

Life and land from the heart of the Yellowstone Region



Deep December in Big Sky

**Special section:** Top Stories of 2017

Dr. Daniels joins Bozeman Health

**Avalanche claims life near West** 

Conoco owners celebrate 25 years



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**ON THE COVER:** Big Sky had a December to remember. Numerous snowfalls of over 6 inches turned Lone Mountain into a powder playground for winter sports enthusiasts, making for an auspicious start to the winter season. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

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#### **Dr. Daniels joins Bozeman Health**

Avalanche claims life near West Yellowstone



## Deep December in **Big Sky**

Conoco owners celebrate 25 years





**Special Section:** Top Stories of 2017



Sun dogs, an atmospheric optical phenomenon caused by the refraction of sunlight by ice crystals in the atmosphere, as captured from Big Sky Resort's Lobo Meadows on Dec. 21. PHOTO BY STEVE SCHUMACHER

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

**CORRECTION:** In the Best of Big Sky special section in the Dec. 22 edition of EBS, Roxy Lawler's husband Michael was misidentified as Steve.



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Martha has been a resident of Big Sky since 1988 and has worked in real estate for approximately 20 years. CONTACT MARTHA: (406) 580-5891 MARTHA@BIGSKY.COM BIGSKY .COM



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**4** January 5 - 18, 2018 **Explore** Big Sky



# Montana revises feared revenue hit from tax bill

BILLINGS (AP) – Federal tax cuts passed into law will deliver less of a blow to Montana revenue than first expected, state officials say.

The Montana Department of Revenue initially forecast a \$72 million a year loss due to the legislation. That's after the Legislature recently met to address a \$227 million hole in the state's two-year budget.

The state funding outlook is improving, however: Montana State Revenue Director Mike Kadas no longer expects to lose \$24 million in federal royalty payments for at least a year. State officials now forecast only a \$46 million hit to state funding in 2018, the Billings Gazette reports.

Montana tax law will still be in need of changing to avoid a revenue loss due to a deduction allowed for pass-through businesses, said Department of Revenue tax analyst Ed Caplis.

But Rep. Jeff Essmann, R-Billings, doubted that would indeed be necessary for pass-through businesses, or small businesses whose proprietors pay individual rather than corporate income tax.

"Why the government, that's been talking all year about budget cuts that harm the needy, would be pushing this interpretation that would cost a \$40 million loss mystifies me," Essmann said.

The impact should be even less after people reinvest federal income tax savings back into the state, Essmann said.

# Montana tourism industry notches strong **2017**

**VOICES OF MONTANA TOURISM** 

Tourism is a leading industry in Montana and the sector continued its strong economic performance in 2017, supporting more than 53,000 jobs in lodging, restaurants and retail, as well as indirect positions in real estate, construction, architecture and banking.

Non-resident visitors spent \$3.3 billion according to the preliminary traveler expenditure report from the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research.

The year started off strong with the second highest skier visits on record with 1.5 million skier days, and five of Montana's 14 ski areas attracted record skier visits. Lodging receipts for the first quarter were also at record numbers with a 6-percent increase from 2016, based on lodging tax collections.

After the strong winter start, an early spring melted valley snow prompting early biking, hiking and fishing. National park visitation launched at a record pace in Glacier National Park and Yellowstone held steady from its record numbers the year before.

By summer, temperatures rose and forest fires became an issue persisting into the fall. ITRR released a report stating that smoke and fires had a negative impact on tourism spending. In response to the revenue loss, Montana's Department of Commerce set up an expedited grant and loan program for small businesses.

In the autumn, most major Montana airports were announcing increased service with new direct flights to cities around the country, as well as important infrastructure investments.

"With increasing air service, private industry capital investments, and strong statewide and regional marketing programs, Montana has all the ingredients for growth in the visitor economy," said Dax Schieffer, Voices of Montana Tourism director.

# Olive B's hosts LPHS Nepal service trip fundraiser

LPHS INTERACT CLUB

The Lone Peak High School Interact Club has partnered with local restaurant Olive B's to raise funds for the club's upcoming service trip to Nepal. The second annual benefit dinner will take place Jan. 9 from 5 to 9 p.m.

In four months, nine LPHS Interact Club seniors will board a plane bound for Kathmandu, Nepal. The students will be visiting orphanages, schools, and senior homes while trekking between Nepali villages. Students will bring donation items such as clothing and children's toys for locals in need.

The price-fixed dinner will consist of a meal of spaghetti and meatballs as well as salad and dessert, prepared by the Olive B's chefs. The full dinner menu will also be available with regular pricing. All proceeds from the evening, courtesy of owner Warren Bibbins, will benefit the Interact Club's 2018 service trip to Nepal.

The seniors embarking on the trip will be helping the Olive B's staff the night of the event, and will be available to answer questions about the trip. Katie Hoffman, president of the Interact Club, said its members are "exceedingly grateful for the support the Big Sky community gives to our club. We are lucky to have the support of local businesses such as Olive B's to back such a unique trip."

LPHS Interact students invite community members and visitors interested in enjoying a gourmet dinner while supporting their trip to Nepal to join them at Olive B's for this special dinner. Doors open at 5 p.m., and reservations are recommended.

# Bozeman lawmaker pulls out of US House race

EBS STAFF

Democratic state Rep. Tom Woods of Bozeman has decided to abandon the race to challenge Montana's lone U.S. Rep. Greg Gianforte in the November 2018 election, citing a lack of financial support.

Woods announced the decision Jan. 2 on his Facebook page Tom Woods for Congress.

"Unfortunately, I haven't been able to raise enough money to remain competitive with my primary opponents, some of whom have been able to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars in the past few months," Woods wrote.

"The sad reality is that modern campaigns take a lot of money and that's in short supply in a six-way Democratic primary."

The five remaining candidates seeking the Democratic nomination are Billings attorney John Heenan; Grant Kier of Missoula, the former executive director of the Five Valleys Land Trust; former Billings lawmaker Lynda Moss; Bozeman attorney Jared Pettinato; and former Bozeman lawmaker Kathleen Williams. The Democratic primary is June 5.

Woods is still eligible to file for his state legislative seat representing Bozeman, and plans to make an announcement Jan. 11.



# In your opinion, what was the top story of 2017, whether locally, nationally or globally?



**Aaron Henry** *Big Sky, Montana* 

"Definitely the biggest story of the year is how much snow Big Sky has received. All the lifts are open so get out here and join us!"



Angelo Amodeo Glastonbury, Connecticut

"The hurricanes [Harvey and Irma] in the South. It really affected a lot of people, unfortunately. ... Oh, and James [Amenta] and I skiing the Big Couloir!"



James Amenta Glastonbury, Connecticut

"I would say the biggest story of 2017 was [President Donald] Trump's Inauguration Day."



Matthew Morse Big Sky, Montana

"Justin Timberlake coming to [Big Sky], and then getting a chance to meet him."



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BIGSKYRESORT.COM/APP

# **Bozeman Health absorbs Medical Clinic of Big Sky**

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – On Jan. 1, the Medical Clinic of Big Sky—the private practice of Dr. Jeff Daniels—was absorbed by Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center.

Daniels and his support staff of seven will continue their employment with Bozeman Health. While the Medical Clinic of Big Sky's Town Center office in the RJS building closed Jan. 1, Daniels and his team will continue to provide patient care at the Mountain Clinic, located in the ski patrol building at Big Sky Resort. This location will remain open during ski season, under the operation of Bozeman Health.

Daniels opened the Medical Clinic of Big Sky at the resort in the summer of 1994. Prior to then, the sick or injured had to seek medical care in Bozeman. Daniels expanded his practice with a Meadow location in 2005.

As Big Sky's first community physician, Daniels has witnessed the medical landscape undergo significant change since he, his wife Evelyn and son Eric moved here from New York City nearly 25 years ago. In a 2015 interview with EBS, Daniels said he spent the first six weeks in Big Sky working out of his car because his mountain-top office was not completed yet.

For three years, Daniels operated Medical Clinic of Big Sky under the Gondola One housing unit in the resort's base area, but once construction began on the Summit Hotel building, the clinic was moved to Snowcrest Lodge, and then to a doublewide trailer in what is now the free-skier parking lot. In 1998, the clinic relocated again, this time to its current home in the ski patrol building. Through these changes, the patrol moved along with the clinic.

Daniels initiated a unique program in 1998 that gave up to 70 medical students each year the opportunity to practice medicine in Big Sky.

Since then, every ski season, from December through April, between 10 and 12 students and residents each month complete the program. More than 800 medical students, residents and fellows have participated since Daniels launched the program.

"Coordinating with Bozeman Health, and for the past two years, the team at Big Sky Medical Center, has been a privilege and I'm glad to strengthen our relationship in the pursuit of providing the best possible care for our Big Sky residents and visitors," Daniels said in a Bozeman Health press release.

Cary Wilson, Daniels' physician assistant for the past five years, said he was looking forward to having more resources at his disposal as an employee of Bozeman Health.

"I'm excited to be involved making improvements and innovations, and making the clinic better," Wilson said. "[Bozeman Health] has more resources, and more specialists I can consult with more easily."

"Dr. Daniels' commitment to the Big Sky community is evident, and I'm pleased to have him join our team in living out our mission of improving community health and quality of life," said Bozeman Health President and CEO John Hill in the press release. "This partnership will not only strengthen the care delivery system for the Big Sky community, but also ensure its sustainability."

Daniels' patients can still reach him at (406) 995-2797 or (406) 995-6995. Daniels joins the Big Sky Bozeman Health team of Drs. Chandler, Hess, Mitchell and Weber, who currently practice in the Big Sky Medical Center Family Medicine Clinic, located in the bospital building at 334 Town Center Ave.



After 24 years of private practice in Big Sky, Dr. Daniels and his support staff have become part of the team at Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES



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# Skyline overcrowding blamed on mechanical issues, bad luck

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – Despite additional bus routes within Big Sky, and to and from Bozeman this winter season, complaints of seat scarcity on Skyline and Link Express services continue—especially during peak months like December.

Big Sky Transportation District Coordinator David Kack chalks it up to a "run of bad luck" that incapacitated several large buses, which were replaced with smaller vehicles with nearly half as many seats.

During a Dec. 4 snowstorm, two Skyline buses were involved in accidents. A vehicle lost control and hit one bus head on near Lake Levinsky at Big Sky Resort; and, in another incident, the back end of a bus was clipped while turning off of Lone Mountain Trail onto Little Coyote Road.

"Fortunately, no one was injured, but we still had to take the buses out of service," Kack said. "Our back up was smaller vehicles, and if you go from a 45-passenger bus to a 25-passenger bus, you're going to have some issues."

With other unanticipated mechanical issues occurring, at one point four of the nine Skyline buses servicing Big Sky were not on the road in December.

Kack reported that numbers from the first half of the fiscal year (July through December) indicate that local ridership within Big Sky is up 7 percent over last year; and there was a 12-percent increase in use of the Link Express between Bozeman and Big Sky.

Skyline saw a significant increase in local ridership in December, while the same month showed a drop for the Link Express—possibly due to the overcrowding issues, Kack said.

This year, Skyline expanded the Town Center to Mountain Village loop to provide more consistent service to Lone Mountain Ranch, Hidden Village and The Pines neighborhoods, and Meadow Village, including a new loop around Little Coyote Road.



The Skyline bus service within Big Sky, and between Big Sky and Bozeman, has been facing overcrowding due to a series of December incidents that incapacitated part of their fleet. PHOTO COURTESY OF SKYLINE

Three more daily round trips between Bozeman and Big Sky were also added to the Link Express schedule.

Anticipating increased demand, Kack said the company leased three additional buses for the season, but had he known there would be so much equipment trouble, he would've leased at least five.

"I think in general, everybody knows Big Sky is growing and needs to hire more employees for the [increasing number of] businesses ... so until we address the workforce housing issues we'll continue to see a higher demand for the bus services, especially transportation between Big Sky and Bozeman," Kack said. "In the meantime, we're doing what we can."

# Deep December a boon for Big Sky

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – Southwest Montana had a December to remember. Numerous snowfalls of more than 6 inches turned Big Sky Resort into a powder playground for winter sports enthusiasts during the last month of 2017, making for an auspicious start to the winter season.

Notably, researchers at Montana State University reported a record snowfall of 46 inches for the month of December in Bozeman, nearly besting the all-time record monthly snowfall of 47 inches in April 2009.

By the end of the month, Big Sky Resort was reporting a 42-inch mid-mountain snow depth and 61-inch upper-mountain base.

"We are at 120 percent of average snowfall for this time of year, at our mid-mountain weather gauge at 8,900 feet," said Chelsi Moy, public relations manager for Big Sky Resort, on Dec. 30. "Which means we're well over that in the upper alpine areas."

Snow fell on 11 days during the last two weeks of December alone. "This past two weeks, it hasn't stopped snowing. We've received around 3.5 feet of snow in that time," Moy said. "People who've worked here a decade and longer are saying that early-season conditions haven't been this good since the record snowfall of 1996-97."

The snowstorms came at the right time too, given that the week after Christmas is typically the busiest of the year in terms of lift tickets sold, and for retail shops and restaurants. The fresh powder attracted visitors from around the country to enjoy the favorable conditions, so it comes as no surprise that Big Sky Resort reported a more than 15-percent increase in skier visits over last year, with Dec. 28 being the busiest day on record at the mountain.

The early season snowfall was also a boon to local businesses, with many owners reporting record sales for the month. Lines in grocery store checkout aisles were long "Star Wars" screenings at Lone Peak Cinema sold out, and during the last week of December it was difficult to get a table at local restaurants without advance reservations.

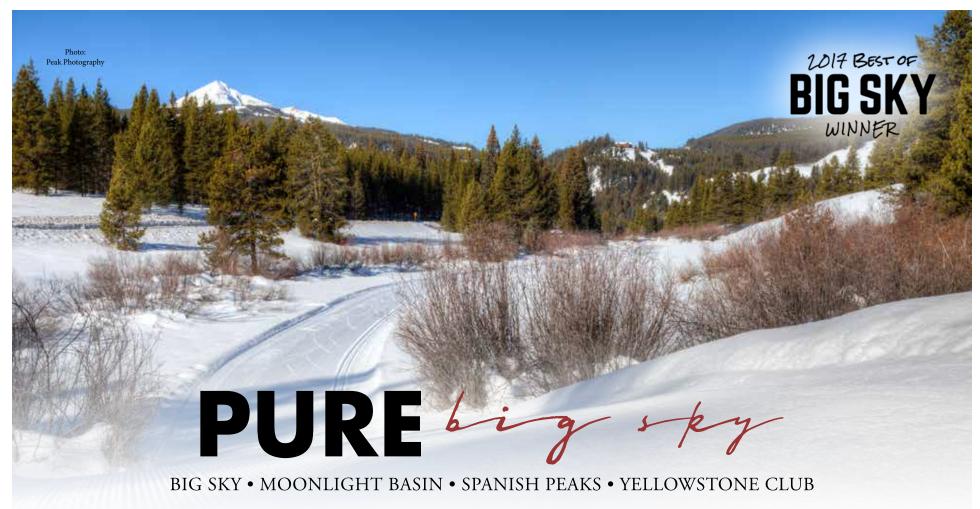


Heavy snowfall in the last two weeks of December was a boon for powder hounds as well as Big Sky businesses, with many owners reporting record sales for the month. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

"This was our best December [in terms of sales] ever," said Keith Kuhns, owner of the popular après ski destination Scissorbills Saloon. "We were far busier than expected ... the early snow really helped get the season off on the right foot and the resort numbers around Christmas were just crazy."

Dave Alvin, owner of East Slope Outdoors, echoed Kuhns' sentiments. "Record sales are nothing new given Big Sky's growth," Alvin said. "But the week before Christmas was noticeably busier for us than in years past ... probably because of visitors who chose to come to Big Sky instead of places without a good snowpack."

When EBS went to press on Jan. 3, the National Weather Service was forecasting another unsettled, snowy pattern for Big Sky beginning Friday, Jan. 5.





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Big Sky, Montana

# **Avalanche kills snowmobiler near West Yellowstone**Multiple skiers buried in slides throughout southwest Montana

BY TYLER ALLEN EBS MANAGING EDITOR

BIG SKY – A 40-year-old snowmobiler was buried and killed by an avalanche Jan. 2, approximately 19 miles north of West Yellowstone in the southern Madison Range. The incident occurred in the Cabin Creek drainage on the west side of Sage Peak.

Weylon Wiedemann, of Pine City, Minnesota, triggered the slide from the bottom of the slope and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center forecasters Doug Chabot and Alex Marienthal completed the accident investigation on Jan. 3 and planned to release the report Jan. 4, the day after EBS went to press.

Reached by phone Jan. 3, Chabot said four snowmobilers and two snow bikers from Minnesota had triggered a small avalanche and decided not to ride in dangerous terrain. The group was experienced in snow safety, Chabot said, noting that they were all carrying avalanche rescue gear and two of them had ridden in the West Yellowstone area in the past.

One of the group members was approximately 50 feet away from Wiedemann, where he had stopped his sled, and watched him get carried about 25 feet down the slope into a small gully. The avalanche was a hard wind slab that failed on facets—or weak snow—near the ground. It was approximately 300 feet wide and ran about 600 feet on a southwest-facing slope, according to Chabot.

Wiedemann was buried 3-feet deep, facedown under his sled. His partners located him with a beacon search, and dug him out within 12 to 15 minutes, but they were unable to revive him with CPR.

Research into avalanche burials indicates that, barring trauma, a victim has an approximately 80 percent chance of survival if they're dug out within 10



The avalanche pinned the victim, Weylon Wiedemann of Minnesota, beneath his sled and under 3 feet of snow.



Gallatin National Forest Avalanche forecaster Alex Marienthal investigates the crown of a Jan. 2 slide that killed a snowmobiler near West Yellowstone. PHOTOS COURTESY OF GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST AVALANCHE CENTER

minutes. However, the weight of the snowmobile on top of Wiedemann may have played a role in his death, Chabot said.

"A lot of times you go investigate and say, 'What were they thinking?' This was not one of those incidents," Chabot said. "There were no other signs [of avalanches] along Sage Peak, or [nearby] Skyline Ridge. They just got really unlucky, and they got a lot of things rights. That's what makes it extra tragic."

This was the fourth avalanche fatality this winter in the U.S. and the second in Montana. On Oct. 7, a slide on Imp Peak, south of Big Sky, claimed the life of 23-year-old Bozeman woman Inge Perkins.

Two skiers were also partially buried Jan. 2 by an avalanche outside of the south boundary of Bridger Bowl ski area. They were stopped underneath the cliffs near the lower flanks of Saddle Peak when a small wind pocket of snow was triggered above them. The skiers were not injured.

On Dec. 29, two skiers triggered an avalanche west of Cooke City, near Barronette Peak, that caught them both, partially burying one skier. They were flushed through trees but were not seriously injured. The day before, on Dec. 28, two skiers remotely triggered a slide in the Sheep Creek drainage northwest of Cooke City, partially burying one up to their neck.

An avalanche on the west side of the Bridger Range on Dec. 29 carried a skier 1,200 vertical feet, which partially buried him and resulted in wrist and knee injuries. The skier was evacuated by Gallatin County Search and Rescue with assistance from Bridger Bowl ski patrol.

Heavy snow and strong winds between Christmas and New Year's Day spiked the avalanche danger to "high" on wind-loaded slopes in Cooke City on Dec. 28—the area received 4 feet of snow over four days—and "considerable" throughout the rest of the GNFAC advisory area. With a break in snowfall after New Year's Day, the snowpack in southwest Montana was trending more stable, but was a "spicy moderate" on Jan. 3, according to the avalanche center.

Visit mtavalanche.com for more information on the Jan. 2 accident, or to sign up for the daily advisory email.

Editor's note: EBS Managing Editor Tyler Allen also serves on the board of the Friends of the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center.

# Slopes, rink or riverside, Big Sky spent the holidays outdoors

















# Budget cuts end case management for developmentally disabled

HELENA (AP) – Montana's health department is ending its contracts with four organizations that provide case management services for about 2,200 adults with developmental disabilities—a move that will put about 70 people out of work.

The cuts are among those being made due to Montana's projected \$227 million budget shortfall. The contracts with A.W.A.R.E. Inc., Opportunity Resources, Helena Industries and the Central Montana Medical Center expire on March 31 and will not be renewed, Lee Newspapers of Montana reported.

Targeted case managers help those with developmental disabilities to get necessary services and medical care, help getting and keeping jobs and assistance transitioning to independent living.

Under the cuts, clients who are not eligible for Medicaid will no longer receive case management services, the Department of Public Health and Human Services said.

About 2,700 clients who are eligible under the Developmental Disabilities Program Medicaid waiver will continue to receive targeted case management services, however it's not clear how many clients being served by the four agencies will continue to receive services, officials said.

Health officials announced Dec. 21 the department was ending the contracts with the four agencies. Officials said health department employees will absorb some of the caseload with case managers in Helena, Missoula and Billings. The move is expected to save the state about \$2.5 million a year. The health department's share of the state budget cuts is about \$49 million over two years.

Opportunity Resources of Missoula will no longer provide case management services for 830 clients and 27 people will lose their jobs, said Jessica Hageman, director of case management.

Jaci Noonan with Anaconda-based A.W.A.R.E. said it serves 600 clients and will close offices in Red Lodge, Miles City, Sidney and Glasgow. Around 20 people will lose their jobs.

Deb Heerdt, director of case management for Helena Industries, said 732 people in Butte, Anaconda, Great Falls and Bozeman will lose services and 26 employees will lose their jobs.

Jamee Barman, case management supervisor with Central Montana Medical Center in Lewistown said 70 people will lose their services from the center. Her three employees may be able to get jobs elsewhere in the hospital, Barman said.

The directors say losing case managers could cause some of their clients to end up in nursing homes or without the services that allow them to stay in their own communities.

"I think there will be a lot more law enforcement involvement when people go into crisis," said Pat Noonan, director of community relations at A.W.A.R.E. "There will be more filing of [the state mental hospital at] Warm Springs. A lot more people will end up in an institution like the Montana Developmental Center.

"There's nobody to help them before they go into crisis and get into trouble. It sends us backward," Noonan said.





5 NIGHT + 6 DAY RIVER IRIPS

Middle Fork of the Salmon River, Idaho

# Bipartisan legislation moves forward for Montana wild and scenic designation

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT **EBS CONTRIBUTOR** 

BOZEMAN - Legislation to protect East Rosebud Creek as a wild and scenic river has passed the U.S. Senate and is receiving bipartisan support in the House.

If cleared, the bill will protect 20 miles of the creek, which originates near Red Lodge, Montana, in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness and flows into the Yellowstone River west of Columbus, as a part of the National Wild and Scenic River System established in 1968.

