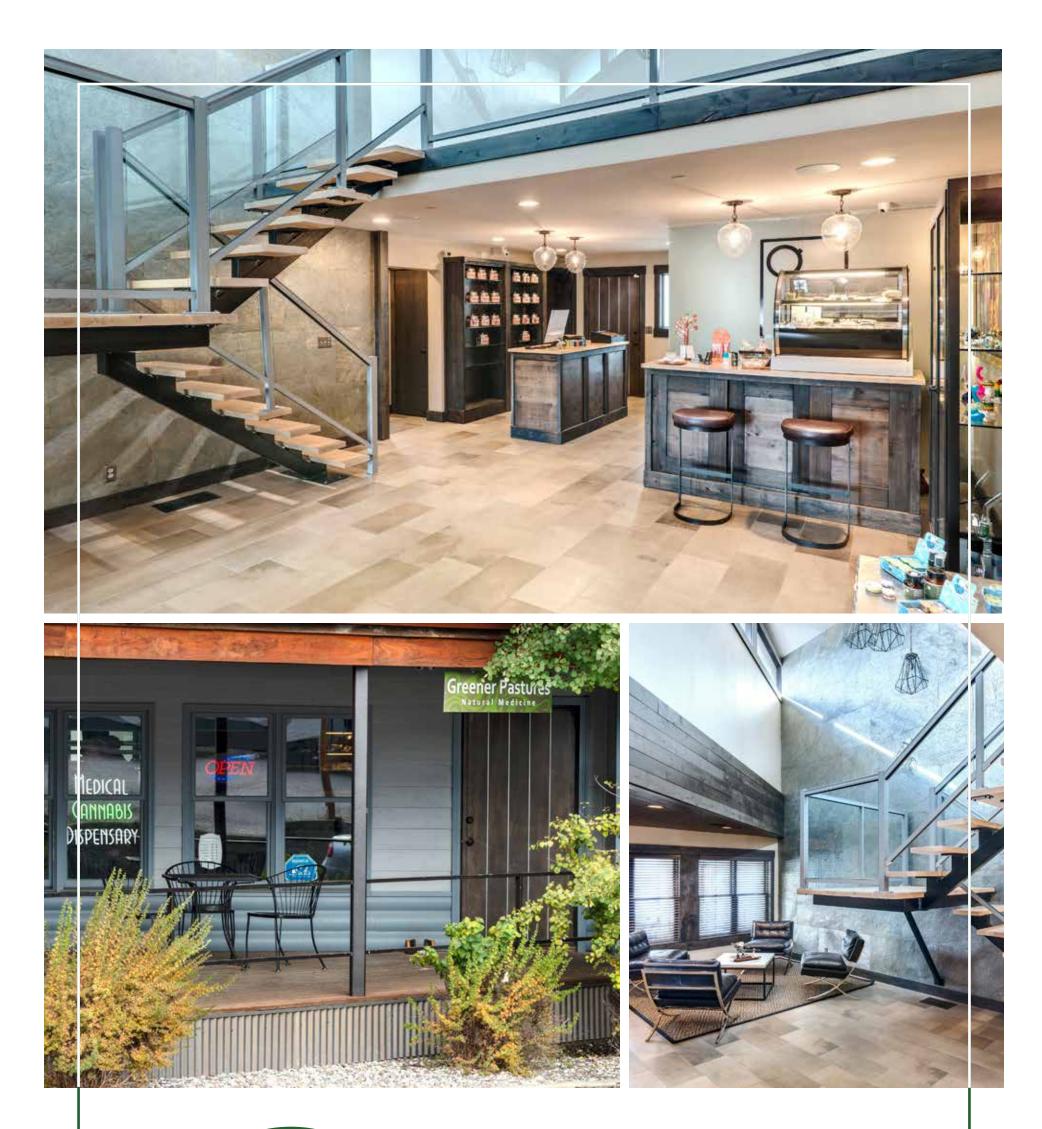




MSU junior running back Logan Jones said after the Kennesaw State loss. "We have to be the best we can in everything we do."

Colter Nuanez is an independent journalist living in southwest Montana. He is the co-founder of Skyline Sports (skylinesportsmt.com), an online newsgathering organization that provides comprehensive coverage of Montana State and Big Sky Conference athletics. He is also the co-bost of the Tootell & Tatonka Show on ESPN radio in Missoula. He can be reached at Colter.Nuanez@gmail.com

Kennesaw State junior quarterback Chandler Burks, who rushed for 149 of Kennesaw's 374 yards, runs the speed option against Montana State's defensive front.





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Our incredible immune system



BY DR. JEFF DANIELS EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

The human immune system is a remarkable piece of work. Not only does it protect us against all sorts of invading organisms—viruses, bacteria, fungi and parasites—it also eliminates our own cells that turn cancerous.

We know that immunity is not perfect because we all get infections and some of us develop cancer, but throughout a lifetime—now 85 to 90-plus years for most Americans—the immune system is constantly working to keep us disease free.

I studied immunology intensely during my fellowship training in New York, and to me the most fascinating aspect of our immune system is how it produces billions of cells and molecules to fight an immense array of pathogens. It does so by splicing and combining a small amount of our DNA in various branches of the immune system, then mass-producing specific defenses.

When germs invade our body, the first line of defense is a broad attack not aimed specifically at that one microbe. Over eons, this has evolved and proven effective in slowing down the pathologic process. That gives the immune system time—about a week or two—to mount a calculated, specific attack and successfully dispose of the infection. Many of the common illnesses we deal with could be fatal without a specific immunologic defense.

Timely vaccinations are important. By giving our immune system a chance to gear up before an attack, we can limit, or virtually eliminate, a specific infection if we're exposed to others with that disease.

Many of you are too young to remember some common diseases that are now preventable and rarely mentioned. Polio, before Jonas Salk developed a vaccine in the late 1950s, killed or paralyzed thousands of people every year. Measles, which until a vaccine was introduced in the early 1960s, infected almost every American child under the age of 15, and accounted for about 450 deaths per year in otherwise healthy children. German measles, also known as rubella, caused deafness and other birth defects in kids.

Very few vaccines are perfect, and only one disease prevented by a vaccine has been completely wiped off the face of the Earth. Smallpox was the first human disease to have a preventative vaccination. Other vaccine-preventable diseases still lurk, often in less developed countries, with the potential of sneaking back and infecting people who have not been vaccinated, such as measles did in 2014.

Consider this: Researchers at the University of California, San Diego showed





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that a child with a healthy immune system can effectively process up to 100,000 different immunological challenges at once. Most vaccines we use contain dozens, maybe hundreds of unique molecules to challenge the immune system and stimulate a protective response.

Since the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends only 14 vaccines, to be administered over a two-year period, those who worry about children getting too many vaccinations in short periods of time shouldn't be so concerned.

I'll have more to say about the importance and safety of vaccines in future columns.

Dr. Jeff Daniels was the recipient of the 2015 Chamber of Commerce Chet Huntley Lifetime Achievement Award and has been practicing medicine in Big Sky since 1994, when he and his family moved here from New York City. A unique program he implements has attracted more than 800 medical students and young doctors to train with the Medical Clinic of Big Sky.

Editor's note: A version of this installment of Doctor's Note ran in the Nov. 13, 2015 edition of EBS.





BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN EBS Health Columnist

October enticed us with free candy around every corner. Now, as November ushers in more holidays, dark days and cold weather, cravings often start going into overdrive.

Many of us begin plotting our New Year's Day resolutions as we indulge in yet another bite of chocolate or glass of wine. But there are many good reasons to avoid falling into this pattern.

By continually giving into cravings over the next six weeks, we're creating habits that will be harder to break come the new year. Also, eating and drinking excessive carbohydrates and sugar sets us up for mood swings that can compound the stresses of the holiday season.

Sugar causes inflammation, which disrupts our immune systems and makes us more susceptible to catching a cold or flu. Sugar can cause energy crashes, making it harder to stay focused and maintain the desire to exercise. In addition, sugar can result in rapid weight gain—belly fat in particular. And perhaps worst of all, sugar causes our blood sugar levels to spike. If this happens regularly, we can damage our metabolic system leading to Type 2 diabetes.

Sometimes what we think of as a craving is actually the body signaling hunger. It's natural to be hungry every three to five hours, depending on your level of activity, the amount and quality of food you ate at your last meal, how much sleep you've had, the amount of alcohol you've consumed, and your stress levels.

But when real cravings hijack our brains, how do we crush them? We start with self-awareness. I can give you the usual top 10 tips on how to overcome cravings, but the rubber doesn't hit the road until you nail down information about your personal cravings.

Here are three questions to answer if you have sugar cravings you'd like to get under control:

- 1. What do you crave? If it's salty foods, ask yourself if the salt is coating a refined carbohydrate like salty chips.
- 2. When do you crave it? What triggers the craving?
- 3. What might your mind and body be trying to obtain? How might satisfying this craving make you feel more balanced?

According to Mark David, founder of the Institute for the Psychology of Eating, there are three types of cravings: supportive, dispersive and associative.

A supportive craving is when the body instinctively knows it needs something. For example, a pregnant woman who craves vegetables may need more potassium. It's the body's innate intelligence guiding us.

A dispersive craving is caused by a yearning that can't actually be satisfied with food or drink. When we do succumb to it, it causes feelings of lethargy, heaviness or guilt. David asks, "If the body is so naturally wise, how could it be so dumb? The bottom line here is this: just as the heart can look for love in all the wrong places, so too can the body. Both are easily seduced. No blame."

An associative craving is a combination of the two above. It occurs when we are seeking connection with our past. We crave food that bridges us to people, places or times in our lives that have deep meaning. What we crave might not be on top of the healthy foods list but creating that emotional connection might, in turn, be healing.

What are your cravings telling you? What's one little action step you can take to overcome your cravings this holiday season?

Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach, culture consultant and public speaker. For a complimentary bealth consultation, reach ber at rainfordcorcoran@gmail.com.



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Sweet potatoes—or is that a yam?

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER EBS STAFF

Despite what you might think, the yams that you find in your supermarket are likely orange sweet potatoes masquerading as yams. Years ago, farmers started calling their sweet potatoes yams to differentiate their crop from other potatoes in the market. This confusing trend stuck, and grocers today continue to label orange sweet potatoes as yams to distinguish them from other varieties and colors of sweet potatoes.

True yams are a completely different vegetable entirely, and it's likely you've never even seen one. They have thick, textured, almost bark-like skin and white flesh, and an appearance closer to that of a yucca root. Its texture is more like that of a russet potato than a true sweet potato, but with more nutrients and complex carbohydrates.

Yams are most traditionally used in West African—their native region and Caribbean cooking. They are difficult to find in traditional grocery stores and markets, and are more easily found in specialty food stores.

It's helpful to know that there are several varieties of sweet potatoes, and grocery stores use the terms sweet potato and yam quite interchangeably. To make it even more confusing, this can vary from store to store. From what I've observed, orange sweet potatoes will be labeled as yams and white-fleshed sweet potatoes will keep their actual name. So, if you're looking for a white-fleshed sweet potato, buy a sweet potato. If you want orange flesh, buy a "yam."

