



PBR music lineup announced, tickets on sale March 1

Town Center matriarch Jean Simkins looks back



explorebigsky.com

18, 2017. PHOTO BY STEVEN EARL

ON THE COVER: After multiple weather delays, Mikaela Shiffrin was gunning for her first gold medal at the PyeongChang 2018 Olympics in the giant slalom on Feb. 14, after EBS went to press. This image was taken during the FIS Alpine World Championships in St. Moritz, Switzerland on Feb.



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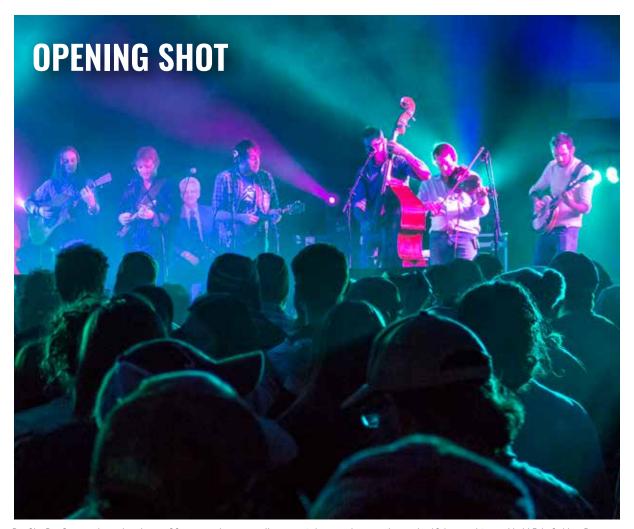
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15 Pie Auction raises over \$100K

PBR music lineup announced, tickets on sale March 1



Town Center matriarch
Jean Simkins looks back



Big Sky Big Grass ticket sales shot up 20 percent this year, selling out of shows and passes during the 12th annual festival held Feb. 8-11 at Big Sky Resort. "I think the great snow, addition of Leftover Salmon to the lineup and the overall caliber of performers was the reason for the increased popularity this year," said Big Sky Resort Public Relations Manager Chelsi Moy. "Plus .. I think the word is getting out about Big Sky Big Grass as a great festival for intimate concerts with some of the best bluegrass musicians in the country." PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY RESORT

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



MARTHA JOHNSON VICE President of Sales | Founding Broker

Martha has been a resident of Big Sky since 1988 and has worked in real estate for approximately 20 years.

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4 February 16 - March 1, 2018 **Explore** Big Sky



Forum to identify drought risks in Big Sky

GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

Echoing Montana's "Best in the West" snowpack, Big Sky sits at 142 percent above average this winter, putting the drought and wildfires of last summer to the back of our minds.

Droughts creep up on us though. We can't easily see them coming or recognize all their far-reaching impacts. Take last summer's flash drought. In the western part of the state, a good snowpack didn't prevent a rapid and intense onset of dry conditions. And, just a few months later, summer wildfires burned over 1 million acres across Montana.

While sheltered from severe impacts of drought last summer, Big Sky remains vulnerable to drought conditions and their impacts. Groundwater resources, drinking water supplies, economic prosperity, recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat are just a few sensitive areas that may be widely disrupted by droughts.

In a 2017 local survey gauging drought awareness, 77.1 percent of respondents expressed concern or high concern for available public water supplies during drought periods.

So, when drought creeps up on us, how can we be ready?

The Gallatin River Task Force's Upper Gallatin Drought Focus Group on Feb. 21 is a local planning effort working to do just that. The meeting will examine community needs and experiences of drought, which help discern management strategies for our watershed. The meeting will take place at 9 a.m. in the Big Sky Water and Sewer District's conference room.

Yellowstone recruiting for Youth Conservation Corps program

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone is currently recruiting for the 2018 Youth Conservation Corps, a residential work-based education program for young men and women between the ages of 15 and 18.

Two, month-long YCC sessions will be offered June 10 to July 11 and July 15 to Aug. 15. Sixty youth will be selected from across the country to participate and applicants must be citizens of the United States and 15 years of age by June 10, but not over 18 years of age by Aug. 15. Yellowstone recruits youth from all social, economic, ethnic and racial backgrounds for the program.

No previous wilderness experience is required. Applicants should possess a positive attitude and get along with others. They must be willing to work in a physically active outdoor program and will be required to live in the park. Room and board will be provided at a minimal cost. Wages will be set at the federal minimum of \$7.25 per hour.

YCC is designed to develop an appreciation for the nation's natural resources and heritage through unique educational, recreational and work experiences. Corps members work together with National Park Service staff to complete conservation projects such as rehabilitation of trails, campground restoration and a wide variety of visitor support services.

YCC is funded by park entrance fees and generous donations to Yellowstone Forever, the official nonprofit partner of Yellowstone National Park.

Completed application materials must be received by March 1. For more information or to apply, visit www.nps.gov/yell/learn/management/yccjobs.htm. Questions may be directed to yell ycc office@nps.gov.

Special Olympics in Big Sky Feb. 26, volunteers needed

EBS STAFF

The Special Olympics Winter Area Games return to Big Sky Resort on Monday, Feb. 26, bringing athletes from around the state to compete at the Moonlight Basin side of the ski hill.

Events include Alpine skiing and snowboarding giant slaloms, Nordic skiing, as well as the 50-meter and 100-meter snowshoe races.

This year's games could see more than 100 athletes participating. Teams from the greater Bozeman area will be traveling to participate, and with the cancellation this year of the State Winter Games in Whitefish, teams from Anaconda and Butte will also attend. Also, one Special Olympics Colorado athlete will be vacationing in Big Sky and will participate as well.

Jami Williamson, central outreach director for Special Olympics Montana, said the Big Sky Games is an important way to show appreciation of individuals with intellectual disabilities.

"We do not have many athletes living in the Big Sky community, so an event like this provides opportunity for the local schools, businesses and community members the chance to interact with and support our athletes," Williamson said. "In return, it gives our athletes and volunteers an amazing opportunity to visit a venue that they likely wouldn't on a regular basis."

A number of volunteers are needed for the Big Sky Area Winter Games, and event organizers encourage community members to "be a part of something extraordinary for an exceptional group of people."

For more information about Montana Special Olympics, visit somt.org. To sign up as a volunteer, visit signupgenius.com/go/30e084fa8af2ca5f85-2018.

Montana peak named after Alex Diekmann

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND

On Jan. 31, President Trump signed a bill naming a Montana mountain peak for the late Alex Diekmann, a Trust for Public Land senior project manager who died of cancer two years ago.

The mountain is in the Madison Range overlooking the Madison River Valley, one of the many areas in the Northern Rockies where Diekmann led successful efforts to conserve land and water. He was responsible for the protection of more than 50 distinct areas in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho, and more than 100,000 acres of iconic mountains and valleys, rivers and creeks, ranches and farms, and historic sites and open spaces.

Diekmann's wife, Lisa Diekmann, had earlier expressed her pride in her late husband's work and her gratitude to all who worked to memorialize his legacy. "This is a great way to start the new year," she said. "I hope that the efforts of Sens. Tester and Daines, Congressman Gianforte, and Alex's friends and colleagues who have worked tirelessly to designate this peak in memory of Alex and his commitment to conservation and collaboration will be an inspiration for others."

Diekmann's long-time colleague at The Trust for Public Land, Alan Front, who spearheaded the effort to name the peak, remembered Diekmann as a tireless advocate for conserving our land and water for future generations. "The adjectives that describe the best of humankind apply to Alex. He had the courage and tenacity, the dignity and ability to work with the local community to get the conservation job done. He had the gift of sight beyond ordinary vision," Front said.



Sarah Blechta, Buz Davis, Steve Johnson and Craig Smit filed their candidacy for two open seats on the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board. Ballots will be mailed to district residents in late April for the May 8 election.

What community interests do you want a resort tax board member to advocate for?



Matthew Platisha
Big Sky, Montana

"No resort tax, but I'm actually born in Montana so maybe that's why I hate it so much."



Julia Cooper
Bozeman, Montana

"I'd be interested in seeing the money directed toward underprivileged individual access to the sport of skiing."



Jeffrey Morgan *Big Sky, Montana*

"A public garden, community garden."



Amy Langmaid *Big Sky, Montana*

"My priorities would be in having recreational space that everyone can come to use in Big Sky, making sure trails and spaces are available for visitors and residents."

Op-Ed: Strong community engagement will be essential to protect our rivers and streams

BY KRISTIN GARDNER

We need your help to protect the treasured rivers and streams in the Big Sky community. Participation from every single one of you will be critical for success from resort areas, developers, small businesses, homeowners, landowners, renters, and visitors.

Everything we do depends on the rivers and affects the rivers. The snow we ski becomes the whitewater we float, the riffles we fish, and the water we drink. All of us who have chosen to work, play, and live a portion of our lives in Big Sky have a responsibility to steward these wonderful resources.

Now we have a blueprint to do just that. Over 2016-2017, the Gallatin River Task Force hosted a collaborative planning effort to protect our waters. The resulting plan was developed from the hard work and thoughtful discussions of a large group of smart, innovative leaders from the Big Sky community and across Montana, representing diverse interests that included local, regional, and national conservation, state and local government, small business, development, resort areas, agriculture, and recreation.

The Big Sky Watershed Stewardship plan sets the bar high for Big Sky to be a model mountain community in the way that we use and manage our water resources. Specific recommendations outlined in the plan fall under the following key concepts:

Understand and track the ecological health of the river systems by expanding monitoring of water quality, water supply, streamflows, groundwater recharge, riparian and wetland health, and instream habitat and fisheries to assess progress and ensure negative changes are found early and addressed.

Maximize valuable limited water supply through water conservation strategies and recycling highly treated wastewater for other uses such as landscape irrigation and snowmaking at Big Sky Resort and the Yellowstone Club.

Slow the flow of water through the watershed by thoughtful stormwater management and targeted wetland and riparian restoration projects to enhance late-season low streamflows.

Address existing impacts through restoration projects based on scientific data, like the those recently completed on the West Fork of the Gallatin and Moose Creek Flat Recreational area.

Preserve and enhance existing high-quality water resources through land conservation and management and native fish conservation strategies.

Moving these recommendations forward will require strong community engagement, partnerships, and support. I invite you to learn more about the recommendations, participate in the solutions, and spread the word to your friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

This must be a full team effort—every drop counts.

Contact the Gallatin River Task Force at (406) 993-2519, gallatinrivertask-force@gmail.com, or visit gallatinrivertaskforce.org for more information.

Kristin Gardner is the executive director of the Gallatin River Task Force, a nonprofit organization seeking to partner with the community to inspire stewardship of the Gallatin River watershed, and ensure its health for future generations. GRTF was a key stakeholder in the Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum.

OUTLAW

News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

Big Sky PBR announces music lineup

Four nights of exciting music to rock Big Sky

OUTLAW PARTNERS

BIG SKY - Outlaw Partners is excited to announce an incredible musical lineup for this year's Big Sky PBR festivities. Four nights of live music will keep the town rocking during "Big Sky's Biggest Week," July 25-28.

The Dirty Shame, hailing from Bozeman, kick off the week's festivities on Wednesday, July 25, with a performance at the community street dance in Town Center. This outlaw country quintet displays all the ruggedness and questionable morality of Willie Nelson and Waylon Jennings. The Dirty Shame formed in 2006 with the goal of bringing outlaw country back to Montana the way it was meant to be.

Sponsored by Outlaw Partners, the Thursday night Music in the Mountains in Town Center Park will feature the sounds of Shovels & Rope, the popular American folk duo from South Carolina. This free outdoor concert will be sure to get the crowd dancing and stomping their feet.

The first night of PBR bull riding will be followed by a post-event concert performed by The Steel Woods, a hybrid musical force—part American roots including country folk and rock but weaving in the sounds of bluegrass, R&B, blues, soul and heavy metal. "The materials which America is built on," says co-founder Wes Bayliss.

The week of music concludes with a post-bull riding concert on Saturday, July 28 by Seattle-based female rock and roll quartet, Thunderpussy. Known



The Seattle-based female quartet Thunderpussy closes out four nights of live music during "Big Sky Biggest Week," taking the stage following the PBR bull riding event on July 28. PHOTO COURTESY OF THUNDERPUSSY

for earth-shattering performances, heart-stopping performance art, and a propensity to literally writhe through a crowd, this band is bold, brilliant, brazen, and beautiful.

Tickets for Big Sky PBR go on sale March 1 at bigskypbr.com.

WINTER AT THE GHEE

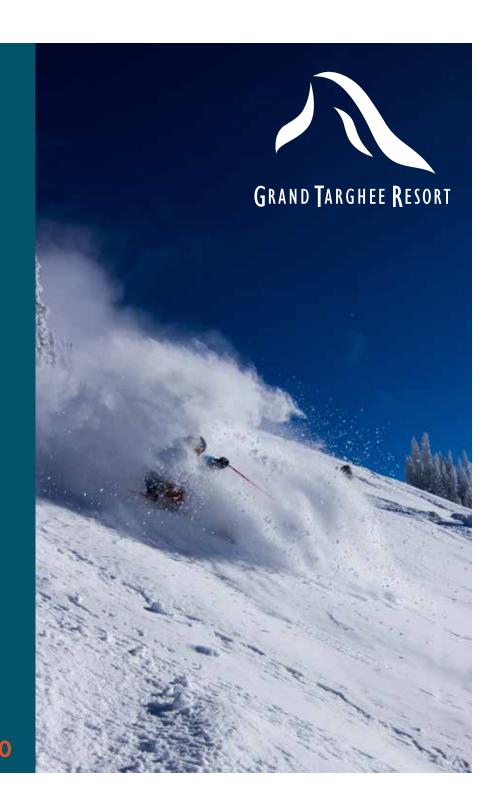
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The dog days of winter



TIPS FOR CARING FOR YOUR DOG IN WINTER

from Dr. Sydney Desmarais at Lone Peak Veterinary Hospital

- Prevent snow and ice from building up in their paws with booties, or by using products such as Musher's Secret to cover their pads and fur.
- Bring a hand towel on walks to remove snow and ice from your dog's feet.
- Dogs can get frostbite too so make sure to keep them dry, since moisture increases this risk. Also, monitor the tips of the ears and tail for becoming pale, black or painful. If you note these clinical signs, bring them inside and warm them up.
- Clean off your dog's belly and paws after walks to ensure winter salt and chemicals don't remain on their skin.
- If your dog has short fur, a sweater or jacket will help keep them warm.
- Being cold burns a lot of energy, so be sure your dog is getting fed more in the winter after long days outside.









ETIQUETTE ON THE TRAILS:

For those bringing dogs to the trails, remember to practice responsible dog ownership.

- Even though the trails are snow-covered, dog owners are responsible for picking up dog waste to avoid a mess in the spring.
- Only bring dogs that are friendly, well-socialized and under voice control.
- If someone's dog is on leash, put your dog on leash when you approach, as their dog may not be as people/dog-friendly.
- Make sure your dog has its tags on.
- If you have kids, teach the kids to ask dog owner if they can pet the dog.



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTOS

4 candidates vie for 2 open resort tax board seats in May

EBS STAFF

The Big Sky Resort Area District board will welcome two new members when results of the next election are tallied on Tuesday, May 8.

In December, board secretary Ginna Hermann announced that she would not be seeking a third term, and in January, treasurer Heather Budd disclosed that she will not be pursuing a second. At the Feb. 14 resort tax board meeting, Budd suggested to her colleagues that they consider expanding from five to seven members, citing the heavy workload the board carries, and the significant increase in residents, visitors and businesses that are now in Big Sky, compared to when the district was formed in 1992.

Below, meet the four candidates who will appear on ballots mailed to Big Sky Resort Area District residents in late April.



Buz Davis

Paul "Buz" Davis is the president and CEO of Davis & Associates, a consulting firm specializing in strategic business alliances, executive coaching, and board training for corporations and nonprofits. His professional background includes extensive experience collaborating with communities and organizations in transition to develop a strategic plan.

In 2012 and 2013, Davis led the

Big Sky Resort Area District board through a strategic planning process to convey the board's vision to the community and the community's role in shaping that vision. As part of that process, Davis and former resort tax board chair Les Loble led town hall meetings to aid the board in its directive to make Big Sky a "world-class community."

Davis has been involved with a number of other community engagement initiatives. In 2014, he led the Big Sky Water and Sewer District in a planning retreat. Two years prior, he did the same for Big Sky Community Corporation, now called the Big Sky Community Organization. In 2013, he participated in a multi-year effort to bring a hospital to the area, which culminated in the opening of the Big Sky Medical Center in December 2015.

Davis has been active in infrastructure planning discussions to ensure that Big Sky grows in a responsible and sustainable manner. Last fall, he introduced an alternative to NorthWestern Energy's planned open-air substation, an undertaking that involved significant research into a smaller gas-insulated substation.

After first visiting Big Sky more than two decades ago, Davis became a part-time resident in 2012. He and his wife Margaret became full-time residents in 2015, and Davis is an avid skier, hiker and kayaker.



Craig Smit

Craig Smit has been a resident of Big Sky since 1990 and is the owner of LTD Real Estate. He is currently on the board of the South Fork Phase II homeowners association and the Blue Grouse Condos homeowners association.

Smit has two sons, Kyan and Colter, enrolled in Ophir Middle School, and they enjoy skiing and mountain biking

together, in addition to all of the other outdoor pursuits available to members of this resort community.

As a full-time resident here for many years, he understands the critical importance of the 3-percent resort tax and it's part in funding Big Sky's infrastructure. Smit recognizes it is a lot of work and responsibility to serve on the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board and believes he is well equipped to represent the locals of Big Sky.



