Jan. 19 - Feb. 1, 2018 Volume 9 // Issue #2

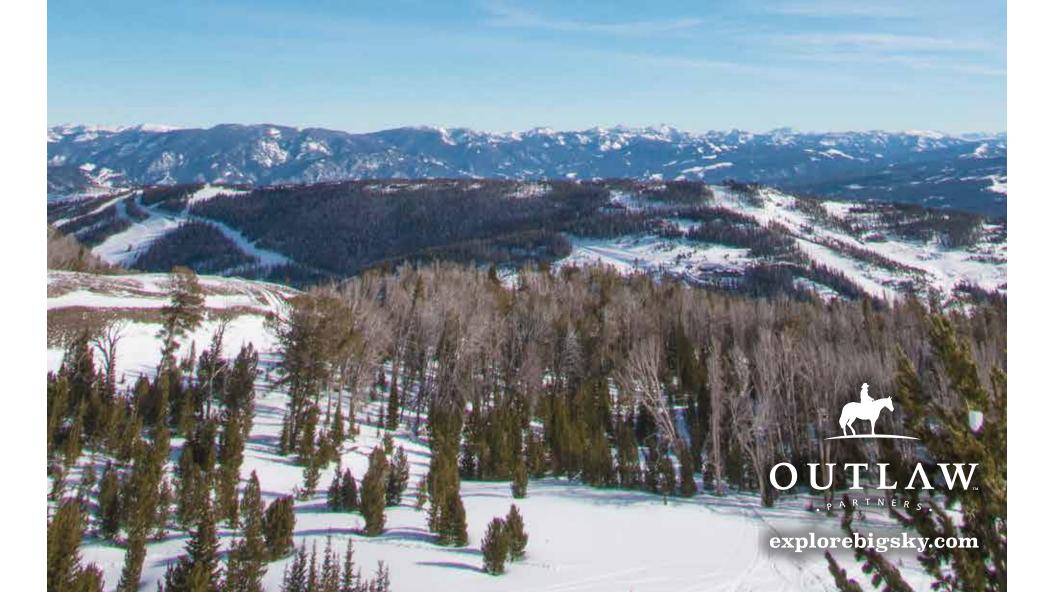
Water and sewer board finalizes contract for treatment study

Local athlete Chance Lenay starts freeride season strong

Making it in Big Sky:Crystal Images

Big Horns sweep 'Battle of 191'

Plus: TEDxBigSky program



ON THE COVER: Chance Lenay airs it out at Big Sky Resort on Jan. 4. The local snowboarder took third place at his first Freeride World Tour



Jan. 19, 2018 - Feb. 1, 2018 Volume 9, Issue No. 2

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Qualifier event this winter, at British Columbia's Revelstoke Mountain Resort. PHOTO BY GABE PRIESTLEY

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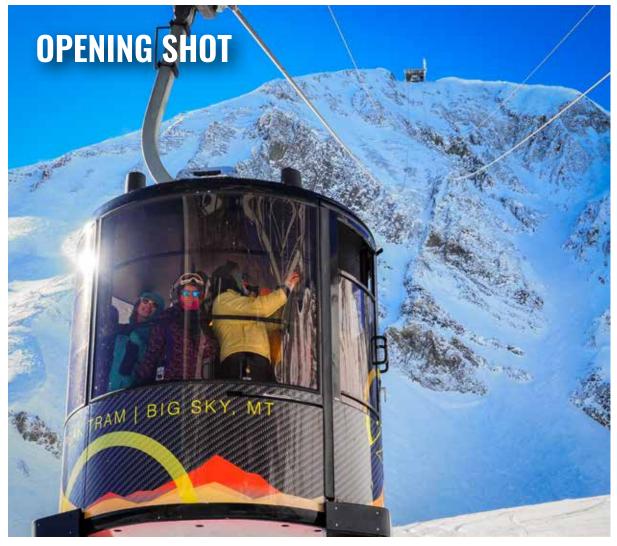
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Crystal Images

Big Horns sweep 'Battle of 191'







The Lone Peak Tram has been delivering skiers and riders to the goods, as the snow continues to pile up at Big Sky Resort in January. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

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



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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



New Construction 3-4 Bedrooms | 3-5 Baths 2914 SF - 3331 SF From \$2,025,000



Ski-In/Ski-Out 5 Bedrooms | 7 Baths 3,832 SF \$ 3,150,000



Gated Community with Privacy 2 Bedrooms | 2 Baths 40 ACRES \$2,250,000



Close to shopping, golf, x-country skiing & minutes to Big Sky Resort Bedrooms | 2 Baths 3344 SF \$1,150,000



Lake side living with access to hiking, biking and x-country ski trails

2 Bedrooms | 2-3 Baths

1389 SF - 1584 SF

From \$1,050,000



Penthouse near world class, Big Sky Resort skiing 3 Bedrooms | 3.5 Baths 3069 SF \$970,000



Solitude and privacy in a striking mountain setting
Homesites
from 10.40 Acres
From \$1,200,000



Ski-in/Ski-out next to Moonlight Lodge 3-4 Bedrooms | 3-4.5 Baths 3078 SF - 3288 SF From \$2,125,000

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BSCO seeks letters of support

EBS STAFF

The Big Sky Community Organization has begun the application process for a federal Recreation Trails Program grant to assist with the cost of improvements made to the Ousel Falls trailhead as well as the recently acquired Upper Beehive Basin trailhead.

As a part of the application, BSCO is seeking letters of support to include in the grant submission.

Ousel Falls and Upper Beehive Basin trailheads are the most heavily used in the Big Sky area. Ousel Falls trailhead alone saw nearly 66,000 users during 2017, with a maximum of 880 trail users and 484 vehicles accessing the trailhead in a single day, according to BSCO.

With this high volume of traffic, both trailheads are in need of improvements. BSCO plans to partner with the U.S. Forest Service in order to produce trailhead enhancements and open space features, perhaps beginning work as early as fall of 2018 once funding has been secured.

BSCO owns and manages a total of 91 acres of parkland on behalf of the Big Sky community. All of this parkland is a restricted asset for the purpose of public use.

Letters of support for the RTP grant can be sent to Adam Johnson at adam@bscomt.org by Monday, Jan. 29, for inclusion in BSCO's application.

For additional information on BSCO's parks and trails, visit bscomt.org.

Resort tax board has 2 seats open for May election

EBS STAFF

At the Jan. 10 Big Sky Resort Area District meeting, treasurer Heather Budd announced that she will not be seeking to serve a second four-year term on the BSRAD board of directors.

"I really want to thank this board. It's such a pleasure to serve with you and I love how everybody's so respectful of each other's opinions," Budd said at the end of the meeting. "We disagree often, but I have never felt that we've had anything personal, we leave the discussion at the table, and I think that is such a testament to the people that serve."

Board secretary Ginna Hermann announced in December that she would not be seeking a third term. The election is slated for Tuesday, May 8, but only two candidates had filed as of EBS press time on Jan. 17. Big Sky community members Sarah Blechta and Steve Johnson will join the board by acclamation if no one else files with the Gallatin County Election Office by the deadline, which is Feb. 12 at 5 p.m.

Ballots will be mailed to Big Sky voters at the end of April and will include elections for the Big Sky school district board, water and sewer district and fire department boards, as well as the resort tax board, if an additional candidate files.

Leadership changes at Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center

BOZEMAN HEALTH

Bozeman Health recently announced that Chris Darnell has accepted the role of administrator of Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center and system director of network development, after former BSMC administrator Tracy Reamy took a new position at Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital.

"It has been my sincere honor and privilege to lead Bozeman Health Big Sky Medical Center through its grand opening and initial years of operation," said Reamy, who served as BSMC administrator since 2015. "We have an incredible team of professionals in place and I am extremely proud of the safe, quality care that we provide to our neighbors and to the people who come to our community to enjoy all that it has to offer."

As the new administrator of BSMC, Darnell will be responsible for daily operations and will lead development efforts for the Bozeman Health clinically integrated network.

Most recently, Darnell served as vice president of Bozeman Health Medical Group, overseeing physician clinic integration, operations, and development, having joined Bozeman Health in 2014. A native of Virginia, Darnell spent 15 years in Charleston, South Carolina, primarily at the Medical University of South Carolina. Darnell holds master's and doctorate degrees in health services administration.

"I am so excited about this new opportunity," Darnell said. "The chance to work with the amazing Big Sky Medical Center team and members of the community to improve community health and quality of life in Big Sky and the surrounding area is a dream."

Yellowstone initiates criminal investigation related to bison release

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

On the morning of Jan. 16, Yellowstone National Park staff discovered 52 bull bison, held at the Stephens Creek facility for possible quarantine, had been released from their pens. The National Park Service has initiated a criminal investigation of this incident.

Currently, park staff are making an effort to locate and recapture the bison. As of Jan. 17, none of the animals had been located.

These animals were being held and tested for brucellosis as part of a possible quarantine program that would augment or establish cultural herds of disease-free plains bison, enhance cultural and nutritional opportunities for Native Americans, reduce the shipment of Yellowstone bison to meat processing facilities, and conserve a viable, wild population of Yellowstone bison.

"This is an egregious criminal act that sets back bison conservation. It delays critical ongoing discussions about a quarantine program and the transfer of live Yellowstone bison to tribal lands. The park is aggressively investigating this incident," said Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk.

"I am absolutely heartbroken for the Fort Peck Tribes who have been working with the park, the state of Montana, and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for years to repatriate these bison," said Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. "The criminals who broke into a national park facility to release these bison put at risk the safety of the animals that are now at risk of being culled and our park rangers who are rounding them up."



The Greater Yellowstone is one of the last remaining intact ecosystems in the northern temperate zone, and perhaps the wildest corner in the lower 48. However, warming temperature trends and rapid population growth could threaten the region's future.

What do you think is the greatest threat to the Greater Yellowstone and what should people in our community be doing about it?



Christa Feltchner
Big Sky, Montana

"I used to work in Yellowstone [National Park] and I think the volume of tourism that's been allowed to travel through the area is having a negative impact on the area. Closing off certain areas of the park and having stricter bylaws would help."



Greg HuntBig Sky, Montana

"Donald Trump is the biggest threat to the Greater Yellowstone, and people need to vote accordingly to help preserve our parks."



Peggy Rutman
Brainerd, Minnesota

"I feel as though that area is in danger of being exploited and used for corporate profit. I think educating the public on how fragile the ecosystem is, and how valuable it is to us, would be a great start."



Steven Southwick *Big Sky, Montana*

"The biggest threat to Yellowstone is people who come and don't respect parks—trash, walking off trails, etc. Signage, strict laws for people who litter and better environmental education is important in preserving the park."



Big Sky's identity lacks cohesion, according to study

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – Community members gathered at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on Jan. 8 to hear the findings of a study on Big Sky's identity, to inform Visit Big Sky's Tourism Master Plan. The results were based on an October brainstorming workshop with community stakeholders, a survey answered by 266 long-term residents, and online tourism sites like Trip Advisor.

As Destination Think Senior Strategic Consultant Frank Cuypers summarized in the October workshop, Big Sky's DNA is "who you are, what you love—a sense of a place. And then, how you are projecting this to the rest of the world, and how it is being perceived."

At that initial workshop, Visit Big Sky CEO Candace Carr Strauss said Big Sky's identity must be refined before it can be successfully marketed as a tourism destination.

The results of the study indicate that Big Sky's identity is fractured—it is not presenting a unified message of what makes it special and why people should choose it as a travel destination over another resort mountain town; and that there are gaps between how Big Sky perceives itself, what it is projecting, and how it is perceived by outsiders seen as potential visitors.

According to Cuypers, the more aligned these three components are, the stronger a place's identity, or brand.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the study is Big Sky's designation as having an extrovert personality, if you adhere to the theory that places, like people, typically fall into one of five personality types. While surprised by this result, Cuypers attributed it to living in a remote place required relying on other people.

Cuypers paraphrased another recurring trend in the study, by saying that Big Sky residents "are very happy about growth, wealth and prosperity but a bit worried about the pace of that growth."

Echoing a sentiment heard in ongoing infrastructure conversations throughout the community, David Hough, a 66-year-old Big Sky resident who's been here "as long as Big Sky has been here," spoke up to voice concerns about drawing more people to Big Sky without the workforce to accommodate them.

"I feel that seeking to draw more people to the area is terrible catch-22, because we don't even have the resources to meet the needs of the people who live here, not to mention the guests," Hough said.

"I'm going to tell everyone the fishing is lousy, the drive is too long, and have them all go to Vail and Aspen," he said. "Most people who live in Big Sky are happy with the amount of people that are here right now."

Destination Think's recommendations, based on the study's findings, are that Big Sky needs to reshape its attraction by defining and connecting with niche markets to avoid becoming a mainstream, generic place. As Cuypers explained, Big Sky has been good about providing a "shopping list" of what it has to offer, but not necessarily the "why" they should make a difference to potential visitors.

"The challenge is, you will have to come up with a cemented framework to talk about Big Sky, underlying what makes this community unique," Cuypers concluded.

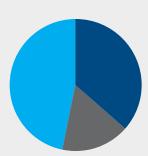
"We have a lot of work to do but the good news is we're already working on it," Strauss said to the WMPAC audience. "There are a lot of steps already in place that will allow us to utilize this new information."

Visit Big Sky aims to have the Tourism Master Plan completed in February 2018. View the full study on Big Sky's DNA at visithigskymt.com/dna results/.

Big Sky's DNA: Study highlights

What Makes Big Sky, Big Sky?

Society 35% Infrastructure 19% Environment 47%

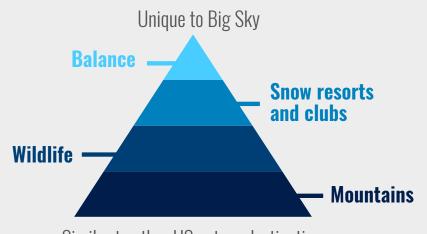




Dominant Personality of Big Sky

Residents of Big Sky are characterized by participation in a breadth of activities and a pronounced engagement with the external world. People in Big Sky enjoy interacting with other people, and are often perceived as full of energy. They tend to be enthusiastic, action-oriented individuals. They possess high group visibility, like to talk, and assert themselves.

DNA - Hierarchy



Similar to other US nature destinations

Data courtesy of Destination Think!

Wheelhouse Institute connects women across disciplines to enact change

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – The idea for the Wheelhouse Institute was born many years ago between Big Sky-based glacial research scientist Twila Moon, and her friend Nina Elder, an artist-activist living in New Mexico.

During extensive discussions about their respective fields, they realized how much science and the arts—historically perceived as dichotomous—could inform one another, especially with the added component of skillful communication.

"As scientists, many of us need those people who are experts in art and communication to teach us, or work with us," Moon said.

In October, Moon and Elder made their dream of creating an institute that promotes cross-pollination between women leaders in the arts, science and communications, a reality. The institute's goal is to promote development in individual careers through collaboration while creating tangible, positive change in the world at large.

Over the weekend of Jan. 19-21, the very first Wheelhouse Institute workshop will bring together a small cohort of its founding fellows, which includes six other women from around the country with prominent careers in anthropology, science education, journalism, film, ecology and literature.

Although the specifics of how future workshops will garner its participants is yet to be determined, each annual workshop will focus on a specific topic and, given the collective interests of this specific group of women, they chose to tackle climate change.



Big Sky's Twila Moon (right) and artist Nina Elder co-founded the Wheelhouse Institute to promote interdisciplinary cross-pollination between women leaders in the arts, science and communications. PHOTO BY TWILA MOON

While the group refines the Wheelhouse Institute concept during this inaugural workshop, they will participate in skill-sharing and co-learning exercises, and develop an action plan for the coming year, while hey will work on individual and collaborative projects that address the global issue of climate change.

"It is not meant to be a put-your-feet-up retreat," Moon said, explaining that each woman has been tasked with teaching a particular skill during the weekend, such as organizational budget-planning, visual thinking and idea development. Every woman is also bringing a project, question, or idea to be workshopped with the group.

Following their weekend together, the women will continue to support each other in actualizing their individual goals.

"We've both benefitted from these sorts of connections between women," Moon said, referring to herself and Elder. "We've learned the value of connecting and learning from one another, and feel this connection between art and science is really powerful in solving problems, and bringing new attention [to issues of concern].

"And we felt there aren't that many institutions or universities that are taking action to actually make things happen," she added.

Eventually, Moon hopes to expand the institute to bring more women into the Wheelhouse network of professionals who have an eye for change. She said future workshops might focus on water and other natural resource issues, and matters of social justice.

"We are still very much in the experimental stage," Moon said. "But as we fill out this vision, I think [Wheelhouse] will only grow over time as we are able to raise funds and grants to support the work."

Visit wheelhouseinstitute.com for more information.



Big Sky's snowpack among best in country





SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT

131% OFNORMAL

BIG SKY RESORT BASE DEPTH

MID MOUNTAIN
49

UPPER MOUNTAIN
73

73

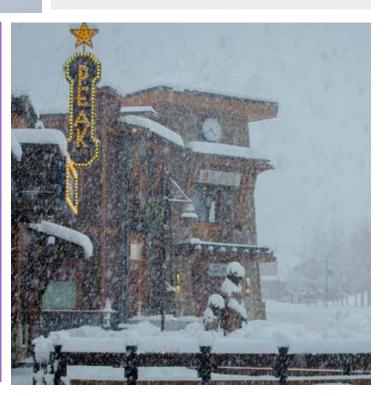


SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT COMPARED TO AVERAGE AT SELECT WESTERN SKI AREAS

Red Lodge, MT	151%
Big Sky, MT	131%
Jackson Hole, WY	115%
Mt. Baker, WA	105%
Vail, CO	72%
Park City, UT	59%
Telluride, CO	46%
Squaw Valley, CA	39%
Mt Bachelor, OR	32%











217 GOSHAWK TRAIL | \$4,225,000

Stunning ski-in/ski-out property situated in a pristine setting. Breathtaking views, groomed ski access, and the elegant home create this masterpiece. This 6 bedroom, $% \left\{ 1\right\} =\left\{ 1\right\} =$ 6.5 bathroom home is ideal for entertaining guests with large open living spaces, three ensuite bedrooms, two guest bedrooms, and a bunk room. Extensive log and stone detail highlight the surrounding mountain environment. Spanish Peaks $\,$ Mountain Club Golf membership included in sale. // JACKIE MILLER | 406.539.5003



THE LODGES AT ELKHORN CREEK | \$1,165,000 +

Mountain Lifestyle Living at its finest! Phase 2 of The Lodges at Elkhorn Creek is now under construction! With beautifully balanced mountain contemporary interiors, and rustic Montana exteriors, these stunning condominiums provide the ideal mountain basecamp location! 9 single-level units are offered ranging in size from 2,050 – 3,150 sq. ft. and feature 4-6 bedrooms, 3-5 bathrooms, and a choice of 6 floor plans. Starting at \$1,165,000 // MICHAEL THOMAS | 406.581.2400



TBD ANDESITE ROAD LOT 3 | \$1,600,000

This gently rolling 6.914 +/- acre vacant land parcel is beautifully situated in Big Sky Resort's North Fork Creek Subdivision and ideally located near Town Center amenities. Horses, a barn with corral, an outbuilding and caretaker residence are all allowed on-site, making this a very unique find in the middle of the Meadow area. Trails, downhill and cross-country skiing, river activities and Yellowstone National Park are all in close proximity. // LYNN MILLIGAN | 406.581.2848



5 UPPER CASCADE RIDGE ROAD | \$1,995,000

This gorgeous ski-in/ski-out, stand-alone condominium offers 4 bedrooms, plus an office and a large bonus room, 3.5 bathrooms, a spacious theater room and more! A grand living room with vaulted ceilings and ceiling to floor windows, gourmet kitchen, and large deck create the ideal space to entertain! Includes ownership at the Cascade Ridge Lodge with its many amenities that include a pool, game room and bar. Sold fully furnished and turn-key. // SANDY REVISKY | 406.539.6316



THE HOMESTEAD CHALET #6 | \$1,750,000

This is the last Homestead Chalet available! With a spaciously designed interior, oversized windows, and ample outdoor living spaces, this 6-bedroom, free standing condominium combines a mix of contemporary and rustic design. Nestled at the base of Lone Mountain, this chalet provides close proximity to the base area of Big Sky Resort as well as unparalleled ski access to the White Otter chairlift. Photo is of a comparable chalet. // SANDY REVISKY | 406.539.6316



SUMMIT CONDOMINIUM 10313 | \$495,000

This 2 bedroom, 3 bathroom Summit Hotel Condominium offer a central location close to all Mountain Village amenities! Just steps away from 2 high-speed quad chairlifts, shopping and dining, the Summit offers owners and guests all the services of a fine hotel with the advantages of private condominium ownership. Additionally, this floorplan includes 3 separate lock-off room configurations providing for the utmost in rental flexibility! // MARY WHEELER | 406.539.1745





406.995.4009 BigSkyPureWest.com

Big Sky, Montana



Water and sewer board finalizes contract for treatment facility upgrade plan

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – At a Jan. 16 meeting of the Big Sky Water and Sewer District board, the discussion of treated effluent disposal options continued as storage capacities reach their limits.