"This is huge for us," said Michael Fiebig, associate director for the Northern Rockies chapter of American Rivers. "This is the closest we've been to passing. This would be the first wild and scenic designation in Montana in 40 years."

Rivers identified with outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, as well as historic and cultural values may be preserved under the Wild and Scenic Act, thereby protecting the waterway and roughly one-quarter mile of land on either bank in a way that maintains a free-flowing state.

No private land will be impacted by the designation of East Rosebud Creek.

"East Rosebud lends access to some of the most stunning, jaw-dropping scenery in Montana," said Charles Wolf Drimal of the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. "It is a glacially carved valley surrounded by steep granite walls. Alpine lakes dot the drainage from the valley floor all the way up to its headwaters."

Drimal said the river is a refuge for native trout, moose and bear, and a 26mile trail along the East Rosebud that connects to Cooke City is a popular destination for recreationists. "Hundreds of hikers and backpackers hike [the Beaten Path] annually to experience its wildness."

Sens. Jon Tester and Steve Daines worked together to gather Senate support of the bill and unanimous approval cleared it from the Senate on Dec. 20.

"This is a historic day for the next generation of Montanans," Tester said in a Dec. 20 statement. "This bipartisan bill will protect a true treasure and

ensure our kids and grandkids can enjoy the wonders of East Rosebud Creek for years to come."

"East Rosebud Creek is a place where families fish, hike and take in Montana views," Daines added in the statement. "It is one of Montana's—and our country's—natural treasures and it must be preserved for our grandchildren and future generations to enjoy."

"The fact that Sen. Tester and Sen. Daines worked bipartisan ... really means something," Fiebig said. "It shows that Montanans care about getting things done. ... There's virtually no opposition for this in Montana."

Rep. Greg Gianforte introduced companion legislation in the House of Representatives.

protecting East Rosebud Creek. Conserv-

ing the area will strengthen our economy, protect our way of life, and fulfill the clear wishes of the community," Gianforte said in the Dec. 20 statement. "I will continue working to move the bill forward in the House."

According to Fiebig, the bill is broadly supported and he's hopeful that it will pass quickly in the House this January. Should it pass, the East Rosebud could become the first designation made during the 50th anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Act, which has origins in Montana.

Brothers Frank and John Craighead, famed conservation biologists who worked within the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem, were the initial advocates for a kind of system to protect the nation's rivers. During the late 1950s, the Craigheads successfully fought a dam proposal on the Middle Fork of the Flathead River, and thanks to their continued advocacy, in 1968 President Johnson signed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

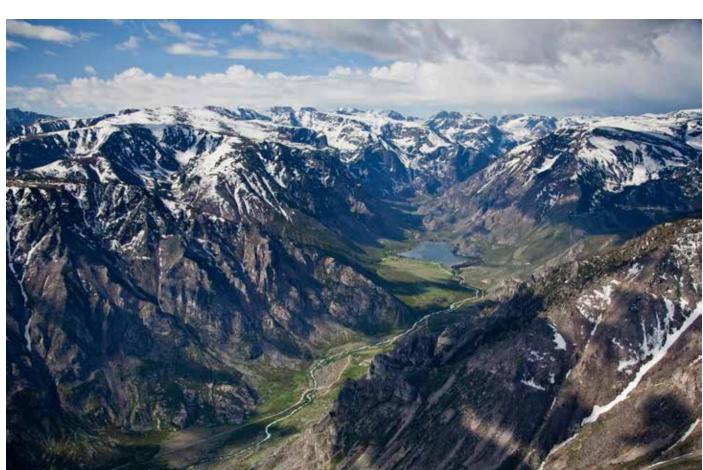
"This will kind of be like bringing the wild and scenic designation back home," Fiebig said.

Less than one-half of 1 percent of Montana's approximately 170,000 miles of river is designated as wild and scenic.

Montanans for Healthy Rivers, a statewide coalition of conservation organizations, is working together on additional steps to protect other rivers in the state. "The coalition hopes that [the East Rosebud designation] will open the door for more down the road," Fiebig said.

According to Kristin Gardner, director of the Gallatin River Task Force in Big Sky, the Gallatin River is a candidate for future wild and scenic designation, something which is largely supported by the community. "It's already very clean, has a great fishery, and the scenery is amazing," she said.

Additional rivers that have community support for wild and scenic designation include the Upper Madison, Upper Yellowstone and Smith rivers—"rivers that Montanans really care about," Fiebig said. "If there's something that we have that other states don't, it's an abundance of wild rivers."



"The Senate's action is a good first step in An aerial shot of East Rosebud Lake taken on a LightHawk conservation flight. The 7 miles of creek downstream of the lake and the 13 creek-miles above the lake are under consideration for wild and scenic designation. PHOTO BY CHRIS BOYER



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Bozeman natives, the Simkins family has been responsibly guiding the planning and development of the Town Center neighborhood for over 20 years, always supporting their commitment to leave a legacy of which the community and their family can be proud. They have owned land in Big Sky since its pioneering days of the early 1970's.

# BUS SCHEDULE Town Center ←→ Mountain Village

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Town Center to Mountain Village Bus Schedule (Heading Up)

**Departing Town Center:** 5:50a / 6:25a / 6:55a / 7:40a / 8:35a / 8:45a / 9:15a / 9:35a 10:30a / 10:35a / 11:35a / 12:35p / 1:35p / 2:35p / 3:35p / 4:35p / 5:35p / 6:35p / 7:35p 8:35p / 9:35p / 10:35p / 11:35a

**Arriving Mountain Village:** 6:05a / 6:40a / 7:10a / 7:20 a / 7:55a / 9:00a / 9:30a / 10:00a 10:45a / 11:00a / 11:50a / 12:00p / 1:00p / 2:00p / 2:50 p / 3:00p / 4:00p / 5:00p / 5:50 p 6:00p / 7:00p / 8:00p / 8:50p / 9:00p / 10:00p / 10:50p / 11:00p / 12:00a / 2:00a

#### Mountain Village to Town Center Bus Schedule (Heading Down)

**Departing Mountain Village:** 7:15a / 8:15a / 9:15a / 10:15a / 11:15a / 12:15p / 1:15p / 2:15p 3:15p / 4:15p / 5:15p / 6:15p / 7:15p / 8:15p / 9:15p / 10:15p / 11:15p / 12:15a / 2:15a

**Arriving Town Center:** 7:35a / 8:35a / 9:35a / 10:35a / 11:35a / 12:35p / 1:35p / 2:35 p 3:35p / 4:05p / 4:35p / 5:05 p / 5:35p / 6:35p / 7:35p / 8:35p / 9:35p / 10:35p / 11:35p 11:55p / 12:35a / 2:35a

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# US coal mining deaths surge in 2017 after hitting record low

BY JOHN RABY ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) – Coal mining deaths surged in the U.S. in 2017, one year after they hit a record low.

The nation's coal mines recorded 15 deaths last year, including eight in West Virginia. Kentucky had two deaths, and there were one each in Alabama, Colorado, Montana, Pennsylvania and Wyoming. In 2016 there were eight U.S. coal mine deaths.

West Virginia has led the nation in coal mining deaths in six of the past eight years. That includes 2010, when 29 miners were killed in an explosion at the Upper Big Branch mine in southern West Virginia.

In September, President Donald Trump appointed retired coal company executive David Zatezalo as the new chief of the Mine Safety and Health Administration. Most of the deaths this year occurred before his appointment. The Wheeling resident retired in 2014 as chairman of Rhino Resources.

Zatezalo was narrowly approved by the Senate in November. His appointment was opposed by Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., who said he was not convinced Zatezalo was suited to oversee the federal agency that implements and enforces mine safety laws and standards.

In December, the Trump administration brought up for review standards implemented by Barack Obama's administration that lowered the allowable limits for miners' exposure to coal dust. MSHA indicated it is reconsidering rules meant to protect underground miners from breathing coal and rock dust—the cause of black lung—and diesel exhaust, which can cause cancer.

Eight coal mining deaths last year involved hauling vehicles and two others in-

volved machinery. None were attributed to an explosion of gas or dust, which was to blame for the Upper Big Branch disaster.

The number of coal mining fatalities was under 20 for the fourth straight year after reaching exactly 20 in 2011, 2012 and 2013. By comparison, in 1966, the mining industry counted 233 deaths. A century ago there were 2,226.

MSHA has attributed low numbers in previous years to far fewer coal mining jobs and tougher enforcement of mining safety rules. Zatezalo, who said in October that his first priority was preventing people from getting hurt, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment left with MSHA on Jan. 2.

There were 13 fatalities in 2017 in non-coal mines that produce gravel, sand, limestone and mineable metals. There also were 17 such deaths in 2015 and 30 in 2014.

Appalachia has been especially hit hard by the closing of dozens of mines in recent years, but there was a turnaround in production in 2017.

According to the Energy Information Administration's weekly estimates, U.S. coal production increased 8.9 percent in the 52 weeks ending Dec. 23, the latest available. Production in West Virginia increased 16 percent, including 25 percent in coal-rich southern West Virginia.

Wyoming, the top coal-producing state, saw a 10.7 percent increase and Pennsylvania had an 11.6 percent hike.

There were about 92,000 working miners in the United States in 2011, compared with about 52,000 in 2016, the lowest figure since the Energy Information Administration began collecting data in 1978. The 2017 numbers are not yet available.



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JAN 12	One Ton Pig at the Trap Bar & Grill	
JAN 19	Maw Band at the Trap Bar & Grill	
JAN 20	Canyon Kids at the Trap Bar & Grill	
JAN 20	Fat Bike Night Race #2	
JAN 26 - 28	"Knowledge is Powder" Off Trail Camp	
JAN 26 - 28	IFSA College Freeskiing Competition	

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**Section 2:**ENVIRONMENT, SPORTS, HEALTH, DINING & BUSINESS







## The New West:

# Jack Turner's power of insightful observation



BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

"Some artists so completely capture the essence of a place and make it their own that to imagine the place or hold it in the mind's eye of memory is to see it distilled through their art. We are not free to do otherwise: it dominates our inner vision." – Jackson Hole writer Jack Turner

How odd it is that millions of people in the world today would feel themselves extremely lucky to hear a wolf howl because of its rareness, and yet there are a garden variety of locals who, for no reason at all, consider it a high point in their lives to try and extinguish the sound.

Why? Because they can.

Jack Turner, in his recent book, "Travels In The Greater Yellowstone" (St. Martin's Press), reminded us why we should awake every morning counting our blessings that we're not navigating rush-hour traffic, working in boxy towers of tinted glass and eking out a humdrum existence like the suburban character in Sinclair Lewis' novel, "Babbitt."

Turner, a legendary professional mountaineer and retired college professor, escorts readers to the edge of many symbolic precipices in thinking about a home that many of us take for granted. Whereas 99 percent of civilized humanity is coping with severe natural sensorial depletion every day, ours is a constant stimulating aesthetic of abundance.

One of the best American nature books of the last quarter century is Turner's "The Abstract Wild" that really set the stage for a series of reflections by other writers on what the human relationship to the natural world is.

Turner's prose is part John McPhee-esque travelogue, Olaus Murie field guide, Edward Abbeyan environmental essay, and, like all of his previous works, rich in metaphysical reflection about the essential stuff that should matter most in one's average lifespan of roughly 75 years.

Many outsiders have been mere voyeurs when coming to Yellowstone—writing guns for hire. The beauty of Turner's perspective is that he's an insider, and by

making the Greater Yellowstone feel exotic for people who have never graced it, he re-opens our eyes.

His lens is shaped by several distinct vantages visited with friends: Blacktail Butte, which is part of Yellowstone's "Serengeti" of wildlife; opening day of fishing on the Firehole River; the airy climber's lair in alpine tundra; the South Fork of the Shoshone River; the now embattled Wyoming Range; the inner Wind Rivers; the emerald surface of Green River Lakes; Red Rock Lakes; and Christmas at Old Faithful. He adds wolves, grizzly bears, whitebark pine trees and cutthroat trout to those stages.

"What I sought in these travels was much more personal, my own reckoning of how this place where I've lived most of my life is doing, whether its soul is indeed intact, as authorities and experts would have it, or unraveling," he writes.

He does not sit in judgment. In fact, following his reference to the famous sign that for decades adorned the top of Teton Pass—Yonder lies Jackson Hole, last of the Old West—he writes:

"Right! Land of the trophy log house, hivelike motel rooms for the worker bees, the stretch Hummer, the Gulfstream jet, miles of irrigation ditches, roads, trails, and fences, a slew of golf courses, two ski areas, the largest building in Wyoming, thirty thousand people a day milling about town in summer, gridlock on the streets, the five dollar latte, the arnica oil massage. And yet ... what an interesting collection of people! The reclusive billionaires and the ski bums, the traditional Republican ranchers and a thriving Latino community, a slew of misfit writers and hundreds of nonprofit organizations."

He notes: "This is my favorite place in the world" and then proceeds to journey across 18 million acres with a narrative flair and appreciation for the West that other gifted wordsmiths could only envy.

Todd Wilkinson, founder of Mountain Journal (mountain journal.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 feature on the delisting of Greater Yellowstone grizzlies appears in the winter 2018 issue of Mountain Outlaw and is now on newsstands.

# Meeting to discuss community engagement, Lower Gallatin Watershed

GREATER GALLATIN WATERSHED COUNCIL

The Greater Gallatin Watershed Council will hold its 2018 Annual Meeting, "The Power of You," on Thursday, Jan. 18, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. in the Weaver Room at the Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture.

The annual meeting will feature a speaker's panel beginning at 6:30 p.m., which will highlight ways that individuals can more deeply engage in the stewardship of the Lower Gallatin Watershed.

Speakers include local agricultural producer Travis Stuber, Scott Bosse with American Rivers, and Jessica Ahlstrom, the city's water conservation technician. Attendees

will be provided with tangible ways of caring for the natural resources in our watershed and leave feeling inspired to get involved.

The annual meeting is a free, community event that includes homemade, wholesome food, locally sourced in the watershed, a cash bar, and a raffle for a rain barrel.

GGWC is a Bozeman nonprofit that works within the community in order to monitor water quality, restore streams and provide watershed education throughout the Gallatin Valley. Through collaboration with agricultural, recreational and community partners, GGWC works to conserve and enhance the area's water resources.

For more information, visit GGWC's website at greatergallatin.org or contact Watershed Coordinator Holly Hill at (406) 560-4425.

# Australia trip helps MSU student jump-start solar car club

BY MARSHALL SWEARINGEN MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN - Most people would be surprised to encounter futuristic, sunlight-propelled cars zooming through the remote, red desert of the Australian Outback. But for Montana State University junior Levi Allery, they were the reason he went Down Under.

An electrical engineering major from Kalispell, Montana, Allery recently spent two weeks interning at the World Solar Challenge, traveling with 40 student teams as they raced their solar-powered vehicles along a nearly 2,000-mile-long route, from Australia's north coast to its south.

"These were the top teams in the world," said Allery, who has started an MSU student group called the Bridger Solar Team to build and race the electric cars, which are checkered with miniature solar panels.

In the days prior to the Oct. 8-15 race, he got a close look at the sleek, lightweight

vehicles while serving as a "scrutineer"—an official who inspects each team's handiwork to ensure it meets the competition's design standards.

"I got to touch every part, and see much more than if I were just a spectator," he said. After the vehicles left the starting line in Darwin, Allery followed closely behind a different one each day as an official observer.

He was following the Dutch solar team, called Nuon, when a piece of the car's suspension broke. Nuon's rapid repair response "was like a NASCAR team's," Allery said. "They were back on the road in minutes.

"The teams that did well communicated really well," he added. "Teamwork is huge."

Allery and his fellow volunteers also operated as a team, keeping the race running smoothly while being initiated into the world of solar car enthusiasts and gathering knowledge that each of them would take home, said World Solar Challenge's event director, Chris Selwood.

"We found Levi to be willing and enthusiastic," he said. "It is great to have him as a member of this international community."

Getting the chance to visit Australia for the race was a bit of a surprise for Allery. The opportunity was sparked by his participation in the TRIO Student Support Services program at MSU, which provides mentorship and other assistance to first-generation college students and students from other underrepresented groups.

Megkian Doyle, whose work at TRIO helps students chart their paths to graduation, heard Allery talk about the World Solar Challenge and his interest in solar cars and applied to MSU's Presidential Emerging Scholars



Levi Allery, center, traveled with student teams from around the world as they raced solar-powered cars across Australia's Outback during the 2017 World Solar Challenge, Oct. 8-15. PHOTO COURTESY OF LEVI ALLERY

Grant program on his behalf. Allery was one of a dozen students who received the grant last summer.

"We're looking for things that these students wouldn't have access to at MSU that would put them over the top," Doyle said.

Taking time out of the semester was a challenge, said Allery, who has a half-time job repairing hot tubs in addition to his full course load. But his professors were flexible and supportive, he said.

In addition to starting the Bridger Solar Team, Allery has worked with faculty in the Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering to incorporate design and construction of the solar-powered cars into two of the year-long capstone projects that engineering seniors complete as part of their graduation requirements.

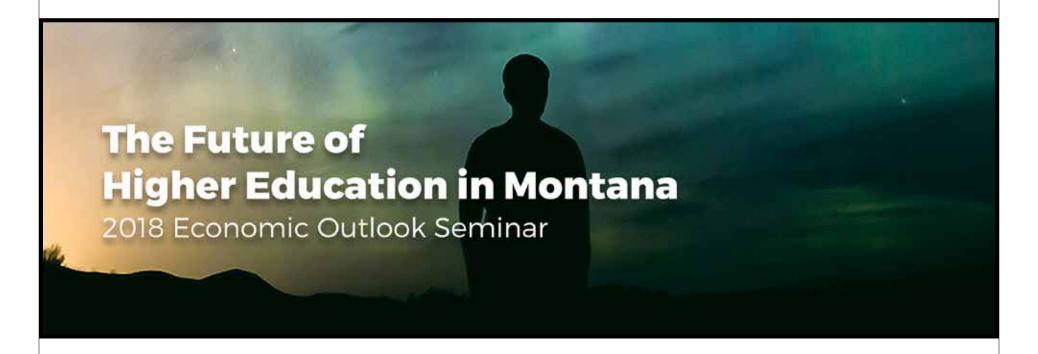
"Often these things are initiated by faculty, but this one is driven by the students, and especially by Levi," said Todd Kaiser, head of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. "He saw something that he wanted to do and made it happen."

The 15-person MSU team, which consists mostly of engineering majors, hopes to compete in the 2019 Formula Sun Grand Prix, a race that will take place at a closed-loop track in Texas. That would be a significant step toward competing in the World Solar Challenge, according to Allery.

"The whole idea is that the future is looking toward solar power and electric cars," he said. "We can learn and help to be a part of that."







#### Join Us for a LIVE Broadcast

Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> | 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Lone Peak Cinema | Tickets: \$25, lunch included Purchase at bigskychamber.com/events

This half-day seminar and luncheon will highlight the latest economic trends for local, state, and national economies. BBER economists Patrick Barkey and Paul Polzin will present economic forecasts for each seminar city and industry specialists will provide an outlook for Montana's important sectors: nonresident travel, health care, real estate and housing, agriculture, manufacturing, forest products and energy.

The keynote – The Future of Higher Education in Montana – will be presented by Robert Nystuen, vice chair of the Montana University Board of Regents. He is president at Glacier Bank in Kalispell and a resident of Lakeside. In 2015, he was appointed by Governor Steve Bullock to the board of regents, which is responsible for the Montana University System. His selection for the board of regents reflects the strong connection between Montana's higher education system and the business community, "a relationship that is increasingly vital in the modern economic landscape," according to Nystuen.

Higher education is a future-oriented business – educating and preparing the leaders of tomorrow. But what is the future for colleges and universities themselves? In an economy that increasingly rewards knowledge and expertise, the need to cultivate and grow a competitive, skilled and educated workforce is more vital than ever. Yet the way we do this and the way we pay for it has come under the microscope in recent years. This year's Economic Outlook Seminar examines the question of how Montana's higher education system returns value to all of us who live and work here.

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# Former basketball star Ausha Cole leads the Lady Big Horns

BY DAN KELLY EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY - Since she was 5 years old at the Boys & Girls Club of Denver, Ausha Cole demonstrated a knack for basketball. When she started playing on the boys' teams at the YMCA a few years later, they were hesitant to share the ball until she proved herself.

"They never wanted to pass the girl the ball until they found out she could actually play," Cole recalls. After playing with several different teams throughout her elementary and middle school years in Denver, Cole moved to Mesa, Arizona.

In 2006 at Gilbert High School, Cole was part of a very strong incoming freshman class with three players, including herself, who would go on to play collegiate basketball, one at Morgan State University, one at Weber State University, and Cole at Montana State University. Under the tutelage of former NBA player John Ward, they grew and developed as players and young women. When Cole visited MSU on her initial recruiting visit, she knew she had found something special.

"Montana State was the first visit I had and I really ... loved the mountains and the area," Cole said. She made up her mind then and there to be a Bobcat. As a freshman point guard at MSU in the 2010-2011 season, Cole and the Bobcats would notch a pivotal win against Missoula's Montana Grizzlies, ending a stretch of several winless years against the staunch in-state rival. Taking a season off in 2012, Cole gave birth to her first daughter, Cadence, and returned to the team the following year, continuing her role as a defensive standout and great passer.

After graduating in 2016, Cole served as director of operations for MSU basket-ball, and had the opportunity to work with former NBA-great John Stockton, who was assisting head coach Tricia Binford.

Nubia Garcia, also a former Bobcat basketball player, had seen Cole play at MSU, and asked her to join as an assistant coach for the Lone Peak Lady Big Horns. Cole also coached the middle school girls team with John Hannahs during the 2016-2017 season.

When Garcia moved on to coach the West Yellowstone Wolverines girls' basketball team, Cole took over as head coach at Lone Peak High School. Although they now lead teams that are District 11C rivals, Garcia and Cole are great friends and, as former Bobcats, both have strong ties to basketball in southwest Montana.

"Nubia helped show me how to be a good role model and mentor to the players," Cole said.

Cole hopes to provide mentorship and guidance to her players, and teach them to be good basketball players and human beings.

"This year we have five freshmen and only three girls returning. ... With such a young team, we are trying to work on our chemistry," she said. When asked about her goals for the team, she mentioned a trademark of her own playing career at MSU. "Ob-



A former point guard at MSU, basketball star Ausha Cole is now head coach of Lone Peak High School's Lady Big Horns. PHOTO COURTESY OF AUSHA COLE

viously defense is a big thing we work on a lot ... I would like to develop these girls to be the best players they can be."

Coach Cole also welcomed a new addition to her family on Dec. 18, giving birth to a daughter, Scarlet.

With many more games left in the 2017-2018 season, EBS will be reporting on the progress and growth of the Lady Big Horns as they face off against District 11C rivals over the coming months.

