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Feb. 2 - 15, 2018
Volume 9 // Issue #3

"If you don't do it this year, you'll be one year older when you do."

Goodbye, Warren

TEDxBigSky leaves wake of 'positivity'

Lone Mountain inspires local geologist, author

PBR tickets on sale March 1

Special section:
Real Estate Guide

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ON THE COVER: With skis on his feet and camera in hand, Warren Miller created an industry and left a lasting legacy, before he passed away Jan. 24. PHOTO COURTESY OF WARREN MILLER ENTERTAINMENT

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OPENING SHOT

From Jan. 29-Feb. 2, Ophir School students will participate in the Great Kindness Challenge, a national anti-bullying campaign that promotes being kind by completing 50 acts of kindness. At the end of the campaign, Big Sky School District will earn the title of a Certified Kindness District. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

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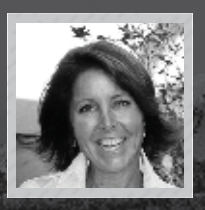

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Fish and wildlife surveys underway for Montana residents

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

A survey of Montana residents is currently being conducted by researchers at Colorado State University to better understand public opinions about fish and wildlife management. The survey is part of a national effort sponsored by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

During the next couple of months, researchers will contact randomly selected Montana residents by mail, requesting that they complete a short survey. While Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is not conducting this research directly, the department strongly encourage residents who receive the survey to respond.

Information gathered from the survey will be made available to FWP and will help the agency better understand residents' underlying views about fish and wildlife management in the state. Public opinion is one of many important pieces of information that wildlife managers consider when making decisions about how to best manage Montana's fish and wildlife.

For more information about the survey, email wcnr_wildlifesurvey@colostate.edu or call (888) 810-4460.

In addition to the public opinion survey, FWP is currently conducting its annual hunter harvest surveys, by contacting hunters who purchased 2017 licenses and asking them a variety of questions, including whether they were successful and where they hunted.

The information gleaned from these surveys gives the department important data about hunter effort and success, which is critical when gauging the effectiveness of a particular hunting season in managing wildlife. It also is informative about the amount of hunter effort in Montana.

Additionally, deer and elk hunters will be asked if they saw wolves or moose. This information is used to help determine population and distribution of those two species.

PTO Pie Auction goes digital

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – Last year, the Big Sky PTO Pie Auction raised approximately $70,000 for the Big Sky School District, a tradition that started 38 years ago as a community bake sale.

Still going strong, this year the annual event will be held Feb. 10 at 5:30 p.m.—with a few twists. The auction will move to Rainbow Ranch Lodge, entail an entrance fee, and have live, local entertainment and more substantial food offerings. But perhaps the most significant change is, it's going digital.

Students are selling paper raffle tickets through Wednesday, Feb. 7, after which time donors, bidders, browsers and ticket-buyers will be directed to a website where they can also register to receive an email with a link to an online bidding platform shortly before the event.

There will still be pies to win, but not 38 of them, and the kids' art component has been trimmed down, but there will still be 80-100 auction items, the proceeds from which will fund a number of district programs, including school ski days, library staffing, Expedition Yellowstone, the eighth grade trip to Washington D.C., prom, graduation, and performing arts productions.

But the emphasis is on the downhill and cross-country programs through which students K-8 can ski Big Sky Resort three times per season, and twice at Lone Mountain Ranch. PTO President Callie Pecunies said that even with the generosity of the resort, LMR and a grant from the Spanish Peaks Community Foundation, the program still eats up approximately one third of the PTO's annual budget, which is funded almost entirely by the pie auction event.

"It's an important part of our curriculum living in a ski town," Pecunies said. "And the school wants to support the industry."

This year, donations can be made directly to the ski program through the pie auction website.

Top ticket items in the 2018 PTO Pie Auction include a signed Tom Brady jersey and four tickets to a home Patriots' game; a VIP experience at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and a mountain bike or hike to Fish Camp at Spanish Peaks Mountain Club that includes dinner for 10.

Visit bidpal.net/pieauction2018 for more information.

Two seats available on school district board

Thrive seeks mentors for CAP program

Two seats are available for three-year terms on the Big Sky School District Board of Trustees, to be voted on in the May 8 election. The deadline to file with Gallatin County is March 29. The seats are currently held by Margo Magnant and Matt Jennings.

At a Jan. 24 meeting of the board, representatives from Thrive, a nonprofit that provides mentoring, education and support for children and families, presented an update on the programs they coordinate within the district. They include parent liaison and student mentoring programs, as well as Girls for Change and Girls on the Run.

While all the programs are enjoying positive feedback and success, Child Advancement Project (CAP) coordinator Julie Grimm-Lisk said there are 10 students on the waiting list for community mentors. She urged those interested in becoming mentors to contact her at jgrimm@bssd72.org.

Other notable upcoming district events include the American Legion High School Oratory contest on Feb. 6, from 6-8 p.m. at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, the Ophir Middle School science fair on Feb. 8 from noon to 3 p.m. in the Lone Peak High School gymnasium, and the PTO Pie Auction on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 5:30 p.m. at Rainbow Ranch Lodge.

The next meeting of the Big Sky School District Board of Trustees will be held Feb. 20 at 5:30 p.m. in the Ophir School conference room.

406 Forum

From Jan. 29 through Feb. 2, Big Sky students, faculty, staff and local businesses will participate in the Great Kindness Challenge, a nationwide campaign to promote safe and caring school environments.

What is the nicest thing anyone has ever done for you and what acts of kindness will you do for someone else during the Great Kindness Challenge?

Piper Dodd, 7
Big Sky, Montana

"When my grandma lets me take things home that used to be my mom's … like her baby doll. I plan to help somebody that doesn't know as much about a class or school, like Bethany who is new."

Ethan Blakeley, 8
Big Sky, Montana

"At Halloween I didn't have a costume two days before and one of my best friends Keegan gave me his. I plan on helping friends, and trying to smile and say hello to 25 people every day."

Elijah Harder, 8
Big Sky, Montana

"Help me learn how to ski because skiing is one of my favorite sports. I'm going to help people get up if they fall."

Stella Romine, 6
Big Sky, Montana

"Comforting me when one of my friends was really mad at me. I'm planning on doing the right stuff for people who need it, like helping someone to the teacher if they get hurt."

Letter:
Ousel Falls Road not equipped for Town Center build-out

I would like to take exception to the statement by Dan Zelson in the article "Town Center build-out plowing through Big Sky's snowy winter," published in the Jan. 19 edition of EBS. "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."

I feel that the streets east of Ousel Falls Road are all too narrow and the recessed parking spaces make it difficult for the snowplows to completely clear the street leading to even narrower streets. We live in a "winter" world and a town populated with people who drive full size pick-ups and SUVs, and there is barely enough room for two vehicles to pass each other on Town Center Avenue.

After the build-out there will be increased congestion on the street, from people trying to get to their hotel or apartments, and shoppers trying to find parking for the restaurants and shops. Throw a delivery truck stopped in the middle of the road to unload supplies and there will be immediate gridlock on the street.

I think that Zelson is putting too happy a spin on what is already a nightmare, that it will be even worse in two years, and we will be regretting the design allowed east of Ousel Falls Road. Visitors and residents will be complaining about the congestion and difficulty getting around in Town Center. The only solution I see is to turn all the streets in Town Center into one-way streets and that just creates another set of problems. I, for one, do not welcome the coming congestion.

Gail Thomas
Big Sky, Montana

OUTLAW PARTNERS

News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

Big Sky PBR announces new ticket on-sale date

Tickets available March 1

BY BLYTHE BEAUBIEN
EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – Outlaw Partners is pleased to announce that tickets for the 2018 Big Sky PBR event will go on sale March 1 at 9 a.m. mountain time. Fans of the Big Sky PBR should mark their calendars—this event will sell out quickly.

The on-sale date has been moved up from June 1 in an effort to allow out-of-town attendees more time to make travel arrangements, and to give Big Sky locals more advanced notice to purchase tickets.

"Each year the event draws more attention and the demand for tickets is increasing—last year the event sold out in 24 hours," said Eric Ladd, CEO of Outlaw Partners, the company that produces the Big Sky PBR and publishes EBS. "The earlier on-sale date allows for more advanced planning for our guests who travel from around the country for this event."

This year's bull riding events will take place on Friday, July 27, and Saturday, July 28. There is no ticket cost for children under 2 years old. Skyboxes that can hold 25 people are also available—call Outlaw Partners at (406) 995-2055 for pricing and more information.

Deemed "Big Sky's Biggest Week," the PBR events will kick off with a community dance in Big Sky Town Center on Wednesday, July 25. The third annual Big Sky Art Auction will take place in the PBR Arena tent on Thursday, July 26.

In 2017, the professional bull riders voted the Big Sky PBR "Event of the Year" for the fifth year in a row. Members from the Outlaw Partners team attended the PBR World Finals in Las Vegas to accept the award.

OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Visit bigskypbr.com for more information about the event. There are multiple levels of sponsorship opportunities still available for the 2018 Big Sky PBR. For sponsorship information, contact ersin@theoutlawpartners.com.

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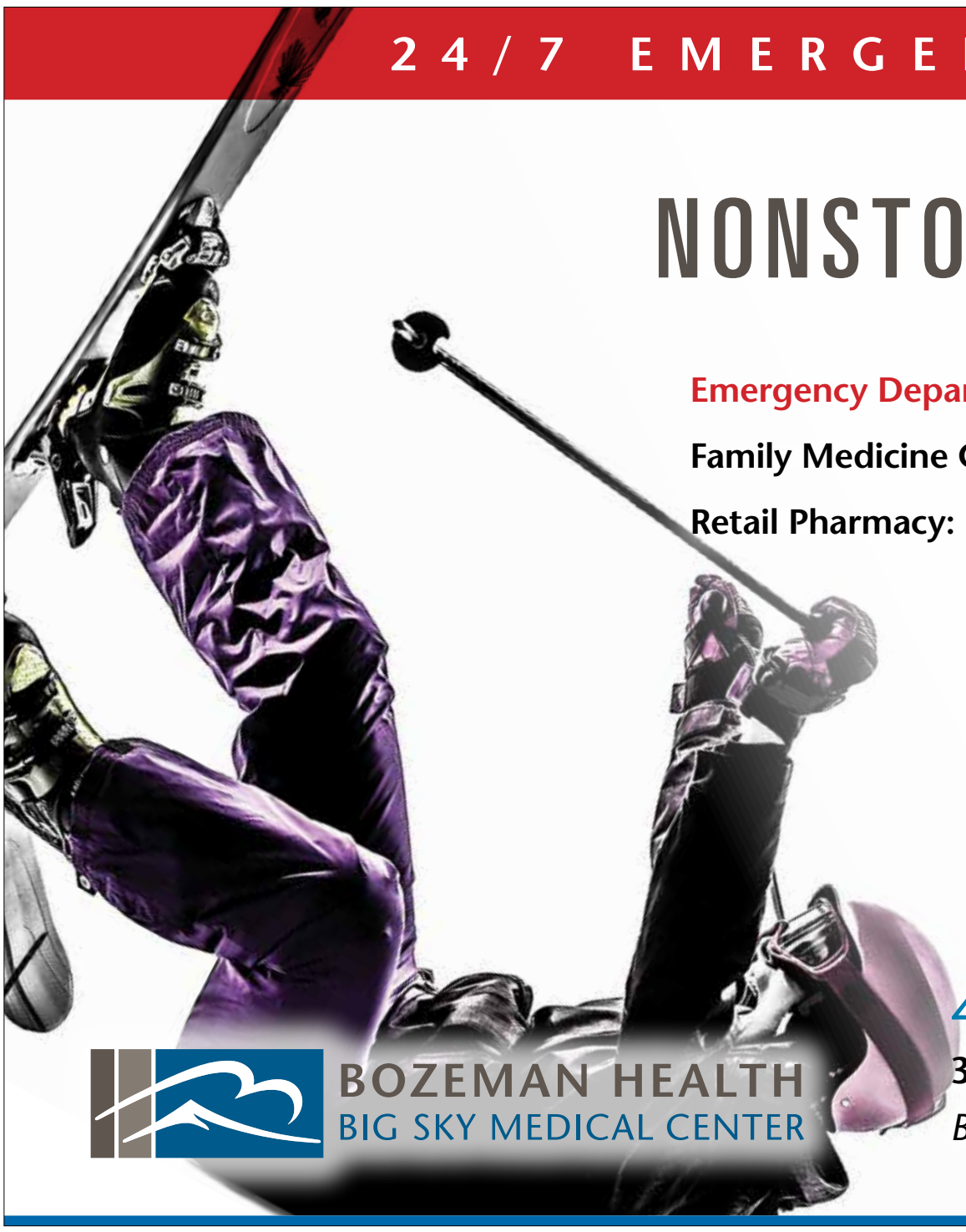

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‘Warren’
Reflections on the original ski bum, industry icon

BY DAN EGAN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Warren Miller was the most influential person in American winter sports. He was the voice of winter beckoning all of us to participate and explore for decades, and was so popular that an entire industry knew him simply as “Warren.”

Warren, who died Jan. 24 at age 93, was a mentor to me as I learned film production and video distribution, and he taught me the art of narration. I also skied in 12 Warren Miller films, and I still emcee six Warren Miller Entertainment film shows each year.

His 1983 movie, “Ski Time,” opens with extreme skier Scot Schmidt peering over a rock cliff at Squaw Valley. Then you hear Warren’s iconic voice with his deliberate, dramatic and rhythmic pacing, “Time, there is all kinds of it; time is the only thing in life we own. Nobody can give you any, but people can take it away from you. You can waste it, or you can invest it in ‘Ski Time.’”

As Warren is speaking, Schmidt drops in, skis the cliff face and launches over the rocks.

That was the Warren Miller formula: snarky jabs at the mundane and bits of humor mixed together with jaw-dropping footage. He entertained, inspired and educated generations with a simple message of the winter experience.

Here’s another memorable quote he often used during heli-skiing segments: “3000 years ago, nothing roamed on these mountains except for animals as big as the machine that brought us up here today.”

His narrations reminded us of history and the magnitude of the mountains; he had a knack for making the audiences feel significant and insignificant—at the same time they had an existential quality.

“Skiers would do anything to get into the films; once a guy lit himself on fire just to get me to point my camera in his direction!” exclaimed Fletcher Manley, who was a cameraman for Warren in the ‘70s and ‘80s.

In 2009, Olympic gold medalist and skiing icon Stein Eriksen said of Warren, “His films were to me [in the ‘60s and ‘70s], what NBC is to the Olympics today.”

“When you compare what is happening on social media and the likes and the follows that come along with it, Warren did that in the ‘50s, ‘60s, ‘70s, ‘80s, ‘90s, and his company is still doing it today with a movie that comes out once a year and is 90 minutes long,” explained former Warren Miller cameraman Tom Grissom.

Warren was born for this mission of packaging up the mystique of the ski bum life style. One of his early efforts, published in 1947, was a cartoon book titled “Are My Skis on Straight,” which he sold out of the back of his car to raise funds for ski trips to Alta and Sun Valley.

It was with that energy that he launched his production company in 1950.

Warren built his film company hand in hand with a distribution strategy that centered on his personality and perspective. He once told me, “I didn’t care about the size of the audience, whether it was one person or 50, you do a great show and someone was bound to buy you dinner.”

It was that perseverance that created the Warren Miller brand, as we know it today.

“He is the most prolific American filmmaker of all time,” said Patrick Creadon, an award-winning documentary film director and producer. “From 1950 to 1989, when he sold his company to his son Kurt, no other filmmaker [had] ever produced a major release every year. Warren had more films on that top-200 grossing documentary list than filmmakers like Errol Morris and Michael Moore.”

As early as the mid ‘60s, he was boasting of over 100 shows in 100 different cities with crowds peaking at more than 7,000 fans on a given night, to watch the films and hear his live narrations.

For many it’s an annual pilgrimage and right of passage. Even today as I emcee Warren Miller movies, fans reminisce about the their first Warren Miller experience. They describe in detail where and when they saw their first film, who they were with, and many recall seeing Warren himself on the stage.

Warren and Dan Egan chat in February 2017 during the annual Warren Miller Cup at the Yellowstone Club in Big Sky. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE YELLOWSTONE CLUB

In the 1990s, when he met my parents for the first time, he said to them, “Your boys remind me that I am never quite sure how many lives I have ruined.” And that was the paradox of Warren Miller—he lived his life bucking the trend to conform to a real job.

“Show me the book that says you have to live here and work there,” he once told me. “There is no book. You can go and do anything you set your mind too.”

These tidbits of wisdom motivated generations of skiing enthusiasts.

“We love sponsoring the Warren Miller films, they engage the consumer with the passion for what we sell,” said John Gallagher, owner of Ski Fanatics ski shop in Campton, New Hampshire. “Each year a young fan will come in and ask if he can have the Warren Miller movie poster from the local showing. That is generational impact.”

“Skiers would do anything to get into the films; once a guy lit himself on fire just to get me to point my camera in his direction!”

Warren would often say in his films, “If everybody skis, there would be no wars,” and he made a point of bringing my brother John and me to areas in turmoil, such as the Berlin Wall in 1989, Russia during the breakup of the USSR, and the former Yugoslavia when it was on the brink of civil war.

The films influenced adventure tourism, advances in ski industry technology, equipment, fashion, ski technique, and evolution in the sport.

Jason Levinthal is the founder of Line Skis, current owner of J-Skis and he acquired 4FRNT Skis last year. He’s credited with developing the twin tip ski and was a pioneer of the X-Games.

“I was from Albany, New York, and went to his films every year. It was in his movies that I saw what was possible on skis in locations around the world,” Levinthal recalls. “Once that became unlocked for me I saw the potential of skiing backwards over jumps and hitting rails, so that is what I developed skis for.”

Tom Day began skiing in Warren’s films with Scot Schmidt in the early ‘80s and is currently a cameraman for Warren Miller Entertainment. “It’s big shoes to fill for sure, we still take great care in every shot, thinking of the audience and how they will be inspired and entertained,” Day said. “We want to keep what Warren built. … He wanted everyone to feel a part of this community.”

Fans around the world will forever echo his words, “If you don’t do it this year, you will be one year older when you do.”

Extreme skiing pioneer Dan Egan has appeared in 12 Warren Miller Ski films and countless others. He was inducted into the U.S Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame in 2016. To learn more about Dan Egan camps and clinics, visit skiclinics.com.

A legend lost, a legacy for the history books

BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS MANAGING EDITOR

BIG SKY – It is impossible to overstate the impact that Warren Miller had on the ski industry, or on the millions of fans he encouraged to carve out an existence in the mountains, and spend their lives chasing the perfect powder day.

Miller died Jan. 24 of natural causes at his home on Orcas Island, Washington, sending a wave of mourning around the world that swelled especially high in his winter home of Big Sky.

Born in 1924, in Hollywood, California, during the height of the Great Depression, Miller emerged from a hardscrabble youth to become the most important figure in action sports filmmaking. He purchased his first camera at age 12 for 39 cents, and a pair of skis and bamboo poles for $2 when he was 15.

"When you come down the mountain from your first time on skis, you are a different person," Miller wrote in his 2016 autobiography, "Freedom Found." "I had just now experienced that feeling, if only for half a minute; it was step one in the direction I would follow the rest of my life."

What he didn't know at the time was there were countless others who would follow that very first step of his.

Inventing the quintessential ski bum lifestyle, Miller and his buddy Ward Baker lived in a teardrop trailer in the parking lots of ski areas around the West, shooting ducks and rabbits for dinner and filming their mountainside escapades on Miller's 8-millimeter Bell and Howell motion camera. Those exploits appeared in his first feature film, "Deep and Light," which premiered in the fall of 1950.

The decades that followed weren't always the stuff of fairy tales professionally or personally, but his persistence, artistry and love for gravity made Miller a household name—drilling his distinctive voice and notorious wit into the memory of nearly everyone who has clicked into ski bindings or strapped on a snowboard.

When he and his wife, Laurie, took a chance on an upstart private ski community in Big Sky, the Yellowstone Club, Miller became the director of skiing and the club's biggest advocate. The pair would spend the next two decades splitting their time between Montana and Orcas Island.

The color images of Warren Miller above were shot at the Yellowstone Club in 2003. PHOTOS BY TRAVIS ANDERSEN; BLACK AND WHITE IMAGES COURTESY OF WARREN MILLER ENTERTAINMENT

"I met Warren in 2005 and skied with him and my kids in March at the [Yellowstone] Club," said Sam Byrne, co-founder of CrossHarbor Capital Partners, the principle owner of the Yellowstone Club. "I was just in awe. Being a kid that grew up in the '70s and '80s, I idolized his movies. They defined skiing for me."

Byrne grew up skiing at the now-defunct Boston Hill in Andover, Massachusetts, as well as Maine's Sugarloaf Mountain Resort, and said he always attends the annual Warren Miller film tour—including 2017's "Line of Descent" in November at the Cabot Theater in Beverly, Massachusetts.

"Warren was an icon in the industry and lent tremendous credibility to the club in its early days," Byrne said. "It would not have materialized without his stalwart support."

Warren and Laurie had a slope-side home above the eponymous, 140,000-square-foot Warren Miller Lodge at the ski area, and by all accounts Miller was humbled by the gesture. The Yellowstone Club also honored his name with the Warren Miller Cup, a giant-slalom relay race held annually in February, which now includes more than 100 participants of all abilities—just the way Miller liked it.

But his impact on this southwest Montana community stretched beyond the gated ski and golf resort, as he also lent his name to Big Sky's Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, located in Lone Peak High School.

The capital campaign to build the theater began with the 2011 Strings Under the Big Sky annual fundraiser, sponsored by the nonprofit Friends of Big Sky Education. When Miller was asked to lend his name to the venue, he was thrilled—and, again, humbled.

It opened in March 2013, with Miller on the stage, and he subsequently performed at the MOTH event in February 2014. He told two stories instead of one, but no one dared cut him off, according to WMPAC Artistic Director John Zirkle.

"It's really Warren's name that enables us to take big risks, and big leaps into the unknown, knowing there's greater beauty on the other side," Zirkle said. "I think it's like Warren is there, especially when we're getting nervous about something that is scary, to think about him whispering, 'Hey, if you don't do it this year, you'll be one year older when you do.'"

Travis Andersen, a Bozeman-based photographer and owner of White Creek Art, has also heard Miller's voice resonate through his career. He ran the original on-mountain photography business at the Yellowstone Club from 2001 to 2004, taking action photos of members and guests on the slopes.

"When you rode the chairlift with [Miller] and hearing his stories … you felt like you were in one of his movies. His voice was so iconic," Andersen said. "Honestly, meeting my childhood heroes, Warren Miller and Scot Schmidt … was the highlight of my time working at YC."

Schmidt's professional career came full circle when he started working at the Yellowstone Club in 2003, and then became the official ski ambassador in 2006.

Schmidt was an extreme skiing pioneer, Warren Miller Entertainment film star and Montana native. He grew up racing at Bridger Bowl Ski Area, and when he was 18, his coach told him he had a shot to make it big, and should leave Montana for an elite program. Schmidt moved to Squaw Valley, California, in 1979 and competed for three seasons before the financial challenges of racing forced him to quit.

"I started freeskiing with a bunch of long-haired speed skiers, going big and fast on the 220s off of cliffs," he said, referring to the 220-centimeter skis of the day.