Potentially exacerbating the issue is the anticipation of a heavy spring runoff.

"In years we have high snowpack levels, we see the biggest flow in May," said Ron Edwards, Big Sky Sewer and Water District general manager. "But we should be irrigating by May, so even if we get the big runoff, I think we'll make it." Edwards added that, historically, Big Sky saw flows double in 1997 and 2000, both years of deep snowpack.

Not only does a heavy spring melt put an added strain on open storage pond capacity, it can hinder the amount of water that can be recycled for irrigation if the area's golf courses are already over-saturated.

The bottom line, Edwards said, is that more water creates more water to get rid of—or move around, which the district does by pumping it into storage ponds at the Yellowstone Club and Spanish Peaks Mountain Club.

The newly constructed lower pond at Spanish Peaks is currently drained while repairs continue on a small leak. While this isn't affecting the Big Sky Water and Sewer District in the short term, Edwards said if they're not able to use the pond moving further into winter and spring, it could become an issue.

All of these factors point to the need for wastewater disposal alternatives—options that include using treated effluent for snowmaking, increased groundwater infiltration, irrigation and the most contentious, discharge into the Gallatin River.

To devise a concrete plan to move forward with any or all of these possibilities, Edwards was given the authority to negotiate the final details of a \$360,297 contract for a treatment facility upgrade plan. The civil and environmental engineering firm, AE2S, had an engineer and communications strategist present at the Jan. 16 meeting.

"The crux of the whole thing is we need to expand our treatment plant, and improve our treatment technology," Edwards explained during a Jan. 17 interview.

From AE2S the district will receive a detailed engineering analysis of what the disposal options are, what the limits of treatment look like for those different options, projected capital costs of construction, and operating and maintaining those upgrades over time.

Edwards stressed that discharge into the middle fork or main stem of the Gallatin River were just two of the options the engineers will be looking into, and that while it would be a last resort, it would still be beneficial to bring treatment levels to the "limits of technology," and have a discharge permit in place in the case of an emergency situation.

"If we're going to elevate the treatment, it is still our last option," Edwards said, while stressing that they are looking to raise treatment standards above requirements.

"It's a very difficult thing to move this water around and expect everything to work perfectly," he said, explaining that a discharge scenario would entail one pipe from the treatment site to the waterway.

"We're just trying to close the loop on all this water and look at what it will cost, and what it will take to do some of these options for disposal. There's nobody in the state who's looking at this with the scrutiny that we are," Edwards said.

He said that once funds were secured for the as-of-yet recommended treatment facility upgrade, implementing those improvements would take at least three years, and that would be on a fast track.

"We just authorized a \$360,000 contract to meet treatment levels that no one else in the state has ever done. That's a big win."

"We just authorized a \$360,000 contract to meet treatment levels that no one else in the state has ever done," said Mike DuCuennois, a BSWSD board member and the Yellowstone Club's vice president of development, during the meeting. "That's a big win."

In acknowledgement of the AE2S representative assigned to guide the board's messaging about plans moving forward, DuCuennois said, "And we're not looking for something we can get away with, we're looking for the best solutions."

Among other topics addressed at the meeting, the Big Sky Fire Department Chief William Farhat sought permission to move forward with the construction of a training facility on BSWSD property, behind the water treatment plant and adjacent to Big Sky Community Park.

As Farhat explained, structure fires in Big Sky are rare but they do occur, and the facility would provide opportunities for firefighters to gain hands-on experience in the event of this type of fire. The board expressed support of leasing or licensing the property to the fire department, but hesitated over the questionable aesthetics of a facility constructed out of three storage containers, and security in the form of chain-link fencing.

Anticipating complaints from the community, if it were considered an eyesore, board members suggested adding a façade, roof or porch that would make it look more like a historic ranch or Western saloon, rather than three welded-together freight containers. Farhat said he would present some revised drawings for the board at the next meeting.

"You can put lipstick on a pig, but it's still a pig," said Big Sky resident Steve Johnson, from the rows of chairs provided for the public.

The Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum, a diverse group of watershed stakeholders, will hold its final meeting on Jan. 31 at the Big Sky Chapel. The next meeting of the Big Sky Water and Sewer District board will be held Feb. 20 at 8 a.m. in the BSWSD office. The filing window for candidates interested in running for one of two open board seats in the May 8 election is Feb. 12.

Town Center build-out plowing through Big Sky's snowy winter

BY TYLER ALLEN EBS MANAGING EDITOR

BIG SKY – Despite the heavy snowfall this winter, development in Big Sky Town Center is rolling along as scheduled.

Lone Mountain Land Co. is near completion of its Golden Stone residential project, its Wilson Hotel and Plaza Lofts developments should be finished by June 2019, and Haas Builders plans to complete its newest residential/commercial building this June.

The final two townhouses in the Golden Stone project should be done in February, according to Bayard Dominick, LMLC's vice president of planning and development. The 24 rental units in the first six buildings—in the development that backs up to Town Center Park—are fully occupied, and the final two will open up eight more rental units, he said.

The steel and concrete work has been completed on the Wilson Hotel, and with framing of the third and fourth floors planned to start the week of Jan. 22, Dominick expects a total of 70 to 80 construction workers to be on-site at the Wilson and Plaza Lofts projects along Town Center Avenue for the foreseeable future.

A grand opening for the Wilson is planned for June 2019, and the Plaza Lofts, which will also include 20 one- and two-bedroom apartments, is expected to open one month before the hotel. "We're starting to think about what we might do next," Dominick said.

Connecticut-based Charter Realty & Development is leasing the commercial space in both buildings and have all but one location spoken for in the Plaza Lofts. Tenants will include Corx Winery, Blue Buddha Sushi Lounge, and Sky and Dabney boutiques on the retail side.

The hotel will include a 5,800-square-foot restaurant space, and Charter is currently in negotiations with potential tenants, but hasn't signed any agreements yet, according to Charter Realty & Development Principal Dan Zelson. He added that the vision of downtown Big Sky is beginning to coalesce.

"We're just really excited [Town Center Avenue] is clearly coming together as a main street," Zelson said. "If you fast forward two years, it's going to be the nicest main street of any ski town out West."



The steel and concrete work is complete on the Wilson Hotel, a 129-room Marriot Residence Inn, slated for completion in June 2019. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

A stone's throw to the east of the Wilson Hotel site, Haas Builders expects to complete its latest residential/commercial project in June. The future home of The Cave Spirits and Gifts—in a nearly 4,000-square-foot space—the building will also include a restaurant, two office spaces and 10 residential apartments.

There is a restaurant interested in the nearly 2,900-square-foot location, but nothing has been signed, according to Cassandra Schroeder with Haas Builders. The apartments will include one two-bedroom and nine one-bedroom units, ranging from 775 square feet to nearly 1,200 square feet for the two-bedroom, she said.

They currently plan to keep the apartments on the rental market, to prevent potential buyers from offering them as short-term vacation rentals.

"The biggest goal is that we're providing housing for the community," Schroeder said.



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Food conditioning a risk to area wildlife

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Living in the mountainous landscape of Big Sky, residents and visitors come into contact with area wildlife on a daily basis. Whether watching birds chirp on a tree branch, or catching a fleeting glimpse of a fox, we're fully immersed in a wildland ecosystem.

However, this immersion can come at a cost to area wildlife—including two black bears captured near Big Sky and euthanized last year—when humans make poor stewardship decisions.

Food-conditioned animals are a common problem for communities at the wildland-urban interface like Big Sky, as well as increasingly in our national parks.

Early in January, officials from Grand Teton National Park released a statement after a food-conditioned red fox was killed for displaying bold behavior like approaching people and vehicles in search of food.

"Destruction of a wild animal is one of the most difficult actions we have to take as park stewards," said Superintendent David Vela in the release. "Hopefully this can serve as a cautionary reminder. I encourage everyone to help protect wildlife by securing food sources, including dog food and fish scraps, and by using the 'scare, don't stare' tactic to discourage approaching foxes."

According to the release, the "scare, don't stare" tactic includes yelling, clapping, stomping, and avoiding eye contact in an effort to dissuade food-conditioned animals from approaching humans. It does not need to be used with foxes that behave naturally.

Yellowstone National Park has also experienced issues with food conditioning. All park animals are susceptible, but grizzlies, black bears, coyotes, fox, ground squirrels and chipmunks are particularly at risk, said park bear biologist Kerry Gunther. In September, park officials killed an aggressive grizzly bear near Heart Lake, in the southern part of Yellowstone, after repeated conflicts with humans beginning in 2015.

In a statement released after the bear was killed, officials said the incident served as a reminder that "a fed bear is a dead bear. Allowing bears to obtain human food even once often leads to them becoming aggressive toward people."

Within Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, visitors are required to use wildlife-resistant garbage cans and dumpsters, as well as food storage lockers. Those entering either park are also told not to feed wildlife.

According to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, supplemental feeding can lead to a series of negative effects, which includes human dependency; health problems when human food is consumed that is not safe for the animal; nuisance behavior such as getting into garbage cans or approaching homes; or increased congregation in a single area, which may lead to the spread of diseases or increase the incidence of fighting and injury among animals.

"In essence," said FWP spokeswoman Andrea Jones, "while it may seem well-intentioned, feeding wildlife is usually detrimental for an animal's long-term well-being."

Last summer and fall, FWP officials received reports of black bears in Big Sky entering occupied vacation rentals, as well as getting into garbage cans and vehicles. At least two of the bears were captured and euthanized, while three others were captured and relocated.

In an effort to minimize human-wildlife conflict, most homeowner associations in Big Sky have strict rules about feeding or attracting wildlife



A black bear investigates a dumpster in Yellowstone National Park. NPS PHOTO

and have taken measures to reduce conflict. At Moonlight Basin, for example, there is a centralized trash collection site so trash cans are not spread throughout the development.

Ben Holst, executive director of community associations for Lone Mountain Land Company, manages Spanish Peaks and Moonlight Basin. "We've not had a problem with habituated bears in our developments," he said, adding that while smaller mammals like fox and squirrel are around, they have not become a problem either. "The covenants at Spanish Peaks and Moonlight Basin are very clear about prohibition on feeding wildlife, or having wildlife attractants like salt licks, bird feeders or other foods."

The Big Sky Owners Association, which manages more than 2,300 properties, has also worked with its members on wildlife education. On the BSOA website, homeowners can easily report a bear conflict through a partnership with Big Sky Community Organization's Bear Smart program.

Since 1994, trends in human-bear conflicts that resulted in bear relocation or lethal removal have more than tripled. As a response to this increasing trend, BSCO initiated the Bear Smart program in 2013 as an educational program for people living in bear country. The Bear Smart initiative includes distribution of bear identification material and how to use bear spray, as well as a reporting system for bear sightings.

Big Sky residents and visitors should remain vigilant in avoiding human-wildlife conflicts throughout the winter, and should be bear-aware as well. Early in January a black bear was spotted roaming around the Yellowstone Club, and according to FWP bear biologist Kevin Frey, while it's rather surprising to see a bear up and about in January, it's not necessarily abnormal.

"Over the years, I have seen several bears on ski hills in the middle of winter," he wrote in an email to EBS. "Odds are, the bears got disturbed by a change in the snow over the den, be it from a skier in the trees, the snow groomer or natural snow shift. This bear appeared to be a healthy adult, not a thin sub-adult awake to due hunger."

For more information about the threats of feeding wildlife, visit fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/livingWithWildlife/feeding. To learn about BSCO's Bear Smart campaign, visit bscomt.org/natural-resource-council/bear-smart.

Annual Economic Outlook Seminar to highlight higher education; state budget

BUREAU OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

The Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana will begin its 43rd Annual Economic Outlook Series with presentations in nine Montana cities, including Bozeman on Jan. 31, with a live broadcast in Big Sky.

This year's keynote address, "The Future of Higher Education in Montana," will be presented by Montana University System Regent Vice-Chair and Glacier Bank Market President Robert Nystuen. He will discuss the five primary challenges impacting higher education in Montana: enrollment, funding, student completion, student debt and traditional mindsets.

"For 125 years, Montanans have chosen to invest in accessible and affordable high-quality education that allowed generations of students to find jobs, make sizeable economic, social and cultural contributions, and create the one-of-a-kind fabric of our state," Nystuen said. "But the public's perspectives on the value of education—most notably higher education—have certainly become more varied, and not necessarily in a good way."

Also in the program, BBER Director Patrick Barkey will discuss some of the issues with the state's budget and provide insight into why lagging revenue collections required a recent special legislative session last November.

"The popular perception that the state's economy is strong and thriving will be discussed during the program," Barkey said. "What is the role of higher education in the state's economy? Does Montana have a housing affordability problem? Where is the growth coming from in Montana? These and other questions concerning all Montanans will be addressed throughout the program."

The seminars will also present the U.S., Montana and local area economic outlooks, as well as outlooks for other important economic sectors, such as real estate/housing, health care, manufacturing, energy, tourism and the wood products industry. The programs will also feature a local expert reporting on the local economy.

Established in 1948, BBER is the main research unit of the University of Montana's College of Business. It informs Montanans about the economic climate in which they live and work. In addition to conducting its Economic Outlook Seminars across the state each year, BBER researchers engage in a wide range of applied research projects that address different aspects of the state economy, including survey research, economic analysis, health care research, forecasting, wood products research and energy research.

Registration for this year's seminar includes the "Montana Economic Report 2018," a book of the black-and-white PowerPoint presentations, lunch and a one-year subscription to Montana Business Quarterly, BBER's award-winning business journal. Continuing education credits are available and groups of five or more can receive a discount.

The Bozeman seminar runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Commons at Baxter and Love. A live version of this presentation will be screened in Big Sky at Lone Peak Cinema.

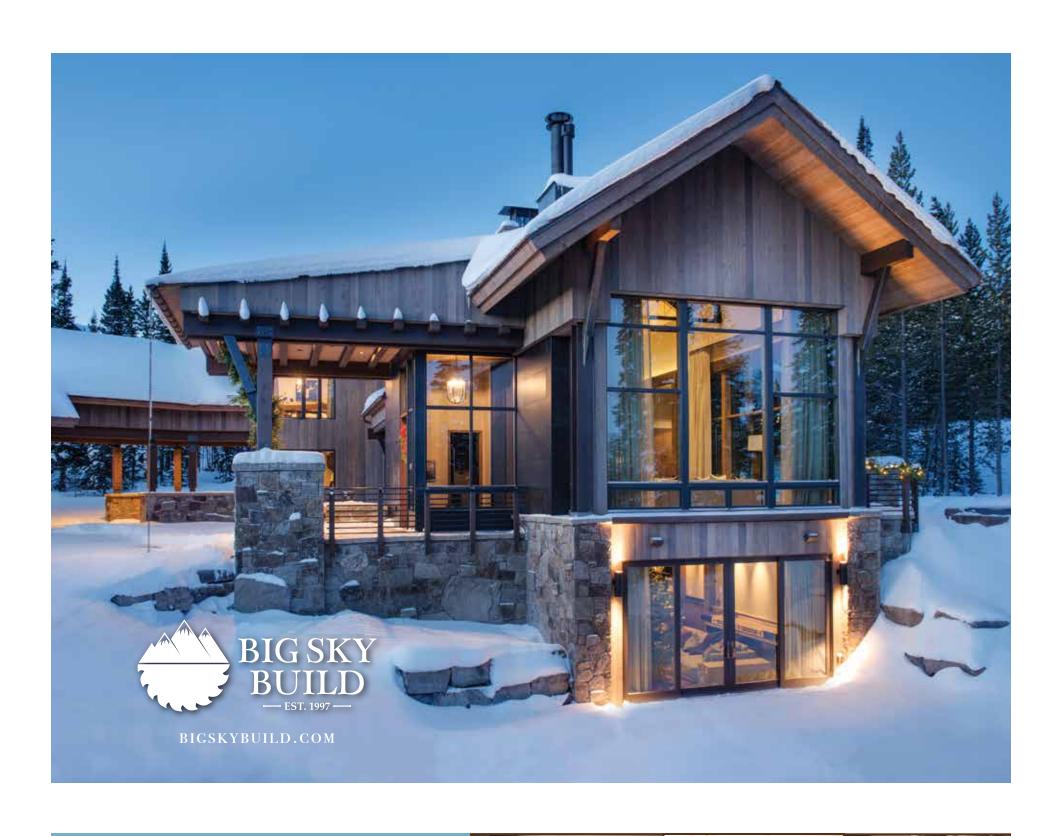
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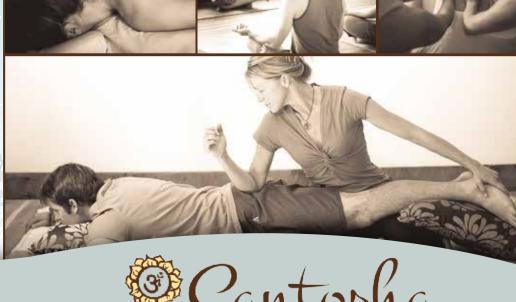
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9:00-10:15am
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12:00 - 12:50pm
Gentle Yoga
4:15 - 5:15pm
All Ages
Apres Ski Yoga
Evening Workshop
Series

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

10:15am
evels Yoga
- 12:30pm
Practice
Level 2-3
- 3:00pm
evels Yoga

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

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Documents: Former billionaire Tim Blixseth reaches deal with creditors

BY MATTHEW BROWN ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) – Former billionaire Tim Blixseth and his creditors reached a \$3 million settlement to satisfy longstanding claims that the real estate developer illegally pocketed hundreds of millions of dollars from a Montana resort for the superrich, according to court documents filed Jan. 12.

The agreement calls for an Oregon real estate developer to pay \$3 million on Blixseth's behalf to creditors for the Yellowstone Club. In exchange, the creditors will drop their legal claims against Blixseth that have resulted in more than \$525 million in unsatisfied court judgments against him.

Blixseth and his third wife, Edra, founded the exclusive resort near Big Sky in the late 1990s. Its private ski hill and golf course in the mountains near Yellowstone National Park attracted a celebrity-studded membership that reportedly includes former Vice President Dan Quayle, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and entertainer Justin Timberlake.

The club spiraled into bankruptcy in 2008 following Tim and Edra Blixseth's divorce. That launched a decade-long legal saga that pitted Blixseth against the club's creditors, Montana tax authorities, the federal judiciary and banking giant Credit Suisse, which loaned the club \$375 million that it was later unable to fully repay.

Most of the 2005 loan went to Blixseth. He used the money to bankroll a jetsetting lifestyle he said was part of his efforts to create an international luxury vacation club modeled after his Montana resort.

The Montana club emerged from bankruptcy in 2009 under a new owner. Blixseth consistently denied wrongdoing despite a string of court rulings that he fraudulently transferred the loan to enrich himself.

He's previously said he lost much of his fortune on legal fees, battling in courts across the U.S. against those he blamed for his woes.

The club's creditors, represented by the Yellowstone Club Liquidating Trust, suspected he had hidden assets. They spent years pursuing him in federal courts from Florida to California, and at one point put Blixseth's house under surveillance.

But the years of investigation yielded only a small fraction of the \$286 million they once sought, despite the string of monetary judgments against Blixseth in various federal courts.

"The trustee has, after extensive investigation, determined that it will be extremely difficult to collect anything more from [Blixseth], his related entities or his relatives," attorneys for the trust said in a court documents filed Jan. 12. They added that the settlement offered "an immediate significant cash payment that will provide substantially more value than might be expected from continued litigation with Blixseth."

Blixseth, 67, a former Washington state resident now believed to be living in Palm Desert, California, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Still unresolved is a claim by Montana tax authorities that Blixseth owes more than \$70 million in taxes, penalties and interest on his proceeds from the Credit Suisse loan. The state Department of Revenue was denied in its attempt to force Blixseth into bankruptcy as part of a strategy to recover the money.