The Lone Peak Lady Big Horns take on Twin Bridges on Jan. 5 at Lone Peak High School, followed by an away game at Gardiner on Jan. 6. The Lady Big Horns and coach Cole will play against former LPHS coach Nubia Garcia and the West Yellowstone Wolverines at home on Jan. 11.

For a complete season schedule visit bssd72.org.

# LPHS football coach takes on Big Horns basketball

BY DAN KELLY EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY - Growing up in Columbia Falls, Montana, a few miles from Whitefish, Austin Barth knew early on he wanted to be a coach. A standout athlete for the Columbia Falls Wildcats in both football and basketball, he began as a camp coach for youth in his community to help them improve and develop their skills.

"Coaching really started for me in high school working those camps," Barth said. "I found that passion for trying to help other people out."

Playing basketball for iconic coach Cary Finberg at Columbia Falls, he and his teammates played in three state championships during his high school career, winning the state title in 2011. An All-State athlete in football as well as basketball for the Wildcats, Barth would join the Montana State University football team as a tight end in 2013. Barth continued his work at MSU football camps throughout his time as a Bobcat, while earning a teaching degree.

He remembers his English teacher from Columbia Falls, E.J. Horner, telling him "you are going to be a teacher someday, just watch." She turned out to be right. After graduating from MSU this past spring, Barth began teaching middle school science and social studies at Ophir School, as well as working as an assistant coach for the Lone Peak High School football team. This season is his first at the helm of the Big Horns varsity basketball team.

"I want to set the culture that we are going to give 100 percent or it's not going to be good enough," Barth said. "We have to go out and attack every team."

Looking to emphasize an up-tempo offense paired with hard-nosed, suffocating defense, Barth and the Big Horns are focused on forcing other teams to make mistakes with the ball. In addition to these on-court goals, Barth recognizes the importance of a coach being a mentor to his players, and making sure they excel both on and off the court.

Barth is joined by assistant coaches John Hannahs and Brian Van Eps, who will help implement high pressure defensive tactics such as the half-court trap, while building Big Horn shooters' confidence to make tough shots with authority.

"If you can have great defense, that is going to take you places down the road," Barth said. "We want to be a fast team, a 'green light' team where every kid has that confidence to take their shot."

This approach to the hardcourt has been met with enthusiasm by the Big Horn players, who are off to a strong start this season, winning four out of their first six games. As the old adage goes,



A middle school science and social studies teacher at Ophir School, Austin Barth has coached the Lone Peak High School football team for multiple years. This season is his first at the helm of the Big Horns varsity basketball team. PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI

"defense wins championships," and the Lone Peak Big Horns forced 51 turnovers in a recent game, putting pressure on opponents who struggled to move the ball against their high intensity defense. Paired with a fast and aggressive offensive style, the Big Horns will continue to be a team to watch in Barth's inaugural season as head coach.

After a gritty road win on Dec. 22, the Big Horns stand at 4-2 with an upcoming game against a physical Twin Bridges team on Friday, Jan. 5, at Lone Peak High School. The following week, on Jan. 11, they host West Yellowstone at home, one of five games in a pivotal two weeks that includes away games at Sheridan and Ennis.

For a complete season schedule visit bssd72.org.

# **Curling finds a home in Big Sky**

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Town Center Rink will be busier than ever this year. In addition to youth hockey clinics, open skates, adult drop-in hockey and broomball, the Big Sky Skating and Hockey Association has added the ancient game of curling to its lineup of Town Center ice activities.

Curling began in the 16th century as a way of passing time during harsh northern European winters, with competitors sliding river stones on frozen lochs and ponds. Nicknamed the "Roaring Game" for the sound the granite stones make gliding over ice, curling has evolved into a popular international and Olympic sport played under tightly controlled conditions.

For beginners, every Tuesday night this winter from 6 to 8 p.m. will provide an opportunity to learn how to "throw stones" at Learn to Curl sessions at the outdoor community ice rink.

For \$15, neophytes can learn the basics of the sport, with instruction offered on the rules of the game, its unique terminology, and the mechanics of throwing stones and sweeping. The lessons wrap up with a few practice "ends" for novices to get a feel for the game and test their abilities against one another.

"It's going to bring a lot of people on the ice that weren't using the rink in the past. It's definitely a work-in-progress, and we've only had one successful league night, but we're looking forward to having more activity this season," Jeff Trulen said on Jan. 3. Trulen is the commissioner of the new curling league and a board member of the Big Sky Skating and Hockey Association.

No curling experience is necessary, and leave your brooms at home because all of the equipment will be provided. Participants are encouraged to dress for the weather and to not wear cleats or spiked shoes.

Also new this year is a Friday night curling league, when the rink plays host to teams of four as they square off on "sheets," or lanes, of ice.



The Big Sky Curling League is well underway with games every Friday night at the Town Center Rink. Curling lessons are also offered on Tuesday evenings. PHOTO BY RYAN BLECHTA

"Demand [for spots in the league] has been more than I anticipated. I tried to cap the league at 16 teams, but ended up somehow with 18. And I'm still getting inquiries every day," Trulen said. "It's kind of like the winter softball league, with a popular activity for locals to be able to enjoy a little bit of friendly competition and fun at the same time."

Local business owner and team captain of the LPC Boggle Dragons, Charlie Gaillard is also excited about the new league. "What a great activity to bring to Big Sky! I look forward to seeing how well my team can do this year."

BSSHA is a nonprofit dedicated to bringing affordable recreational activities such as hockey, ice skating, curling and other programs to the Big Sky Town Center Rink.

Ultimately, the BSSHA plans to improve the number of activities offered and amenities each year, eventually installing a refrigerated ice facility and a roof structure to protect the ice from the elements.

Learn to Curl reservations can be made in advance at bssha.org/learntocurl/.

## **BSSHA Rink Schedule**

#### **SUNDAYS**

Open Skate 12 - 7 p.m. Adult Drop In Hockey 7:30 - 11 p.m.

#### MONDAYS

Open Skate 12 - 5 p.m. Youth Hockey Clinic 5:30 - 7 p.m. Open Skate 7 - 11 p.m.

#### **TUESDAYS**

Open Skate 12 - 4 p.m. Learn to Curl 6 - 8 p.m. Adult Drop In Broomball 8 - 11 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAYS

Open Skate 12 - 5 p.m.

Youth Hockey Clinic 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Open Skate 7 - 11 p.m.

#### **THURSDAYS**

Open Skate 12 - 5 p.m. Youth Hockey Clinic 5:30 - 7 p.m. Adult Drop In Hockey 7:30 - 11 p.m.

#### **FRIDAYS**

Open Skate 12 - 4 p.m.
Curling League 6 - 8 p.m.
Open Skate 8 - 11 p.m.

#### **SATURDAYS**

Open Skate 12 - 11 p.m.



Skates can be rented at Grizzly Outfitters and East Slope Outdoors





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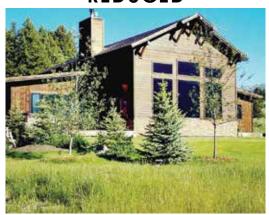


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# Big Horn



# LPHS Boys Baske

Dec. 15 | White Sulphur Springs | JVB 4:00 | B 5:30

Dec. 16 | @ Manhattan Christian | JVB 4:00 | B 5:30

Dec. 19 | Harrison/Willow Creek | JVB 4:00 | B 5:30

Dec. 22 | @ Shields Valley | JVB 4:00 | B 5:30

Jan. 5 | Twin Bridges | JVB 4:00 | B 5:30

Jan. 6 | @ Gardiner | JVB 4:00 | B 5:30

Jan. 11 | West Yellowston Jan. 12 | @ Sheridan | JV

Jan. 19 | @ Ennis | JVB 2

Jan. 25 | Shields Valley |

Jan. 26 | Gardiner | JVB



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La Big Horns!

# Basketball



# etball Schedule

e | JVB 4:00 | B 5:30 B 4:00 | B 5:30 :30 | B 5:30 JVB 4:00 | B 5:30 4:00 | B 7:00 Jan. 30 | @ White Sulpher Springs | JVB 4:00 | B 7:00

Feb. 2 | Manhattan Christian | JVB 4:00 | B 7:00

Feb. 3 | @ Twin Bridges | JVB 4:00 | B 7:00

Feb. 8 | @ West Yellowstone | JVB 4:00 | B 7:00

Feb. 9 | Sheridan Senior Day | JVB 4:00 | B 7:00



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BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN **EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST** 

In my previous column titled, "Making resolutions that stick," I outlined a process that allows you to discover your hidden blocks to change. This exercise comes from the book "Immunity to Change: How to Overcome It and Unlock the Potential in Yourself and Your Organization."

The authors, Robert Kegan and Lisa Laskow Lahey, acknowledge that no matter how strong our desire, or how

armed with information we are, change can be a serious challenge. It can feel like we're driving with one foot on the gas and the other on the brakes—going nowhere fast.

They refer to this type of challenge as "adaptive" rather than "technical," meaning it's ongoing and can't be solved with straight-forward "technical solutions;" i.e., if everyone could maintain their perfect weight with simple technical solutions like a diet book and exercise plan, they would. But why doesn't this work for so many of us?

There are often underlying values, beliefs, fears or "big assumptions" as Kegan and Lahey call them, which are held firmly in place by your subconscious in an attempt to protect you—even if it feels more like self-sabotage than protection.

(If you'd like to uncover your big assumptions, find the exercise at explorebigsky. com/from-jackie-with-love-how-to-make-resolutions-stick/23786.)

Knowing what these blocks are is the first part of creating change that sticks. Part two in creating lasting change requires an adaptive solution. This is where you create a strategy that "tests" your big assumptions.

For example, suppose you want to stop eating sugary treats in the office, but you just can't make it happen after months of wishing and trying. After doing the exer-

cise described at the link above, you discover your big assumptions are that sugar is a great reward and not only do you deserve it, but you resent having to give it up.

From here you can create a SMART test, which stands for:

**Safe and Modest:** be sure the test doesn't feel so threatening that you will recoil from actually trying it.

Actionable: choose a behavior you can do immediately.

Research-based Test: gather information and feedback, and then test again and again until you move from a "big assumption" to actual knowing.

When deciding on the best test, ask yourself what you can do or not do on a small scale. If you want to test the assumption that sugar is a great reward, create a test that looks like this: I currently assume that eating sugar is a great way to reward myself. In order to test this, I'm going to stock my desk with healthy snacks that I enjoy and will reach for those rather than the donuts in the break room. At the end of each day, I will check and note my energy levels and acknowledge any feelings of empowerment or resentment.

At the end of the week, ask yourself, "What have I learned?" and, "Does this information shift or dissolve my big assumption?"

For stronger results, let other people know what you're up to and ask them for feedback. Create a pathway to change that you enjoy, and that will finally untether and allow you to make the change you seek. Remember that adaptive challenges require adaptive solutions. Give yourself time and don't give up.

Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach, culture consultant, TEDx speaker and podcaster. If you'd like guidance on creating an Immunity to Change Map email jackie@corcoranhealth.com and schedule your discovery session today.



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# DOCTOR'S NOTE

## **Farewell, Medical Clinic of Big Sky**



BY JEFF DANIELS EBS MEDICAL COLUMNIST

In 1994, I took up the challenge of opening a medical clinic where one had never really existed, in order to serve the needs of a community that had to rely on medical services more than 50 miles away. It has been a long run, and the Medical Clinic of Big Sky has been very successful, as Big Sky Resort and Big Sky itself have grown.

As you would expect, medical services have also grown in Big Sky in the past few years, and I am no longer the only doctor. Other providers, and even an entire hospital, have joined the community to provide a higher level of care.

Twenty-four years is a long time, and it's been a privilege to care for you. I've reached a point where I've decided to pass the operations of the Medical Clinic of Big Sky over to Bozeman Health. I'll still practice medicine here in Big Sky during the ski season and the summer tourist season.

To all my patients and friends, I hope that these years of service have made life a little bit better, and safer, in our special corner of the world.

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 implemented attracted more than 800 medical students and young doctors to train with the Medical Clinic of Big Sky.



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3rd Wednesday of Every month- Caregivers Support Group

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#### SUNDAY

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5:00 - 6:00pm Yin Yoga

#### MONDAY

7:00-8:00am
All Levels Pilates
9:00-10:15am
All Levels Yoga
12:00 - 12:50pm
Gentle Yoga
4:15 - 5:15pm
All Ages
Apres Ski Yoga
Evening Workshop
Series

#### TUESDAY

7:30-8:30am
All Levels Yoga
9:00 - 10:00am
All Levels Yoga
4:15 - 5:15pm
Roll & Recover Yoga
(warm room)
5:45 - 7:15pm
Sacred Sweat

#### WEDNESDAY

7:00-8:00am
All Levels Yoga
9:00-10:15am
All Levels Yoga
11:00 - 12:30pm
The Practice
Yoga Level 2-3
2:00 - 3:00pm
Chair Yoga
7:00-8:00pm
Awareness
Wednesdays

#### THURSDAY

7:30-8:30am All Levels Mat Pilates

> 9:00-10:00am All Levels Yoga

5:45 - 7:00pm All Levels Yoga

#### FRIDAY

7:30 - 8:30am Dance to Fit

9:00 - 10:15am All Levels Yoga

12:00 - 12:50pm All Levels Yoga

#### SATURDAY

9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga

Check our Website for Weekend Workshops and Special Events.



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# The wonder spice

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER EBS STAFF



СС РНОТО

Known for its zesty flavor, unique appearance and numerous health benefits, ginger root is actually not a root at all. It's a rhizome, or type of stem that grows underground. This means of growing gives ginger its characteristic knobby exterior and irregular shape, making it easy to identify.

With origins in Southeast Asia, it's no surprise that this ingredient is a staple in many Asian cuisines. It has pale yellow flesh and very fragrant, almost perfume-like taste and smell. It comes in fresh and dry forms, each with a unique flavor profile. Fresh ginger is just that—fresh and bright, with an aromatic, spicy flavor. Dried ginger, like many other spices, is less potent, but still spicy. Each should be used in different applications.

When purchasing ginger, look for a firm root. The larger the root, the more fibrous it tends to be, so keep this in mind depending on your intended use. Use the back of a spoon to remove the fibrous skin—this will ensure limited waste of the flesh. You can save the peels to use in tea, or to flavor soups or broths.

Fresh ginger can be grated, sliced, diced or left whole, depending on how you wish to use it. Large pieces will lightly perfume a dish, with the flavor intensifying the finer you chop or grate it. Also, consider adding ginger early in the cooking process for a more mellow ginger flavor, or in the last minutes of cooking to preserve its sharp, spicy, fresh flavor.

You've likely used dried or powdered ginger when making pumpkin pie or gingerbread. It has a less intense flavor than fresh ginger, and works particularly well in baking applications. It can be used in place of fresh ginger, but the two varieties differ quite a bit. Be sure to pay attention to which type your recipe calls for, as dried and fresh ginger are not always interchangeable.

In addition to its high vitamin and nutrient content, fresh ginger has several medicinal applications. Ginger has been used around the world in many different countries and areas for centuries as a remedy or even cure for a long list of ailments.

It is known for its ability to settle an upset stomach, and is particularly good for your digestive system. Ginger is also effective at relieving nausea, and increasing cardiovascular circulation. Next time your stomach is feeling less than perfect, try adding a slice or two of fresh ginger to your cup of tea.

Next time you're in the grocery store eyeing that odd knobby, brown root, give it a shot—its unique flavor and long list of health and nutritional benefits are worth exploring.

## **AMUSE-BOUCHE**

Amuse-houche 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.

## Sugar part one: a bitter history



BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Propagated on six continents as well as the subcontinent, sugar is produced at just shy of 179 million metric tons globally. It is an ingredient we probably take as much for granted as salt and pepper, but it's as much a part of our lives as the water we drink and the air we breathe.

But what many of us don't realize is, its sweetness comes with a very sour history.

Sugarcane was first domesticated in New Guinea around 6,000 B.C. At first, many cultures simply boiled it down to extract its sweet nectar, or simply chewed on the stalk for a sweet treat. And while dates are uncertain, it was northern India that first perfected the production of the grass into a white granule.

And it was this granular form that caused its growth and consumption to move west into the Middle East, where it was referred to by Persian traders as the "glorious reed that produces honey without bees." Soon after, the British began referring to it as "white gold."

Entire communities were established solely around the cultivation and production of sugar, so much so that Christopher Columbus deemed it a worthy enough crop to bring with him in his exploration of the New World. Once widely planted in the Caribbean, it was soon discovered that, unlike most uprooted crops throughout history, sugarcane actually grew more prolifically there than in its native land. This had a profound effect on the western world's legacy as we know it today.

Some historians say, "cod built America," asserting it was the commercial fishing and production of cod that afforded us the financial independence to break free from Europe. But while cod began building America, Europe and sugar were unwittingly the financial architects.

While the American South was enlisting the practice of slavery primarily for the cotton industry, the growth and production of sugarcane was also a driving force behind this labor practice for the majority of the New World. By the turn of the 19th century, sugar had become so valuable that the life of one slave was considered equal to a paltry teaspoon of sugar.

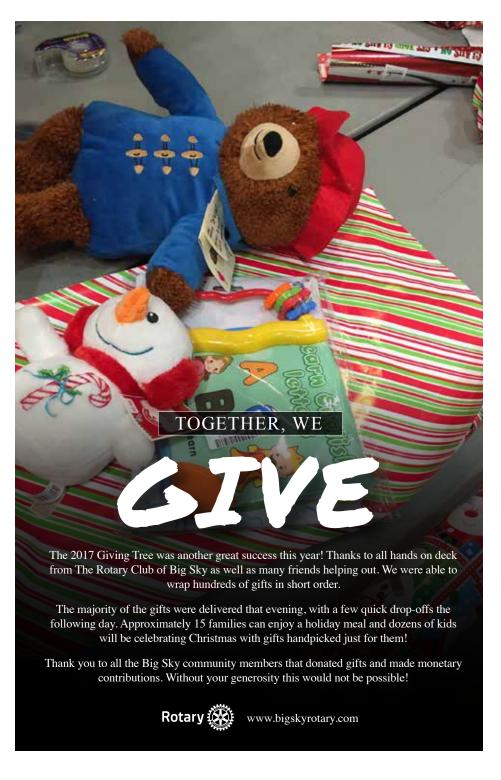
Unlike America, where plantation owners and families generally had a slave-to-owner ratio they were comfortable with, many British sugarcane plantation owners felt dangerously outnumbered by their slaves and paid for protection from British soldiers. This thinned Britain's troops throughout the New World to the point that some historians argue that we acquired our original 13 colonies solely because too many of their troops were already occupied protecting their sugar islands in the Caribbean. Additionally, many historians also believe that many battles in and around Revolutionary War time would have had different outcomes for these same reasons.

As Americans, we owe much of our freedoms to the commodity of sugar. It's a part of our everyday lives and diet. And while it is true it has had negative effects on our bodies, both internally and externally, perhaps that is still a small price to pay for today's independence.

This is the first in a series of the exploration of sugar. In the coming weeks, I'll take you through the history of sugar, its effects on society, how it is made, and its affects on the human body.

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.





# Making it in Big Sky: Renae and Steve Schumacher of Big Sky Conoco Travel Shoppe

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY - Sitting at the turnoff to Big Sky from Highway 191, the Conoco is the only gas station between Big Sky and Gallatin Gateway. Billed as Big Sky's "one stop shop since 1993," the family-owned convenience store offers a little bit of everything from the basics (beer, soda, snacks) to hunting/fishing licenses, firewood, propane cylinders, DVD rentals and sales, and, of course, gas. Operating inside the Conoco, Sliders Deli provides grab-andgo or sit-down hot and cold breakfast and lunch items.

As part of this ongoing series, Renae Schumacher, who co-owns the Conoco with her husband Steve Schumacher, shared her thoughts with EBS on the reasoning behind their success and longevity as a Big Sky small business.

**Explore Big Sky:** What has been the key to your success?

**Renae Schumacher:** Location, location, location. Besides that, I have worked very hard over the years and have enjoyed the journey it's taken to get here. I think I've built up some long-term relationships between customers and employees. I try to treat them all with the same respect I would want in return.

**R.S.:** When I first moved to Big Sky, there was a sewer moratorium in effect and there was no new construction taking place. The offseason months were extremely quiet and very difficult on the businesses. There was a lot of sagebrush in the meadow with only a few bars, restaurants and retail shops.

**EBS:** What is one of the most memorable moments you have had as a resident/business owner in Big Sky?

**R.S.:** There have been several, but the one the seems to come to mind quickest is getting to wait on and rent videos to John F. Kennedy, Jr., while he and his wife Carolyn were spending the New Year's holiday in Big Sky.

**EBS:** What are the biggest obstacles to operating a small business in Big Sky? **R.S.:** First of all, the affordability of a location in Big Sky. Secondly, surviving the seasonality of running a business here.

**EBS:** What is it about Big Sky that compels you to stick it out through the hard times?

**R.S.:** Well, I didn't move to Big Sky to start a business. It was a personal choice after college. After meeting my husband shortly thereafter, we decided to make this our home and raise our family. We love Big Sky and would have done anything to stay here.

**EBS:** What advice would you give to small business owners just starting out in Big Sky?

**R.S.:** Don't start a business to get rich and work less. It requires a lot of effort and perseverance to survive in this town.

**EBS:** What's the best piece of business advice you've received? **R.S.:** I think I've built my business around my life, not my life around my



The Conoco, pictured here under construction in 1972, first opened for business in September 1973 under the ownership of builder Mike McCulley. PHOTO BY MIKE MCCULLEY



Conoco owners Renae and Steve Schumacher celebrated 25 years of "making it in Big Sky" on Jan. 1. The couple met "right in front of the hot dog roller" soon after Renae became part owner of the business, originally with her brother Craig Smit, in 1993. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

business. With that being said, I was always told to do the best that you can and do what you say you're going to do.

EBS: Where do you see your business in 10 years?

**R.S.:** Since I don't have any room to expand and [with] my building being built in 1972, I hope to continue to provide a fresh face to the entrance of Big Sky, keep up with technology by possibly adding some electric fueling stations and continue to meet the needs and demands of my customers.

# by the numbers



**15-20** Staff



**25** Years in business



12 years
Longest Serving Employee:
Michelle Denning

# Bold desserts, craft cocktails now offered in Town Center

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Irish coffee and spiked eggnog cupcakes or a chocolate raspberry tart might pair perfectly with a winter hot toddy or a smooth, chilled cocktail after dinner. Served by a friendly gentleman in a tie and suit vest, at a high countertop glistening with pastiche art deco shapes and style, you might easily forget that New Year's Day ushered in the year 2018.