In 1983, Miller sent a cameraman to Squaw named Gary Nate, who called Schmidt up to go ski Squaw's biggest, gnarliest lines. The footage from that session would appear in Miller's feature "Ski Time," and a few weeks after the shoot, Schmidt received a personal letter from Miller that he still has to this day.

"Dear Scot," it reads, "the footage of you leaping through space at Squaw Valley is probably the most spectacular footage to come into my office. Next time my crews go to a foreign country to film a segment for a feature film would you be interested?"

Of course, Schmidt said yes and ended up appearing in more than a dozen Warren Miller titles, including 1992's "Extreme Skiing 3: The Scot Schmidt Story." He managed to turn freeskiing into a profession and has been a North Face-sponsored athlete for 35 years.

"I'd never skied with him back in the '80s. It wasn't until I got to Big Sky [that] I started to get to know the man," Schmidt said. "It was such a pleasure working with him. He lived a very full life and should be proud of what he did and all the people's lives, including mine, that he changed."

Schmidt is now part of the team working on a feature-length documentary of the filmmaking legend's life, narrated entirely by Miller himself. They hope to release it next fall and enter it into the 2019 Sundance Film Festival.

"A lot of us owe him a huge debt of gratitude for changing our lives, inspiring and encouraging us to find our freedom in the mountains," Schmidt said. "Warren is the most successful ski bum in history. He basically created the lifestyle and culture."

Kristen Ulmer was a mogul specialist for the U.S. Ski Team in the '90s, was the first woman to ski Wyoming's Grand Teton and appeared in three Warren Miller films. For over a decade she was considered the best extreme skier of her gender and was dubbed the female Scot Schmidt.

"I doubt that anyone who's a ski film star would have careers if it wasn't for Warren Miller," Ulmer said, adding the first movie of his she saw was 1985's "Steep and Deep," starring Schmidt. "It was so cool and so sexy to watch him jump off those cliffs. It put a spark in my eye for cliff jumping."

As Schmidt experienced through that first correspondence from Miller, he wasn't just a brilliant artist, but a master salesman. Eric Ladd, the publisher of EBS, worked at the Yellowstone Club in its early days with Miller and founder Tim Blixseth, doing everything from ski guiding to real estate sales.

"Warren once told me that 90 percent of real estate sales are made on the hood of a car, 15 minutes before someone's plane departs. Warren was the finest salesman I have ever met," Ladd said. In 2002, Miller bought the hood of a car, had it turned into a desk and installed in Ladd's office at the club.

Charlie Callander has worked at the Yellowstone Club since 2001 in a number of different roles, including vice president of sales and his current positions as a liaison for members and a board member of the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation.

He fondly remembers his days skiing with Miller, who would schuss down the private slopes in his red one-piece until he was 86, when his health no longer allowed him to ski.

"A lot of people at the club would use that 86 [year old] benchmark as, 'I want to ski at least as long as Warren did,'" Callander said, adding that Miller wasn't just an inspiration to members and guests, but the entire mountain staff.

"He'd attend the ski instructors' morning meetings three times a year, telling them how important it was to bring people the freedom of skiing," he said. "You could hear a pin drop."

Passionate, perhaps beyond compare, about the sport of skiing, Miller will not be forgotten.

"We loved him and he'll be deeply missed by everybody in our community," Byrne said. "But that voice will live on."

Ulmer believes that voice, and Warren's legend, will live on in nothing short of infamy.

"He basically is the sport of skiing as far as I can see," she said. "In 1,000 years, in the history books, there will be photo of Warren next to 'Skiing.'"

If you're one of the lucky ones to spend a season, decade, or a lifetime pursuing your perfect turn, take a moment to thank Warren Miller. His first step made the dream a reality for so many of us.

Avalanche search team receives funds for advanced training

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Ian Shives and his dog, Flapjack, have been training together for 10 months. In addition to the common obedience commands like "sit" and "come," Flapjack has been learning how to follow his nose.

Together, Shives and Flapjack will slowly pass through a snow-filled area in a mock avalanche search, Shives paying close attention to Flapjack's body language in order to confirm what he smells. "As he catches the scent, he'll catch where it is strongest and start digging there," Shives said.

Knowing he'll be rewarded for finding people in the snow, Flapjack is moving into the advanced stages of his avalanche training, and Shives, in his third season as a member of Big Sky Resort ski patrol, has been with him every step of the way.

With a $750 award from the Erika Pankow Scholarship Fund, the duo will embark on the last phases of training in March to become an avalanche search team; they'll attend a four-day training course offered by the American Avalanche Institute, at Grand Targhee Resort in Alta, Wyoming.

After completing the course, Shives hopes to return home prepared for the avalanche search certification test, which will likely be held at Yellowstone Club or Bridger Bowl Ski Area later in March.

"Hopefully by getting my dog, Flapjack, certified, it will not only help Big Sky at the resort, but in the community as well," Shives said, adding that they could help with search and rescue efforts in addition to ski patrol.

Flapjack is the first dog Shives has trained in avalanche search. In fact, the suspected Australian shepherd-blue heeler cross is the first dog Shives has had since the family dog of his youth.

Three years ago, Shives was visiting his former hometown of Boise, Idaho, and stopped in at the local animal shelter where he used to volunteer. That's when he met the 6-month-old Flapjack, who had been surrendered to the shelter along with his littermates. Shives ended up adopting the puppy, and the very next day they drove home to Big Sky.

"I thought he would be a pretty good dog to train to be an avalanche dog," Shives said, describing Flapjack's calm demeanor and how obedience training came with ease. "He learned things really quickly. It seemed like he wanted to learn."

Big Sky ski patroller Ian Shives is the most recent recipient of the Erika Pankow Scholarship. Together with his dog Flapjack, Shives will use the funds for advanced avalanche search training in March.
PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

About 3 1/2 years old, Flapjack is a little bit older than the two other avalanche dogs currently in training at Big Sky Resort, but Shives feels like age hasn't been a setback, as all of the dogs are on the same track for progress.

Initially, Shives started Flapjack with runaways, where someone would hold onto Flapjack while Shives ran away from him and then hid in the snow. To encourage the dog to find him, Shives would play with Flapjack with a tug toy and get him really excited before running away. Once found, Shives would again play with the dog.

"They're always looking for a human in the snow so that they can play," Shives said.

As Flapjack advanced, Shives would introduce strangers as the runaway, eventually progressing to the point where Flapjack no longer watched someone run away from him. Now, Flapjack is working on full burials of strangers, where a volunteer that the dog is unfamiliar with hides in a snow cave and Shives and Flapjack must search the area in a grid to try to find the person.

"When we're out there, I don't know where the people are and he doesn't know where the people are, so I have to read his body language and he has to read mine," Shives said, adding that he can encourage Flapjack to move through an area or get his attention without saying a word. "The bond between the two of us definitely grows as we're doing it."

While this avalanche team is nearing certification, Shives knows that their training won't ever be complete. "We're constantly learning," he said. "Dogs have their own personalities, they have good days and bad days like us."

Photo:
Peak Photography

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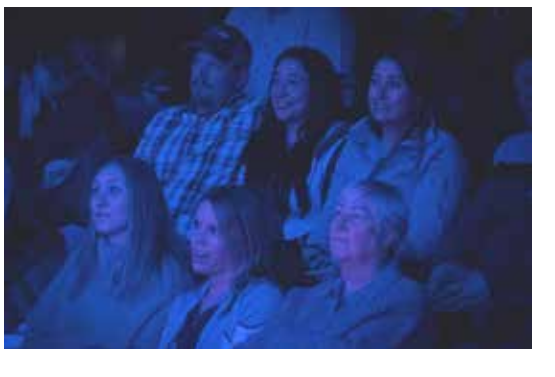
Forging connections through story and song



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

Audience reactions to TEDxBigSky

"The emotion-packed eulogy for Warren Miller delivered by Eric Ladd floored me in the way it honored the theater's namesake and the vitality of living in a damn special ski community." – *Derek Leonard*

"It was fantastic. There were a multitude of lessons but a general theme of the blessings that can come out of hard times. – *Sandi Ashley*"

"I'm so glad this is happening in Big Sky—bringing together inspiring people to share ideas. – *Yarrow Kraner*"

"It was awesome—positive, uplifting, inspiring. It makes you think about how you want to move forward in your life." – *Marie Rapp*

"It was even better than last year and that was really good. The emphasis was we all go through difficulties and positivity is a choice. – *Robert Ingram*"

"TEDx was powerful for me. The sharing of raw, heartfelt emotions was absolutely inspirational, bringing tears of joy. I left feeling renewed and positive." – *Ellen Leonard*

Olive B's helps raise $7,000 for Nepal trip

The Jan. 9 Lone Peak High School Interact Club fundraiser at Olive B's raised $7,106 to support the club's April service trip to Nepal. The Interact Club will visit orphanages and remote schools and distribute clothing, school supplies and medicine to villages in need. Here, chef/owners Warren and Jen Bibblins (center) are flanked, left to right, by students K.P. Hoffman, Rhett Leuzinger, Sarah Maynard, Garrett Klotz, Julia Barton, Zack Cone, Holden Samuels and Howie Robins.
PHOTO BY DALE PALMER

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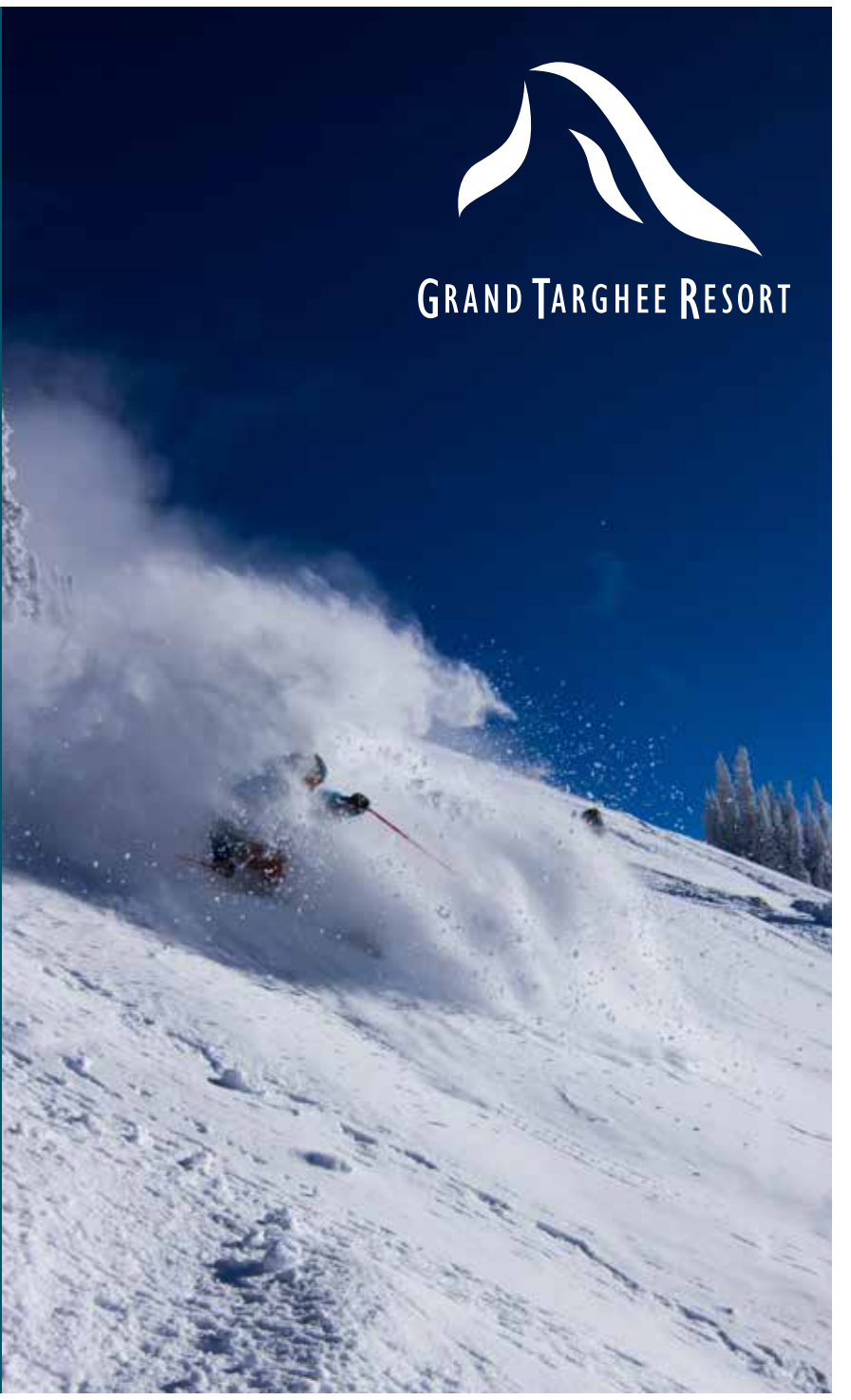

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More growth in the forecast for Gallatin economy

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Approximately 30 individuals gathered at Big Sky's Lone Peak Cinema on Jan. 31, for a live broadcast of the 43rd annual Economic Outlook Seminar presented by University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research.

The broadcast was the first of its kind in Big Sky, brought to the community by the Chamber of Commerce and live streamed from the presentation in Bozeman, one of nine stops throughout the state this winter.

Bryce Ward, BBER associate director, opened the seminar with a discussion of higher education, noting the economic boons and personal benefits that arise with advanced learning. "The reason why we care about universities fundamentally is because they exist to increase the capacity of the economy," Ward said, adding that they do that in two ways. "They generate new ideas via research and they educate students. … The benefits of higher education accrue, they spill out, across the whole region."

To set the stage for industry-specific analysis, BBER Director Patrick Barkey discussed the state and national economic outlooks, describing it as a quietly improving economy. "For the first time in 10 years, there is no major [global] economy in recession today," he added. Of Montana's economy, Barkey said job growth continued in 2017, however government revenue remains relatively stagnant.

Following the general report on the economy, specialists of their respective industries provided outlooks for individual sectors of the economy.

With record skier numbers last winter at Whitefish Mountain Resort, Big Sky Resort and Bridger Bowl Ski Area, steady increases in visitation at Yellowstone and Glacier national parks, and proximity to the path of totality during the Aug. 21 total solar eclipse, 2017 was a year of aberrations for the tourism industry in western Montana, according to Norma Nickerson, director of the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research at UM.

"From a tourism point of view, Montana is about our natural resources," she said. "We don't have Disney Lands, we don't have big operas and Broadway plays. That's not what were about and without our natural resources we wouldn't have the visitation and the tourism that we do."

Nickerson added that the proposed increase in national park entrance fees from about $30 up to $70 at both Yellowstone and Glacier would likely result in a decrease in visitation by almost 3 percent, and fewer dollars would be spent in gateway communities like Big Sky.

Specific to the real estate market, BBER Director of Forecasting Brandon Bridge projected a strong market in 2018, while affordability will continue to worsen as housing prices continue to rapidly increase and median household income increases at a much slower rate. Housing risk is growing with underwater mortgages and rising forms of debt (especially student debt), but is not yet a concern, Bridge added.

Following industry outlooks, Barkey returned to the stage to discuss the Gallatin economy. Major economic drivers on the local level include Montana State University and the state government contributing 26 percent, professional and technological services at 16 percent, non-resident travel at 15 percent and manufacturing at 14 percent, he said. Accommodations and food and health care are markets that continue to boom, while construction has only seen a 5 percent increase.

"Even though construction is really huge here right now, it's always been huge in Bozeman," Barkey said. "In fact, if you go back to 2007, proportionately speaking, it's not really that much bigger than it was 10 years ago … it tells you more about how hot things were here 10 years ago."

Going in to 2018, Barkey said, it's pretty much more of the same in terms of rapid growth. "It's really a broad-based, strong economic cycle were on here in Gallatin County," he said. "Basically, the problem in Gallatin County is growth … we really don't see anything slowing the train down."

Continuing the look at the local economy, Bozeman City Manager Andrea Surratt discussed the importance of supported growth for strong economic development. She mentioned the city's work in developing a new strategic plan and vision for the community that includes an engaged community, investments in infrastructure and support for the workforce.

"If you're not growing, you're dying," Surratt said. "Bozeman is a quality of life economy."

Montana University System Regent Vice-Chair Robert Nystuen closed the seminar with a keynote address on the future of higher education in the state. Nystuen mentioned challenges impacting higher education, which include uneven enrollment across the state, decreased funding and increasing student debt.

During a break in the broadcast, Big Sky Chamber of Commerce CEO Candace Carr Strauss told EBS that she hopes the Big Sky community can use the seminar as a tool to for planning and developing relationships within their businesses. Strauss attended the Bozeman seminar when she was director of development for the Museum of the Rockies and said it was a great way to understand the economic environment and how that affects business partnerships.

In the future, Strauss said she hopes to bring Barkey to Big Sky to speak on the economy live. "I think our economy doesn't receive enough visibility," she said. "It's about partnerships and synergies between communities."

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Section 2:
ENVIRONMENT, SPORTS & DINING

Microplastics found in Gallatin **pg. 18**

LPHS basketball **pg. 20**

The last best burger **pg. 25**

The New West:
The role of eco-capitalism in saving the best that remains

BY TODD WILKINSON
EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

While I was researching my book on Greater Yellowstone media pioneer turned bison rancher Ted Turner, "Last Stand: Ted Turner's Quest to Save a Troubled Planet," my thinking about landscape-level conservation began to shift, particularly in pondering the critical intersection of public and private land.

As I've shared with friends, after giving a hundred public talks on Turner's trailblazing ethos as an eco-capitalist, I've accrued far more knife wounds in the back from environmentalists who are skeptical about any billionaire doing good.

Some are warier of Turner than hardcore political conservatives who have convinced themselves he is somehow an evil lefty simply because he was married to actress Jane Fonda.

As an aside, it's mind-boggling how many misperceptions of people are based upon mythology or hearsay and gossip that isn't grounded in fact.

This I know: In business circles today, there are many people talking about "the triple bottom line,"—i.e., maintaining a measurable ledger sheet that accounts for three different kinds of values factored into business decisions.

The first is the factual reality that in order for the dividends of private lands conservation to persist into the future, being passed along from one generation to the next, they need to be economically sustainable. That is, conservation which functions only as a net debt proposition or liability passed to future generations cannot and will not last, no matter how solid the intentions.

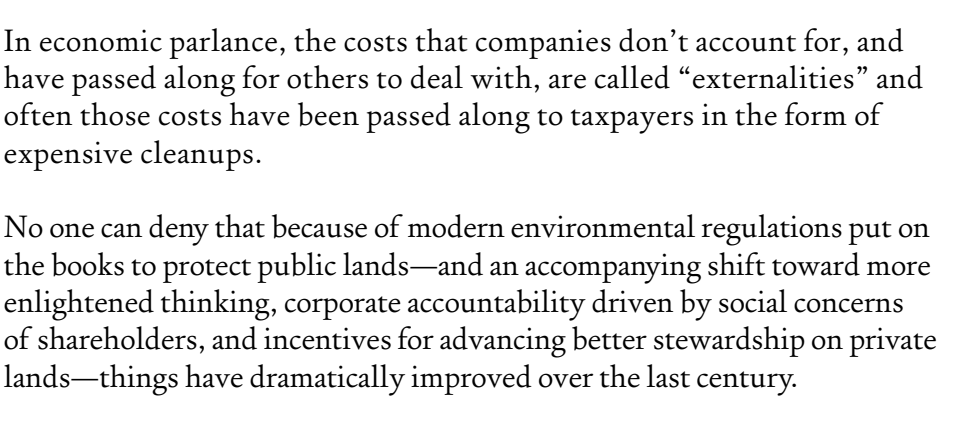
That's why Western ranch country is riddled with a history of land consolidations and bust-ups. Any self-righteous person who doesn't understand the difference between operating in the red versus being in the black has no business criticizing people who live by its cruel reality. This is the economic leg of the triple-bottom line.

Secondly, as Turner has put into practice and demonstrated by example, the ultimate goal is to leave land in as fine a condition, ecologically speaking, as one found it, or to do no harm, or, whenever possible, to use proceeds to heal past abuses and restore ecological function in a way that re-enhances natural values. This is the ecological leg and achieving this can be accelerated if incentives are provided that help alleviate the costs of doing good.

Thirdly, decisions should be made in a way in which humans are approached with dignity. This means treating employees well, and paying them a living wage with health insurance in the event they or family members get sick. It means that working for you does not leave employees in a chronic state of economic desperation.

It also means treating your neighbors with respect, and working constructively across fence lines to preserve the values both sides hold dear. It means trying to keep as much of your economic activity local, enabling investment dollars to trickle down and cycle widely throughout the community.

Many environmental problems inherited from the Old West are the result of not adhering to those principles—of approaching the region as one would a natural resource colony. Distant boardrooms aren't always interested in the long-term condition of the land following its exploitation, or building durable, diverse communities, or thinking beyond short-term profitability.


Ted Turner at his ecologically important Flying D Ranch southwest of Bozeman, which he protected with one of the largest conservation easements in the West. PHOTO BY TODD WILKINSON

In economic parlance, the costs that companies don't account for, and have passed along for others to deal with, are called "externalities" and often those costs have been passed along to taxpayers in the form of expensive cleanups.

No one can deny that because of modern environmental regulations put on the books to protect public lands—and an accompanying shift toward more enlightened thinking, corporate accountability driven by social concerns of shareholders, and incentives for advancing better stewardship on private lands—things have dramatically improved over the last century.

That's good news, but in a region like the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, the ecological threads holding wildness together extend across both private and public land. In some cases it doesn't matter how big the public land base is; if key pieces of private land—like tracts encompassing river valleys, wildlife corridors and winter range or breeding habitat—aren't safeguarded, the whole fabric could unravel.

A few years ago, Robert Keith, a private capital investment manager in Bozeman and founder of Beartooth Group, cited this stat at a TEDx talk: There are over 18,000 investment firms in the U.S. that manage about $16 trillion, investing about $500 billion a year in new projects.

Reflecting on the power of what's possible, with people who want to make a positive impact on saving the Greater Yellowstone, America's most iconic wild ecosystem, he asked, "What if we could take a tiny sliver of that investment capital and put it to work for a good cause, in our case restoration and protection of the American West?"

Todd Wilkinson, founder of Mountain Journal (mountainjournal.org), is author of "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek" about famous Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear 399 featuring 150 photographs by Tom Mangelsen, available only at mangelsen.com/grizzly. His feature on the delisting of Greater Yellowstone grizzlies appears in the winter 2018 issue of Mountain Outlaw and is now on newsstands.

Microplastic found in Gallatin River in unprecedented study

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – Stephanie Lynn, the education and communications coordinator for the Gallatin River Task Force, regularly traversed approximately 4 miles of trail along Porcupine Creek between 2015 and 2017, returning each time with 1 liter of river water collected in a stainless-steel canteen. She also collected water from the confluence of Porcupine Creek and Gallatin River.

Lynn and her study partner Nancy Sheil also cross-country skied the 4 miles in order to get to their assigned sample site on Porcupine Creek in the snow; they ran or mountain biked there in the summer.

After collection, they turned the samples in to the Bozeman research group Adventure Scientists, who then shipped the water to Maine for analysis, in order to look for plastic pollution in the river.