Sarah Blechta

Sarah Blechta moved to Big Sky in 1991 with her parents, Carmen and Pat "Wooly" Wooldridge, when she was 6 years old. Besides attending high school and college in Minnesota, she has spent the majority of her life in Big Sky. After receiving her teaching degree, she returned to her hometown, working her way up through positions at both Big Sky Resort and the Yellowstone Club. Blechta is currently the director of property owners associations at the Yellowstone Club, and she and her husband Ryan have a daughter in kindergarten at Ophir Elementary School. She understands

first-hand the challenges of affording to live here, raise a family and ensure a sustainable future

As an active member of the community, she currently serves as the president of the South Fork Phase II homeowners association, and just completed a five-year term on the Morningstar Learning Center board. There she helped to implement a capital fundraising campaign for the recently completed infant building, thanks in part to the Big Sky Resort Area District. As a successfully funded applicant, she understands the appropriations process and impact of Big Sky's resort tax, as well as the magnitude of a board position.

Growing up here, Blechta has experienced first-hand the growth of the area over the past 20-plus years. She understands where Big Sky has come from and where it's heading as a unique resort community. She is a creative thinker, understands financials through her volunteer and professional roles, and comes with energy and passion for this place she has called home for the majority of her life. Blechta looks forward to helping shape Big Sky as a sustainable community for all who make it home and visit.



Steve Johnson

Steve Johnson and his family started visiting Big Sky in the early 1990s, and enjoyed a vacation property here for several years. He retired fulltime to Big Sky in 2001, following a career with Accenture, an international management consulting and professional services firm.

After settling in to the area and building a home, Johnson became actively engaged in the community, serving as a volunteer with the Big Sky Fire Department, Big Sky Search and Rescue, and the Big Sky Resort volun-

teer ski patrol. He was also very active with the Big Sky Community Organization as a trails volunteer and board member. Johnson has stepped back somewhat from these roles, but remains involved as a member of the Gallatin Canyon/Big Sky Zoning Advisory Committee, a trustee of the Big Sky Trails, Recreation and Parks District, and a board member of Big Sky Fire District.

Over the past four years he has been involved with collaborative efforts focused on the future of Custer Gallatin National Forest lands, and the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area. He is an avid fly fisherman, and has volunteered for many years with Warriors and Quiet Waters in Bozeman as a fly-tying instructor. Steve and his wife Jeanne have four children and six grandchildren, who are all living in the West.



- LOCAL LOOK BACK

Harold's Bridge

BY J.C. KNAUB

This is a photo of my father, Harold Knaub, taken in early December 1973. He was the foreman for the original Big Sky Resort construction crew. At that time, he and about 12 men were constructing a large log bridge over the West Fork of the Gallatin River, just below the entrance to Lone Mountain Ranch.

The resort's four new lifts were scheduled to open for the first time on Dec. 14. Harold and his crew worked seven days a week getting logs to the site, then bringing in fill dirt for the approaches, and rock and boulders for the creek bank. This photo was given to me by Colin Kobel at Devon White's memorial service at Buck's T-4 Lodge in September. Colin and Devon were on my father's crew, as was I at a young 18 years old.

What is most touching is that Feb. 16 is the 10th anniversary of my father's passing. At Devon's service, I had a chance to share beautiful memories with almost all of the people on my dad's construction crew—people who were the very first skilled workers in the area, who built that big log bridge over the West Fork; cut and cleared the ski runs; built the main road to the Mountain Village, as well as the lift infrastructure and many other projects 46 years ago to help carve Big Sky Resort out of the wilderness.

I miss my father, but the skills he taught me so long ago have never left me. We were on the frontier, and it was a very special era. Losing my father was

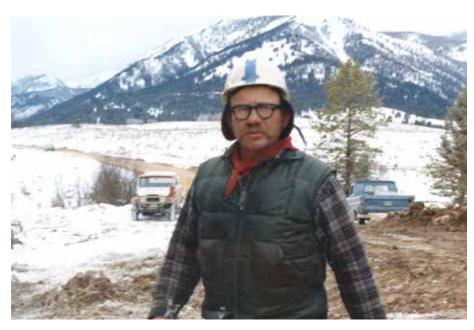
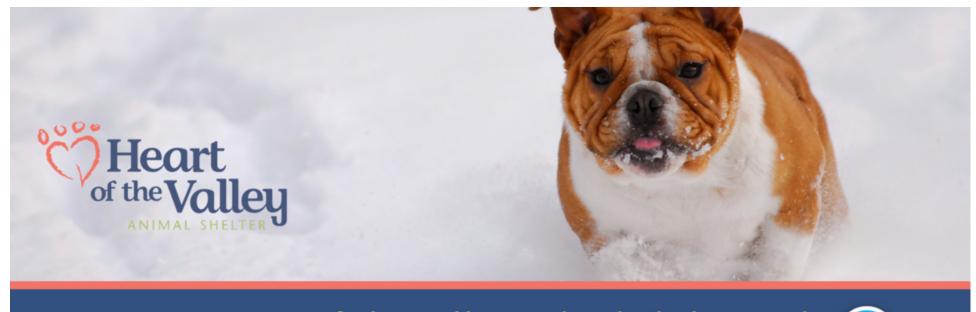


PHOTO BY COLIN KOBEL

hard; losing my friend and my dad's friend Devon White was equally hard. But looking back, I gain strength looking at a photo, shared in kindness and friendship among grieving survivors at a friend's memorial service. They were awesome people that did amazing things.

J.C. Knaub owns Andesite Construction and moved to Big Sky in June of 1973.



Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter and BIG SKY RESORT host the



2018 SNOWSHOE SHUFFLE AND RAFFLE

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New counselor joins Big Sky School District

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Since January, a new friendly face has been greeting students in the main office of Ophir Middle School and Lone Peak High School. Abby Villeneuve is the newest addition to the Big Sky School District staff, serving as the middle school and high school counselor.

Originally from southern California, Villeneuve is currently pursuing her master's in education for school counseling from Montana State University, after completing her undergraduate studies at the University of Idaho. She plans to graduate from the master's program in May.

"I like to live in new places and experience new places," Villeneuve said of her decision to come to Montana, adding that she also loves the outdoors.

As the school counselor, Villeneuve meets with students as needed in one-on-one visits. Currently, she is teaching a seventh-grade character education class, where students are learning important life skills like organization, time management, conflict resolution and coping strategies. She is also pursuing certification to be the testing coordinator for standardized tests like the PSAT and ACT.

Villeneuve said she is excited to be a part of the district and work in a small school setting, saying the students all have great relationships and have been going to school together for most of their lives.

"Everyone has been very welcoming," she added. "The staff is very friendly and supports each other in a lot of ways."

Villeneuve's mother was a social worker and her father was a police officer, "so public service is in our family nature," she said. "I've just always wanted to be that person for kids who don't have that support in their life. Some kids



Abby Villeneuve is the new school counsellor for Ophir Middle School and Lone Peak High School. PHOTO BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT

don't have an adult supporter anywhere else in their lives. ... It's really easy to come to school and focus on academics, but I think it's important to look at the student as a whole."

Villeneuve said she hopes to diminish counseling stereotypes and beliefs that suggest asking for help makes a person inferior, or that you have to be strong enough to do things by yourself. "I hope that I can normalize the experience that everyone struggles and that there's a person in the school that cares," she said





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CASCADE LOT 236A | \$325,000

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Beautiful and private, these parcels are located in the Porcupine Park Subdivision. Lot 40, at 6.34 acres plus an additional 22.58 acres of open space, and Lot 39, at 13.16 acres and accompanied by 8.87 acres of open space, give way to sweeping views to the south and east to the Gallatin Range and Porcupine Drainage. Mature, old-growth trees provide a beautiful backdrop for these very easy building sites. that are only minutes away from all of the wonderful $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right) +\left(1\right) \left(1\right) +\left(1\right$ outdoor activities the Big Sky area has to offer. // MICHAEL THOMAS | 406.581.2400



TBD LOOKING GLASS ROAD, LOT 45 | \$179,900

Close to Town Center and the Arnold Palmer designed Meadow Village Golf Course, this .36 +/- acre lot offers easy access to community amenities. Wander over to enjoy the movie theater, shops, the Farmer's Market and Music in the Mountains in the summer, the fire pit and ice skating rink in the winter or take the shuttle up the mountain for skiing. Views of the Gallatin Range and southern exposure add to your Meadow Village experience. // LYNN MILLIGAN | 406.581.2848





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Get more entrepreneurial insight from **Rich Barton**, one of the internet's true innovators as the co-founder of **Expedia**, **Zillow**, and **Glassdoor**, the following evening <u>Thursday</u>, <u>February 22 at 6:15pm</u> on the Montana State University Campus in Jabs Hall, Room 111

Both programs will be moderated by Dr. Kregg Aytes, Dean of the Jake Jabs College of Business & Entrepreneurship

Big Sky's limited transportation access deemed a hazard

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Gallatin County wrapped up the first round of community meetings addressing updates to the county's Hazard Mitigation and Community Wildfire Protection plans on Feb. 9 in Belgrade, after hosting additional sessions in Three Forks, Bozeman, West Yellowstone and Big Sky.

These meetings were the first step in reviewing and prioritizing risks to the communities and addressed area-specific concerns as the county proceeds with the routine update to the hazard plan.

Representatives from Gallatin County Emergency Management and the consulting firm Respec broke the county into five districts. The region encompassing Big Sky stretches north to the 35-mph bridge and south on Highway 191 to the Taylor Fork area and Yellowstone National Park boundary.

Among concerns raised during the Feb. 8 meeting in Big Sky were the threats of a mass casualty incident, ground transportation accidents and limited transportation access, which were identified as individual hazards but also recognized as being interconnected problems.

With a thriving tourism economy, growth in community events, and increasing bus traffic in Gallatin Canyon carrying skiers and commuters to Big Sky, individuals from the Big Sky Fire Department, U.S. Forest Service, Gallatin County Sheriff's Office, Yellowstone Club Fire Department, Big Sky Resort and Big Sky Resort Area District tax board all agreed that an incident whereby multiple people are injured is becoming more likely.

"When you look at the frequency with which we now have high-density events, it can have a really significant impact, whether that's PBR concerts [or] a big ski day," said Mike Unruh, mountain operations manager for Big Sky Resort. "I don't know our busiest day this year [at Big Sky Resort], but we have touched 8,000 in a regular ski day and event days can be bigger."

In addition to large congregations of people, the types of visitors to Big Sky could make the area a target for human-caused incidents such as terrorism or an active killer.

"The high level of personalities that could be in Big Sky on a given day could cause a problem," said Marianne Baumberger, fire information and education coordinator for the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

Big Sky has hosted former President Barack Obama and other well-known public figures. Additionally, on 9/11, directors of the Federal Emergency Management Agency were all in Big Sky, "which turned into a security nightmare," said Big Sky Fire Department Chief William Farhat.

According to Farhat, Big Sky is not equipped to handle mass illness or injury. "It can easily overwhelm us because we can have 15,000, 20,000 people here on a big day and we don't have the facilities—we're geared more for lower numbers," he said.

"From 2012 to now, the amount of traffic in the canyon has jumped exponentially," Farhat added. "One bus can hold 65 people. You have 45 injuries out of that and we could be overwhelmed. ... For us, that is treating the patients, and we have a transportation issue and potential hazmat issue. It can become a really big problem really fast."

He also added that if a traffic accident is south of the junction of Lone Mountain Trail and Highway 191, it could be difficult to transport victims to the hospital. In the event of a hazardous waste spill, the entire road through the canyon could be blocked, and the county's hazmat team is located in Bozeman.

"Our limited egress and ingress capacity means when we can get people out, we can't get resources in," Farhat said. "We know in this community that it's a very fragile transportation network, [and] it doesn't take much to disrupt and cause huge problems."

During this meeting, community members prioritized the list of 21 named risks to the area based on the item's likelihood of occurring and its potential impact on the population, property and the economy. The data gathered at each of the district meetings will be included as appendices in the final plan and will contribute to developing a county-wide risk assessment, the draft of which will be released this summer.

In addition to concerns over accessibility, transportation and mass injury, the Big Sky group identified wildfire and a critical infrastructure disruption as some of the top hazards for the area.

During a brief discussion on potential projects that could mitigate risks, the group considered creating a more resilient transportation network. Farhat also said coordination between Madison and Gallatin counties continues to be critical for Big Sky.

Every five years, federal law requires that local governments update their Hazard Mitigation Plan. The current process was initiated at the end of 2017 to update the 2012 plan. Grants to help fund pre-disaster actions and funding to support recovery efforts are only eligible to areas that have hazard plans and have participated in pre-disaster efforts.

This year's process will also include updates to the 2006 Community Wildfire Protection Plan, which is specific to wildfires and directly impacts actions taken by the Forest Service.

Patrick Lonergan, the director of Gallatin County Emergency Management, said a unique part of Big Sky is that a large portion of the area is surrounded in timber, putting the district at risk. One goal for the planners is to more clearly map out the wildland-urban interface throughout the county, he added. Jessica Haas, an ecologist for the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station, will help direct this process.

For more information about the county's updates to the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Protection Plan, visit readygallatin.com/mitigation.

KIDS CORNER



Ophir School awards next generation of scientists

Benji Saad (right) and Max Romney tied for first place in the Ophir Middle School science fair for a project that experimented with growing plants using different colored LED lights. They tied with fellow seventh grader Soren Swenson who researched sound effects on drinking glasses. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

Town Center matriarch Jean Simkins turns 95

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BOZEMAN – When Bob Simkins returned to Bozeman from World War II in 1945, he scooped up his new bride Jean and, with only \$5,000 in his pocket, they moved to West Yellowstone to open a lumberyard with Bob's parents, Glen and Theresa.

But after the war lumber was scarce, so in the early days their shop had to diversify.

"At first we had to sell anything we could get our hands on," Jean said during a 2017 interview at her assisted living apartment in Bozeman. "We sold furniture, paint—anything we could find to buy, really, because there wasn't a lot for sale then."

In 1946, the Simkins partnered with their friend Pete Hallin, a construction foreman in Yellowstone National Park, to form the lumber company Simkins-Hallin.

Jean, who turns 95 on Feb. 25, remembers the West Yellowstone years with fondness and a frequent chuckle.

"There weren't that many people there, but the ones that were there were very close," Jean said, naming many couples that became lifelong friends like Wally and Frankie Eagle. The Eagles were among the first residents of West and owned Eagle's Store, which still stands on the corner of Yellowstone Avenue and North Canyon Street.

When asked about the long, cold, isolated winters, Jean shrugged and said she was too busy working in the store to focus on that, keeping the books, stocking the shelves and doing whatever else needed to be done.

"There is a lot to do when you start from scratch and have very little money," she said.

Jean may have kept busy, but many of the other 100 or less year-round residents at the time spent the winters drinking and gambling.

Jean remembers having to carry special drills in their hardware store so gamblers could load their dice.

Jean remembers having to carry special drills in their hardware store so gamblers could load their dice. She also shared an anecdote from those "wild and woolly" times when a local man shot a moose on main street in plain view of tourists—and the game warden.

"There weren't too many rules in West Yellowstone back then and the game warden didn't enforce [them]," she said. "They had all been there for so long, doing what they wanted, and didn't want anyone to tell them otherwise."

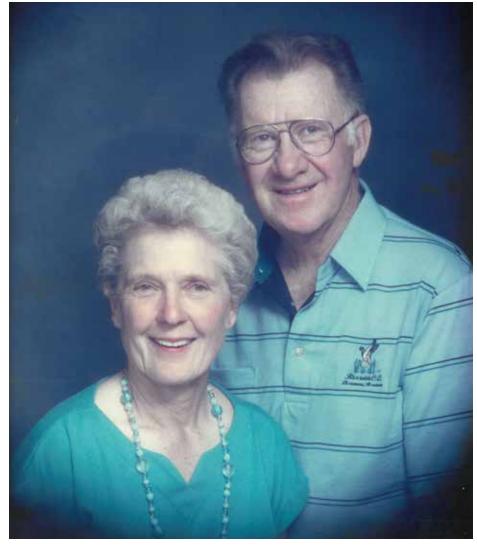
In 1950, Bob and Jean moved back to Bozeman with their growing family to operate a lumberyard on Wallace Street, which would relocate to Broadway Avenue in 1992.

Sometime in the 1950s, the Simkins bought Hallin out, but nearly 75 years later the company remains Simkins-Hallin, in tribute to their dear family friend.

Jean's reminiscences of the past invariably return to her husband Bob.



Bob and Jean Simkins founded Simkins-Hallin in West Yellowstone in 1946. Years later, after buying land in the Big Sky area, the family would become the master developers of Big Sky Town Center.



Jean Simkins, pictured here with her late husband Bob Simkins, celebrates her 95th birthday on Feb. 25. PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE SIMKINS FAMILY

"He just loved land," she said more than once. "Any time he had a dime he bought land."

He also had an instinct for buying land in the vicinity of outdoor recreational areas, as he had around Bridger Bowl Ski Area, outside of Bozeman.

In 1970, when he heard about Chet Huntley's dream of building Big Sky Resort, he made a deal with the owners of Sappington Ranch, who ran cattle in the Big Sky area. Bob offered to trade the land he had bought near their Three Forks-area ranch for the 3,680 acres in Big Sky.

The acreage was split into six different sections that included land behind Buck's T-4 Lodge, where the Simkins kept their horses and went on frequent rides with friends up Michener Creek; the "sagebrush flats" or current location of Town Center; and property near Ousel Falls.

Today, the Town Center parcel and the "Upland" parcel across the South Fork down Aspen Leaf Drive are the only ones still owned by the Simkins family, having sold, donated or traded away the rest of the original ranch property.