Attorneys for the agency appealed the case on Jan. 11 to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The settlement with the creditors can't go into effect until U.S. District Judge Sam Haddon lifts a 2013 restraining order that has blocked Blixseth from transferring more than \$5,000 in assets.

In 2015, Haddon jailed Blixseth for not revealing details on his assets. He remained behind bars for 14 months until his release was ordered by a federal appeals court. In return for funding the \$3 million settlement revealed Jan. 12, real estate developer Martin Kehoe inherits Blixseth's claims against parties that Blixseth says conspired against him. That includes an alleged \$700 million in damages Blixseth is seeking against Montana officials in the forced bankruptcy case.

The relationship between Blixseth and Kehoe is unclear.

A document signed by the two men and submitted to Haddon's court said Kehoe "has never been associated with Blixseth, directly or indirectly, in any business transaction, in any way, shape or form."

Kehoe has long been involved in Portland, Oregon's real estate scene through his firm, Kehoe Northwest Properties. He did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment.

The largest amount previously recovered by the club's creditors—\$1.95 million—came in a lawsuit against Blixseth's fourth wife, Jessica, and his mother-in-law, to whom Blixseth had transferred a yacht, two jets and a mansion in an effort to shield them from his creditors, according to court documents.

Capitol tree heads back to Montana for possible use in park

BY AMY BETH HANSON ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA (AP) – The spruce tree destined to serve as the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree was carefully selected from a Montana forest and hauled across the country in a special truck to preserve its freshness.

The 79-foot-tall (24-meter-tall) tree, which was lit up in December during a ceremony with congressional members, had its own website and social media presence.

Now, some Montana companies hope to keep its fame alive by trucking it back home so it can be used to help rebuild a historic chalet in Glacier National Park that was destroyed in a wildfire last summer.

Some critics questioned the amount of fuel that would be burned to haul the tree back across the U.S. when Montana has plenty of trees, while others didn't mind as long as taxpayer money wasn't involved.

The effort is certainly more sentimental than practical, but no public money is being spent and no one can profit from the tree's use, said Bruce Ward with Choose Outdoors, the Denver-based nonprofit that organized the effort to bring the tree to Washington.

Ward got in on the idea after SmartLam, a Montana wood products company, contacted him about doing something besides letting the celebrated tree end up as mulch for the Capitol lawn.

A few phone calls and goodwill gestures later, plans call for the tree to come back in pieces. It was removed the morning of Jan. 9, officials said.

F.H. Stoltz Land & Lumber in Columbia Falls has agreed to process the wood, but vice president and general manager Chuck Roady noted that spruce is a softer wood and more suited for door or window frames or fireplace mantles than structural use in the new park chalet.

Glacier officials are waiting to see how the still-standing rock walls of the Sperry Chalet fare over the winter before deciding on any restoration plans, park spokeswoman Lauren Alley said.

Organizers asked Democratic U.S. Sen. Jon Tester for his support and he wrote to Capitol officials asking the tree to be released to Montana for use in the chalet.

"This wooden and stone landmark, built in Glacier's rugged backcountry more than a century ago, is irreplaceable," Tester wrote. "But efforts are underway to rebuild the Sperry Chalet, and I can think of no better use for some of the Montana lumber in our Capitol Christmas Tree to assist in that endeavor."

Ward had asked if the logs could hitch a ride back with a Montana-made copper star that topped the tree. Whitewood Transport Inc., which hauled the tree to Washington, said they could work that out, he said.

This isn't the first time the Capitol tree has been given a second life.

In early 2013, former U.S. Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell arranged for the tree from a Colorado forest to be returned to the state. The Coors Brewing Co. trucked the tree back to Colorado in 6-foot (2-meter) pieces and the wood was used to make park benches, Ward said.

"For me, it's a great way to return a historic souvenir to the state to be used for worthwhile purposes," Ward said.



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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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Section 2:ENVIRONMENT, SPORTS, BUSINESS & DINING







The New West: Growth is bringing huge ecological, economic costs to Greater Yellowstone

BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

The slow and steady landscape-level effects of climate change in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem are being documented by scientists measuring snowpack, average temperatures, and the drying of forests and wetlands.

Equally significant impacts are bearing down on some corners of Greater Yellowstone, caused by growing human development.

Last fall, I wrote a long investigative piece for the online magazine Mountain Journal (mountain journal org) about some of the sobering demographic trends—especially inward migration—that, if they play out over the coming decades, will leave our region transformed into a dramatically less wild place.

For example, within a single human generation, the population of Bozeman/Gallatin Valley, Montana, at current growth rates, will hold as many people as Salt Lake City proper—210,000, the population of the city of Salt Lake itself, not the entire metro sprawl along the western Wasatch; if those rates continue and there is no evidence they will slow down, Bozeman/Gallatin Valley would be Minneapolis proper-sized, with 420,000 residents, by around 2060.

While jaw dropping to some, that's actually conservative in some ways, because it assumes that certain things won't happen, such as an additional wave of climate change refugees pouring in—think people in the water-challenged Southwest fleeing water shortages and extreme heat; think coastal dwellers hit by rising sea water and hurricanes, not only losing their homes, but being told by insurance companies they won't pay for them to rebuild.

Here's one of the stunning stats, provided by Randy Carpenter of Future West, a think tank in Bozeman tracking growth issues:

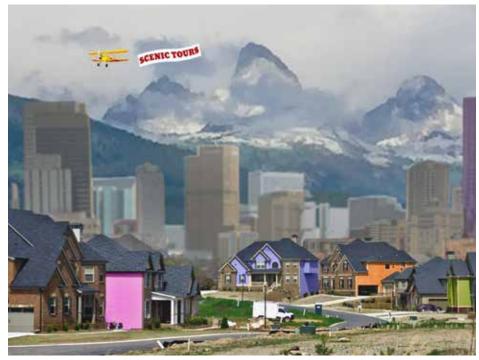
Conservatively, if the growth rate of the last 30 years continues—collectively Greater Yellowstone already is one of the fastest growing rural areas in the U.S.—the overall population of the region is expected to surge, in just 13 years, from the current 450,000 denizens. That translates on the ground to another 100,000 homes and almost 700,000 people.

"And I wouldn't be surprised if it doesn't grow faster than that," Carpenter said.

Another big projected growth in-fill area is the corridor stretching from Idaho Falls to Rexburg to Teton Valley, Idaho, to Jackson Hole and then down the Snake River Canyon toward Star Valley, Bondurant and even Pinedale.

The average number of people per dwelling in Greater Yellowstone homes is approximately 2.3, half the number of two generations ago. Yet even with fewer inhabitants, homes are being built in exurban locations with more square footage; many are going up in the forested wildand-urban interface where they are more likely to burn in a wildfire; and residents will expect to receive expensive taxpayer-subsidized firefighting services from federal, state and local governments.

Some of these people building their dream homes will only reside in them for a few months out of the year, yet the footprint of development they exact is permanent. Craving views and with no context provided by realtors and developers, their investment domiciles will be sited—replete with roads, fences, barking dogs, yard lights, power, and water and sewage infrastructure—in important wildlife winter range or near riparian areas (river corridors), the most important parts of the landscape for biodiversity.



Mountain Journal created this graphic, done half in jest, to illustrate the spillover effects of Jackson Hole on Teton Valley, Idaho. There may not be Salt Lake City-like skyscrapers there by mid century, but there will be Salt Lake-like sprawl. ILLUSTRATION BY AUGUST O'KEEFE/MOUNTAIN JOURNAL

What is fascinating is the depth of bubble thinking—the belief by people who fled urban and suburban settings, now aspiring to cash-in on development and who claim massive growth will never happen here.

They deny the real spillover effects of Jackson Hole on adjacent valleys being caused by the pricing-out of people. And they deny that, under build-out scenarios in Teton County, the population could still easily double by mid-century, exacerbating an affordable housing crisis and congestion that already are degrading local quality of life.

A similar attitude exists in Big Sky, Montana, which is a mini Jackson Hole in the making. In Paradise Valley, Montana, between Yellowstone National Park's northern gate and Livingston, the number of new homes being built by recreational homeowners is outpacing the number of permanent residents.

This means that more homes are being built leaving ecological footprints that don't even serve year-round human inhabitation. In future columns and longer stories at mountainjournal.org, I'll be taking a deep dive into growth issues that have huge implications for wildlife, and wildness, in the most iconic wildland complex in the lower 48

What can we do about it? This sounding of the alarm isn't anti-growth, it means we need wise growth. Besides being ecologically impactful, counties cannot, with current revenue models, afford to deal with the skyrocketing costs associated with the wave of new development.

Humans can be very good at solving problems, especially when they apply themselves and look and think beyond boundaries, but they cannot confront them if they live in denial.

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.



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MSU's Western Transportation Institute featured for research on wildlife crossings

MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN - Scientists at Montana State University's Western Transportation Institute and their influential research on the world's largest complex of wildlife crossing structures were featured in a recent article in Canadian Geographic magazine.

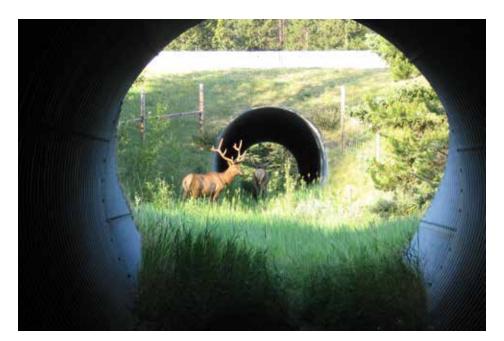
The complex, a series of tree-covered overpasses and earth-lined culverts perforating a roughly 51-mile stretch of the Trans-Canada Highway through Banff National Park, has been a focus of study for Tony Clevenger, a senior research scientist at WTI, for nearly two decades.

"This is Canada's biggest conservation success story," Clevenger is quoted as saying in the Dec. 4 online article, titled "As Banff's famed wildlife overpasses turn 20, the world looks to Canada for conservation inspiration." The article recounts the construction of the structures since the 1980s and cites Clevenger's "17 years-worth of data proving the efficacy of the crossings."

According to Clevenger, nearly a dozen species of large mammals have used the Banff structures more than 150,000 times and the mortality rates for large carnivores such as grizzly bears are now 50 to 100 percent lower where the crossings have been installed.

"We know these structures work and that there are cost benefits" in terms of reducing animal-vehicle collisions and conserving wildlife, said Clevenger, who joined WTI in 2002 after working independently on the Banff research for roughly five years.

To document how wildlife used the crossings, Clevenger and his colleagues used motion-activated cameras as well as pads of sand, which were routinely checked for animal tracks. They also used unobtrusive barbed wire to collect hair samples, which were then genetically tested to determine, for example, how many individual bears had used a crossing.



Elk are shown using an underpass designed to allow wildlife to cross the Trans-Canada Highway in Banff National Park.

Combined with information gathered by Parks Canada biologists, such as data from radio collars showing how animals moved across the Banff landscape, Clevenger's research influenced the location and design of subsequent crossing structures as the Banff project expanded along the Trans-Canada Highway, according to Terry McGuire, who led the project for Parks Canada from the early 1990s through 2010.

"The research told us that wolves and grizzlies favor overpass structures," so in the most recent iteration of the project the overpasses continued to be used and were actually widened, he said. "The smaller underpasses are preferred by cougars and black bears."



A forested overpass, one of many wildlife crossing structures installed along a 51-mile stretch of the Trans-Canada Highway through Banff National Park, allows grizzly bears and other animals to safely cross while reducing animal-vehicle collisions. PHOTOS COURTESY OF TONY CLEVENGER

Taken as a whole, Clevenger said, the research translates relatively simply so that it can be applied by transportation agencies, and the WTI team is studying its potential to work across different ecosystems as well.

When Clevenger joined WTI in 2002, other researchers at the institute, which is housed in MSU's College of Engineering, had just begun studying wildlife movement across Highway 93 on Montana's Flathead Indian Reservation. That research helped pave the way for numerous crossing structures similar to the ones at Banff. Clevenger said he was drawn to WTI by the Highway 93 project and the center's early support for the emerging discipline of road ecology, he said.

"I think WTI is looked upon as being the premiere road ecology research center in North America," he said.

According to the Canadian Geographic article, Clevenger's research played a key role in overcoming early skepticism about the Banff project and, more recently, turning it into an example that others around the world seek to replicate.

For example, the article quotes another WTI researcher, Rob Ament, as he describes the response of Chinese visitors to WTI several years ago: "Everyone in China knew about Banff. When Tony took to the stage, they all pulled out their notepads and started writing like crazy, every word he spoke. Clearly, Banff has cachet all over the world."

According to WTI Director Steve Albert, the institute has conducted research about wildlife crossings in nearly 30 countries, including China, as well as the majority of U.S. states. "MSU is driving road ecology research worldwide," he said.

"People often don't realize how big a problem this is," Albert added.

"There are more than a million wildlife collisions every year just in the U.S. They have a huge economic impact" in terms of vehicle repair costs and labor for removing carcasses from roadways, among other things, he said.

Ament is featured in the article for his research that involves applying the findings from Banff and other projects to designing new crossing structures in developing countries like Argentina, where new roads are being built in areas with lots of biodiversity.

"That's why this research is so important," Ament said. "There's so much more to learn. We're just starting."

MSU environmental scientist wins grant to research consequences of forest management decisions

BY DENISE HOEPFNER MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – A Montana State University environmental scientist was recently awarded \$312,000 from the National Science Foundation to study how cumulative forest management decisions at local scales influence the health of forests and the ecological services they provide at large scales.

The award is part of a \$1.2 million grant in which MSU researchers will collaborate with the University of Florida, University of Alabama, University of Wisconsin, Colorado State University and Boston University.

"Forest management is an extensive and continual driver that shapes forest structure, affecting the success of associated communities of plants and animals, as well as the forest ecosystem services that maintain human well-being," said William Kleindl, assistant research professor in the Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences.

Most of the world's forests are managed at relatively local scales to provide goods and services such as wood, biodiversity and purified water, Kleindl said. But at large scales, forests play an important role in things like regulating weather or providing connections between biomes, large naturally occurring communities of flora and fauna.

"As a result, cumulative changes in management practices that influence forest structure and productivity also influence climate, hydrology and biodiversity," he said. "Yet, little is known about how these cumulative forest management decisions influence forest ecology from regional to continental scales."

With the grant from the National Science Foundation's Macrosystems Biology and Early NEON Science Program, Kleindl and his colleagues will create computer models to evaluate national and regional forest management policies, environmental disturbances, and consequences for ecology, the economy and society.

The goal is to provide ecologists and forest managers information to assist in their decision-making and lead them toward improved stewardship of forest resources in a changing world.

The researchers will use satellites to map forest management types—such as production, mixed-use and wilderness—across the U.S. at scales relevant for national and regional policy, and at scales that will help in understanding the forests' interactions with the environment. They will then use the maps in computer models to estimate forest characteristics under various management and environmental scenarios.

Kleindl said that incorporating forest management and disturbances into Earth systems models will improve the models. That will allow scientists to better predict the effects of changing management policy, disturbance regimes and environment on forests across the continental U.S.

"This computer modeling framework will be used to test the relative importance of forest management across environmental conditions and assess the strength of these relationships by region in determining the structure of the forest, the ecological functions they perform and the services they provide across scales from individual forest stands to forests across the continent," he said.

A key component of the project is evaluating the impacts of changing forest policies compared to the direct effects on forests from human-driven disturbances such as climate change and pollution, especially in regard to adapting forest management in the face of these changes, Kleindl said.

"A goal of this project is to integrate our increased understanding of how humans and forest ecosystems interact—the socioecological relationship—into relevant policy and management," he said. "This increased knowledge will assist future decision-makers in evaluating potential changes that are economically and socially important."

Kleindl said that, in the past, links between ecological theory, forest management and policy have been applied to forests at local scales, such as the Custer Gallatin National Forest, and to regions, such as the Montana Rockies. However, he said, this new study addresses a longstanding need to address those links at even larger scales, such the entire Rocky Mountains, Pacific Northwest or the Southeast.

"What we propose is novel by challenging ecological theory, developing socioecological understanding and integrating them into a policy- and management-relevant analysis," Kleindl said. "Our project will develop multi-disciplinary methods and conceptual frameworks and then provide these approaches to a diverse range of stakeholders involved in forest management, policy and science."

Kleindl's expertise is in disturbance ecology and socioecological systems. His research goal is to provide straightforward analysis of ecological data to make it applicable to management activities. That often requires complex research into the problems that crop up where natural and human environments intersect. Kleindl currently teaches courses in wetland ecology and management, applied restoration and MSU Honors College seminars.

Before MSU, Kleindl spent 28 years as an aquatic ecology research scientist and consultant, assisting clients throughout the country in the science, policy and management of aquatic environments. That included assessment, restoration and management of degraded wetlands and rivers at multiple scales. He earned his bachelor's in botany from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, his master's in aquatic ecology from the University of Washington and his doctorate in systems ecology from the University of Montana.

"Bill has an amazing background across a wide range of scientific disciplines and land management experiences," said Tracy Sterling, head of MSU's Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences. "This expertise, coupled with his desire to apply new tools to important societal questions, were key to the NSF recognizing his novel approach for exploring how ecological, social and economic factors are interrelated and how together they influence forest management."

The Macrosystems Biology and Early NEON Science Program awards support research to better detect, understand and predict the effects of climate and land-use changes on living systems and to predict feedback to the environment that crosses local and continental scales.

"The scientific community has seen a recent boon of new tools, from remote ecological sensor networks to citizen scientist-generated data, that allows us to study biology at scales that were never possible before," said James Olds, head of the NSF Biological Sciences Directorate, which oversees the program. "These projects take advantage of those new tools, asking questions about how measurements made at one scale can be applied to others. Macrosystems science studies every dimension of biology, from genes to the globe."











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BIG * SKY

MONTANA

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VisitBigSkyMt.com/DNA Results/

to view our presentation and find out more.

Q&A: Big Sky freeride athlete Chance Lenay

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – Local snowboarder and freeride competitor Chance Lenay started his season strong. During the second weekend of January, he took third place at Revelstoke Mountain Resort's Freeride World Tour Qualifier event in British Columbia, bringing him one step closer toward his goal of making it into the Freeride World Tour.

EBS interviewed the Gig Harbor, Washington-native after he returned from his first competition in B.C., to learn what fuels his competitive drive and inspires him to reach for the next level in his sport.

Explore Big Sky: When and where did you start skiing or snowboarding? **Chance Lenay:** I started snowboarding in 2007 at The Summit at Snoqualmie in Washington state.

EBS: How long have you been in Big Sky and what brought you bere? **C.L.:** I have been in Big Sky for 10 years now. I moved out here to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city life and to pursue my passion of snowboarding.

EBS: What keeps you here?

C.L.: Everything out here is slowed down just a little bit. It's not all about workwork, money-money. People live out here to enjoy being outside and to live their lives around their passion for the outdoors. I like that lifestyle.

EBS: When did you start competing in freeride events?

C.L.: My first freeride event was the Headwaters Spring Runoff at Moonlight Basin in 2010.

EBS: You finished third in Revelstoke to start the season, are you pleased with that early result?

C.L.: I am super stoked on a podium spot at the first event of the year. It gives me a huge boost of confidence moving forward in the competition season.

EBS: What are the next events you plan to attend, and how do you choose which competitions to enter?

C.L.: Next up is Crested Butte, Colorado [Feb. 10-11], then Kicking Horse up in Canada, Crystal Mountain, Washington, and Kirkwood, California. I have my favorites, such as any event in Canada, as well as Crystal Mountain in Washington, because that is one of the resorts where I learned to snowboard in my early days.

If I have to drive more than 12 to 13 hours then I probably won't do that event, unless it gives me a shot at winning the title and going to the Freeride World Tour.

EBS: What are your goals for the 2018 season?

C.L.: One of my biggest goals is to make it onto the Freeride World Tour. I would also love to make it into one of the big time magazines, such as Transworld Snowboarding or Snowboard Magazine.

EBS: Do you have a favorite venue? If so, why?

C.L.: One of my favorite venues so far—not including the Headwaters [at Big Sky Resort]—would have to be "The King" over at Crystal Mountain. That venue, to me, is a real deal freeride competition venue. You have to hike a ways up to the top, which usually makes for good conditions. It's steep, gnarly and has a lot of options for riders to choose from. And the views from the top are amazing.



Big Sky Resort ambassador Chance Lenay takes flight while demonstrating a textbook nose grab. His aggressive lines and fluid style earned him third place at his first Freeride World Tour Qualifier competition of the season. PHOTO COURTESY OF GABE PRIESTLEY

EBS: How do you train to be a freeride athlete both during the season and through the offseason?