Since you probably won't find a true yam at your local grocer, here is a breakdown of the varieties of sweet potatoes most commonly available in the U.S.:

Orange sweet potatoes are likely what you think of when picturing a sweet potato or yam. They have brown skin and deep orange flesh. This variety is commonly used to make sweet potato fries, and the sweet potato pie on your Thanksgiving table. Their nutrient rich flesh makes a great meat substitute for vegetarians. Because they have more water content than other varieties, they are a good option for mashed and pureed preparations.

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5 miles south of Big Sky on HWY 191 BREAKFAST - LUNCH - DINNER EVERYDAY! Check out our menu online corralbar.com 406.995.4249 White sweet potatoes have an appearance similar to russet potatoes, but contain many of the same nutrients as orange sweet potatoes, albeit less beta carotene. Their flesh is drier so they work well in applications where you want to control the moisture in the dish, such as when making gnocchi. Their hardy texture stands up well when roasting, so you won't be left with a mushy result.

Purple sweet potatoes, like blueberries, contain anthocyanins, which provide their color and high levels of antioxidants. Be aware that their rich color acts like a dye and will turn all other ingredients purple if you don't cook them separately. This variety adds a punch to presentation, but has the same earthy taste as other varieties of sweet potatoes.

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.

Thanks to our president we have more restaurants than ever



BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

The year 2017 will mark the first time in history that Americans are spending more money in restaurants than in grocery stores. There are a few reasons for that—two go hand in hand.

Our youngest generation is dining out far more than any prior generation, which is coupled with a phenomenon that is the MTV equivalent of my generation, otherwise known as food

TV. You know, the world where everyone is a chef.

But the third reason may not be so obvious.

Many historians equate the rise of the casual restaurant in America to a little old hamburger stand named McDonald's. And while the chain undoubtedly has had a profound impact on what, how and when we eat, there was another significant influence on the rise of the American restaurant. It was our president, and I don't mean our current one.

That president was none one other than Dwight D. Eisenhower.

What connection could a former five-star general, Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Europe, and eventual President of the United States possibly have to the rise of the American restaurant?

In 1956, championed by President Eisenhower, the Federal Aid Highway Act was passed. It would signal the beginning of what would become 35 years of the most massive interstate construction in our nation's history.

Previously, our great land of restaurants could be described as a sort of "bourgeois and proletariat" dining selection. There were a handful of the now iconic restaurants, most of which are still flourishing: Commander's Palace and Antoine's in New Orleans, L'Escalier in Palm Beach, Florida, and what is recognized as America's original fine dining restaurant, Delmonico's in New York City. At all of these destinations, dining was a production and catered to the wealthy and/or the most special of occasions.

Contrarily, the United States was also pockmarked with small taverns and cafés, mostly in more densely populated areas where a beer and a meal had not strayed too far from the Old West days when sustenance was nothing more than a necessity or a matter of convenience.

Enter a young officer, crossing the country in a 1919 army convoy on the Lincoln Highway, the first road across America.

Remembering the logical efficiency of a German highway system that would eventually become the Autobahn network, President Eisenhower believed if America was to be strong and impervious to domestic attack, a national, organized highway system was imperative.

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was born.

Unintentional to its original mission, it created exponential growth of tourism by car, as well as urban sprawl. It also created something else—the diner.

Soon, gas stations opened diners. They were still a mere convenience while traveling, but as cities grew upward and outward, more diners opened. Towns grew around oasis' of convenient stops, and diners expanded into restaurants where families actually went to eat as its own destination.

This growing trend, coupled with the symbiotic relationship of the fast food burger stand, and we didn't stand a chance as consumers.

The National Restaurant Association tells us we have just over one million dining establishments in the U.S. Taking into account the country's size, that is an average of one restaurant every 3.7 miles.

Thanks to a visionary whose steadfast goal was to keep America safe, I never have far to go when I'm hungry.

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

STEM Saturdays start on October 7th and run through November 18th from 10:00 am-12:00 pm. Advanced registration is recommended. *Ages 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

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Advanced registration is required for all programs, and many programs fill quickly. For more information, email nancy@bigskydiscoveryacademy.org

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Explore Big Sky

Young professionals flourish in mentorship program

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY - On June 1, the Big Sky Young Professionals launched a mentorship program that paired community members in developmental stages of their careers with experienced professionals in a related field.

Since Margo Magnant, Big Sky Chamber of Commerce's membership director, founded the BSYP group in December 2017, membership has grown from 34 to 57. Of that number, 33 members signed up for the mentorship program and were paired with 28 mentors.

Most mentors are members of the Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club or Moonlight Basin who wanted to give back by sharing their expertise and fostering the success of burgeoning professionals in the community.

Magnant and her team of coordinators, which included YC members David Givens and Whitney Peyton, and leadership coach Lori Addicks, took the matching process very seriously, collecting in-depth personal and professional data from both mentors and mentees to make the most appropriate matches possible, and providing a handbook to facilitate the mentoring process.

A particularly successful pairing was between Johanne Bouchard and Amelia Smith. Bouchard, an independent governance and leadership advisor for high profile CEOs, boards and executive teams, also has extensive experience in the tech world and digital marketing, the arena in which Smith is launching a freelance career.

"The great thing about Johanne is she's definitely done this before," Smith said. "I found it really helpful that she takes in the whole picture, including work and personal life balance. She's almost more of a life coach."

Smith, who was pregnant and had left a marketing position at the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, found Bouchard's guidance during this transitional time in her life and career indispensable.

"I wanted to know where she was in her life," Bouchard said. "One of the first things I like to do with a mentee is to establish a place of trust, where we can tell each other anything. That way we are strategic about our approach."

Bouchard has had to overcome her own obstacles throughout her life and career on the way to success, and mentoring has been a satisfying means of giving back.



Ciara Wolfe (left) and Mackenzie Johnson were matched in a local mentorship program that pairs young professionals with community members with established careers in a related field. PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI

"By and large the feedback has been pretty phenomenal," Magnant said. "Most mentors and mentees have said there's been great success and takeaways from the matches. We were very pleased with the survey results," Magnant said.

Ciara Wolfe is an anomaly in the mentor pool in that she is not a club member and by age is a young professional herself. She received a special invitation to participate because, as the executive director of the Big Sky Community Organization, Wolfe has a skill set that dovetailed seamlessly with the interests of Mackenzie Johnson.

Johnson, who is currently the activities director at Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, wanted to learn more about the nonprofit sector and specifically those organizations involved in community planning, development and programming. Johnson joked that her dream job is to be Leslie Knope, Amy Poehler's character on the TV show "Parks and Recreation."

"I have had mentors throughout different phases in my career that have been instrumental in my professional development," said Wolfe. "I was more than happy to act as a mentor for someone else."

"There have been a lot of great takeaways," Johnson said. "We have very free flowing conversations and Ciara has provided really helpful tools and tips, and book recommendations." Johnson reiterated Smith's appreciation for guidance on achieving professional and personal life balance.

"Personally, I love to empower and inspire others, and see them realize their dreams," she said. "I hope I can open doors for them, and help remove challenges or obstacles that may be self-imposed."

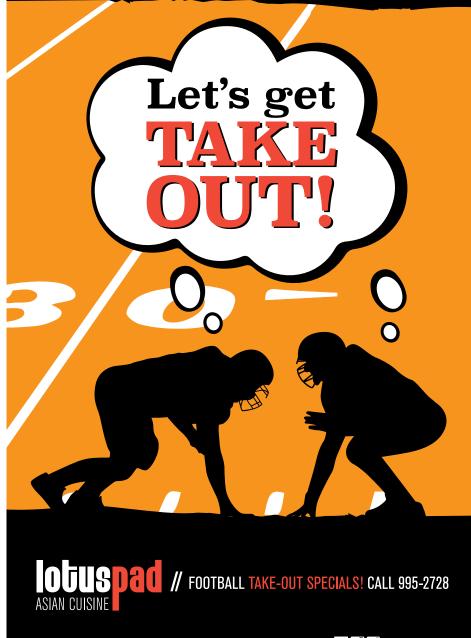
Magnant said not every match was successful as the two discussed here, but she is looking at this round as a pilot program that will only get stronger when the next set of matches is made in February 2018.

But the responses to a survey sent to mentors and mentees in October, toward the conclusion of the three- or six-month arrangements, suggest that for a test-run the program was a success, with approximately 85 percent of participants reporting positive results. It's not only the mentees that reap the benefits of the partnerships. Wolfe said that working with Johnson has prompted deeper reflection on her own professional path.

"I learn just as much from her asking me questions, talking through things, and by considering what has been helpful to me along the way," said Wolfe, adding that Johnson's perspective gives her insight into another Big Sky demographic that she can bring to her work at the BSCO.

The Big Sky Young Professionals will celebrate their one year anniversary at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 6 in a public event at Lone Peak Brewery. For more information, visit facebook.com/groups/bigskyyp.

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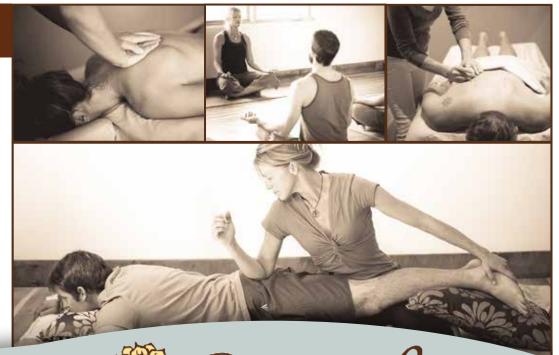
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a Healthy Winter 2:30 - 5 pm	11:00-12:00pm All Levels Yoga	9:00-10:00am All Levels Yoga	11:00-12:30 The Practice	9:00-10:00am All Levels Yoga	11:00-Noon Gentle/Restorative		
		4:15-5:15pm All Levels Yoga	(level 2-3 Yoga)		Yoga		

Two become one Big Sky Western and First Security set to combine

BY BAY STEPHENS EBS EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

BIG SKY - Glacier Bancorp, Inc., a regional multistate bank headquartered in Kalispell as well as the holding company for Big Sky Western Bank, has signed to acquire Intermountain Bancorp, Inc., based in Bozeman, which is the holding company for First Security Bank.

According to an Oct. 26 press release from First Security: "Pending board and regulatory approval, First Security will officially be under the Glacier Bancorp umbrella in early 2018. The new relationship will eventually lead to combined locations for First Security Bank and Big Sky Western under the First Security Bank name."

Still in the preliminary stages, it's too early to tell how the two organizations will come together, including how the distinct boards will be affected. However, employment doesn't appear to be at risk here in Big Sky.

"Branch locations are being evaluated right now on the basis of customer convenience and we are not intending any layoffs in Big Sky," First Security President and CEO Steve Wheeler said.

Although the effect on individual accounts can't be fully spoken for at this point, Wheeler said account holders stand to benefit.

"For First Security Bank customers, [the acquisition] means a wider service area and also the availability of additional loan programs," Wheeler said. First Security customers would be able to bank at any division of Glacier Bancorp, including locations in Montana, Idaho, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Colorado and Arizona. "We're proud that Glacier Bancorp recognizes our legacy and leadership and that they want to partner with us and retain our name and brand," Wheeler said.

The acquisition also means more assets and holdings for Glacier Bancorp. According to a Glacier Bancorp press release, First Security bank had \$1 billion in assets, \$658 million in gross loans and total deposits of \$847 million as of Sept. 30.

According to Securities and Exchange Commission financial statements, as of Dec. 31, 2016, Glacier Bancorp had \$9.5 billion in total assets, and \$7.4 billion in deposits and \$5.6 billion in loans receivable.