Bob's son, Bill Simkins, shared a story about how Huntley approached his father in the early '70s and asked him to trade the land where the sewer ponds currently sit. In their plans for the resort, Huntley and his team of engineers had been remiss in securing an adequate site for the infrastructure.

Simkins agreed to donate the land with the contingency that he would retain water and sewer rights.

Although they had settled in Bozeman, Jean and Bob Simkins skied Big Sky Resort just about every weekend, hosting family and friends at their Glacier condominium and house on Curley Bear Road, until Bob's death in 1993.

Jean is very proud of her family's role in the development of Town Center. Although development may be perceived as happening quickly, planning actually dates back to the early 1980s, with the first residential project completed in 2003, and the first commercial project completed in 2005.

Today, Simkins-Hallin remains a family business. Jean's sons Bill and Tom, and grandsons Rick and Brodey, divide their efforts between the real estate companies for which Town Center is currently the main project, and the lumber company in Bozeman.

"Thank goodness all my kids grew up in it, and liked it, and are still doing it," Jean said. "And doing a good job."

PTO Pie Auction second highest fundraising effort in 38 years

EBS STAFF

The annual Big Sky PTO Pie Auction on Feb. 10 exceeded last year's fundraising efforts with gross proceeds totaling just over \$105,000 for the Big Sky School District. This year's sum came in second only after the 2007 event grossed \$137,000.

In addition to digitizing the bidding platform online, organizers hosted the event at Rainbow Ranch Lodge and offered live, local entertainment in a refashioning of a tradition that started 38 years ago as a community bake sale.

"We knew it was a risk to make changes to an event that has a deep history," said PTO President Callie Pecunies. "But we were thrilled to see that our idea of giving the event a makeover was even more successful than we could have hoped."

There were 166 registered attendees at this year's event, and proceeds make up the PTO's entire annual budget. About \$30,000 will go toward school ski programs, \$10,000 to support the eighth-grade trip to Washington D.C., \$8,000 for the fourth grade Expedition Yellowstone program and \$4,000 to fund the spring musical. About \$16,500 will go toward classroom supplies and field trips.

The district's school ski program allows students K-8 to ski at Big Sky Resort three times each season and twice at Lone Mountain Ranch. Even with generous donations from the community, the program still demands approximately one third of the PTO's annual budget.

Nearly 20 pies were donated for the event, a portion of which raised \$3,600 in a live auction. Those remaining were distributed to tables based on how much money the diners pooled together as a direct donation for the ski program. This new twist on the bake sale raised \$9,400 and the highest amount paid for a pie was \$1,200.



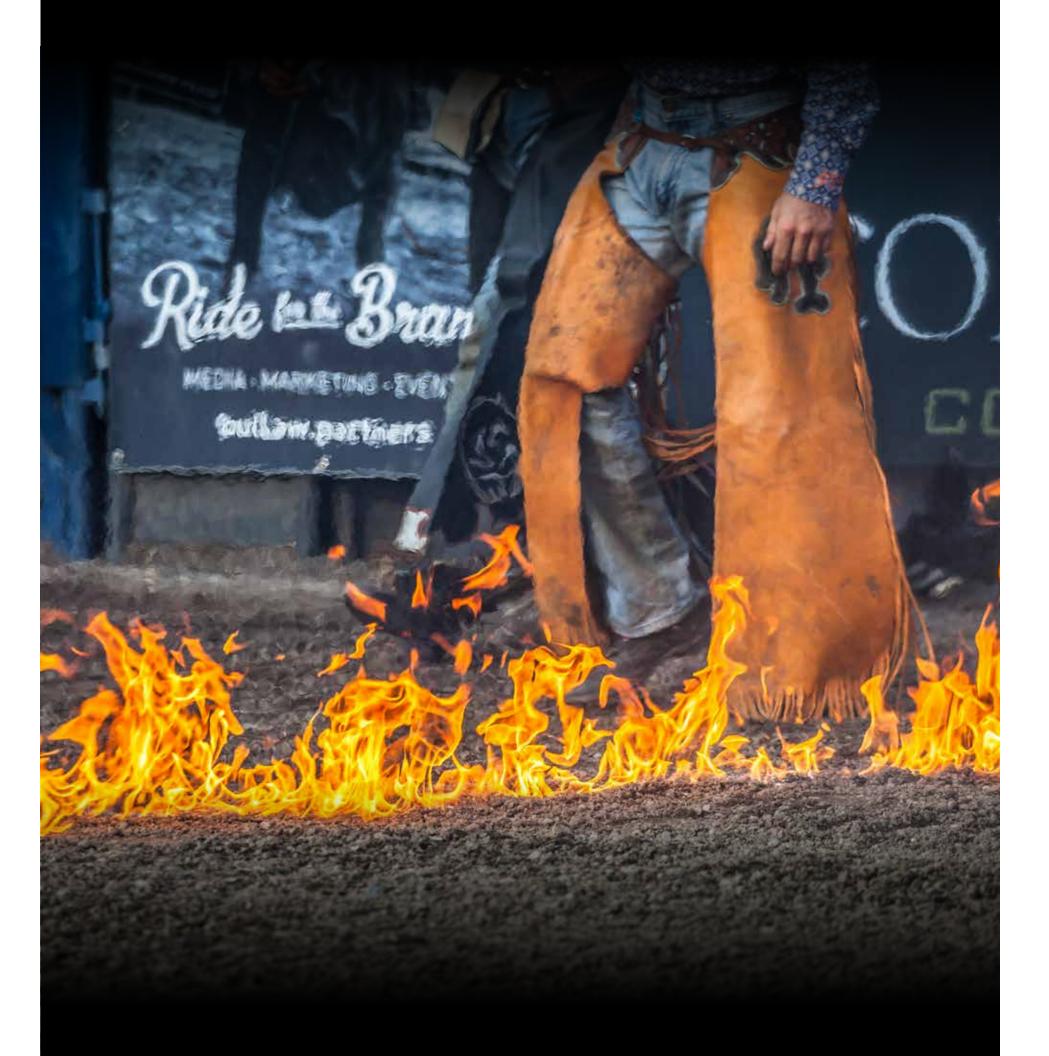
An autographed Tom Brady jersey and four tickets to a New England Patriots' home game took home the highest bid of \$6,000 at the annual Big Sky PTO Pie Auction fundraiser. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

The highest price paid for a live auction item was \$6,000 for an autographed Tom Brady jersey and four tickets to a New England Patriots' home game, while Red Sox tickets and four nights in a downtown Boston apartment sold for \$2,900. During the silent auction, the highest bid went for a series of piano lessons with Big Sky teacher Klaudia Kosiak, selling for \$1,500, closely followed by a \$1,320 bid for the Big Sky Resort Rockstar Parking Pass.

Pecunies said the biggest surprise of the night came when an annual massage package at OZssage came up for bid during the live auction. When two bidders expressed interest in the item, the donor, Jacqui Rager, offered a second package to satisfy both. "It was incredibly generous of her to do that, and beneficial for the PTO financially."



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Section 2:ENVIRONMENT,
SPORTS & DINING







The New West: 'Liberal media' as elusive as Bigfoot in rural West



BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

By the nature of what I am fortunate to do, moving peripatetically as an old-school dinosaur journalist from story to story, I spend a lot of time traversing Montana, Wyoming and other rural corners of the West.

When my family takes vacations, we prefer road trips to flying, and two-lane highways over interstates—dirt county roads and small towns are even better. We enjoy eating pie in local mom-and -pop greasy spoons rather than at fast-food franchises.

More recently, we've savored podcasts delivered to us via cellphone and satellite radio. But for a long time, passage through the Western hinterlands ensured something else.

You see and hear a lot of things out on the open road. Second only to Sasquatch, one of the most elusive rural beasts stalking the big open is the mythical "liberal media."

"Over and over again, their interpretation of reality is jack-hammered into the skull, feeding into the whirlpool of a constant feedback loop of "information" that, were it ever actually subjected to serious rebuttal, would never hold up."

Oh sure, it is purported to lurk, but save for coming within range of public radio, seldom is heard a discouraging word challenging the constant thrum of commentary heard in the voices of Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, Glen Beck, Michael Savage, Laura Ingraham and others.

Over and over again, their interpretation of reality is jack-hammered into the skull, feeding into the whirlpool of a constant feedback loop of "information" that, were it ever actually subjected to serious rebuttal, would never hold up.

Climate change: a hoax invented by the Chinese; President Barack Obama: born in Kenya and involved with a conspiracy to overthrow capitalism; Democrats: godless because their Jesus is different from ours; Women advocating for equal standing in the workplace: feminazis; wolves: wiping out ranchers, threatening children at bus stops and decimating our big game herds.

And there's this: Agenda 21, Freemasons, Jews, the Rockefellers, the Trilateral Commission, George Soros, the United Nations and all non-white males scheming clandestinely to create a "One-World Government."

Soon, if we aren't careful and vigilant, we're told, they will succeed in fomenting a takeover of local county planning and zoning and steal our private property rights.

They want to put chips in our brains to control our thoughts and establish Sharia law, empowering healthcare death panels that will determine how

we live and die and oh, by the way, black helicopters were recently spotted dumping more wolves into Yellowstone—because the secret, unspoken desire of radical environmentalists is to destroy our elk.

You can motor for hours on end and not escape such banter, like an endless theatrical performance of Orson Welles' "War of the Worlds."

If you are so inclined to believe it, advertisers are happily ready to sell you everything you need: gold for hoarding, freeze-dried food packaged in 5-gallon buckets to stow in the bunkers and lots of guns because, right now, Sen. Chuck Schumer, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, former Sen. Harry Reid and jack-booted thugs working for the federal government are coming for our 12-gauges and 30.06s.

That's why it's wise to be ready with semi-automatics and bump stocks.

Over and over again such warnings are repeated daily on rural radio, like incantations recited by a cult, unchallenged by anything remotely representing reality.

Is it any mystery why the gospel of alternative facts is embedded so deeply in the psyche of rural Westerners?

Now the Trump administration, along with its allied commentators and stations broadcasting them, are telling Congress—including lawmakers raised on the above radio waves—that Americans shouldn't shell out a penny of their hard-earned tax dollars to support "leftist" entities like PBS and NPR, or the National Endowment for the Humanities and National Endowment for the Arts.

Instead, citizens should, by act of faith, be pouring billions and trillions of dollars into bolstering military defense—an area of government that largely escapes serious scrutiny of wasteful spending, cost overruns, lack of fiscal accountability, equipment that doesn't always work, stealth bombers that military experts say aren't needed, and billions of dollars unaccounted for in the Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns.

Of course, if you're listening to media in the rural West, you know that scrutinizing such stuff doesn't matter because the "liberal media" is part of a conspiracy to destroy America. That's why we also need to spend billions of dollars on a wall, not only along the U.S.-Mexico border to keep unwanteds out, but we must continue constructing walls between ourselves.

The enemy isn't coming; it's already here.

For proof, all you need to do is listen to all those liberal radio channels blaring from the dashboard of the pickup.

Oh, you can't find it? Strange. It's there somewhere, and if you can't see it that's because the liberals are succeeding in their Agenda 21 plot to make the dials invisible.

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













County commission takes heat for position on wilderness, wild and scenic

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – The Gallatin County Commission upheld its decision to submit comments on the recently released draft of the Custer Gallatin National Forest Plan during a public meeting Feb. 6, stating that the commission doesn't currently support wilderness or wild and scenic river designations in Gallatin County.

The comment letter reads, "We are not opposed to designations for wild and scenic rivers or wilderness. However, we cannot support designations that will prevent the Forest Service's ability to manage and protect our resources, our citizens and our economic sectors such as recreation. ... We are open to discussions about wild and scenic river designations, but currently do not support them in Gallatin County due to the impacts [on] private property and the loss of flexibility when a need for management arises."

Approximately 20 opponents to the letter appeared at the commission meeting and spoke against it, citing wide local support for protective designations to ensure healthy, free-flowing rivers and ecologically diverse open land for the future.

"The Gallatin River is storied and exceptional and it's in our backyard," said Bozeman resident Sally Dickinson. "I think it's our responsibility, since it's in our backyard, to protect it to the highest degree."

Following the meeting, Charles Wolf Drimal, waters program associate for the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, wrote in an email to EBS, "Wild and scenic and wilderness are two common sense solutions to protect clean water, wildlife and traditional recreation on public lands. Every single public testimony expressed this sentiment to the county commission. But today the voice of public consensus fell on deaf ears."

During the public hearing, speakers also expressed concern for the public process, saying the commission did not give advance notice of the hearing, and wasn't specific in their published agenda.

"The open meeting law makes it very clear that elected officials should be very specific in their agenda items. ... When I look at the agenda, there's no word 'wild,' there's no word 'scenic,' there's no word 'river,'" said Scott Bosse, Northern Rockies director of the water conservation group American Rivers.

"We acknowledge, as we did at the hearing, that this planning revision does not make designations of wild and scenic or wilderness," wrote Commissioner Joe Skinner in an email to EBS. "This is the comment period and the commission feels that this is the appropriate time to make our comments concerning these issues based on a public health, safety and welfare perspective. We just want to comment that there are consequences to these designations that go beyond the boundaries of the designations and that these consequences must be considered when discussing potential areas to designate."

The Forest Service released a nearly 200-page draft plan for the Custer Gallatin on Jan. 3, as a rough revision to the 1986 and 1987 plans. As a federally mandated requirement, planners identified all rivers eligible for wild and scenic designation under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Planners also proposed several areas as recommended wilderness as a starting point for public feedback and consideration for the National Wilderness Preservation System. Ultimately, it takes an act of Congress to officially designate a wild and scenic river or wilderness area.

The agency identified 31 eligible rivers in the Custer Gallatin National Forest, including the Gallatin River for its "outstanding qualities" related to recreation, scenery and heritage. Once the final forest plan is approved at the end of 2019, those rivers that have been identified as eligible will be managed in a way that preserves these qualities.

During the commission's hearing, American Rivers' Northern Rockies Associate Director Mike Fiebig said that per the federal mandate, wild and scenic eligibility is supposed to be objective and if a river is found to meet the criteria of being free-flowing and exhibiting one of several outstanding qualities, it will be recognized in the Forest Service plan.

"It doesn't have to do with social considerations, it doesn't have to do with economic considerations, it doesn't have to do with political considerations," he said.

Fiebig is currently working with the coalition Montanans for Healthy Rivers in an effort to designate East Rosebud Creek wild and scenic, which originates in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness and flows into the Yellowstone River west of Columbus. In December 2017, the bill that would make this designation passed with unanimous support from the U.S. Senate and is currently under consideration in the House.

"That's an interesting contrast from what we heard from the commission yesterday," Fiebig said in an interview. "We have this bipartisan bill for wild and scenic designation, for a river just down the road from us, fully supported by locals, and that didn't affect the commission's standing."

In addition to identifying eligible rivers in the proposed plan, the Forest Service also proposes lands to be considered for wilderness designation as a starting point for public input. Four areas have been identified in southwest Montana: 70,614 acres of the Gallatin Crest from Hyalite Peak to Yellowstone National Park, which includes a portion of the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area; the 14,287-acre Sawtooth area near Gardiner; the 4,466-acre Taylor Hilgard area in the Madison Range; and 17,983 acres of the Lionhead in the Henry's Lake Mountains.



The Gallatin River near Big Sky. The Gallatin is one of 31 rivers in the Custer Gallatin National Forest identified in a draft forest plan as potentially eligible for wild and scenic designation. PHOTO BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT

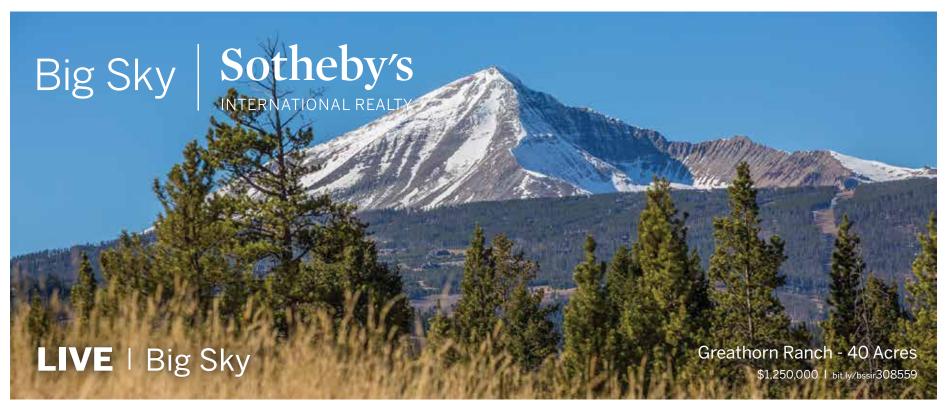
The remaining portion of the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area has three management proposals: as a backcountry area where motorized or mechanized use might be suitable; as a recreation-emphasis area; or as an inventoried roadless area with no additional management overlaps.

"These acreages and designations are just starting points that can change or vary based on analysis, alternatives still to be made, public comment and decision maker authority through another two years of the planning process," said Forest Service spokeswoman Mariah Leuschen-Lonergan. "At this point, this is only step two and recommendations to Congress do not occur until much later at the decision point in late 2019."

Following the public comment period, the agency will establish alternatives this spring and summer, and seek comments on a draft plan that includes deeper analysis sometime in the fall.

The comment period to respond to the draft plan runs through March 5. Weekly webinars where specialists are available to answer questions have been held throughout the comment period, with the remaining sessions scheduled for Feb. 20 at 5 p.m., and Feb. 26 at 1 p.m.

To view a copy of the draft Custer Gallatin National Forest plan, visit www. fs.usda.gov/detail/custergallatin. There is also a printed copy of the forest plan available at the Big Sky Community Library.

