C.L.: I snowboard as much as possible! I don't really hit the gym or anything, which I probably should. I pretty much work all day, everyday in the summer as a fly fishing guide at East Slope Outdoors, just so I can take the winters off and ride everyday.

EBS: What do you consider your strengths as a snowboarder?

C.L.: Fluidity, technique, style and energy. Riding steep and technical terrain. I am not very good at throwing tricks—360s, backflips, etc.—but I am working on it!

EBS: Who has helped you along the way to becoming an elite snowboarder? Who do you look to when you need advice?

C.L.: I have a lot of people to thank for where I am right now, [including] my manager when I worked as a lift operator, Ross Smethurst. He saw my passion for riding the steeps and would have me work the [Lone Peak] Tram or the Headwaters lift just so I could ride that terrain and work at the same time.

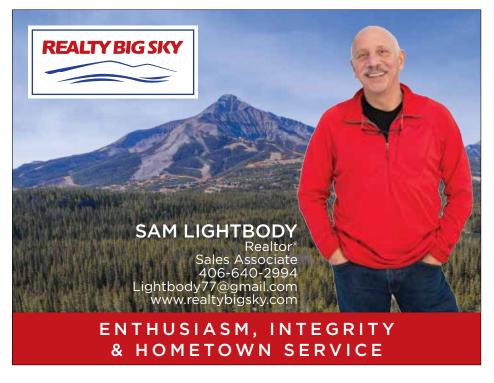
Also my good friends, Alex Buecking and Erik Morrison who helped me get my sponsors. And of course [Skylab Media House's] Chris Kamman who has worked his magic in the video/editing side of things. His work has really helped me get recognized in the snowboarding/skiing industry.

EBS: Who is you favorite athlete on the IFSA?

C.L.: Jake Larue. He is a fellow snowboarder on the tour and blows my mind every time I watch him throw down a comp run. Definitely a huge inspiration.

EBS: Any advice to amateur snowboarders on how to get to the next level? **C.L.:** Just ride hard and have fun! Also, don't ever let anyone tell you that you can't do it. They are your dreams, go get 'em.





Lone Peak defeats West Yellowstone in 'The Battle of 191'

BY DAN KELLY EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Playing before a packed house at Lone Peak High School, the Big Horns battled back in the second half to win a thrilling Class C basketball game against the West Yellowstone Wolverines on Jan. 11.

West Yellowstone jumped ahead to an early 9-3 lead, with junior Nathan Morse carrying the team squarely on his shoulders early, netting three out the first four baskets for the Wolverines. Lone Peak responded quickly with a 9-4 scoring run of their own, capped by 3-pointers from junior guards Cole March and captain Kolya Bough, who scored 20 points for the Big Horns. The teams traded baskets down the stretch and as the first quarter drew to a close, the score stood 15-14, Wolverines.

Austin Samuels drained a three to put the Big Horns up 17-15 early in the second quarter, but West Yellowstone answered back with five straight points. Sophomore Brayden Vaile scored two points on a fiercely contested basket in the low post, giving the Big Horns the lead with 2:40 left in the half, 24-22. Both Vaile and senior Ethan Schumacher played important minutes throughout the game with senior forward Jackson Wade out with an ankle injury. With the half drawing to a close, senior Tim Finney put West Yellowstone ahead, 30-27.

The Wolverines leapt out of the locker room in the second half with a tough put-back basket by senior Danny Sullivan, who had 15 points in the contest. Teammate Max Hauck, who scored 14 points in the game, hit a shot from beyond the arc shortly thereafter to put West Yellowstone up 35-27.

Sophomore guard Frankie Starz got the Big Horns back on track, draining a jumper to start a scorching 13-4 run during which he scored 9 points over the next four minutes, with Samuels and Vaile each scoring baskets of their own. Two free-throw shots by Hauck of the Wolverines made the score 41-40 at the end of the third quarter.

Junior guard Milosz Shipman torched a three for Lone Peak to open the final quarter of play, matched quickly by the Wolverines leading scorer, Morse, who had 18 points, battling in the paint for two. With the score tied at 45, Starz drained a triple for the Big Horns, one of the night's 10 three-pointers for Lone Peak.

Shipman, Starz and Bough each scored from beyond the arc on a 12-4 run by the Big Horns that put the game out of reach. The crowd at Lone Peak High School went absolutely wild as Bough's shot gave the Big Horns a 57-49 lead with 2:20 remaining.



Senior Kolya Bough elevates for a jump shot against West Yellowstone in the "battle of 191" game on Jan. 11. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

West Yellowstone battled back in the final minutes, but when the final whistle blew, the score stood 60-56, Big Horns.

Both teams fought hard and left it all on the court in a game that was described by many onlookers as the best in recent history between the two rivals.

Coach Austin Barth was happy to notch a victory, but still sees room for improvement.

"West came in and played a great game with great effort," he said. "I was disappointed with our effort when it came to rebounding and points in the paint. We were beaten in both categories and I think [they] both reflect us not having our main big man, but we need guys to step up to a challenge and have a presence in the paint."

The Big Horns travel to Ennis on Jan. 19, followed by back-to-back home games against Shields Valley on Jan. 25, and Gardiner on Jan. 26. Lone Peak hits the road again to play White Sulphur Springs on Jan. 30, followed by a home game against Manhattan Christian on Feb. 2.

The Big Horns and Wolverines will rematch on Thursday, Feb. 8, in West Yellowstone.

Visit bssd72.org/athletics/ for a complete season schedule.

Lady Big Horns beat rival West Yellowstone

BY DAN KELLY EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The Lady Big Horns hosted the West Yellowstone Wolverines on Jan. 11 at Lone Peak High School before a packed house of excited fans and parents. The game marked the first time that former LPHS coach Nubia Garcia—now the coach of the Wolverines—faced off against the Lady Big Horns since taking the position at West Yellowstone.

Lone Peak soared to an early 5-0 lead on baskets by seniors Jaylene Cole and K.P. Hoffman, countered by West Yellowstone sophomore Bekah Everest's 5-straight points midway through the first quarter.

Junior Solae Swenson reaped the rewards of her strong rebounding performance with two points on a put-back to give Lone Peak an 8-7 lead with a minute remaining in the opening quarter. The Wolverines clawed back the lead when leading scorer Danna Ochoa, who finished with 15 points, made a 3-point play by sinking her foul shot. At the end of the first, the score stood tied at 10-10.

The momentum shifted heavily in Lone Peak's favor in the second quarter. Swenson assisted Cole in a basket that gave the Big Horns a 13-10 lead with just over five minutes left in the half. Freshman guard Kate Jackson answered for the Wolverines, sinking two free-throws to bring her team within one point.

The Big Horns were on a roll however, and sophomore Emma Flach joined in the 16-4 Lone Peak scoring spree with a strong drive to the basket that swiftly brought the score to 18-12. Cole, Swenson and Hoffman all tacked on baskets and, as the half drew to a close, LPHS led 26-14.

Sara Wilson, Reilly Germain, Brooke Botha, Ruth Blodgett and Ivy Hicks all played important minutes down the stretch for LPHS, playing scrappy defense, distributing the ball and boxing-out to put themselves in position to rebound well.

Hoffman and Swenson maintained a strong presence on the inside glass at both ends of the court and Cole, who finished the night with 15 points, drilled a three early in



Senior Jay Cole sinks a three against the Wolverines in a Jan. 11 game against rivals West Yellowstone. PHOTO BY DAN KELLY

the third quarter to put the Lady Big Horns up big. West Yellowstone's two top scorers made buckets during a 9-5 run capped with a basket by Everest. Freshman guard Hannah Wakefield added 2 points, netting a timely basket for the Wolverines.

With the score at 34-27 and 1:27 left in the third, Flach put her skills on display as an emerging force at the guard position for Lone Peak, scoring on a tough lay-up and a strong drive to the basket on back-to-back possessions for the Lady Big Horns.

"We have been looking to Emma to step up this season and she is doing a really great job," said Coach Ausha Cole. At the end of the third quarter, Lone Peak was firmly in control of the game, leading 39-28.

Swenson, who scored 6 points and had a plethora of rebounds for the Lady Big Horns, found Flach again early in the fourth quarter to put the Big Horns up big and they never looked back.

Led by Hoffman, who scored 18 points on the night and was 10 of 13 from the foul line, the Lady Big Horns continued to trade baskets with the Wolverines, keeping them at bay.

"Nubia joked about triple-teaming K.P. [Hoffman] before the game," said Coach Cole. "It ended up being a double-team, but she was expecting it and she handled it really well."

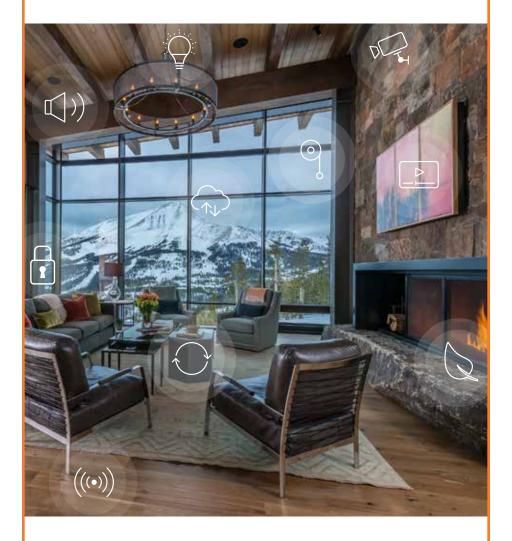
As the game drew to a close, West Yellowstone scored a flurry of baskets, but as the final seconds ticked off the clock, the score read 52-43 in favor of the Lady Big Horns.

The Big Horns travel to Ennis on Jan. 19, followed by two home games on Jan. 25 against Shields Valley, and Gardiner on Jan. 26. Lone Peak hits the road again to play White Sulphur Springs on Jan. 30, and is back home for a game against Manhattan Christian on Feb. 2.

Visit bssd72.org/athletics/ for a complete season schedule.



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 $((\bullet))$

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K.P. Hoffman signs with Miles Community College, makes LPHS history

BY DAN KELLY EBS CONTRIBUTOR

On Jan. 10, Lady Big Horns' senior K.P. Hoffman became Lone Peak High School's first female athlete to sign a college letter of intent. Next fall, Hoffman will attend Miles Community College to play basketball for the Pioneers, a team led by coach Nate Vogel.

MCC is part of the National Junior College Athletic Association in Region 9. They play in Division I-North and are a perennial powerhouse in the league, boasting a roster of homegrown talent from Montana as well as players from Utah, Hawaii, Spain, Poland, Bosnia and Montenegro.

Coach Vogel is happy to be adding Hoffman to the roster, who he first noticed while watching footage of her battling it out down low against a highly touted recruit. "She scored a bunch of points against a Division I post player," he said. "We are excited to see how she develops, and hope she can provide a spark for us on the post."

Hoffman is extremely excited about the opportunity to play for Coach Vogel and the Pioneers. "My whole career, being able to set standards for the basket-ball program has been really amazing and getting this opportunity really caps it all off for me," Hoffman said.

She knows that more female athletes from LPHS will follow in her pioneering footsteps as the school, which is among the best academic schools in the state, becomes more prominent on the athletics scene. "I am happy to start the trend of having female athletes sign from Lone Peak High School," she added.

Hoffman scored 18 points against West Yellowstone while being double-teamed for most of the Jan. 11 home game, and leads the Lady Big Horns in scoring this year. Coupled with her strong rebounding presence and stingy defense, she will be a welcome addition to the MCC Pioneers next fall.



Next fall, senior K.P. Hoffman will become the first LPHS female athlete to play at the college level when she joins Miles Community College's women's basketball team. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES



Making it in Big Sky: Crystal Images

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Janice and Marshall Tate, co-owners of Crystal Images Professional Photography, started managing the business for its original owners in 1982, just a year after moving to Big Sky to work at the resort. They bought the business outright in 1990. As the official photography company for Big Sky Resort and centrally located in the Mountain Mall, the Tates and their staff of photographers and videographers are pros at capturing outdoor adventure shots, whether slope-side, whitewater rafting, or cruising across the sky on a zipline.

As part of this ongoing series, Janice Tate 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?

Janice Tate: Excellent customer service. We make an extra effort to learn about our customers, their names, where they are from. We ask them about their visit and try to help them with any questions or problems they may be having. We have clients that have been coming to us for so many years that we are now photographing the third generation of skiers in their family.

EBS: What are the biggest obstacles to operating a small business in Big Sky? **J.T.:** For many years, the biggest obstacle was finding good people to work with us. There was no permanent population and we often had to bring people in from Bozeman or even further away. Now, Big Sky is an easier and better place to live and it's easier to find people who want to stay and learn our business and participate in a more year-round way.

EBS: How has the business landscape changed since you started out? **J.T.:** When we first started out, all the cameras were film cameras and we processed the film by hand in a dip-n-dunk lab ... This was expensive and time consuming to say the least. As digital photography became better and better, we changed over to digital cameras and computers to show our photos. Although the cost of digital equipment still keeps our costs high, we are able to provide quicker turn-around, and more photos for the money.

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

J.T.: We love the wild nature right outside and the fact that we can click into skis or hiking boots and go as far as we care to go, right from our front door.

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

J.T.: One of the most memorable photographic experiences for our company was the Adaptive Snow Sports National Competition that was held at Big Sky several years ago. Several of the racers went on to compete in the Paralympic Games. We were honored to be able to help them by providing photos for their families, websites and sponsors.



Janie Tate (center) opened Crystal Images Professional Photography with her husband Marshall Tate 36 years ago. As the official photographers of Big Sky Resort, the Tates and their staff are pros at capturing year-round outdoor adventure shots. PHOTO COURTESY OF CRYSTAL IMAGES

EBS: Why do you think some new businesses fold relatively quickly? **J.T.:** We believe [it's because] they fail to anticipate the slow business environment that occurs during the fall and spring off-seasons. It is challenging to keep the doors open and people employed when the tourist traffic slows down.

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

J.T.: Incorporate housing into your employee inducements package. Not being able to find a place to live, or being forced to live in an unpleasant situation is incredibly de-moralizing for an employee. Our company was fortunate to be able to obtain housing for our employees early in the game.

EBS: What's the best piece of business advice you've received? **J.T.:** To invest in quality people and give them the opportunities and encouragement to bring their own style to the business.

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

J.T.: We are excited to see what the next decade will bring for our business. Digital photography has allowed us to experiment and learn new ways of providing great family portraits and outdoor action photos for our customers. Computer technology has allowed us to deliver the photos in creative and fun ways so that the customer can put the photos to use right away in their social media, albums, and sharing with family and friends. To really do our business right requires attention to detail—really caring about product quality, and our customers and their experiences before, during, and after their trip. We try to be sure that our company contributes greatly to the quality of our guests' vacations and we hope to continue being an asset to the Resort for decades to come.

CRYSTAL IMAGES BY THE NUMBERS



Summer Staff **14**

業

Winter Staff

10



Years in business

36

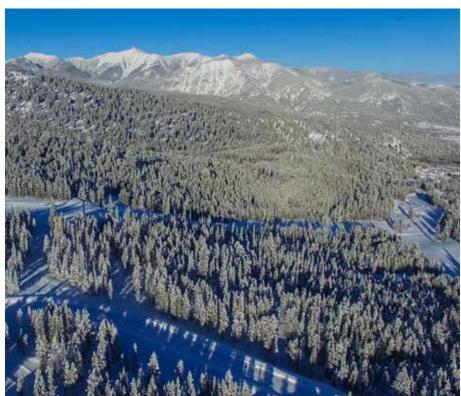


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Mogul Waffle offers new graband-go option at Big Sky Resort

BY TYLER ALLEN EBS MANAGING EDITOR

BIG SKY – If you search the hashtag #bubblewaffle on Instagram you'll find more than 80,000 posts, and #eggwaffle will return nearly another 40,000 photos and videos.

The origins of the bubble waffle are difficult to track down, but the airy egg and flour pastry was likely invented in Hong Kong, before sweeping parts of East Asia and eventually migrating to metropolitan areas of the U.S. and beyond.

But now you don't have to leave Big Sky to find this exotic treat, since the coffee shop in Big Sky Resort's Mountain Mall added Mogul Waffle to its food menu during the second week of January. With both sweet and savory batter, and myriad topping options available, it's an appealing calorie load for resort visitors looking for something different to fuel their day on the hill.

Instead of a classic waffle iron that leaves hollow squares in the batter of the breakfast staple, a bubble waffle iron creates round, steam-filled pockets. The waffle is then folded into a cone that can hold any number of toppings.

"It's like an inverted waffle, but instead of depressions it has bubbles," said Tom Nolan, Big Sky Resort's director of food and beverage. "We're very excited to have it. It's fun, it's new and it's different."

Customers can build their own creations with toppings like Nutella hazelnut cocoa spread, peanut butter, fresh whipped cream, yogurt and warm apples. Or they can choose from specialty waffle combos like the Daffy—with marshmallow, milk chocolate sauce, graham cracker crumbles and powdered sugar—or the King of the Hill, which comes filled with peanut butter, banana and crispy bacon.

According to Nolan, resort management wanted a waffle stand to diversify the food options offered at the ski area, and Executive Chef Wilson Wieggel found the bubble waffle craze in his research. The savory batter is made from a seven-grain, Montana-made batter with added quinoa and chia, Nolan said.

The coffee shop also has a new look showcasing the Mogul Waffle branding, which was designed by the Outlaw Partners, publisher of EBS.

The waffles take approximately three minutes to cook, making them a graband-go alternative to the breakfast sandwich withering under a heat lamp on your way to first chair.

"[They] offer a quick, delicious to-go option to fuel skiers and riders who want to get quickly out on the slopes," said Big Sky Resort Public Relations Manager Chelsi Moy.

Mogul Waffles are served from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily, in the Mountain Mall coffee shop across from the Hungry Moose Market and Deli.





Mogul Waffie, in Big Sky Resort's Mountain Mall coffee shop, offers a portable and tasty way to satisfy your hunger during a day spent on the mountain. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTOS



After 17 years of business, Dorothea Jude will retire and close her Town Center retail store, Big Horn Boutique. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

Big Horn Boutique closes shop

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

Big Sky - For 17 years, Dorothea Jude has operated the Big Horn Boutique, a retail fixture selling souvenirs and fine merchandise to visitors and locals alike. That is set to change at the end January, when Jude will close up shop for good.

The shop owner looks forward to the well-deserved respite and free time that retirement will bring.

"I won't be idle, I won't be sitting in a rocking chair. Trust me," she said about her future plans. "I will be skiing, hiking and traveling. I have an invitation to visit friends in Austria and it will be nice to see family in Germany too."

Back in 2001, when she opened up shop, originally in the Big Horn shopping center, Jude recalls business being slower. "We used to have a lot of RVs that would stop at Bugaboo [Café] for a bite to eat, and they would usually stop in to have a look around the shop."

Jude grew up in Nuremberg, Germany, and landed a job at the Palace of Justice fresh out of university working as a translator for the American government.

Work brought her to the East Coast of the U.S. where she met her husband, Bill Jude, who worked at Glacier and Yellowstone national parks during the summers. Trips to the Treasure State left a lasting impression on the couple, and eventually the couple bought a condo in Big Sky as a vacation spot.

After her husband's passing in 1996, she decided to open a shop to stay busy and connected to the community. "It was a good move," she said. "Looking back, it's been an incredible experience and I've enjoyed meeting so many interesting people. Also, I'm grateful for all the support that was given to me ... residents and businesses helping one another was essential."

In 2008, Jude moved her shop to the Town Center Market Place building. When she was recently approached with an offer to buy her space, she decided that that the timing was right to sell. Purportedly, the new owner has plans to open an upscale men's store.

Jude is quick to reminisce about being a business owner in a steadily growing, small mountain town: "Everyone was always pleasant," she said. "Usually tourists are in good mood because they're on vacation, and the locals have always been kind and helpful."

When asked what advice she would give to future business owners in Big Sky, Jude said, "make your business plan first and get all your ducks in a row. It's always a challenge in a resort town, but things will get easier with the new development."

Despite closing her shop, Jude remains optimistic about the future of small retail businesses in Big Sky. Over her years running the boutique, Jude has seen Town Center continue to transform for the better.

"I've told Bill Simkins for years we need a hotel down here," she said. "There will always be plenty of people visiting Yellowstone who need a place to stay, and the [new Wilson Hotel] is going to be good all around. It will help support the retail businesses in town."