Glacier Bancorp's ninth announced acquisition in the past five years, the bank employs a community banking model that allows local banks relative autonomy to serve the communities in which they are situated.

"I'm excited to be a part of combining these two great banking organizations and I look forward to continuing to support our community's financial services needs," said Jim Ness, president and CEO of Big Sky Western. "Both First Security and Big Sky Western have longstanding traditions of being focused on the customers and communities we serve, and together we will be that much stronger and that much more involved. For the benefit of our customers in southern Montana, we have just assembled the A-team."

Assuming everything is approved, change will be slow in coming. Full integration of Big Sky Western and First Security would follow the official acquisition around February 2018. The banks will send out updates as decisions are finalized.





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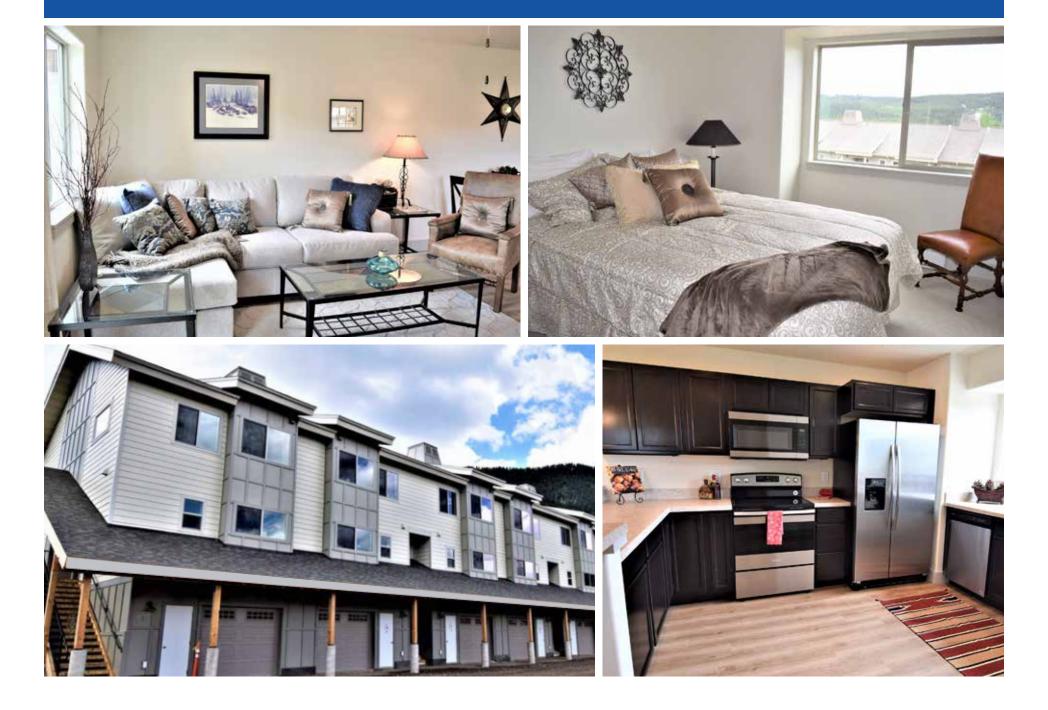
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OUTDOORS



Bears remain active; recreationists advised to be bear aware

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Explore Big Sky

BOZEMAN – Despite recent snow, bears remain active throughout Montana and in the Greater Yellowstone area, leading to several encounters with recreationists.

On Saturday, Nov. 4, a hunter was attacked in Tom Miner Basin in Paradise Valley as he pursued an elk, according to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks spokeswoman Andrea Jones. After an initial attack, the grizzly bear began circling the hunter, which gave him time to deploy his bear spray. The bear ceased its attack, circled the man again and disappeared.

The elk hunter sustained minor injuries to his hand and head but was able to return to his vehicle. This was the second reported bear attack in the Tom Miner area this year. On Sept. 9, a woman was mauled by a grizzly near the carcass of a domestic cow on a private ranch in Tom Miner Basin.

Another hunter was attacked on Nov. 4. The incident occurred north of Pendroy on the Rocky Mountain Front north of Great Falls, according to an FWP press release. A pheasant hunter and his dog startled a grizzly sow with three cubs and were charged by the bear. The hunter reportedly killed the grizzly with his 12-gauge shotgun.

A third bear encounter occurred that same weekend when recreationists saw a bear on a trail in Madison Valley. Jones cites this as evidence that bears have been active and sighted in several mountainous areas of Montana in recent days.



A wolf, ravens, coyotes and a grizzly near a carcass at Swan Lake Flat in Yellowstone National Park. Hunters are advised to keep on the lookout for scavenging birds like magpies, ravens or crows as they are often present near carcasses and could tip off recreationists to bear presence. NPS PHOTO

spotted in the open prairie east of Cody for the first time in a century.

Montana FWP recommends the following precautions for those recreating in southwest Montana:

- Carry bear spray and be ready to use it at a second's notice.
- Pay attention to fresh bear signs. Look for bear tracks, scat and concentrations of natural foods.

For hunters, FWP encourages the following:

Bear activity has also been observed in the Cody, Wyoming, area. On Oct. 26, a Cody hunting guide and his client were attacked while field dressing an elk. Both individuals sustained injuries and were treated in a local hospital.

"We've had a few instances, just in recent days, of hunters encountering bears—both black and grizzly," said Ken McDonald, wildlife division administrator for Montana FWP, in the press release. "Hunters should remain vigilant because even though we've got quite a bit of snow on the ground in some places, bears are still active."

FWP encourages recreationists to be bear aware. "Anywhere in southwest Montana is bear country," Jones said.

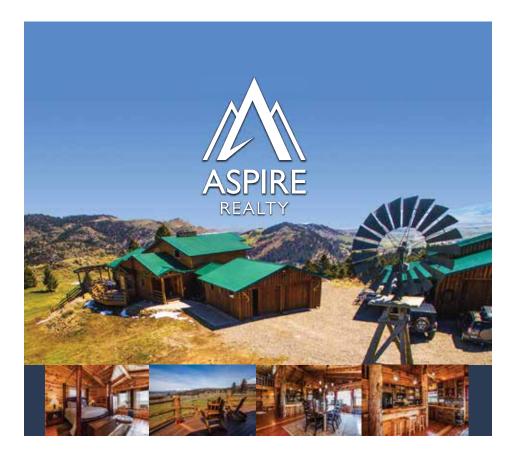
In recent years, grizzly bears have been expanding their territory, moving into areas where they haven't been found in decades. This includes areas of the prairie and extends into Wyoming. In October, grizzly tracks were - Use caution when hunting areas that have evidence of bear activity or areas with scavenging birds such as magpies, ravens or crows.

- Get harvested big game out of the woods quickly.

- Upon returning to a site where harvested game is left unattended, study the site at a distance for any movement or changes and signal your approach by making plenty of noise.

- Never attempt to frighten or haze a bear from a carcass. Contact FWP if a bear has consumed a carcass or covered it with debris rendering it unsalvageable.

As reported in the press release, if you do encounter a grizzly, remember to stay calm and don't run. Determine if the bear is actually aware of you and is threatening or fleeing. Leave the area, always keeping the bear in sight as you back away.



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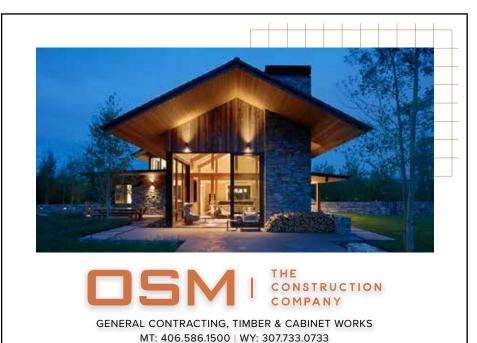
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Explore Big Sky

Opponents to Park Service's proposed fee hike raise concerns about accessibility Public comment closes Nov. 23

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – On Oct. 24 the National Park Service announced a proposal to increase entrance fees at 17 of the most highly visited national parks during peak visitor seasons. The proposal includes more than doubling entry fees at Yellowstone and Glacier national parks during the peak five-month period beginning May 1, 2018.

The NPS proposal is aimed at generating badly needed revenue for improvements to infrastructure.

"The infrastructure of our national parks is aging and in need of renovation and restoration," said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke in an NPS press release. "We need to have the vision to look at the future of our parks and take action in order to ensure that our grandkids' grandkids will have the same, if not better, experience than we have today. Shoring up our parks' aging infrastructure will do that."

If approved, the new peak-season pricing is estimated to increase revenue by \$70 million per year. Under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, 80 percent of an entrance fee remains in the park where it is collected, while 20 percent is spent on projects in other national parks, including those that do not charge entrance fees.

At Yellowstone and Glacier the entrance fee would more than double, from \$30 for a seven-day pass up to \$70 per private, non-commercial vehicle during the peak season. Motorcycles would see an increase to \$50, and those biking or on foot would need to pay \$30 per person.

A park-specific annual pass would be available for \$75, an increase from \$60 for an annual Yellowstone pass, while the annual America the Beautiful pass that provides entrance to all federal lands would remain \$80.

Randy Hall, a tour guide for Lone Mountain Ranch who is nationally certified to guide in Yellowstone, expressed similar concerns. The guide and historian referred to the early years of the park. "We had an issue with the park way back then," he said. "Only the rich and the famous could afford to come into the park." President Teddy Roosevelt and the arrival of the automobile changed that in the early 1900s, Hall said. "[Roosevelt] was going to make sure no national park would become exclusive.

"[Yellowstone's] such an incredible and magic place," he continued. "I've seen so much there and the effect it has on people; I just don't want any family to miss it. ... I would hate to see it ever become exclusive."

As reported by the Associated Press, a group of Democratic senators is also opposed to the entrance fee hike and said the plan would exclude many Americans from enjoying national parks. Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington state organized a letter to Zinke, which was signed by Democratic senators from California, Oregon, Hawaii, New Mexico and Virginia, as well as by independent Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

NPS Spokesman Jeremy Barnum said in an interview that the proposal is not intended to limit accessibility, reiterating the fact that a single vehicle pass is generally good for seven days. "Families from all over the country and the world can be inside [the park] for seven days. That's \$10 per day to get the entire family into a really unique wonder of the world."

A public comment period on the peak-season entry fee proposal will be open until Nov. 23. Comments can be submitted online at parkplanning. nps.gov/proposedpeakseasonfeerates. Written comments can be sent to 1849 C St. NW, Mail Stop: 2346, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Commercial tour operators would also see entrance fee increases under the proposal, which includes standardized application and management fees across each of the 17 parks, as well as flat fees charged for entry.



Tim Drain, general manager of Yellowstone Luxury Tours, said the entry fee increase for visitors on commercial tours likely wouldn't negatively impact his business. "We cater to families and small groups, mainly those staying in the Big Sky area, so overall this is a small monetary impact on a family's summer vacation to Big Sky and the Greater Yellowstone Region.

"However, I believe our tax dollars are a better funding source for these infrastructure repairs and that entry fees, both commercial and noncommercial, should be managed to keep our parks accessible," Drain added.