While Lynn and Sheil only collected about 16 liters of water during the study, their effort came together with more than 700 samples gathered by 117 volunteers, taken from 72 sites throughout the Gallatin River watershed.

The results of this project, completed in the fall of 2017 and currently under scientific review and analysis, indicate that the Gallatin River system contains tiny bits of plastic.

The Gallatin study is the first close look at microplastics in a single watershed and emerged after Adventure Scientists worked on a global microplastics initiative. Around the world, researchers found 89 percent of marine samples and 51 percent of freshwater samples contained microplastic pollution.

Including portions of the watershed within Yellowstone National Park and extending through National Forest lands, a wilderness area and private property, the Gallatin study encompassed the reaches of the mainstem of the Gallatin, from the headwaters in the park to the confluence with the Missouri River northeast of Three Forks, as well as the many tributaries.

Adventure Scientists partnered with the Gallatin River Task Force to design the study and identify sample sites throughout the watershed. Trained volunteers collected water from assigned sites over the course of two years, returning seasonally in September, December, March and June.

While the data is still under analysis, project leader Katie Christiansen was able to confirm microplastics throughout the mainstem of the Gallatin. Perhaps surprisingly, the pollution was found within Yellowstone and at remote tributary headwaters.

For Christiansen, finding plastic pollution in the Gallatin is alarming. "Microplastic is a global issue, it's evidence of human effects on the environment," she said. "There's enough agency in mankind to affect the environment in such a huge way."

Christiansen, who holds a master's from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, went on to describe recent studies on microplastics in the environment. Originating from the degradation of a variety of synthetic, plastic materials, microplastics are very small—less than 5 millimeters in diameter— and can be found as fibers, beads or fragments. They emerge in a variety of ways, such as when a tire wears on the road, clothing is laundered, or while a plastic bag breaks down in the sun.

Once the microplastic enters a waterway, it's possible for small organisms like plankton to mistake the plastic for a food source. The plastic can become an obstruction and lead to starvation, or it can introduce toxins to the organism if chemicals adhered to the plastic before consumption.

Gerrit Egnew, one of more than one hundred volunteers for Adventure Scientists, collects a water sample on Cinnamon Creek in December 2015 as a part of a Gallatin River watershed study. PHOTO BY LOUISE JOHNS

"Imagine a plankton eats that microplastic," Christiansen said. "Then a fish eats 1,000 plankton. Then a larger fish eats 100 of those smaller fish. Microplastic doesn't cause obstruction [for the fish], but it's likely carrying toxic chemicals that the fish wouldn't be exposed to at that concentration." Peer-reviewed studies have found these toxins to impact a fish's ability to feed and reproduce, she added.

Research on microplastics is an emerging field, and studies have not been conducted on the impacts of microplastics on humans, if we consume them in our drinking water or are exposed to carried toxins in our seafood.

Microplastics are now understood to enter waterways in a variety of ways, not necessarily just through a point source like effluent discharge from a treatment facility. The tiny plastic particles, in fact, can travel atmospherically in the air, explaining why the plastic was found in remote locations of the watershed. The microplastics also can be shed by clothing and materials used by outdoor enthusiasts.

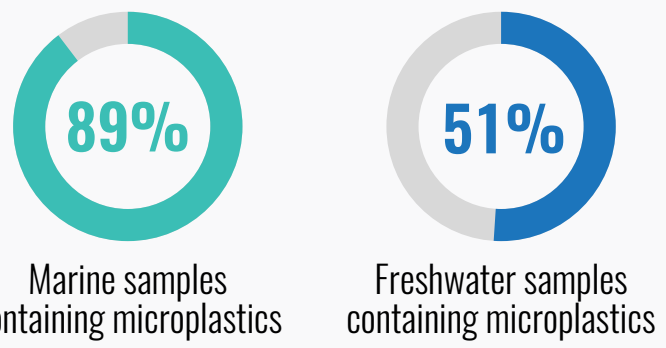
Specific to the Big Sky samples, Christiansen said, "There wasn't a sample site in Big Sky that was a significant contributor to microplastic pollution in the watershed, which is of note as Big Sky is a developing area experiencing growing human influence and is equipped with multiple wastewater treatment facilities."

While there are many questions yet to be answered, Christiansen said there are several things we can be doing on an individual basis to at least reduce the spread of microplastics. This includes avoiding cosmetics that contain microbeads, including several types of toothpaste; washing synthetic items less often and selecting natural fibers when possible; purchasing a filter for the washing machine; and using less plastic when possible, such as when going to the grocery store.

Christiansen said with the conclusion of this research, residents in the Gallatin watershed could become leaders in microplastic response. "What we have now is a dataset that no other community has about pollution."

For more information on the Gallatin microplastics research, visit adventurescientists.org/gallatin-microplastics.

Microplastic pollution by the numbers



Microfibers are most common microplastic pollutant

Marine particles: **91%** microfibers

Freshwater particles: **92%** microfibers

Gallatin particles: **80%** microfibers

MSU professor focuses camera on vanishing glaciers

BY CAROL SCHMIDT
MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – Montana State University photography professor Ian van Coller's efforts to shine a light on climate change have resulted in a series of art books documenting diminishing glaciers, including one that is on exhibit at New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Van Coller is one of three authors who collaborated to create "The Last Glacier," which is on display at the museum's Robert Wood Johnson Jr. Gallery through Feb. 5. The book, which is 25 inches by 40 inches when open, is composed of 13 woodcuts and 10 photographs that document the melting of glaciers in Glacier National Park.

In addition to van Coller, other collaborators include Todd Anderson, a printmaking professor at Clemson University, and Bruce Crownover, a master printer at Tandem Press at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The trio are friends and developed the concept for the book in 2012 while they were hiking to some of Glacier National Park's most remote glaciers, van Coller said.

"It's quite a hike to get to some of [the glaciers]," he said. Grinnell Glacier, for instance, is 6 miles from the nearest trailhead.

For the next three summers, the trio returned to the park and took extended hiking trips of about 150 miles each summer, and visited 18 of the 25 of the last remaining active glaciers in the park as they documented their decline. The artists chose 15 of those glaciers in the park to include in the large-scale art book.

Van Coller, who teaches in MSU's School of Film and Photography, photographed the landscapes with a high-resolution, medium-format digital camera and digitally stitched together huge panoramas that fit in the book. Anderson and Crownover returned to their studios and worked on large-scale reductive woodcuts, in which the negative space is carved out of huge blocks of wood and then hand-printed. The images were sequenced so that they illustrated what is happening to the glaciers chronologically.

Van Coller said the group, which calls itself The Last Glacier Collective, decided to display their work in a book rather than images that would hang in an exhibit, because "when the exhibit is done, it is taken down, and put away. Books are available for a long time," he said. "We wanted to reach as many people as possible."

The Last Glacier Collective printed 15 books, working with a master bookmaker in Portland, Oregon, who hand-binds the book. Collectors of the book include the Library of Congress, Yale University, Stanford University, the Davis Museum at Wellesley College, the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation Collection, Clemson University, the University of Wisconsin-Madison and, of course, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, which also exhibits Picasso, Monet and Audubon.

"To have [the book] selected for display is really huge for us," van Coller said. He said that The Met, which has 2 million prints and photographs in its collection and just 300 of those on display at any one time for its thousands of daily visitors, is a large and prestigious audience for the book's message about the impacts of climate change.

"In some ways I feel that this work is similar to that of the Victorian naturalists who made an effort to bring back documentation of nature so the public could see nature," he said. "This connection of artists and scientists is important. We are both creative problem solvers."

Four of van Coller's books are also included in a display currently at the Center for Book Arts in New York City.

Van Coller's documentation of glaciers and the impact of climate change has become his passion and has resulted in several creative projects. He has employed a similar large format and subject matter for five more books including the recent "Kilimanjaro: The Last Glacier." That book is composed of large-format photos taken in 2016 in Tanzania and includes one woodcut by Anderson and a foreword by glacier scientist Douglas R. Hardy of the University of Massachusetts.

MSU photography professor Ian van Coller and his recently published book, "Kilimanjaro: The Last Glacier," the second in his series of large-format, handmade art books about the melting of glaciers around the world to demonstrate the impact of global climate change. PHOTO BY KELLY GORHAM

Van Coller's photographs show the African glaciers as well as the Tanzanian porters who hiked with him. One of those books has already been acquired by the Bill Bowes Art and Architecture Library Special Collections at Stanford University.

Van Coller says he uses the large-format photographs because they provide unique archival records and objects that are collected by institutions.

Van Coller also has made a large-format book on the glaciers of Iceland, as well as a book on puffins. He is currently at work photographing glaciers and ice patches in Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park and would like to photograph glaciers in Antarctica and Canada's Baffin Island. He has plans to photograph a tree called "Methuselah," a 5,000-year-old bristlecone pine tree in California's White Mountains that is thought to be the oldest non-clonal tree on the planet, meaning that its trunk is the same age as its root system.

"I am busy for the next two years," he said.

And, speaking of time, van Coller said he is intensely aware that the time for photographing some of these natural phenomena across the globe is running out. He said to view first-hand the impact of climate change on the glaciers around the world has been sobering.

"It will take a massive effort to reverse," he said. "As an artist [the photographs] are my way to process grief, and I feel a great deal of grief about [it]."

Read a feature story about The Last Glacier Project from the summer 2015 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine at explorebigsky.com/mountain-outlaw-magazine-the-last-glacier-project/15730.

Roxy's goes greener

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – On Jan. 18, Roxy's Market introduced a new grocery bag that has already dramatically reduced their disposable bag usage from 50 cases per week of the standard-issue plastic grocery bag to eight of the replacement product.

The green super bags are made from recycled materials, and are 100 percent biodegradable. Because of their strength and durability, they can carry 25-35 percent more than the average plastic grocery bag, and stand-up to repeated reuse. In fact, a test proved they could carry a minimum of 25 pounds over a distance of 175 feet, at least 125 times. They are even machine-washable.

According to a representative of Hippo Sak, the California-based manufacturer, the bags are made with polyethylene instead of petroleum. Polyethylene, while still a plastic, can be broken down by ultraviolet light and micro-organisms. However, because most Montana trash ends up buried in landfills where it doesn't receive the prerequisite light or oxygen, the bag's real asset is a reduced bag usage estimated at 30 percent.

"We use an insane amount of plastic at this store alone," said Roxy's Store Manager Josh Treasure, adding that Roxy's two other locations in Montecito, California, and Aspen, Colorado, had already made the switch to greener bags.

He said that the Big Sky location is losing money on the bags even with the 15-cent charge, but it acts as an incentive. Treasure said he has been amazed by how many people have started bringing their own bags or reusing the one they got at Roxy's.

Roxy's new sturdy, reusable bags reduce disposable bag usage by an estimated 30 percent. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

As far as his personal motivation to introduce the greener product, Treasure said, "we live in a beautiful place—the least we can do is try to take one step and help the environment."

Big Horns beaten by Bruins

BY DAN KELLY
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – The day after beating Shields Valley 67-46 on Jan. 25, Lone Peak faced the talented and athletic Gardiner Bruins, who entered the game with a sole loss to Manhattan Christian and a record of 12-1. The Big Horns, who are currently 7-5 overall and 3-4 in district play, were beaten 90-50 on Jan. 26, at Lone Peak High School.

The Big Horns were noticeably outrebounded and faced intense pressure from the Gardiner defense throughout the game. Lone Peak battled the Bruins fervently, but the shots were falling for Gardiner from all over the court, and after taking the lead 13-10 midway through the first, they piled on the points for the next three quarters.

There were some bright spots in the first half for the Big Horns, including a great assist from sophomore guard Frankie Starz to senior guard Liam Germain, and some effective inside-outside passing from senior forward Jackson Wade to sophomore guard Austin Samuels for a three-pointer.

Wade and Starz both scored 13 points for the Big Horns, with Germain adding 11 points and Samuels tallying 7 points in the game.

The game was a season-high in number of turnovers by the Big Horns, coupled with an exceptional shooting performance by the visiting team. Gardiner was in a full court press almost the entire game, forcing mistakes from the Big Horns as they attempted to break the Bruins' press and make their way toward the basket.

The deep Bruins team exhausted Lone Peak with their up-tempo pace of play, and ability to swap out their entire team on the floor with very capable players from the bench, often substituting all five players simultaneously.

"They had great defensive pressure which was new coming from this team," said LPHS coach Austin Barth. "They forced a season-high amount of turnovers for us and really that's where the game got out of hand."

Gardiner continued their suffocating defense and excellent shooting performance in the second half, erupting to score 32 points in the third quarter. Gardiner's two leading scorers, Bryson Stermitz and Clancy Thomas, tallied a total of 17 points after the break. The game was out of reach at that point and the Bruins led 80-45 at the end of the third.

Free throw shooting was less than spectacular for the Big Horns, making only 50 percent of their shots from the stripe, while rival Gardiner made 70 percent of their 20 foul shots. All 10 Big Horns players got playing time in the game, which ended with a final score of 90-50, Bruins.

Senior guard Liam Germain draws a foul on his way to the basket in a tough game against Gardiner. PHOTO BY DAN KELLY

The Big Horns team has held its own this year and currently sits in third place in a tough district led by Manhattan Christian (7-0 in district play, 13-2 overall), and Gardiner (6-1 in district play, 12-1 overall), both teams among the top 10 in Class C statewide.

In his inaugural season as coach of the Big Horns, Barth offered some reflections on the season thus far, noting the senior leadership and exciting players coming up through the ranks.

"The younger players have grown up a lot with Frankie [Starz], Austin [Samuels] and Brayden [Vaile]," Barth said. "All three of them have different roles and have stepped up to make this team better. Our seniors have done a great job in their roles. Jackson [Wade] has been a consistent scorer for us and Liam [Germain] has stepped up on defense every game shutting down their best player."

Next up for the Big Horns is Manhattan Christian at home on Feb. 2, followed by an away game at Twin Bridges on Feb. 3, and at West Yellowstone on Feb. 8. Senior day is Feb. 9, against Sheridan at Lone Peak High School.

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

Big Sky youth clean up at BSSEF Youth Ski League races

Big Sky's U12 girls (ages 10-11) and U8 boys (age 7 and younger) dominated the Big Sky Ski Education Foundation Youth Ski League qualifying races at Big Sky Resort Jan. 26-28, with big wins including first-, second- and third-place podium finishes. Here, 11-year-old Chloe Unger blocks a slalom gate à la Mikaela Shiffrin on her way to a second-place slot in the U12 age class. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

3 Montana residents on US Winter Olympic ski team

MISSOULA (AP) – Three Montana skiers are set to represent Team USA at the Winter Olympics in South Korea this month.

U.S. Ski and Snowboard announced Jan. 22 that freestyle skiers Maggie Voisin of Whitefish and Darian Stevens of Missoula will compete in the slopestyle skiing competition. Butte native Brad Wilson will compete in moguls.

Voisin went to the 2014 Winter Olympics, but fractured her ankle during a training run and was unable to compete. Wilson competed in 2014, but crashed during qualifying and did not advance to the finals. This is Stevens' first Olympics.

Slopestyle skiers navigate a downhill course of rails and jumps and are scored on their tricks and abilities. In moguls, skiers race down a bumpy course with two jumps. They are scored on speed, quality of turns and the tricks they do.

Lady Big Horns topple Bruins

BY DAN KELLY
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY - After losing to Shields Valley 45-27 on Jan. 25, the Lone Peak Lady Big Horns bounced back against the Gardiner Bruins the following night with a 53-43 victory at Lone Peak High School.

Senior forward K.P. Hoffman scored 24 points in the contest, just one point shy of the school record. Freshman guard Ivy Hicks had a breakout performance adding 9 points for Lone Peak in a game that saw all nine players for the Big Horns log playing time.

"K.P. is easily one of the best posts in our conference, having the potential to score 20-plus points every time she steps on the court. She is really good at creating her own shot inside and making the defense pay at the foul line," said Lone Peak coach Ausha Cole.

The Bruins jumped out to an early lead of 10-5, but as leading scorer Hoffman and her teammates settled into their offense, they quickly drew even, aided by baskets from sophomore guard Emma Flach and senior guard Jay Cole. A steal by junior forward Solae Swenson led to a basket by Cole early in the second quarter, resulting in a 17-16 lead that the Lady Big Horns would not relinquish for the rest of the game.

Lone Peak shot an impressive 84 percent from the free throw line in comparison with Gardiner's 57 percent. Coupled with a solid rebounding performance and steadily improving ball movement, the Lady Big Horns were able to minimize second chance points by the Bruins while maximizing their opportunities for high percentage shots.

As the first half drew to a close, the Bruins clawed their way back within three points, buoyed by baskets from leading scorers Brooke Russell and Megan Wickham. Russell sunk a team-high 18 points for the Bruins. Hoffman again answered for Lone Peak, scoring a basket to bring the game 29-24 going into half-time.

Stretching the lead to 34-24 early in the third quarter with two free throws by Hoffman and a three-pointer by Cole, the Lady Big Horns would keep the Bruins at arms-length for the rest of the game. Cole had 8 points, six of which were scored in the third.

Senior forward K.P. Hoffman scored 24 points during a triumphant game against the Gardiner Bruins on Jan. 26. PHOTO BY DAN KELLY

Junior Brooke Botha showcased her improvement this year with Coach Cole at the helm. She had a critical rebound followed by a key basket on the next possession to keep the Bruins at bay with 4:25 remaining in the game.

"Friday night the team did an excellent job and wanted to win that game," Coach Cole said. "They all showed up prepared and ready to play. Our intensity was great throughout and it never really dropped."

As the clock wound down to the final seconds, the score stood in favor of Lone Peak, 53-43.

The Lady Big Horns are currently in third place in District 11C, with a district record of 4-3 and overall record of 6-5. Manhattan Christian (7-0, 10-6) is in first place and Shields Valley (4-2, 7-5) holds the second-place spot.

Lone Peak plays Manhattan Christian at home on Feb. 2, followed by away games at Twin Bridges on Feb. 3, and West Yellowstone on Feb. 8. The Lady Big Horns are back at LPHS on Feb. 9 for a Senior Day game against Sheridan.

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

Q&A with freeride athlete Maria Lovely

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – Montana State University freshman, Lone Peak High School graduate, and up-and-coming skier Maria Lovely spoke with Explore Big Sky about her development as a winter sports athlete and her hopes and ambitions for the future.

Explore Big Sky: *When and where did you start skiing?*
Maria Lovely: Everyone around me—parents, teachers, kids—were consumed by the sport of basketball, and I struggled with the fact that I wasn't. My parents, on the other hand, were delighted to get off the bleachers and into the mountains—we always had so much fun at the rural school ski days which took place at Bridger and Red Lodge.

EBS: *When did you move to Big Sky?*
M.L.: We took the leap from McLeod, Montana, to Big Sky my freshman year of high school.

EBS: *What do you like most about Lone Mountain? Any favorite runs?*
M.L.: What don't I like?! I'm blessed to call this mountain my home and humbled by it every day. I love the Headwaters!

EBS: *When did you start competing in freeride events?*
M.L.: I was 12 when I did my first freeride competition; it was the annual Headwaters Spring Runoff.

EBS: *What are your goals for the 2018 winter season?*
M.L.: I am going into this season with a focus of filming. As I build my resume, I hope to further my sponsorships and work my way onto an athlete team.

EBS: *What do you consider your strengths as a freeride skier?*
M.L.: Knowing it's okay to say "no" when I'm not feeling it, but also knowing how fun it is when I do go big.

EBS: *How do you train to be a freeride athlete both in season and offseason?*
M.L.: Thankfully most of my hobbies are outdoor-oriented, so I am staying active in all four seasons. Along with that, I train at Epic Bzn gym where I am constantly making physical gains, acquiring new knowledge, and learning how to be more mindful in my athletic approach.

After a promising junior freeride career, 18-year-old Maria Lovely continues to put down big lines on Big Sky's steepest terrain. Here she is pictured carving up the Palisades. PHOTO BY COLTON STIFFLER

EBS: *Who has helped you along the way to becoming an elite skier?*
M.L.: I owe it all to my family. My dad is a remarkable coach; his skill and patience took me from first at the Headwaters Spring Runoff as a 12-year-old to third in North America by age 16. My siblings are constantly encouraging me to be my best (in all of life's aspects) and my mom gives her everything to make our dreams possible. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to ski and learn from amazing Big Sky locals who rip it up. I've been lucky to shoot and film with Ryan Turner, Chris Kamman, Ryan Day Thompson, Gabe Priestly and Colton Stiffler—all of whom have been instrumental in building my ski career.

EBS: *Any advice for younger skiers who would want to follow in your ski tracks?*
M.L.: You get [back] what you put out—the hard work is worth it. Be confident with your decisions. Appreciate it all—the good and the bad, because they both play a part in getting you to where you want to be.

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Town Center to Mountain Village Bus Schedule (Heading Up)

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

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

Mountain Village to Town Center Bus Schedule (Heading Down)

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

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

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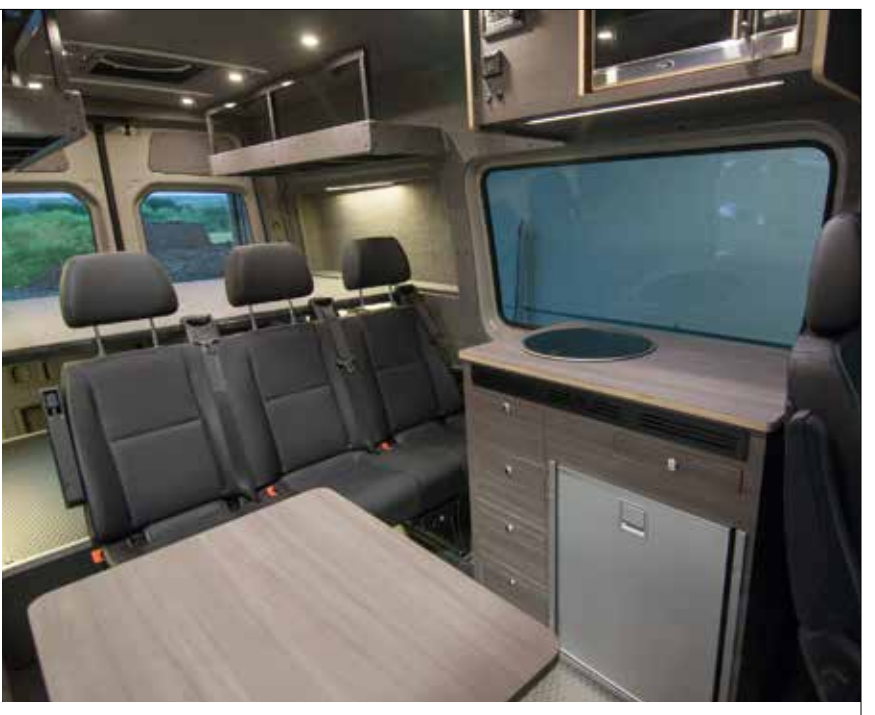

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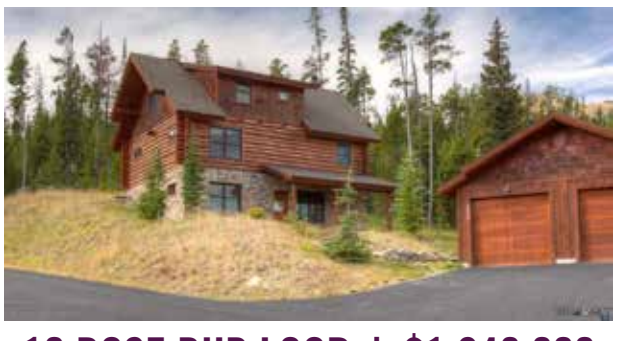

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The last best burger

BY KATIE THOMAS
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – As a Montanan, it's always entertaining to hear restaurants in random places boast "the best burger." I recently had this experience while watching a travel-food show; some restaurant in Florida claimed superior beef and burgers to anywhere else in the United States. Those folks must have never been to Bozeman, and certainly not to Backcountry Burger Bar.