Luxe Spirits & Sweets, Big Sky's first cupcake bar and after-dinner drink spot, opened its storefront in Town Center during the community's Christmas Stroll on Dec. 8, and co-owner Keith Robins—the man pouring drinks at the counter—is thrilled.

"We wanted to wait until we could open the storefront we wanted," Robins said, explaining he and his business partner Lauryn Mathis' desire to open an after-dinner dessert bar reminiscent of the 1920s, complete with a velvet wall hanging, a large booth with a bold, curving seat, geometric wine shelving, and reflective lacquer surfaces, shining by the glow of a futuristic kind of chandelier.

"This is a dessert bar," Robins added. "We're offering the full after-dinner service."

And for Robins and Mathis, the after-dinner experience includes offering cupcakes and other treats laced with bourbon, whiskey or schnapps.

"We both like sweets and we both like cocktails," Mathis said, explaining the inspiration for their unique business plan. A self-trained bakery chef, Mathis has a knack for pairing flavor combinations that match classic cocktails, Robins said.

The dessert menu changes daily, dependent upon Mathis' creations in the 1,200-square-foot kitchen below the bar. Dessert offerings range from cupcakes and tarts, to macaroons and cookie sandwiches, all paired with traditional cocktails found in the old, classic recipe books dating from the pre-prohibition or prohibition eras.

Most desserts are alcohol free, although for some, the purchaser must be carded.

While Luxe only recently opened a storefront in Big Sky, Robins and Mathis have been selling boozy cupcakes for five years and formerly had a kitchen in Bozeman and mobile tasting room converted from a 1965 milk truck, which they parked at Big Sky's Music in the Mountains summer concert series and other outdoor activities.

The duo plans to continue offering mobile services at summer events and will also continue their wedding cake services, with 120 booked already for 2018.

"Boozy desserts are always what we've done," Robins said. "We call them spirited sweets."

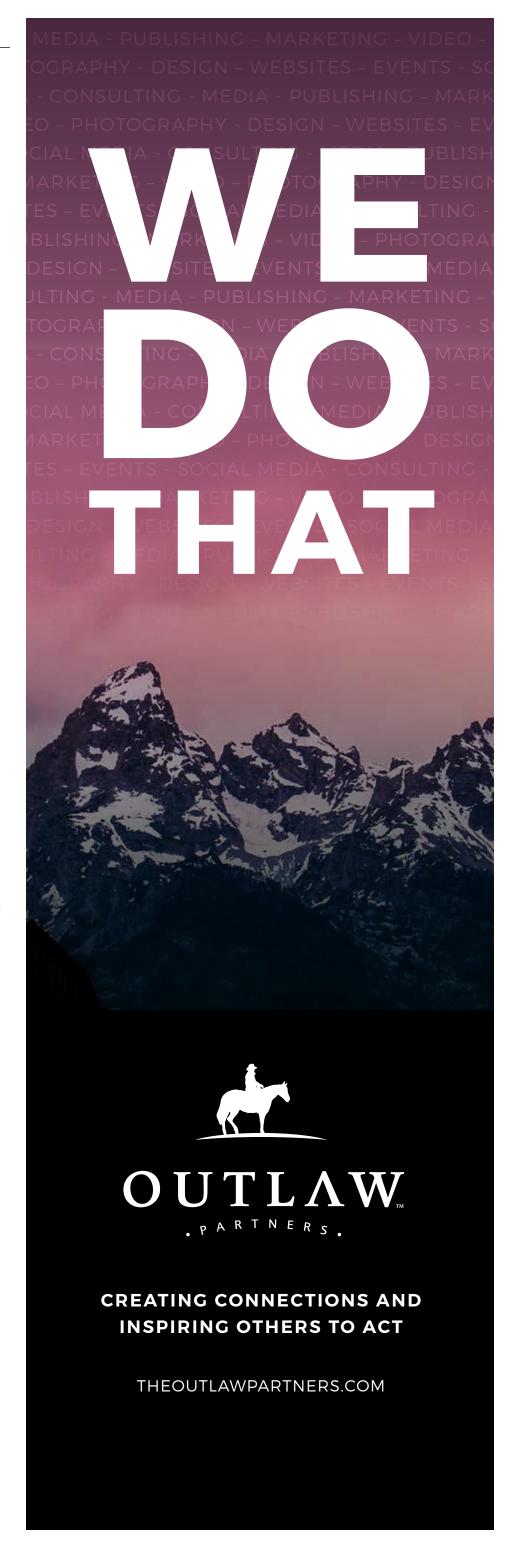
He went on to add that Mathis is the baker, while he is the builder. Robins completed the majority of the construction in their new storefront, apart from the electrical and the plumbing. Robins said he hopes people who stop in feel transported to another place and time, maybe to New York or Los Angeles.

"That's what we like the best, people's reactions in the end," Robins said, noting that everyone is encouraged to stop in, whether dressed up for a night on the town, or still in ski gear.

Luxe is located at 47 Town Center Ave. and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 4 p.m. to close. To learn more, visit luxespiritedsweets.com.



Business partners Keith Robins and Lauryn Mathis celebrate New Year's Eve and a month since opening Luxe Spirits & Sweets, a new cupcake and drink bar in Town Center. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES







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**Section 3:**OUTDOORS, FUN & BACK 40







# INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



# Ultra-distance bike race navigates section of Greater Yellowstone

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – With the thermometer registering 40 below zero last January, cyclist Perry Jewett set out with his friend Josh Bruhn to travel the 200 trailmiles from Island Park, Idaho, to West Yellowstone and back. They left the race start line at 5 p.m. with 26 other cyclists on fat bikes and two days later only one cyclist crossed the finish line.

It took Jewett and Bruhn 15 hours to travel the 80 miles to the first warming hut in the frigid darkness. Jewett was falling asleep on his bike and had broken one of his pedals. Bruhn had cold toes. Fifteen hours later, the duo had made it 125 miles without rest or sleep to the second warming hut and by then, both men knew they were experiencing frostbite.

"I was kind of riding for my life ... I thought I was OK, but I pulled off my socks at the checkpoint and knew," Jewett said. "I pulled out [of the race] because they weren't going to get any better."

Hailing from the Black Hills of South Dakota, Jewett and Bruhn were competing in the longest of three winter fat bike races in the Fat Pursuit biking series based in Island Park. A year after the men quit the 200-miler—and with warmer temperatures in the forecast—Jewett says they look forward to redeeming themselves in this year's event.

On Jan. 5, competitors from all around the U.S. and perhaps several corners of the world will start out on one of two races: either the 200-mile or the 200-kilometer, following the 60-kilometer race in December. For some, the longer race might take 30 hours, depending upon weather. Jewett is hoping he'll make it in less than 72 and, with a year to reflect on the experience, he says he has a plan for success.

Jewett, who has finished both of the other Fat Pursuit races and organizes ultra-distance competitions in the Black Hills, has invested in additional clothing, warmer boots, vapor barrier socks and he is confident in his ability to setup and tear down his mobile camp.

Last year, Jewett and Bruhn worried that by stopping in the negative temperatures to rest they would get too cold. This year, though, they intend to sleep. "I don't know if anybody can go outside in the snow and ride 200 miles without stopping," Jewett said. "You should sleep when you're tired, not necessarily when you get to shelter. This year I'm prepared to sleep wherever I have to.

"I don't know if it's the old instincts in us ... to be proficient in the woods whether it's zero or negative 40. I enjoy it, just having the confidence and the skills to be in the woods," Jewett added.

The man behind the Island Park races is Jay Petervary, a resident of Victor, Idaho, who calls the competition his "backyard series."

"People seek adventure, people seek challenge," Petervary said. "I provide a platform where you can do that. ... It's not really a bike race, it's more of an adventure and a journey."

A long-distance racer since the age of 23, Petervary, now 45, began competing in the Iditarod Trail Invitational in Alaska in 2007. For 10 years, he has participated in what is known as the world's longest winter ultra-marathon by fat bike, foot and ski.



Josh Bruhn of Rapid City, South Dakota, participates in last year's 200-mile Fat Pursuit bike race. This year, he and his friend Perry Jewett will compete again after experiencing frostbite during last year's attempt. PHOTO BY PERRY JEWETT

"Through years of doing [the Iditarod Trail Invitational] and living where I live in Teton Valley, I realized that we have a really wonderful place to do that here," he said. "I'm really concentrated on giving our participants tips and tricks and sharing knowledge and forcing them to use their equipment."

To compete in the 200-mile race, competitors must have previous experience in winter distance-travel and at the first checkpoint every cyclist must bring 8 ounces of water to a rolling boil before they may continue on.

Petervary said it takes an army to make the Fat Pursuit possible, noting that volunteers groom and set the course by snowmobile, shuttle supplies, monitor the riders and man checkpoints. "They do everything, they are the meat of it all, they are an integral part of the whole operation," he said. "The volunteers are extremely hardy. They work all night and also have to sit around in the elements."

An important aspect of the race for Petervary is to build relationships with other trail user-groups and he works with snowmobile users in order to organize grooming for all of the trails prior to race-time.

Corey Biggers, a cyclist who has finished in the top half of the 60K two years in a row, owns Rocky Mountain Truck Center and Elite Kuboda in Belgrade. His business sponsors the West Yellowstone checkpoint and as a snowmobiler and cyclist, Biggers says it's critical to develop good relationships between user groups.

"The user groups have a really big wedge between them usually," Biggers said. "We all have to co-exist out there."

Participants carry tracking devices at all times during the Fat Pursuit races. For live updates and to track the competitors, visit trackleaders.com. To learn more about the Fat Pursuit series, visit fatpursuit.com.

# **Explore wonderland with U.S. Forest Service**

#### **CUSTER GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST**

The southwest corner of Montana is known around the world as a winter sports mecca, but have you ever wondered how this came to be? While the adrenaline-filled sports of downhill skiing, snowboarding and snowmobiling tend to dominate the conversation today, the origin of winter recreation is rooted in the slower-paced sport of cross-country skiing. For millennia, people around the world have connected with winter landscapes through cross-country skiing, and so can you.

To help guide you on this journey, the Forest Service's Hebgen Lake Ranger District is offering free guided cross-country skiing programs once monthly throughout the winter. Guided tours will take place on West Yellowstone's Rendezvous Ski Trails on Jan. 20 and Feb. 22 from 1-4 p.m.

The program focuses on how people have used cross-country skiing not only as a means of survival, but also as a way of connecting with the winter wonderland that is the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

The stories of how cross-country skiing and West Yellowstone have evolved are inherently linked, with no better place embodying this than the Rendezvous Ski Trails. From the stomping grounds of the fur trappers in the 1700s to the training site for athletes bound for glory in the 2002 Olympics, this area is steeped in a rich history.

The guided cross-country program will start and finish at the Rendezvous trail-head building located at 101 S. Geyser St. in West Yellowstone. Participants should be ready to ski 5 kilometers. Please note this is not a clinic, skis will not be provided, and all participants should have a trail pass.

To RSVP and for more information about the cross-country tours, contact Sam Wiswell at (406) 823-6987 or swiswell@fs.fed.us.

The Hebgen Lake Ranger Station will also offer free programs on making survival snowshoes and guided snowshoe tours on the Refuge Point Trail this winter.

Provided at the Hebgen Lake Ranger Station, learn about the history of and how to make emergency snowshoes using tree branches and paracord. Branches, paracord



The Rendezvous Ski Trailhead located in West Yellowstone at the intersection of Geyser Street and Obsidian Avenue. PHOTO BY SAMUEL WISWELL

and tools will be provided. Due to time constraints, space is limited and participants will only construct one snowshoe. This course is offered Jan. 27 and Feb. 24 from 4-7 p.m.

To RSVP and for more information on this course, contact Mia Gilbert at (406) 823-6982 or mariagilbert@fs.fed.us.

As a final offering, the Forest Service will host guided snowshoe tours. Explore the Refuge Point Trail while learning about the location's significance during the 1959 earthquake. We will meet at the Hebgen Lake Ranger Station to caravan to the trailhead—note that snowshoes will not be provided. These tours are available Jan. 26 and Feb. 21 from 1-4 p.m.

To RSVP and for more information, contact Joanne Girvin at (406) 823-6965 or jgirvin@fs.fed.us.

# Dog-friendly ski trail opens in Bozeman

#### BRIDGER SKI FOUNDATION

Thanks to a donation from the Split Rock Foundation, the Bridger Ski Foundation and off-leash recreation advocacy group Run Dog Run have created a much-needed in-town groomed trail for cross-country skiing with your dog. The nearly 1-km Lindley Park Dog Loop utilizes terrain between Buttonwood Avenue and Bozeman Public Library.

While dogs and skiers are both permitted on groomed ski trails in Hyalite and Bozeman Creek, they aren't allowed on in-town trails at Sunset Hills, Highland Glen or Bridger Creek Golf Course. This new addition creates an easily accessible loop just a block off Main Street for dogs and their human ski partners.

"We are very excited to partner with Run Dog Run and a private donor to create a dog-friendly ski loop in town," said Kyle Marvinney, BSF trails manager. "There has been lots of interest in having more dog-friendly skiing around Bozeman, and it is great to see that become a reality through the cooperation of the City of Bozeman Parks and Rec department, Run Dog Run and the Split Rock Charitable Foundation."

"We were delighted to learn of the creation of this unique opportunity for off-leash, in-town skiing for Bozeman area dog owners," said Terry Cunningham, executive director of Run Dog Run and a Gallatin Valley Trails Ambassador. "It fills a real need."

"We urge dog owners to use this facility and respect the fact that Highland Glen and the rest of Lindley Park are dog-restricted during the winter months," Cunningham added.

With this new addition, BSF will be grooming at seven community Nordic trails in Bozeman.

"The loop in Lindley Park provides an efficient solution to providing dog-friendly skiing from the BSF trails perspective and has so far been very well received," Marvinney said. Anticipating mostly week-day traffic on this new trail, he says they plan to groom the loop two to three days a week, mostly on weekdays.

Run Dog Run purchased, installed and will maintain two dog waste stations on the trail. Both BSF and Run Dog Run invested in trail signage to promote good trail etiquette.

To access the new trail, skiers should park in the Lindley Park parking lot on Buttonwood Avenue. Please avoid parking at the library. For safety, this is a one-way loop meant for ski/dog traffic only. Ski in a counter-clockwise direction.

BSF reminds skiers to practice responsible dog ownership. In order for this new trail to work in the long run:

- Only friendly, well-socialized dogs who are under voice control are allowed on the ski trail.
- Dog owners are responsible for picking up dog waste—off-leash doesn't mean off-duty.
- Keep your dog on leash between the parking lot and the trail for the safety of everyone.

For Bozeman trail maps and grooming reports visit bridgerskifoundation.org/trails.



# Fly fishing into 2018: New Year's resolutions

### BY PATRICK STRAUB EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

Fly fishing is a sport of progression. First, the cast is learned. Second, an understanding of flies is essential. Third, knowledge of how to manage the fly line on the water, so flies look natural enough that a fish will eat them. Fourth, choosing where and when to fish. Fifth, expanding the angling experience to include new species, new methods and so forth.

As a new angling year begins, make 2018 the year you continue your angling progression. The following angling resolutions are a good start.

**Learn to trout spey cast**. If you thought Tenkara was going to be the next big thing in fly fishing, don't fret, you weren't the only one. But, trout spey, also know as casting and fishing with two-handed rods, is here to stay. Rooted in Scotland but now common on most coastal rivers, fly fishing with a two-handed rod has been scaled down and our local waters are an ideal place to learn.

**Fish a Paradise Valley spring creek.** These world famous waters located south of Livingston deserve your attention. Nelson's, Armstrong's, and DePuy's are the ranches through which these creeks flow, and access is gained by paying a trespass fee. For dry-fly anglers, prime seasons are April for spring mayflies and late June and early July for early summer mayflies, as well as solitude during the winter months. From my 20-plus years of guiding the creeks, anglers who hire a guide benefit from the expert knowledge and understanding of spring creek fisheries.

Watch your son or daughter catch their first fish on a fly. Make a point to observe rather than be wrapped-up in your own fishing. With our busy lives this can be hard. Commit to it and schedule time, but allow yourself to be flexible—forcing a kid to fish is no fun for you or for them.

Catch an elusive species on a destination trip. Last spring, I celebrated catching a permit as I ate fresh iguana eggs on the deck of my guide's house while the sun set over the island of Guanaja, Honduras. Make 2018 the year you finally catch a steelhead on a fly, stalk golden dorado in the Amazon, or a bonefish in Belize.

**Invest in better gear.** You took care of all the nice people on your holiday list, now take care of yourself. Buy the new Sage X or the revolutionary Simms G3 waders, or Patagonia's Tough Puff jacket. It may take a chunk out of your bank account but your fishing will improve—being comfortable on the water goes a long way to being a better angler.

**Tie better knots.** Tying knots faster and better means one thing: more fishing time. Find some old fly line, old tippet or string, and finally learn to tie the blood knot or the nail knot. While you're at it, learn the perfection loop or the non-slip mono loop. On a recent trip to Belize my knot tying skills were far su-



Make 2018 the year you take a kid fishing. Focus your attention on them—don't simply have them come along while you fish. Share a rod or simply just enjoy watching them fish. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

perior than my angling partner's, so I naturally caught more fish because I spent more time fishing and less time struggling with knots.

Leave the river better than you found it. Pick up any trash you find. Recycle your old leaders and tippet, and don't dispose of clipped tippet material into the river. Practice catch and release properly—pinch your barbs, keep the fish wet at all times, and bring them in quickly. If you see another angler fishing, give them plenty of space, as you walk past offer up a "Hello" or "How's the fishing?" If you see a parked car already at your favorite spot, consider trying a new one.

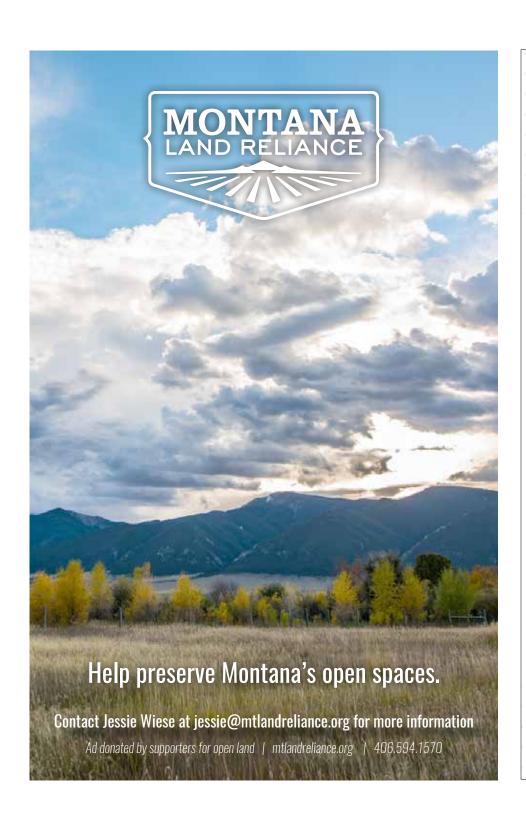
Create your own fly pattern. Most fly anglers progress in the following manner: catch one fish; catch a lot of fish; catch big fish; catch a fish on a fly you tied; catch a big fish on a fly you tied; catch lots of big fish on flies that you created. Fly tying is a unique way to get more enjoyment out of our sport. If you like to be innovative and enjoy doing things your way, fly tying is for you.

I spent the first day of 2018 fishing the Gallatin River near Big Sky. It was a typical winter day of fly fishing—I got a late start with my first casts around 1 p.m., my trout were caught using a two-fly nymph rig, and I was home in the hot tub by 4 p.m. It was a darn good start to what will be another year of living in the best fly-fishing area of the world.

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











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# Inside the Big Sky

# Big love under the big sky

VISIT BIG SKY

The sparkling new snow Big Sky received in recent weeks isn't the only thing glistening around the region lately. With no lack of stunning vistas, Big Sky has long been known as the perfect place to pop the big question in a memorable way.

According to the online wedding planning resource Wedding Wire, nearly one in five engagements happen in December, more than in any other month. With many families gathering to spend their holidays together while enjoying the outdoor recreation opportunities Big Sky is best known for, it's the perfect time for any couple to say "yes" to a lifetime together.

Perhaps you'll choose to do so in the romantic candlelight glow of Lone Mountain Ranch's sleigh ride dinner, or take the "top of the world" approach by taking the Big Sky Resort tram to the 11,166-foot summit of Lone Mountain. A word to the wise—just be sure the ring is zipped securely in the pocket of your ski jacket before heading out. Whatever backdrop you choose, a holiday engagement under the big sky is likely to light a fire in the heart of your loved one.

Afterward, pop some bubbly to celebrate and perhaps enjoy a Montana ribeye next to the fireplace at one of many area restaurants at the resort, Meadow or canyon. Or jump in the hot tub of your rental for a soothing soak.

Once the excitement of a Big Sky engagement has settled in, many couples from across the country choose to return to Big Sky for a summer wedding, where an array of venues range from mountaintops to riversides, all framed by iconic Lone Mountain.

Between Bozeman and Big Sky, southwest Montana has an abundance of wedding vendors that will work in tandem to fulfill your wedding needs. And as for your guests, what an opportunity to combine a visit to Yellowstone National Park with a celebration of love and commitment.

Experiencing true love is meaningful in any location, but we at Visit Big Sky believe the crisp, clean air and endless blue skies of Big Sky can come together to make it even more special. But don't take our word for it, rather, visit with your sweetheart to test it out for yourselves.

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



Big Sky offers plenty of exciting spots to pop the question, and venues that range from mountainside to riverside, rustic to luxurious, to carry out your nuptials. PHOTO COURTESY OF VISIT RIG SKY





The Clark's nutcracker has a unique pouch under its tongue used to carry seeds long distances. The nutcracker collects seeds from pine trees and carries them away to hide for later use.

This bird hides thousands of seeds each year, and studies have shown that they can remember where they have hidden nearly all of their seeds.

The Clark's nutcracker is one of the only members of the crow family where the male incubates the eggs.

Local declines in Clark's nutcracker populations may be due to a pine beetle epidemic and the arrival of white pine blister rust, both of which kill the whitebark pines that many nutcrackers depend on.

RESPECT.PROTECT.CHERISH.

Paid for by the animals in your backyard.