The National Park Service has proposed increasing entry fees to 17 national parks beginning next year in order to generate funds for infrastructure maintenance. Pictured is the 2017 Silex Spring boardwalk extension project in Yellowstone National Park. NPS PHOTO



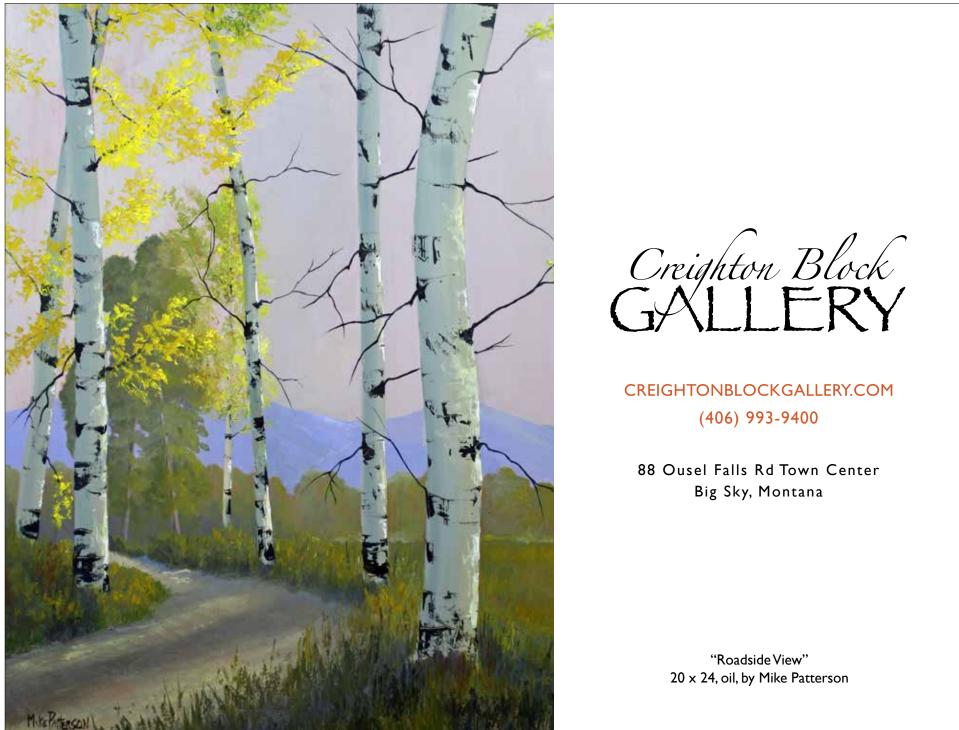
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Inside the Big Sky

10 things to do on a rainy day in Big Sky

VISIT BIG SKY

The weather changes quickly in the mountain environment. When in Big Sky, it's best to always be prepared for whatever Mother Nature might throw your way. Luckily, there are plenty of things to do on a rainy—or snowy—day in the fall in Big Sky.

According to the U.S. Climate Data website, Big Sky's average annual precipitation in rainfall is only 20.23 inches. The rainiest months are typically May and June, but it's possible to get a rainy or snowy day during any month of the year, so always check the weather and watch out for lightning.

The No. 1 rule when it comes to a rainy day in Big Sky is not to let a little bit of precipitation stop you from having a good time.

Here is a list of things to do on a rainy day in Big Sky:

- **Catch a flick.** Watch the latest Hollywood hit and enjoy a cold beer at Lone Peak Cinema.
- **Visit the river.** Whether you're going fishing, kayaking or rafting you're bound to get wet on the river.
- **Tune your gear.** If you're stuck inside, get ready for your next outdoor adventure. All of the gear we use needs to be taken care of so give your bikes or skis a proper tune up.
- **Bike and hike.** Take the bike down the Mountain to Meadow Trail or hike to Lava Lake. It can be fun to get wet and muddy.
- **Shopping.** Go for a shopping excursion at Big Sky's top shops in the canyon, the Meadow and Town Center.
- Yoga. Yoga is a great way to relax, stretch the body and get a work out.
- Massage. Book a massage at one of the spas in Big Sky.
- **Coffee.** Take the chill out of a rainy day at one of Big Sky's cozy coffee and tea spots.
- Art galleries. Several art galleries call Big Sky home. Pick up a Montana-inspired art piece for your home.



There is plenty to do on a rainy, or snowy, day in Big Sky before the resort opens—like go shopping. PHOTO COURTESY OF VISIT BIG SKY

• **Road Trip.** If you can't sit still and want to explore the region, go on a road trip. Visit Bozeman's numerous museums. Take a dip in Montana's hot springs. Wet your whistle at Willie's Distillery in Ennis. Head to Yellowstone. Make a lap around the Madison Range. Adventure up the forest service roads to spot wildlife. Big Sky Country is endless.

As you can see, there is plenty to do on a rainy day in Big Sky. Grab your rain coat and don't let a little bit of precip get in the way of enjoying your day.

A version of this story was originally published on the Visit Big Sky blog at visithigskymt.com/rainy-day-activities-big-sky/. Read more interesting content about the area on Visit Big Sky's blog at https://visithigskymt.com/ category/blog/.



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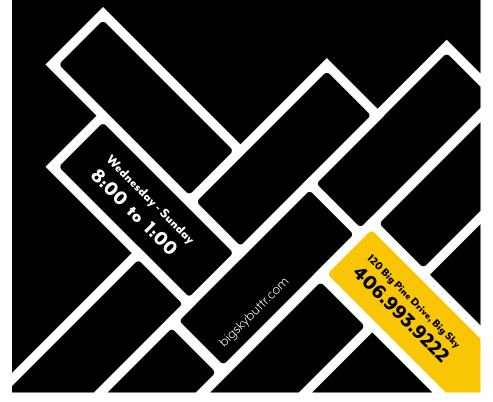
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OUTDOORS

Explore Big Sky



BY PAT STRAUB EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

I'm jealous of my friend's 6-year-old daughter, and not because he cuts off her crusts or packs a chocolate mint in her school lunch each morning. I'm jealous because she's been down the Smith River twice in her short life.

It took me 19 years before I floated this endangered river that snakes its way through public and private lands on its way to meet the Missouri River southwest of Great Falls. I was a freshman in college and it was early May in the late '90s. The river was running high and muddy, and in three days we caught two fish, both at the mouth of Sheep Creek.

Twenty-plus years ago, the river with a headwaters south of White Sulphur Springs was a hidden gem. Nearly a quarter-century past my first float, the Smith River is as popular as ever, but not necessarily for the best reason. It's the battleground for a polarizing matchup of long-standing foes: the promise of sustainable mining practices versus ensuring multiple generations can experience natural wonders.

An international mining company, Tintina Resources, is in the permitting process for an underground copper mine adjacent to and underneath Sheep Creek, a tributary of the Smith River. Sheep Creek is often an important source of in-stream flows of clear and cold water to the main stem of the Smith. At least half of the wild trout in the Smith River drainage use Sheep Creek as spawning grounds. Clearly a healthy Sheep Creek is essential to the drainage's high population of large and healthy trout. In fact, radio telemetry suggests trout from the Missouri River have utilized Sheep Creek.

Tintina is following all proper protocols in the permitting and public outreach process, and is working to dissuade a negative public opinion toward Montana's past history with mining operations gone wrong. To their credit, and unlike operations in the past, Tintina is working hard to promote and utilize the most modern, least-impactful technologies and practices. Of concern is not so much Tintina and their international management team and investors; rather, it's our necessity for resource extraction in our daily lives and working to negate those impacts as much as possible.



Some trends are worth following: Protect the Smith River



The Smith River is facing the threat of an international copper mine on Sheep Creek, an important tributary to an even more important river. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL KOWALSKI

This doesn't mean an internationally owned and operated mine like the proposed operation shouldn't exist. It means if it is going to exist, as Montanans who value special resources like the Smith River, we must look at the past poor track record of mining in Montana. It's not a good one. Our local communities, state agencies, officials, and citizens who cherish resources like the Smith River watershed must insist there will be no risk whatsoever to the water and wildlife.

Finding level ground to stand on while making one's argument for or against the mine, or for or against the Smith River, is challenging. Very few of us are squeaky clean, and nearly all of us, myself included, play a small part in the larger whole of resource conservation. Is driving a large SUV or truck to protest a mine while drinking a latte from a paper cup sitting next to a plastic water bottle really that effective in the larger picture? Technology and its resulting innovations are helping to reduce our impact; however, the battle lines are often much closer to home than we care to admit. Changing personal habits can be much harder than sending out mass emails or sharing posts.

On my first trip down the Smith, I was 19 and my comprehension of the world was limited to where my next free beer would come from and who I'd chat up that night—would it be a blonde or brunette, or if I was really lucky, maybe a redhead. But even still, as my friend and I embarked on our first-ever Smith River trip, I knew this river was like no other place on Earth. The river, the limestone canyon, the fishing for wild trout, the hiking to petroglyphs, and the essential soul-soothing fact that a place like this still existed and was accessible to a grunged-out 19 year-old semi-granola yet semi-preppie-jock made it exceptional.

Now, nearly 30 years later, it's time for me to take my young kids down the Smith River before it's potentially changed forever. On that trip they will learn what I've learned: Our small existence is part of a greater whole, and within it we have the responsibility to leave things better than we find them.

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

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BY CIARA WOLFE BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Fall in Big Sky is a delicate balance of getting outside and staying active, while waiting for the snow to fly and ski season to begin. It's also an important time to remember to respect trail conditions. During this seasonal transition, it's helpful to know of other trail networks in the region that will allow you to stay active while protecting the trails in Big Sky.

The Copper City Trails comprise one of the newest networks of trails in the region. Located northeast of Three Forks, Montana, off of Highway 287, the area is ideal for fall and spring trail use due to the minimal precipitation at lower elevations. The arid climate makes for a unique environment in comparison to our mountain trails here in Big Sky.

Still a work in progress, the trail network is being built by the Southwest Montana Mountain Biking Association (SWMMBA), which has a plan for 30-plus miles of bike-optimized trails that will also be open to hikers and trail runners—a bonus for those who live in the mountains and desire to extend their trail seasons.

Copper City Trails is a partnership between the Bureau of Land Management and SWMMBA. The BLM is allowing the trail development on their property and SWMMBA, a volunteer-run organization is raising the funds for construction. The first trail opened in September and consists of a 3.5-mile beginner level loop called the Green Eagle. An intermediate level trail named High Ore is currently under construction.

The Green Eagle loop consists of rolling terrain through large limestone outcrops on a dirt and sandy surface. Starting from the trailhead you head east, or counter clockwise, riding over large outcrops and gradual hills. After crossing over a dirt road at approximately 2 miles, you come to an intersection where you can extend your hike or bike ride on the intermediate High Ore trail, or continue another 1.5 miles back to the trailhead.