Owner Albert McDonald opened his eatery in June 2017, on Main Street in the heart of downtown. Most people will remember the historic space as the former site of John Bozeman's Bistro, but some may also recognize it as Wong's—Bozeman's original Chinese restaurant, which, incidentally, also served cheeseburgers, to placate picky children in the 1980s.

Backcountry Burger Bar features creative salads, a variety of appetizers, chicken sandwich options, beer and wine, cider and kombucha, and, dare I say, Bozeman's best burgers.

On a recent weekday evening, a meal at Backcountry began with a pint of the Northwest IPA from Missoula's KettleHouse Brewing Co., a pleasant and relatively mellow member of the IPA family. The traditional poutine and rosemary root chips were both delicious, and a welcome change of pace as appetizers. Next came the house salad, which was surprisingly substantial, with a perfectly tangy apple cider vinaigrette.

The CFB (country friend beef patty, fried egg, and gravy), was declared the evolution of the local Yo! Burger—look it up, folks—and the Wildfire burger (crispy fried jalapeños, sriracha aioli and pepper jack cheese) delivered just the right kick and complemented the IPA perfectly—but make no mistake about those jalapeños, they're hot.

The Electric chicken sandwich was similarly spicy, but a bit too far into the world of cayenne for my taste. The Stillwater veggie burger was as tasty and as filling as a beef burger. Backcountry uses beef from Montana Cattle Company, or Yellowstone Grassfed Beef is available for a $2 upgrade.

The Doane is one of Backcountry's specialty burgers—a regional bison patty topped with smoked bacon, sharp cheddar, haystack onions, lettuce and whiskey bbq sauce.

The Backcountry Burger Bar boasts an affordable, fresh and creative menu that serves up much more than their signature creative burgers. PHOTOS BY YOGESH SIMPSON

If this sounds like a lot of cow, don't fret. The Fishtail seared tuna, mac and cheese, Super Salad, Snowflake grilled cheese, and other delights are available—and for the kids, a grilled peanut butter and jelly sandwich called the Unicorn. Backcountry Burger Bar uses tomatoes from Seven Spruce Farm when available, and Earth-friendly Smart Chicken for their sandwiches. It's clear from the menu, and reaffirmed by the taste of each dish, that food is a priority and passion for the owners of Backcountry.

"Our love of backcountry travel is one of the things that binds the three of us," explained director of operations and partner Joe Barnett, referring to McDonald, himself, and their third partner Noah Corwin. "That, and a love of the American cheeseburger." Both Barnett and McDonald spent many years in managerial positions at Montana Ale Works and launching other culinary ventures, including Pizza Compania and The Mint in Belgrade, before deciding to open Backcountry Burger Bar.

The festive names of the menu items were somewhat inspired by local mountain history, and many cleverly assigned by general manager and culinarian Carl Ylinen.

"We also wanted to break the mold as far as our beer selection and have a unique focus on craft beers from places outside Montana," Barnett said. "We really went out of our way to seek out founders' breweries and have more than just the same local beers you find everywhere." The wine selection is also distinctive, with excellent price points.

If you need more reasons to check out Backcountry Burger Bar, note that the service is exceptional, and that they stay open between lunch and dinner, which makes it a nice happy hour option from 3 to 6 p.m., if you're downtown and looking for something different. But more importantly, it's this diner's opinion that Backcountry truly offers the best burger in Bozeman, whether you're new, old, young—or just hungry.

Backcountry Burger Bar is located at 125 W. Main St. in Bozeman, and is open seven days a week, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

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MIX IT UP

My five secret weapon ingredients

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER
EBS STAFF

There are certain staples that almost everyone keeps in their kitchen—bread, eggs, milk—the basics. I've often been asked what my favorite recipe is, or what my favorite ingredient to cook with is. While I keep the traditional staples in my pantry, there are a few special ingredients that have elevated my cooking to the next level, and I keep these in my kitchen too.

Fish sauce is an ingredient whose name may make some turn their nose, assuming it has a very strong fishy flavor. Since fish sauce has become more mainstream outside of Asia, where it is a common ingredient in many dishes, producers are working to make fish sauce more approachable.

Made from only whole fish, salt and water, this mixture is placed in barrels and fermented for 12-18 months. The less time it spends fermenting, the stronger the fish flavor will be. The intensity of flavor can also be determined by its color. Sauces that have been fermented longer will be lighter in color.

Fish sauce can be used in similar applications as Worcestershire or soy sauces, but remember, a little goes a long way with this potent, salty ingredient.

Save your **Parmesan rinds!** If you cook with authentic Parmesan cheese, the rind contains all of the flavor of the cheese, but the texture is not ideal for eating. Instead, place a piece of rind into sauces that lend themselves well to Parmesan flavor. The rinds will soften, but not melt completely, and will impart a deep, savory flavor that can't quite be achieved with other ingredients. I always place a piece of Parmesan rind into my homemade marinara sauce and minestrone soup, removing it before serving.

You can also use this method to make Parmesan broth to use as a base for a pot of soup or risotto. Another great thing about Parmesan rinds is they are freezable—and they keep for a long time that way.

The importance of **acidic ingredients** may not be a huge secret, but I think they are a kitchen necessity. More often than not, when a dish is lacking flavor, people immediately reach for salt. Nine times out of 10 what the dish probably needs is more acid. Acidic ingredients like vinegar and citrus can also add a component of freshness when added later in the cooking process, or in salad dressings or as a finishing element.

I would estimate that I have nearly 10 varieties of vinegar in my kitchen pantry, ranging from basic white vinegar, to more versatile varieties like apple cider and rice wine vinegars, to a very flavorful balsamic. I also keep lemons and limes on hand all the time.

Cayenne pepper can always be used in the obvious application—to make dishes spicy. But used in moderation, there are other uses for this powdered red chili powder. To achieve a well-balanced dish, there is always a need for a subtle component of bitterness and a pinch of cayenne is often the perfect solution. It is also a great way to balance a dish that is overly sweet. A gentle sprinkle over fruit offers a surprising twist that brings out the fruit's natural sweetness. One of my favorite ways to use cayenne is sprinkled over sliced mango along with a squeeze of fresh lime juice.

Celery seed is one of my favorite spices to keep on hand. Its flavor tastes just like fresh celery's green stalks, but with a more concentrated flavor. It is sold in both whole and powdered forms, as well as combined with salt. In its different forms, it adds a component of texture and a bold celery flavor. I like to substitute it for fresh celery in dishes that will be cooked for long periods of time, like chicken noodle soup. Fresh celery develops a bitter flavor when held at high heat for long periods of time, so try substituting ground celery seed instead. Whole seeds also add a welcome crunch to fresh dishes like coleslaw or in a vinaigrette.

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.

'Without butter, without eggs, there is no reason to come to France'

BY SCOTT MECHURA
EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Just one of the many quotes made famous by French chef, Paul Bocuse.

For me, the word iconic has lost much of its meaning due to rampant overuse. However, there is no more fitting word to describe the man the Culinary Institute of America declared Chef of the Century in 2011.

Chef Bocuse passed away on Jan. 20, at the age of 91. He died in Lyon, France—in the home he was raised in, and the very bed he was born in.

About 20 years ago, I was having a conversation with my friend and co-worker Tom about his last job. He had spent two grueling years with Chef Jean Banchet at Le Francais in Wheeling, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago.

Banchet was old friends with Bocuse—they came up together in many of the same kitchens throughout France. Bocuse and Banchet were two of the prized apprentices of Chef Fernand Point, who trained directly under Auguste Escoffier. Point first uttered the well-known quote, "Never trust a skinny chef." And Escoffier, as he is simply referred to, was quite literally the chef that created modern cuisine as we know it today. It occurred to us that Tom could not have come from a more "noble" culinary-training family tree.

Bocuse was one of the original architects of what became a decades-long push from France known as nouvelle cuisine, or the new cuisine. At its core, this meant "cutting edge" presentations of the day that could be as simple as serving fish with the sauce underneath to showcase its beauty and quality.

Bocuse earned his first Michelin star in 1958, his second in 1962, and a third and final Michelin star in 1965. In 1966, he reclaimed Auberge du Pont de Collonges from the man who had purchased it from his father in his home town of Lyon. In 2015, he received the Grand Officer of the National Order of Merit for maintaining three Michelin stars for over 50 years. As of the 2017 guide, his restaurant still had three stars.

Currently, France has 27 restaurants with three Michelin stars. There is no precise number of restaurants in all of France, but it is in the tens of thousands. Many restaurants that achieve the coveted third star have difficulty retaining them for more than a few years. There is truly no comparison that would put Bocuse's achievement in perspective.

Bocuse went on to create the Bocuse d'Or, a global cooking competition held every two years in Lyon. It is so prestigious, it is regarded as the Olympics of culinary competition, and teams have been known to prepare and train years in advance.

I remember, as a young cook, visiting my French chef's home. There on his wall was a picture of the ever-stoic Bocuse with his signature stare and folded arms. I remember thinking it hung as proudly as my grandfather, and many of his generation, had hung pictures of John Wayne on their wall.

Contemporary celebrity chefs like Jean George Vongerichten and Daniel Boulud both spoke of Bocuse's intimidating stare. They said if you made a mistake as a young apprentice, it could fall upon you like death itself.

But not without a sense of humor, Bocuse once said that "if an architect makes a mistake, he grows ivy to cover it. If a doctor makes a mistake, he covers it with soil. If a cook makes a mistake, he covers it with some sauce and says it is a new recipe."

I can't recall a male country artist who hasn't said he was influenced by the late Johnny Cash. Concurrently, I can't imagine a chef out there who hasn't, directly or in some degree of separation, been influenced by Chef Paul Bocuse.

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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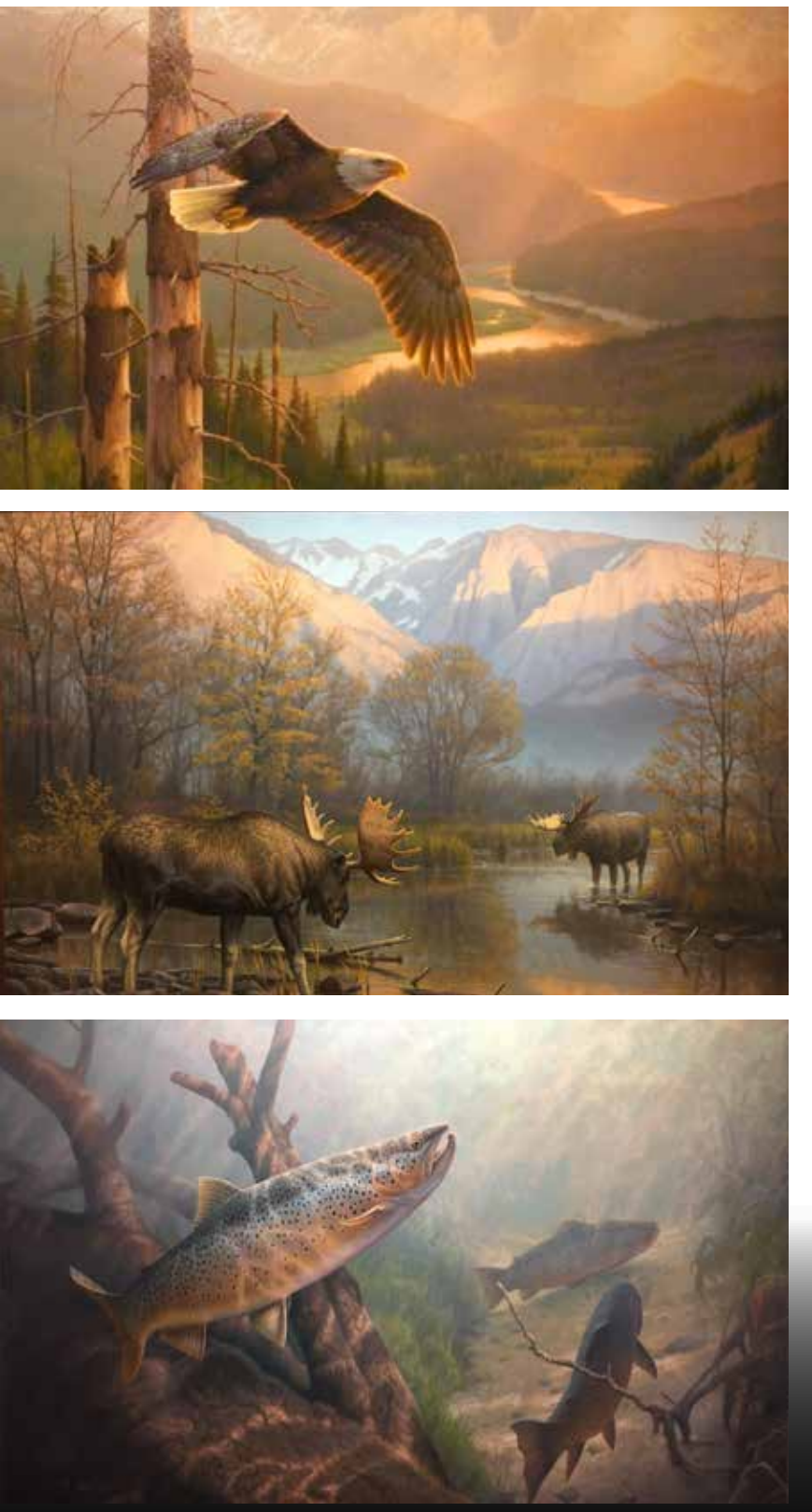

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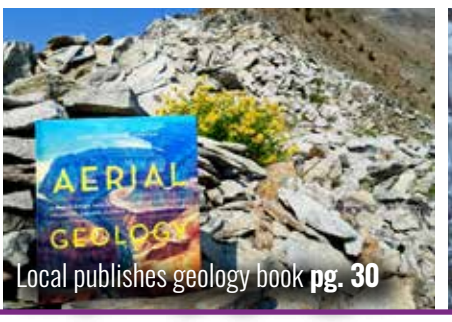


Local publishes geology book **pg. 30**

The best winter hikes in Big Sky **pg. 33**

Back 40: Impulse control **pg. 44**

INSIDE YELLOWSTONE

Splitboarding to Yellowstone's Mystic Falls

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JOHN LAYSHOCK
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The Mystic Falls trail begins at the Biscuit Basin parking lot near Old Faithful in Yellowstone National Park.

My neighbor and good friend Brett Bench took the day off on Dec. 19, to help me enjoy this adventure to the falls. We both prefer splitboarding, to fully enjoy the descent, and it's a great way to tour this loop. There's not a lot of vertical, but a few great powder turns go a long way. The Upper Geyser Basin has miles of trails, and while touring in the winter isn't the easiest, there are excellent opportunities for Nordic skiing, splitboarding, snowshoeing or walking.

As you leave the parking lot, you ski past a number of thermal features including Sapphire Pool and Jewel Geyser. Sapphire Pool is about 200 F and is on the top of my list of the most beautiful and inviting pools in the park. Jewel Geyser sits about 100 feet away and erupts about every 5 to 10 minutes, shooting steam and water 10 to 30 feet high.

The trail leads away from the basin and toward the caldera rim. It's about a mile to the falls along Little Firehole River and the trail continues up and around Mystic Falls to make a 3-mile loop back to the basin. It's an easy-to-moderate ski to the base of the falls before the trail gains a couple hundred vertical feet and another mile to the Upper Geyser Basin overlook.

Touring groups should be aware of a few potential slide paths near the falls, and it's important to have someone with avalanche training and local snowpack knowledge. The loop from the base of the falls back to the trailhead is for intermediate to advanced backcountry enthusiasts.

Mystic Falls is approximately 70 feet tall. There are dozens of smaller cascading waterfalls above and below the main waterfall along with dozens of hot springs. Unlike the geyser basins, these hot springs seep into the river. There are a few hot pools around the bottom of the falls and brightly colored bacteria can be seen living on the canyon walls. Large amounts of steam billow from the top of the falls far from the trail, but are dangerous and should not be approached.

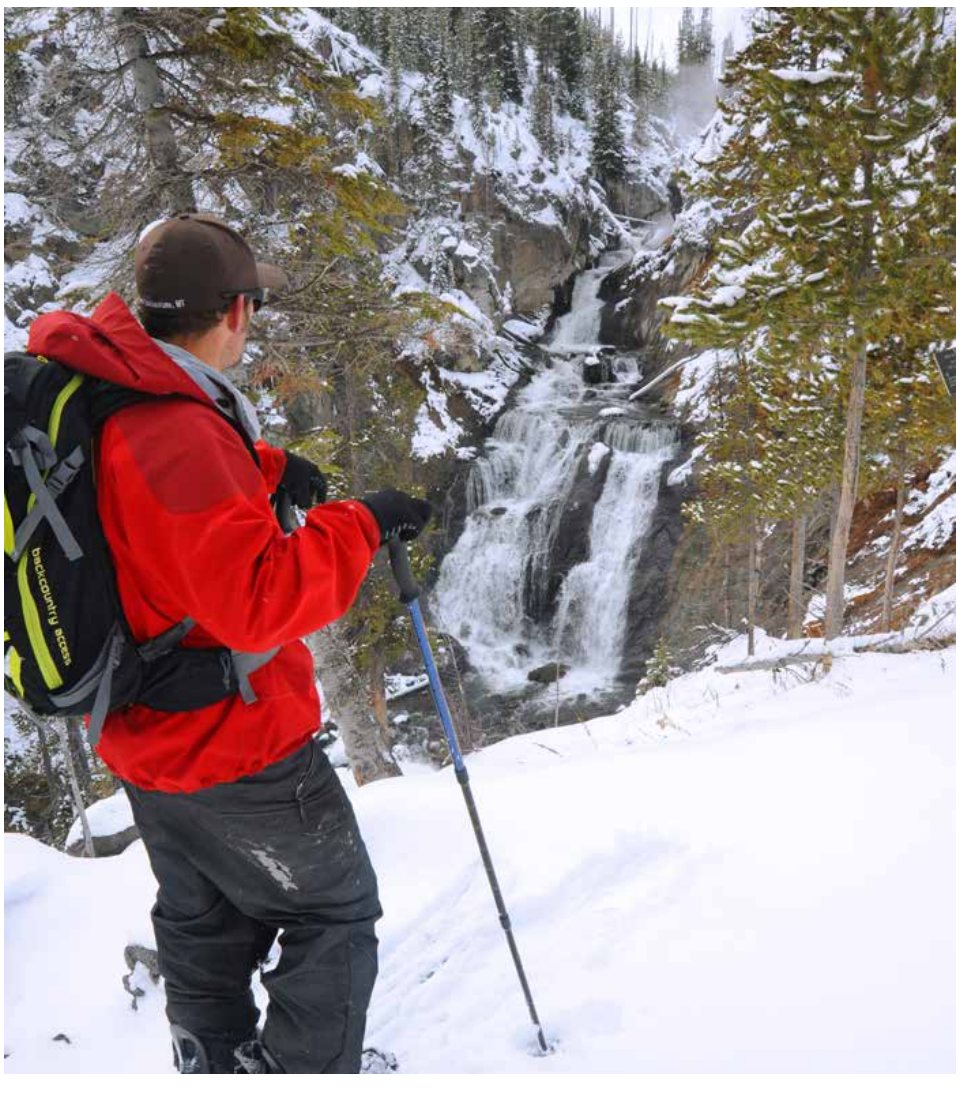
From the top of the overlook, the view can be overwhelming to most visitors viewing them from this vantage point, including myself. But the vista is breathtaking, showcasing Upper, Black Sand and Biscuit basins, which contain a significant percentage of all the geysers in the world, including Old Faithful.

Winter is the best time to feel the weight of Yellowstone's awesome sights, sounds and senses. The geology and biology contain secrets of the universe that today's scientists are still trying to understand. The bacteria from the waters and mud pots in Yellowstone require extreme temperatures, and some species don't even need oxygen. They could easily resemble, or be related to, life on other planets.

The best way to tour in Yellowstone is to charter a snowcoach with a group of friends. It costs a bit more than a lift ticket at your local ski hill, but it's an experience like nothing else.

John Layshock is a guide for Yellowstone Alpen Guides and has been showing guests the wonders of the park for many years. Visit yellowstoneguides.com for more information or to book a trip.

A version of this article was first published in the Jan. 9, 2015, edition of EBS.



Big Sky writer dedicates book to Lone Mountain, her favorite Christmas tree laccolith

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Mary Caperton Morton lived for 10 years in a homemade teardrop trailer she pulled behind her Subaru, equipped with a solar panel and Wi-Fi booster so that she could get internet nearly anywhere. She called it her "rolling office" and within those trailer walls, she began to write about the North American landscape that inspired her first book.

In September 2016, the manuscript for "Aerial Geology: A High-Altitude Tour of North America's Spectacular Volcanoes, Canyons, Glaciers, Lakes, Craters, and Peaks" was due to her publisher, Timber Press. On the due date, Morton left her desk in her Big Sky home and hiked up her backyard peak. She says by the time she reached Lone Mountain's 11,166-foot summit, she finally felt the manuscript was ready. She hit "send" right there on the top of the peak.

When Morton received the first copy of the printed book last summer, prior to the October release date, she took the physical copy back to the summit of Lone Mountain, paying tribute to Big Sky's special peak, to which she even dedicated the book.

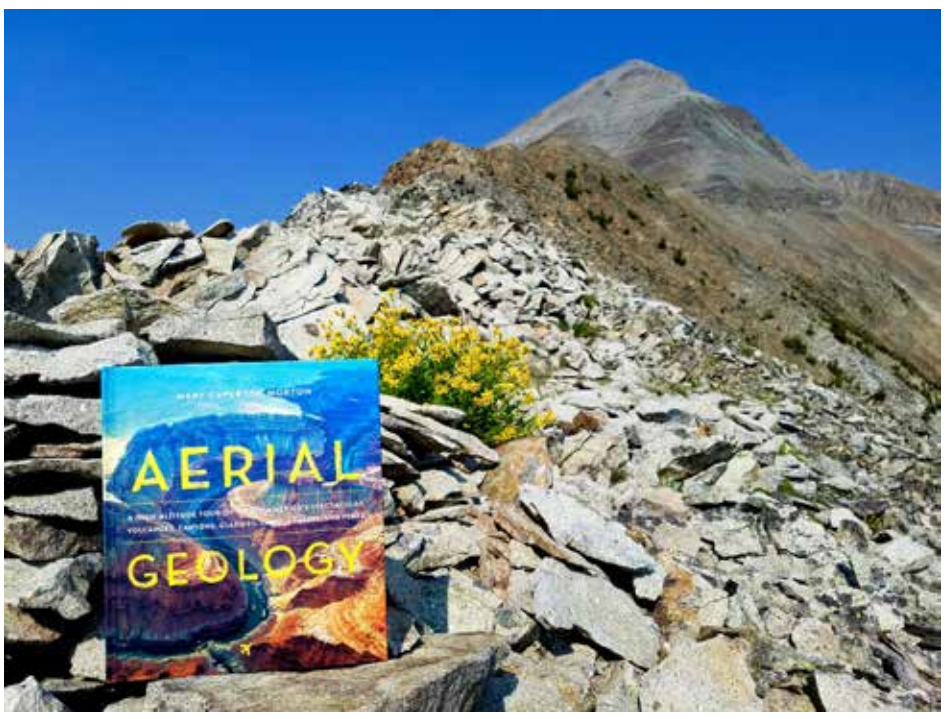
Beyond recognizing Lone Mountain as the icon of Big Sky, Morton holds a special connection with the mountain. Holding bachelor's degrees in biology and geology from Franklin and Marshall College in Pennsylvania, Morton said she came across a phrase during her studies that has become her favorite geologic term: Christmas tree laccolith.