Jude makes a point of thanking everyone who helped her along the way, and one individual in particular—her longtime employee Alix Byrd. "After an accident in my home in May of 2016, she was the one who kept the doors open," Jude said. "I wish her all the best in her endeavors going forward."



3rd Annual Greater Yellowstone Agricultural Forum

Wednesday, February 7, 2018 The Gathering Place at the Lewis & Clark

> 510 S. Main Street, Three Forks Doors open at 9:00 AM **Program begins at 9:30 AM**

CURRENT AFFAIRS IN INVASIVE PLANTS

Dr. Jane Mangold - Associate Professor and Extension Invasive Plant Specialist MSU – College of Agriculture Dept. of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences

BIOCONTROL OF WEEDS – 101

Dr. Jeff Littlefield – Research Scientist, Ph.D. MSU - College of Agriculture Dept. of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences

USING LIVESTOCK TO CONTROL WEEDS

Dr. Jeff Mosley - Professor and Extension Range Management Specialist MSU - College of Agriculture Dept. of Animal and Range Sciences

In addition, several local organizations will offer information on their programs and services.

LUNCH SERVED FOLLOWING THE PROGRAM. THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR ADMISSION.

Please RSVP by February 3rd to Kathryn Kelly at 406-579-5481 or kathryn@mtlandreliance.org

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A craving for chocolate

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER **EBS STAFF**

First consumed by the Mayans, chocolate is now an indulgence enjoyed around the world. Research has shown it to have a positive effect on mood and improve cognitive performance, in addition to containing antioxidants and just tasting downright delicious. But how is it made?



A cacao pod split in half, revelaing its beans. CC PHOTO

Cacao trees can grow anywhere within 20 degrees of the equator, and can

produce fruit for 100 years. Chocolate production is a very labor-intensive process. The butternut squash-sized pods must be hand-harvested by machete from the cacao tree. Each pod contains between 30-50 beans, from which chocolate products are made.

These almond-sized beans are sorted, fermented for three to seven days to remove some of their bitterness, and then dried. Next, the beans are cleaned, weighed and roasted.

The beans are then processed through a machine that cracks the seeds revealing the portion called the nib. The nibs are approximately 47 percent cocoa solids and 53 percent cocoa butter. Cocoa butter is the fat component in chocolate, and cocoa solids are used to make cocoa powder.

At this point, the nibs can either be packaged, or be further processed into a paste similar in consistency to almond butter, referred to as chocolate liquor. Chocolate liquor is not suitable for consumption on its own, but is mixed with ingredients like milk and sugar to create the chocolate products that we're accustomed to. In a process called conching, machines blend the chocolate liquor to remove moisture, or more cocoa butter is added to achieve the perfect texture.

The final product is poured into molds, cooled, and packaged.

Today, there are countless varieties of chocolate on the market, but most fall

Unsweetened chocolate is 100 percent chocolate liquor that has been further broken down with machinery and processed for days to make its texture more palatable. This is commonly sold as unsweetened baking chocolate.

Bittersweet, semisweet and dark chocolate all contain different percentages of chocolate liquor, but all have a minimum of 35 percent cocoa solids. These types contain no milk or milk powder, and have varying quantities of added sugar.

Milk chocolate contains at least 10 percent chocolate liquor and 12 percent milk solids. There are variations, but generally milk chocolate contains more sugar than the others.

White chocolate is not made from cocoa solids, but only cocoa butter, sugar and sometimes other flavorings. It contains the most fat of any chocolate.

Cocoa powder is created after cocoa butter has been removed from chocolate liquor, and remaining solids are crushed and ground. Cocoa powder is usually sold unsweetened.

AMUSE-BOUCHE

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

Ready or not, here it comes



BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Big Sky is coming into its own as a year-round destination, and our summers are growing with all the fervor of a hydroponic tomato under ultraviolet light. Our "off seasons" are now "shoulder seasons," and traffic through Gallatin Canyon is often slower in summer than winter. But despite summer's welcomed growth, nothing beats the time of year when there

is barely an empty bed, untouched line on the slopes, or an open seat in a restaurant. We know it as Christmas week.

We talk about it over beer at the brewery, in line at the grocery store, or while grabbing coffee, riding up the Swift Current lift, and hanging out at Thursday night music in the park. If you live and work in Big Sky, you are well aware of this particular week and a half.

And not only do these conversations know no seasonality, the preparation for it doesn't either.

Here at Buck's, our preparation for the next holiday season begins in early January. It usually begins with meetings during which we analyze our challenges and successes of the recent holiday, and try to assess what we need to do now to be better prepared for the next one.

One of the challenges that many of us in hospitality face, not only in Big Sky, but in similar communities throughout the Rockies, is that early winter can be one of the quietest periods. And then literally, in a matter of a couple of days, some of our slowest days are followed by our busiest.

Imagine taking your first ski run of the year by descending the fastest, steepest part of the mountain. Sure, many of you will succeed, but if something goes wrong, you will know it—painfully and quickly.

In the final days leading up to this annual challenge, we have what seem to be countless conversations with our brethren around town in those same stores, breweries and lift lines. We all ask each other the same question: "Well, are you ready?"

As those precious few days draw near, we begin preparing our minds for what is to come. I am in the ears of new team members on a daily basis, coaching, encouraging, organizing and preparing them in every way possible for what is to come.

As former boxer Mike Tyson famously said, "everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth."

There is nothing like that first night of a restaurant up and running at full speed. We always joke that the Buck's kitchen is like a train. It may not always start instantly, but once our establishment is humming with cooks, dishwashers, bartenders, hosts and waitstaff, I fear for anyone that gets in its way.

And so, another Christmas has come and gone in Big Sky. Restaurant staff are taking a breath, employees are taking to the slopes again, and everyone is putting Humpty Dumpty back together again.

But I have to admit, stressful as it is, it is this energy, volume, and the precision demanded to avoid chaos, that drives many of us in the industry. It is how I cut my teeth in this business and, after every holiday season, I reflect on my former mentors and ask myself if we would have met their standards. Thanks to an amazing crew, I can usually answer "yes" to this question.

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



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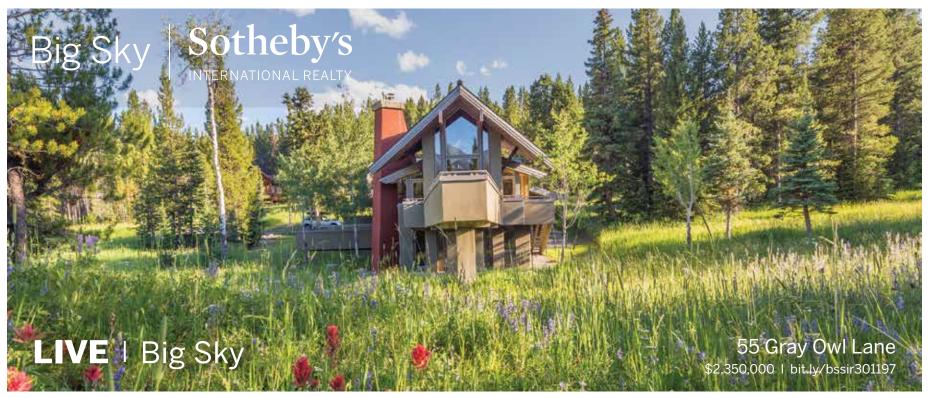


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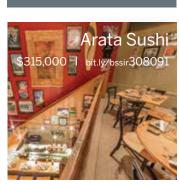


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Winter cooking classes celebrate seasonal inspiration

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY - Inspiration can come from the slightest of places: snow falling from the sky, a flickering flame in the fireplace, stocking hats, wool gloves, down coats and snow boots. For Nancy Radick Butler, owner of The Gourmet Gals in Big Sky, inspiration comes with the seasons and fuels her desire to cook.

Having lived in South Florida surrounded by Italian and Caribbean cuisine, traveling abroad and exploring a variety of ethnic foods, and having moved to the Northern Rockies in the '80s to find the mingling of wild game, trout and fowl, Butler is passionate about great food and festivity, and enjoys making people happy through her cuisine.

One manifestation of this passion comes forth in her cooking classes, which she has offered for nine years.

"I really enjoy the community cooking classes," Butler said. "We try to focus on the things people ask the most about."

Butler said she is encouraged by positive community feedback. For example, when she visits the post office or grocery store and someone who attended a class tells her the lesson was a success, the meal taught in class has become a family favorite, or the kids keep asking for more.

This year, The Gourmet Gals is offering a set of three winter classes beginning Jan. 24, following the culmination of the holiday series that ended in December. At each class, Butler will teach how to cook meals fit for warming the heart on a winter day in Big Sky.

The first course in this series is focused on winter ragùs and will explore the combination of the hearty, traditional Italian sauce with duck, elk or beef for a Rocky Mountain flair. Following the Jan. 24 class, Butler invites the community to join her Feb. 21, to learn about making fool-proof wild mushroom risotto and variations for a main course or side dish. The winter series concludes March 21, with an exploration of gourmet ground beef and creative ways to elevate this humble American staple.



Nancy Radick Butler (right), owner of The Gourmet Gals, and personal chef Michelle Smith. Butler will begin her community cooking lessons on Jan. 24 with a series of winter-inspired meals. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

Courses are held at the Big Sky Discovery Academy from 6 to 8 p.m. and the registration fee includes ingredients, the meal and the lesson. Students are invited to bring their own beverage to enjoy with the meals they create.

In addition to the community cooking classes, The Gourmet Gals offer private lessons, personal chef services and catering. They also have a wide selection of meals available for online order and delivery, as well as items that can be picked up and baked at home. All items are prepared in Big Sky at The Gourmet Gals' kitchen located at 77 Aspen Leaf Dr.

For more information about the community cooking classes, email info@bigsky-discoveryacademy.com or call (406) 995-7300. To learn more about The Gourmet Gals, visit thegourmetgals.com.

Gourmet wine and food pairing celebrates culinary arts

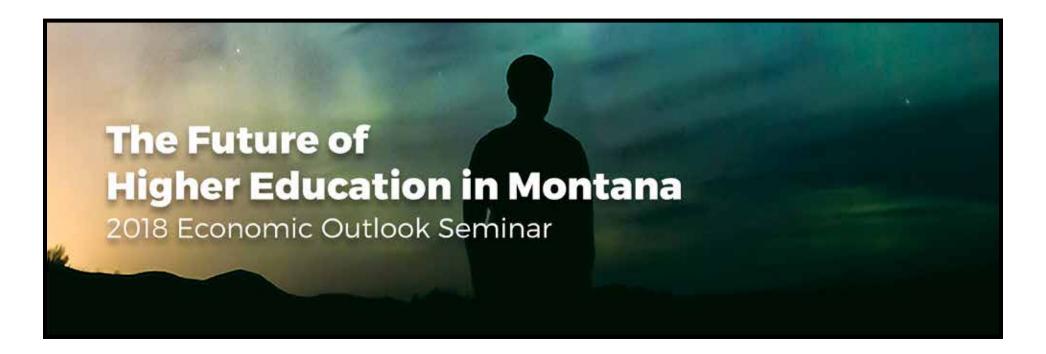
A version of the popular summer wine and culinary arts festival is back for one exquisite and intimate evening this winter with the Vine and Dine Guild Dinner on Sat., Jan. 27. Google Global Program Chef Scott Giambastiani will team up once again with Master Sommelier Jay Fletcher to provide an evening of gourmet food and perfectly paired rare wines. Visit bigskyresort.com/guilddinner for more information and to purchase tickets. PHOTOS BY CODY WHITMER











Join Us for a LIVE Broadcast

Wednesday, January 31st | 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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Section 3:OUTDOORS, HEALTH & BACK 40







INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



Playing nice in the Greater Yellowstone

Community conservation emerges in this wild region

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – How many places in the lower 48 can you hike 60 miles and not see a single other person; drive dirt roads spotted with free-grazing cattle and horses; witness a grizzly bear sauntering through a meadow; hear the sound of a wolf's howl; and stare into a dark, starlit sky?

Many consider the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem the wildest corner in the lower 48, containing the largest concentration of wildlife, half of the world's active geysers, and amounting to 20 million acres that span three states and two national parks. The area is a hotspot for recreation and many outdoor enthusiasts have relocated to the wildland that is the Greater Yellowstone.

With a passion for this place they call home, many scientists have devoted their careers to researching the region. However, according to some, the results of years-long studies may not effectively be reaching area communities.

In a December presentation for Montana State University's Western Lands & Peoples speaker series, MSU Department of Ecology professor Andrew Hansen alluded to this.

"On the science front," he said, "I would suggest we could do a much better job of just taking the pulse of the ecosystem ... and then most importantly, to communicate these results to the wide variety of people that live and work in the system. To communicate in ways that resonate not with the scientists, but resonate with the business community and the ranchers and others."

Hansen is the director of MSU's Landscape Biodiversity Lab and has worked in collaboration with the National Park Service, NASA and other academics in order to develop ways of assessing the vulnerability of ecosystems to climate variation, population growth and land use change—a health assessment for the ecosystem.

"The issue is there's so much data available for land managers," Hansen said. "There's a huge amount of information, but it's not used. ... We need these types of simple do's and don'ts, for backcountry recreationists, fly fishermen [and] homeowners."

Hannah Jaicks, a program manager for the nonprofit consulting team Future West, works independently of advocacy groups in order to facilitate projects and provide technical assistance, training and information about conservation.

"[Conservation scientists and researchers] have this awareness of what's needed," said Jaicks, who is an environmental psychologist. "But the on-the-ground implementation of that gets muddled."

When everything you believe in, everything that is important to you, is challenged, that hurts, she explained, whether you are a fourth-generation rancher who shoots wolves that prey on your cattle, or a conservation scientist who's compiled data from NASA's satellite instruments.

"It's a false dichotomy that you're right or wrong, or good or bad," Jaicks said. "Conservation is not just a data problem, it's a people thing. ... Conservation, like anything else, has a lot to do with relationships. Facts don't get people's behavior to change."

According to Jaicks, community is what makes people change. "It comes down to understanding how people think; it comes from a place of understanding and non-judgment. You have to show up as a person. You have to treat people like people."

Jaicks is the first to admit she has anxieties over the future of the region, though she does remain hopeful. She knows that relationship building doesn't always work. "But I also know sometimes it does," she said.

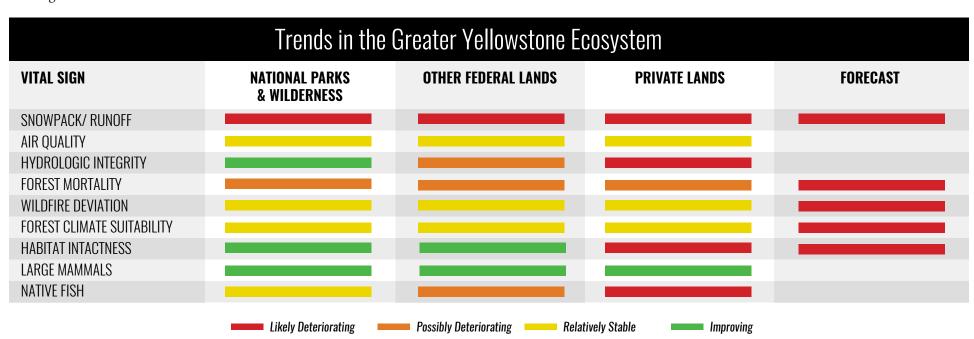
Both Jaicks and Hansen are calling for the community to identify shared values—whether we prioritize river flows, native species, planned development or others—as a first step in developing ways to reduce negative impacts for the future.

"We want a silver bullet for issues," Jaicks said. "We want a thing that we can do to solve the problem, but this is not conducive to a set of 10 items that are going to solve conservation. ... We're not going to get rid of our livelihoods [such as ranching or farming], that is a disrespect to our own species. We're not going to stop people from having babies."

But, Jaicks said, community members have to play nice. "You have to come from a place of knowing yourself and knowing your values and beliefs, but also of being in a place where you can communicate with other people. ... It's called being a decent person, judging people by their character."

Brooke Regan, a project manager for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, has been working on just one avenue for developing shared values. In a partnership with MSU, the organization is planning a symposium in April entitled "Our Shared Place: The Present and Future of Recreation" that will highlight what we know about recreation and what we can do about the added pressures recreation places on the land.

"The Greater Yellowstone is becoming an increasingly popular place to visit, to live, to play," Regan said. "How do we balance recreation with conservation? We're really interested in getting a diversity of perspectives to the table to start to figure out what other people's ideas are and what solutions there could be."





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Winter angling safetyDo it right to enjoy the season of solitude



BY PATRICK STRAUB EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

During my most recent outing on the Gallatin River, my angling companions were a few water ouzels, several bighorn sheep, and a moose that casually crossed upstream of my location. The quietness of the river comforted me after the hustle of the holiday season—Christmas parties, my children's insistence on Santa's impending arrival, a New Year's Day hangover, and driving in-laws to the airport.

Yet in my immersion into fly-fishing solitude, I thought, "What if I trip and hurt myself? The uncle I was so glad to see leave can't help me now."

Winter fly fishing embraces the experience over the result. In today's world of updates, hashtags, friends, and grip-and-grins, angling in winter is the season to cherish the act of fishing. However, with solitude comes a responsibility to be safe. Here's some helpful advice to keep your winter angling safe and enjoyable.

Ice jams are dangerous realities. Ice jams ultimately break, sending thousands of pounds of ice and debris downstream faster than you can run. Predicting when and where ice jams will form is akin to anticipating where a tornado will touch down.

When daytime highs remain in the low 20s F and colder for more than a week, conditions are ideal for ice jams to form. As temps warm and hover above the high 30s and warmer, ice jams can burst. Do not fish the river downstream of any known ice jams. If conditions exist for ice jams to break, inquire locally or spend extra time to drive upstream to inspect.

Proper clothing, layered and utilized. Winter weather can change quickly for the better or worse, so be prepared with quality waterproof outerwear. A stocking hat and gloves are essential. Layer your clothing appropriately, yet plan accordingly—often times a hike through deep snow is essential to get to a favorite run.

Sweat caused from exertion may dampen layers close to your skin, causing you to become chilled too quickly. If I know I have a hike ahead of me, I always pack an extra vest or fleece layer to wear once I reach the river. If my hike is short, I unzip my outerwear and take off my stocking cap.

Quality waders with zippers or added features. Winter is not the time to fish in your hand-me-down, third generation waders. Invest in durable waders that have features you will use, such as a zipper for ease of relieving yourself—or waders with built-in hand-warmer pockets, or pockets to stash gear. But above all, spend some extra money on durability.

Cleated or aluminum-barred boots. Our local trout rivers are slippery enough in summer, but a fall in the icy Gallatin or Upper Madison rivers right now will ruin your day immediately, or worse, end your life if you are far from help. Add cleats to your boots or purchase boots with a built-in aluminum bar, such as the Patagonia Foot Tractor wading boot.

Wade safely and leave the risk taking for the slopes. Never wade deeper than your thighs and accept that no fish is worth your life. Be aware of bottom-dwelling anchor ice—ice that builds from the river bottom up—as even the best designed wading boots struggle on anchor ice. A wading staff, or long handled net, is important if you plan to cross a stream, or feel less than able on slippery rocks.

Shelf ice: stay off and stay away. Shelf ice builds from the stream bank out to the middle of the river. Like any frozen lake or pond, venturing onto it carries risk. Shelf ice is different because should you break it, there is most likely flowing water beneath it. Two legs, broken ice, and moving water are not good combinations. Stay off shelf ice and stay safe.

Plan for plenty of travel time and park appropriately. Driving in winter can be challenging enough. Give yourself plenty of time to get to the river to avoid being rushed in poor conditions. As snow piles up in Gallatin Canyon, several of the normal access points become inaccessible due to the piling of snow. Park in an area where you won't have to flag help because you got stuck, or where getting in and out of your vehicle affects other vehicles.



Angling in winter necessitates being safe. Wear appropriate clothing, including insulated jackets and stocking caps; wade in shallow water at all times; and carry a wading staff or long-handled net, so if you must cross, you can cross safely. PHOTO BY MIKE DONALDSON

Winter on the Gallatin River is an angling experience in which to partake—solitude, witnessing nature in a quiet season, and in Gallatin Canyon, fishing without the distraction of a 4G cell signal. But be sure to fish safely so you can get in your hashtags and updates so all can see the wonderful time you had fishing by yourself.

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.