#### **YELLOWSTONE CLUB\***



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



388 Andesite Ridge Rd. 5,020 SQ FT / \$6.69M



Lot 338 Bristlecone Dr 14.6 Acres / \$4.95M



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



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

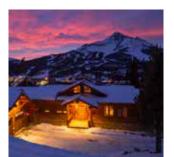
#### **BIG SKY**



Lot 39 Diamond Hitch 1 ACRE / \$595K



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



Moose Ridge Lodge 3,900 SQ FT / \$2.45M



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



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

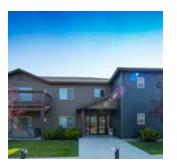
#### **BIG SKY**



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



281 Village Center 473 SQ FT / \$295K



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

**BOZEMAN** 



Cedar Creek Unit 38 868 SQ FT / \$260K

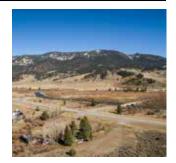


Cedar Creek Unit 13 783 SQ FT / \$245K

#### **BIG SKY**



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



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

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



261 Parkland Trail 3,943 SQ FT / \$665K



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

#### **RANCH & RECREATION**



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



Missouri River Ranch Craig, MT 160 Acres / \$5.9M



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

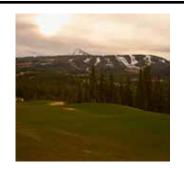


#### YELLOWSTONE CLUB\*

Lot 433 Serpens Trail 1.89 Acres / \$2.95M

**SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB\*** 

Ski Tip Lot 10 1.02 Acres / \$975K



Lot 38 Bitterbrush Trail 1.27 ACRES / \$800K



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



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

#### **BIG SKY**



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



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



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



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



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

#### **BIG SKY**



Big EZ Lot 42 20 ACRES / \$339K



Big EZ Lot 43 20 ACRES / \$375K



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



Lot 287A Rising Bull Rd. 1.04 Acres / \$650K



Lot 1 Ciel Drive 8.03 ACRES / \$415K

#### **BOZEMAN**



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

#### **GREATER MONTANA**



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

#### COMMERCIAL



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







# Ski Tips: Pow is 'wow' at Big Sky

BY DAN EGAN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Big Sky has received massive snowfall this year with more than 60 inches falling in recent weeks. The snow has been deep, light and plentiful. The storms that passed through the region this season have been the topic of skiers and riders nationally as Montana, and specifically Big Sky, has had the best conditions in the country.

With an area as large as Big Sky Resort, there's powder for all abilities. If you're skiing the lower mountain on the trails, check the grooming report and ski your first few runs on the groomed trails that have fresh snow. This is a great way to get your balance and enjoy some fresh tracks.

Once you're warmed up and ready to dive into deeper snow, select some open terrain where you won't feel constrained. There are plenty of options for this around the resort, such as the Meadow on Thunder Wolf, Africa off of Ramcharger, and the Bowl off of Powder Seeker.

Speed and momentum are your friends when skiing powder. Speed will allow your skis to float up in the snow making it easier to turn, and momentum will help you initiate the next turn.

Powder creates friction as you ski through it and this will keep you at a constant speed. If you try and slow down from turn to turn, you'll lose balance and be less efficient and you'll become fatigued during your run.

Ski the run in sections. Don't try and go top to bottom without stopping even if you feel pressure from your "powder hound" friends. Skiing the slope in sections will allow you to make three to four good turns before you stop and regroup. This will be more efficient, saving the energy in your legs, and it'll build your confidence. It'll also allow you to ski the section without the constant worry of trying to slow down every turn.

Many skiers tend to over-turn in powder to slow down. This creates problems when the skis get too far across the hill; the skis lose momentum to initiate the next turn and they sink lower in the powder, which zaps the energy from the skier because he or she has to over-rotate to initiate the next turn.

The other side effect of turning too far across the hill to slow down is that most skiers stiffen their lower leg, which pushes the downhill ski lower in the powder than the uphill ski, creating an imbalance.

Remember, stability equals long radius turns. Skis are most stable when they're in a turn. They're unstable when they're flat or traversing across the mountain. So you



Skier Will Kendrick makes a turn in powder. PHOTO COURTESY OF DEGAN MEDIA

want to lengthen your turn so the ski travels down the fall-line and not across it.

Keep your eyes focused down the hill to your next stopping point and make large, wide, sweeping turns to that location. As you ski, keep both hands out in front of you and pointed down the hill. If you drop the uphill hand down to your hip and allow it to twist your shoulders in the direction of your skis you'll accelerate. If you keep your uphill hand reaching down the fall line in the direction you want to ski you'll remain in balance and get the benefit of arcing, stable skis.

Along with the longer radius turn, match your uphill ski with the downhill ski. Move them both in the same direction at the same time and keep 40 percent of your weight on the uphill ski and 60 percent of your weight on the downhill ski. This will allow you to take advantage of your skis' width and it'll provide you with a wide, stable platform as you are your way through all of the great powder around the resort this year.

Extreme skiing pioneer Dan Egan has appeared in 12 Warren Miller ski films and countless others. He was inducted into the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame in 2016. Today he teaches clinics and guides trips at locations around the world, including Big Sky, where he'll be teaching Feb. 22-24, March 1-2 and March 8-10, as well as during specialty clinics throughout the season. Visit bigskyresort.com or contact Big Sky Mountain Sports for availability. To find more information on Dan Egan camps and clinics, go to skiclinics.com.





# On the Trail: Silverbow to the Bunker Loop

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

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

The Silverbow and Bunker Loop Nordic ski trails are found within the trail system located on the Big Sky Golf Course in the Meadow. The trail system is easy in terms of difficulty with minimal elevation change, and connects to several other trails allowing you to extend or shorten your ski depending on your desired level of exertion.

Beginning on the Silverbow Trail on Black Otter Road, directly across from the Meadow Village Center, head east toward Highway 64. After a short distance the trail curves west as you ski through a grove of conifer trees and then another 2.5 kilometers through the golf course with Lone Peak towering directly ahead.

After 2.5 km, you reach an intersection that connects to Bunker Loop Trail. Take a right to continue directly onto the Bunker Loop or continue for an additional 1.8 km on the Yellowstone Trail until you reach the Bunker Loop.

The Yellowstone Trail curves toward the west and comes to a road crossing. Here, you cross Curly Bear Road, reconnect with the ski trail and meet another intersection. At this point you can take a right toward the Bunker Loop. Taking a left leads to Moose Alley.

If taking a right, you can ski a 1.8-km loop around the Big Sky Golf Course clubhouse, aka the Bunker Bar & Grill—the namesake of the trail. This loop leads back to the initial intersection of the Silverbow and Yellowstone trails. From here, you can take a left and ski east on Silverbow back the same way you came until reaching Black Otter Road.

For visitors or residents who are not able to access the Nordic trail system via their home or lodging, parking can be found in the Meadow Village Center, the commercial shopping area located alongside Lone Mountain Trail and Little Coyote Road.

Within the Meadow Village Center there are restaurants and shops, including Lone Peak Brewery known for its après ski offerings. There is also public parking and restrooms at the Big Sky Community Park on Little Coyote



Callie Pecunies enjoys a Nordic ski with Ciara Wolfe on the Silverbow Trail and Bunker Loop, part of the network of trails on the Big Sky Golf Course. PHOTO BY CIARA WOLFE

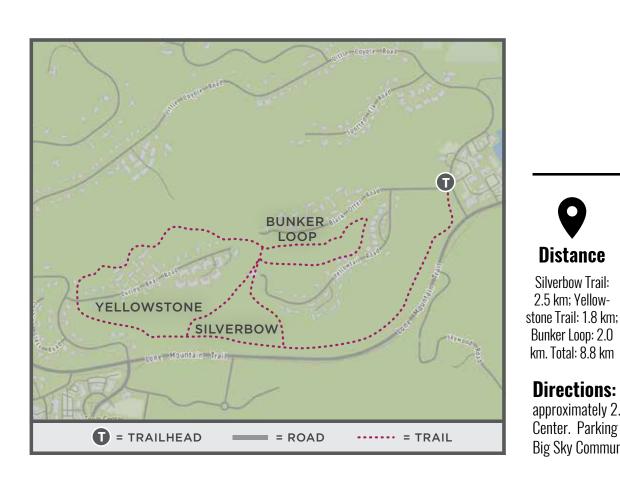
Road, and at Historic Crail Ranch Park located off of Spotted Elk Road. Both have ski trails that connect from the parking lot to the golf course trail system.

Please respect the no dog policy on these trails.

Season passes and day passes are available at the Lone Mountain Ranch outdoor shop and online at lonemountain ranch.com. All proceeds from pass sales go toward the cost of grooming Big Sky's winter Nordic trail system.

For a complete map of Big Sky's 85 km of groomed Nordic trails, visit lonemountainranch.com/the-ranch/.

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





#### **TRAIL STATS**



**Distance** 

Uses

**Difficulty** 



**Elevation** 

Surface

classic track with

skate and groomed

trails

Silverbow Trail: cross-country Easy 6,500 feet 2.5 km; Yellowskiing

**Directions:** From the canyon take Lone Mountain Trail west from Hwy 191. After approximately 2.5 miles, turn right onto Little Coyote Road at the Meadow Village Center. Parking is located within the commercial Meadow Village Center or at the Big Sky Community Park, an additional 1 mile down the road.





#### BHHSMT.COM | 406.995.4060 | 55 LONE PEAK DRIVE | BIG SKY TOWN CENTER



#### 30 BEEHIVE BASIN RD | \$3,200,000 #305537 | CALL DON

Beautiful lodge style home with vaulted ceilings, and incredible views of Lone Mountain. Large great room with floor to ceiling wood burning fireplaces. 5 bd, 4.5 ba.



## 4 LITTLE PLUME RD | \$2,600,000 #216922 | CALL STACY OR ERIC

Fantastic custom, hand built, true post-and-beam timber frame home on 1.7± acres with unobstructed views of Lone Mountain. Ski-in/Ski-out. 5 bd, 6 ba.



## 235 FOUR POINT RD | \$2,100,000 #219569 | CALL DON

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#### 36 LOW DOG RD | \$1,950,000 #310947 | CALL STACY OR ERIC

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#### 5 BANDIT WAY | \$1,650,000 #311037 | CALL DON

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#### SKYCREST #4104D | \$850,000 #312308 | CALL STACY OR ERIC

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#### 9 BANDIT WAY | \$799,000 #311070 | CALL DON

Terrific views from one of the highest Cowboy Heaven Cabins. Sold fully furnished. Professionally decorated in a true western flavor. Hot tub on deck. Ski-in/Ski-out.



#### LONE PEAK #5 | \$619,000 #303585 | CALL STACY OR ERIC

3 bd, 2.5 ba Lone Peak Townhome in the heart of Town Center. Walk to many amenities. Gourmet kitchen, granite countertops, SS appliances. 1 car garage.



#### ALPENGLOW #35A | \$534,000 #220109 | CALL STACY OR ERIC

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## 31 BEAR TRAP LANE | \$419,000 #304180 | CALL DON

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#### LOT 114A, CASCADE | \$339,000 #309556 | CALL DON

Beautiful lot in the highest part of Cascade Subdivision. This lot borders Ulery's Lakes Subdivision to the North. Great views of Lone Mountain and the Mountain Village area.



#### HILL CONDO #1258 | \$215,000 #220805 | CALL STACY OR ERIC

2 bd, 1 ba, 3 level Hill Condo Loft. Chefs kitchen with new cabinets, SS appliances and breakfast bar. This unit is perfect for year-round living or as a secondary home.

(abbr.)

getting sound

DOWN Wild buffalo

Be present

Willingly

Blonde

56 Ignoble

57 Brown

58 Key

MEAN

S A B A S H U L

NARASIMHA

T|E|E|S|T| | I|H|R|E

19 Family relative

## CROSSWORD PUZZ

- ACROSS White matter of
- the brain Tactical Air Command
- (abbr.) 8 Semitic deity
- 12 Outbreak 13 Harem room
- 14 High (pref.) 15 Tidy
- 16 Entangle 17 Broad structural
- 18 Again 20 Regard
- 22 Never (Ger.) 23 Red deer
- 24 Reef (2 words) 28 Arrow poison
- 32 Kwa language 33 Goddess (Lat.)
- 35 John, Gaelic 36 Tanzania island 39 Military

15

18

36

56

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- formátion 42 Legendary celt 44 Computer aided
- manufacturing (abbr.) ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE ETC 45 Last section 48 Husband/brother of Isis 52 Down with (Fr. TERABREAD 2 words) 53 Central ARA MSSRS MOCKBLOW TEEL OATRABATADE 55 Take on cargo SHESROYALROD SURAT 59 Tennyson character 60 Eight (pref.) 61 Attention-A D O R A T I O N F E P A N O C T
  - ANKH BEEP 6 "Fables in Slang" author Pole in Gaelic games
  - Wings 11 Loess
  - 10 Tamarisk salt
- 21 Old Fr. coin 24 Small drink 25 Presidential nickname 26 Name (Fr.) 27 Caddoan Índian 29 Trouble 30 Indo-Chin. language 31 Roadhouse 34 Report 37 Oblique 38 Atlantic (abbr.) 40 Laughter sounds
  - 41 Wife of lago 43 Hundred (pref.) 45 Gooseberry
  - 46 Dayak people 47 Heb. patriarch's title
  - 49 Skin eruption 50 Inactive 51 Appear
  - 54 Lumberman's boot

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## DOG OF THE MONTH



#### MAZZY AKA Fuzz-butt, Snickerdoodle & Skunkerdoodle

Age: 1.5 years old

**Breed:** Australian Labradoodle

Owner: Alexis Deaton-Nolan and Tom Nolan

**Likes:** Snow, peanut butter, other dogs, teasing her feline brothers, the out-of-doors

Dislikes: Nails being clipped, ears being touched

Claim to fame: Always happy! Mazzy seems to understand her purpose is to bring joy and laughs to those she's around.

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# BACKLI

For Explore Big Sky, the Back 40 is a resource: a place where we can delve into subjects and ask experts to share their knowledge.

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

# Recognizing signs of snowpack instability

BY ERIC KNOFF EBS CONTRIBUTOR

When skiing or riding in the backcountry, recognizing signs of instability plays an important role in assessing snow safety. Cracking and collapsing of the snowpack, along with recent avalanche activity, are Mother Nature's clues that the snowpack is unstable.

Paying attention to clues of instability, and knowing how to react to them, is a sizeable advantage in staying safe while traveling in the backcountry.

The first and most obvious sign of snow instability is recent avalanche activity. This important clue is full confirmation that unstable snow exists, and that more avalanches are probable. It is crucial that the aspect and elevation of recently avalanched slopes are noted, and that slopes with similar orientation are avoided. Riding next to existing avalanches is just bad judgment, and is asking for trouble.

In addition, when notable signs of instability are present, all slopes steep enough to avalanche should be viewed as if they will slide and be avoided if possible.



This slide was remotely triggered by a snowmobile in Tepee Basin in the southern Madison Range. When the snowpack is highly unstable, it's possible to trigger avalanches from a distance. This is a common way that skiers and snowmobilers get into trouble.

At times, fresh avalanche activity is easy to identify by large debris piles and defined crowns. Other times, recent avalanche activity may not always be noticeable. Fresh or windblown snow may cover crowns—the area where the avalanche released—and debris and poor visibility, due to fog or falling snow, can make it difficult to see or assess the extent of avalanche activity.

In these situations a keen eye, heightened awareness of weather and terrain, and having some avalanche education are all important factors when deciding where to ski or ride your snowmobile.

If recent avalanche activity is not visible, other signs of instability can still be present. Shooting cracks and collapsing of the snowpack are two obvious indications of snow instability. These symptoms are most often accompanied by a loud "whoompfing" sound, and a physical settlement of the snowpack may be felt. If you are near or on a slope when this happens, it is best to get off the slope quickly.

Slopes collapse and crack due to the failure of a weak layer within the snow-pack. Weak layers form in many different ways, but all pose the same problem. They will collapse and fail when too much weight (i.e., you and your skis or snowmobile) is added to the snowpack and the resulting stress overrides its strength. This can produce an avalanche if the slope is steep enough to slide.



Crown lines show the area where this avalanche released. They can range from a few inches to multiple feet deep and are key indicators of recent avalanche activity. This crown was from a skier-triggered avalanche near Cooke City. PHOTOS COURTESY OF GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST AVALANCHE CENTER

It is important to communicate your observations of instability to all of your group's members, and make a solid game plan to stay out of harm's way.

Finally, a safe and easy way to gather information about instability in the backcountry is to read the local avalanche forecast for an up-to-date report on conditions before venturing into the mountains.

Keep in mind that forecast centers love to hear your frontline backcountry observations, especially about indications of volatility in the snowpack. Recognizing and understanding signs of instability, and communicating with others about them, are tools that will help ensure you and your group have many more days of safe skiing and riding in the mountains.

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

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



It doesn't take a large slope to produce a dangerous avalanche. This slope is only a few hundred vertical feet, but the slide was easily large enough to bury or kill a person.

# **Section 4:**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



TEDxBigSky Profiles **pg. 46** 







# Catherine Courtenaye: Exploring the abstraction of language

## BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BOZEMAN – Is it possible to see a word without translating its meaning? That question has long underpinned the work of Bozeman artist Catherine Courtenaye.

Twenty years ago, Courtenaye, a 2017 recipient of the Montana Arts Council Artist's Innovation Award, came across handwritten correspondence from the 19th century that changed the way she looked at the world.

While in college in Maine, Courtenaye became very interested in the Shakers, a Christian sect founded in 18th century England renowned for its signature spare aesthetic in architecture and furnishings.

During her research, she came across pages of Shaker correspondence. "The look of those letters ... I wasn't even reading the words," she said. "They just leapt off the page."

While that may be how Courtenaye started incorporating facsimiles of 19th century penmanship into her abstract paintings, her intrigue with the shape and formation of letters and words—more so than their content—dates back even further.

The daughter of a diplomat, Courtenaye was born in Madrid, Spain, and grew up all around the world.

She went to high school in Tangier, Morocco, where, she said, "the 'look' of illegible Arabic signage was perhaps my first awakening to the abstract power of line."

Courtenaye becomes audibly passionate about penmanship, the ancient origins of language and its historical—and modern day—implications.

The artist is particularly interested in the handwriting of the 19th century for a multitude of reasons. In the scrawls of that era, she finds a visible tension between the forced conformity of proper penmanship, and the subtle expressions of individuality, frowned upon as they were, attempting to break free from those rigid confines. This tension, while definitive of the Victorian era, is also at play in Courtenaye's work.

"A lot of my work has dealt with this tension between the correct way to make a stroke and my personal accidents of paint," she said.

As she dug deeper into historical archives, Courtenaye remembers coming across a particular handwritten letter.



Courtenaye incorporates facsimilies of historical penmanship into highly contemporary, abstract works of art. PHOTO BY ROB WILKE

"I was suddenly awestruck by how a single pen stroke can conjure an era so keenly," Courtenaye said. "It communicates the 19th century through the shape of the letterforms, the quality of the strokes, the inkblots and stray marks—one does not see inkblots and stray marks in emails. It is a much more intimate form of communication because it's flowing from the hand."

Clearly a history buff, Courtenaye explained that in the 18th century, handwriting style signaled the writer's gender, social class, profession, and often, the very decade in which it was penned. In the 19th century, when a grassroots effort made penmanship training accessible to all, good penmanship demonstrated that the writer was disciplined, self-restrained, and virtuous.

"For me, this phenomenon of line gets to the heart of visual expression," the artist said. "Even though handwriting style was rigidly dictated, it's still a form of drawing."

In this way, Courtenaye uses handwritten text as another form of abstract imagery, a counter point of line that adds depth and

definition to an atmospheric field of color.

Bozeman's Catherine Courtenaye is one of eight artists to receive the Montana Arts Council's 2017 Artist's Innovation Award. PHOTO BY CATHERINE COURTENAYE

While Courtenaye could discuss at great length her attraction to vintage handwriting, and her wonderment at how the shape of some letters still reflect the shape of the natural form they were created to symbolize, her work has taken on a much subtler, albeit more complex, approach to the use of language.

Today, bits and pieces of letterforms peek out from layers of paint, and her subject matter has expanded to include purely abstracted gestures of penmanship, pen-and-ink drawings of birds, avian migration patterns, maps of the Earth's magnetic field, and aerial landscape views.

Courtenaye also strives to keep her work relevant.

"Even though I am using antique sources, these are contemporary paintings," she said.

A recent series, selections from which are on display at Big Sky's Gallatin River Gallery, employs texting acronyms.

For works like "KHYF" (know how you feel) and "RBTL" (read between the lines) Courtenaye laid down big, broad, swooshing strokes, using the stripped-down text as a compositional framework.

"This group of paintings magnifies intimate hand-drawn marks into more explosive gestures," she said.

The bold brushy lines, derived from cursive script, become conduits of space, providing glimpses into the many strata that lie beneath the surface of each painting.

Courtenaye's hope is people will see abstraction before legibility in her paintings—and that it will encourage viewers to slow down and take time to read between the lines.

Courtenaye's work can be seen locally at Gallatin River Gallery in Big Sky. Visit gallat-inrivergallery.com or catherinecourtenaye.com for more information.

# TED\* BigSky

# x = independently organized TED event

EBS STAFF

An independently organized version of TED Talks, called TEDx, is coming to Big Sky on Jan. 27. The second annual TEDxBigSky will feature seven hand-picked, inspiring people at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. The speakers will share ideas and personal stories related to the 2018 event's theme of "positivity."

The 2018 event will feature a woman whose life was transformed by her mother's death, and subsequent journey through her father's Alzheimer's; a Nepalese mountaineering guide; the founder of a media outlet devoted to uplifting news; the

# TEDx brings 'Positivity' to Big Sky

co-founder of an innovative technology startup company; a passionate outdoorsman; and special guest, musician Martin Sexton.

Stay tuned in to upcoming issues of EBS to get to know the 2018 presenters. EBS will feature Q&A interviews with the speakers in each issue leading up to the event.

The 2018 TEDxBigSky is sold out, but you can email ersin@outlaw.partners to put your name on the waiting list. Visit TEDxBigSky.com for updates and to view all of the TEDx videos from last year's inaugural TEDxBigSky event.

# EDUARDO GARCIA

Eduardo Garcia is a chef, outdoorsman, athlete, motivational speaker and the co-founder of a national food brand, Montana Mex. During a backcountry hike in Montana's Paradise Valley in October 2011, Garcia was electrocuted by a buried high voltage power source, and suffered extensive, life-threatening injuries. Today, Garcia is the subject of the award winning documentary "Charged" and is working on a number of media projects including "A Hungry Life"—a TV concept which follows him into the wild places of the world as he creates exceptional food over a campfire. He is also a spokesperson and athlete for the Challenged Athletes Foundation, an organization that provides support to people with physical disabilities so they can pursue active lifestyles.