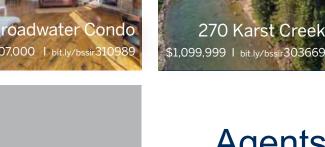








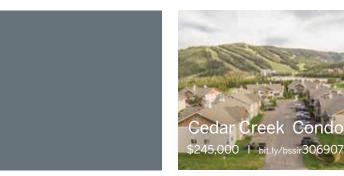
















Bighorns crush Sheridan in last home game

BY DAN KELLY EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY - The Lone Peak Big Horns defeated the Sheridan Panthers 74-52 in an electric home performance on Feb. 9. Their final regular season game was the last home game for departing seniors Jackson Wade, Liam Germain and Ethan Schumacher, three linchpins of the Big Horns' lineup.

Wade continued to be a physical presence on the low post, snatching up rebounds on both ends of the floor and contesting shots by the Panthers in the paint as well as putting up 12 points for the night.

Germain, a guard who has earned a reputation as a lock-down defender and unselfish passer, put heavy pressure on the Panthers backcourt, forcing steals and finding open passing lanes for his teammates against the 2-3 zone defense of Sheridan.

Schumacher swatted shots, fought for rebounds and used his 6-foot-6 frame to his advantage, demonstrating remarkable progression in his first year playing basketball, and proof of his hard work and dedication under Head Coach Austin Barth and Assistant John Hannahs.

"To win their last game at home is something they will always remember," Barth said. "Those three have been great leaders ... Ethan came such a long way this season, Jackson and Liam have been a part of this program and for them to come in and buy into a new coach and a new culture was a great example to set for the other players."

The Big Horns and Panthers alternated scoring runs throughout the first quarter with the 2-3 zone of Sheridan proving troublesome early on for Lone Peak. By midway through the second quarter, Germain and sophomore Austin Samuels were slashing into the passing lanes to collapse the zone and free up outside shooters, getting the Big Horns rolling.



Ethan Schumacher (#24) goes up for the tip-off against Sheridan as fellow seniors Liam Germain (#20) and Jackson Wade (#10) look on. PHOTO BY DAN KELLY

Junior Cole March had a career night, setting a school record by hitting six 3-pointers in the game. "He came close to breaking that record a couple times this year. For him to do it in the last home game was awesome to see,"

Barth said

Up 35-23 at the half, the Big Horns knew they still had a lot of game left and came out of the locker room fired up. Lone Peak proceeded to go absolutely ballistic on the Panthers in the third quarter, scoring 25 points from all over the court.

Wade battled inside, making a tough put-back shot, drawing a foul and converting the free throw, while sophomore Frankie Starz hit shots from the perimeter and off the dribble. Samuels and March added buckets along the way to an 18-2 run orchestrated in part by the calm and collected passing of Germain and junior guard Kolya Bough.

Up 60-36 at the start of the final quarter, reality began to sink in for the departing seniors as they played their final minutes on the court at Lone Peak High School. Students, parents and fans applauded the senior trio of Wade, Germain and Schumacher as they left the court after a timeout called with just over two minutes remaining in the game.

"All of these seniors were great to have on the team," Barth said. "They did a great job being role models for the players coming up and I can't wait to see what they go on to do after their time at Lone Peak."

Results of the Feb.15 District 11C Tournament Game against White Sulphur Springs were not available at EBS press time. Win or lose, the Lone Peak Big Horns will continue to play in the tournament on Friday, Feb. 16, and Saturday, Feb. 17, at Manhattan Christian's Memorial Events Center in Churchill, Montana.

Visit montanasports.com for a complete, updated tournament schedule.

Lady Bighorns pummel Panthers on way to districts

BY DAN KELLY EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Lone Peak's Lady Big Horns ended the regular season on a high note against Sheridan on Feb. 9, winning 55-33 over the Sheridan Panthers. Playing before stands packed with parents, friends and supporters from around the Big Sky community, the Lady Big Horns did not disappoint on Senior Day.

In their last home game at Lone Peak High School, seniors K.P. Hoffman and Jay Cole led their team to a double-digit win as the team prepared for the district tournament which began Feb. 15 and continues through Saturday Feb. 17, at Manhattan Christian. Together, the two seniors bagged 35 points on their way to an emphatic LPHS victory.

Cole tied her own season record for three pointers in a single game, draining six shots from beyond the arc and scoring 23 points in the game. She continued to facilitate good ball movement facing the 2-3 zone of the Panthers, a defensive formation that had given the Lady Big Horns trouble earlier in the season.

Hoffman had 13 points of her own and continued to be a physical presence on the post, extending her streak of double-doubles for the Lady Bi Hhorns with another strong rebounding game. Hoffman also was 3 for 4 from the free-throw line, finishing her career shooting 81 percent from the foul line.

Head Coach Ausha Cole was impressed by watching her team find their stride going into districts. "I think we are in a good place momentum-wise and we are hitting our peak at the right moment," she said.

Leading 31-10 at half and firmly in control of the game, many of the younger players on the team clocked the most minutes they had seen this season, providing a glimpse into the future of the Lady Big Horns. The Panthers tried to claw their way back, but the Big Horns kept their lead intact and continued to put points on the board.

Cole drained a three, then got a steal on the next possession and scored a breakaway basket that cemented the lead for Lone Peak at 41-17 with 3:50 remaining in the third quarter. The score was 55-28 as the seniors left the court for the final time at LPHS with just over two minutes remaining in the game. They came off the court to a standing ovation filled with raucous applause from the crowds of supporters.

During half-time of the boys' basketball game, there was a special ceremony for senior basketball players and cheerleaders from LPHS. Cole, Hoffman and cheerleader Abi



Senior guard Jay Cole sets up the offense for Lone Peak on Senior Day. PHOTO BY DAN KELLY

Hogan were joined by their parents as teammates and coaches read speeches highlighting the student-athletes' accomplishments.

At the end of heartfelt words that summed up each girl's contributions to their team and school, there was another round of applause for the seniors.

Coach Cole emphasized the contributions of her departing seniors Hoffman and Cole. In a post-game interview, she highlighted their attributes as players and team leaders.

"They have proven themselves to be very valuable to this team," Cole said. "[They] are huge contributors to our scoring game and K.P. is one of our key rebounders and defenders. They both love to win and are willing to do what it takes ... a quality that is hard to find in young athletes."

Results of the Feb.15 District 11C Tournament Game against Gardiner were not available at EBS press time. Win or lose, the Lady Big Horns will continue to play in the tournament on Friday, Feb. 16, and Saturday, Feb. 17, at Manhattan Christian's Memorial Events Center in Churchill, Montana.

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

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

Mountain Village to Town Center Bus Schedule (Heading Down)

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

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

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South Korea dreaming

U.S. athletes find that getting to the Winter Olympics may be the hardest discipline of all

BY TYLER ALLEN EBS MANAGING EDITOR

As anyone in the Northern Rockies will tell you, skiing is an expensive sport. To compete at the highest level can be a monumental cost.

In March 2017, Canada's government committed an extra \$5 million of its federal budget to its Athlete Assistance Program, which helps pay cost-of-living expenses for its Olympic competitors. An 18 percent increase in funding, it brings the monthly stipend to nearly \$1,800 in Canadian dollars for Olympians.

The U.S. government doesn't pay its athletes a cent, and we're the only large country in the world that doesn't commit federal funds to our Olympic team. Unless you have lucrative sponsorship deals like Lindsey Vonn or Shaun White—who won his third snowboarding halfpipe gold medal Feb. 14—getting to PyeongChang, Korea, for the 2018 Olympic and Paralympic games is a financial Everest to summit.

Andrew Kurka grew up in Palmer, Alaska, and was a six-time state champion in freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling. When an ATV accident resulted in three damaged vertebrae, his career on the mat was over at age 13. But two years later he tried a monoski for the first time and his athletic talents translated to the snow—in 2017 he won gold, silver and bronze medals in Alpine skiing at the World Championships in Tarvisio, Italy.

It wasn't an easy road for Kurka to reach the pinnacle of his sport. Growing up with a single mother supporting two boys, the expense of skiing was out of reach for the family.

"I actually had to go to a local mall and ask people for a dollar and two dollar donations to join the ski club so I could be a ski racer," Kurka said. "I was able to raise \$350 and ... literally lived at the ski resort for three or four days a week."

During the summer he would work two jobs to pay for his winter passion, eventually earning a spot on the U.S. team when he moved to Aspen, Colorado, to train with the Paralympic Development Program. Even after moving to Aspen for the winters, he continued to work two jobs in Alaska during the offseason, queuing up tracks as a radio DJ and managing retail personnel at a Sportsman's Warehouse.

"Ski racing is expensive," says Olympic gold medalist Ted Ligety, who took fifth in the Alpine combined Feb. 13. "My parents spent a lot of money to get me on the U.S. Ski Team. Even once you make the U.S. Ski Team, you get handed a 20-plus thousand dollar bill."

One of the best giant slalom skiers in history, Ligety won his first Olympic gold medal at the 2006 Turin games at age 21, the youngest American male to ever take gold in Alpine skiing. He cemented his legacy at the 2014 Sochi Olympics with another ground-breaking performance, earning the United States its first ever men's giant slalom gold.

Ligety said he's lucky to be where he is today. Though it didn't hurt that he grew up in the winter sports mecca of Park City, Utah, U.S. skiers are at a major financial disadvantage to their European counterparts, even those that aren't on the top-tier teams for their respective countries.

"They're actually making a normal salary with benefits on top of what they make



Ted Ligety skiing at the 2016 Putnam Investments NASTAR Pacesetting in Copper, Colorado. Ligety took fifth in the Alpine combined Feb. 13 in PyeongChang. PHOTO BY TRIPP FAY



Mikaela Shiffrin at the FIS Alpine Skiing World Cup in Semmering, Austria, in December 2016. Shiffrin was skiing for a gold medal in the giant slalom when EBS went to press on Feb. 14. PHOTO BY ERICH SPIESS/RED BULL CONTENT POOL

in their ski career. I mean that's unheard of as an American," he said. "The $40^{\rm th}$ [ranked skier] in the world in Europe can actually sustain a living, where if you're $40^{\rm th}$ in the world [from] the U.S. you're writing big checks every year."

Geography helps his competitors too. European races are typically within a day's drive from each other, whereas American skiers often have to fly to contests, incurring the associated costs of hauling their quiver of skis.

"I make a good living, but that next group of guys are basically going into debt every year," Ligety said. "It's the unfortunate reality of a lot of our sports, especially in skiing."

The athletes competing in PyeongChang didn't only surmount financial hurdles to reach the world's biggest stage. Skiing, especially, is a sport that can exact a huge toll on the loved ones supporting Olympic dreams.

Mikaela Shiffrin exploded onto the alpine skiing circuit as a teenage prodigy in 2011, making her World Cup debut at age 15, and took her first podium later that season, earning a Rookie of the Year nod. After taking the overall World Cup slalom title in 2013, she won Olympic gold in Sochi, Russia, becoming the youngest slalom champion ever. Of the young boys and girls who'll are watching her try to repeat golden success in PyeongChang she's cautious of giving them full-throated encouragement to try to follow in her ski tracks.

"You wanna say, 'If this is you're dream go for it,' because ideally just being able to have the dream, have the passion and work hard would be enough," she said. You can't just go down to the local tennis court to practice, Shiffrin added, you need to get on the snow year round when you're competing at an international level. And that means training in South America or New Zealand during our summers. "So, it's very, very difficult and it causes a lot of stress in families and I think, to be honest, it breaks families apart to have to deal with the stress of ski racing."

The U.S. Olympic Committee is trying to address the hardship that Olympic dreams can exact on athletes and their families. Without the benefit of federal dollars, our elite athletes look to sponsorships, fundraising and, recently, help from the United States Olympic and Paralympic Foundation, which was founded in 2013.

The organization serves as the primary fundraising source for the USOC. Dan Zelson, a second homeowner in Big Sky, Montana, joined the board six years ago to pair his love for the games with a commitment to philanthropy. He's one of a handful of board members with homes in the Yellowstone Club.

"It seemed like a pretty good fit," Zelson said. "We've always been involved in charitable [causes]. A lot of it, unfortunately, is some of the sadder stuff, medical causes and hunger.

"You hear about families that give up everything to pay for training, or travel [by] car and sleep in the car, the stories continue that way over and over again. It's definitely a hard life, but I think the rewards in the end are pretty special."

Zelson sees Olympic athletes as the epitome of role models for the nation's youth, despite the spotlight only illuminating their talents every four years.

"I've always been a huge fan of the Olympics," Zelson said. "I used to be the kid that would hang the American flag off the back of the TV and stay up late at night to watch all of the events." He said his own kids have always admired professional football and baseball players, but he wanted to expose them to athletes that need all the right things—hard work, opportunity and a little bit of luck—to align at once to be successful in competition.

While it troubles him that American athletes have to compete against a pool of well-funded talent from the other large countries in the world, he sees value in the independence our Olympic athletes have—they're not de facto employees of the state.

"It's sort of a proud tradition that the athletes stand separate from the government, and that way they're not influencing their true amateur [status]," Zelson said. "You could make an argument that a country like China that puts billions of dollars into their program, they're really professional athletes competing for their country, versus a country like the United States that doesn't do that."

Zelson says most Americans don't realize that these competitors—with the support of the foundation—are funding their own training, travel, equipment and living expenses.

His current passion is working with the Athlete Career Education program, created to give athletes real-world skills they take with them when the spotlight of the Olympic games has dimmed. Approximately 120 companies are involved, including Dick's Sporting Goods, which has a program called The Contenders that employs Olympic hopefuls while they train, and hires them as spokespeople for the stores and brand.

USOC-ACE also offers career transition workshops, training and mentorship, as well as tuition grants and continuing education programs.

"Ultimately, as a group we're going to figure out a way to take care of these athletes," Zelson said. "It's almost like the GI bill—[if] you serve this country in the military, your college is paid for and it really should be for the Olympics. There should be a way that you have a job waiting for you, training waiting for you and education waiting for you."

Mark Urich nearly qualified for the Sochi Olympics despite learning how to ski just three years before the 2014 games, and again fell just short of making the 2018 U.S. Paralympic Ski Team. The Colorado native was born with a birth defect that left his femur deformed and without a fibula in his right leg, and at age 2 his leg was amputated to ensure a better prosthetic fit.

He moved to Big Sky in the fall of 2014 after a brutal assault by gang members caused him to leave his native Denver, Colorado. He's sponsored by the Yellowstone Club, which supports him with a modest amount of cash, and works for himself as a graphic and web designer—often at night after full days of training—to support his competitive pursuits.

Urich is still on the development team, so he pays everything out of pocket and says financial backing doesn't come easily to him and his teammates. A fundraiser in November at Big Sky's Beehive Basin Brewery netted him nearly \$1,000, but that's a small dent in the \$15,000 he expects this season's campaign to cost.

"Finding sponsorships for the Paralympics is a huge ordeal," Urich said. "They don't televise Paralympics [and] there's not a lot of exposure in our sport in general."

The running joke among his teammates is that people will ask what type of skis they like to race with—and the honest answer is whatever's free, he says.

He says that one silver lining of having one leg is that a pair of skis will give him one to race with and one to train on. He thought he had a sponsorship lined up with Rossignol and, with humor in his voice, said they sent him a single, used slalom ski—without a binding.

Urich's love for the sport and the camaraderie he has with his teammates is palpable, and that makes all of the training and fundraising worth it. He threw many thousands of dollars at a dream that did not materialize this year, though if it had, he said he would have sold everything to get himself halfway across the world for a chance to perform at the ultimate contest in his sport.

Zelson says stories like Urich's or Andrew Kurka's are more rule than exception for Olympic and Paralympic hopefuls. The determination and focus they bring to their training, fitness and nutrition can help them overcome the enormous financial odds stacked against them.

"These kids are so determined that one way or another they're going to figure it out on their own," he said. But Zelson hopes that through the work of USOPF one day the costs won't be a distraction from the pursuit of Olympic gold.

"These athletes should only be focused on their training," Zelson said. "If people really understood how our athletes are funded ... they would step up in a big way to make that change."

Whether the day ever comes when U.S. Olympic and Parlaympic athletes have the financial support to focus solely on their training, the message from our country's elite skiers to the next generation of world-class competitors is one of grit and determination.

For alpine skiers, the money's at the top

The best skiers in the world make a good living with prize money and lucrative endorsement deals, but if you're not one of the elite racers the income is modest. Comparing the top money winners in professional golf, another sport with prize money income, illustrates that the money in skiing is mostly reserved for those who podium.

\$3,000,000

2,500,000

2,000,000

1,500,000

1,000,000

500,000

Mikaela Shiffrin was the No. 1 prize money winner on the 2016-2017 World Cup circuit at

\$604,523

lacqueline Wiles was the No. 40 money winner at

\$20,309

Golfer Ariya Jutanugarn took home

\$2,000,94

as the No. 1 money winner on the 2016 LPGA tour.

Moriya Jutanugarn was the No. 40 money winner at \$446,948



Sources: https://data.fis-ski.com/alpine-skiing/prize-money-ranking.html, http://www.lpga.com/statistics/money/official-money?year=2016, http://www.thesportsexaminer.com/download/makes-track-stars-world-cup-skiers/?wpdmdl=2771

"All I could tell those young kids is 'have the passion," Shiffrin said. "There's a lot of days ... [that] are going to be really frustrating, when you feel like you can't get there, you can't get to where you want to be. But those moments of success, whatever you define success as, they're incredible and it makes it so worth it."

With the world's attention turned to the slopes of PeongChang, you won't just see the pinnacle of athletic preparation. In the American athletes, you'll see the culmination of hard-fought victory already won.