Created by a failed volcano that erupted from the side instead of from the top, Christmas tree laccolith describes the tree-like cross-section these features come to resemble. Morton says the branching arms extending from the mountain, creating long steep ridge features like Alto Ridge and the Headwaters Cirque, are what make Lone Mountain an ideal mountain for skiing.

She didn't know Lone Mountain held that geologic distinction when she came to Big Sky four years ago. But, Morton said, "When I found out Lone Peak was a Christmas tree laccolith, it was one of the things that cemented for me that I'd found my home here."

Morton added that, according to the U.S. Geological Survey, the mountain's official name is Lone Mountain, however Big Sky Resort rebranded it Lone Peak, sealing the name of the mountain for many locals. "Either is technically fine, as the mountain certainly qualifies as a peak: a point higher than all other adjacent areas," she said.

"The winters are obviously spectacular, but what I really stay here for is the summers," Morton said, calling the Big Sky area an adventurer's paradise. She and her boyfriend, Dan Whitaker, have trail maps on the walls at their house and after each area adventure, they highlight their route on the map. "There's still so much ground to cover," she said.



When Morton received the first physical copy of the book in August, she hiked it to the summit of Lone Mountain in celebration. PHOTO BY MARY CAPERTON MORTON

The 36-year-old decided to become a writer during a serendipitous moment while reading author Michael Pollan's "The Botany of Desire."

"I remember thinking, 'Wait a minute, this guy isn't a scientist, he's a writer that writes about science,'" Morton said. From there she obtained her master's in science journalism from Johns Hopkins University in Maryland, knowing that one day she would write a book.

Mary Caperton Morton on Lone Mountain. Morton's book "Aerial Geology" was published last October and features 100 geologic wonders of North America. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY CAPERTON MORTON

That dream came true, and Morton couldn't be happier. The book pairs NASA satellite imagery, shots taken out of airplanes and Morton's own on-the-ground footage, as she has visited 89 of the 100 sites scattered around North America.

Her hands intimate with every page, Morton can easily flip through "Aerial Geology" and find the exact feature she's thinking of, and describe in detail one special aspect of that area's geologic story.

Of Dragon's Back in New Mexico, Morton explained how the area was shaped by water. Turning the pages to the Chesapeake Bay Crater in Maryland and Virginia, Morton described how the crater wasn't found until the 1990s, and that it's what shaped the bay and directed the rivers to congregate there.

Turning to her feature of Idaho's Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, she pointed to a NASA photograph of the area and described the 60 different lava flows that created the landscape. "It's one of those places where you see it from the air and it all comes together."

That's the reason she wanted to pair her science writing with aerial photographs. "Geology is such a big-picture subject. It involves billions of years," she said. "Part of seeing it from the air is it helps you take a giant step back."

Morton reached out to a number of photographers, many of which are also pilots, in order to gather aerial shots for her book. Malcolm Andrews is one such photographer, who tends to keep a digital camera with him while he's flying as a commercial pilot.

"It's one of those things where serendipity has a lot to do with it," he said. "If you see something interesting and you're able to pull [the camera] out, then it's an opportunity to capture that."

Morton found Andrews through his blog, AerialHorizon Photography, and he contributed photographs of the Grand Canyon, Meteor Crater, Hells Canyon and the Colorado Rockies, as well as many others.

"It's a fantastic concept," Andrews said. "For those of us who spend so much of the time in the air, you see that landscape and think it's interesting. … You combine that with the photos on the ground, and you realize the scope of the geology."

"What I really wanted to do was provide inspiration for people to go and see these places," Morton said. With 100 different features, she said, "There's a place you've seen, a place you're dying to see, and one you haven't heard of before. … I'm proud to be an American because of the land we have, especially the public land system."

"Aerial Geology" is available at major bookstores, as well as online. For more information about Morton and her book, visit marycapertonmorton.com.

THE EDDY Line

The perfect fishing vehicle to suit your needs

BY PATRICK STRAUB
EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

"Do you want the good news, or the bad news first," Eric, my auto mechanic of over 10 years, said as he wiped motor oil off his well-worked hands.

"Just give it to me straight," I said, envious of his ability to be direct. In my profession as a fishing guide, telling people their cast sucks and that's the reason they catch less fish, is not the best way to navigate a day of guided fishing. So Eric gave it to me straight because he's a car mechanic, not a fishing guide.

"You're turbo is failing and when it fails it will ruin the whole engine," he said. "Two hundred thousand miles is a good run. It's time to get a new rig. There's no hope for the old one."

I've spent most of my adult life, and a good bit of my teens, fly fishing, and all outings required a vehicle to get to the water. In more than 20 years as a local fishing guide, I've owned or borrowed and guided out of every type of car. Here's some advice on choosing the best fishing vehicle.

Your wants and needs are two separate things. I want to chase permit two weeks out of every month, but do I need to chase permit 15 out of 30 days? Choosing a vehicle is similar—how often will you realistically need to trailer a drift boat or drive twenty miles into the Gravelly Range to fish the upper Ruby River? Is there currently a functional jet boat sitting in your driveway, or do you just wish there was? Trucks, SUVs, minivans, and wagons all can be functional fishing rigs, but an honest assessment of your needs gives you the most long-term satisfaction.

Are you in it for the long haul? If you own a boat or plan to own a boat, consider a truck or larger SUV with the ability to tow. In southwest Montana, a drift boat or raft is the craft of choice. A vehicle with a six-cylinder engine will tow any drift boat or raft safely and efficiently. Bump up to an eight-cylinder engine and you can cruise up Bozeman Pass at a brisk 80 mph. Anything larger is not necessary unless you're towing your boat in tandem with your 24-foot camper trailer.

Run with the pack or walk it alone. If you want the choice of your rig to announce your presence as an angler, the choice is simple: a four-door pickup truck with a topper, rigged with a rod rack or two and maybe a cargo box. A full-size truck with rod racks already gets people asking, "I wonder what flies they're using?" If you prefer to fly a little under the radar, consider a truck without a topper or an SUV. If you want to really keep them guessing, consider a minivan or a wagon.

Rod storage is important. Rooftop rod racks are useful, yet they draw attention to your vehicle. An SUV or a wagon allows rods to be stowed inside, which ensures quick access but detracts attention so a passer-by sees your parked car and thinks is this an angler, or someone out tossing sticks for their dog. There's value in keeping other anglers guessing.

Choosing the right vehicle is a balancing act of needs, wants, locations you will fish, when, and how often you fish. Just like there's no perfect rod for every situation, there is no perfect vehicle. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

Ground clearance is crucial. Consider locations you will fish. If you primarily fish on foot, and fish rivers where well-paved and well-maintained roads are the norm, an SUV or wagon will suffice. If you travel a lot of dirt roads or two tracks, choose vehicles with at least 8 inches or more of ground clearance.

Gas and global impact. Driving to fish is a reality and gas isn't free. Fish need sustainable habitat to survive for us to have the opportunity to fish, yet the need to haul a boat or have high ground clearance may drive the need for a beefier rig. Evaluating gas usage and its larger impact is important—burning carbon to go fishing is inevitable, but just like you wouldn't fish a seven weight rod on a spring creek, honestly assess your needs, then purchase and enjoy it.

As Eric said, it's time for me to get a new vehicle and I'll begin searching soon because fishing season never ends. However, Eric's bluntness will resonate because when I'm on the water soon I can't say to my fishing client, "Your cast is failing, there's no hope."

My client could reply, "Your guiding is failing. It's time to get a new guide." But if they did, their last ride with me would be in a new car.

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

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Student-led outdoors program developing in Big Sky

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Seventh grader Kjetil Hassman and eighth grader Nate McClain have big plans for Big Sky this summer. The two Big Sky Discovery Academy students intend to start an on-foot orienteering program in the community, in which participants will navigate their way to various checkpoints with a map and compass to see who can reach the finish line first.

Orienteering is a competitive navigation race that has gained traction throughout the world, emerging in competition variations held on foot, bike or ski. Various orienteering clubs have formed throughout the country; however, Big Sky has never hosted an orienteering event.

Chris Corona, Discovery Academy middle school teacher and Hassman and McClain's mentor, said he had a nugget of an idea to start an orienteering program in Big Sky and presented it to his students.

"We thought that it was a good idea," Hassman said. "We wanted to share orienteering with the community and have people from Big Sky get outside and into nature."

"It sounded like a good idea to get people to do a new thing," McClain added.

In January, the students were awarded $350 from the Erika Pankow Scholarship Fund for outdoor education as a start-up for their program. The fund was started in 1996 in memory of Erika Pankow, an avid member of Big Sky ski patrol, search and rescue and the fire department. On Dec. 25, 1996, Pankow was in an explosives accident during her regular avalanche check that claimed her life.

The money awarded to Hassman and McClain will be used to purchase materials, such as compasses and maps. Once the materials are purchased, Hassman and McClain will design a course under Corona's mentorship and then invite their classmates to participate in an organized orienteering event.

The students plan to work with the Big Sky Community Organization in securing a location for a public course, and hope to offer orienteering to the community this summer.

According to BSCO Executive Director Ciara Wolfe, the orienteering program will be 100-percent led by the students. "Our desire to get involved was to support the youth in outdoor activities," she said. "[Orienteering] provides a skill that can keep individuals safe … it's a valuable skill to be able to orienteer and read a map and understand where you are in the mountains."

Corona said the students might develop a youth orienteering club, and one way to get the community involved could be to partner with BSCO and offer orienteering through the organization's Hike and Learn guided summer activity series.

As a part of their Erika Pankow scholarship application, the students wrote, "Orienteering will inspire the community of Big Sky kids to get out into nature and explore the wonderful environment that we live in. … We want to teach orienteering to the younger people in Big Sky to educate them to be strong and confident in the outdoors."

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Inside the Big Sky

The best winter hikes in Big Sky

VISIT BIG SKY

It's easy to get caught up in the myth that winter is just for skiing or snowboarding, and that summer is for only hiking and fishing. Anyone who lives here knows the truth—you can always find the perfect winter trail or summer turns if you know where to look.

Here are the top winter spots to stretch your legs and disprove the notion that hiking is only for summer.

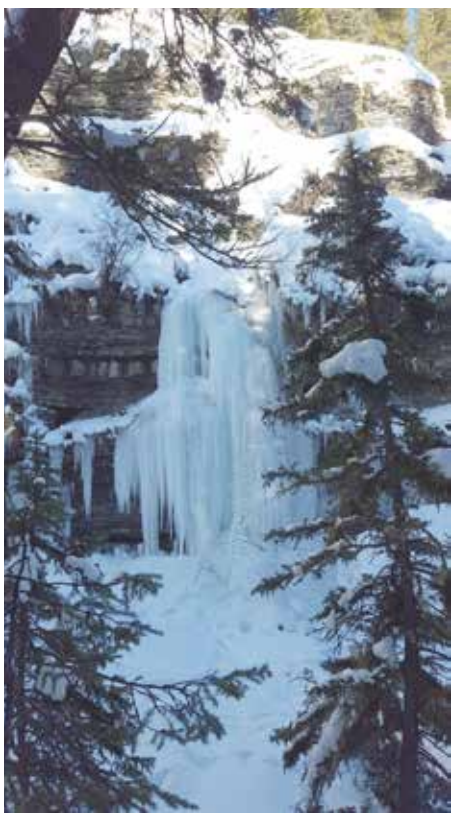
Ousel Falls – This one might be obvious, but that doesn't mean it isn't an absolute wintertime must. This trail is stunning any time of year. As you walk the path, be sure to take in the impressive stone walls and how a trickle of water has frozen in unique ways. Frozen Ousel Falls is a beautiful testament to winter's powerful chill and its ability to suspend moving water in ice.

Lava Lake – One of the best hikes in the summer, this hike is also worth experiencing in the calm of winter. The trail gets less visitors this time of year so there's a chance that you could have it all to yourself, a treat rarely afforded in the summertime.

Stand on the shore of the frozen alpine lake nestled between snowy mountains, and breathe in the fresh winter air.

Uplands and Hummocks trails – From one parking lot, you have access to two great winter trails in Big Sky. Take Uplands Trail for an enjoyable climb that opens into expansive views of the meadow area of town with iconic Lone Mountain in the background. Walk along Hummocks Trail for a different experience of winding through snowy forest and passing a hidden pond. Both are "lollipop trails," meaning they form a loop off a single trail and bring you back to where you started.

To find out more about trails in the Big Sky region, visit bscomt.org. A version of this story was originally published on the Visit Big Sky blog at visitbigsky-mt.com/category/blog/.



Ousel Falls is a short hike in Big Sky that can be enjoyed year-round. PHOTO COURTESY OF VISIT BIG SKY

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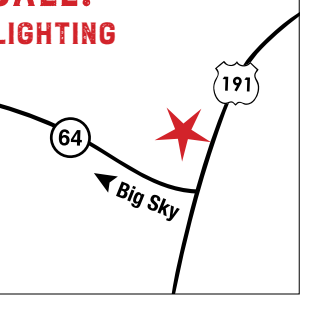

Big Sky Biggie to showcase area's extensive mountain bike trails

BY TYLER ALLEN
EBS MANAGING EDITOR

BIG SKY – The opportunities for mountain bikers in Big Sky have expanded dramatically over the last few years, and during the last weekend of August the Big Sky Biggie race will celebrate the extensive miles of trails in the area.

Featuring both a 30- and 50-mile race on Saturday, Aug. 25, the event will host up to 300 competitors with registration opening Thursday, Feb. 15, at 10 a.m. The weekend will also feature a Kids Stryder Bike Race and a short-track race, both held in Big Sky Town Center.

Event organizer Natalie Osborne moved here from Alaska in 2015 with her husband Dr. Phil Hess, the medical director of Big Sky Medical Center, and the pair shares a passion for recreating in the mountains. Osborne sees a lot of potential for Big Sky to rival some of North America's premier mountain biking destinations like Sun Valley, Idaho, Breckenridge, Colorado, and Fernie and Nelson in British Columbia.

"The first summer we were here we were very fortunate to be introduced to people who introduced us to the local trails," Osborne said. "I really want Big Sky to be a year-round destination. I see a lot of progress here, but we've noticed a lot of pockets of great trails [that are] not connected very well. If Big Sky wants to become a mountain biking destination, we need to connect these pockets of trails."

She and Hess travel the West each summer to a number of 50-mile bike races—and the occasional 100-miler—and Osborne says she pays attention to how the courses are designed, marvels at the community support the races receive and how race directors organize their particular events.

Osborne approached Ciara Wolfe, Big Sky Community Organization's executive director, and told Wolfe she wanted to host a fundraiser for BSCO and its efforts to increase trail connectivity in the area. "[Wolfe] has been incredible about getting all the landowners on board," Osborne said.

Those landowners include private residents, as well as Big Sky Resort, Big Sky Town Center, Lone Mountain Land Co., Lone Mountain Ranch and the U.S. Forest Service. Osborne is working with seven different user agreements, whereas most of the races she attends are held entirely on Bureau of Land Management lands, or one piece of private land, like a ski resort.

Nick Weiler pedals up the Ridge Trail while riding the North Fork Loop in Big Sky. The Ridge Trail will be part of both the 30- and 50-mile Big Sky Biggie racecourses in August. PHOTO BY TYLER ALLEN

The Forest Service has been especially supportive, she said, since there are very few mountain bike races held on public land in southwest Montana. The race will use the Ridge Trail near the North Fork drainage, as well as First and Second Yellow Mule trails that connect the Big Sky meadow to the top of Buck Ridge.

"I think the Forest Service was hoping someone would come forward and want to do this," Osborne said. "It creates a need to maintain the trails that already exist." She added that the Southwest Montana Mountain Bike Association has the authority to host trail-work days on First Yellow Mule—which has drainage issues at the top—but needed a good reason to make them happen. And, she added, "There's no better way to burn in a new trail than a race."

Visit bigskybiggie.com to view the racecourse maps, a schedule of events and registration information.

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BIG SKY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

On the Trail: Carlin's Cruise to Joy Loop

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

BY CIARA WOLFE
BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Carlin's Cruise to Joy Loop is exactly what the name suggests—a joyful cruise. This trail is perfect for beginner to intermediate-level Nordic skiers looking for a quick and scenic ski.

The 4.2-kilometer loop starts from the Lone Mountain Ranch outdoor shop on an easy, flat trail heading north. At the first intersection, take a left toward Carlin's Cruise followed by a hard right onto the trail.

This section of the trail entails a gradual climb for another 0.5 km. During the climb, the trail slowly bends east until arriving on top of a small bluff above the ranch.

Continue for another 1.2 km on Carlin's Cruise for a fairly flat ski with beautiful vistas of Lone Mountain to the west and the Meadow to the east. At the next intersection, continue straight onto Joy's Loop for a shorter ski; or take a left onto the Ranch Loop for an additional 3.5 km of beginner to intermediate trail.

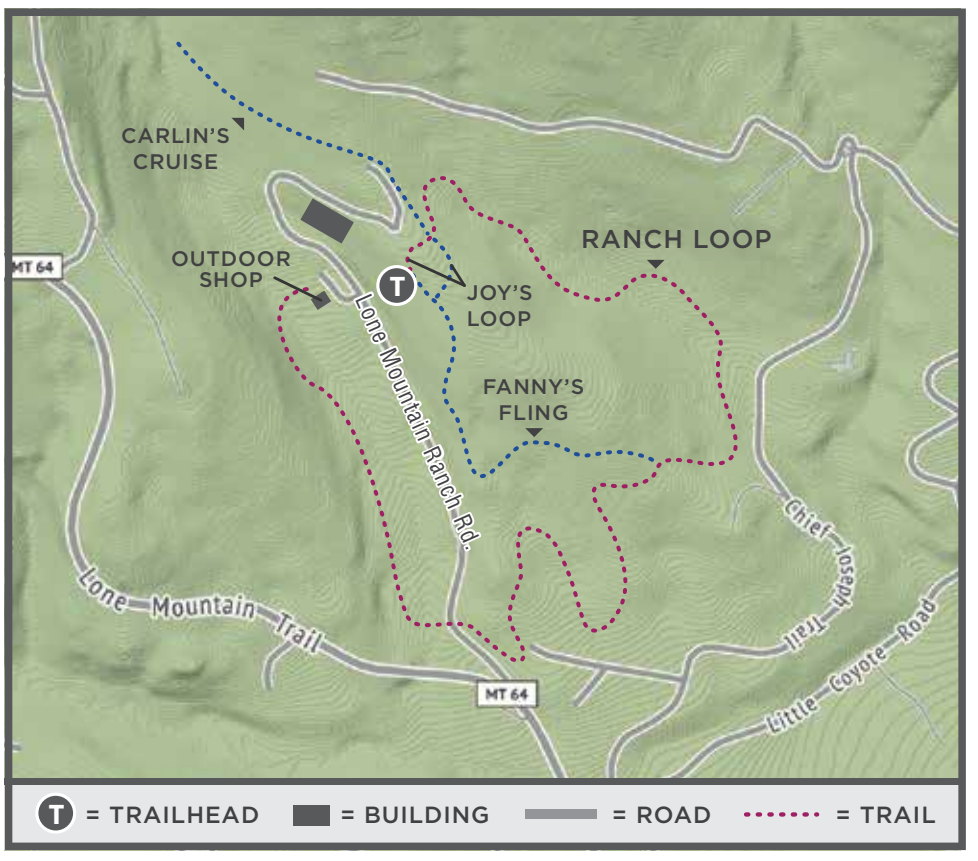
Joy's Loop heads downhill around a sharp corner that leads to 1-km of gradual downhill. At the base of the bluff, a left will take you back toward the outdoor shop.

A fun loop for skiers of all ages and abilities, this trail is one of my favorites to take my children on when we want to get out of the house for a little exercise, or need a place to release some afterschool energy during our long winter months. Once back at the outdoor shop, my children's favorite après ski activity is hot cocoa by the fire in Horn and Cantle Saloon.

An annual season pass or day pass can be purchased in the Lone Mountain Ranch outdoor shop. 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 km of groomed Nordic trails, visit lonemountainranch.com/winter-things-to-do/nordic-skiing/.

Olive Wolfe, 7, skis Carlin's Cruise to Joy's Loop, a quick, fun Nordic trail that can be enjoyed by all ages and abilities. PHOTO BY CIARA WOLFE

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.

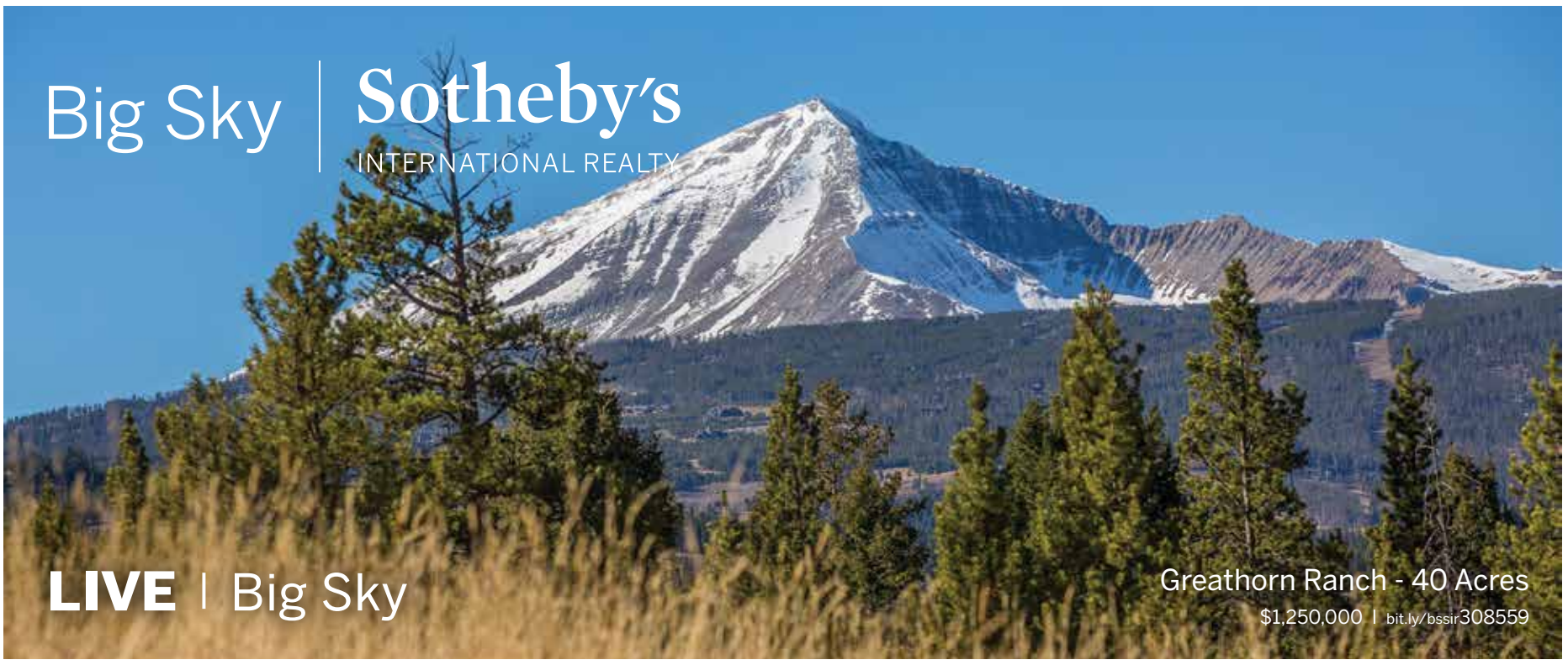


BIG SKY COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

TRAIL STATS

Distance	Uses	Difficulty	Elevation	Surface
4.2 km	cross-country skiing	beginner to intermediate	6,700 feet	skate and classic groomed trails

Directions: From the canyon, take Lone Mountain Trail west from U.S. Highway 191 for approximately 4.5 miles. Turn right at the Lone Mountain Ranch sign. The parking lot and outdoor shop is 0.5 miles up the road.