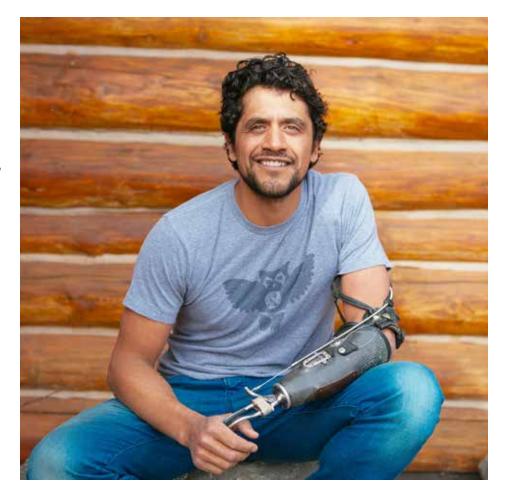
**Explore Big Sky:** Given the extreme nature of the challenges you have had to overcome—among them losing your hand and a portion of your arm after a hiking accident and being diagnosed with cancer during your recovery—you seem like a perfect candidate to speak at TEDxBigSky, the theme of which is "positivity." What does positivity mean to you?

**Eduardo Garcia:** For me, "positivity" is a descriptive word that is little brother little sister to a much grander concept which I see as "opportunity."

**EBS:** Outside of your own experience, can you provide an example when you have witnessed the power of a positive mindset?

**E.G.:** Every day I see positivity in action, but the first one that comes to mind is my dad's passing on Nov. 25. Led by his example and desire, we did not see his passing as a negative thing. We partied—he called it the fiesta finale. There were tears, but we rejoiced for a week.

**EBS:** How has your injury affected your passion for cooking and execution of it? **E.G.:** It put the brakes on my career in a way. Once I was sort of out of the weeds, my focus was on physical recovery; the emotional recovery took much longer. My passion for cooking was pretty solid going into my injury and my passion and drive to be in the food industry remained. The proximity I came to seeing death, and dying, was significant enough that I wanted to make sure I am only engaging in industry, life and practice [in ways] that are truly creating the person I want to be, to build community and be part of the greater good.



**EBS:** How would you describe the man you were before your hiking accident and subsequent battle with cancer, and the man you are today?

**E.G.:** I've always been family oriented and community driven [and still am]. After my injury, I became far less tolerant of wasted time, argumentation ... I really just doubled down on the guy I was. But there were a lot of weak links in who I was, and [I told myself] I have to kick out these factors that are inhibiting me from being the person I want to be. I made a conscious effort to be a better person where I

**EBS:** How would like the audience at TEDxBigSky to feel after hearing your talk? **E.G.:** Charged.





# RYLAN PEERY

Rylan Peery's mission is to develop solutions supporting the economic regeneration of communities, a theme be explored extensively while studying at Stanford University. His professional journey began by working at a Silicon Valley venture capital firm. From finance, Peery embarked on a journey as an entrepreneur, co-founding a technology startup, GiveBack; consulting on business strategy with Fortune 500 clients; and rolling up his sleeves as a front-end web engineer at the co-operative that is CoLab Co-op today. Peery now enjoys collaborating with his peers to support mission-driven entrepreneurs, educators, activists, and organizers to co-create a brighter future one human interaction at a time.

**Explore Big Sky:** What inspired you to give a TEDxBigSky talk? **Rylan Peery:** As a father of five young children I have some concerns about the direction both our planet and our culture are headed in. In particular there is a great deal of media emphasis in certain quarters on promoting values that are in my opinion contrary to the good of our communities and our country.

**EBS:** The theme of TEDxBigSky is "positivity." What does positivity mean to you? **R.P.:** For me, positivity points back to questions of intentionality. If I am committed to working for the greater good, to sharing a little gift of myself in each daily interaction, then I'm living a positive life. For me, positivity is fundamentally oriented towards generating, creating, giving, sharing, teaching, offering. Toward cultivating the mindfulness, the self-awareness, to know when we've fallen from this place.

**EBS:** Your professional mission statement is to co-develop works that address the transformation of society, community and the planet. Can you explain this in layman's terms?

**R.P.:** Transformation of our communities occurs one human-to-human interaction at a time. My work is fundamentally rooted in empathy, in understanding human needs, and in exploring whether there is a role for technology to play in helping to meet those needs. I see technology at its best being in service to our own intentions to live positive, generative lives that benefit community and planet.

EBS: What is your ideal vision of the world?

**R.P.:** My dream is that we can collectively orient our positive intentions toward serving the common good. Each of us being willing to own our respective contributions and to take personal responsibility for positive change in our own world and then to extend that to worlds outside our comfort zone.



**EBS:** What advice would you give to someone who is struggling and having difficulty shifting to a more positive mindset?

**R.P.:** A great deal of my life has been spent seeking an answer to this question. It's something that I still grapple with because often when we are struggling we are also the weakest to take action to shift our patterns. For me there is a short list of things I do to help in this regard: vigorous exercise, cold baths/showers, walks in nature, yoga/meditation, acts of generosity, whole foods meals, getting enough sleep. Those are my own pillars.

**EBS:** How would you like the audience at TEDxBigSky to feel after hearing your talk?

**R.P.:** I hope that the audience comes away feeling a sense of shared purpose, a sense of inter-connection, and the potential for collective action for the common good.









**JANUARY 27, 2018** 

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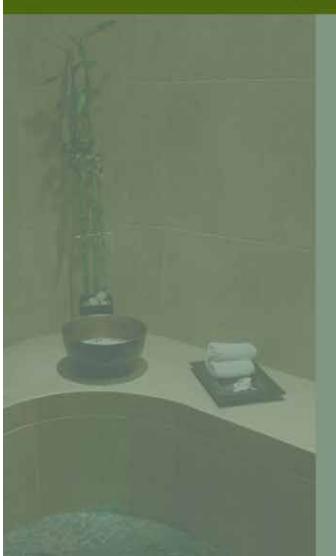






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# Made in Big Sky: Broadway talent brings 'Levity' to WMPAC

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY - "Levity," a play developed and produced in Big Sky, and featuring Broadway talent, comes full circle in its world debut Jan. 19-21, at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center.

"Levity" follows the family-fallout after the death of a rock star patriarch and the troubling appearance of an ex-wife with secrets to leverage. London-based director Stella Powell-Jones and Tony Award-winning star Michele Pawk are joined by cast members David Alford, from the popular television show "Nashville," and Carolyn McCormick of "Law and Order" fame.

"Levity" began as an experiment in the first Big Sky Theater Workshop at WMPAC in July 2015. Powell-Jones worked alongside four Broadway actors to develop the new script with Broadway playwright-in-residence, Stephanie DiMaggio. After a week of intense development, a workshop-style reading of the play was performed for a Big Sky audience.

The idea of internationally acclaimed theater artists creating works specifically for the intimate WMPAC stage sparked the collaborators to take it to the next level, and the annual Big Sky Theater Workshop was born. In its three summers, the multiple-week residency, which connects top-level theater professionals with aspiring professionals and promising young talent, has attracted

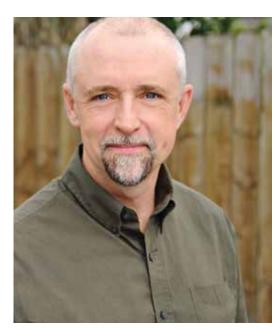
more than 50 renowned theater makers from across the country.

Last year, WMPAC became an Equity Certified performing house, which granted the organization the ability not only to develop, but debut professional new theater, putting Big Sky on the map as a destination spot for new American plays and musicals.

In 2017, WMPAC produced its first professional play (Shake-speare's "The Winter's Tale"). Its success led WMPAC to incorporate the world premiere of "Levity" into the 2018 winter season.

In early 2017, producers John Zirkle (WMPAC executive and artistic director) and Danny Williams (head of finance at The Public Theater in New York City, the institution behind such hits as "Hamilton," "A Chorus Line" and "Hair") joined forces to make the Big Sky debut of "Levity" a reality.

"As artists in New York we are no strangers to new projects, but a first world premiere ever for a theater is truly something special," said "Levity" playwright DiMaggio, adding that "the play is 100 percent born because of Big Sky." Several of the scenes were written at a lunch table outside Lone Peak High School. "It is an honor to have 'Levity' be the first of what I know will be many world premieres [at WMPAC]."



"Levity," a play developed and produced in Big Sky featuring seasoned actors such as David Alford of television's "Nashville," will enjoy its world debut on Jan. 19, at WMPAC. PHOTOS COURTESY OF WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

The Big Sky Theater Company started when Kristin Kern, a Big Sky resident with East Coast roots introduced Zirkle to DiMaggio, after Kern had seen her perform in a self-written play off-Broadway.

Tucked in a booth at Buck's T-4 Lodge to discuss the possibilities of artistic collaboration, Zirkle and DiMaggio felt an immediate synergy. Within an hour they had discussed everything from Broadway to ballet, audience development to adventure seeking, and teaching to technology. Above all, their connection was founded on a shared mission to make great art accessible to all communities.

In the continued effort to broaden this accessibility, "Levity" will also be WMPAC's first open-captioned and American Sign Language-interpreted performance.

Following "Levity's" debut, WMPAC will premiere its first-ever professional musical, "[title of show]" from Feb. 16 to 18. That's not a typo, but the name of a production The New York Times described as "genial, unpretentious and far funnier than many of the more expensively manufactured musicals that make it to Broadway these days."

Both shows mark WMPAC's increasing focus on developing new work. "Producing our own shows is the next logical step for a theater like WMPAC," Zirkle said. "And we've seen how well our audiences respond to this effort."

The three performances of "Levity" will take place Friday, Jan. 19, through Sunday, Jan. 21, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for all WMPAC events are available at warrenmillerpac.org.



"Levity" began as an experiment in the first Big Sky Theater Workshop at WMPAC in July 2015. Broadway playwright-in-residence, Stephanie DiMaggio worked with Director Stella Powell-Jones alongside four Broadway actors to develop the new script.

# Old Main Gallery calls for juried exhibition entries

OLD MAIN GALLERY & FRAMING



Bozeman's Old Main Gallery is calling for submissions to its second annual juried exhibition through Jan. 29. The exhibition, entitled "A Moment in Time," is open to all styles of two-dimensional artwork.

Work must be ready for professional display and ready to hang, at a maximum size of 60 inches.

A special opening reception will be held on Friday, March 2, from 5 to 7 p.m., at which a Best of Show and two honorable mentions will be announced. The jurors are award-winning, professional local artists Michael Blessing and Meagan Abra Blessing. The exhibit will be on display through March 31.

The Best of Show winner will receive a \$500 gift certificate to Old Main Gallery & Framing.

Visit oldmaingallery/events/a-moment-in-time/ for complete submission guidelines.

# Nationally acclaimed vocal ensemble performs at WMPAC

## Cantus casts musical light in 'Discovery of Sight'

**EBS STAFF** 

In an ideal a cappella performance, a perfect blend of voices is achieved when every individual voice is both present and absent simultaneously.

On Saturday, Jan. 13, Cantus, described in Fanfare magazine as "the premier men's vocal ensemble in the United States," will appear at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. Their original program, "Discovery of Sight," showcases their trademark warmth while musically exploring the integral role light plays in the human experience, both literally and metaphorically. At its heart, explains the group, "'Discovery of Sight' revels in the mystery, science, and poetry of what it means to truly 'see.'"

Seasoned masterpieces like Richard Strauss' Traumlicht and Franz Schubert's Die Nacht, highlight the ensemble's 2018 tour program, complemented by modern standouts such as Eric Whitacre's Lux Aurumque, Einojuhani Rautavaara's The Morning Comes, and a world premiere by Gabriel Kahane (commissioned for Cantus by Chorus America).

In the process of this eight-person exploration of sight through sound, all undertaken without a conductor, audiences will experience what lies at the very heart of musical ensemble work—the ability to truly hear one another and oneself at the same time.

"I think it's so important in our world to actively practice building healthy communication and relationships," said tenor Paul Scholtz. "And Cantus is an example of what communication and collaboration can create."



Acclaimed men's vocal ensemble Cantus performs at WMPAC on Jan. 13. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Samuel Green, a bass, agrees. "Cantus is unlike any other vocal group you will see or hear. Every program we stage and each piece of music we perform has eight artists' fingerprints on it."

"Discovery of Sight" begins at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 13 at WMPAC. Visit warenmillerpac.org for tickets and more information.

# Baroque Music Montana performs free concert at Big Sky Chapel

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

On Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 8 p.m., the Arts Council of Big Sky presents a free baroque concert at the Big Sky Chapel. The evening features Baroque Music Montana performing a tribute performance to composers Georg Philipp Telemann and Jean-Marie Leclair, two well-known Baroque personalities of the 18th century.

Superstars of the Baroque era, composers Telemann and Leclair were infamous for their synthesis of style, pulling together the corners of the continent through diverse musical works. Baroque violins, bassoon, and lute take flight with this cocktail of cosmopolitan compositions. Additional pieces by Guignon and Guillemain round out this program of sonatas and quartets.

Baroque Music Montana features musicians Davina Clarke from London, and Bozeman Symphony Concertmaster Carrie Krause on baroque violins; Portland, Oregon's Nate Helgeson on baroque bassoon; and John Lenti playing theorbo and lute.

The Big Sky Chapel is located at 510 Little Coyote Road. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. This concert is underwritten by the Schwer-Toepffer Memorial Fund of the ACBS.



On Tuesday, Jan. 9, Baroque Music Montana performs a free tribute concert at the Big Sky Chapel featuring compositions by Telemann and Leclair. PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

Baroque Music Montana presents concerts of early instruments and repertoire performed by an international cast of musicians.

Please call (406) 995-2742 or visit bigskyarts.org for more information.



TICKETS AT EXPLOREBIGSKY.COM, ONLY 300 AVAILABLE!

# EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5 – THURSDAY, **JANUARY 18** 

\*IF YOUR EVENT FALLS BETWEEN JAN. 19 AND FEB. 1, PLEASE SUBMIT IT BY JAN. 11 BY EMAILING MEDIA@OUTLAW. PARTNERS.

#### **BIG SKY**

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

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

Mike Haring, music Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Fish Frv BYWOM, all evening

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Krazy Karaoke Montana Jack, 10 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 6**

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

Lone Mountain Trio, music Chets Bar, 4:30 p.m.

Jeff Bellino, music Rainbow Ranch Lodge, 5 p.m.

Mark Nizer: World Champion Juggler & Comedian **Warren Miller Performing Arts** Center, 5:30 p.m.

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

Montana Jack, 10 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 7**

Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

#### **MONDAY, JANUARY 8**

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

Mike Haring, music Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Service Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

#### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 9**

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

Dan Dubuque, music Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Lauren Jackson, music Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Milton Menasco Duo, music Chets Bar, 4:30 p.m.

Learn to Curl, class Town Center Rink, 6 p.m.

Superstars of the Baroque: Telemann and Leclair, music Big Sky Chapel, 8 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

Resort Tax Board Meeting District Office, 8 a.m.

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

Brian and Ben, music Chets Bar, 4:30 p.m.

Family Cooking Night Ophir Elementary Cafeteria, 6 p.m.

Vision Boards with Casey Krohn Santosha Wellness Center, 6:30 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

Kenny Diamond, music Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Lauren & Jeff, music Chets Bar, 4:30 p.m.

Jazz at Night, music Carabiner Lounge, 8:30 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

Mike Haring, music Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Krazy Karaoke Montana Jack, 10 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 13**

Burton Snowboards, demonstrations Big Sky Resort, 9 a.m.

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

Lone Mountain Trio, music Chets Bar, 4:30 p.m.

Jon Parvin, music Rainbow Ranch Lodge, 5 p.m.

Cantus, music Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 7:30

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

Montana Jack, 10 p.m.

Snobar Big Sky Resort, all night Jan. 13-20

#### **SUNDAY, JANUARY 14**

Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

#### **MONDAY, JANUARY 15**

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

Mike Haring, music Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Service Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

#### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 16**

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

Dan Dubuque, music Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m. Lauren Jackson, music Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Milton Menasco Duo, music Chets bar, 4:30 p.m.

Learn to Curl, class Town Center Rink, 6 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17**

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

Brian and Ben, music ChetsBar, 4:30 p.m.

Caregivers Support Group Santosha Wellness Center, 7 p.m.

## **THURSDAY, JANUARY 18** Visit Big Sky Board Meeting

Town Center Conference Room, 8:30 a.m.

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

Kenny Diamond, music Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Lauren & Jeff, music Chets Bar, 4:30 p.m.

Jazz at Night, music Carabiner Lounge, 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19
14th Annual Rotary Club of Big Sky **Gold Raffie, Auction and Dinner** Buck's T-4, 6 p.m.

Levity, play Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 7:30

## **BOZEMAN**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5
Tad Bradley: Following Truth, lecture
CoWork Bozeman, 8:30 a.m.

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

Winter Farmers' Market Emerson Ballroom, all morning

I Talk to Ravens, Pamela Kendall Schiffer Old Main Gallery & Framing, 5 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

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

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

Stimulus Package, music Bozeman Taproom, 7 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10**

The Disaster Artist, film Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Weston Lewis, music Bozeman Taproom, 7 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

Marcedes Carroll, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 13**

Bozeman Symphony 50th Birthday Bash Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, 6

#### SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

Aaron Williams, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

Dan Dubuque, music Bozeman Taproom, 7 p.m.

Hippo Campus, performance Rialto Theatre, 7 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17**Montana's Changing Climate, lecture Museum of the Rockies, 7 p.m.

The Square, film Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Jeff Jensen, music Bozeman Taproom, 7 p.m.

Travis Belote, "Wilderness and..." lecture Bozeman Public Library, 7 p.m.

Victor Wooten Trio, performance Rialto Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

Greater Gallatin Watershed Council **Annual Meeting** Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, 5:30 p.m.

Dolores, film Rialto Theatre, 6 p.m.

Double Dare, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

# WORTH THE DRIVE

#### Livingston, MT

#### 'Muscle Shoals'

#### Jan. 14, 7 p.m.

#### **Shane Lalani Center for the Arts**

As a part of its third season, the Livingston Film Series will present the free screening of "Muscle Shoals," a documentary about Muscle Shoals, Alabama, and the music that originated there. Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Percy Sledge, Gregg Allman, Clarence Carter, Etta James, Alicia Keys, Bono and others bear witness to Muscle Shoals' magnetism, mystery and why it remains influential today. A reception precedes the film at 6:30 p.m. with the screening beginning at 7 p.m. Visit theshanecenter. org for more information.

#### West Yellowstone, MT

#### **NAIFC Ice Fishing Qualifier Tournament and Kids' Camp**

#### Jan. 24-14 Hebgen Lake

The North American Ice Fishing Circuit National Qualifier in West Yellowstone is open to any two-person team wishing to ice fish for competition. The qualifier begins at 8 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 14, with pre-ice fishing activities kicking off the weekend Friday, Jan. 12. Cash prizes will be awarded and the top ten finishing teams will be invited to the NAIFC National/North American Championship to be held next December. The ever-popular and free NAIFC Kids' Ice Fishing Camp will run as a part of the weekend activities Saturday, Jan. 13 as the largest kids' ice fishing camp in the intermountain west. For more information on NAIFC, tournament events or the Kids' Ice Fishing Camp, visit westyellowstonemticefishing.com.

#### West Yellowstone, MT

#### Free Ski & Try Biathlon Day

#### Jan. 7

#### **Rendezvous Ski Trails**

The Custer Gallatin National Forest will celebrate Winter Trails Day on the Rendezvous Trail System by waiving trail fees for the area. The West Yellowstone Ski Education Foundation and Altius Custom Firearms will provide rifles and ammunition in a special Try-It Biathlon demonstration at 12 p.m. and WYSEF will also host free cross-country ski tutorials at 1 p.m. Freeheel & Wheel in West Yellowstone will offer free 2-hour equipment rentals

#### **West Yellowstone, MT**

## Kids'N'Snow

Jan. 13-14

Children are invited to explore West Yellowstone, both outdoors and inside, in this monthly children's series. Practice snowshoeing and learn about nature with a ranger, ice skate, have fun on cross-country skis and meet a raptor! Warm-up with hot beverages, toast some marshmallows, sled on the sledding hill and make your own s'more—all the fixings provided. For more information and to preregister, please visit kidsnsnow.org.

#### Virginia City, MT

# **Chautauqua** • Elling House **Jan. 20, 6:30 p.m.**

The historic Chautauqua brought entertainment and culture for entire communities with speakers, teachers, musicians, entertainers and specialists of the day. First popularized in the 19th and 20th centuries, the Chautauqua is hailed as a sharing of entertainment and intellectual knowledge—Teddy Roosevelt claimed it was "the most American thing in America." Today the tradition continues with a variety of writers, musicians and special topic speakers taking center stage at the Elling House. Those wishing to be on stage are encouraged to contact Toni James at (406) 843-5454 or ranksmerc@yahoo.com.







# Renovated Rialto opens with indie rock, bluegrass bang

"We had wanted to

[touring], and these

our first wave writing

sessions for [debut

out from the begin-

ning, but plans are

overrated anyhow."

start writing and recording again after

**EBS STAFF** 

On Tuesday, Jan. 16, the doors of the newly renovated Rialto theater in downtown Bozeman will open to welcome throngs of concert-goers, who will likely be equally as excited to see Hippo Campus perform as they are to experience the long-anticipated revival of the historic, art deco theater.

With a sound described as "blissful indie rock" by Rolling Stone magazine, the Minnesota-based Hippo Campus is the first in an exciting lineup of musical acts on the Rialto's 2018 docket.

Hippo Campus' trajectory continues to steadily ascend, playing to over-capacity crowds at Bonnaroo and Lollapalooza music festivals, as well as headlining the Minnesota State Fair in their hometown. In addition to a slew of tour dates in 2018, the band recently dropped their "warm glow" EP which features the fan favorite song, "baseball."



On Jan. 17, versatile "Bass Ace" Victor Wooten takes the Rialto stage on night two of the venue's reincarnation.

The following evening, on Jan. 17, the Rialto welcomes fivetime Grammy winner Victor He has also become widely

at 8 p.m.

Wooten, who hit the worldwide music scene in 1990 as a founding member of the super-group Bela Fleck and the Flecktones. known for his own Gram-

BBC Radio 1's Huw Stephens

has said Hippo Campus is "phenomenal live" and "one of the

best bands in the United States."

The doors open for this show

at 7 p.m. with music beginning

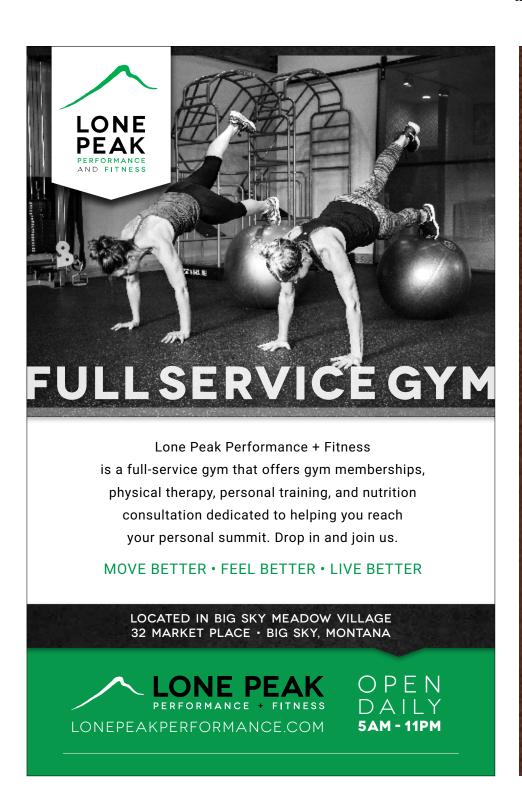
Minneapolis indie rock band Hippo Campus kicks off the grand reopening of Bozeman's Rialto with a performance on Jan. 16. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE RIALTO BOZEMAN

my-nominated solo recordings, and tours with the Victor Wooten Trio.