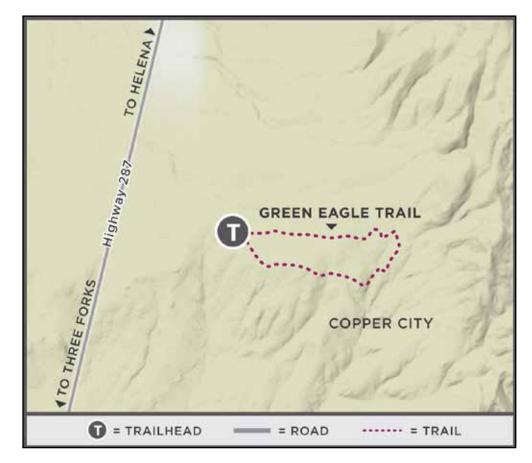


Sawyer Wolfe finds drier ground on the Copper City Trails network located just north of Three Forks, Montana. PHOTO BY MIKE WOLFE

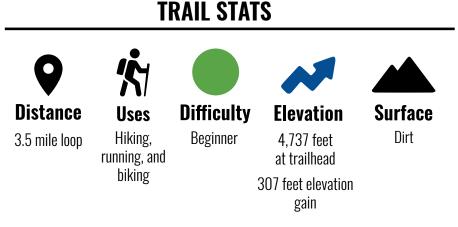
The last 1.5 miles entail a short climb followed by a fun descent around bermmed corners and over several small jumps. When approaching the trailhead, you will cross back over the dirt road and end up in the large parking area.

The Copper City trail project is only just beginning, with funds secured to build a difficult level downhill mountain bike trail, and an additional 6.5 miles of intermediate multi-use trails. This is an excellent option for hikers and bikers of all abilities and ages, or for the individual that is just looking for dry trails in southwest Montana. Visit coppercitytrails.org for more information.

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.







Directions: From Big Sky take Highway 191 north for 34 miles to Interstate 90 in Belgrade. Take Interstate 90 west for 23 miles. Take exit 274 for U.S. Highway 287 north towards Helena. Travel 5 miles and turn right onto Copper City Road. The trailhead and parking area are approximately 1 mile up the dirt road.



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Experiences for recovery Program aims to honor veterans and reconnect families

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – When Army Staff Sergeant Nathan Shurter arrived in Helena with his wife Olivia on Nov. 1, he seemed to be heralding in the winter season in Montana. With light snow falling across central Montana and temperatures dipping into the teens, Shurter, a South Carolina resident, says he wasn't sure what to expect of the coming days.

But what was to come, Shurter says, "was an incredible experience." Four years ago, Shurter was on patrol in Afghanistan when his squad leader stepped on an IED (improvised explosive device) and was killed. Shurter sustained injuries to his arms and legs in the explosion.

Shurter's road to recovery began when he was medevacked to Germany for treatment. It continued with his decision to return to service following treatment to his wounds. And another stretch of the road to recovery began when Shurter stepped foot in Helena.

Shurter came to Montana as a participant of the Big Hearts under the Big Sky program, a nonprofit branch of the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association that provides family experiences for veterans who provided extraordinary service, children fighting life-threatening illness, or women being treated for breast cancer.

Under the program, licensed MOGA outfitters donate fully guided fishing, hunting or horseback trips to individuals referred into the program, as a way of reconnecting families to each other and to the outdoors, said MOGA Executive Director Mac Minard, who guided Shurter's trip.

Several months ago, Minard called Shurter to tell him he was selected for a unique opportunity to hunt elk in the Boulder Valley south of Helena, in hunting district 380. Minard asked if Shurter was ready to go. "I told him I was ready," Shurter said.

On the third day of the hunt, Shurter found himself flat on his stomach, crawling through newly fallen snow in order to get into position to take a bull elk. He was successful in his endeavor.

"He really earned his elk and Olivia was with him every step of the way," Minard said.

"The animal is important, but it isn't the most important," Minard added. "It's family time and getting to do something they haven't gotten to do before. ... Sharing the experience is a principal part of the program." For Shurter's experience, the Big Hearts program operated under a 2013 Montana law that allows residents and nonresidents to transfer their hunting licenses to Purple Heart military recipients.

Minard was astounded that a nonresident would donate a hunting tag in the competitive 380 hunting district. "The bull tags are few and far between even for residents," Minard said. In 2016, for example, only two nonresident bull tags were awarded for the district after 931 individuals applied.

Big Hearts under the Big Sky has been operating for ten years and works on a volunteer basis. Outfitters, guides, taxidermists and others donate their time for the participants, and hard costs like lodging and travel are paid with funds the nonprofit raises during the year. Minard estimates Shurter's trip would have cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000 at full retail.

The largest of the Big Hearts fundraisers takes place Jan. 13, 2018, at the Radisson Colonial Hotel in Helena, and in 2019 and 2020 the annual event will come to Bozeman.

To learn more about the Big Hearts under the Big Sky program, visit bigheartsmt.org. To learn more about donating hunting licenses to veterans, visit fwp.mt.gov/hunting/licenses/donateLicense.html.



Minard explained that many veterans are unable to pursue their outdoor passions after joining the military, and this program gives them a chance to re-explore their interests. But beyond reconnecting the veteran to the outdoors, Minard hopes the Big Hearts program reconnects participants to their families.

"It has little to do with the catch and harvest," Minard said. "It has everything to do with honoring the sacrifice of the family."

"I'm very grateful. Very proud to have done this," Shurter said. "The experience with the hunt, with the environment, with the people ... there are so many people that care so much about us."

Olivia and Nathan, who recently celebrated their first wedding anniversary, both agreed it would be hard to leave. "What they're doing in Big Hearts, I don't know anything with the value and the quality," Shurter said.

Under the Big Hearts under the Big Sky program, Army Staff Sergeant Nathan Shurter and his wife Olivia participated in a fully donated three-day elk hunt Nov. 3-5 as a way of reconnecting with each other and the outdoors. PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG HEARTS UNDER THE BIG SKY



WINTER EVENTS 2017/2018



NOVEMBER

OPENING DAY | NOV. 23

DECEMBER

\$29 DAY | DEC. 1 TORCHLIGHT PARADE | DEC. 24 NEW YEARS FIREWORKS | DEC. 31

JANUARY

SNOBAR | JAN. 13 & 20 RAIL JAM | JAN. 27-28 BSF SLOPESTYLE | JAN. 28

FEBRUARY

DUMMY JUMP | FEB. 3 BIG SKY BIG GRASS | FEB. 9-11 SMOKIN' ACES | FEB. 10-11 MAD WOLF RELAY | FEB. 24

MARCH

SNOWSHOE SHUFFLE | MAR. 3 SHEDHORN SKIMO | MARCH. 17 HEADWATERS RUNOFF | MAR. 23-25

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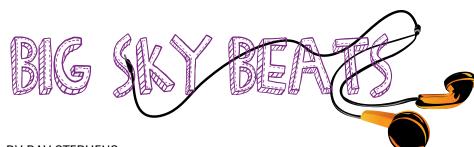
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BY BAY STEPHENS **EBS EDITORIAL ASSISTANT**

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

Winter is upon us! There wasn't much in the way of a transition from autumn, but that's just fine because it means ski season is close. Without doubt, this makes November a month of expectation. The thought of waiting any longer for the mountain to open may be utterly unbearable—it has been since April, after all.

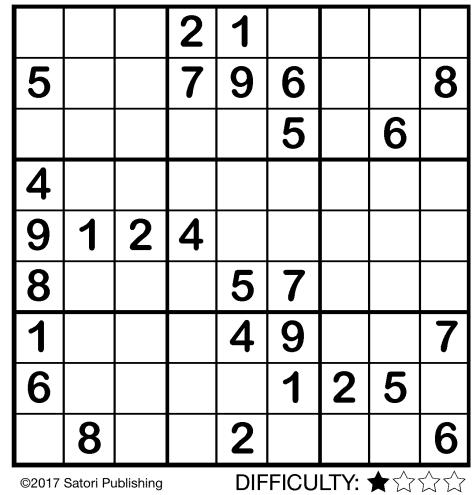
To help me bide the time until opening day, I count my blessings as the big day of thanks draws near. Your list might range from family, to health, to a good book, or even just food on the table. In the end, the happiest people are not those who get everything they want, but those who make the most of what they have.

Here are some songs that might lend a hand in fostering a mindset of thankfulness as the snow whirls about Lone Mountain.

- 1. "Whistler," Jethro Tull
- 2. "I Will Wait," Mumford and Sons
- "Thanksgiving Theme," Vince Guaraldi Trio 3.
- "1234," Feist 4.
- "Sugar Mountain," Neil Young 5.
- "Masollan," Balmorhea 6.
- "Banjo Banjo," Abigail Washburn, Béla Fleck 7.
- "The Stable Song," Gregory Alan Isakov 8.
- "Silk," Giselle 9.
- 10. "Thursday Night," Blazin' Fiddles

Sudoku

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



American Life in Poetry: Column 659

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

Do we ever really know our parents, know what they're thinking, know why they do what they do? Here's a poem touching upon those mysteries. It first appeared in "Field." Jon Loomis is a poet from Wisconsin, and his most recent book is "The Mansion of Happiness," from Oberlin College Press.

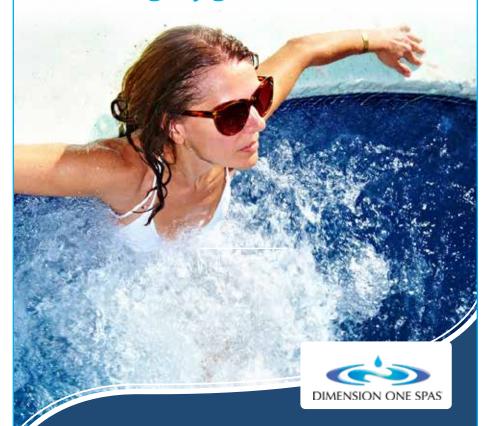
At the Lake House By Jon Loomis

Wind and the sound of windacross the bay a chainsaw revs and stalls. I've come here to write, all those years, cared for him after his heart attack, could not understand why he liked the other

woman more than her, but he did. And she told me that after he died she never went

Nordic Hot Tub

How Big Sky gets into hot water



but instead I've been thinking about my father, who, in his last year, after his surgery, told my mother

he wasn't sorry—that he'd cried when the other woman left him, that his time with her

had made him happier than anything he'd ever done. And my mother, who'd cooked and cleaned for him

to visit his grave—not once. You think you know them, these creatures robed

in your parents' skins. Well, you don't. Any more than you know what the pines want from the wind,