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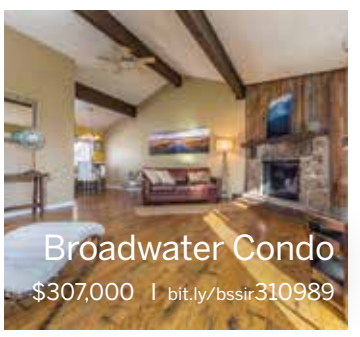

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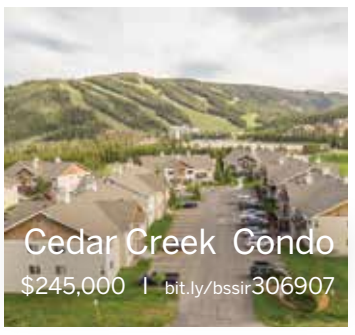

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Encouraging female camaraderie on and off the mountain

On Jan. 20, the women of Big Sky gathered to celebrate International Women's Ski and Snowboard Day at Big Sky Resort. The toast to female camaraderie on and off the mountain is a program of SheJumps, an organization whose mission is to increase the participation of women and girls in outdoor activities, and help one another reach their highest potential. PHOTOS COURTESY OF DANIEL BULLOCK

Super Bowl fun run raises awareness for pediatric cancer

THE BOZEMAN 3

The Bozeman 3, a Bozeman-based, nonprofit that supports Gallatin Valley kids diagnosed with cancer, is pleased to announce its inaugural Super Bowl Fun Run: Tackling Pediatric Cancer. The 5-kilometer race is scheduled for Super Bowl Sunday and encourages participants to have some fun, burn some calories prior to the NFL championship game, and support local families with kids diagnosed with cancer.

"We are excited to launch what we intend to be an annual race, in support of The Bozeman 3 and to help raise awareness of issues faced by kids and their families battling pediatric cancer," said Molly Mason, president of The Bozeman 3. "This race will be a lot of fun for runners and walkers alike, and we are looking forward to having it serve as a platform for introducing The Bozeman 3 to a larger segment of the community, further supporting these families.

"The idea for the race theme was introduced to us by Megan Maynard, the president of the Pre-Dental Club at [Montana State University] and volunteer director of the fun run, and we owe her our thanks and gratitude for leading the coordination of this event," Mason added.

Although her focus is dentistry, Maynard's compassion is not limited to dental issues.

"As a pre-dental student and future health care provider, I believe that we should support all health-related issues that are challenging people in our community," Maynard said. "I have learned to value the great heart and empathy of this community and I know that with the continued support of Gallatin Valley citizens, we can provide hope for the children and families that are affected by pediatric cancer. The strong support I have already experienced from the generous businesses within our community has been nothing short of phenomenal and a truly humbling experience for me."

The Rocking R Bar, the premier race sponsor, will assist with hosting the event at their location in downtown Bozeman. They will provide a free chili bar and draft beer for participants of legal age following the event. In addition, free ice cream will be provided by Sweet Peaks.

The 5-kilometer course will start and end at the R Bar, with various prize drawings including a grand prize for the best dressed runner or walker who is decked out in favorite NFL team gear. All proceeds raised from this event will be donated to The Bozeman 3 and will support local families with kids diagnosed with cancer.

The Bozeman 3 arose out of a unique bond between three families forged in their shared experience of fighting for the lives of their children diagnosed with pediatric cancer. They met in the hallways of Seattle Children's Hospital's Oncology Unit in early 2012.

While each child faced a different form of cancer, these children, along with their parents, possessed a resolve to fight. Since its inception, The Bozeman 3 has provided support for 14 Gallatin Valley families, with a strong mission to financially support Gallatin County families whose children have received a cancer diagnosis, to provide peer support by connecting local families whose children have or have had cancer, and to support pediatric cancer research.

To learn more about The Bozeman 3 or to donate, please visit thebozeman3.org.

Ski Tips: Time for a tune up

BY DAN EGAN
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Hand tuning a ski. The proper tune on a ski can help you get the most out of your skis. PHOTO BY NICK CISIK

In the basement of my childhood home we had the ultimate ski-tuning bench. It was wide and long and covered in P-tex, wax drippings, metal shavings and wax scrapings. We had files, scrapers, Mom's old irons, waxes of all colors, sticks of P-tex and corks for polishing the bottom of our skis.

It was our ski-testing laboratory and we experimented with wax combinations, mounting bindings in different positions and even making our own "mono" skis.

The skis were stacked across from the bench. With seven kids and two skiing parents, we had a huge collection of boards from Rossignol Strato and Olin Mark IV, to Hexel Honey Comb and K2 Cheeseburgers, with some Head Standards in the mix.

I remember spending hours down under the hanging lights working away preparing the skis for the next adventure.

By the time I was 14, I was tuning skis at the local ski shop just 7 miles outside of Boston and learning the finer techniques of base and edge repair as well as mounting bindings without jigs.

The shop sent me to ski tuning clinics and I discovered what a base and edge bevel was, how to structure the base so it would hold more wax, and other useful tricks like how to get the carbon out of clear P-tex so the repair would blend in better with the base.

The shop had a grinding machine to flatten the bases and sharpen the edges. It took great skill not to over grind the bottoms of the skis or burn the edges while swiping the ski across the belt on the grinder. This mechanical addition broadened my ability to fix core shots and flatten railed skis, and before long I was being called up to the sales floor to consult with customers on their damaged skis.

The result of all this ski repair knowledge helped me understand how a ski should perform when properly tuned. I could ski on a pair of skis and notice if the tips and tails were too sharp or the base was railed. Over time, I developed an appreciation for the manufacturing process and the difference between an injected construction and a layered or sandwich-built ski.

Understanding the construction, the flex, the mounting position of the bindings, plus how length plays into the arc of the ski all combined to ultimately allow me to pick the skis that would best suit my style of skiing in different conditions and situations.

With the many shapes, sizes, and types of skis on the market today, it's more important than ever to have a proper tune on the ski or snowboard you choose to ride. Some skis have early rise, some have no camber, others are rockers, and that is just the beginning.

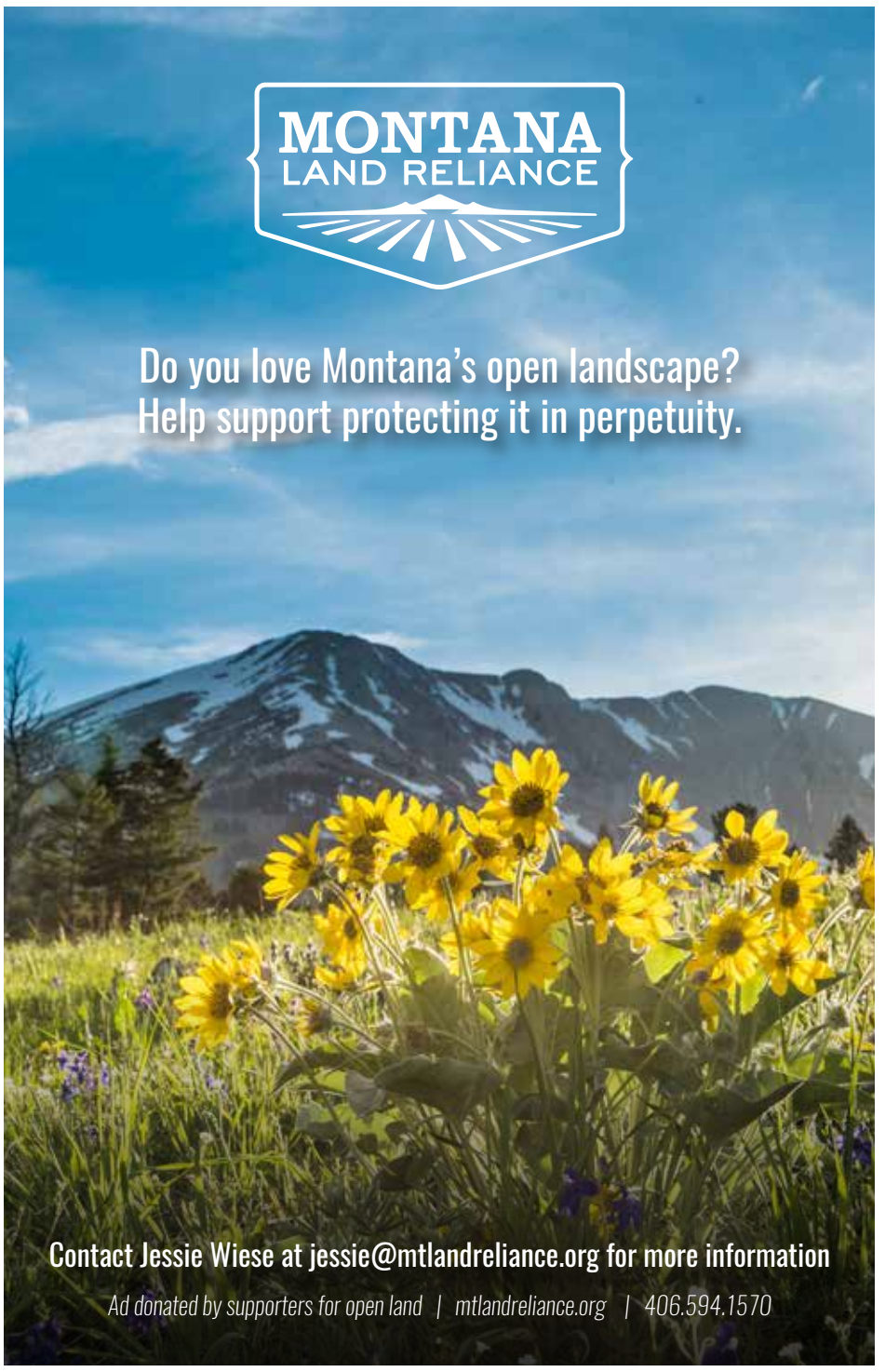
These products are engineered with a specific purpose. Shaped skis carve, fat skis float, rocker skis pivot, and some companies like Elan make a left- and right-footed ski. It only makes sense to tune these products to the manufacture's specs.

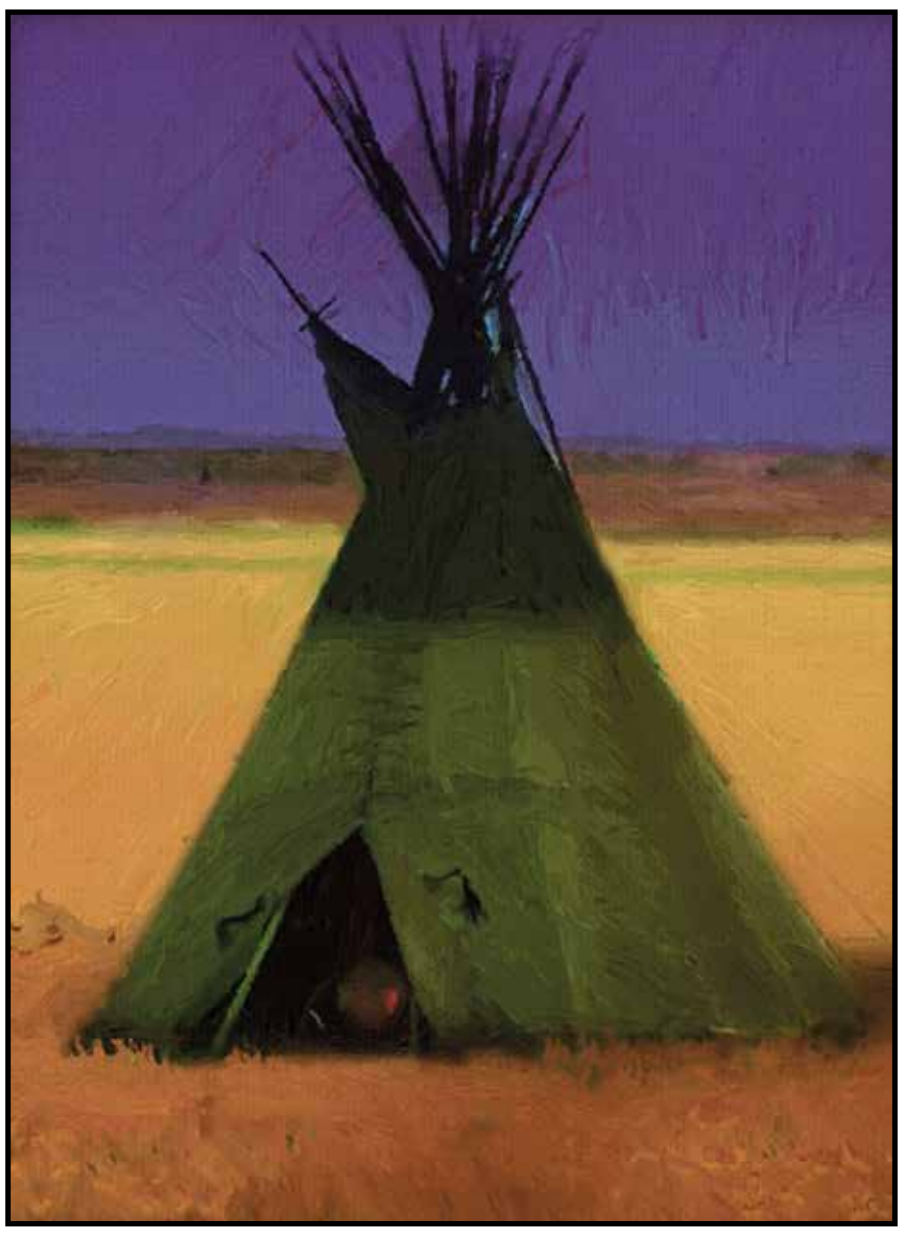
The key to a good tune is the ski shop. Get to know the crew behind the scenes who do the work. Explain to them the type of rider you are and where on the mountain you like to ski. Find out if they hand-tune or use a machine. Ask them about edge bevel and what their recommendation is for you at the level you ski.

Take a few days this winter and demo skis from different shops and see if you can notice a difference in the tunes or ask the shop to structure your bases, or try a different bevel on your edges and discover for yourself how tuning can impact your skiing.

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

Join Dan Egan Feb. 28 and March 3 at 7 p.m. for his presentation "Mountain Odysseys: From the Artic to the Alps" at the Big Sky Conference Center Theater.





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Flu sweeps through Big Sky

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Cases of high fever, cough and sore throat have shown up at the Big Sky Medical Center in droves this flu season, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, this year's flu season is the most widespread since officials began keeping track 13 years ago.

"It's really the worst flu season I can remember since the swine flu eight years ago," said Dr. Philip Hess, who has been a physician at BSMC since its inception in 2015. While not in effect in Big Sky, Bozeman Health has restricted visitors to Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital in Bozeman due to the flu.

Influenza is a contagious respiratory disease that can cause mild to severe illness. It is caused by the influenza virus, which constantly evolves and leads to the emergence of new strains every year. Because of this mutation, Hess said, "It's always hard to tell how hard flu season is going to be. Depending on the mutation, it can be more or less contagious, or more or less severe.

"It's an interesting little crafty critter, that flu virus," he added.

Specialists study the flu virus on a global scale and predict which strains will cause future illness. Based on this information, they can develop vaccines likely to develop antibodies for potentially problematic strains. Even if the vaccine does not fully prevent illness, it often shortens the duration of the sickness.

With Big Sky being a destination location, Hess said the community probably gets exposed to a variety of flu strains. "We're probably getting more visitors from other parts of the country this year because of snow," he said, however he wasn't able to point to tourism as a reason for disease. "Some years [the virus] is more contagious so when it gets into a small community, it spreads."

According to the CDC, this year the most predominant strain of influenza is H3N2, which is known to cause some of the worst outbreaks of illness.

While the majority of people sick with the flu are able to recover in less than two weeks, complications can develop that require hospitalization and could result in death.

Hess said a variety of individuals are susceptible to influenza, but those at risk of developing complications include children less than 2 years old, those over the age of 65, and individuals with heart or lung conditions or a compromised immune system.

"For most of the rest of us, flu is a sort of miserable thing … but it's not scary," he said. "Know that if you or your family members are high risk, hurry in to seek care." There are some medications that may be prescribed to those most at risk of complication that must be taken early in the illness in order to be most effective, he added.

As reported by the Washington Post, in a briefing to reporters on Jan. 12, the director of CDC's influenza division Daniel Jernigan said flu activity has probably peaked, however illness will continue into the near future.

"Even if we have hit the top of the curve, it still means there's lots more flu to go. If we look at similar seasons, there's at least 11 to 13 more weeks of influenza to go."

From Jackie *with love* 'Rose, Thorn, Bud'

BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN
EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

Ahh Valentine's Day—a holiday that celebrates love and connection. While some may scorn Feb. 14 as a "Hallmark" holiday crafted solely to take money from the consumer's pocket, I would argue that setting aside a day to focus on sharing love and affection is great for our health.

A 2016 study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences advised that relationships are just as important to our health as diet and exercise. They found that the more socially connected we are, the lower the risk of disease. Conversely, a lack of social connections is associated with much greater risk of disease.

They explained that, "social isolation increased the risk of inflammation by the same magnitude as physical inactivity in adolescence, and the effect of social isolation on hypertension exceeded that of clinical risk factors such as diabetes in old age."

Therefore, rituals as sweet and innocent as children bonding through giving and receiving hand-made Valentine's Day cards is beneficial to their well-being. As we age, romantic relationships can increase our lifespan, improve our outlook on life and help maintain balanced hormones. We are social beings, we need connection to others.

But the time constraints of modern life and the disconnect that too much screen time causes can lead to feelings of loneliness.

Which is why I'd like to share a lovely tool for efficient and effective communication that provides opportunity to bring you closer with people you've known for decades or even someone you've just met in just a few minutes time.

To avoid meaningless chit chat about the weather, one-sided conversations, or focusing solely on the negative or positive (leaving out the complete picture), give this tool try.

It's called "Rose, Thorn, Bud". Here's how it works:

Start by asking the person if you can apply the RTB tool. If they agree, explain how it works and take turns telling about your RTB. You start by sharing your "Rose," or what's going well in your life—what your excited about and grateful for.

Then describe your "Thorn," or the thing that is currently causing you discomfort or other issues.

Finally, move on to your "Bud," or what feels like it has great potential and makes you excited about the future.

RTB can also be used as an icebreaker in group settings. It quickly gets a group of people who aren't intimately familiar with each other up to speed, and offers important insights into what's currently important to them. In a business setting, it can even be used as a brainstorming strategy and when giving critical feedback.

Intentionally maintaining and creating strong social connections is crucial to our health. May your Valentine's Day be filled with love and friendship.

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

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BACK 40

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

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

Impulse decision-making
A contributor to avalanche accidents?

BY ERIC KNOFF
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Impulse decision-making may lead backcountry travelers into harm's way, because when riding in the backcountry, one bad decision can offset multiple good ones. Looking at avalanche accidents through this lens, a question arises: Were the decisions that contributed to an avalanche accident made with thought and measurable information, or were they made impulsively?

In avalanche accidents, it's well documented that the victim, or victim's party, often observed red flags such as new snow and wind, cracking or collapsing of the snowpack, or recent avalanche activity prior to triggering a slide. If obvious clues of instability are present, especially for those educated in avalanches, why are decisions made to proceed in avalanche terrain?

We are all susceptible to impulse decision-making. I recall a personal impulse decision in the backcountry that resulted in a close call. My partner and I were standing on a steep rollover that appeared to be wind loaded. I watched my partner avoid the steep rollover and ski poor conditions down a safe, lower angle slope.

Instead of following my partner, I made a spur-of-the moment decision, jumped into the wind-loaded zone, saw cracks shoot all around me and was quickly caught in the avalanche. Fortunately, I was not buried or injured and skied out of the debris. This incident easily could have ended worse than it did.

This slide was human triggered, but fortunately nobody was caught. Numerous tracks were on the slope before it avalanched. It's easy to get lured into avalanche terrain when multiple tracks are visible on a slope, but it's important to remember that tracks don't always equal stability.

Fresh snow and the freedom to make our own decisions are two dominant reasons we venture into the backcountry. These factors also have a substantial influence on impulse decision-making. The power and temptations of the backcountry can make us act spontaneously, sometimes with dire consequences.

When someone gets hurt or killed in an avalanche as the result of a spur-of-the-moment decision, all good decisions previously made are moot. Controlling your impulses in a dynamic environment such as the backcountry is difficult but not impossible. Gordon Graham, a risk-management professional, found that many accidents occur during high risk/low frequency events or, in avalanche terms, low probability/high consequence conditions.

Graham breaks the low probability/high consequence category into two subcategories—discretionary time and non-discretionary time. During a trip to the backcountry, very few decisions need to be made in the spur-of-the-moment. We almost always have the discretionary time to dig a snow pit, observe our surroundings, communicate with our partners and make educated, thoughtful decisions. This can help reduce risk exposure during low probability/high consequence events.

We know however, that unplanned events such as avalanches take place in the backcountry. Nobody wants to be caught in an avalanche, yet hundreds of people get caught every year, resulting in numerous fatalities. If we have the discretionary time to make educated decisions in the backcountry, why do so many people get caught and killed? Is it because of acting impulsively and not taking the time to make educated decisions?

Good decisions require gathering available information. Many times I planned to ski in avalanche terrain, but turned around due to unstable results in stability tests or clues of instability such as cracking and collapsing. Taking the time to process this information and fully discuss it with your partners is critically important.