Wooten started performing in nightclubs and theaters as the bassist of his family band at age 5, and at age 6, was on tour with his brothers opening shows for legendary soul artist Curtis Mayfield. Soon after, he was affectionately known as the 8-year-old "Bass Ace," and before graduating high school, he and his brothers had shared the stage with artists such as War, Ramsey Lewis, and The Temptations.

He has won every major award given to a bass guitarist, including being voted Bassist of the Year in Bass Player Magazine's readers poll three times—the only person to win it more than once. In 2011, Rolling Stone magazine voted Wooten one of the top 10 bassists of all time.

The doors open for this show at 7:30 p.m. with the Victor Wooten Trio beginning at 8:30 p.m.





## 'I Talk to Ravens'

# Paintings of wilderness and wildlife by Pamela Kendall Schiffer

OLD MAIN GALLERY AND FRAMING



Artist Pamela Kendall Schiffer shows new work in a solo exhibition at Old Main Gallery & Framing that opens on Jan. 6. PHOTO COURTESY OF OLD MAIN GALLERY & FRAMING

Old Main Gallery & Framing will host a solo exhibition featuring new works by painter Pamela Kendall Schiffer through Jan. 31 with an opening reception on Saturday, Jan. 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. The artist will be in attendance.

Schiffer's approach to the sublime and expansive American West parallels the work of the Tonalist painters of the early 20th century. Tonalists avoided the majestic, spectacular views of the previous generation in favor of a more reductivist and intimate composition intended to evoke a poetic mood. Their

style is distinguished by a technique that relied on a color's middle value, as opposed to stronger contrast and high chroma. The result is an understated, yet compelling, overall effect.

"I'm structuring the paintings in an ever-simpler way," Schiffer said. "I try to pare down a scene to its essential qualities. I hope to make the images fairly uncomplicated, while still imparting a sense of space and atmosphere and stillness, and paying attention, as always, to the quality of light."

The opening reception is free and open to the public.

Old Main Gallery & Framing is located at 129 E. Main St. in downtown Bozeman. Visit oldmaingallery.com for more information.

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# **Bozeman Symphony** celebrates 50 years

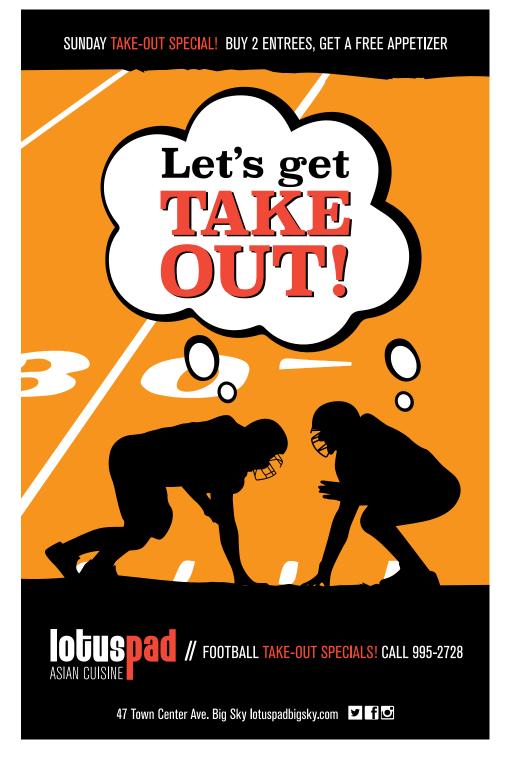
**BOZEMAN SYMPHONY SOCIETY** 

The Bozeman Symphony Orchestra and Symphonic Choir will celebrate 50 years of symphonic performance on Saturday, Jan. 13, at the Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture. Beginning at 6 p.m., the celebration will include a five-course meal provided by chef Daniel Wendell of The Food Studio, accompanied by fine wines, music, a live and silent auction, all in support of sustaining another 50 years of the Bozeman Symphony's presence in the community.

Established in 1968, the Bozeman Symphony presents a repertoire of symphonic and choral music performed for residents of south-central Montana. Under the direction of Music Director and Conductor Matthew Savery, the Bozeman Symphony has experienced steady growth over the last 20 years.

In addition to providing a wide variety of orchestral programming, the Bozeman Symphony supports Far Afield, a community outreach program; donates a sizeable number of tickets to local nonprofits, awards scholarships to promising young musicians, and provides employment and engagement opportunities for over 300 people. While significantly established, the Bozeman Symphony is dependent upon maintaining a skilled and motivated orchestra and choir whose members bring symphonic music to life.

For tickets, call (406) 585-9774, visit bozemansymphony.org, or stop by the Bozeman Symphony office located at 1001 W. Oak St., Suite 110.



# **Bozeman Symphony concert series**

# With pianist Andrew Staupe

**BOZEMAN SYMPHONY SOCIETY** 

On Jan. 19, in honor of the Bozeman Symphony's 50th anniversary, its piano recital series will return to Montana State University's Reynolds Recital Hall, and feature internationally acclaimed pianist Andrew Staupe.

The recital will showcase works by composers Jean-Phillipe Rameau, George Catoire, Frederic Chopin, Germaine Tailleferre, and Franz Schubert.

Staupe is emerging as one of the distinctive voices of a new generation of pianists. The pianist has appeared as soloist with the Baltimore Symphony, San Diego Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Houston Symphony, Colorado Symphony, and many other orchestras throughout the United States.

He has collaborated with distinguished conductors Osmo Vänskä, Bobby McFerrin, Jahja Ling, Gerard Schwarz, Andrew Litton, Cristian Macelaru, Larry Rachleff, Lucas Richman, Rossen Milanov, Daniel Hege, and Josep-Caballé Domenech.

During extensive touring in Europe, Staupe has appeared in the Rachmaninov Hall in Moscow and the Salle Cortot in Paris, and other highly esteemed venues.

In 2012, Staupe made his Carnegie Hall debut to critical acclaim. The New York Concert Review stated that "Staupe gave a brilliant performance, handling the virtuosic demands with apparent ease."

An avid chamber musician, Staupe has performed with Chee-Yun, Sharon Robinson, Martin Chalifour, Jessica Rivera, Desmond Hoebig, James Dunham, and Joseph Swensen. With a keen interest in performing new music, he has premiered a number of works for solo piano and chamber ensemble by composers Howard Shore, Sarah Kirkland Snider, Christopher Walczak, Christopher Goddard, among numerous others.

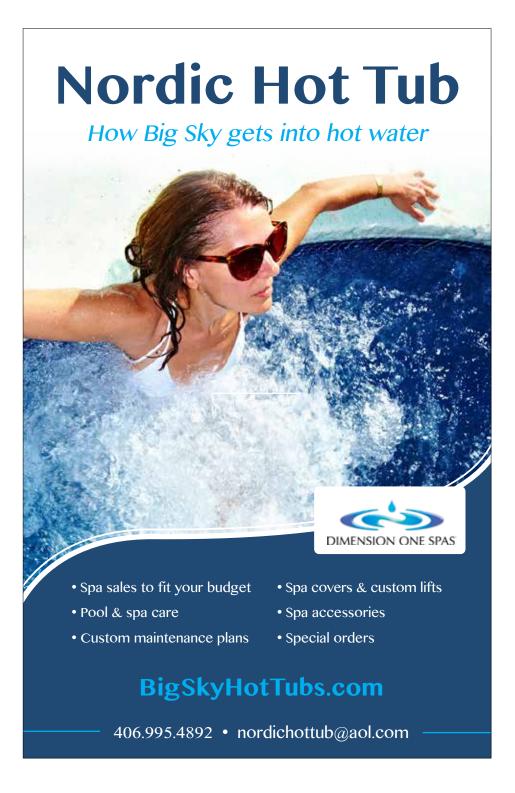
Other notable performances include concerts at the Kennedy Center and the Library of Congress in Washington, and Steinway Hall in New York City. He has performed twice on American Public Media's "Performance Today," and on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" in 2004.

Staupe is also an assistant professor of piano at the University of Utah, and gives frequent master classes around the country.



The Bozeman Symphony presents a concert featuring acclaimed pianist Andrew Staupe on Jan. 19 on the MSU campus. PHOTO COURTESY OF BOZEMAN SYMPHONY SOCIETY

The Jan. 19 recital begins at 7: 30 p.m. at the Reynolds Recital Hall on the MSU campus. Tickets are available at bozemansymphony.org, by phone at (406) 585-9774, or at the door.







January 5 - 18, 2018 **57 Explore** Big Sky

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**Outlaw Partners** in Big Sky, MT is seeking a Digital Media Coordinator to organize, promote, monetize, and grow Outlaw's digital media platforms, which include: Explore Big Sky newspaper, Mountain Outlaw magazine, and Explore Yellowstone magazine, in addition to its related websites and email marketing.

This role requires experience in content development and engagement, social media and digital media fields, with to goal of expanding Outlaw's media reach across the internet on various platforms. The Digital Media Coordinator will work closely with both sales and editorial team members to produce and publish daily content on ExploreBigSky.com, as well as

development and execution of website traffic growth strategy, and social media traffic and growth strategy. This role will also require the oversight and launch of an Explore Big Sky application for iOS and Android in 2018.

Areas of focus: 1. Oversight in creating, and designing plan around monetized media platforms including: native or sponsored content experience, onsite user experience focus and improvement, digital advertising ideas

- 2. Creation and ongoing management of the launch of an application for Explore Big Sky: manage the process themselves, or manage when contracted with a third party
- 3. Work alongside editorial department for consistent (daily) content posting, and online digital content management and promotion
- 4. Work with programmer to refine explorebigsky.com platform, including blog content
- 5. Manage social media posting and strategy for Explore Big Sky, Mountain Outlaw and Explore Yellowstone to support growth and monetization

To apply, please submit cover letter, resume, and relevant examples of work experience and performance data to ej@theoutlawpartners.com

## Place a classified!

\$10 for the first 35 words +\$10 for any additional copy, business logo, or photo Email ersin@theoutlawpartners.com

# **HARST STAGE** DRIVERS WANTED



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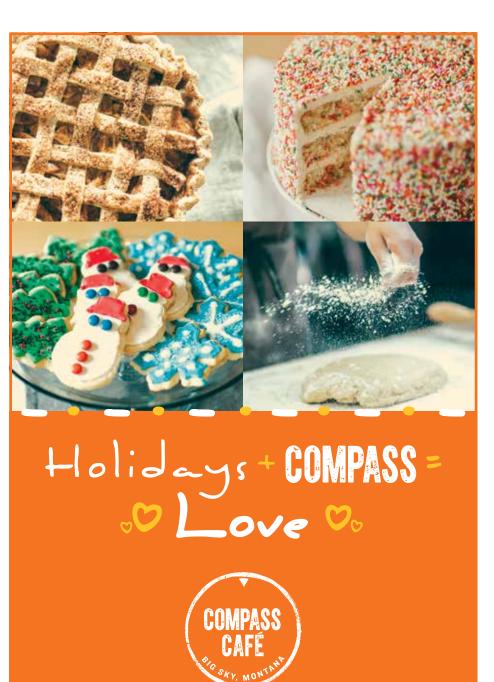
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## Michael Finkel: On being alone

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

When Michael Finkel graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, he took a job as an associate editor with Skiing magazine. In his early twenties, assignments took him to mountains around the world: Bolivia, Iran, China, and the glaciers of Mount Kilimanjaro, leaving him with a lifelong love of adventure and winter sports.

In 1993, he got what some would consider a dream job: live in a mountain town as a ski bum for a year and write about it. Partly inspired by John Steinbeck's descriptions of Montana in "Travels with Charlie," he chose to live in Bozeman, and has called it home ever since.

Writing about unusual sports for Sports Illustrated, travel pieces for National Geographic, and reporting from war zones for The New York Times Magazine only made him more well-traveled, more fascinated in the exhilarating, if not bizarre aspects of human culture.

In 2003, he published "Alpine Circus: A Skier's Exotic Adventures at the Snowy Edges of the World," recounting his most memorable experiences from his seemingly endless travels.

His 2005 memoir, "True Story: Murder, Memoir, Mea Culpa," details a low-point in his life: after being fired from The New York Times Magazine, he learns that an accused murderer on the FBI's most wanted list has stolen his identity while on the lam in Mexico. This dual saga about two distinct falls from grace eventually made it to the silver screen in the 2015 film "True Story," starring Jonah Hill and James Franco.

Finkel's most recent book, "Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit," is his best effort to date. Compelling from the very first chapter, this book examines the decision of a 20 year old to drive from his Massachusetts home north into the heart of the Maine woods, park his car and put his keys in the center console, walk off into the forest, and avoid any human contact for nearly three decades.

How did Christopher Knight survive the fierce mosquitos in summer, or the harsh winters of Maine in a tent? How did he manage to stay sane without any human contact for 27 years? Why? What drives a person to make a complete break with society?

Knight had a penchant for stealing provisions and books from cottages and summer homes in his vicinity, leading to various folk tales about the "North Pond Hermit." Eventually, Knight was caught with the help of modern surveillance equipment—while pilfering a summer camp for autistic children—and returned to society in handcuffs.

This well-researched, riveting account of Christopher Knight's willful seclusion is interspersed with tales of others who have sought out solitude: Tibetan monks, Henry David Thoreau, Tasmanian bush people, Catholic mystics, and the author's own insights from his travels to India.

Finkel approaches big questions about the individual, society and the good life through insightful, yet frustrating correspondence and interviews with the hermit-burglar himself, as well as self-reflection on his own love of camping and reading. "Stranger in the Woods" leaves a lot of questions unanswered. Whether Knight was a lunatic or loner, a two-bit thief or harmless sage, is eventually left for the reader to decide.

With this engaging, thought-provoking piece of investigative journalism and biography, Finkel has put himself in a class with the John McPhees and Jon Krakauers of the literary world. If you ever find yourself with some time alone, this is one book that will make a good companion.

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



# **Between the shelves**

BY AMY HUNTER ASSISTANT COMMUNITY LIBRARIAN

Welcome to 2018, you made it!

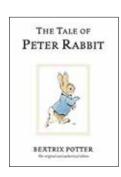
A number of books are scheduled to be adapted into movies in 2018. A few to look for in the beginning of the year are the third book in the Maze Runner series, "The Death Cure," being released this month. The second is an animated film of Peter Rabbit, the main character in many of Beatrix Potter's books, which will be released in February.

"A Wrinkle in Time," the movie I am most excited about, is being released in March. The library has copies of all of these books that you can check out and read before you watch the movie. In my opinion, it is always better to read the book first.

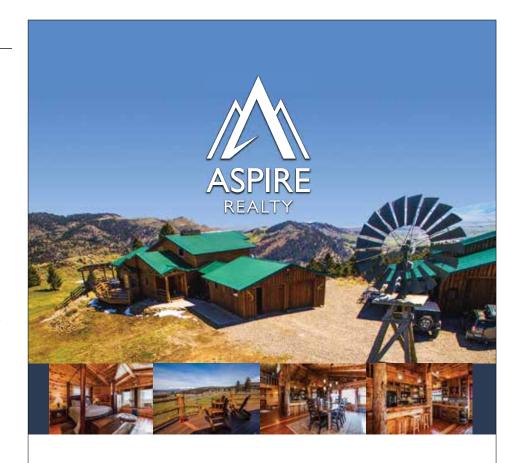
This new year, let's not only focus on library resolutions for 2018, but on finding ways to help others and give back to this amazing community. One idea is blood donation, since January is National Blood Donor Month. There is an upcoming blood drive at the Big Sky Chapel on Thursday, Jan. 11, and one at Lone Peak High School on Tuesday, Feb. 6.

We look forward to seeing you in 2018 and thank you for reading!









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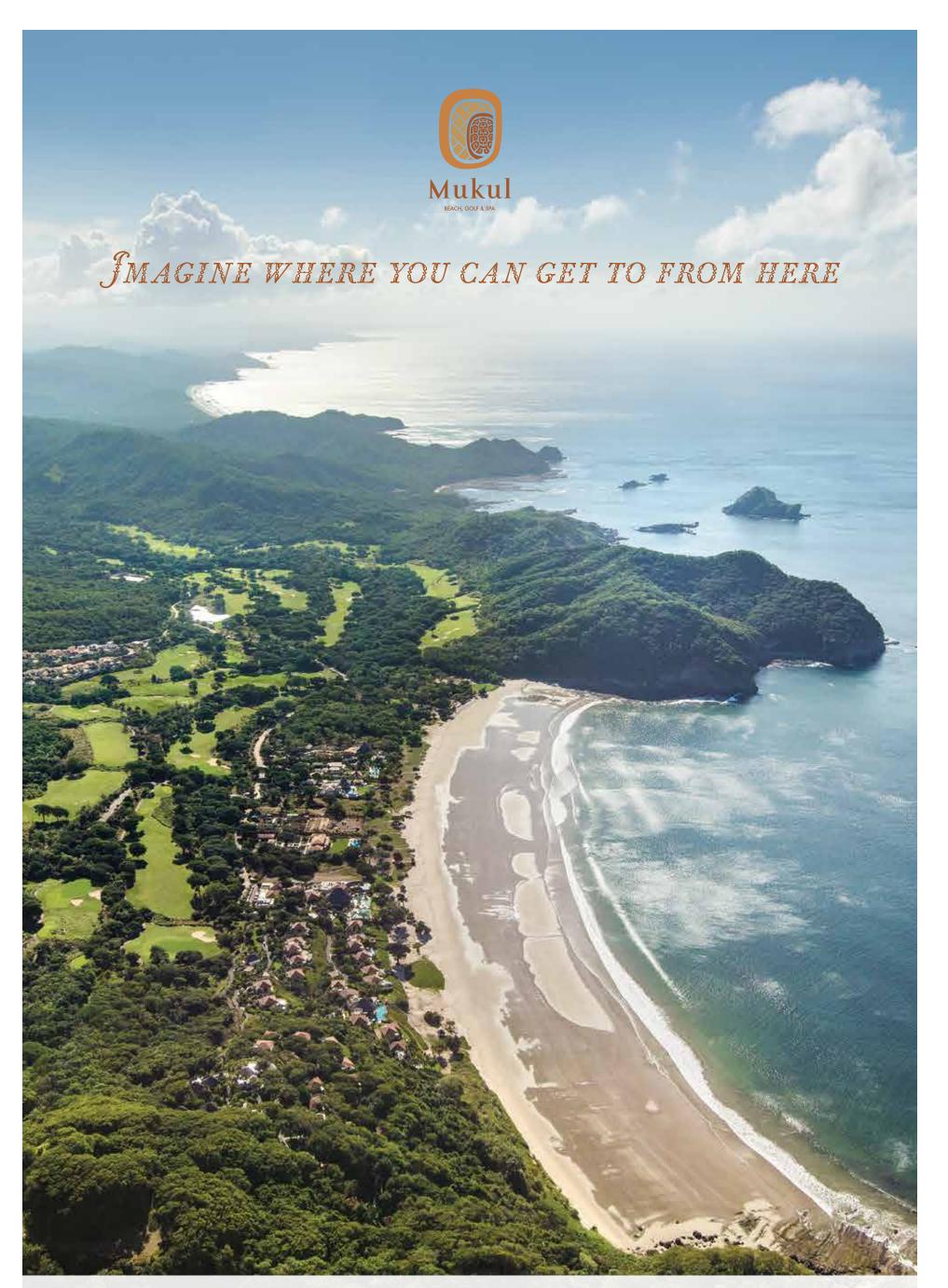


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Black Eagle Lodge Unit 2 \$1,635,000

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Aspen Groves Lot 7C \$325,000

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1539 BeaverCreek West

\$1,195,000

4 bedroom, 4.5 bath cabin on 20 beautiful acres. Commanding mountain views. Horses allowed. Sold furnished.



3 Speaking Eagle, Cascade Subdivision \$2,495,000

Huge vistas of Lone Mountain from this sleek modern home under construction, 3,771 sq. ft. 4 bedrooms, 6 baths on 1.5 acres.



Josh Stevens
Sales Associate
(406) 600–7641



1929 Chief Joseph Trail \$2,100,000

3 bedroom, 3.5 bath home on 12 acres with a pond. Top of the world views. Adjacent to Lone Mountain Ranch Nordic ski trails.



Spanish Peaks Mountain Club Lot 76 \$624.000

1.06 acres adjacent to groomed ski access with spectacular views!

Preliminary house plans and Geotech report included.



Grey Drake Lot 11 \$485,000

3 acres with building site that captures Lone Mountain. Enjoy hiking trails and the convenience of nearby Town Center.



Stillwater Unit 1043 \$429,000

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LONE MOUNTAIN REAL ESTATE 55 Meadow Village Dr. #4

# Affordable housing efforts hit roadblocks

It wasn't for a lack of effort, but 2017 was a year of fits and starts when it came to addressing Big Sky's affordable housing needs.

On Feb. 28, Gallatin County commissioner Joe Skinner and chairman Don Seifert denied the Bough Big Sky Community Subdivision's preliminary plat approval, citing construction variances that did not meet the county subdivision safety standards.

Another potential means of funding affordable housing was shot down in late March when the Montana Senate voted 25-25 on Senate Bill 343. Dubbed a "Penny for Housing," the bill would have allowed resort tax communities to vote on a 1-percent increase on collections for affordable housing efforts.

Another independent project spearheaded by Big Sky developer and realtor Scott Altman was halted when Gallatin County commissioners on Nov. 14 unanimously denied preliminary plat approval for a workforce housing subdivision located near Ace Hardware.

Commissioners Don Seifert, Steve White and Joe Skinner voted down the subdivision based upon the recommendation of Gallatin County planners and traffic engineers who felt it would be unsafe without the addition of turn lanes. Constructing the turn lanes is anticipated to cost approximately \$1 million, a sum that Altman said was unlikely he would fund himself.

There were some positive steps forward made in 2017. Last year saw the formation of the Big Sky Community Housing Advisory Committee, a volunteer-based board working closely with the HRDC to implement solutions for various housing needs, from down-payment assistant programs, to incentivizing homeowners to shift from short term to long term rentals.