Film tour captures lessons, inspiration born by fly fishing

FLY FISHING FILM TOUR

It's no secret that time spent engaged with the natural world has the power to change lives—and sometimes even save them. The lessons and inspiration born in the woods and on the water are seeds that plant themselves deep and grow quickly. In particular, the seeds impressed by fly fishing have a distinct power to heal and reshape those that wield a rod.

There's no doubt that hiking, skiing, surfing or cycling are due their share of credit for creating passionate denizens of the outdoors, righting wrong paths and healing old wounds, but fly fishing is, well, just different. Maybe it's the fresh air and thrum of the water. Maybe it's the metronome of the cast or the spark of life against the line. Likely it's all of the above and then some. A different mix for each of us.

You won't have to look long or hard at a Fly Fishing Film Tour screening to find someone who credits fly fishing with positive change in their life. The same can be said of this year's lineup of films, in which you'll see stories of lives revamped by fly fishing, as well as amazing adventures, beautiful locations and a good dose of humor.

With an emphasis on the unique characters, stories and environments that make up the vast world of fly fishing, these films will take you from Michigan to Honduras, from Wyoming to Greenland, from the mind of a child to the heart of a musician, from the edge of your seat to the end of the earth and back.

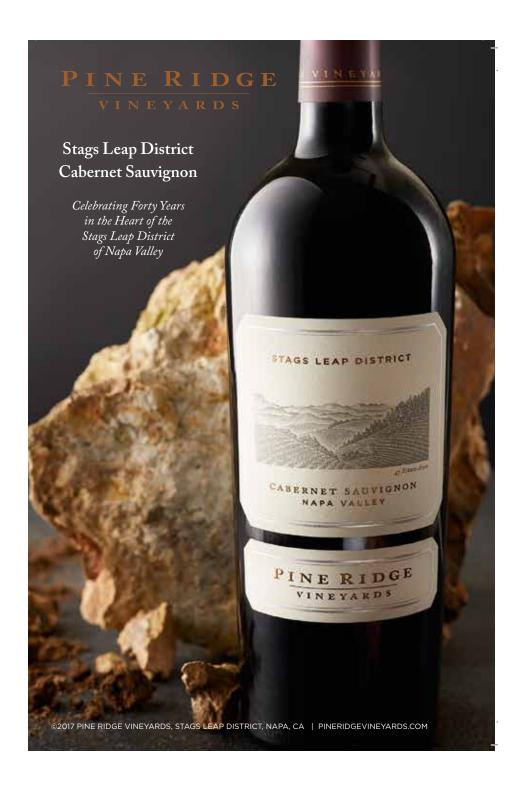
In its 12th lap around the globe, the 2018 tour is packed with remarkable films and imagery that will fuel your dreams for months to come. The Fly



Included in the 2018 Fly Fishing Film Tour, film "Beyond the Horizon" tells the story of Rankin Jackson's efforts to provide for his family in Guanaja, Honduras, while surviving the drug trade, and how fly fishing led him to the road of redemption. PHOTO BY SHANNON VANDIVIER

Fishing Film Tour returns to Bozeman for its 2018 World Premiere at the Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture on Saturday, Jan. 27, with screenings at 4 and 8 p.m.

Discount tickets are available at Montana Troutfitters Fly Shop and The River's Edge Fly Shop in Bozeman. Online tickets, trailers and more information can be found at flyfilmtour.com.







Inside the Big Sky

Winter essentials

VISIT BIG SKY

With all the snow coming down and Montana being touted as having the best conditions in the Rockies at the moment, you and many other powder hounds are scrambling to get here and enjoy all that Big Sky has to offer. In the rush to score some of those fresh tracks, it's easy to forget all the essentials, so here are a few things to remember when heading out for your snow-packed getaway.

Don't forget a hearty set of gloves. Whether cleaning off your car or shredding down the mountain, a good set of gloves is essential to having a great stay in Big Sky. Better yet, bring two.

Snowsuit essentials are obvious but have you remembered your ear buds, the perfect playlist and a buff to protect your face from windburn while ascending to the 11,166-foot summit of Lone Mountain?

No need to worry if you leave any of the essential outerwear at home. Big Sky has plenty of retail options that will ensure you have the freshest look whether you're heading out to snowshoe, cross-country ski or are simply taking a stroll through Town Center.

Now that we've got your adventure gear covered, don't forget to bring something nice to wear for a night out on the town at one of Big Sky's many fine dining establishments.



Sleigh ride dinners at Lone Mountain Ranch are one of many winter fun options in Big Sky—just remember to bring the essentials so you can enjoy them. PHOTO COURTESY OF VISIT BIG SKY

Après ski is an important part of the Big Sky experience, so don't forget a bathing suit for relaxing in a hot tub after a hard day on the slopes, or to enjoy a soak and live music at Bozeman Hot Springs. In Big Sky, relaxation is never far away.

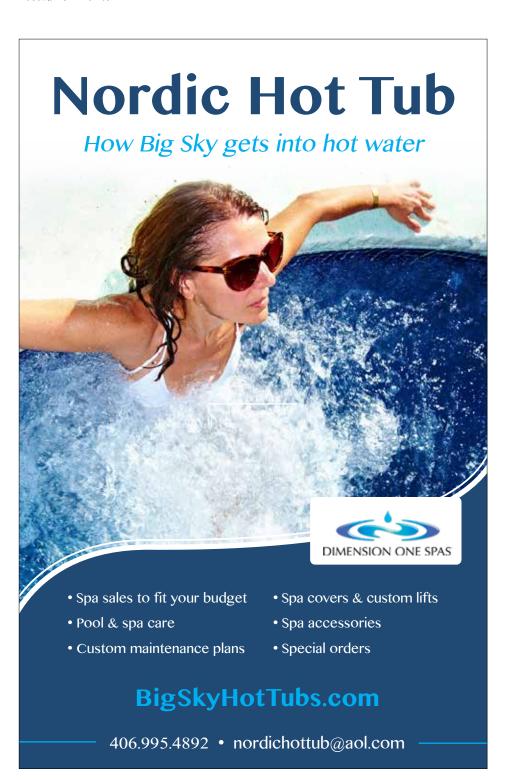
S'mores ingredients come in handy as there are plenty of locations to enjoy roasting a good 'mallow. A favorite spot can be found right in the heart of Town Center, in Fire Pit Park.

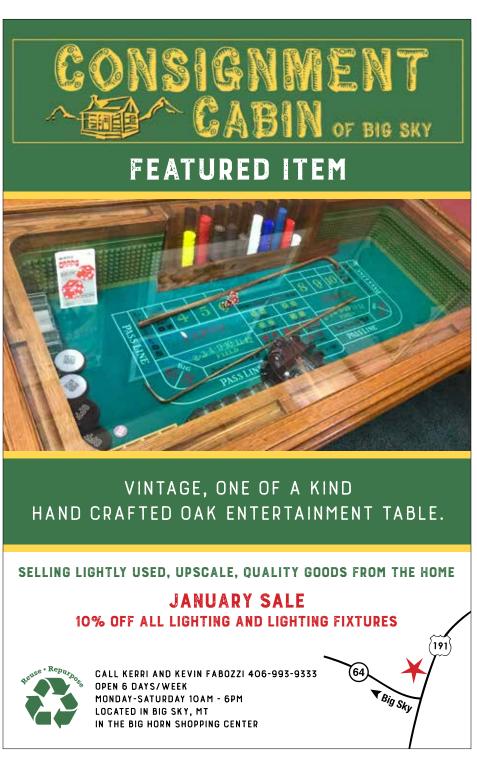
If in search of more kid-friendly activities, bring or buy a sled (available at the local Ace Hardware Store) and join the local kids on the neighborhood sled hill found at the junction of Spruce Cone Drive and Bobsled Trail in the Meadow's South Fork neighborhood.

Bring skates or rent them to enjoy a few hours on the Town Center ice rink, or grab a hot cocoa and be a spectator of open skate or weekly curling and ice hockey events.

There is no shortage of winter fun to be had in Big Sky, so long as you have the right gear, whether you bring it or buy it here.

A version of this story was originally published on the Visit Big Sky blog at visithigskymt.com/winter-essentials-packing-list/. Read more interesting content about the area on Visit Big Sky's blog at visithigskymt.com/category/blog/.





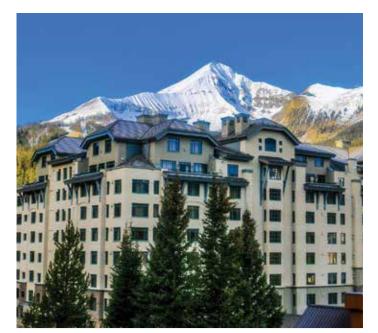
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Moose Ridge Lodge | \$2.45 1.14 ACRES | 3,900 SQ FT | 4 bedrooms | 4.5 bathrooms Gated community residence with abundant wildlife and Lone Peak view



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On the Trail: Far East Loop

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

BY CIARA WOLFE **BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The Far East Loop is a multi-use winter trail in the Big Sky Community Park. Dog, bike, and ski-friendly, this 1.25-kilometer loop is made for lapping until both you and your pooch are tired.

With easy access, ample parking, and dog-waste bags and trash cans, this short loop delivers the perfect amount of exercise no matter the time of day, or how much time you have. The easy-level trail loops around the fields of the Community Park with a small elevation gain and descent of 75 feet.

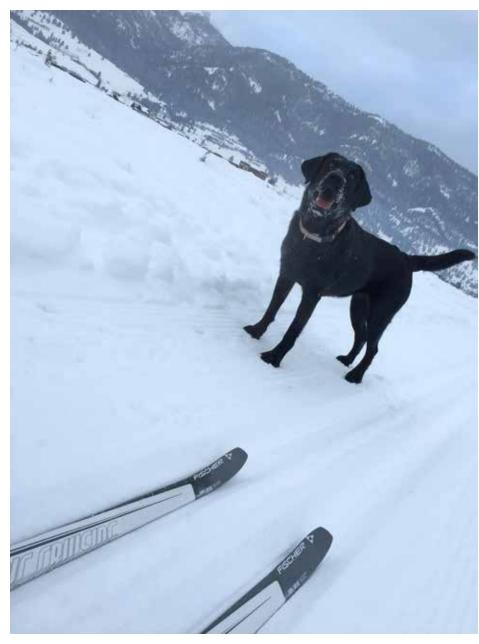
The trail extends all the way to Little Coyote Road, which you can cross and join the Crail Trail to add another 2 kilometers to the Far East Trail. If you choose not to extend the loop along the golf course, you can turn around and make another lap.

Other multi-use trails in the park, although not groomed, but user-packed, are Black Diamond Trail and Little Willow Way. The Community Park is a great starting point for any of your Nordic ski adventures on the golf course.

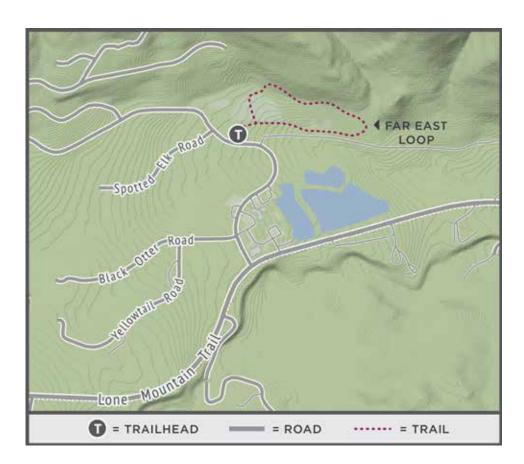
Stop in and say hello to the local trail ambassadors who will be at the park in a warming yurt on various Saturdays between 10 a.m. and noon throughout the winter. The ambassadors are on site to share trail updates and provide a warm mug of hot cocoa or tea while you warm up and learn about other winter trail opportunities in Big Sky.

You can pick up your annual season pass or day pass from the Lone Mountain Ranch outdoor shop or online at lonemountainranch.com/nordic-ski-trailpasses/. All proceeds from pass sales go toward the cost of grooming Big Sky's Nordic trail system. For a complete map of Big Sky's 85 kilometers 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.



The Far East Loop, originating in Big Sky Community Park, is skate and classic-groomed for a Nordic experience that is also dog and fat bike-friendly. PHOTO BY CIARA WOLFE





TRAIL STATS



Distance

loop

1.25-kilometer

Uses cross-country

and dog friendly

skiing, fat bike

Difficulty Easy 6,500 feet



Surface

skate and classic-groomed trails

Directions: Take Lone Mountain Trail west from Highway 191. In approximately 2.5 miles turn right onto Little Coyote Road. After approximately 1 mile, turn right at the Big Sky Community Park. Parking is located on the left in the plowed parking lot.





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

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

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

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Adjacent to Big Sky Resort. 2 bd, 3 ba with bonus room, vaulted living room ceiling, propane stove fireplace, and hardwood floors. Excellent rental potential.



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

Great views from this 3 bd, 3 ba Deer Run Condo. End unit with vaulted ceilings, two decks and fireplace in the living room. Sold partially furnished.



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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.

Public comment sought on Forest Plan Revision

EBS STAFF

The Custer Gallatin National Forest has released a proposed forest plan revision as a part of the four-year revision process and is seeking public input through March 5.

The proposal represents an interdisciplinary approach that includes many specialists from across the forest. It also incorporates input received from the public and other agencies, and includes topics like recreation, grazing, adaptability and the balance between increasing recreation and protecting resources.

In 2014, the Custer and Gallatin national forests were consolidated into the single Custer Gallatin National Forest, which covers more than 4,800 square miles. However, the forest has continued to be managed under forest plans created in 1986 and 1987.

With 3.1 million visitors each year, the Custer Gallatin is the ninth most-visited national forest in the U.S.

In January 2016, the Forest Service began the four-year process of revising the Custer Gallatin National Forest Plan, which has included four rounds of public meetings. Once commentary closes on the proposal, the Forest Service will hold additional community meetings before developing a final plan by the winter of 2019.

To view the proposal, visit www.fs.usda.gov/custergallatin. Comments may be made online through the website or by emailing cgplanrevision@fs.fed.us with the subject line reading "Comment - draft plan - CGNF." Comments can also be mailed directly to Custer Gallatin National Forest, Attn: Forest Plan Revision Team, P.O. Box 130, Bozeman, MT 59771.

Region 3 seeks applicants for citizens' advisory committee

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is seeking applicants to fill four volunteer positions on the Region 3 Citizens' Advisory Committee.

FWP is interested in selecting members from a pool of candidates who represent a variety of interests and communities within the region. Preference may be given to candidates from underrepresented areas of the region. Terms will begin upon selection in February 2018.

The Citizens' Advisory Committee helps FWP achieve its goals by sharing information, ideas, emerging trends and initiatives from the public in a setting that welcomes differing points of view. Citizen advisors serve in a voluntary capacity with meals and travel expenses provided.

Meetings are generally held quarterly in Bozeman, but there may be travel to locations of interest. All meetings are open to the public.

Specifically, the functions of the CAC are to:

- Help promote Montana's strong outdoor recreation traditions.
- Provide a forum for ongoing two-way communication with our neighbors and communities in southwest Montana.
- Help FWP personnel maintain and improve responsiveness to the public.
- Help FWP identify emerging issues.
- Provide advice and perspective on important resource and management issues.
- Assist FWP with crafting local, sustainable solutions on regional and statewide issues.

Applicants will be asked to provide an overview of their interests and involvement in natural resource issues. Finalists may be asked to interview by phone or in person.

To obtain an application, visit the FWP Region 3 office at 1400 S. 19th Ave., call (406) 994-4042, or email anjones@mt.gov. Completed applications must be returned to FWP by Jan. 26. Applicants will be notified by email (or mail if requested) by mid-February about the results of the selection process.



Dummy Jump returns to resort

EBS STAFF

It is nearly that time of year again, when Big Sky Resort encourages community members to get out their engineering toolbox and design a dummy to be launched off of a jump and into the snow. The 15th annual Dummy Jump will return Saturday, Feb. 3, and onlookers are highly encouraged to stop by.

Registration is free for this event and begins at 11 a.m. at the Summit Clock Tower. At 1:30 p.m. participants will display their dummies in a parade at the Ambush Headwall and the event will launch at 2 p.m.—literally.

In a statement released by Big Sky Resort, Public Relations Manager Chelsi Moy said, "There is no dumb idea when it comes to the Dummy Jump. ... This competition pits the biggest dummies against the best dummies."

At Montana Jack beginning at 4 p.m., \$850 in prizes will be given based on creativity, amplitude, structure, destruction, best-looking dummy and those with the best accuracy.

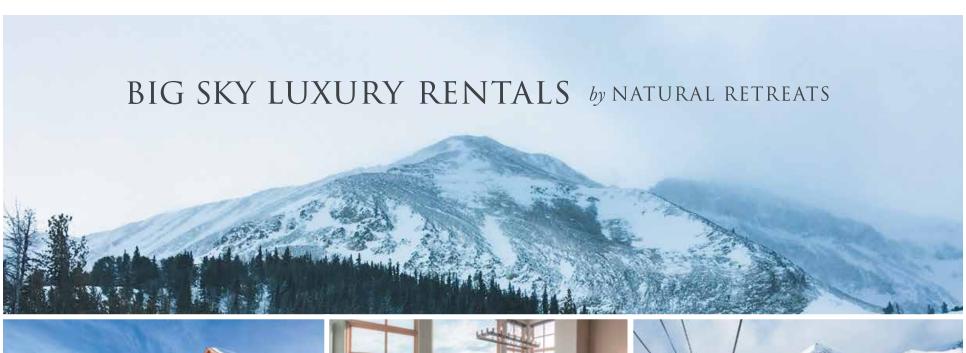
Moy said there are several important rules participants will need to follow. While the event is meant as a crowd pleaser, dummies may not contain pyrotechnics, flames or fireworks. The dummies can't contain material that will dye the snow, and may not include gravel, sand or concrete because it is bad for the slopes.

Competitors may wish to heed several helpful tips. According to Moy, "It's all about balance. Use straight, long skis, keep the center of gravity low. Dummies that self-destruct are the most entertaining to watch."

For more information about the Dummy Jump, visit bigskyresort.com/dummyjump.



Community members are encouraged to design a dummy to be launched off of a jump at Big Sky Resort on Feb. 3 as a part of the annual Dummy Jump. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BIG SKY RESORT









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Ski Tips: The Morning Glide

BY DAN EGAN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The "morning glide" is how I refer to the first run of the day. It's simply a run to welcome in the day, feel the chill in the air, and gain a sense of the snow under my skis. It's a chance to say hello to the day and to my body as I glide down the mountainside. I'm not trying to over glorify the scene, just set the stage for the day.

On the first run of the morning, I like to do the following to set up for a day of great skiing.

Never overthink the first run. It's a judgment-free run and it's not about performance. Regardless of the conditions—firm, soft, powder, groomed—the goal is to just glide. While gliding, make big, long, sweeping turns and resist the urge to carve and accelerate. Just feel the day, find a rhythm, and breathe in the morning air.

Ski coach Dan Eagan uses his first run of the morning as a way of welcoming in the day and feeling the snow beneath his skis. PHOTO COURTESY OF RUMBLE PRODUCTIONS

When it comes to your ski boots, leave them a bit loose to start with. Let your foot work its way into the liner. Keeping the boots slightly loose will also enhance the blood flow to your feet, which will keep them warmer and allow them to be more reactive as the day progresses.

The rule of thumb for boots is to buckle them tighter throughout the day, but don't over tighten them and cut off circulation. Many people crank their boots up tight and then have to unbuckle them between runs. This is counterproductive. If you're having trouble getting a comfortable fit, see a boot fitter right away.

The main goal on the morning glide is to wake up your senses. Wave your arms, twist your torso, flex your knees deep in the turns, and extend way up in the transitions. This is your morning stretch, a meditative flowing yoga as you slide down the slope.

Often if I feel stiff or sore in my lower back or maybe my hamstrings are tight, I'll stop and stretch on the side of the hill, concentrating on the specific areas of the body that are asking for attention. I tend to stop a few more times than normal on the opening run of the day, just to remind myself not to rush and to ensure a good, solid warm-up run taking place.

There's a lot of pressure, especially on the good snow days, to hurry and grab as much of the fresh snow as possible and I fully understand that. It's the case on any given day when fresh tracks are of a premium.