Steep slopes and fresh powder can facilitate impulse decision-making in the mountains. Before jumping into avalanche terrain, communicate with your partners and take the time to make a safe and informed decision. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST AVALANCHE CENTER

Once you turn the corner and act impulsively your only safety net is luck, which does not ensure a long and safe career in the mountains. Communication with your partners and conscious observations of your surroundings are good ways to mitigate impulsive actions. Digging a snow pit is also a great way to slow down, communicate, and base your decisions on actual data. The action of digging and doing a stability test helps us to avoid impulse decision-making.

Next time you venture into avalanche terrain, ask yourself: Have I taken the discretionary time to make an informed decision or is my next decision impulsive? Just asking that question might help eliminate impulsive actions and reduce the potential for a hazardous situation.

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

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

Digging a snow pit is the best way to assess snowpack structure and stability—it also slows things down and brings the group together. Communication between group members is a great way to combat impulse decision-making in the backcountry.

Section 4:
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Martin Sexton at Montana Jack **pg. 46**

Big Sky Big Grass **pg. 49**

Warren Miller: Last, best ski bum **pg. 56**

IN THE
SPOTLIGHT

Tad Bradley: The architecture of mind and body

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BOZEMAN – On the morning of Jan. 24, glass artist Tad Bradley was serene despite the imminent arrival of 15 Lone Peak High School students, and the disruption they would likely bring to the calm order of his industrial North Bozeman studio.

Not only does Bradley open his studio doors to Arts Council of Big Sky's ARTventure students each year, he also regularly leads workshops for children and adults, and has long taught architecture at Montana State University.

The value of teaching and mentoring holds personal significance for Bradley that stems from his own difficult childhood. From age 15, until he was 21, Bradley was a ward of New York state for juvenile delinquency, bouncing between foster care, group rehabilitation homes and juvenile detention centers.

"There were some really special people during that time of my life who helped me see what they saw in me, and gave me hope I could make something of myself," Bradley said.

He says he feels most connected to younger high school students because he finds that age group to be the most insecure and vulnerable.

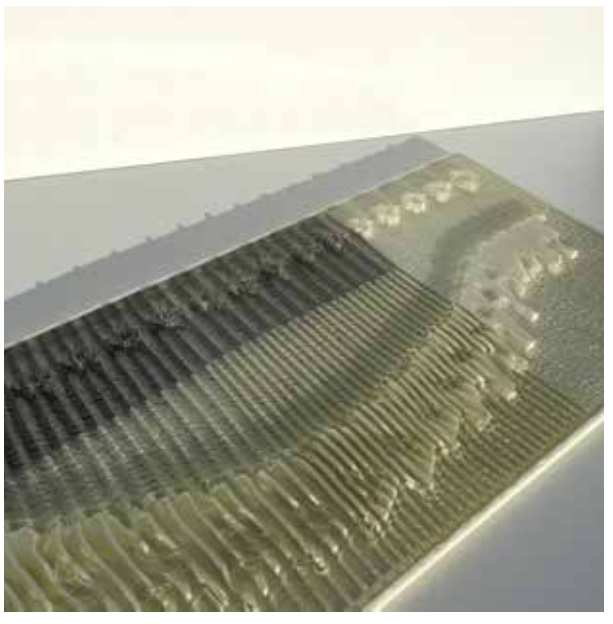
"[As a mentor] you can either inspire them to have an incredible life, or intimidate them from wanting to learn," he said.

After trying out three different colleges in search of a career fit, a counselor suggested Bradley look into architecture. Soon he was part of MSU's five-year professional architecture program, where he would be one of 63 students out of 250 to graduate.

Bradley remembers the exact moment he decided to walk away from commercial architecture, which he practiced for half a decade in both Bozeman and Boston.

He was working on a house at the Yellowstone Club so large that it required a steel frame, including a ceiling beam he was instructed to conceal with a hollowed-out log.

"I couldn't accept that a tree had lived on this planet for 250 years only to cover a steel beam," he said, partially attributing his reaction to having grown up in the woodsy environs of the Adirondack Mountains.


Bradley's glass art explores what it means to be human in both the psychological and physiological sense. "Spine and Vertebrae" is currently on display at Creighton Block Gallery in Big Sky.
PHOTO BY TAD BRADLEY

Although Bradley's focus is now fine art, his architectural background informs all of his work and how he approaches it. "In the same way a building needs columns to support the beams that support the roof—everything I do and think about has its foundation in architecture."

Bradley's kiln-formed glass art—complex configurations of glass fused into decorative panels and functional ware—is as diverse as the different techniques he is constantly experimenting with. The spectrum of his creations can be seen in the transparent, geometric panes that adorn the MSU parking garage, and the amorphous designs, some completely opaque, on display in his studio. He is currently working on a color-saturated series suggestive of works by the abstract expressionist painter Mark Rothko.

Always testing new techniques, Tad Bradley's fused glass art ranges from the geometric precision of this public installation at Montana State University to functional pieces with free-flowing, amorphous designs.
PHOTO BY CURTIS PATTEE

Bradley's experimentation is driven by a curiosity in process; and a search for answers to existential questions about what it means to be human, and finding ways to express that in glass.

"The older I get, the more I question existence and everything around us," he said. "To reflect on who I was and who I am now … it's an amazing transition, both psychologically and physically."

His work has addressed both the mind and body components of what it means to be human. He did a series based on the Rorschach inkblot test to explore a memory of seeing a psychologist as a child. He delved into the physiology of the human body with a series he made after having an ultrasound performed on a varicose vein.

Intrigued by cellular structure and wanting to capture that in glass, he was also thinking about how he could turn his explorations into a teaching tool for his architecture students.

Bradley works in many mediums—he draws, works with wood and steel, and is a professional furniture maker—but it is glass's versatility that keeps him captivated.

"Glass lends itself to so many different processes of exploring," he said. "You can be very literal and make a hand or a shoe, or you can move into any realm of abstraction."

Light is also a big factor in the medium's allure. "It can look transparent or opaque, soft or hard, warm or cold … it takes on so many personalities. It can also be delicate and there is something really beautiful in fragility."

Tad Bradley's work can be found at Creighton Block Gallery in Big Sky, Old Main Gallery and Framing in Bozeman, and on the MSU campus in Gaines Hall, an outdoor location north of Danforth Chapel, and in the university parking garage. Visit tadbradleydesigns.com for more information.

Sexton delivers a musical menagerie

BY JEREMY HARDER
EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Over the weekend of Jan. 26, Big Sky was graced with a musical menagerie by Martin Sexton. Hailing from Syracuse, New York, Sexton kicked off his winter tour with a special dual event that began with a sold-out performance for a highly charged Friday night crowd at Big Sky Resort's Montana Jack, followed by a captivating appearance at the close of the second annual TEDxBigSky on Saturday evening.

Sexton's music, often described as a blend of soul, gospel, country, rock, blues, and R&B, is the real deal. He pulls, he pokes, and he bangs on your heartstrings as passionately as he does his guitar. With a wide range of songs about his life journeys, the singer-songwriter draws the audience in close, then dives even deeper into the next song with his powerful soulfulness.

Like many concerts in Big Sky, the audience was a mix of locals, Bozemanites, and visitors. The buzz was palpable as we anxiously waited outside the venue to enter, and you could feel the positive energy rippling through the line. If you have had the chance to experience Sexton live more than once, you know his lyrical masterpieces are consistently impressive—and this night was no exception.

On Jan. 27, singer-songwriter Martin Sexton wooed the crowd at Big Sky Resort's Montana Jack with his soulful blend of original tunes and hit covers. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

The crowd fed on Sexton's vocal energy and the authenticity of his lyrics. With his voice, guitar and stage presence, he grabbed us and took us on an emotional journey whose soundtrack included songs like "Happy," "Blacksheep," "Freedom of the Road," and "Glorybound." By the end of the one-set show, the floor was shaking, people were grooving, hands were clapping, and concert-goers were begging for more. As "Purple Rain" came down, the audience and Sexton achieved symbiosis.

If you were lucky enough to attend the inspiring TEDxBigSky event the following night at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, you were treated to an even more intimate, and equally powerful taste of Sexton's musicianship.

Sandwiched between stirring renditions of his favorite tunes, Sexton gave us the opportunity to look within and reflect on loss, family and moving on. He talked about the recent passing of his mother, and we learned how powerful an influence she was on his musical success. As he bared his heart to sing "Virginia"—a musical tribute to his mother—audience members teared up with the joy and sorrow of their own loved ones lost.

Sexton is a true performer, and a man with a heart as big as his vocal range. Although his time in Big Sky was brief, it was filled with positivity, authenticity, and awe-inspiring improvisations on his guitar that won't soon be forgotten.

'[title of show]' brings more Broadway talent to WMPAC

EBS STAFF

A musical within a musical, the Tony Award-nominated "[title of show]" is about two struggling writers named Hunter and Jeff who decide to write an original musical starring themselves and their attractive, talented lady-friends, Susan and Heidi. Essentially a love letter to the uniquely American genre of musical theater, "[title of show]" continues the parade of Broadway talent across the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center stage with performances at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 16 and 17; and at 5:30 p.m. on Feb.18.

As luck—or talent—would have it, Hunter and Jeff's fictional musical is accepted and becomes a hit at the New York Musical Theatre Festival. "[title of show]"—the name taken from the festival's application form—quickly moves up the ranks of the New York theater industry, collecting awards and critical acclaim until the musical is finally going to Broadway, very much mirroring the real-life trajectory of the show coming to WMPAC.

In the span of 90 minutes, Jeff and Hunter write and perform their show at the festival and learn lessons about themselves as people, friends and artists in the process.

"'[title of show] taps into that entrepreneurial spirit that Big Sky folks know all about," said WMPAC Executive Director John Zirkle. "It's just two friends who get a great idea and decide to write a musical despite the ridiculous obstacles that lie ahead. The songs are hilarious and cheeky, while staying down to earth and relatable. I think people are going to love this show."

A digital rendering shows the set design for "[title of show]," a humorous, critically acclaimed Broadway musical coming to WMPAC Feb. 16-18. IMAGE COURTESY OF THE WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Zirkle added that as the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center develops its reputation as a producer of professional music theater, the central theme of new musical development in "[title of show]" would provide insight into the production process from conception to performance.

"Audiences track alongside the story of Hunter, Jeff, Heidi, and Susan as they go through the obstacles that lay ahead bringing a show to Broadway, just as WMPAC works through the labyrinthine processes of professional play development," Zirkle said. "The show represents what WMPAC is trying to do from a bigger picture standpoint: develop new, relevant, and entertaining plays and musicals."

Visit warrenmillerpac.org for tickets and more information.

A positively uplifting evening at WMPAC

BY SARAH GIANELLI
EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – On Jan. 27, the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center bristled with excitement as community members mingled and enjoyed refreshments with friends before the sold-out TEDxBigSky event.

The six speakers took the stage one at a time, each sharing a deeply personal story in their own unique voices. The golden thread uniting the diverse group of presenters was the power of positivity, the theme of this second annual event.

Pem Dorjee Sherpa, who was part of the first couple to get married on the summit of Mount Everest, shared overcoming the challenges of his life as a Nepali immigrant to the U.S. to be able to help those in his home country facing even greater difficulties.

Healer Robbie Houcek talked about navigating the emotional complexities of her father's Alzheimer's disease, and her ultimate conclusion that the most "difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations."

Drawing from his own struggles with addiction and depression, and his triumphant journey out of the darkness, Cameron Scott gave a soul-baring talk of encouragement for anyone who has hit rock bottom, or even come close.

Rylan Peery, founder of a technology cooperative committed to the common good, surprised the audience by delivering a spoken word performance about unity over division, accompanied by international flutist Ulla Suokko.

After intermission, during which the collective mood had been palpably elevated, former CNN news anchor Daryn Kagan was emphatic about the importance of consciously choosing the news we consume, and the power that lies therein.

Following her talk, Kagan, who founded a website devoted to positive human interest stories that "show the world what is possible," was overwhelmed with the warmth of the Big Sky community. Although those in attendance might disagree, Kagan said, "The Big Sky welcome was an even bigger gift to us speakers than our talks were to the Big Sky community."

The final speaker, Eduardo Garcia, captivated the audience with his story of resilience following a freak accident and near-death experience in the Montana wilderness. After describing how his family celebrated the life of his recently departed father, Garcia left the audience "charged" with the conviction that "the spark of the human heartbeat is the joy of being alive."

While that concluded the speaker portion of the evening, there were two more heart-wrenching components of the program to follow.

Musician Martin Sexton performed a short, soulful set that seemed to rejoice in the joys and sorrows, and bittersweet beauty that comprise the human experience. Sexton shared a tribute song written for his mother Virginia, who had passed away the week prior, and finished with an abbreviated rendition of "Amazing Grace," which brought tears to many in the audience, possibly not for the first time that evening, or the last.

Former CNN news anchor Daryn Kagan urged the TEDx audience to make conscious choices about the media they consume and the power that lies therein. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

Eric Ladd, Outlaw Partners CEO, publisher of EBS, and producer of TEDxBigSky, concluded the evening with a moving remembrance and film dedicated to Big Sky's own Warren Miller, who died on Jan. 24. It was a particularly fitting culmination to a weekend that brought the community together through song and story, and in the very performing arts center named in the ski legend's honor.

In the days following the event, Ladd said, "Outlaw Partners has been working the past few years to find a winter event that can have the same impact and draw as our summer PBR event—and TEDx is it."

He added that next year Outlaw Partners is planning to expand TEDxBigSky into a multi-day festival with additional break-out sessions, musical performances, and other inspiring programming designed to foster connection, creativity and growth.

Visit TEDxBigSky.com to view the full videos of the Big Sky program as they become available.

COME ON DOWN AND SEE SOME TRUE MONTANA WINTER FUN!

SKI JORING AT THE 320 GUEST RANCH

The fun starts

Saturday, February 3rd at Noon

Willie's Distillery Tasting

Finals held on

Sunday, February 4th at 11 am

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Put on your dancing shoes for Big Sky Big Grass

EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – For the 12th consecutive year, Big Sky Big Grass will take over the venues, nooks and crannies of Big Sky Resort from Thursday, Feb. 8, through Sunday, Feb. 11. With overlapping performances by some of the largest names in bluegrass, as well as local and regional favorites, the resort literally comes alive with traditional twang and newgrass sounds during this lively annual festival.

The four-day festival kicks off on Thursday with a 9:30 p.m. performance by Leftover Salmon at Montana Jack and doesn't stop until Bozeman's Kitchen Dwellers and Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs bring the curtain down Sunday night with a 9:30 p.m. show, also at Montana Jack.

In between, at 13 large and small venues that include Chet's Lounge, the Carabiner, the Talus Room, the Missouri Ballroom, and impromptu jam sessions that can pop up anywhere, musicians and fans mingle, play and dance in a celebration of all things bluegrass.

Big Sky Big Grass features some of the biggest names in bluegrass, regional bands and plenty of jamming at Big Sky Resort, Feb. 8-11. PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY RESORT

This year's festival welcomes back bluegrass-bending Billy Strings, The Travelin' McCourys, Trout Steak Revival, Leftover Salmon, Keller (Williams) & the Keels, Larry Keel Experience; and Montana-bred acts the Kitchen Dwellers, Madison Range, Gallatin Grass Project, Two Bit Franks, Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs and others.

Colorado's Leftover Salmon has been entertaining crowds and headlining festivals for more than 25 years with music influenced by rock 'n' roll, folk, bluegrass, Cajun, soul, zydeco, jazz and blues.

Billy Strings, who has earned himself a cult following, returns to Big Sky Big Grass with a new album, "Turmoil & Tinfoil." The Nashville-based guitar virtuoso is known for roots music with powerful lyrics that address difficult issues.

Keller Williams, a fixture on the bluegrass circuit, has joined forces with Larry Keel and his wife Jenny Keel to create music they describe as "Appalachian psychedelic bluegrass." The Keels with also play with acclaimed mandolinist Jared Pool in their core band, Larry Keel Experience.

A yearly tradition for musicians, as well as the fans, Big Sky's Gallatin Grass Project will return to the fest with their own brand of eclectic originals and traditional tunes interspersed with re-invented covers.

During a 2017 interview before last year's Big Sky Big Grass, mandolinist Ben Macht explained what he looked forward to about the event each year.

"The whole festival is cool because it's so intimate," Macht said. "To be able to be that close and intimate with the performers is really special. And it gives you a festival fix right in the middle of winter when you need it most."

Visit bigskyresort.com/biggrass for tickets and a full schedule of events.

Oscar-nominated shorts screen at The Ellen and Rialto

BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY

For the ninth consecutive season, Bozeman Film Society will present the popular 2018 Oscar-nominated shorts in the animation and live action and documentary categories at two downtown locations. The program offers viewers the opportunity to experience the year's best short films from around the world, packaged together for this cinematic event.

The Oscar-nominated animation and live-action shorts will be presented at the Ellen Theatre as a double-feature on Thursday, Feb. 15, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Visit theellentheatre.com for tickets and a complete breakdown of show times.

All three Oscar-nominated short programs will screen at the Rialto theater on Sunday, Feb. 25 from 1-8:30 p.m. Visit rialtobozeman.com for tickets and a complete breakdown of show times.

Visit bozemanfilmsociety.org for more information.

The Oscar-nominated shorts return to Bozeman with screenings at The Ellen on Feb. 15 and the Rialto on Feb. 25. PHOTO COURTESY OF BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY

LPHS students go on a Bozeman art adventure

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

Lone Peak High School students spent the day exploring the Bozeman art scene, which included a hands-on workshop in the studio of glass artist Tad Bradley. PHOTO BY KATIE ALVIN

As part of the Arts Council's ARTventure program, 15 Lone Peak High School sophomores took a Jan. 24 trip to Bozeman to experience the Emerson Center for Arts and Culture, and the studio of glass artist Tad Bradley. Students visited galleries, learned about art center operations, explored how artists generate ideas, and created their own glass art.

The ARTventure program provides opportunities to learn from professionals in many arts-related fields including, but also extending beyond artists and other creators. "Students learn that almost any career path—education, finance, technology, you name it—can align with a passion for the arts," said Katie Alvin, ACBS program outreach and education director. "We want them to know that you don't have to be an artist to have a meaningful career in the arts."

Alvin works with Big Sky School District art educator Megan Buecking to get students involved in the ARTventure programs. "Since we started our ARTventure trips two years ago, I have seen a growth in interest and personal investment in the arts among the student body," Buecking said. "It's awesome to see high schoolers get excited and involved in the arts world outside of Big Sky and bring their enthusiasm back to the classroom."

The ARTventure program now includes field trips for ninth and 10th graders, a five-day arts-intensive trip to Seattle for 11th graders, an annual student-led public art installation, and a creativity tent during the weekly Music in the Mountains summer concert series.

Visit bigskyarts.org for more information.

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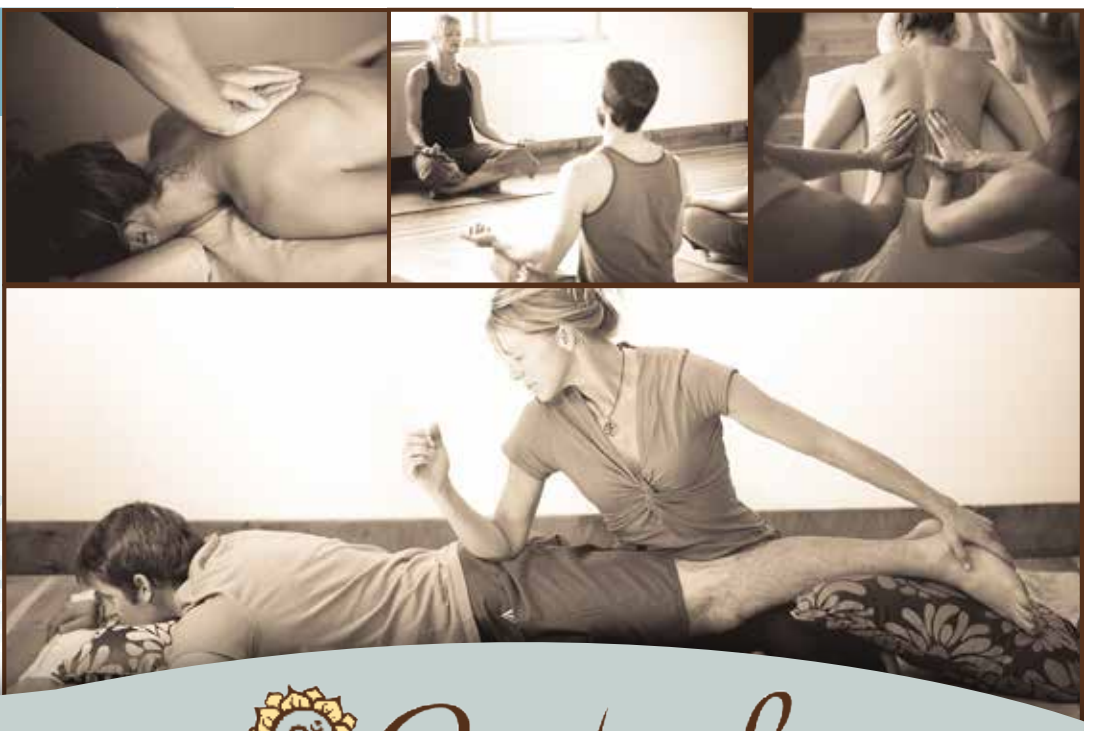

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10:00 - 11:15am All Levels Yoga 5:00 - 6:00pm Yin Yoga	7:30-8:30am All Levels Pilates 9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga 12:00 - 12:50pm Gentle Yoga 4:15 - 5:15pm All Ages Apres Ski Yoga Evening Workshop Series	7:30-8:30am All Levels Yoga 9:00 - 10:00am All Levels Yoga 4:15 - 5:15pm Roll & Recover Yoga (warm room) 5:45 - 7:15pm Sacred Sweat	7:30-8:30am 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	7:30-8:30am All Levels Mat Pilates 9:00-10:00am All Levels Yoga 5:45 - 7:00pm All Levels Yoga	7:30 - 8:30am Dance to Fit 9:00 - 10:15am All Levels Yoga 12:00 - 12:50pm All Levels Yoga	9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga Check our Website for Weekend Workshops and Special Events.

‘One Fine Day’ opens at The Emerson

EBS STAFF

The Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture readies for spring with the Feb. 9 opening of “One Fine Day,” featuring the whimsical sculptures and paintings of Bozeman artists Jarrod Eastman and Kirsten Kainz.

Eastman and Kainz focus their creative energy on building a sense of possibility and imagination in their work. Sharing a deep connection to the natural world, Eastman’s sculptures and Kainz’s paintings often represent animals, finding the subject a natural means of expressing the beauty of nature, and an accessible form of storytelling.

“One Fine Day,” which will be on display in the Jessie Wilber and Lobby galleries, is the central exhibit in The Emerson’s spring Schools in the Gallery program, an education outreach initiative that connects the community to culturally diverse exhibits and art education. Students and groups of all ages are invited to tour the exhibits and create a hands-on art project that directly relates to the themes and techniques used by these artists. Guided tours of the exhibit will be offered Feb. 12 through April 27.

From Feb. 2 through April 20, another exhibit entitled “Behind the Scenes: Backdrops and Paintings by Nathalie Woods,” will be on display in the Weaver Room Gallery.