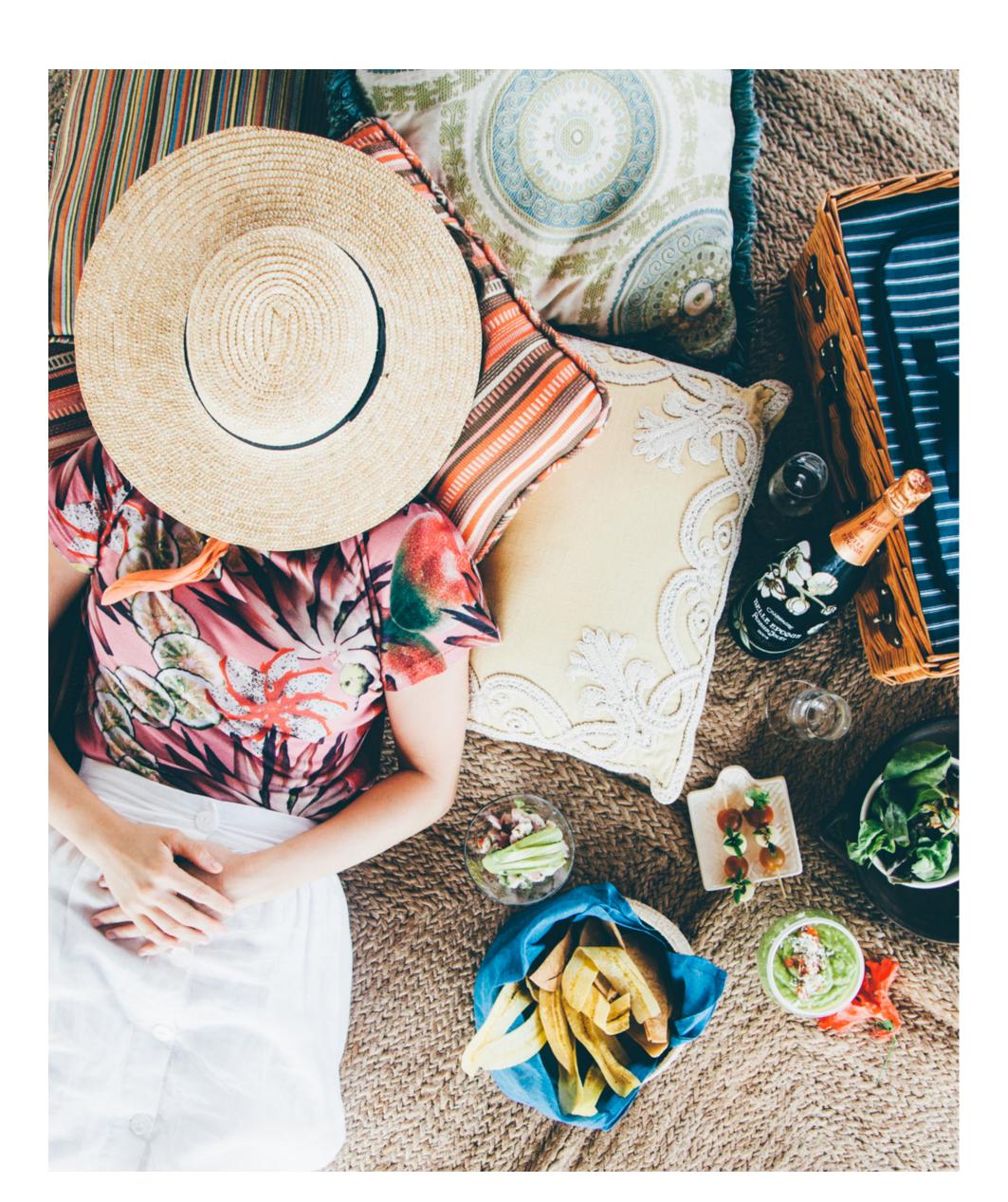
if the lake's content with this pale smear of sunset, if the loon calls for its mate, or for another.

We do not accept unsolicited submissions. American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2016 by Jon Loomis, "At the Lake House," from "Field," (No. 95, Fall 2016). Poem reprinted by permission of Jon Loomis and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2017 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.

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Explore Big Sky

BACK

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"

Thanksgiving dinner: Elevating the classics

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER EBS STAFF

Is there anything more indulgent than Thanksgiving dinner? The familiar aromas of sage, roasting turkey and butter wafting through the house are enough to make my mouth water just thinking of them.

Many may argue that classic Thanksgiving dishes aren't meant to be messed with-they're rooted in tradition and are often made from recipes that have been passed down for generations. However, I challenge you to make these very simple changes when preparing your holiday meal this year. A small step can go a long way in elevating the flavor of a classic recipe, without stepping too far outside the box.

Turkey

Before you roast your bird, there are two things I'd recommend skipping. The first is the little plastic temperature indicator that comes with the bird, and the other is a turkey baster. The temperature indicators can be inaccurate, so your best bet is to purchase a good meat thermometer. Test the bird in the thickest part of the thigh. When it reaches 165 degrees Fahrenheit it is finished. This takes about 13 minutes per pound at 350 degrees.

Basting a turkey is counterproductive in my opinion. The skin creates a barrier between the basted drippings and the meat, so by basting you may be flavoring the skin, but you are also lowering the temperature of the oven by 50 degrees each time you open it to baste. This lengthens the time the bird needs to stay in the oven, and increases the risk of it drying out. To ensure juicy, well-seasoned meat, brine your turkey instead. For crisp skin, heat your oven to 450 degrees, and then lower the temperature to 350 degrees as you place the bird in the oven.

Dressing, not stuffing

For your safety and that of your guests, please don't stuff your turkey. Stuffing is incredibly porous and will absorb all of the juices from the bird, including those that may contain harmful bacteria. In order to safely eat traditional stuffing, it needs to be cooked to 165 degrees. By the time the turkey's center reaches this temperature, the rest of the bird will be dreadfully overcooked. Instead, place quartered onions, carrots, herbs or whatever suits your fancy in the cavity of the bird and remove prior to serving.



Take your turkey dinner to a whole new level by trying these simple twists on the classics. CC PHOTO.

another layer of complexity and make this oftentimes predictable dish the talk of the table.

Gravy

Gravy is arguably the most important dish on the Thanksgiving table. To take this staple to the next level, I cook a finely chopped mirepoix of onion, celery, carrots and herbs with the turkey's pan drippings until soft and caramelized. Next, make the gravy as usual, stirring in flour to make a roux and whisking in stock. You'll need to strain the mixture to remove the chunks of vegetable. These extra steps are worth it, adding a depth of flavor that will take grandma's gravy to the next level.

Cranberries

Cranberries are tart by nature, and require quite a bit of sugar to make them palatable. I just follow the recipe on the back of the bag of fresh cranberries, but instead of only using granulated sugar to sweeten the berries, I substitute orange juice for water. You'll still need to add in sugar to the mixture but you can cut the amount in half. In addition to the juice, grate the zest of this citrus into the mix.

Swap the classic white bread for something with more flavor and body—a rustic Italian loaf with firm crust, sourdough, or even something more flavorful like combread. Drying bread is a crucial step to avoid a soggy end product, and toasting or even grilling it can expedite the drying process while also adding another component of flavor.

Mashed potatoes

Besides the obvious addition of copious amounts of butter and cream, enhance your mashed or whipped potatoes by using celery root as well. This root vegetable is related to celery and offers a similar flavor but has a starchy, potato-like texture. Instead of boiling and mashing solely potatoes, add some celery root to the pot. Its addition will offer

Compound butter

Butter makes everything better, and having a flavored version for dinner rolls is a simple way to turn this basic ingredient into a special addition to your table. I like having two varieties of compound butter on the table—one sweet and one savory—to suit guests' preferences. Using a hand or stand mixer, whip butter until it is fluffy, and mix in savory ingredients like herbs and garlic, or sweeter ones like maple syrup and cinnamon. Always add some salt to balance and bring out the other flavors.

At the end of the day, Thanksgiving is about being around friends and family and not just slaving away in the kitchen. These small steps will improve the spread on your Thanksgiving table without overcomplicating what can already be a laborious endeavor.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

November 10 - 20, 2017 **49**

Explore Big Sky





An art teacher nurtures students, in turn nurtures herself

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY - As Big Sky School District's only art teacher, Megan Buecking teaches general art to sixth and seventh graders, photography to eighth graders, painting and drawing to ninth graders, ceramics to 10th graders and an elective art course to juniors and seniors.

After three years focusing almost exclusively on her students and expanding her skill set in mediums beyond her expertise in painting and drawing, Buecking is finally ready to turn her attention back to the easel.

That doesn't mean Buecking will give up teaching—her role nurturing students in their creative exploration is a responsibility that hits home for the 31-year-old.

Growing up in upstate New York, Buecking was a confident child artist whose natural talent was recognized and encouraged by her family and educators. But when Buecking pursued art in college, one of her professors told her she did not have "the creative knack to be a real artist."

"That really destroyed my confidence for years," said Buecking, who attributed the comment to the fact that her realistic depictions of animals didn't contain the conceptual depths and moodiness often ascribed to fine art.

Buecking may still think about the remark, but its sting no longer inhibits her from making art, and the memory guides her own teaching style because she never wants to influence a student in that way.

Working with Big Sky's middle and high school students seems to have had a healing effect on Buecking—as if helping them overcome insecurities about their talents has helped rebuild her own confidence as an artist.

"Being able to work here has opened up space for me creatively, both literally and figuratively," said Buecking, who often comes in before the school day begins to paint. "And it really does inspire me seeing the kids get inspired and doing projects with them."



Art teacher Megan Buecking got into the creative spirit on Halloween as famed artist Frida Kahlo. Buecking, pictured here with one of her drawings, has renewed her commitment to making art again. PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI

"When something is visceral in you, you find your way back to it," Buecking said. "You go back to what's natural."

A lot of Buecking's paintings begin as an example for her students, which she will often finish later on her own.

"I get a lot of feedback from the students," Buecking said. "They definitely push me to do my best work—it's like having 100 little nudgers."

Buecking moved to Montana in 2009 with no money and no job. She said in the early years she "had to hustle, working like 20 jobs" to make ends meet. That time period didn't leave much time or space for art. Eventually, she earned a master's degree in education from Montana State University, always with the intention to become an art teacher.

"When I finally got a job here, it took a lot off my shoulders," Buecking said.

After dabbling in a variety of mediums, among them felting and belt buckle-making, Buecking has come full circle back to painting and drawing predominately wildlife.

Buecking is currently working on a series of birds that includes images of an osprey and kestrel that were used to wrap the bear-proof trash receptacles at the softball fields in Big Sky Community Park.

Bouncing between oils, pen and ink, and watercolor, Buecking typically works from photographs to create realistic depictions of her subject. A touch of the abstract comes through in her backgrounds, which often mimic the topographical maps of the area where that species might be found.

This year, Buecking is setting some firm personal goals relating to her art—a show with fellow artists Liz McCrae and Heather Rapp at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center in March 2018 is providing incentive to finish her bird series. The exhibition will be her first in Montana, and she feels like the stars are aligning in her favor.

"It's kind of like, if not now, when?"

Get creative at a pop-up art party

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – During the shoulder seasons in Big Sky when entertainment options are not as abundant, it's time to get creative. One way to do so is to attend an art party led by local artist Jackie Rainford Corcoran.

Since hosting her first art party in 2013 for a conference group at Big Sky Resort, Corcoran has expanded from corporate art parties and private events at the Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and Moonlight Basin to more public settings.

The first local art party was held at By Word of Mouth in 2014. Since then, she has hosted the event at many Big Sky businesses, and even on stage at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. During the summer months, Corcoran leads a weekly art party at Lone Mountain Ranch.

Corcoran also brings her party and paints on the road to multiple locations in Bozeman, Ennis, and the historic Sacajawea Hotel in Three Forks, Montana, one of Corcoran's favorite spots.

"For many, the art party evolves into a dinner, dance, slumber, breakfast-in-bed party," Corcoran said.

Corcoran likes changing the venue for her parties.

"It brings in different people and allows regular art party painters to get inspired in new ways," she said. "So many people start out intimidated and say, 'I can't draw a stick person.' I love painting with newbies because they are usually delighted with their finished painting and have a new confidence in their creativity."

For a moderate fee, Corcoran provides all the necessary materials from easel to paint. She also creates a simple demo painting for each event and teaches some basic art principles to provide a starting point.

"As an art teacher, I want everyone to tap into their own creativity as much as possible," Corcoran said, adding that art party-goers can paint whatever their heart desires so long as it can be completed within the two-hour time frame.