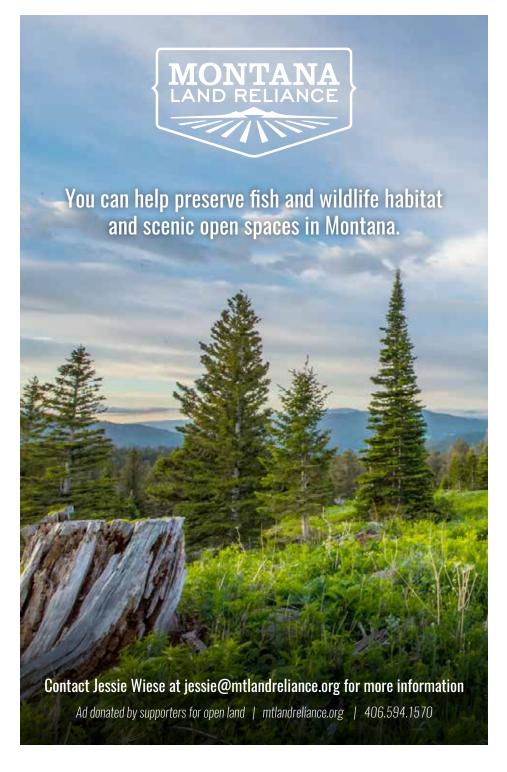
I select slopes that have the good snow, but are wide open so my turns can flow and I have space to focus on my breathing and movement. It's on these days when you might be skiing longer distances than normal, trying to keep up with the pack. When this happens focus even more on breathing and lengthening the turn as this conserves energy and allows you to lose the vertical, which will allow you to keep up.

The morning glide for me is my time, my pace, and it creates the dynamic that sets up the entire day. It's as important to me as the first cup of coffee. Often it feels so good I'll head right back to the top to do it all over again. And as each run gains momentum throughout the day, I start to rev up performance, increase speed, tighten up the turns, set the edges, and enjoy a full day on the hill.

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 he teaching Feb. 22-24, March 1-2 and March 8-10, as well as during specialty clinics throughout the season. Visit higskyresort.com or contact Big Sky Mountain Sports for availability. To find more information on Dan Egan camps and clinics, go to skiclinics.com.







Fundraising hike benefits avalanche education programs

EBS STAFF

The annual King and Queen of the Ridge fundraising event returns to Bridger Bowl Ski Area on Feb. 3, as an active way of raising funds for the Friends of the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center.

Prior to the event, participants gather pledges from the community at a perhike or flat rate. Then, on Feb. 3, the participants will hike 400 vertical feet from the top of the Bridger lift to the ridge, then ski back to the start to do it all over again. The time limit is five hours and hikers may continue for as long as they wish during that window.

Skiers and snowboarders of all ages may participate and will compete in categories based on age. Groups may also compete as a team and costumes are encouraged. All competitors will need a valid season pass or lift ticket for Bridger Bowl.

At 8 a.m., participants will meet at the mandatory competitor's meeting in the Jim Bridger Lodge and the event will run from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Medals will be awarded to the top three male and female finishers in every age group as well as in several categories including King and Queen of the Ridge, Individual to Raise the Most Money, and Family with the Most Hikes.

Since 2003, this event has raised \$137,474 for the Friends of GNFAC, which is used to support avalanche education and awareness programs for backcountry users in and around the Gallatin Valley. Programs offered by the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center reach more than 5,000



King and Queen of the Ridge is a hike and ski fundraiser that benefits the Friends of the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center. PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIDGER BOWL SKI AREA

people every year, including school-aged children, search and rescue or ski patrol groups, individuals, and ski and snowmobile clubs.

The GNFAC puts out daily avalanche advisories during winter, estimated to reach over 4,500 people every day.

To participate, hikers must preregister with Bridger Bowl and establish a pledge page to track donations by noon on Feb. 2. To sign up, visit bridgerbowl. com/events/2018/02/03/king-and-queen.





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'WeCroak' encourages contemplation



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN **EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST**

I'm going to tell you about my favorite new app, in spite of fearing that you'll think I'm too morbid. It's called WeCroak and for a one-time cost of 99 cents, I get five randomly timed notifications to my phone each day, reminding me that I'm going to die. A notification appears on my screen that says, "Remember, you're going to die. Swipe to see quote ... "

While going through hospice training 12 years ago, I began to learn the value of contemplating death. During the course, I was deeply and positively affected by thinking about my own mortality, but eventually, I slipped comfortably back into denial and happily distracted myself as is so easy to do.

WeCroak is based on a famous Bhutanese folk saying that to be a happy person one must contemplate death five times daily. It's an excellent example of the economic "scarcity principle," which is founded in the idea that the less you have of something, the more you value it.

On their site, they explain that, "You are encouraged to take one moment for contemplation, conscious breathing or meditation when WeCroak notifications arrive. We find that a regular practice of contemplating mortality helps spur needed change, accept what we must, let go of things that don't matter and honor things that do."

And it works. When I read my reminder, I'm compelled to give my 14-year-old golden retriever an extra long pet before I leave the house, I'm more thoughtful when communicating with my husband, and I'm more gentle with myself.

To give you an idea of the type of quotes that appear on the app, here's one currently on my phone:

"If I take death into my life, acknowledge it, and face it squarely, I will free myself from the anxiety of death and the pettiness of life—and only then will I be free to become myself."

As we let New Year's resolutions dissolve into the background, and our resistance to change takes control of the reins yet again, the reminder of death compels us to square up with the resistance and say, "No more! I may not be here in 2019, I'm going to face my fears and finally accomplish this now. Carpe diem!"

I learned about this app in the January/February issue of The Atlantic magazine. The former executive tech editor of the Huffington Post, Bianca Bosker, reviewed it. Not only did the intent behind the app appeal to me, she also makes the point that many of the "mindfulness" apps out there today actually suck us deeper into time staring at our devices.

WeCroak doesn't compel users to further burrow with awards for engagement and doesn't ask to be shared to social media posts or with friends. It's straightforward: a simple notification, swipe, read and when the next one comes, it's gone forever.

I'll leave you with one more quote from the WeCroak app:

"Let go, live your life, the grave has no sunny corners."

Jackie Rainford Corcoran is an IIN Certified Holistic Health Coach, culture consultant and TEDx speaker and podcaster. For a complimentary health consultation, visit ber website corcoranhealth.com and schedule your meeting today.

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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"

Winter Camping: Like hell, frozen over

STORY AND ILLUSTRATION BY MAGGIE SLEPIAN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

There are plenty of sensible winter activities in Montana. Most folks ski, snowboard, ice climb, or borrow a kid and go sledding. I'm in the minority of Montana-dwellers. I spend the frozen season dashing from house to car and back, cranking the living room thermostat. Then I tried winter camping.

I was contemplating this decision when I stomped out of the woods, my pack digging into my shoulders and my stupid gaiters sliding down my calves. The final snow-covered meadow stretched out before me, one last godforsaken booby trap on this frigid hike.

I took a tentative step onto the open snowfield, then another. On the third, I plunged through the crust jamming myself so deep I had to flop onto my stomach and rock like a beached whale to free the entrapped leg. I rolled to a solid spot, took three steps, and repeated the torturous process. My fiancé Rocky followed, falling waist-deep and muttering a string of curses under his breath.

We weren't on an impressive mountaineering trip or backcountry expedition. On this February day, Rocky and I, along with our giant mutt Sako, were just trying to get to Mystic Lake, outside of Bozeman. We'd spent the past four hours slipping and postholing, and planned to spend the freezing night under ripstop nylon and soggy down.

It was pitch-black when I opened my eyes, and my watch said 2 a.m. I lay there for a moment, trying to figure out where I was and why I was lying on a canister of fuel. As my mind cleared, I heard a rattle and "clack-clack-clack" from Rocky's side of the tent.

Our "campsite" at the frozen lake was silent and still on arrival, the area slumbering under a blanket of snow. I turned in slow circles beneath the dull gray sky, looking for a place to set my backpack.

"There's nowhere dry," Rocky said, pulling the tent from his pack. "There's snow. Everywhere. Let's get the tent set up before my hands freeze off."

We stamped out a semi-flat area, and pitched the tent with numb fingers. I shoved the stakes into the snow. They instantly popped out as we tightened the fly. In an uncharacteristic show of common sense, we reburied them horizontally, and counted it a short-lived victory.

The most basic of camp chores turned infuriating as we fumbled through crusty snow attempting to keep our gear dry. By the time we'd unloaded our packs and inflated our sleeping pads, the sweat from our hike had dried, and we were both shivering under clammy, synthetic base layers. We changed into dry camp clothes, which I'm convinced saved my life.

As the sky dimmed and Sako began chasing snowflakes, I pictured friends back in Bozeman sitting in a cozy restaurant booth, stuffing their faces with sushi and knocking back \$9 cocktails. Rocky lit our thimble-sized stove and gingerly wedged it in a pocket of snow, balancing the pot on top. Within a minute, the snow under the stove melted and tipped our sad clump of shelf-stable Alfredo to the ground.

I retreated to my sleeping bag and gnawed a half-frozen granola bar, trying not to think about a warm bed or real food. Rocky trudged off to hang the food bag (to deter hibernating bears) then reappeared and dove shivering into the tent, shoving his Nalgene into his sleeping bag.



"We need to sleep with our water bottles so they don't freeze," he said. "The fuel canister too. Put your socks in there so they'll dry out."

I shuffled the debris pile at the bottom of my sleeping bag until I could lay flat, then buried my head in the mummy hood and tried to sleep, listening to the dog leaping through branches outside.

It was pitch-black when I opened my eyes, and my watch said 2 a.m. I lay there for a moment, trying to figure out where I was and why I was lying on a canister of fuel. As my mind cleared, I heard a rattle and "clack-clack" from Rocky's side of the tent.

"Rocky?" I hissed, shaking him. He was shivering.

"I don't think \ldots my sleeping bag \ldots is warm enough," he said.

"Which one did you bring?"

"My 37-degree. I thought I'd be warmer." $\,$

If I hazarded a guess, I'd say the temperature that night hovered around 200 below zero. It might have been 25 F. Instead of berating my popsicle fiancé, I whacked the tent to shatter the crusted ice, unzipped the fly, and stuck my head out, squinting for our dog.

"Sako!" I called hoarsely. He crunched over and stuck his head inside the tent. I knew the added body heat would make the night bearable, so I grabbed Sako's collar and dragged his bulk inside, wedging him between Rocky and the tent wall. We spent the rest of the night tossing around the stinky nylon sardine can, but at least we weren't hypothermic.

In the morning, we hacked our way out of the ice-encrusted nylon igloo, frozen shut with the condensation from our breaths. I stuffed my feet into frozen shoes and we shook off the tent, crushing it down to pack into its stiff stuff sack. Without ceremony, we began the 6-mile posthole/ice luge back to the truck.

While we wouldn't win the award for savviest campers, we didn't die, so points for that. And we did some good ol' fashioned learning.

It turns out venting your tent is key to escaping it the next morning; a 37-degree bag just will not do; camp clothes will save your sorry life; and snow won't keep your tent stakes down just because you wish it so. Our glorious shakedown hike also made me bite the bullet and learn to ski. Those people tend to stay on top of the snow.

A version of this story was first published in the winter 2016 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine.

SNOW CAMPING SAVVY

Bury your tent stakes—or better yet, snow stakes horizontally using a "deadman anchor." At camp, immediately remove hiking layers and don dry camp clothes before you get chilled. It's harder to warm yourself up than to stay warm.

Melting snow uses more fuel than boiling water—bring enough fuel for melting snow and cooking.

Bring the right gear, especially a warm sleeping bag—and put a bottle of hot water in it before bedtime.

Section 4:ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT









Erik 'Ole' Nelson: Illuminating the streets of Bozeman

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BOZEMAN – Erik "Ole" Nelson recently completed the most challenging commercial project of his career—the reconstruction of the historic Rialto theater marquee in downtown Bozeman for Thinktank Design Group.

A year in the making, the marquee was stripped of its plywood façade just days before the venue's first private event on Jan. 13, and now brazenly lights up Main Street with its art deco-inspired, mirrored-chrome and red-neon glory.

But while the Rialto's imminent reopening may be getting all the press, 2017 also saw the completion of Nelson's most ambitious work of fine art—a 32-foot welded-steel "tree" commissioned by Montana Arts Council for Missoula College's new River Campus. Although "Emergence" is twice as large as any of his previous sculptures, it's easily recognizable as made by the same hand as the dynamic, organic forms that reside at Bozeman's library and City Hall.

Nelson, known almost exclusively as "Ole," got his nickname in college at Montana State University when he told a fellow Wisconsin "cheesehead" a litany of corny, Scandinavian "Ole and Lena" jokes.

In 1995, while completing his Bachelor of Fine Arts in graphic design and sculpture, Nelson and a friend purchased Murphy's Signs and Graphics and set up shop in industrial north Bozeman.

Nelson has since bought out his partner, moved his company Media Station Design Works to the other side of town, and left his mark all over downtown Bozeman. He restored the iconic Hotel Baxter sign, designed the Community Food Co-op's logo and fabricated its signage, and is responsible for countless other projects that have defined the look of high profile businesses, including Plonk, Copper and Bozeman Brewing Company.

But Nelson said in his 23 years of creating signage, he's never worked on a project so large it required 500 feet of neon, and blocking out a lane of traffic to accommodate a 40-ton crane.

"This is a once in a lifetime project," Nelson said, explaining how he created the design from 1920s photos of the original Rialto marquee, and collaborated with two experts in neon and chrome to bring the computer-generated plans to three-dimensional life. "As far as design and scale, and what [Thinktank] is doing to bring that building back to its historic grandeur ... it's pretty epic. I'm overwhelmed with gratitude that I was able to be a part of it."

Nelson believes that commercial signage can be as powerful as fine art—if it can transcend its advertising component—but his true passion is in creating public sculpture.

Nelson's artistic aspirations began to gain momentum when he submitted a sculpture to Gallatin Art Crossing's annual call for public art. "FishFace" won the 2010 People's Choice Award, earning it a permanent home in Bozeman's Soroptimist Park and in GAC's collection. Committing himself to enter a sculpture each year, he won the People's Choice Award again in 2015 with "DayDreamer," now situated at City Hall, and today Gallatin Art Crossing has five of Nelson's works on loan.

Nelson's process typically begins with intuitive freehand drawings that are scanned into a computer, sized to scale, and cut out on a plasma table.

This requires an ability to think in three-dimensions, something Nelson has had a knack for since he was a child. Not only is this a satisfying mental puzzle, but it's also part of what intrigues him about sculpture in general.



Artist Erik "Ole" Nelson won a Montana Arts Council commission with the designs for "Emergence," a 32-foot welded-steel sculpture placed on Missoula College's new River Campus. PHOTO BY ERIN CHAMBERLAIN

"When you build it in three dimensions, now it has this other life to it," Nelson said. "If you look at it [from one angle] you may still see the two-dimensional shape, but if you turn slightly you see the other dimension. Every time you take a different perspective, something new emerges—that combined with the abstract imagery makes it feel like there are endless possibilities [within a single sculpture]."

Nelson's sculptures contain a tension between many polarities. The curvilinear forms are abstract, but conjure visions of dancers, Piscean fish, limbs and branches. They are organic and fluid, suggestive of wood, but are made out of one of the world's strongest, most unyielding metals. The positive and negative space are in dialogue with one another, but each tell their own story.

"I think [public art] is probably one of the most accessible forms of art," Nelson said, explaining why he appreciates that component of his work. "Being outside in the elements, and the amount of change that happens with weather and light ... it's like every time you go to see the same piece—in a different season, a different time of day, a different mood—you're going to see something different."

Take a stroll through downtown Bozeman or visit olenelson.com to see more of the artist's work.

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Classical music goes wild at WMPAC

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY - Over the last five years, wild Up—a highly unconventional classical music ensemble—has collaborated with orchestras, rock bands and cultural institutions around the world. On Saturday, Feb. 3, the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center will join those ranks.

Formed in 2010, the group's early concerts at Los Angeles art studios and rock clubs generated a loyal fan base and, eventually an invitation to become University of California, Los Angeles' Hammer Museum's first ensemble in residence. After wild Up loged dozens of concerts in the Hammer's halls, court-yards and galleries, the L.A. Times proclaimed the group "Best Classical Music of 2012."

John Zirkle, WMPAC's executive and artistic director, saw wild Up in LA a few years ago, and was impressed by their performance—and that they were represented by the same agency as the world-renowned Kronos Quartet, a group that left a lasting impression with WMPAC audiences in February 2016.

"What you see on stage looks like a classic chamber orchestra, but what [wild Up] is doing and how they present music and bring the audience in is totally unique," Zirkle said. "There are elements of fun—they are really engaging

from the get-go—as opposed to the seriousness with which classical music is usually associated."

Zirkle added that even the way the ensemble presents itself serves to dispel the genre's stigma of stuffiness. "These [musicians] are not the coat-and-tie type," Zirkle said, describing them as "grungy and raucous."

But, for Zirkle, the most compelling element of wild Up is the group's philosophy that audiences should "literally get on top of the music."

"They invite the audience to sit among them, so there isn't this barrier," Zirkle said. While he didn't divulge the specifics of what would likely be "adventurous staging," he did say that attendees shouldn't expect a "traditional sit-down, listen to the music, and go home" kind of performance.

This dynamic and flexible band of musicians, led by artistic director and conductor Christopher Rountree, is committed to giving visceral, thought-provoking and mind-bending performances, unified by the belief that no music is off limits, and that a concert space should be as moving as the music heard in it.

A cultural reflection of emerging generations, lines are blurred, rules are broken, and concerts can become more of a "happening" than simply a performance. In a single engagement, the audience may experience the works of Erick Satie, Ted Hearne, John Lennon, Alexander Scriabin, Chris Cerrone, Velvet Underground, Steve Reich, Andrew McIntosh, Jen Hill and Nina C. Young, to name a few.

For wild Up's Big Sky performance, the ensemble will take the audience on an exploratory tour of the music of ancient India, contemporary California and post-war New York that celebrates innovation while honoring the contributions of humanity's cultural ancestors.

"As the name of the group suggests, it's [going to be] wild," Zirkle said, adding that he encourages even the most fervent of classical music detractors to attend and let their minds be blown.

wild Up performs at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 3, at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. Visit warrenmillerpac.org for tickets and more information.



The modern music collective wild Up will turn notions of classical music upside down with a Big Sky performance that will take an exploratory tour through the music of ancient India, contemporary California and post-war New York. PHOTO COURTESY OF WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



52 January 19 - February 1, 2018 **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT Explore** Big Sky

Rialto opens with stacked January line up



PHOTO BY ERIK NELSON



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RIALTO BOZEMAN

Reggie WattsSaturday, Jan. 27 @ 8:30 p.m.

Using his formidable voice, looping pedals, and imagination, Montananative Reggie Watts blends and blurs the lines between music and comedy. The internationally renowned vocal artist, beatboxer, musician, comedian, regularly wows audiences with his 100 percent improvised, one-of-a-kind live performances.



Brett Dennen Lift Series Sunday, Jan. 21 @ 8:30 p.m.

Brent Dennen's sixth studio album "Por Favor" dives deep into loneliness, loss, and love but is by no means the rainy-day record he initially thought it would be. With these songs, the folk/pop singer-songwriter from Northern California hopes to lift his audience up and "make people feel good about themselves and about life through the good and bad."



Car Seat Headrest Friday, Jan. 26 @ 9 p.m.

With a notable online cult following, indie rock band Car Seat Headrest began as solo-recording project of Seattle singer-song-writer Will Toledo, who chose the band's name when he decided to record the vocals of his first albums in the back seat of his car for privacy. Although Toledo's production has gradually grown less lo-fi, he is still recognized for his "DIY" ethic.



Roadkill Ghost Choir Tuesday, Jan. 30 @ 8 p.m.

The arrival of the album "False Youth Etcetera" marks a departure for brothers and bandmates Andrew and Zach Shepard. Ditching their familiar Americana sound for one more akin to that of The War on Drugs, Neu! and Bruce Springsteen, Roadkill Ghost Choir's desire to explore new musical terrain has resulted in an album of sonic exploration exemplified by the band's first single, "Classics (Die Young)," which bends in the direction of synth-pop, and sets the tone for the entire record.



Ian Thomas and the Band of Drifters

Friday, Feb. 2 @ 8:30 p.m.

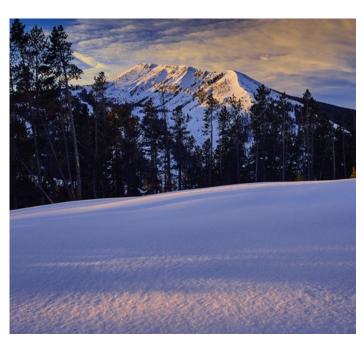
Whether performing solo, with accompaniment, or with his "Band of Drifters," musician Ian Thomas draws on a variety of American roots influences to create a distinctive sound with his original compositions on guitar, harmonica and kazoo. Promising "a night of solid local country," Ian Thomas and his Montana Band of Drifters are joined by familiar favorites Peter King and The Dead Yellers, and Dave Hollier and King Ropes.