A version of this story was first published in the winter 2018 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine, on newsstands now.

Q&A with freeride athlete Nehalem Manka

EBS STAFF

Lone Peak freshman Nehalem Manka is no stranger to the podium at International Freeskiers & Snowboarders Association (IFSA) events. Below, the standout freeride athlete answers questions about her success on the slopes and her goals as a big mountain skier.

Explore Big Sky: When and where did you start skiing?

Nehalem Manka: I started skiing when I was about two years old at Mount Bachelor in Oregon. I started ski racing with Big Sky Ski Education Foundation when I was five and have skied at Big Sky ever since.

EBS: When did you start competing in freeride events?

N.M.: I started competing when I was ten and won my first competition which was the Headwaters Spring Runoff. I broke my leg the season after that and wasn't able to compete, but as soon as I was back on my feet and skiing, I continued competing.

EBS: You finished first in Jackson Hole, your first competition of the 2018 season. How did you feel about your performance? What went right?

N.M.: Jackson Hole was a super fun way to kick off the season and I'm stoked on finishing in first. The snow conditions were great and I got to hit a ton of fun airs. I'm pretty proud of my run on the first day, but there was definitely room for improvement on my second day run.

EBS: What are your goals for the 2018 season?

N.M.: Last season I was super happy to finish 4th overall in North America in the 12-14 division. This season I am excited to be entering the 15-18 division which keeps pushing me to continue improving. One of my main goals is qualifying for the IFSA North American Championships at the end of the season.

EBS: Do you have a favorite venue?

N.M.: I really enjoyed the venue at Taos, New Mexico, last year because of the snow conditions—very carvable—and all of the different line options. I've always enjoyed Targhee as well.

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

N.M.: I have a trainer year-round (Lindsey Anderson at Summit PT) who has really helped me to improve my strength. If I have any injuries then she is also the one to help me with that. I also play competitive soccer for Lone Peak High and the Bozeman Blitzz. As far as training during the ski season, I ski as much as I can. While I'm skiing I focus on my form a lot, which I am always trying to improve as it helps to make me a solid skier. I also try to push my limits as far as airs go, hitting airs that might be out of my comfort zone so that I can take bigger airs in general.

EBS: What goes through your head a few moments before dropping in to a competition run?



15-year-old Nehalem Manka started off her freeride season with a first place finish in Jackson Hole. Here she is pictured in her natural habitat, catching air at Big Sky Resort. PHOTO COURTESY OF NEHALEM MANKA

N.M.: Before I drop in, I run through my line down the venue (the airs I have to hit or any specific terrain features to negotiate) and I like to think about the feeling of actually skiing my run, the quiet, the snow under my skis, etcetera. Both of those things help me prepare for my run.

EBS: What do you consider your strengths as a freeride skier?

N.M.: I raced when I was younger and I think that tremendously improved the foundation of my skiing. I generally have pretty good form, like to take air, and can handle constrictions well.

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

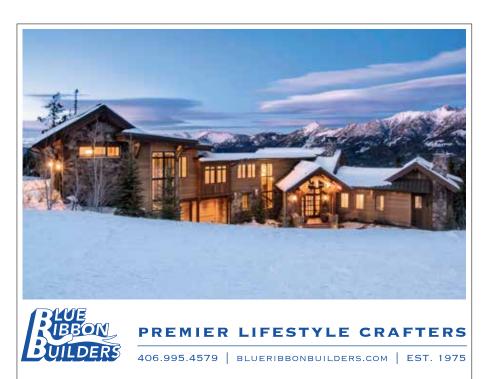
N.M.: The coaches I have skied with on BSSEF, both the freeride and race coaches, have helped me improve a lot. My dad [Pete Manka] also is a large part of where I am today. He has coached me in freeride ever since I started competing and has spent countless hours going over my runs and scores with me.

EBS: Do you have any sponsors or supporters you want to thank?

N.M.: I'm super stoked to be a team athlete for Coalition Snow, a women's ski company based in Lake Tahoe, California, and also Flylow Gear. I'd also like to thank Dave and the awesome shop crew at East Slope Outdoors for taking care of my beat-up gear and Scott at Lone Mountain Sports for helping me with my ski boots.

EBS: Any advice for younger skiers who would want to follow in your tracks?

N.M.: Trust in yourself and your abilities. Have fun with the sport and work hard while you're at it.







BSSEF racer Caleb Unger wins big at Big Sky Speed Series

Caleb Unger, 14, smoked most of the other racers in the U.S. Ski & Snowboard Association Northern Division's Big Sky Speed Series at Big Sky Resort Feb. 9-11, winning the Super G event for his age bracket. Here, Unger, a Lone Peak High School student in the Big Sky Ski Education Foundation development program, is launching off the Super G jump, an intimidating, technical jump that requires aggressive skiing.









My favorite kitchen gadgets

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER EBS STAFF

I've been passionately cooking since I was about 8 years old, and in those 20-odd years I've collected an assortment of kitchen tools that I can't seem to get by without. Chefs and cooks alike all have their favorite tools and tricks to save time in the kitchen, and here are a few of mine.

When you hear the word **mandolin**, the small string instrument may come to mind, but the only noise you'll hear this tool make is the whizz of precisely sliced ingredients. Knife skills are important because they ensure that each piece of carrot or celery, for example, is relatively the same size and that they will cook evenly. A mandolin comes in handy when you want to slice your ingredient especially thin, something that may be hard to do with a knife. Making potatoes au gratin, or finely shaving cabbage for a slaw are examples of when a mandolin may come in handy—not only will it make even cuts, but it will also make for an attractive presentation.

A **microplane** is a fine, rasp-like grater ideal for zesting citrus, garlic, whole spices and ginger. This tool is ideal when you want a strong ingredient to be very finely grated, such as garlic and ginger. Use this tool to grate raw garlic into dishes when you don't want chunks of garlic in it; it will turn the garlic into more of a paste than a mince. It also works great for finishing an Italian dish with a dusting of parmesan cheese. Microplanes are sold in several sizes and styles—I'd recommend purchasing one that has a handle attached, for ease of use.

An **immersion blender** is a great kitchen appliance to own, especially if you enjoy making soups and sauces from scratch. This tool, also referred to as a stick blender, is handheld with a blending mechanism on the bottom of a shaft. It allows you to purée soups and sauces without the hassle of transferring the liquid to a blender, and I'm a fan of any appliance that reduces cleanup. This tool isn't just for soups and sauces though, it can also be used to make salsa, pancake batter, and even whipped cream.

If you read my article in the last issue, you know how much I love using citrus juice in my recipes. If you do too, adding an **inverted citrus juicer** to your shelves will ensure you get the maximum amount of juice possible. This handheld tool takes a half of lemon and pushes down on the outside to extract the juice, nearly turning the fruit inside out in the process. Make sure to use your microplane to remove the zest before cutting the fruit in half, this will make the process much easier.

Last but not least, get yourself a **good chef's knife** and a **hone**, or sharpening tool. When cooking in an unfamiliar kitchen, dull knifes are the one frustrating thing I always run into. If you haven't sharpened a knife within the last 10 times of using it, it's probably dull. Not only are dull knifes less safe, but they make the work harder as well. Bust out your hone and sharpen your knife—I promise you will see a difference in its performance.

AMUSE-BOUCHE

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

Sugar part 2: A shady semblance

BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST



Recently, I wrote about the origins of sugar and its place in history. Much like illegal drugs, sugar's trade value, sale and production helped shape and shift nations throughout Europe and the Americas. In more recent times, even the two industries' production has grown strikingly similar.

The process of refining sugar has improved dramatically over the last 150 years, and is now fairly complex. Today, sugar refining is the interstate that takes us all to sweet, chewy, crunchy happiness.

The frontage road that merges with our sugar interstate is the refinement of modern drugs—cocaine, specifically. Not only does sugar affect us in virtually identical ways as cocaine, but even the road map that gets us there is comparable.

Why compare sugar to cocaine? Well, let's start with sugar.

After harvesting the stalks of cane, which can be grown in all seasons, they are crushed to extract the juices in large ringers not unlike the smaller ones once used for ringing out laundry. At this stage it is a thick, impure brown syrup we call molasses.

Next, the liquid is settled out and the acid content reduced with the addition of lime. Then, the syrup is boiled until crystals form. Already formed crystals are added to the mixture to help new crystals form more quickly in a process referred to as "growing."

Finally, the contents of the boil are spun, again, not unlike a larger version of your washing machine, until the last bit of liquid and newly grown crystals are separated. It is these new crystals that are ready for packaging.

In a similar vein, coca leaves are continuously stripped from the coca plant year-round. They are finely chopped and mixed with either kerosene or diesel fuel. Next it is mixed in a machine that also resembles a washing machine. This mixture is combined with lime to reduce its acidity and, at this stage, is basically a brown paste.

An assortment of chemicals, one of which is sulfuric acid, is added to the paste to neutralize it, which alters its color from brown to off-white. This white paste is dried and processed into the white powder that ends up on the street.

And if those two processes aren't congruent enough, one could argue that at times they have even been symbiotic. After all, in its infant years until the early 20th century, 1903 to be precise, Coca Cola contained cocaine. Coca Cola is still made with the coca leaf, albeit now with leaves scientists deem "decocainized."

The documentary film "Fed Up" warns of the dangers of the many foods, mostly processed, Americans consume on a near daily basis. It warns us of the health risks we face from consuming trans fats, processed foods, and larger and larger portions.

But it was one father's comments that stuck in my mind like a wad of Bazooka Joe bubble gum. This father said he tried not to buy it, but his son was relentless in his pleading. That he would then try to hide it, but his son would always find it. That his son was just going to get it from his friends or at school anyway. That his brother would sneak it to him. That reminded me of my own younger years trying to sneak beer, but this particular father was not talking about alcohol or drugs. He was talking about sugar.

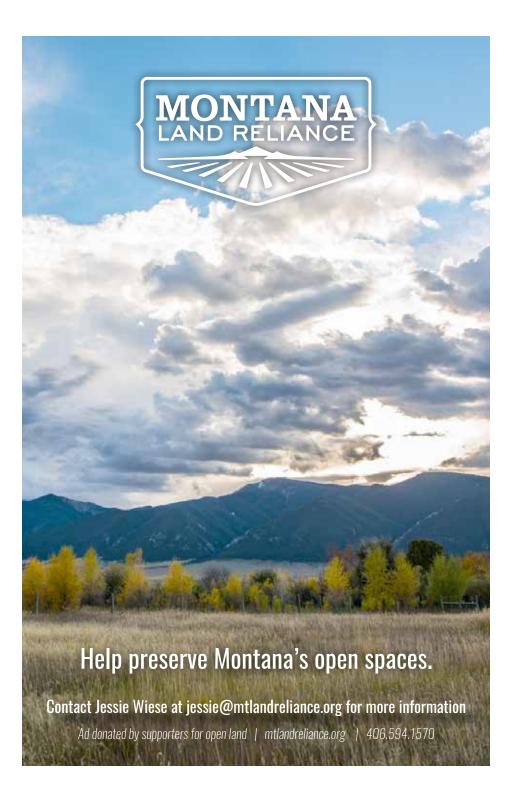
In the coming weeks, I will delve into the health risks and modern-day challenges sugar presents to our well-being as humans.

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.



Beer Maven series continues at MAP Brewing

The women-only beer series continues with a Feb. 20 event at MAP Brewing Co. from 6-8 p.m. Fermentana co-founder and certified beer judge, Loy Maierhauser, will talk about the complex flavors and aromas of hops while sampling a variety of beers. An exclusive beer brewed especially for Beer Maven will also be released at the event. PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPTURE NOW STUDIOS



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Making it in Big Sky

Carey and Scott Foster of Lone Mountain Sports

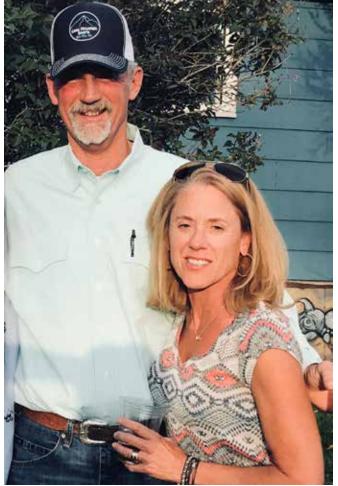
BY SARAH GIANELLI **EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR**

BIG SKY - Lone Mountain Sports has been in business since the opening day of Big Sky Resort in 1973. The original owners were Harry Ring and Russ Jones, both former ski instructors at Bridger Bowl. At the time, it was the only ski shop at the resort, and originally located in the Mountain Mall.

When their 10-year lease was up, they moved the shop off the mountain for one year. Lone Mountain Sports moved into its current location in the Arrowhead Mall when the retail complex was completed in 1984.

Scott and Carey Foster began working for Ring and Jones that year. Scott became the manager of the rental shop and Carey worked in the retail shop and became a buyer. They eventually bought the business in the fall of 1992.

Lone Mountain Sports continues to be the only privately-owned, full-service ski and rental shop and retail location at the resort. While the business has grown, Carey said they have stayed true to their roots, offering helpful service and great equipment to locals and visitors alike.



Mountain Sports, a rental and retail shop that opened on the same day as Big Sky Resort in 1973. PHOTO COURTESY OF CAREY FOSTER

In 2017, Carey and Scott Foster celebrated 25 years as the owners of Lone

of the consumer. That hurts us in some ways but is helpful in others. We see a lot of folks who have purchased boots online and need help with the fit. Or they bought a ski that seemed perfect for them and wasn't.

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

C.F.: We have been extremely lucky in our 25 years. It used to be that if we had snow, we were busy. We did have a few years that were lean. We've been busy, especially the last couple years, because Big Sky has gotten so much bigger and people know how great it is. Obviously, this year is the perfect storm—we have snow and other places don't.

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

C.F.: We have been in Big Sky since 1981. There have been so many memorable moments over the years. We've seen people from all over the world and all walks of life come to Big Sky and love it. We got married and started a family here. We've had employees get married and start families of their own here. We've seen Big Sky go from a little place to a world-class ski resort. It's been fun for sure.

EBS: Why do you think so many new businesses fold relatively quickly?

As part of this ongoing series, Carey shared her thoughts with EBS on the reasoning behind their success and longevity operating as a Big Sky small business.

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

Carey Foster: Our success is largely due to our employees. We have a great group of folks, with a core that has been together for quite a long time. Our location is also a big part of our success. We have a captive audience on the mountain. We back that up with great, friendly employees that are knowledgeable.

EBS: What are the biggest obstacles to operating a small business in Big Sky?

C.F.: I think the biggest challenge is finding affordable housing in Big Sky. The cost of doing business is much greater than when we first started.

EBS: How has the business landscape changed since you started out?

C.F.: There are more sporting stores at Big Sky [Resort] now, which is great for the customer. The advent of internet shopping has changed the buying nature

C.F.: It's hard for new businesses. Getting a loan isn't easy and the price of leasing retail space is steep. There is more competition now, especially in the Meadow.

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

C.F.: Treat your employees like family. They are the face and heart of your business. Realize that you will need to put in countless hours of work to reap the benefits of being self-employed.

EBS: What's the best piece of business advice you've received?

C.F.: Believe in what you do. Be happy, you are selling fun.

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

C.F.: That's hard to say. We've been at Big Sky for 37 years and owned Lone Mountain Sports for 25 seasons. Time will tell ...

LONE MOUNTAIN SPORTS - BY THE NUMBERS





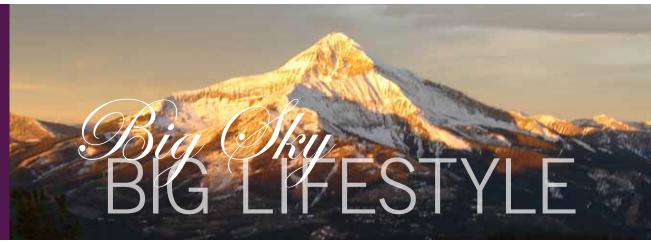
YEARS IN BUSINESS:



LONGEST SERVING EMPLOYEE:

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

Section 3:OUTDOORS, HEALTH & BACK 40







INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



Former NPS employee publishes book on Yellowstone's hot water wildlife

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – For debut book author Robert Lindstrom, Yellowstone National Park is as much a preserved ecosystem as it is a living laboratory.

The West Yellowstone resident and former National Park Service research coordinator spent years learning about Yellowstone from some of the premier researchers of the time.

He recalls collecting samples in the '90s from mud vents with Karl Stetter and Martin Keller for the biotechnology company Diversa. Researchers from NASA have also spent time in Yellowstone, trying to understand some of the park's unique lifeforms and predict where life could be found in space.

"They were basically studying astrobiology by looking at what we have here on Earth, because they can study microbes that survive in some of the harshest climates," Lindstrom said.

And at one point in his career, Lindstrom found himself coordinating up to 60 different projects exploring the uses of microbes, from developing alternative fuels, to dissolving rock for acid leach mining, and cleaning up pollution.

The microbes in question are known as thermophiles, or microorganisms that grow in extreme environments and hot temperatures. These organisms can be found in every hydrothermal feature in Yellowstone and are the cause of Yellowstone's lauded vibrant colors, as found in Grand Prismatic Spring.

Lindstrom refers to the microbes as "hot water wildlife," explaining that Yellowstone's incredible color palate indicates the kind of environment different microbes live in. "Each hot spring is its own ecosystem ... [and] has its own habitat and evolution," he said.

Lindstrom retired from the Park Service in 2009 and decided to gather his notes from years in Yellowstone and piece together a story about bioprospecting in the park. Last year his work came to fruition in the form of the book "Laboratory Yellowstone and the DNA Revolution: A Field Guide to Thermophiles," published by Lindstrom's own company, Johnson Creek Publishing.