"If I steer them every step of



Artist Jackie Rainford Corcoran leads one of her popular, public art parties at Ousel and Spur on Saturday, Nov. 11." PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY

the way by telling them exactly what to paint and what colors to use, I'm taking away their creative opportunities. That said, there are attendees who are more comfortable following guidelines ... and that's fine too. Ultimately, if they have a good time and leave feeling happy with their painting, we all win."

Corcoran does have one rule she enforces during her art parties: It's forbidden to say anything negative about one's artwork while painting.

"When we're creating, we're arguably working at a high vibrational level," Corcoran said. "And when we think and speak negative thoughts, we knock that vibration down—not only in ourselves but in the whole room. The truth is, being in front of a blank canvas in a room full of people can be intimidating and make us feel vulnerable. But this is also where we find the sweet spot to step outside of our comfort zone."

Corcoran is hosting her next party at Ousel and Spur Pizza Co. in Big Sky from 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 11. She also has an art party at the Sacajawea Hotel in Three Forks slated for Jan. 20, 2018.

Reservations are required and can be made online at iloveartparties.com/big-sky.



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Art-wrapped utility boxes add local color

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY - As of Oct. 31, there's a little more color around Big Sky. That's because another eight formerly drab green utility boxes have been wrapped with colorful imagery by local artists.

Former Lone Peak High School student Dasha Bough started the program in 2015 and 25 boxes were wrapped that summer with the support of the Big Sky Community Organization, Rotary Club of Big Sky, and Arts Council of Big Sky. Boxes that received a makeover included BSCO trash and recycling bins as well as power and utility boxes in Town Center.

Since then, the Arts Council has taken lead on the project, wrapping five to eight boxes each summer with funding from resort tax, ACBS and the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation. The Historic Crail Ranch has also wrapped several boxes with historical photos, with plans to wrap one to two additional boxes each year.

"Using local artwork to beautify the boxes helps showcase our local and regional artists, and puts art into the conversation around town," said Katie Alvin, the program outreach and education director for ACBS.

She added that with their high visibility, the boxes show that the Big Sky community values art and artists.

"In a larger context, the ACBS has been working hard on establishing more public art in Big Sky," Alvin said. "Wrapping the boxes is a great first step in bringing more public art to our community."

Working with Bozeman's Clean Slate Group, a city beautification company, a call for art was put out with pieces selected for content, vibrancy, talent and usability on the available surfaces. For this round of wrapping, 16 artists submitted a total of 92 pieces for consideration. Of those submissions, 29 pieces from 11 artists were chosen. The Clean Slate Group prints high resolution images of the original artwork onto vinyl wrap material, and sends a team to Big Sky to complete the installs.

Big Sky artists include Megan Buecking, Katelee McTaggart, Heather Rapp and Dave Pecunies. Pecunies' image of Lone Mountain under a full moon can be found on the bearproof trash receptacle outside of Alpine Property Management in Meadow Village; Heather Rapp's vivid landscape and wildlife paintings adorn the stoplight box on the corner of Lone Mountain Trail and Ousel Falls Road.

"I'm so grateful to have my art represented in such a public way in our community, especially at our first stoplight in Town Center," Rapp said. "It feels like a special project because our community is still building and



Big Sky artist Heather Rapp stands beside the stoplight utility box wrapped with imagery from her vibrant paintings. The box was one of eight additional art-wrappings by area artists. PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI

to be a part of those artistic and aesthetic elements that will continue to make our town unique and beautiful is really amazing."

The Arts Council matches content with location whenever possible. Bird imagery by Big Sky School District art teacher Megan Buecking was placed at Big Sky Community Park, a common area for bird sightings.

Thus far, approximately 35 containers have been art-wrapped in Big Sky. Alvin estimates there are another 40 boxes in public places that could still be wrapped.

"We will continue to chip away at the process as funding is available," Alvin said.

Visit bigskyarts.org for more information on this initiative and other Arts Council programs.

Locals Fishing Report from Gallatin River Guides

Brought to you by Jimmy Armijo-Grover, General Manager



The water between the Big Sky junction and Taylor's Fork freezes almost completely solid in the middle of winter and although you can still find some water to fish up there it's not the best use of your fishing time. From the junction in Big Sky downstream and a small section just below the Yellowstone Park boundary you can find open water year-round where fish hang out until the ice breaks.

A trout's diet in winter in SW Montana is primarily made up of midges. That being said we have found that trout find it hard to pass up a big juicy stonefly nymphs. Strikes are subtle as fish don't move very much when they're cold, so small, sensitive indicators are best. A common nymph rig in winter has a strike indicator 3-5' above the first fly and a second fly about 12" below that. Never a bad idea to also have a dry fly rig ready just in case of a midge hatch. Dry fly opportunities are rare in winter, but can be very rewarding.

If you want to venture away from the Gallatin look for some local tailwaters like the Madison and Missouri Rivers or check out one of the Paradise Valley spring creeks. Tailwaters provide more consistent water temperatures in winter, which is one reason they tend to produce larger and more fish than freestones. It is important to know that water temperatures are more consistent the closer they are to the dams they are spilling out of, so water that is several miles downstream of a dam can be as as susceptible to cold temps as a freestone.





Hatching Midge

Looks winter is here to stay in Big Sky country and we are moving into the slowest part of the fishing season in SW Montana. Yellowstone National Park is closed to fishing until late May and thoughts have turned to hunting, the holidays and winter sports for most. If the idea of having rivers all to yourself sounds appealing keep reading.

As water temps drop, trout on the Gallatin will move into slower water where they have a consistent food supply and shelter from predators. Winters are harsh and the goal for trout in winter is to survive, which is done by not expending more energy than they can consume and avoiding predators. Keep in mind that a good winter home is not always the deepest, slowest pool on the river. There are great winter lies that are as shallow as two feet or less.

Since '84. Fine Purveyors of Fly Fishing Awesome-ness.

Private spring creeks in the Paradise Valley offer reduced fees in winter and are a great place to learn how to fish more technical waters. If you really want to expand your abilities this winter buy a winter pass to one of the spring creeks and fish it often.

Don't forget the thermos of coffee or hot chocolate and enjoy some quiet time on the river.

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EBS STAFF

Born in the Bronx, New York,

actress, comedian and writer

comic since she was 17 years old. She brings the laughs to

Bozeman's Ellen Theatre on

Saturday, Nov. 11, at 8 p.m.

Her first one-hour special,

"Pacifically Speaking," was

produced by Gabriel Iglesias.

Gina Brillon has been a standup



The Ellen hosts a night of laughs with comedian Gina Brillon on Saturday, Nov. 11 beginning at 8 p.m. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ELLEN THEATRE

Brillon also has a featured role in Iglesias' theatrical film, "The Fluffy Movie." A comic with

many television credits, Brillon was the first Latina winner of NBC's 2012 "Stand up for Diversity Showcase."

In June 2017, Rolling Stone magazine declared Brillon "one of 10 comedians you need to know," and described Brillon as a "relatable performer with universal likability," whose subjects "include the maddening echo chamber she feels inherent in the female mind, what it's like to have a twin with low self-esteem and her wish to rid the world of the term 'cougar.'"

Brillon is also an accomplished singer, writer and poet.

Visit theellentheatre.com for more information.

World War I exhibit opens at the **Yellowstone Gateway Museum**

EBS STAFF

An exhibit commemorating the 100th anniversary of World War I opens at Livingston's Yellowstone Gateway Museum on Veterans Day, Saturday, Nov. 11, with an opening reception from 1 to 6 p.m.

Biographies of local World War I veterans and newly acquired artifacts expand the museum's existing military exhibit.

New stories about World War I veterans focus on Elizabeth (Sandelius) Benbow, William Allen Hunter, Roland Kaiser (and the Kaiser family), and Ray Yardley, Sr.

Photos, uniforms, equipment and archival material, including letters and postcards sent from France to Montana during the war, and original stone lithographs by French artist Jules Abel Faivre, will be on display. Recently donated large-format John Haberstroh photographs of servicemen departing from the Livingston Depot in 1917 and postwar, marching in a Victory Parade in downtown Livingston, will also be exhibited.

The Honoring Park County Veterans exhibit chronicles the poignant stories and displays artifacts

of the men and women who served in the military from the Civil War to present day. The World War I exhibit will be on display for at least one year.

The Yellowstone Gateway Museum is located at 118 W. Chinook St. in Livingston. Visit yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org for more information.



New biographies and personal artifacts of Montana veterans of World War I comprise part of a new exhibit opening at Livingston's Yellowstone Gateway Museum on Veterans Day. PHOTO COURTESY OF YELLOWSTONE GATEWAY MUSEUM



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Boogie down at the Bozeman Bluegrass Festival

EBS STAFF

The 11th Annual Bozeman Bluegrass Festival will bring a burst of boot-stomping energy to The Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture on Saturday, Nov. 11 from 6 to 11 p.m. The family-friendly, all-ages event will feature four Montana bluegrass bands, beers by MAP Brewing and food by Red Tractor Pizza.

In the spotlight will be Missoula's Lochwood, and Bozeman-area bands The Dirt Farmers, The Bridger Creek Boys, and Lazy Owl String Band, a diverse set of acoustic acts with common roots in traditional bluegrass music.

Lochwood will provide the most conventional bluegrass sound in the line-up. Since 2014, Lochwood has been playing in the tradition of Bill Monroe, Lester Flatt, Earl Scruggs, and the Stanley Brothers. Their music features threepart harmonies, hard-driving rhythms, and exhilarating solos. The five band members hail from all over the country, but share the rural mountain values of western Montana. Lochwood is comprised of Richie Reinholdt on guitar, bassist John Parker, Steve Taft on banjo, Chad Fadely on mandolin, and fiddler Taylor Buckley.

The Dirt Farmers are a local string band who have dubbed their musical style "paisley grass." They've gained a following for their fun-loving mix of old school country, bluegrass, blues and rock—with the occasional slip into hip hop. The band members, who are as unique as their set list, serve up their tunes on a mandolin, banjo, guitar, fiddle and bass, highlighted by vocal harmonies. The Dirt Farmers are comprised of Nate Fortier, Kelly Hagerman, Bill Devine, Hans Swenson, Suzanne Ford and Chuck Swenson.

The hosts of the festival, the Bridger Creek Boys, add a twist of "newgrass" improvisation to old-timey bluegrass. They've logged more than 1,400 gigs nationwide since they began pickin' together in 2005. The band presents a mix of explosive solos, tight harmonies and high energy fun. With a repertoire that includes songs by The Grateful Dead, The Band and The Beatles, as well as classics by Doc Watson and the Carter Family, expect the unexpected with this four-piece band. The Bridger Creek Boys are Matt Broughton, Jim Dungan, Andrew Schauer and Scott Stebbins.

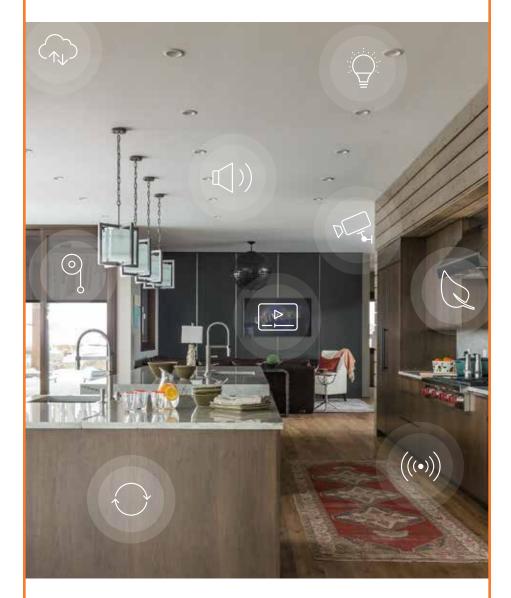
Kicking off the evening's music is The Lazy Owl String Band who cite diverse influences spanning from jazz and blues to punk rock, but remain rooted in an old-timey traditional style. Their hard-driving sound, whiskey-drinking, bootstomping energy is geared toward filling the dance floor.