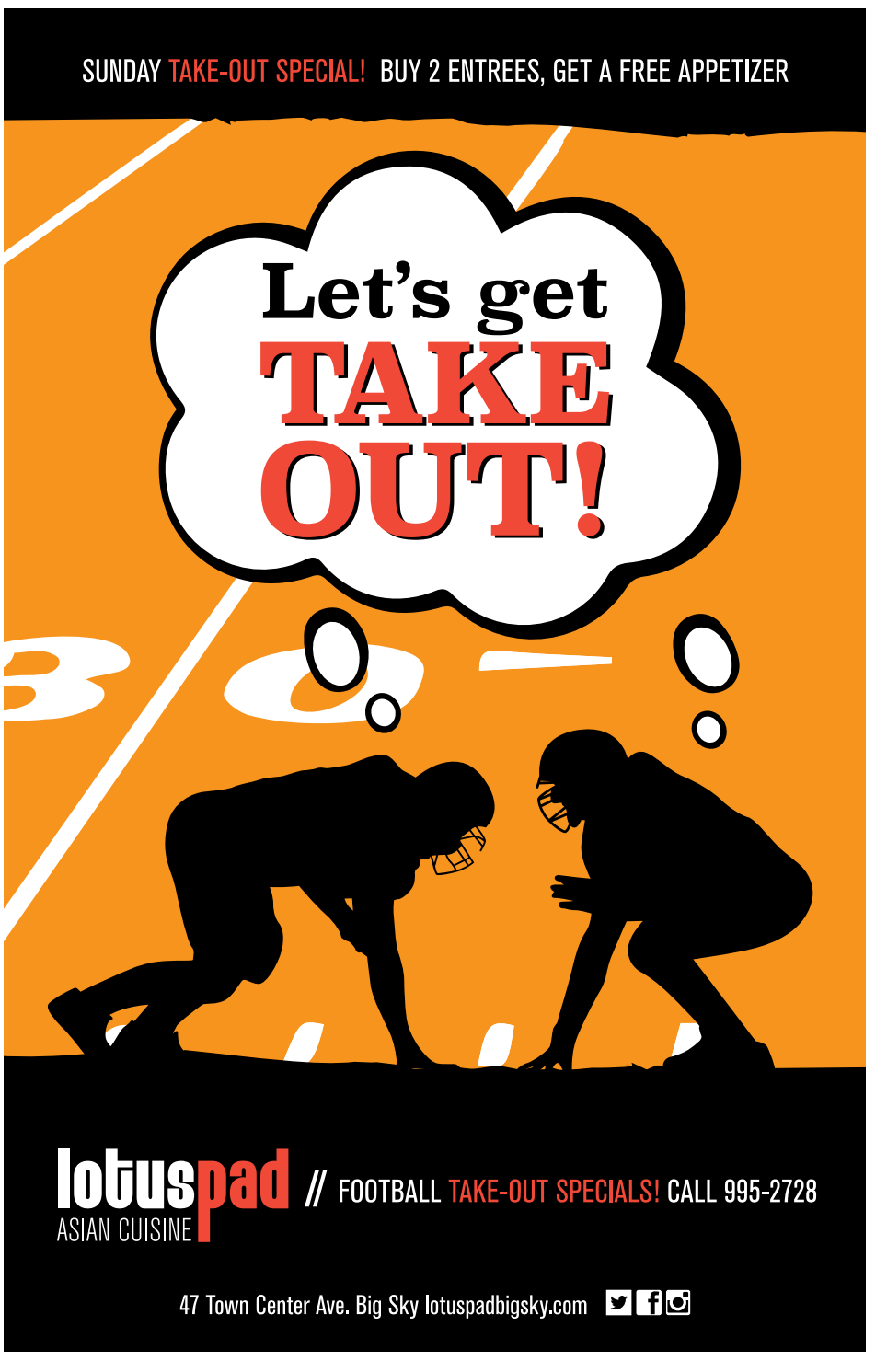
A native of France, Woods has lived in Bozeman fulltime since 2011. She spent much of her career working as an illustrator and graphic designer. Her travels to the United States and abroad have inspired various artistic explorations ranging from digital media to landscapes and seascapes in watercolor and oil.

“One Fine Day” features the whimsical, nature-inspired art of sculptor Jarrod Eastman and painter Kirsten Kainz and is the central exhibit in The Emerson’s “Schools in the Gallery” outreach program. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE EMERSON

Since settling with her family in Bozeman, her children have become active with the Children’s Shakespeare Society youth troupe, and Woods was asked to help design and paint the backdrops. Painted in her home studio, the colorful canvases have been integral in the set design for dozens of Shakespearean children’s plays.

An opening reception for these exhibits will be held Friday, Feb. 9, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Visit theemerson.org for more information.



EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, FEB. 2 – THURSDAY, FEB. 15

***IF YOUR EVENT FALLS BETWEEN FEB. 16 AND MARCH 1, PLEASE SUBMIT IT BY FEB. 7 TO MEDIA@OUTLAW.PARTNERS.**

BIG SKY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

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

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

Fish Fry
BYWOM, all evening

Confluence Five Course Dinner
Buck's T-4, 6 p.m.

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Krazy Karaoke,
Montana Jack, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Dummy Jump
Big Sky Resort, all afternoon

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

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

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

wild Up, music
WAMPAC, 7:30 p.m.

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

DJ
Montana Jack, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Live Music
Compass Café, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

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, FEBRUARY 6

Top Shelf Toastmasters
Town Center Sales Office, 12 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, FEBRUARY 7

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

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

Vine & Dine Winter Dinner Series
Big Sky Resort, 6:30 p.m.

Surviving Cancer Support Group
Santosha Wellness Center, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Big Sky Big Grass, music festival
Big Sky Resort, Feb. 9-11

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

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

Leftover Salmon, music
Montana Jack, 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Madison Range, music
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Two Big Franks, music
Carabiner Lounge, 4:30 p.m.

Trivia Night
Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Billy Strings Band, music
Montana Jack, 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Smokin' Aces slope style tour
Big Sky Resort, all day
Feb. 10-11

Two Bit Franks, music
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Trout Steak Duo, music
Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Madison Range, music
Chets Bar, 4:30 p.m.

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

Ophir PTO Pie Auction
Rainbow Ranch, 5:30 p.m.

The Travelin' McCourys, music
Montana Jack, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Live Music
Compass Café, 11 a.m.

Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs, music
Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Kitchen Dwellers, music
Montana Jack, 9:30 p.m.

MONDAY FEBRUARY 12

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, FEBRUARY 13

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

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

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

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

Business after Hours
LTD Real Estate, 5 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

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

BSCO Trails Committee Meeting
BSCO Office, 2 p.m.

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

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

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

Awareness Wednesday
Santosha Wellness Center, 7 p.m.

All You Can Eat Crab Feast
Lone Peak Brewery, all evening

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

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

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

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

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

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

BOZEMAN

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Give, Give, Receive, lecture
Bozeman Public Library, 8:30 a.m.

"Ghost Trees" Opening Reception
Old Main Gallery, 5 p.m.

Lady Bird, film
Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Ian Thomas and The Band of Drifters, music
Rialto Theater, 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

King and Queen of the Ridge
Bridger Bowl Ski Area, all day

Winter Farmers' Market
Emerson Ballroom, all morning

Lester Rocks, music
Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Bozeman Symphony, Recorder Mania
Willson Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

The Paleface, film
Ellen Theatre, 2 p.m.

Bozeman Symphony, Recorder Mania
Willson Auditorium, 2:30 p.m.

Sassafras Stomp, music
Story Mansion, 7 p.m.

Nathan North, music
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Pecha Kucha
Ellen Theatre, 6:40 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

She Loves Me, Intermountain Opera Bozeman
Rialto Theater
Feb. 7, 6 p.m.
Feb 9, 11, 15, 18, 7:30 p.m.

Pecha Kucha
Ellen Theatre, 6:40 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Brice Ash, music
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

International Guitar Night, music
Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

The Songwriter's Roundtable
Rialto Theater, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Double Indemnity, film
Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Bozeman Symphony Family Concert
Willson Auditorium, 10:30 a.m.

31st Annual Sweet Tooth Ball
The Commons at Baxter and Love, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Cinderella, film
Ellen Theatre, 2 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Women-owned Business Tour
The Emerson Grill, 12 p.m.

Bozeman Swing, dance class
Rialto Theater, 6:45 p.m.

Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball
Rialto Theater, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Sweethearts of Bozeman, dinner
Rockin' TJ Ranch, 6 p.m.

An Unforgettable Valentine's, dinner and dancing
Ellen Theatre, 6:30 p.m.

Science Inquiry Lecture: Wildlife Enigmas on the Beartooth Plateau
Museum of the Rockies, 7 p.m.

An Intimate Valentine's Evening with Jeni Fleming
Rialto Theater, 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

2018 Oscar-nominated Short Films
Ellen Theatre, 6:30 p.m.

The Dirt Farmers, music
Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

Submit your event by emailing media@outlaw.partners

WORTH THE DRIVE

Ennis, MT

Valentine's Dinner

Madison Valley Ranch | Feb. 10, 6:30 p.m.

Madison Valley Ranch is opening its doors for a special Valentine's dinner. With wine pairings and a five-course meal prepared by Chef Matt Pease, this evening will be a celebration with great food and drink in a fun, family-style table setting. This is a nice and social alternative for the couple that has sat for a one-on-one candlelit dinner year after year, great for double dates or friends. Lodging is also available. For more information or to make a reservation call (406) 682-7822 or email mvr@3rivers.net.

Jackson Hole, WY

Special Olympics

Feb. 6-8

The Special Olympics movement celebrates its 50th Anniversary this summer and Wyoming will kick off the year-long celebration with the 2018 Winter Games. Activities are scheduled at Jackson Hole High School, Snow King Resort, Teton Pines and Jackson Hole Mountain Resort. For a complete schedule and to learn more, visit sowy.org.

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.

Helena, MT

Youth Ice Fishing Extravaganza

Montana WILD | Feb. 10, 10 a.m.

Head to Montana WILD in Helena for a fun, fast and free introduction to ice fishing. The event will feature hands-on experiences such as baiting your hook, choosing and setting up gear, drilling your own hole in the ice, using an ice scoop, learning how to read a fish finder and maybe even having the chance to catch a fish. This event is weather dependent, but is scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. No fishing licenses will be needed for this free event. For weather updates call (406) 444-9944.

Missoula, MT

Hunting Film Tour

The Wilma | Feb. 15, 7 p.m.

The national Hunting Film Tour will premier in Missoula this year as a two-hour festival celebrating conservation-minded, fair chase hunting, complete with awesome stories and breathtaking cinematography. Doors open at 6 p.m. and films begin promptly at 7 p.m. Tickets are available online at huntingfilmtour.com.

Livingston, MT

'Crazywise'

Shane Lalani Center for the Arts | Feb. 11, 7 p.m.

The Livingston Film Series is delighted to present a free screening of the documentary "Crazywise." The traditional wisdom of indigenous cultures often contradicts modern views about a mental health crisis. Is it a calling to grow or just a broken brain? The documentary explores what can be learned from people around the world who have turned their psychological crisis into a positive transformative experience. A reception precedes the film at 6:30 p.m. and admission is free. For more information visit theshanecenter.org

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Flood
4 Onager
7 Adopted son of Mohammed
10 Two
11 Baseball equipment
12 P.I. food
14 Gumbo
15 Kier (2 words)
17 Bronze (Lat.)
18 "The Bartered Bride" character
19 Collection of sayings
20 Honey possum
22 Ancient (abbr.)
24 Cue (2 words)
27 Massenet opera
31 Yemen capital
32 Legal action
34 Grape-vine disease
35 Galsworthy heroine
37 Windlass
39 Exclamation
41 Womb (pref.)
42 N. Caucasian language
45 Braz. fiber plant
47 Complete
50 Sarcasm
52 Pointed arch
53 Old-fashioned oath
54 Soul or spirit (Fr.)
55 Heddles of a loom
56 Noun-forming (suf.)
57 Prepaid (abbr.)
58 Mountain peak

DOWN

1 Teakettle: Fr. slang
2 Otolite (2 words)
3 Ohio college town
4 Surgeon's instrument
5 Fr.-Ger. region
6 Streak
7 Ibsen character
8 Volcanic scoria matter
9 Dayak people
10 Dead on arrival
13 Luzon people
16 Fellow
18 Russ. community farm
21 Sneezewood
23 Reliquary
24 Greek letter
25 Row
26 December (abbr.)
28 Convex molding
29 Amazon tributary
30 Saint (Sp.)
33 Arctic dog
36 Geological epoch
38 Size of coal
40 Medieval goblet
42 Jap. apricot
43 It. magistrate
44 Persia today
46 Royal Canadian Mounted Police (abbr.)
48 Caper
49 Moon vehicle (abbr.)
51 Banned pesticide
52 S.A. tuber

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

■	F	R	A	■	A	C	S	■	C	O	P	■
M	A	U	D	■	R	A	P	■	F	R	U	G
A	D	H	E	S	I	V	E	■	S	P	R	Y
S	E	R	■	L	O	Y	A	L	■	I	E	R
■	■	■	P	A	S	■	R	O	O	M	■	■
D	E	C	A	G	O	N	■	S	C	E	N	E
O	T	I	S	■	T	A	C	■	U	N	A	U
T	A	N	T	E	■	S	H	E	L	T	E	R
■	■	C	A	E	N	■	A	D	O	■	■	■
O	C	H	■	C	A	D	R	E	■	U	X	B
B	L	O	B	■	T	A	L	L	T	A	L	E
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■	M	A	C	■	L	E	E	■	A	G	I	■

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Intermountain Opera brings 'She Loves Me' to Bozeman

EBS STAFF

Intermountain Opera Bozeman presents their first winter musical, Joe Masteroff and Sheldon Harnick's "She Loves Me" with a multi-performance run at the Rialto theater. The string of performances kicks off with a special fundraising gala and preview performance on Wednesday Feb. 7, with regular performances over the following two weekends.

A crowd-pleasing romantic comedy, "She Loves Me" is based on the 1936 Miklós László play "Parfumerie." The play has since inspired a great number of film and stage adaptations including the 1940 film "The Shop Around the Corner," starring Jimmy Stewart; Judy Garland's musical version "In the Good Old Summertime," and most recently the 1998 rom-com "You've Got Mail," starring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan.

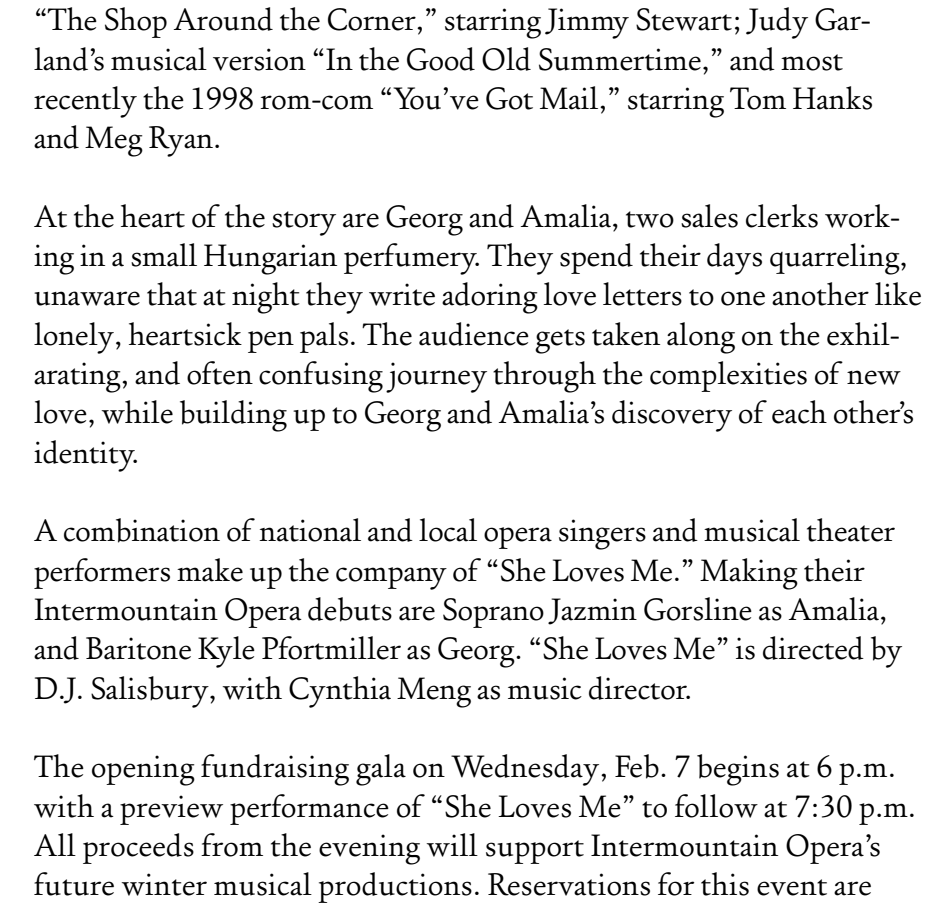
At the heart of the story are Georg and Amalia, two sales clerks working in a small Hungarian perfumery. They spend their days quarreling, unaware that at night they write adoring love letters to one another like lonely, heartsick pen pals. The audience gets taken along on the exhilarating, and often confusing journey through the complexities of new love, while building up to Georg and Amalia's discovery of each other's identity.

A combination of national and local opera singers and musical theater performers make up the company of "She Loves Me." Making their Intermountain Opera debuts are Soprano Jazmin Gorsline as Amalia, and Baritone Kyle Pfortmiller as Georg. "She Loves Me" is directed by D.J. Salisbury, with Cynthia Meng as music director.

The opening fundraising gala on Wednesday, Feb. 7 begins at 6 p.m. with a preview performance of "She Loves Me" to follow at 7:30 p.m. All proceeds from the evening will support Intermountain Opera's future winter musical productions. Reservations for this event are required.

"She Loves Me" will run Friday, Feb. 9 through Sunday, Feb. 11; and Thursday, Feb. 15 through Sunday, Feb. 18. Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees begin at 3 p.m. All performances will be at the Rialto theater, located at 10 W. Main St. in downtown Bozeman.

Call the Intermountain Opera Bozeman office at (406) 587-2889 for tickets, or visit intermountainopera.org. Remaining tickets will be for sale at the door beginning one hour before show time.



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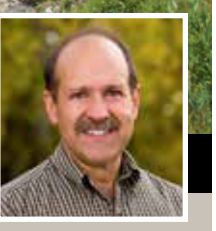

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DID YOU KNOW?

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

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

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

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

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Warren Miller: Last, best ski bum

BY DOUG HARE
EBS STAFF

When I woke up on Jan. 25, my social media feeds were filled with the news of Warren Miller's passing at the ripe old age of 93. Myriad athletes from mountain towns across the globe had already expressed heartfelt regret over the loss of skiing's greatest ambassador. Along with the expressions of sadness were messages of gratitude.

The common theme was something along of the lines of, "Thank you Warren: for a life well-lived, for your contributions to mountain sports and film, and for influencing my life for the better. I wouldn't be sitting in this chairlift if it weren't for you."

It would be difficult to overstate his importance in developing the sport of skiing. For more than six decades, his films have been a harbinger of winter. Watching his films went from being a yearly, communal activity for small, ski communities in the West to a worldwide phenomenon. It's no surprise he was called the "godfather of adventure sports film."

If watching Miller's films influenced your life, then I recommend grabbing a copy of "Freedom Found," an autobiography he wrote in his twilight years that offers a closer look at the man behind the lens.

Miller grew up in Southern California during the Great Depression in a dysfunctional family. Even in his later years, he still ate a peanut butter sandwich every day. With a disarmingly candid voice, Miller recounts the ways in which the hardship and failure of his early childhood helped to develop his work ethic and value system.

It was this work ethic and these values that helped Miller go from selling $1 tickets to his first movie "Deep and Light" in 1950, to become a film-making mogul and universally recognized named in winter sports.

Although Miller's personal journey closely parallels the evolution of winter sports and the birth of an industry, this isn't just a book for skiers and snowboarders. It is a story about how a kid with a scofflaw father making a few pennies a week managed to bootstrap his passion for the outdoors into an empire. It's a tale about adventures, mistakes, betrayals, entrepreneurship and philanthropy.

"Freedom Found" holds an appeal even for those who don't ski 100 days a year. Miller's irrepressible drive can be inspirational to anyone who has struggled with life's setbacks, and his integrity, in life and as a businessman, is a darn good example for anyone who wants to be successful.

The most enjoyable parts are the hilarious observations and anecdotes. Whether he is skiing with the best skiers in the world off of an active volcano, or surviving the sinking of a ship amidst a typhoon during World War II, Miller's vivid recollection of his odyssey from beatnik pioneer to ski icon is a quick-witted account of an extraordinary life—one last lesson from the original ski bum. You will be missed, Warren.

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

Between the shelves

BY AMY HUNTER
ASSISTANT COMMUNITY LIBRARIAN

February is a full month with the Olympics, Valentine's Day, and Love Your Library Month.

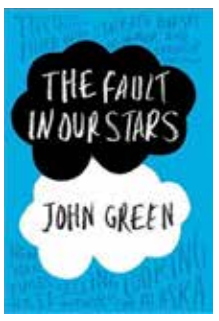
There is so much to pack into the shortest month of the year. This month we can experience a renewed sense of possibility as we watch athletes from around the world not only competing, but sharing a little bit of themselves in the process.

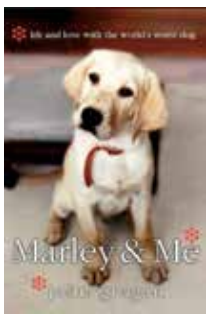
We can be reminded of the power of books as we visit the library to find a new story to explore and possibly run into old and new friends. And while Valentine's Day means different things to different people, the love it celebrates is for everyone.

A few books for your consideration, "The Fault in Our Stars" by John Green, about a boy and a girl and their eternal love. Bobbi Dumas of National Public Radio says that "The Precious One" by Marisa De Los Santos, "reminds us that love, romance, family and relationships are all powerful things that come to us in many ways." For those looking for a different kind of love story, "Marley & Me" by John Grogan, explores the love between a human being and his or her dog.

Come to the Big Sky Community Library this month to see what we have in store for Love Your Library Month.

Visit bigskylibrary.org for more information.





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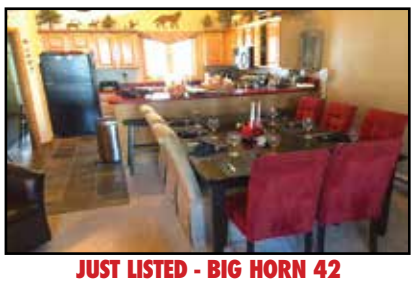

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NOTICE TO THE BIG SKY FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE DISTRICT MEMBERS

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.

AUDIT PUBLICATION STATEMENT

An audit of the affairs of Big Sky Resort Area District has been conducted by Holmes & Turner (a professional corporation). The audit covered the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017.

Section 2-7-521, MCA, requires the publication concerning the audit report include a statement that the audit report is on file in its entirety and open to public inspection at 11 Lone Peak Drive, Suite 204, Big Sky, Montana, and that the Big Sky Resort Area District will send a copy of the audit report to any interested person upon request.

Sincerely,

Big Sky Resort Area District

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