"It's a really interesting story of how one of the microbes in the park became worth a billion dollars and won a Nobel prize," Lindstrom said of the book.

In addition to including the discovery of *Thermus aquaticus*, the first organism known to science to survive above 72 degrees Celsius, and how the microbe allowed for DNA sequencing, Lindstrom includes a chapter on bison and how the advances in understanding DNA—thanks to *Thermus aquaticus*—could be used to test for microbial issues like brucellosis, a contagious disease that causes abortion in bison, elk and cattle.

The last half of "Laboratory Yellowstone" is possibly the largest colored field guide to the park's thermophiles.



Colorful microbial mats in a channel in Biscuit Basin in Yellowstone National Park. This is one of many images author Robert Lindstrom uses to tell the story of Yellowstone's hot spring microbes in his book "Laboratory Yellowstone and the DNA Revolution." PHOTO BY JILL SCARSON

To depict some of life's smallest, most extreme organisms, Lindstrom worked closely with Bozeman photographer Jill Scarson, who also edited and designed the publication. Scarson has been photographing Yellowstone's thermophiles for more than 10 years. In 2016, a selection from her photography exhibition "Painting with Fire and Ice: The Thermal Features of Yellowstone," was published in National Geographic's special Yellowstone edition.

Inspired after working in Yellowstone for two years, Scarson began photographing the park's microbes. "I wanted to photograph them like any other feature you come to Yellowstone to see, like Hayden Valley, buffalo or wolves," she said. "Most people would look at me very strange when I was laying on my stomach on the boardwalk for hours."

To capture many of Scarson's pieces, she had to use specialized micro equipment and lenses. Many shots were captured underwater, working in very hot temperatures. Scarson said she wants to make people stop and appreciate the thousands of organisms within one single thermal feature and "give it an artistic twist so that people are drawn into the picture and want to know what they're looking at."

Speaking about her work with Lindstrom, Scarson said, "He was really interested in making sure the science was accessible to anyone. ... The book is definitely written for anyone to take out on the boardwalks.

"People love the colors of Yellowstone, they should be able to understand what creates them," she added.

Soon, Lindstrom plans to release the publication as an E-book, which will be searchable and great for people to use while they are out on the boardwalks, he said.

Lindstrom's "Laboratory Yellowstone" is available at the Book Peddler in West Yellowstone and at the Country Bookshelf in Bozeman. It can also be ordered at Scarson's website, jscarsonphotography.com/laboratory-yellowstone.





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

Digital entrance pass now available for Yellowstone

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Starting in February, visitors to Yellowstone National Park can purchase digital annual and seven-day entrance passes online at YourPassNow. The National Park Service partnered with NIC Inc. to develop and administer YourPassNow to better serve visitors to Yellowstone.

"We are pleased to offer a digital option to purchasing passes at entrance gates and to usher in a new era of online convenience for our visitors," said park superintendent Dan Wenk.

YourPassNow provides an alternative to the traditional paper-based, in-person purchase method while also providing the park with a tool to help manage the visitor experience. Using a personal device, visitors can purchase park entrance passes at no additional cost. Once purchased, passes are emailed and can be used immediately, stored on a personal device or printed for future use.

In 2016, YourPassNow made online entrance passes available in Acadia National Park in Maine, Colorado National Monument, North Dakota's Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks and Whiskeytown National Recreation Area in California, and Florida's Castillo de San Marcos National Monument and Everglades National Park.

Yellowstone uses entrance fees to invest in critical improvements that directly benefit visitors, including maintaining and enhancing visitor facilities.

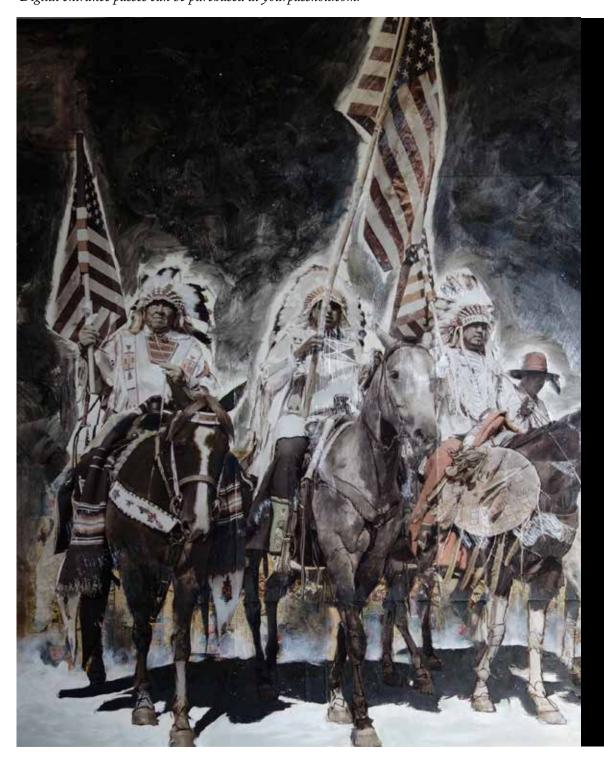
Yellowstone National Park 2018 annual and seven-day fees include:

- \$60 annual entrance pass fee
- \$30 seven-day entrance passes for a private vehicle
- \$25 seven-day entrance passes for a motorcycle or snowmobile
- \$15 seven-day entrance passes for an individual
- Persons under age 16 are admitted free

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Multi-sport relay race returns to Big Sky

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Classic winter sports will once again be celebrated in this year's third annual Mad Wolf Winter Relay. A race that benefits the Big Sky Ski Education Foundation and their youth ski programs, the Mad Wolf Relay combines Alpine skiing or snowboarding, running, Nordic skiing and fat biking or snowshoeing.

The action begins Saturday, Feb. 24, at 2 p.m., at the top of Hangman's ski run at Big Sky Resort. Racers will run to their skis or boards in a LeMans start, then ski down to meet their running teammate, who will run across the base area and 1.5 miles down to the bottom of Low Dog Road to the team's Nordic skier.

The Nordic skier will traverse Middle Fork trail to the tunnel, tagging the fat biker or snowshoer, who will pedal or stomp up Creekside and around Kids Loop before crossing the finish line at Lone Mountain Ranch, in front of Horn and Cantle Saloon. Participants may compete in individual or team categories as adult or youth under 16, and costumes are encouraged.

Past years have seen disco dancers, bedazzled movie lovers, and many other costumed characters speed through the course. Last year's top finishers completed the race in 31 minutes and 34 seconds.

For this year's event, BSSEF expects more than 100 racers on over 20 teams to participate. Following the race, a live band will kickoff the evening with an after-party at Horn and Cantle Saloon.

"The Mad Wolf Winter Relay joins many people together on many levels around our community," said Denise Wade, who oversees BSSEF's Nordic program and helps organize the event. "The importance of having world-class lifetime sports opportunities and amazing trails is what makes Big Sky so special."

Mad Wolf is a rekindling of a popular local race from the '70s and '80s that enjoyed a solid 10 years of competition.

According to Wade, during the '80s, the race was simply a challenge of who could be the fastest to get from the top of the Mad Wolf ski run to Lone Mountain Ranch. Formerly an individual race, participants could use



Last year's competitors participate in the Mad Wolf Winter Relay. This annual event is a multi-sport challenge bringing together skiing, biking, running and possibly snowshoeing as competitors dressed in costume traverse from Big Sky Resort to Lone Mountain Ranch. PHOTOS COURTESY OF LONE MOUNTAIN RANCH

any equipment and any route, but had to finish with the same gear they started with.

"It was a little crazy with skiers, bikers, runners going everywhere on the mountain and roads to get down the fastest," Wade said. The revived event is made possible through a partnership with BSSEF, Big Sky Resort and

Lone Mountain Ranch.



"The Mad Wolf Relay is a great community event for so many reasons," said Big Sky Resort Public Relations Manager Chelsi Moy. "It brings people together to enjoy the outdoors. It incorporates costumes, good-natured competition and activities that community members love: skiing, running and biking. ... I encourage folks to get out to cheer on the participants."

Registration is available through Feb. 21, at bssef.com/event/2018mad-wolf.



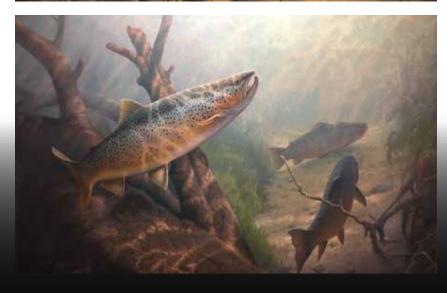


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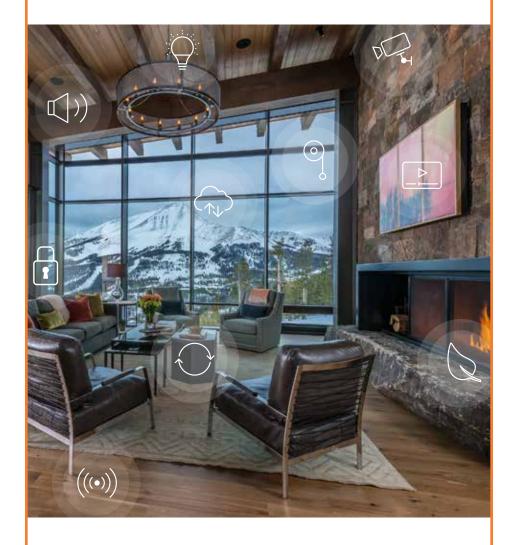




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Audio-Video Systems



Theater/Cinema



Lighting Control



Shades/Blinds



Automation

 $((\bullet))$

Network/IT



Surveillance/Alarm



Security/Life Safety

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

Future of Town Center trails under discussion

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – With the changing face of Town Center as several major building projects take shape, discussions are also stirring about the future of winter use on Town Center's trails. In past years, Lone Mountain Ranch has maintained grooming work both on their own network of cross-country ski trails and also for those trails managed by the Big Sky Community Organization.

However, due to accessibility constraints this winter, Lone Mountain Ranch has not been able to maintain trails near Town Center.

"They aren't groomed this year because of construction," said Ryan Kunz, general manager of Lone Mountain Ranch. "We aren't able to get our machines there."

While the majority of the trails in Town Center that BSCO manages haven't been maintained this winter, BSCO was able to secure maintenance for Lone Peak trail from Town Center to Meadow Village, as well as the Ousel Falls Road trail. The former is regularly plowed while the latter is machine compacted to make an easier surface to walk on.

"All other trails are not maintained by machine for winter use, but see more than enough traffic to allow for a great surface for all uses," said Adam Johnson, the BSCO project manager.

Services for Lone Peak trail and Ousel Falls Road trail are being donated by Delzer Diversified, a 30-year-old Big Sky snow removal company serving 80 miles of roads in the area. "It's just a little bit to give back to the community," said owner and long-time Big Sky resident John Delzer.

"I'll help where I can. I think it's important to keep people from walking on the roads," he added, referring to the company's decision to help plow Lone Peak trail, which runs along Lone Mountain Trail.

"[Delzer Diversified] really stepped up to the plate to make sure we had these services this winter. Otherwise we wouldn't be able to afford it," said BSCO

Executive Director Ciara Wolfe, adding that BSCO funding was reduced by the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board this year.

Kunz said Lone Mountain Ranch will be working with BSCO and Town Center in the offseason in order to plan for the long-term, with the hopes of picking up grooming once again in the future.

In addition to making plans for grooming existing trails, Wolfe said BSCO is interested in adding to the existing network of trails. "Nothing is defined at this time, we just recognize that the trail system was significantly missed this winter," Wolfe said.

Big Sky Town Center project manager Ryan Hamilton added to this sentiment. "Long-term, we are planning on there being walking and Nordic ski trails in the 30-plus acres of current vacant land in Town Center, south of Aspen Leaf Drive and east of Simkins Drive," he said.

Johnson has spearheaded the trail effort for BSCO and said, "My desire for the groomed trails is to provide access to outdoor activity that does not revolve around the ski resorts, and is available to multiple user groups. ... Most importantly, we have very few sidewalks in Big Sky and during the winter, the roads get narrow and are treacherous for walking. Maintained winter trails give those who do not have or chose not to rely on cars a way to safely get around town.

"I have recently heard people comparing Big Sky to the Alps, but you should take a look at the winter path systems the Alps have, they are incredible and even include maintained hiking trails up the ski areas where you can take the lift down," Johnson added.

In a December email to EBS, Wolfe said that BSCO has met with the Bridger Ski Foundation in Bozeman, the Teton Valley Trails and Pathways in Driggs, Idaho, as well as folks from Jackson, Wyoming, to learn what other communities are doing to manage their winter trails. "This season I think will raise awareness for the community about how important these trails are, and that we have to plan and partner to ensure they continue," Wolfe wrote.





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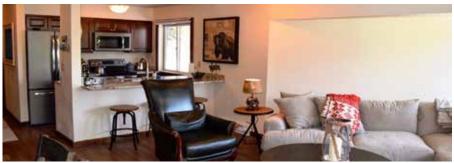
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On the Trail: Beaver Slide Trail

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

BY CIARA WOLFE **BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

It has taken me two years to learn how to Nordic ski and many kilometers of practice to work up the courage to ski the Beaver Slide Trail. I had skied several sections of this loop, but had never skied the steep incline the trail is named after.

Having been a downhill skier since the age of 2, you would think that steep downhills would not intimidate me. But something about those skinny skis without edges, and my free heels makes the sport feel entirely different. But while its name and the difficulty signs are intimidating, skiing Beaver Slide trail is delightful.

With a short practice of my uphill duck walk and power wedge downhill techniques, and a small dose of courage, I mastered this trail with a smile on my face and can't wait to ski it again.

You can access the Beaver Slide loop from the Lone Mountain Ranch outdoor shop. From there I took the intermediate Creekside Trail for a gradual 1.1-km descent.

Following the creek back towards the highway, the trail leads to a metal skier tunnel that safely passes under U.S. Highway 64, providing access to several more trails. It's dark in the tunnel, but the amplified sound of your skis swishing along the trail makes it one of my favorite parts of the ski.

Exiting the tunnel, stay straight following signs for Beaver Slide and Middle Fork trails. The trail heads up a steep incline before meandering approximately 0.5 km along the Middle Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin River.

Once you begin to leave the creek, the trail gradually climbs with a sharp switchback to the left that continues upward to the Middle Fork intersection. Here you can take a right for an additional 3.5-km out-and-back, or take a left to ski the infamous Beaver Slide section of this trail.

After another 0.3 km, you will come to the intersection for the Andesite Trail. The Andesite Trail is an additional 3.0 km loop that will bring you back to the tunnel and bypass steep Beaver Slide.

If you stay straight, following the signs for Beaver Slide, you will gradually descend into the most difficult section of this trail. Around a corner is a steep curving trail that loops back to connect with the trail along the Middle Fork River. When you reach this intersection, you have survived the hardest part of the trail.

To head back toward the tunnel, take a right. After approximately 0.2 km, you will reach another intersection where a left will take you back to the ranch. This is the steep section you climbed at the beginning of the trail, but after mastering Beaver Slide this downhill is a piece of cake.

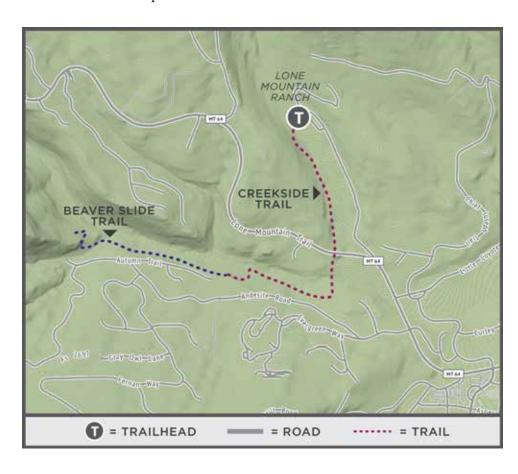


Bear Slide Trail is a good option for seasoned cross-country skiers looking for a challenging, but exhilarating ski. PHOTO BY CIARA WOLFE

Take the trail downhill and through the tunnel while following Creekside Trail another 1.1 km back to the outdoor shop. Enjoy a bite to eat and warm drink by the fire at the Horn and Cantle Saloon—you've earned it after tackling that difficult trail.

Annual season passes and day passes can be purchased in the Lone Mountain Ranch outdoor shop or online at lonemountainranch.com/nordic-ski-trail-passes/. All proceeds from pass sales go towards the cost of grooming Big Sky's winter Nordic trail system. For a complete map of the 85 km of groomed Nordic trails, visit lonemountainranch.com/the-ranch/.

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





TRAIL STATS



Distance

5.4 km

Uses cross-country skiing



intermediate to difficult



6.700 feet



skate and classic groomed trails

Surface

Directions: From the canvon, 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.

Ski tips: Ski and snowboard halfpipe at the 2018 Winter Olympic Games

BY DAN EGAN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The Olympic movement has been embracing the halfpipe. Snowboarding the semi-circular ramp has been part of both the Torino and Vancouver games, and for this year's Games in South Korea, men's and women's freeski halfpipe will be featured for the second time in the Olympics. Prior to the games, event organizers anticipated it would be a sell-out crowd.

Both snowboard and freeski halfpipe events have been a game-changer, offering a cookie-cutter winter sporting event that can be duplicated at resorts around the world.

The standard "Super Pipe" is 500 feet long, 65 feet wide, built on an 18.4-degree pitch, and the walls are 22 feet high. Duplicating this structure at resorts and major events has allowed athletes to perform scripted runs that allow them to perfect their maneuvers. It's also pushed the progression of the sport, which is the motivation of every skier and rider.