Tickets are available at Cactus Records and at the door. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Visit snowboardmt.wixsite.com/bozemanbluegrass for more information.



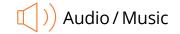


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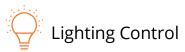


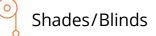
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The Dirt Farmers are part of a four-band line up at the Bozeman Bluegrass Festival, taking place at The Emerson from 6-11 p.m. on Nov. 11. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DIRT FARMERS

















(((•)) Network / IT

BOZEMAN, MT | BIG SKY, MT | JACKSON, WY

EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10 – MONDAY, November 20

*IF YOUR EVENT FALLS BETWEEN NOV. 21 AND DEC. 7, PLEASE SUBMIT IT BY NOV. 16 BY EMAILING MEDIA@ OUTLAW.PARTNERS.

BIG SKY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10 Used Book Sale Ophir Elementary Gym, all morning

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11 STEM Saturdays, class Big Sky Discovery Academy, 10 a.m.

Art Party in Big Sky Ousel and Spur, 4 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13 Service Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 Big Sky Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting Big Sky Chamber, 8:30 a.m.

Top Shelf Toastmasters Meeting Town Center Sales Office, 12 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 Let's Talk Turkey, cooking class Big Sky Discovery Academy, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Visit Big Sky Board Meeting Big Sky Chamber, 8:30 a.m. Big Sky Community Organization Board Meeting BSCO Office, 1 p.m.

Business After Hours Black Tie Ski Rentals, 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17 Pinky and the Floyd, music Rainbow Ranch, 8 p.m.

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18 STEM Saturdays, class Big Sky Discovery Academy, 10 a.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20 Service Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

BOZEMAN

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10 Jazz Night Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Cori Spezzati, choir Holy Rosary Church, 7 p.m.

Footloose, movie The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Gathering up our Brokenness, lecture The Element Hotel, 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Relationship as Psycho-Spiritual Development, workshop The Element Hotel, 9 a.m.

Crazy Daze Local Craft Sale Bozeman Taproom, all afternoon

Bozeman Bluegrass Festival Emerson Cultural Center, all evening

Copper City Fundraiser MAP Brewing, all evening

Brianna Moore, music Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Gina Brillon, comedian The Ellen Theatre, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 Lazy Owl String Band, music Red Tractor Pizza, 6 p.m.

Hooligans, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13 Kevin Grastorf, music Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14 Mike & Mike, music Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15 The Wind and the Wallows, music Taco Montes, all evening

Take Every Wave: The Life of Laird Hamilton, movie The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Ladies Night Downtown, all evening

Rob Briwa: Heritage and Highway Maps, lecture Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Art on the Rocks: Pinot & Tet Painting, class Rocking R Bar, 6:30 p.m.

Mathias, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m. Bridger Creek Boys, music Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

wAhn Trio, music The Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Kayte Kaminski: Cultivating Compassion, lecture Bozeman Public Library, 8:15 a.m.

Jazz Night Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

The Muppet Movie The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18 Holiday Bazaar and Winter Farmers' Market

Emerson Ballroom, all day

Howard Beall & The Fake News, music Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, play The Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Funksgiving V, dance Eagles Ballroom, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19 The Mandela Effect, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.





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WORTH THE DRIVE

Billings, MT

Rescued & Reclaimed Country Christmas Market Nov. 17-18 MetraPark Expo Center

Montana's largest indoor vintage market is back again this year in Billings and will feature over 100 of the top vendors from Montana, Wyoming, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Idaho. You will find all things repurposed, rusty, chippy, primitive, vintage and antique, as well as handmade jewelry and clothing. Visit rescuedandreclaimed.com for more information.

Livingston, MT

Young Frankenstein Nov. 10-12 Shane Lalani Center for the Arts

The first production of the Shane Center's 2017-2018 community theatre season, "Young Frankenstein" culminates with three more shows in November. In Mel Brooks' version of the classic, the grandson of the infamous Victor Frankenstein inherits his family's estate in Transylvania, finding himself in the mad scientist shoes of his ancestors. Show times are 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m. Visit theshanecenter.org/events/young-frankenstein to learn more and purchase tickets.

Big Sky, MT

Fall Celebration

Nov. 17, 5-8pm The Trove West, Big Sky Meadow Village Center

Celebrate fall with Trove West and be the first to see the beautiful things offered in the store for this upcoming winter season. Meet new business partner Christine Rodgers and preview Christmas items and items on sale. This is a fundraiser for Greater Yellowstone Coalition's clean water program in Big Sky, and there will be fall inspired food and drink.

Livingston, MT

And We Were Young Nov. 12 Shane Lalani Center for the Arts

In recognition of Veterans Day on Nov. 11, the 99th anniversary of the end of World War I, the Livingston Film Series presents the film "And We Were Young." The film, which is an adaptation of James H. Hallas' "Doughboy War: The American Expeditionary Force in World War I," is an animated oral history of American soldiers in the last months of the Great War. A reception precedes the film at 6:30 p.m. and the screening follows at 7 p.m.



Submit your event! Email upcoming event information to media@outlaw.partners



bigskylibrary.org

Announcements

Volunteers Meet Wednesday 11/15 10:00 A.M. hours. Sunday 1-5p.m. Monday 10a.m.-6p.m. (Toddlers Storytime 10:30 a.m.) Tuesday 4-8p.m. Wednesday 4-8p.m. Closed Thursday-Saturday

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Richard Ford: Dirty realist

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

Richard Ford was born in Jackson, Mississippi, 73 years ago. The son of a traveling salesman, the themes of transience and locomotion, and the influence of William Faulkner figure heavily in the various genres he later tried his hand at.

At one point in his career, he decided to give up writing novels and an academic teaching position to pursue a career as a sportswriter.

These days, Ford is best known as the author of four novels about sportswriter-turned-real estate agent Frank Bascombe, set in the fictional Haddam, New Jersey. The second in the series, "Independence Day" (1995) won the PEN/Faulkner award and the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction for its subtle parody of contemporary America along with the specter of hope it left for its inhabitants.

Ford has been called a Southern writer, a New Jersey author, and after a 1987 edition of "Granta Magazine" published his short story "Rock Springs," he got a rep as a Montana writer as well. Ford doesn't like to be pigeonholed as a regional author, saying in one interview that he is content to try "to write a literature that is good enough for America."

His 1990 novel "Wildlife," and his 2012 novel "Canada," are both set in and around Great Falls, Montana, a place that, like Mississippi, Arkansas and Maine, he considers home.

In that now infamous edition of the British quarterly, editor Bill Buford identified what he saw as a movement in American literature, grouping together a new generation of writers, including Ford's friends Tobias Wolfe and Raymond Carver, and dubbing them "dirty realists."

According to Buford, the "dirty realists" had noticeably less epic ambitions than the previous generation of American writers, like Norman Mailer or Saul Bellow. Their styles were also not self-consciously experimental like so much postmodern or deconstructionist writing of the '60s and '70s, and refreshingly unpretentious by comparison.

Many of the so-called "dirty realists" had their reservations about that assessment, but it did popularize a new kind of minimalism and herald a revival of the American short story. Undoubtedly, many of these writers had written unadorned, low-rent tragedies about rural Americans losing their way or who had already lost their way, and how they dealt with the brokenness of their lives in a fragmented world.

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in celebrating the musical interpretation of the fabulous medieval cerimonial feast. Music provided by the **MSU Chorale**, the **MSU Montanans**, and **MSU Brass Quintet**

Decembe



Many of Ford's characters are unemployed drifters and grifters trying to get by in the spiritually-bankrupt ethos of modern consumerism. Ford's recurring theme is not an easy idealism, but a suspicion of heroes, creeds, and crusades. Many of his fellow "dirty realists" shared the same assumptions about language, character and narrative and a willingness to engage the seamier sides of life

The title story of his short story collection "Rock Springs" is one that exemplifies the "dirty realist" approach to literature, both peculiar and haunting. It follows a car thief on the run for passing bad checks on his journey from Whitefish, Montana, to the town of Rock Springs, Wyoming, as he, his girlfriend, his daughter and her dog Duke try to make it to Florida in a cranberry Mercedes stolen from an ophthalmologist.

Read it and see if by the end you aren't empathizing with a man casing for a new stolen vehicle in a Ramada hotel parking lot under the cover of night, trying to make sense of where things went wrong.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



BY AMY HUNTER ASSISTANT COMMUNITY LIBRARIAN

When thinking about what to share in Between the Shelves, we consider a few things. Is there anything about the upcoming time frame to highlight? What has the library received lately? What haven't we talked about recently? There are a few notable events in November we'd like to highlight.

Saturday, Nov. 11 is Veterans Day. The library has a number of great books and movies that focus on the lives and sacrifices of our veterans. We have classics like "For Whom the Bell Tolls" by Ernest Hemingway; memoirs like "Red Platoon" by Clinton Romesha; "The White Donkey: Terminal Lance," an adult graphic novel by Maximilian Uriarte; and a modern story, "The Yellow Birds" by Kevin Powers.

November is also Native American Heritage Month. The Big Sky Community Library has many great resources to learn more, including memoirs like Sherman Alexie's "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me" and works of fiction by Alexie, and Louise Erdrich. We also have a well-reviewed documentary mini-series named "500 Nations."

This season as we think about the history of not only this nation, but the entire continent, come explore the library to learn more.

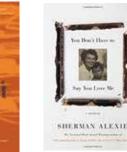
The Yellow

Birds

Kevin









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LEGAL

BUDGET AMENDMENT PROCLAMATION BIG SKY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 72 GALLATIN COUNTY, MONTANA

At a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Big Sky School District No. 72, Gallatin County, Montana, held October 24, 2017 at 3:30 pm in the Ophir Elementary School Conference Room, the following resolution was introduced:

WHEREAS, the Trustees of Big Sky School District No. 72, Gallatin County, Montana, have made a

determination that as a result of an unanticipated enrollment increase, the District's General Fund budget does not provide sufficient financing to properly maintain and support the District for the entire current school fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Trustees have determined that an amendment to the General Fund budget in the

amount of \$83,469.00 is necessary under the provisions of Section 20-9-161(1), MCA for the purpose of operating and maintaining the District, and

WHEREAS, the anticipated source of financing the budget amendment expenditures shall be additional state assistance and general fund reserves,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Big Sky School District No. 72, Gallatin County, Montana, proclaims a need for an amendment to the General Fund budget for fiscal year 2017-18 in the amount of \$83,469.00 for the purpose identified above, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Big Sky School District No. 72, Gallatin County,

Montana, will meet at 5:30 pm in the Ophir Elementary School Conference Room on November 29, 2017 for the purpose of considering and adopting the budget amendment.



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250 words or less
Should be respectful, ethical, and accurate
Include full name and phone number

* Explore Big Sky reserves the right to edit letters



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