Big Sky Resort added approximately 200 employee beds between its Golden Eagle accommodations in the Meadow, and Mountain Village housing, which may free up housing for fulltime residents.

In late November, a revised subdivision pre-application for the development of the Bough parcel was submitted to Gallatin County, on behalf of Big Sky resident and landowner Loren Bough, and is still being processed. Meanwhile Scott Altman shows no signs of giving up on his plans to develop affordable housing on his plot of land off of Lone Mountain Trail.



**OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO** 



(ABOVE) PHOTO COURTESY OF THE KENNEDY FAMILY

(BELOW) PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST AVALANCHE CENTER



# Imp Peak avalanche spotlights efforts of local search and rescue

The news of the country's first avalanche fatality of the season, in Big Sky's backyard, sent shockwaves around the world.

A slide on Imp Peak in the southern Madison Range, on Oct. 7, claimed the life of 23-year-old Inge Perkins of Bozeman. Her boyfriend Hayden Kennedy, 27, was skiing with her and later chose to end his own life in the aftermath.

Perkins was an elite climber and skier, and had been building an impressive resume in the mountains before her death. Kennedy was an accomplished rock climber, before he took his talent to the world's high peaks, completing astonishing ascents from Patagonia to the Himalayas.

Near the bottom of Imp Peak's north couloir, around 10,000 feet, the couple triggered an avalanche while ascending on skis with skins. Perkins had an avalanche transceiver with her, but it was turned off at the time of the accident and Kennedy was unable to find her.

Andy Dreisbach was on scene for the recovery of Perkins' body. A seven-year Big Sky Search and Rescue veteran, Dreisbach began his SAR career as an 18-year-old. Yet he still had a tough time recounting this particular call to his 7-year-old son.

"He's not a boy in a bubble—but suicide. That's a whole different creature to come home with," Dreisbach said. "And I don't think about it much, because I've been doing search and rescue for a while and I [ski] patrolled for a long time. ... You don't have time to get emotional about it, you just have to go through the motions and what you're trained to do."

Jason Jarrett is a captain with the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office and has been commander of Gallatin County Search and Rescue for two decades. He said SAR responders are "team over self," who don't readily open up to outsiders about the difficult work they do.

"The bottom line of it is that the people that are in search and rescue—and we have world class members because that's who lives here—unanimously do this for their support of the active outdoor lifestyle," Jarrett said. "And when things go bad, these are the people you want coming to look for you."

# Big Sky business is booming

The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce reported record-breaking membership with numbers topping 400 at year's end, and a total of 11 ribbon cuttings for a myriad of new businesses that opened in 2017. In late June at the 20th annual chamber dinner, the theme was growth, growth, and more growth, with reassurances from land developers, business owners, the chamber, and Sen.

OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Steve Daines, that not only was this growth within manageable limits, but will be hugely beneficial for Big Sky.

"Big Sky is growing, yes," CrossHarbor principal Matt Kidd said. "But in my opinion it is measured, and it is happening with wide levels of community

involvement and partnership amongst the largest stakeholders in the area."

Kidd concluded his speech by announcing the construction of the Wilson Hotel, a Marriot Residence Inn, in Big Sky Town Center. Lone Mountain Land Company broke ground on the Wilson Hotel on July 21. The 118,000-square-foot building will have 129 rooms, with approximately 6,000 square feet of ground floor commercial, including a full-service restaurant, bar and lounge area. Big Sky's first major hotel brand is estimated to generate nearly \$1 million in resort tax and lodging tax collections combined each year, and is slated to open during the 2018-2019 ski season.

"There are about 55 other counties [in Montana], maybe 54, that would give their eyeteeth to come to a chamber of commerce dinner like this tonight and talk about the fact that we have to be kind of worried about 'explosive growth' or 'growth at all,'" Daines said during his chamber dinner keynote speech. "Look at your numbers ... by every measure it's an incredible Montana success story."



# Big Sky voters approve fire department funding

The Big Sky Fire Department's mill levy request was approved by local voters in November, and will facilitate the department's plans for expansion.

"It's a great opportunity for us to be able to expand our ability to provide services to the community," BSFD Chief William Farhat said of the \$1.5 million request. "It's a relief, but now the work starts." By 2021, Big Sky's two fire stations should be renovated and 11 new employees hired, thanks to the mill levy approval.

In 2016, the fire department contracted Emergency Services Consulting, 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.

Station 1, in the Westfork Meadows neighborhood, will see facility updates to the bathroom, kitchen and bedrooms, and a leaking roof will be repaired. At Station 2, located adjacent to Big Sky Resort, the department plans to add bedrooms to accommodate 24-hour occupancy.

Ground breaking on these renovations is planned for the spring, with completion anticipated by the beginning of 2019.

In 2018, 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 nine additional firefighters working in the department.

Currently, BSFD does not have adequate staffing to respond to incidents 41 percent of the time, and incidents requiring the department's response have increased by 101 percent since 2005.

The mill levy will generate \$1.5 million for the department annually and cost property owners approximately \$3.27 a month or \$39.30 a year per \$100,000 in property value.

The Big Sky Fire Department was formed in 1971 and established as a fire district in 1979, and now serves more than 80 square miles surrounding Big Sky.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY FIRE DEPARTMENT





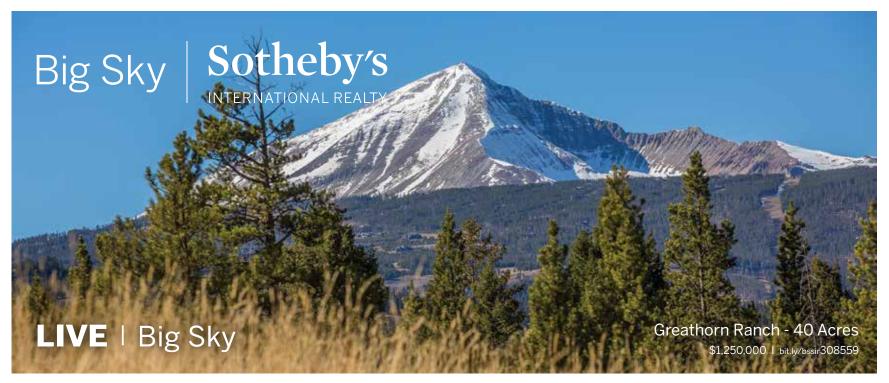
















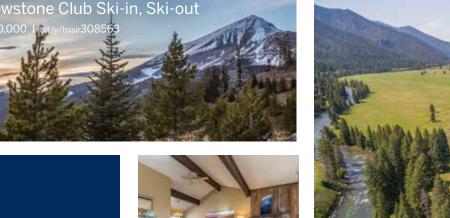










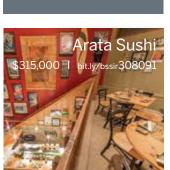


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# Big Sky's water, infrastructure takes center stage

Big Sky's water and sewer, traffic and electricity, and infrastructure were at the front of many community conversations in 2017.

After a year and a half of monthly meetings, the Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum is close to finalizing a recommended plan of action to address the complex web of water-related issues facing this community, both for the short and long term. The plan is slated for presentation in late January and once approved, it will become part of a comprehensive watershed stewardship plan that stretches into 2028 and beyond.

Wastewater reuse continues to be the touchiest issue related to Big Sky's water, but consensus was reached to propose moving forward with using



**OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO** 

treated wastewater for irrigation, snowmaking and groundwater recharge. During the most recent forum meetings, community needs were identified as follows: water reuse, conservation and restoration; the expansion of surface and groundwater monitoring; and forming partnerships with residents in Gallatin Canyon to address loosely regulated septic systems.

In addition to developing a plan for Big Sky's water, community groups have also addressed plans for Big Sky's increasing traffic. Last summer, the chamber of commerce sought input on a traffic study that found a number of intersections along Lone Mountain Trail in need of improvements like turn lanes and signals, including the entrances to Ace Hardware, Roxy's Market, Big Pine Drive, Andesite Road and Big Sky Resort Road.

Big Sky's second stoplight, located at the intersection of Lone Mountain Trail and Ousel Falls Road, was installed this summer thanks to the efforts of the nonprofit Big Sky Community Organization.

Earlier this year, utility company NorthWestern Energy announced a plan to build an electrical substation, which the company says is necessary to accommodate growing demand and reduce the likelihood of a power outage by adding redundancy to the grid.

After encountering considerable input from concerned property owners, NorthWestern Energy hired the Burton K. Wheeler Center to facilitate a months-long community engagement process, and two primary sites have been identified for the location: one at the Midway site near the Antler Ridge neighborhood and a second option across Lone Mountain Trail on the Rainham site.

# Year of the grizzly

This past summer, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service turned grizzly bear management over to Montana, Wyoming and Idaho after delisting the Greater Yellowstone's grizzly population from the Endangered Species Act.

The bears were originally listed in 1975, under a strict no-kill policy that was coupled with efforts to preserve habitat. After 42 years, the estimated 136-bear population has rebounded to approximately 700 individuals.

The ruling to delist the grizzlies, which does not apply to the approximately 1,000 grizzlies living near the northern Continental Divide, has met opposition from dozens of American Indian tribes, conservation groups and some scientists, but wildlife officials say the population is healthy and ready for management.

In recent years, Greater Yellowstone grizzlies have been expanding their territory, and have been found in places where they haven't been seen in decades.

"We're basically reaching the carrying capacity," said Frank van Manen, a research wildlife biologist for the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team. "They're running out of places [within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem]."

In some areas of the region, grizzlies are reaching such high densities that human conflict has become prevalent. In 2016, for example, Wyoming recorded 223 cases of conflict between grizzlies and humans, followed by Montana with 118, and Idaho with two.

Unique among other wildlife, the grizzlies of Greater Yellowstone will be managed cooperatively by Montana, Wyoming and Idaho, at least for the first few years.

The Yellowstone Grizzly Coordinating Committee met for the first time Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 in Pray, Montana, in order to discuss the conservation strategy for the newly delisted bruins. Key aspects of the conservation strategy



NPS PHOTO

include maintaining at least 500 bears in the Greater Yellowstone; monitoring the distribution of sow grizzlies with cubs; and monitoring bear mortality each year. The committee is also tasked with meeting defined genetic management objectives.

Specific steps that might be considered in the future for grizzly management include building vehicle overpasses to allow bears to more readily expand into suitable habitat; increasing public education for those living in high-density bear areas; and allowing regulated hunting when and where appropriate.

Critics of proposed grizzly hunts fear that hunting could reverse decades of bear recovery, and several pending lawsuits currently call grizzly bear delisting into question.

# BIG SKY LOG



#### Ted McClanahan

# Big Sky local reflects on career as smokejumper

Published in the Sept. 5 edition of EBS

When asked about what he will miss most about jumping out of planes for a living, McClanahan says it will be the camaraderie. "Sure there is a sacrifice—being away for extended periods of time—but I'm lucky to be part of a group of guys who ..." He pauses and thinks, then says, "a group of guys who know how to get things done."



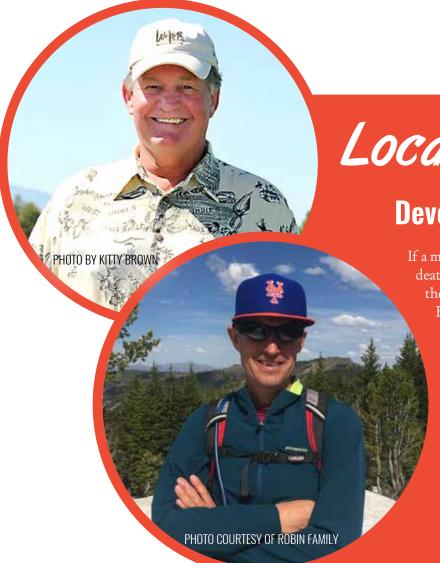
#### **Jason Singer**

# Visitors, locals assist after man collapses alongside Ousel Falls Road

Published in the July 21 edition of EBS

Jason Singer, a victim of cardiac arrest on the Ousel Falls Trail, was administered life-saving care by passersby Rachel Lee and Big Sky local Kevin Budd. Lee and Budd took turns carrying out the laborious chest compressions while they waited for an ambulance to arrive.

"I don't know how I can ever thank Kevin," Jason's wife Jill said. "I just keep thinking about our kids, seeing their three faces, and thinking how could they live without their dad?"



# Local legends lost

#### **Devon White**

If a mark of a life well lived is the crowd that turns out to celebrate you upon your death, then Devon White knew a secret or two. An estimated 700 people packed into the Buck's T-4 Lodge ballroom Sept. 10 to remember White, co-owner of the Corral Bar, Steakhouse and Motel, and purportedly Big Sky's longest, living fulltime resident until his passing Sept. 4, 2017.

#### **Mark Robin**

Mark Robin arrived in Big Sky in 1993 with his wife Jackie, their dog Niner, a cat, and baby Andrew. Robin was a poet and a Mets fan; a man who would spend nearly the next three decades raising his family, building a business that became an anchor of the Big Sky community, and pursuing his many, varied passions. Robin lost his battle with ALS on Dec. 18, four days before EBS published the results of its annual Best of Big Sky survey, where he was voted Community Member of the Year.

# 425 in the news

#### Riley Becker

## **Lone Peak sophomore summits Matterhorn**

Published in the Sept. 29 edition of EBS

Riley Becker says the hardest challenge was to overcome mental obstacles. "When you're going up there, it feels like it's taking a while. You're breathing hard. You just have to remember, time is time. Nine hours is nine hours, whether you are climbing or sleeping.

"There were times when I felt like I wasn't a good enough climber, then I'd just do it, and I realized I was," she said.





#### Freeride athletes

## Big Sky freeride athletes finish season strong: Holden Samuels wins his second Junior NorAm title

Published in the April 14 edition of EBS

For the second consecutive year, Big Sky snowboarder Holden Samuels won the Junior NorAm Championship event of the International Freeskier and Snowboarder Association tour.

Nehalem Manka earned enough points on the tour throughout the season to secure fourth place overall in the 12-14 skier division. Nehalem's younger sister Skylar wrapped up her competition season at Grand Targhee Resort on April 2, finishing as the top North American IFSA skier in the under-12 division.

Peter Manka, Nehalem and Skylar's coach and father, said it was a good year for Big Sky freeriders. They competed against athletes from all over the U.S. and Canada and closed the season with two champions and one top-five finisher. "Big Sky kids know how to ski," he said.

#### **Gus Hoffman**

# The kid's got grit: Big Sky local survives near-fatal horse accident

Published in the Sept. 29 edition of EBS

It's easy to rattle off the ingredients in the recipe for disaster that occurred in Gus Hoffman's life on June 21: a storm, a tree branch, the likely presence of a yearling grizzly, a spooked horse, a stumble and a kick delivered square to the throat.

What isn't so easy to figure out is just how, exactly, Gus was able to climb back on the horse who kicked him and ride 2 miles for help with a severed windpipe and internal hemorrhaging.





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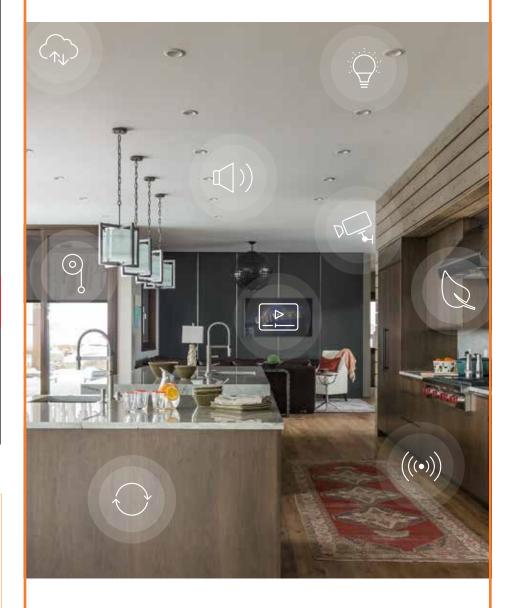


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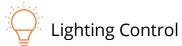
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PHOTO BY MARK PIEPER

## Montana weathers million-acre burn

Dry conditions plagued Montana in 2017, leading to a costly wildfire season. More than 700,000 acres of national forest lands burned in the state over the summer.

Coupled with private land, that number tipped over 1 million acres and in an October publication, the state's legislative fiscal division reported that 2017 was likely the most expensive fire season in the state's history, reaching a cost of \$74.2 million. Combined with support from the federal government, the cost to put out Montana's flames nearly reached \$400 million.

Philip Higuera, professor of fire ecology at the University of Montana, said the biggest factor impacting wildfire year-to-year is drought, which means it isn't uncommon to see such variability in fire activity each year.

"Big picture, the reason that Montana has experienced such an extreme fire season this year is because of an extreme drought," he said in September. Fuels dry out and with a lack of precipitation the flames continue to rage, he added.

Roughly 2,000 fires were reported on Montana's national forest land this year, the largest of which included fires near Lincoln, Seely Lake and Libby.

With snow storms in the fall extinguishing the last remaining flames, the U.S. Forest Service is now tasked with cleanup and efforts that include replacing culverts and reshaping roads to prevent sediment from sliding down hillsides, as well as identifying burned areas that can be salvaged for timber and areas where trees should be planted.

In order to tackle the large, post-fire cleanup, Forest Service Northern Regional Forester Leanne Marten formed the first-ever regional post-fire response incident management team. This will include the use of satellite imagery and biophysical modeling in order to pinpoint the areas in need of recovery work.



# A billion dollar bet: Big Sky's development history

Big Sky Resort, tucked among the wild peaks of southwest Montana, began with NBC News anchor Chet Huntley's dream of "if you build it, they will come" in 1973 and is now attracting visitors and second homeowners in droves. Today, Big Sky epitomizes the modern Wild West as developers are betting big money, to the tune of \$1 billion by some accounts, that it will be the world's next great destination resort community, while its full-time residents hang on for the ride.

In a five-part series, EBS charted the development history of a community that sprouted at the base of a ski area—unusual for Western resorts that typically began as mining or railroad towns where ski infrastructure followed.

This series took readers through the unorthodox development history of Big Sky, from Huntley's big idea in the '70s; Boyne Resort's purchase of the resort after Huntley's untimely death; Tim Blixseth's acquisition of large swaths of land around Big Sky Resort and his founding of the private Yellowstone Club; financial ruin of three large resorts during the Great Recession and CrossHarbor Capital Partners' acquisition of them in bankruptcy court; and the explosive development, challenges and opportunities happening here today.

At the core of the community is an iconic, towering peak that's been drawing snow speculators for more than four decades.

As documented in this series, and other stories published by EBS, Big Sky has enough developable land to at least double in size. The current challenges of

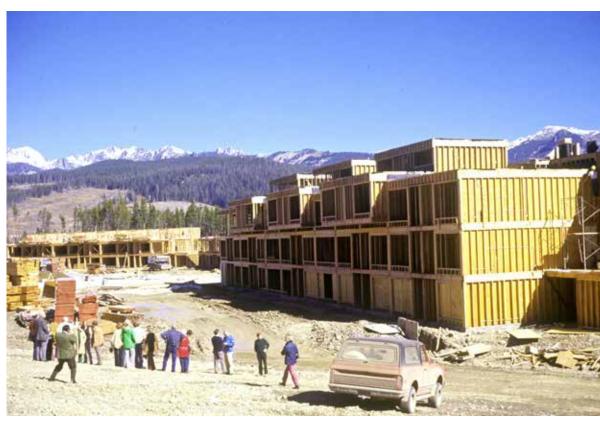


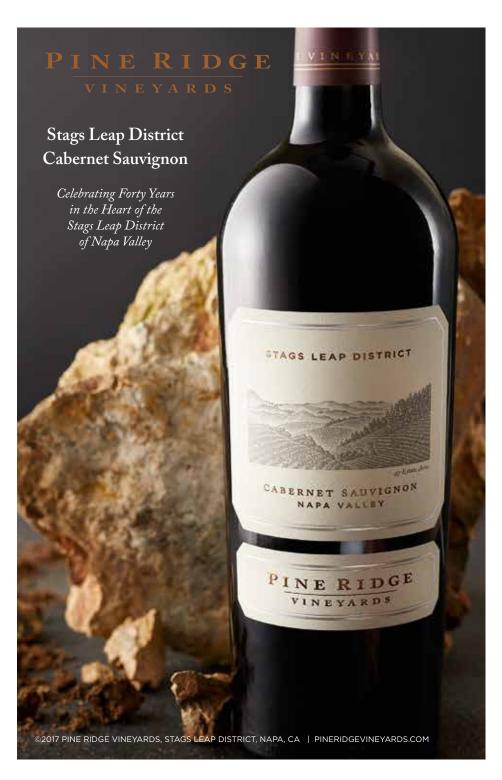
PHOTO BY MIKE MCCULLEY

affordable housing, water and sewer rights, traffic issues, and development impacts on wildlife habitat and connectivity will necessitate a collective effort by the various developers, districts boards, HOAs and nonprofit organizations that serve as Big Sky's quasi-government in this unincorporated community.

Read the full series, beginning with part one at explorebigsky.com/a-billion-dollar-bet/21682.











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# Public land issues in local, national spotlight

The debate between protecting public land and allowing for commercial development made waves throughout the western U.S. in 2017. On the national stage, President Donald Trump ordered Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to review the designation of select national monuments created after Jan. 1, 1996, which included the Upper Missouri River Breaks in Montana.

While Montana's national monuments remained unchanged, Utah's Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments were dramatically reduced in size.

In October, the National Park Service proposed an increase to entrance fees at 17 of the most highly visited national parks during peak visitor seasons. Intended to generate revenue for infrastructure maintenance, the proposal includes more than doubling entry fees at Yellowstone and Glacier national parks during the peak five-month period beginning in May. An extensive public comment period closed Dec. 22.

With conversations stirring over public land, the country's waters also came under discussion. Bipartisan federal legislation that would designate 20 miles of Montana's East Rosebud Creek as wild and scenic, thereby protecting the river in its free-flowing state, recently passed the Senate with support from Montana Sens. Jon Tester and Steve Daines.

Rep. Greg Gianforte has introduced companion legislation in the U.S. House. Should the bill pass, East Rosebud Creek, which flows out of the Beartooth Mountains, will become the first Montana stream designated wild and scenic in nearly 40 years.



PHOTO BY DONNA LAWSON

Closer to Big Sky, the U.S. Forest Service is currently revising the Custer Gallatin National Forest management plan. With 3.1 million visitors annually, the Custer Gallatin National Forest is the ninth most-visited national forest in the country.

Steve Johnson, a Big Sky resident who sits on several local planning boards, attended some of the revision meetings. He pointed out in an interview with EBS that Big Sky is surrounded by national forest, so things like trail access and designations, area closures and wildlife impacts are important concerns. "Big Sky needs to weigh in on that," Johnson said.





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