At the 2010 Vancouver Games, the snowboard halfpipe was the marquee event, with over 30,000 people in the stadium watching U.S. superstar Shaun White, one of the highest paid Olympians, win his second Olympic gold medal. His yearly earnings at the 2010 Olympic Games were rumored to be north of \$10 million.

Four years later, at the 2014 Sochi Olympics, White was earning over \$20 million. Now, with his massive come-back for the 2018 Olympics, he'll be by far the highest paid athlete at the PyeongChang Games.

"An Olympic medal is the highest honor in sports," White said in a press conference before the games. "This will be my fourth Olympics, and I'm completely comfortable with the pressure that goes on at the games."

The expectations are high for both the men's and women's freeski halfpipe, based on ticket sales, sponsorship and the viewing audience.

For Team USA, David Wise is the defending Olympic gold medal champion and multi-time X Game gold medalist, and Gus Kenworthy, the 2014 Olympic silver medalist, is back and predicted to land one step higher on the podium.

On the female side, Maddie Bowman is a four-time X Game gold medalist and the defending Olympic gold medalist from Sochi. She's one of the most decorated freeskiers ever, and her teammate Devin Logan is the defending silver medalist from 2014.

The evolution of halfpipes has been slow and steady since the 1970s and '80s, back when the event was limited by the grooming technology.

X Games medalist Mike Nick, originally from Albany, New York, was a pioneer in both ski boarding and skiing halfpipe.

"Years ago, the halfpipes were never the same from event to event, different shapes, lengths and the walls were uneven," Nick said. "Today's pipes are perfect



David Wise, an American freestyle skier, is the defending Olympic gold medal champion in the men's halfpipe. PHOTO COURESY OF SKI CHANNEL

and standardized. It was hard to come into an event with a set run and predetermined tricks back in the old days."

While the halfpipe is exhilarating, both for spectators and athletes alike, it's also a dangerous sport. Sarah Burke of Salt Lake City, Utah, the most famous female skier in the halfpipe, died during a training run in Utah in 2012.

Burke's legacy was a big story during the Sochi Olympics, and also brought home the realities of the dangers of this sport. Competitors regularly come up short or overshoot the walls, and injuries range from fractured bones, concussions to traumatic brain injuries.

PyeongChang has an amazing stadium built for viewing the halfpipe event and in both ski and snowboard, it's predicted to be one of the most viewed events during this year's Olympics.

Men's and women's snowboard halfpipe wrapped up Feb. 13, with White winning the United States' 100th all-time gold medal in the Winter Olympics. U.S. snowboarder Chloe Kim took gold for the women.

However, skiing the halfpipe is yet to come. The women's freeski halfpipe qualifiers begin Sunday, Feb. 18, at 6 p.m., with the finals taking place Monday, Feb. 19, at 6:30 p.m. Men's qualifiers will follow at 9 p.m., and the men's final round will be broadcast at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 21.

Extreme skiing pioneer Dan Egan has appeared in 12 Warren Miller ski films and countless others. Today he teaches clinics and guides trips at locations around the world including Big Sky, where he'll be teaching Feb. 22-24, March 1-2 and March 8-10, as well as throughout the season (contact Big Sky Mountain Sports for availability). To find more information on Dan Egan camps and clinics, go to skiclinics.com.



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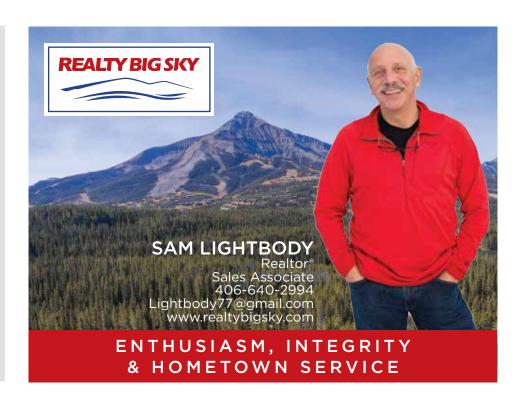
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The Clark's nutcracker has a unique pouch under its tongue used to carry seeds long distances. The nutcracker collects seeds from pine trees and carries them away to hide for later use.

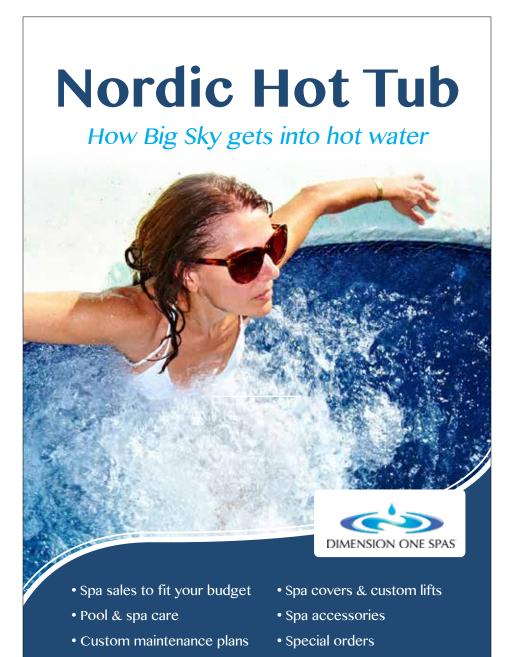
This bird hides thousands of seeds each year, and studies have shown that they can remember where they have hidden nearly all of their seeds.

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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Renowned public land hunters, anglers to share their stories

FERMENTANA

Public lands will take center stage through the stories of hunters and anglers at the third annual Tales from the Backcountry event on Friday, March 2, in Bozeman. A benefit event for the Montana Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, this unique live storytelling festival brings together sportsmen and women from across Montana and abroad to hear tales of public lands hunting and fishing adventures.

"Storytelling is ingrained in humanity's makeup, and is a practice common throughout cultures and traditions across the globe," said Jesse Bussard of Fermentana, a Bozeman-based events promotions company and co-organizer of the event.

"For hunters and anglers, specifically, it provides a unique medium for reliving the outdoors experience, while sharing those insights with others," Bussard added. "Whether it's the mountain goat hunt of a lifetime, the stalk and fish of an elusive wild cutthroat trout, or a first-timer's upland bird hunting experience, these stories hold special meaning and learning for us all."

The 2018 Tales from the Backcountry "Our Stories, Our Public Lands" theme will incorporate stories that embody each hunter and angler's unique relationship with public lands and waters.

Among the speakers to grace the stage, will be the following:

- Hank Shaw, award-winning author of the cookbooks "Hunt, Gather, Cook,"
- "Buck, Buck, Moose" and newly-released "Pheasant, Quail, Cottontail."
- Randy Newberg, host of Fresh Tracks with Randy Newberg and Hunt Talk Radio.
- Hank Patterson, self-proclaimed, world-renowned fly-fishing expert and guide.

- Alexis Bonogofsky, founding member of Artemis Sportswomen.
- Brian Barney, adventure bowhunter and host of the Eastman's Elevated podcast.
- Nicole Qualtieri, social media and online advocacy coordinator for Backcountry Hunters and Anglers.
- Rachel Vandevoort, director of Montana's Office of Outdoor Recreation and a 2017 Tales from the Backcountry storyteller. Vandevoort will return as Master of Ceremonies for 2018's event.

The benefiting organization, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers was formed around an Oregon campfire in 2004. In the years since, the young organization has established itself as the leading voice of public lands users, including sportsmen and women and conservationists of all stripes. Public access to our lands and waters, conservation of important fish and wildlife habitat and the principles of fair chase underlie the organization's mission.

For the second consecutive year, the event will be held at the Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture, with live storytelling taking place in the Crawford Theater. As in previous years, attendees will have the opportunity to win outdoor gear provided by sponsors such as Kimber Firearms, Orvis, Sitka Gear, First Lite, Simms Fishing Products, and more. In 2018, the event has expanded to include these sponsors in an outdoors brand trade show, happening in the Emerson Ballroom before the event.

Doors open and the trade show begins at 6 p.m., with live storytelling starting promptly at 7 p.m. Beer from local Montana breweries and wine will be available for purchase during the event.

To find more information about the speakers, as well as complete event details and to purchase tickets, visit backcountrybunters.org/tales.

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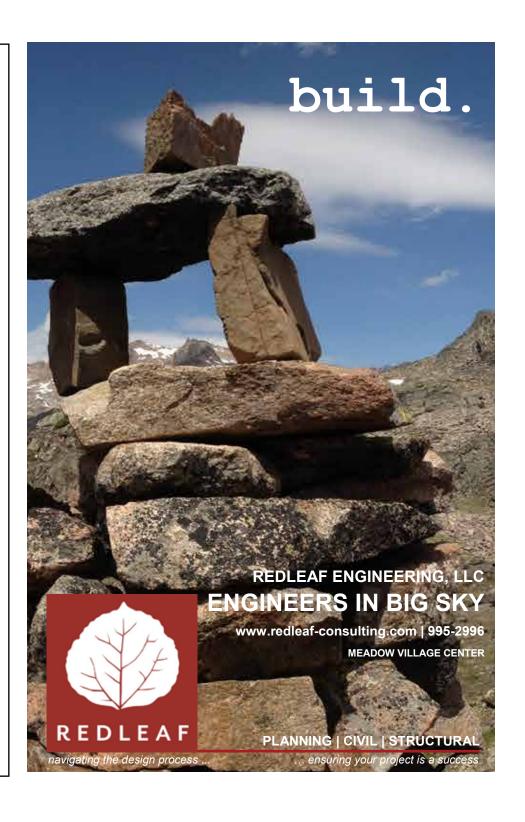
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The season of potential: Dry flies and powder days



BY PATRICK STRAUB EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

Reports are trickling in, chatter is growing louder in the corners of local fly shops, and pullouts are being used more by anglers than for excess snow. Don't put your skis or boards away yet—some of the best snow of the season will soon fall on the slopes. But if you take your recreation seriously, have your waders and rod at the ready at all times

because we are in the season of potential.

Conditions during the next six weeks are what dreams are made of in our mountain hamlet. Try saying "tram laps and midge hatches" five times fast. Not so hard is it? Neither is getting them into your daily routine.

It all starts with longer days. By the first few days of February the morning light in Gallatin Canyon is brighter, and the evening sunset lingers. These extra few hours of daylight result in more active insect life, which results in more actively feeding fish, which results in legitimate dry fly fishing opportunities. But before you clear your calendar and raise your expectations, a dose of reality is encouraged.

It's still winter out there, so plan your outing appropriately. The fishing is going to be best midday and during the afternoon. If the wind is blowing more than 10-15 mph it's going to feel cold. Have proper gear and fish safely. If it's your first time fly fishing in winter consider hiring a guide. If you're OK with all of this, then make sure you understand winter's dry-fly opportunities are all about potential, not always reality.

Embrace the midge. Midge is the common name given to a large class of insects on which trout feed. Similar to caddis, a hatching midge rises through the water column to eventually hang just under the surface—easy pickings for trout. When a midge is ready to hatch, or emerge, the insect releases gasses and attempts to free themselves from their pupal shuck. This struggle attracts feeding and rising trout for the attuned angler.

Visit your optician. Or visit your local fly shop and buy a pair of reading glasses. Midges are tiny—size 18 flies are the norm, yet size 22s are common and the ability to tie 5X tippet onto a size 20 is essential. If you cringe at these numbers, magnifiers are game changers, like indoor plumbing or automatic transmissions.

Two flies are better than one. If you observe fish feeding on the surface, consider fishing two flies. Because midges are so small, fish a high-floating dry-fly midge imitation, either a Buzzball or a Griffith's Gnat in sizes 18 or 20. From the bend of the hook on the dry fly tie an emerging midge pattern one size smaller than your dry fly. My favorite patterns are RS2s and CDC midge emergers, with the Wondernymph being my favorite.

Your tippet is crucial. With smaller flies comes a bigger reliance on specialized tippet material. Never use fluorocarbon for fishing tiny dry flies or emergers. Flurocarbon sinks, causing your dry flies to drag unnaturally in the water. I fish Rio Suppleflex tippet exclusively and apply a liquid floatant and powder desiccant to the fly. The liquid floatant doesn't goop-up the tiny dry flies, while the desiccant dries and dusts the fly in a hint of white powder, making it easier to detect.

Choose your flies wisely. If going small and adjusting your tippet and eyesight sound complicated, fortunately fly selection is simple. You will only need to match hatching midges, as we're still a month out for Blue Winged Olives, so you can narrow down flies to these time-tested favs:



Dry-fly fishing isn't just for the dogs these days. Tiny little insects called midges hatch in abundance on our local rivers during the next several weeks. Learn to effectively fish dry flies that imitate midges and you'll expand your winter fishing enjoyment. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

Griffith's gnat - This fly mimics a midge cluster on any river. The pattern is effective on the Gallatin and Upper Madison, but it should work on any body of water where midge clusters dominate in winter.

Jujubee midge - Created by fly-tying legend Charlie Craven, and inspired by the ultra-selective trout on pressured waters, this has become a local favorite. Similar to a Zebra midge, they can be fished as a deep nymph or emerging insect. Once you go Juju you'll catch trout through and through.

Tiny Buzzball - A variation of Gary LaFontaine's original caddis pattern, this fly floats high and can float an emerger pattern off its hook. When midge hatches are prolific, adult midges will form groups, or clusters—LaFontaine's Buzzball is a time-tested fly for micro dry-dropper situations.

Potential is at the core of why many of us go fishing. It's the potential to get the big one that got away last time—or the potential to get away from the office, the hashtags and the updates. For anglers in the know, this time of year can be the beginning of unexpectedly good dry-fly fishing. Yet this new reality doesn't come easy—fishing midge dry flies is challenging. But if it were easy, it'd be called nymphing.

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





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BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

After setting out to write a column on the latest cholesterol findings, I realized that there is too much complex information for one installment, so I broke it down to bite-sized topics that will be addressed over the next three editions of EBS

Topics will include the latest cholesterol test to request from your physician, which most are not yet administer-

ing; information about cholesterol-lowering drugs; and how the faulty dietary information we've been receiving about lowering cholesterol is actually hurting us.

Cholesterol exists in every cell membrane of every living organism on Earth, and without it cells would die. Yet the general cultural awareness around cholesterol is that it's bad for you.

When we test for cholesterol, it's out of concern for heart health. Heart disease is the leading cause of death among Americans. We often think of cholesterol testing as measuring high-density lipoprotein (HDL) and low-density lipoprotein (LDL). However, these are not actually cholesterols, they're transporters of cholesterol. We've been taught that HDLs are good and LDLs are bad.

Here's what they do: HDLs go to areas in the body where there is an excess of cholesterol—i.e., the arteries—where they tear the cholesterol off, and return it to the liver to be recycled. LDLs bring cholesterol to cells for cell function. When cells get damaged, or when new cells are being made, cholesterol is needed—this is very good too!

After delivering the necessary cholesterol, LDL returns to the liver a bit shorter since it just donated cholesterol and then it gets recycled. However, this cycle gets disrupted if there is inflammation in the body.

Inflammation causes the body's cells to disintegrate, which in turn release endotoxins. While LDLs have docking stations that they use to return to the liver, if there are endotoxins present, the LDL will act like a sponge and pick them up.

Problems then occur because the shortened LDLs, which are now loaded with endotoxins, can't use their docking stations in order to return to the liver. LDL then gets stuck in the body's circulation. When this happens, the endotoxins send signals to the body's immune system saying, "Hey! We're floating around here invading your body!"

When the immune cells come to the rescue, instead of finding live bacteria that they can kill, they find the shortened LDL full of endotoxins. They can't kill this so they release a pro-inflammatory substance to try and help the body. We end up with a bunch of immune cells stuck to the shortened, loaded LDL, which is referred to as "small dense LDL particles."

So, it's really the small dense particles that we want to be looking out for. These particles easily build up plaque formations in the body. If a plaque breaks off and goes to the brain, it can result in a stroke. If it goes to the heart, it can result in a heart attack.

Since small particles can be missed on a routine LDL test—you could have normal LDL but miss the dangerous small particles floating around—this test should be specifically requested. There is still a lot of controversy around these new findings. If you have a history of heart disease or want to know more, research this topic further and consult your physician.

Read the March 2 edition of EBS where I'll talk about the cholesterol-lowering drugs on the market today.

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.



BACKLI

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

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

Picking the right snowboard

BY DANNY CARDEN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Choosing the ideal snowboard involves a lot more than finding the coolest top-sheet graphics. In 2018, you would have a hard time buying a new board—especially from a shop—that didn't perform well on at least some basic levels.

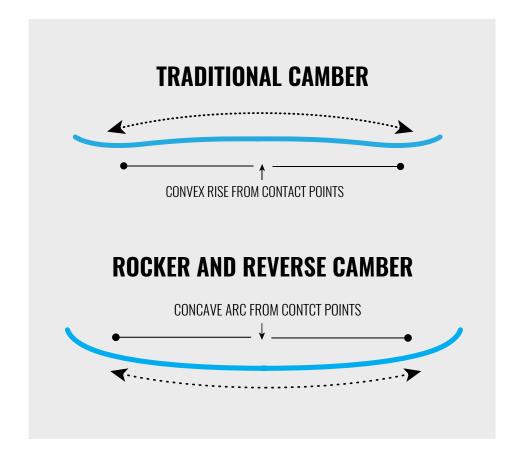
However, finding the board that best complements your strengths and weaknesses as a rider is paramount to getting the most out of your mountain experience. We're all different, and certain styles and skillsets carry with them certain proclivities—here I'll describe which of the most common shapes and profiles most efficiently put those to use.