Visit rialtobozeman.com for a complete schedule of events.

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No boys allowed: women-only craft beer series kicks off Jan. 23

EBS STAFF

Fermentana, a beer-focused event company started by Bozeman home-brewers Jesse Bussard and Loy Maierhauser, is adding to its annual Craft Beer Week with Beer Maven, a series of female-only beer events that begins on Tuesday, Jan. 23, with the "Basics of Beer." From 6 to 8 p.m. at Bozeman Brewing Company, attendees will embark on a "sensory analysis training" led by Maierhauser, a certified beer judge, while tasting a variety of beer styles. The evening will also include a tour of the brewing facility, light snacks and time for mingling and discussion.

Maierhauser and Bussard decided to launch the Beer Maven series to turn a spotlight on a rapidly growing demographic of Montana's beer-loving populace—women. According to the national Brewers Association, women currently represent slightly more than half of all beer drinkers. Of that number, approximately 25 percent of those female drinkers choose craft beer.

Through the fun and educational Beer Maven series, Fermentana seeks to grow their fellow females' appreciation for craft beer by bringing women of varying palettes, diverse beer style preferences, and multiple fermented interests together to learn and experience beer in new and interesting ways.

The inaugural series will be held at varying locations around Bozeman, with the second event, entitled "Hops and Beer" at MAP Brewing Co. on Feb. 20, also from 6 to 8 p.m. Women will again have the opportunity to participate in a tasting event while learning from Maierhauser and other industry experts about the complex flavors and aromas hops impart to beer. A specialty beer brewed specifically for Beer Maven will be released during the event and available for attendees to sample.

Beer Maven will finish the last leg of its tour with a sour beer-pairing dinner hosted by Montana Ale Works on March 27. A hand-picked collection of sour beers representing a spectrum of flavor profiles will be paired with savory, spicy, and sweet small-plate dishes prepared by Ale Works' chefs. Proceeds from the dinner will benefit Haven, a Bozeman-based nonprofit that offers support to women and families affected by domestic violence.



Fermantana founders Loy Maierhauser and Jesse Bussard have launched Beer Maven, a series of craft beer events for women only that begins with the "Basics of Beer" on Jan. 23 at Bozeman Brewing. PHOTO BY SARAH KELLER

"Whether you're a woman who already loves beer or are just getting started, Beer Maven offers something for every female drinker," wrote Bussard, Fermentana's co-founder, in a press release about the series. "These events give women a chance to build their beer knowledge, discover new beers, meet like-minded women, and in general, feel more confident about their future beer decisions."

Visit beermaven.bpt.me/ or fermentana.com for tickets and more information.



Grateful Music Foundation donates Martin guitar to Ophir School

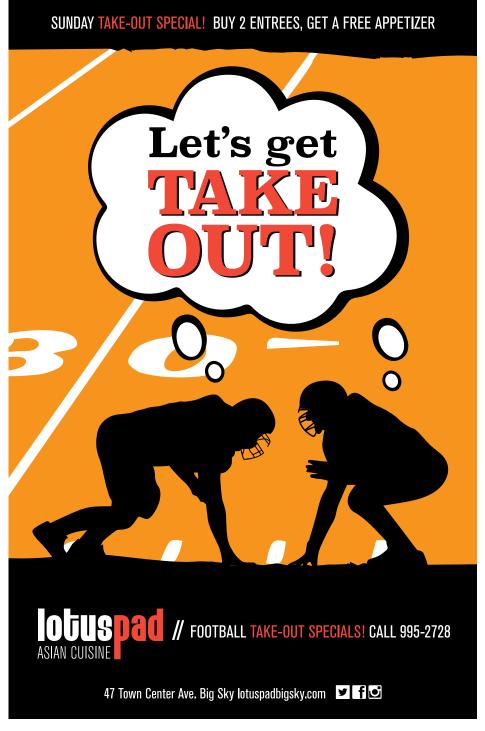
Jim Salestrom (right) celebrates the donation of a Martin guitar to Ophir School with Secondary School Principal Alex Ide.

On Jan. 5, the Grateful Music Foundation donated a C.F. Martin guitar to the Big Sky School District music program. In 2017 the foundation donated 12 ukuleles to the school, used in ongoing music classes for Big Sky youth led by foundation President Jim Salestrom and Ophir School music teacher Tim Sullivan. Below, Salestrom (far right) is pictured with his daughter Casey Salestrom, and son James Salestrom, both GMF board members.

PHOTOS BY PAM SALESTROM







EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JAN. 19 -THURSDAY, FEB. 1

*IF YOUR EVENT FALLS
BETWEEN FEB. 2 AND 15,
PLEASE SUBMIT IT BY JAN. 24
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BIG SKY

Levity: A New American Play WMPAC Jan. 19-20, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 21, 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19 Diamond, music

Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

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

Fish Fry BYWOM, all evening

14th Annual Rotary Club of Big Sky Gold Raffle, Auction and Dinner Buck's T-4, 6 p.m.

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Krazy Karaoke Montana Jack, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

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

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

Lauren Jackson, music Rainbow Ranch Lodge, 5 p.m.

Snobar Mountain Village, 6 p.m.

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

Snobar After Party Montana Jack, 10 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22

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

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 23

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 24

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

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

Cooking Classes with Gourmet Gals: Winter Ragus Big Sky Discovery Academy, 6 p.m.

Awareness Wednesday: Get your skin ready for winter Santosha Wellness Center, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

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

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

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

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

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

Fish Fry BYWOM, all evening

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Martin Sexton, music Montana Jack, 9 p.m.

Krazy Karaoke Montana Jack, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

Milton Menasco, music Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m. TEDxBigSky WMPAC, 4 p.m.

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

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

Vine & Dine Guild Dinner Peaks Restaurant, 6 p.m.

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

Saturday Sessions, DJ Montana Jack, 10 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 29

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

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

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

Service Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

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.

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

BBER Economic Outlook Seminar Lone Peak Cinema, 8 a.m.

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

Ski & Learn: Cross-country ski demonstration BSCO Yurt, 4 p.m.

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

Full Moon Night Ski Big Sky Community Park, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

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.

BOZEMAN

Banff Mountain Film Festival Willson Auditorium Jan. 19-20, 7 p.m. Jan. 21, 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

Discounted tickets for carpoolers Bridger Bowl Ski Area, all day

The Meyer Trio, music Townshend's Teahouse, 7 p.m.

Bozeman Symphony Piano Recital MSU Reynolds Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m.

"Clueless," film Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20

High Tea Service Townshend's Teahouse, 8 a.m.

Winter Farmers' Market Emerson Ballroom, all morning

Burns Night, tribute to poet Robert Burns Lindley Center, 6 p.m.

The Life and Music of Django Reinhardt Story Mansion, 7 p.m.

The Upside Down: A Stranger Things Party Rialto Theater, 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

Easy Riders, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Brett Dennen, music Rialto Theater, 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23

Beer Maven, beer event Bozeman Brewing Company, 6 p.m.

Josh Moore, music Bozeman Taproom, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY. JANUARY 25

People and Place: The Seasonal Round of the Old North Corridor, lecture Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Bozeman Swing, class Rialto Theater, 6:20 p.m.

John Floridis, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

"The Ballad of Lefty Brown," film Emerson Center for the Arts &

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

Culture, 7:30 p.m.

A Night to Remember: Winter Formal Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, 6 p.m.

Car Seat Headrest, music Rialto Theater, 9 p.m.

SATURDAY. JANUARY 27

Ice Sculpture Exhibition Bozeman Public Library, 9 a.m.

Fly Fishing Film Tour Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture, 4 p.m.

Reggie Watts, music Rialto Theater, 8:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Skin to Win Randonnee Rally Bridger Bowl Ski Area, all day

Paranormal Talk & Trivia Townshend's Teahouse, 6:30 p.m.

John Sherrill, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Swiftcurrent, music Story Mansion, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30

Roadkill Ghost Choir, music Rialto Theater, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31

Jeff Jensen, music Bozeman Taproom, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

GVLT Trail Mix supporter social Lindley Center, 6 p.m.

Jessica Lechner, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

WORTH THE DRIVE

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.

Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Winter Festival Jan. 31-Feb. 3

Grand Teton Music Festival's third annual Winter Festival brings a week filled with musical performances, masterclasses and lectures to Jackson Hole. Featuring Chicago-based Fifth House Ensemble, a group dedicated to creating engaging performances and interactive educational programs, the Winter Festival is focused on education and outreach and is generously sponsored by the Center of Wonder. Visit gtmf.org to learn more.

West Yellowstone, MT

Kids'N'Snow

Feb. 3-4

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.

West Yellowstone, MT

Guided cross-country and snowshoe tours Jan. 20, 26 and 27

The Forest Service's Hebgen Lake Ranger District is offering free guided cross-country skiing and snowshoeing programs once monthly throughout the winter. Guided tours will take place on West Yellowstone's Rendezvous Ski Trails, with cross-country skiing on Jan. 20, and snowshoeing on Jan. 26, from 1-4 p.m. The ranger station will also offer free programs on making survival snowshoes on Jan. 27, from 4-7 p.m. For more information call the ranger station at (406) 823-6961.

Billings, MT

50th Annual Art Auction Exhibition

Yellowstone Art Museum | Jan. 25

The Yellowstone Art Museum is proud to host the longest-running and most diverse

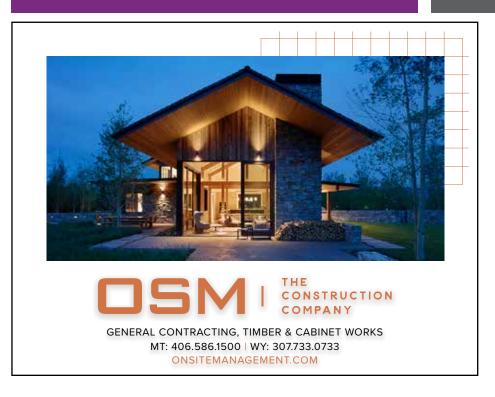
of the region's art auctions. This event has opened the door between artists and collectors and has made Billings, Montana, an art-rich environment. Take part as we celebrate this milestone at both the exhibition opening on Jan. 25 and the main event on March 3. The event will be held at the Yellowstone Art Museum located at 401 N. 27th St., Billings, Montana. The Annual Art Auction is the YAM's most significant fundraising event, generating proceeds in support of exhibitions and educational programming for the entire year. To learn more, visit artmuseum.org.

Great Falls, MT

Induction Ceremony & Western Heritage Gathering

Best Western Heritage Inn | Feb. 3

The Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame & Western Heritage Center extends an invitation to all to attend the annual Induction Ceremony & Western Heritage Gathering. The Inductee Recognition Ceremony Brunch will begin at 10:30 a.m. to celebrate the notable accomplishments and lasting legacies of the inductees to the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame Class of 2017. The Cowboy Ball and Benefit Auction will kick off at 7:00 p.m. This event will feature a chuckwagon buffet dinner and live Western music by Big Sky Country. A silent and live auction will feature unique Western items. Register by calling (406) 653-3800, or email christy@montanacowboyfame.org.







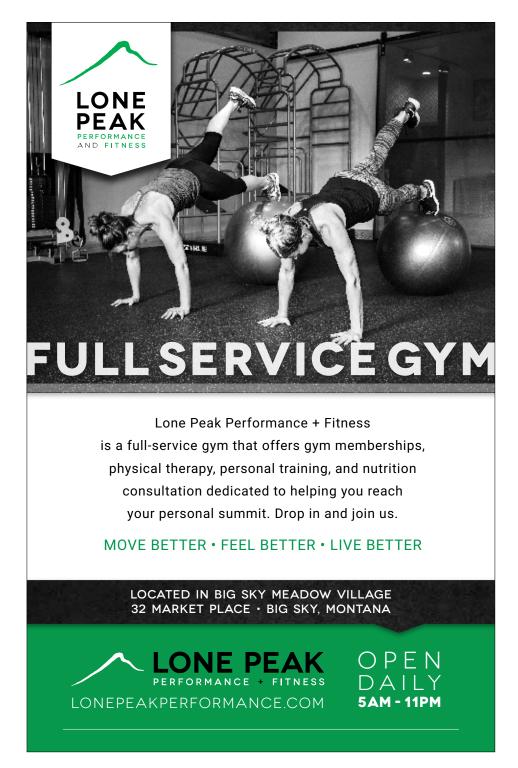
Sudoku

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

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Montana-based 'Ballad of Lefty Brown' screens at the Emerson

EBS STAFF

On Thursday, Jan. 25, Bozeman Film Society welcomes Montana Film Festival's Roadshow Tour of "The Ballad of Lefty Brown" to the Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture's Crawford Theater. A catered reception with special guests, actor Bill Pullman and director Jared Moshe, will begin in the Weaver Room at 5:30 p.m. with the screening to follow at 7:30 p.m.

Pullman stars as cowboy Lefty Brown, a 63-year old sidekick who has ridden with Western legend Eddie Johnson for his entire adult life. Loyal, crotchety and rarely taken seriously, when Lefty witnesses the murder of his longtime partner, played by Peter Fonda, he sets out to find the killers and avenge his friend's gruesome death.

Tracking the outlaws across the vast and desolate Montana plains, Lefty recruits a young gunslinger, Jeremiah (Diego Josef), and an old hard-drinking friend U.S. Marshall (Tommy Flanagan), to help deliver the men to justice.

"The Ballad of Lefty Brown" was filmed in western Montana over the course of 20 days, primarily in Virginia City and Bannack State Park, with scenes in Nevada City and Harrison.

After scouting many different states in the West for a filming location, the directors and producers chose Montana because of the authenticity they believed it would bring to the project. More than a hundred locals were used as extras.

Rated R, the film runs 111 minutes.

The Montana Film Festival's Roadshow Tour is an extension of Missoula's Montana Film Festival 2017. The organization has now taken two critically acclaimed feature films shot entirely in Montana on the road, including "Walking Out" and "The Ballad of Lefty Brown."

Visit bozemanfilmsociety.org for tickets and additional information.

Celebrate the gypsy jazz of Django Reinhardt

EBS STAFF

Bozeman's Story Mansion hosts a musical birthday celebration in honor of the late Django Reinhardt on Saturday, Jan. 20, beginning at 7 p.m.

After a brief presentation on Reinhardt's extraordinary life, the Coyote Gypsies will take the audience on an instrumental journey through some of the gypsy and European folk music traditions that influenced Reinhardt in his youth.

Following an intermission with birthday cake and refreshments, the celebration will continue with Montana Manouche performing the Parisian World War II-era swing music definitive of Reinhardt, Stéphane Grappelli and their ensemble, the Quintette du Hot Club de France.

Jean "Django" Reinhardt was a Belgian-born Romani-French jazz guitarist and composer, and as the first jazz talent to emerge from Europe, is widely regarded as one of the most significant musicians of the 20th century.

Montana Manouche formed in 2012 when Bozeman bluegrass musicians Ray Padilla (rhythm guitar) and Nancy Padilla (violin) began playing gypsy jazz with Livingston guitarist Dave Sullivan. As their casual jamming segued into local gigs, they became increasingly passionate about the genre, and began attending gypsy jazz events and workshops.

Now a quartet with the addition of Bozeman bassist Mike Carey, Montana Manouche performs regularly in concerts and at private events and swing dances, with a repertoire that includes some original tunes, but consists primarily of the compositions of Reinhardt and his American contemporaries.

The eclectic Coyote Gypsies perform Eastern European folk music with a Western edge including Old Country waltzes, Parisian café-swing, and new twists on Americana songs. The core duo of Mark Schlenz (violin, banjo, mandolin, harmonica) and Jane Freeburg (accordion) are joined by Jim Dungan on guitar, Mike Carey on bass, and special guests as needed.

Tickets are available at cactusrecords.net, in person at Cactus Records, and at the door. The Story Mansion is located at 811 S. Willson Ave. in Bozeman. This event is sponsored by City of Bozeman Parks and Recreation and the Bozeman Folklore Society. Visit montanamanouche.com or coyotegypsies. com for more information.











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

Callan Wink: Literary angler

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

When Montana State University professor and poet Greg Keeler was asked why Montana has so many acclaimed authors compared to similarly populated states, he said, "I don't know for sure. Some of them were born here. Some of us came for the trout."

MSU graduate Callan Wink falls into the latter category. A Michigan native, Wink has been guiding drift boat fly-fishing trips on the Yellowstone River in spring, summer, and fall for over a decade. In the winter, he writes from his home in Paradise Valley.

Also holding a Master of Fine Arts from the University of Wyoming, Wink has already been published in The New Yorker, and his novella "In Hindsight" can be found in full on its website. Not too shabby for a part-time writer in his early 30s.

Published in 2016, Wink's "Dog Run Moon" is an impressive debut collection of short stories. Within three pages of the namesake piece, a dognapper is running naked cutting his feet on sharp rimrock pursued by a shady businessman and his accountant on an ATV. Here is a chase story not easily forgotten.

The protagonist calls his ex-girlfriend and says, "I ran afoul of some bad people in a matter concerning a dog." Most of his characters have clothes and shoes on, but almost all of them are down-and-out, blue-collar workers making or about to make bad decisions, and each one reveals redeemable qualities that make them engaging, relatable and usually affable.

"Crow Country Moses" might be the best story in the whole collection. The protagonist, driving lost around eastern Montana, looks back on his delinquent childhood while dealing with the death of his mother and the pipe dreams of an aging father. "Breatharians" is another piece where Wink's raw talent for telling memorable stories about 21st-century rural life is undeniable.

Writing about contemporary fiction in Montana, Bill Kittredge said, "Our writers are no longer paying attention to the old hide-bound mythology of the Western; they are writing from their own experiences, discovering and defining their own demons and battles, engaged in the constant business of the artist—renaming the sacred."

Wink's versatility and originality are on full display in this collection, but one leitmotif is pain: breakups, workplace accidents, killing cats, suicides, cancer, the death of loved ones. He does not shy away from confronting tragedies, large or small. But the other theme that offsets the oftentimes grim plotlines is the way his stories are also veiled meditations on the nature of healing.

Comparisons will be made between Wink and a young Cormac McCarthy, the late Jim Harrison, or Tom McGuane, but Wink has already carved out his own inimitable style: bold, frenetic, introspective and darkly comical. We're lucky Montana has long winters.

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

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Between the shelves

BY AMY HUNTER ASSISTANT COMMUNITY LIBRARIAN

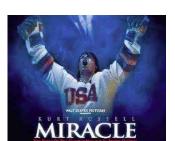
If you have visited the library in January, you will have noticed that we are gearing up for the 2018 Winter Olympics. I love the Olympics. In a time when so many issues feel divisive, it's an opportunity for the global community to come together to cheer for athletes of all nations as they remind us of all the ways in which we are similar.

It is not the competition that drives many of us to watch the Olympics, it is the athletes who motivate us with their determination, passion and hard-work. Come to the library and check out "Eddie the Eagle," a film about the persevering ski jumper who left his mark at the 1988 games; or "Miracle," about the player-turned-coach who led the 1980 U.S. hockey team to victory over Russia. Both films will remind viewers of the strength of the human spirit.

In the Great Course on Behavioral Economics lecture series, one professor talks about the differing levels of an athlete's satisfaction upon winning a gold, silver, or bronze medal. According to his research, athletes were more excited to win gold and bronze, and generally disappointed to win silver. Athletes either feel that they came close to winning the gold and failed, or they feel lucky they got the bronze medal.

Let's cheer for all of the silver medalists in the upcoming Winter Olympics, and be grateful for all the silver medals in our own lives.







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NOTICE TO THE BIG SKY FIRE **DEPARTMENT FIRE DISTRICT MEMBERS**

An Election of two trustees for the Big Sky Fire District Board of Trustees will be held on May 8, 2018.



Declaration of Candidacy forms for the election are available at the Big Sky Fire Department, Station #1 - Westfork Meadows, 650 Rainbow Trout Run, Big Sky, Montana and the Gallatin County Election Department, Gallatin County Courthouse, 311 W. Main Street Room 210, Bozeman, Montana.

Original Declaration of Candidacy forms must be filed with the Gallatin County Election Department no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 12, 2018.

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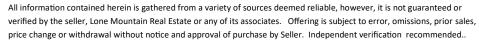
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