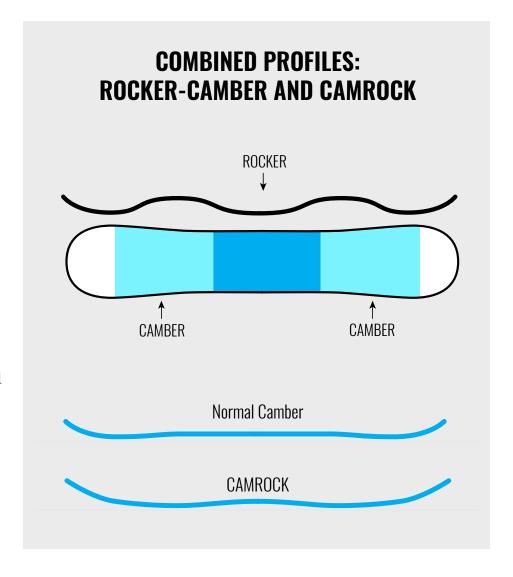
Full camber – For many people, their first board had full, traditional camber, because there just weren't as many options several years ago. It might be an old design, however, it's anything but antiquated. A more experienced boarder who likes to ride fast and hard would be more appropriately placed on a full-camber board than a beginner would. Among its advantages are an increase in pressure on the contact points, providing more effective edge and, in turn, more edge hold. Another noticeable benefit is an increase in "pop" due to coming pre-tensioned, making it a popular choice among halfpipe and park lovers.

The main drawback, in addition to incompatibility with powder, is that with the increase in effective edge comes a higher risk of actually catching an edge, which is why I wouldn't typically recommend this design to a beginner. Simply put, camber equals power with a higher risk of a face plant that could ruin your day.

Full rocker or reverse camber – This is the complete inverse of full camber, but that doesn't mean it's a beginner board. Anyone can take advantage of the increased float and maneuverability that this profile offers, but its closer contact points are accompanied by less edge hold. However, the benefit that comes with it is less likelihood of catching an edge.

Anyone who plans on spending a lot of time in powder and wants to experience the closest thing to floating on a cloud would benefit greatly from a rockered board. If you like to hit rails, this board will also make your life much easier. If there's one big knock on the full rocker, however, it's





that it is significantly slower than a cambered design. In short, you're sacrificing speed and power for increased powder float and maneuverability.

Combined profiles: rocker-camber and camrock – One of the more common profiles you'll see on the mountain now is the rocker-camber, which is a blended style of rocker between the bindings and camber underfoot. This allows the rider to get the float offered by rocker without having to sacrifice too much effective edge. There are many variations of this profile; some are more parabolic and flat, which produces a more forgiving and "surfy" feel—ideal for beginners—and some are more aggressive for those looking for a faster, "poppy" ride.

For each person, the right variation of this blend augments their strong suits and creates a more enjoyable ride. Many boards advertised as a "one-board quiver" are rocker-camber, as their "best of both worlds" approach is very versatile.

The other side of the blended-profile coin is the camrock, which is essentially the exact opposite of rocker-camber. Camrock boards are cambered between the bindings, extending to the nose and tail, but stop short to allow rise in both, similar to many skis. This type of board is for the person who likes to ride hard and fast, but doesn't want to be miserable on a powder day, with the rise in the nose and tail allowing for easier glide through deeper snow.

The blended styles, while offering versatility, don't provide the complete benefits of a full rocker or camber, and anyone looking for a new board should choose accordingly. There are many more variables one must factor into their decision making—such as taper, board shape, flexibility and dampening—but the profile details are the most important considerations when beginning to shop for a new snowboard.

Danny Carden is a sales assoicate at Big Sky's Gallatin Alpine Sports and has been snowboarding since 2001, when he cut his teeth in the Swiss Alps.

Section 4:ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT









Carol Hagan: A vibrant take on Western themes

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – Carol Hagan has enjoyed a creative trajectory most artists dream of. Although the Billings artist didn't pick up a paintbrush until she was 25, and is entirely self-taught, 30 years later Hagan's paintings are valued in the thousands of dollars.

She is also a member of the C.M. Russell Museum's Skull Society of Artists, a select group of 22 widely recognized as the foremost Western artists living today.

Hagan attributes a portion of her success to having worked as an accountant before leaving the career path to raise her son. A rarity in artists, she had both the business know-how and the creative gifts.

Driven by a desire to be a stay-at-home mom and a lifelong passion for color, she turned to painting.

"Children have such a wide-eyed view of the world and it kind of awakened in me the sense that anything is possible," Hagan said of becoming a mother. "[When you're a child], there is no wrong way to do something, they just pick up a crayon and start drawing and what comes out, comes out. Being around a child reminded me of that."

Over the next 10 years, Hagan developed and refined her distinct style while successfully marketing her work to galleries and exhibitions, and eventually was able to pursue fine art full time.

Hagan moved to Montana from Nebraska when she was 6 years old and has lived here ever since. She remembers the awe she felt for the region—the mountains, the wildlife, the open spaces that still inspire her work today.

She may portray subjects common to Western art—bears, horses, bison, coyotes, birds—but her contemporary palette, style and, lately, her use of glass "canvases" are anything but.

"I don't think I could paint cityscapes or seascapes because that's not where my heart is," Hagan said. "We live in a beautiful spot here in the West and I feel fortunate to not only live among the subjects that I paint, but I get to make my living as an artist and paint them."

Three years ago, Hagan started dreaming about light and became consumed with figuring out how to incorporate actual light into her pieces. This led to an ongoing exploration of painting with oils on glass. It's been the most challenging undertaking for the artist, but captivating in the added dimensions it lends to her work.



Hagan also paints on glass which allows light to be an integral component in the work. PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROL HAGAN STUDIOS



Carol Hagan is the featured artist at the March 22 Auction for Arts in Big Sky. This photo shows Hagan "quick finishing" the painting that earned last year's highest bid of \$17,000.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

She sticks with the same subject matter for her glass pieces, and says she paints what she does because that's what she loves—not because it's what art-buyers in the region want.

"If I'm not painting what I absolutely love and want to be painting, I'm doing the painting a disservice and I'm not following my heart."

Hagan says she feels a connection with her subjects, which she often photographs herself. One session with a grizzly bear yielded 300 photographs, and 50 paintings.

She also feels a communion with horses, and a sense of calm when in their company.

"There's a connection there spiritually, there's a connection with the Earth ... if you're among a group of horses and they're accepting of you, there's a trust there."

She added that horses have deepened her understanding of values like patience, acceptance, trust and community.

"I feel like my soul is kind of bared when I'm with them," she said. "There's nothing hidden, there's a very connected feeling of trust and sincerity. I try to convey that in my paintings and do justice to what they've given me and what I've learned from them"

Hagan's primary means of conveyance is color, which she sees as a universal language of emotion and energy. For this artist, the powerful life force of her subjects comes out in contemporary, dynamic kaleidoscopes of color that at first might not seem congruous with her Earth-driven pieces.

But with a grizzly painting that took home the highest bid of \$17,000 at last year's Arts Council Auction for the Arts, there is clearly a demand for contemporary takes on traditional Western art.

"The term Western art has changed so much," Hagan said. "The definition now is as broad as the Montana sky."

That leaves plenty of room for Hagan, and the many emerging artists of the West, to find their place under it.

Hagan's work can be seen locally at Creighton Block Gallery in Big Sky, at Old Main Gallery & Framing in Bozeman, and online at carolhaganstudios.com. Hagan will also be participating in the sixth annual Arts Council of Big Sky auction fundraiser on March 22 at Moonlight Basin.







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Auction for the Arts expands, adds juried component

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY - The Arts Council of Big Sky will host the sixth annual Auction for the Arts on March 22 from 6 to 10 p.m. at Moonlight Lodge.

The Arts Council's biggest fundraising event of the year will feature 21 invited, preeminent Western artists in a live auction of works "quick finished" during the evening. Three newcomers—Joe Kronenberg, Pam Caughey and Barbara Schwarz Karst—join the impressive roster of returning artists that includes R. Tom Gilleon, Kevin Red Star, Carol Hagan, Carol Spielman, Tom English, Greg Woodward and many others.

The pieces in the auction cover the gamut of styles—from the most traditional of Western art to highly contemporary works—in the form of paintings, sculpture, glass, jewelry and photographs.

This year the silent auction, which historically has featured a separate group of local artists, has been expanded to include works by the live auction artists, who join the ranks of 20-plus Big Sky area artists, among them Ryan Turner, Heather Rapp, Shelly Bermont, Julie Gustafson and Megan Buecking.

For the first time, the silent auction is a juried selection of works. Artists submitted up to three pieces, the best of which were selected by private art dealer and art historian Curtis Tierney of Bozeman.

"We want to take it up a step," said ACBS board member and auction chairman Linda Goldinger. "The goal was not to leave anyone out, but to make sure we get their best artwork."

The event will again include live jazz; inventive food offerings, and the opportunity to observe artists as they put the finishing touches on their work before it is auctioned off before an enthusiastic crowd of bidders.

After the auction, the live music will resume for a dessert reception, giving attendees and artists an additional chance to mingle.

Auxiliary events for VIP ticket-holders include a reception the evening prior hosted by event sponsor, Big Sky Sotheby's

International Realty, with guest of honor, Billings artist Carol Hagan. Hagan's vibrant, contemporary painting "Totem Bear" brought in the highest bid at the 2017 event at \$17,000.

R. Tom Gilleon wasn't too far behind, garnering \$15,000 for "Turning Bear," and contemporary Native American artist Kevin Red Star sold two paintings that brought in a total of \$21,000 which was the largest amount by a single artist.

Half of the proceeds from the auction will benefit the Arts Council of Big Sky and the diverse array of programs and cultural enrichment the organization brings to the community. Last year the Auction for the Arts raised over \$90,000.

In another exciting addition, VIP tickets also include a chance to win a small-scale painting by Gilleon. The small teepee painting—the subject he is most known for—was donated by the artist and will be raffled off during an artist luncheon at Buck's T-4 Lodge the day of the event.

"Last year was so much fun," Goldinger said. "It's great to see the art work, but I love the interaction with the artists, to get to know them—I think that's the highlight for me."

Visit bigskyarts.org or call (406) 995-2742 for tickets and more information.



Last year the Auction for the Arts raised over \$90,000 to support the year-round arts programming ACBS brings to Big Sky. PHOTO BY DAVE PECUNIES



Pearl Jam to play summer concert in Missoula

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – The legendary Seattle band Pearl Jam will play at the University of Montana's Washington-Grizzly Stadium on Aug. 13, as the third concert of a seven-part summer tour dubbed "The Home Shows" and "The Away Shows."

The first "Away Show" performance will mark the seventh time that Pearl Jam has played at the University of Montana, and their first appearance in Missoula since 2012. Other "Away Shows" include two nights each at Chicago's Wrigley Field and Boston's Fenway Park.

Pearl Jam has connections to the Treasure State—bassist Jeff Ament grew up in Big Sandy, Montana, and played basketball for the Montana Grizzlies before moving to Seattle. Ament remains a part-time Missoula resident and has donated thousands of dollars to help build skateboarding parks across the state.

Lead guitarist Mike McCready also resides part-time in Montana and his roots run deep in the state. "My connection is that both of my grandmas, Ina McCready and Doris Weipke, were born in Montana—Ina in Butte and Doris in Roundup. So I have it in my blood. My family and I love Big Sky and the skiing in Montana," McCready wrote in an email to EBS.



Lead guitarist Mike McCready, part-time Big Sky resident and avid skier, looks forward to playing in Missoula this summer on the first stop of Pearl Jam's recently announced "Away Shows" tour. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

"I love playing Montana because of Jeff and my connections with the state. ... I always have loved the beauty of the magnificent sky and nature of the area," he added. "Montana Pearl Jam fans are also usually pumped up from the first note and keep us energized the whole show."

"The Home Shows" kick off the tour in Seattle Aug. 8 and Aug. 10, at Safeco Field, marking their first hometown appearance in five years. According to the band's website, this will be the largest musical event in the city since The Rolling Stones' two-night stint at the Kingdome in 1981.

Pearl Jam has announced a \$1 million donation toward initiatives that address the issue of homelessness in Seattle and the surrounding King County, Washington, area.

"At last count, there were close to 12,000 homeless people living in Seattle. It is devastating," McCready said. "We are a city of great wealth and ingenuity and I feel that we should be able to effectively tackle this issue together."

The guitarist added that the band is challenging Seattle-area businesses and agencies to come on board and match their fundraising dollars. "We hope that our concerts raise conversation and awareness to ultimately help alleviate our

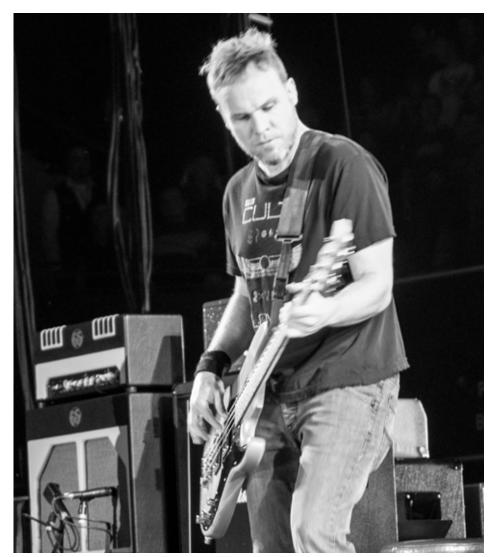


Pearl Jam frontman Eddie Vedder has been entertaining audiences around the world with his distinctive baritone vocals for nearly three decades. PHOTO BY MATTY MCCAIN

homeless situation. We are looking into all sorts of beneficiaries right now and will be sharing what we learn as the shows get closer."

Pearl Jam has now been playing live shows for 28 years, and in 2017 they were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. The band is rumored to be working on its 11th studio album.

A limited number of tickets for the Missoula concert will be released for sale at 10 a.m. MDT on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at all GrizTix locations and online at griztix. com. Visit pearljam.com for more information.



Bassist Jeff Ament will return to his alma mater on August 13 to play at University of Montana's Washington-Grizzly stadium. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Bronze horse sculpture to be central feature in Town Center Plaza Community asked to 'Pony Up'

EBS STAFF

On Feb. 5, the Arts Council of Big Sky released plans for the organization's first major public art installation. The sculpture, a larger-than-life bronze horse by internationally acclaimed Montana artist Deborah Butterfield, will be placed in Town Center Plaza in September 2018. The plaza is part of the Wilson Hotel construction project, slated to be completed by June 2019.

Butterfield's artwork is on display in public spaces all over the world, but the Big Sky sculpture will be her first work to have a permanent outdoor location in Montana. Her pieces can also be found in the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, Washington D.C.'s Smithsonian Institution, and many other museums around the world.

"This is an amazing opportunity to not only showcase one of Montana's greatest artists, but to have a legacy installation for residents and visitors to appreciate for generations," said Brian Hurlbut, ACBS executive director.

Closer to home, Butterfield's work can be found at the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings. Former YAM Director Donna Forbes said she still laments not being able to raise enough money to buy a Butterfield bronze to stand in front of the YAM.

Made in her Bozeman-area studio, the piece for the Big Sky plaza will be created from pieces of driftwood collected from the banks of the Gallatin, Yellowstone, and Madison rivers.

Butterfield casts the driftwood in bronze and patinas it to preserve the impression of driftwood, and all of its organic intricacies, in a metal that can withstand the elements.

"We see this installation as the kind of feature that every visitor to Big Sky will want to visit and take their picture in front of," said Ryan Hamilton, Town Center project manager. "Not only will it provide a sense of place by connecting modern day Big Sky to its historical ranching roots and natural environment, but it will make it obvious ... that Big Sky values art and culture."



A rendering depicts a bronze sculpture by Montana artist Deborah Butterfield to be installed in Town Center Plaza in September 2018. RENDERING COURTESY OF ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

ACBS board member and chairperson of the Public Art Committee, Patty Rhea—a long-time admirer of Butterfield's work—forged ahead with an ambitious capital campaign to raise \$400,000 for the sculpture, installation and maintenance. Two-thirds of the funds has been secured.

After a largely silent fundraising campaign, the Arts Council is now asking for the public's support in an effort they've dubbed "Pony Up."

There will be an opportunity to donate at the sixth annual Auction for the Arts on March 22; and a naming contest for the horse will kick off on June 1. During the Music in the Mountains summer concert series, families will have the opportunity to build their own sculptures from natural and found materials.

"The Arts Council of Big Sky isn't just about Music in the Mountain anymore," said public art committee member and former board president, Tallie Lancey. "Big Sky, as a community, has reached the point in its trajectory where critical infrastructure is in place and it's time for the heart and soul of its residents to shine."

Visit bigskyarts.org for more information.



Edgar Meyer: A bassist beyond bluegrass

BY SARAH GIANELLI **EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR**

BIG SKY - Many people equate the name Edgar Meyer with bluegrass virtuosity, but the upright bassist's performing and composing career has taken him far beyond circles of pickers and banjos into some of the most prestigious concert halls in the world.

On Saturday, March 3, Meyers will showcase his chamber music chops in a solo double-bass recital at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. The program, which begins at 7:30 p.m., will include original compositions by Meyer, as well as a Bach Cello Suite arranged for his instrument.

A versatile multi-instrumentalist and composer, Meyer's musical styles encompass classical, folk, bluegrass, newgrass and jazz. He has worked as a session musician in Nashville, been a member of various chamber groups, and has a prolific recording

In 2006, he released a self-titled solo recording on which he wrote and recorded all of the music, incorporating piano, guitar, mandolin, dobro, banjo, gamba, and double bass. In 2007, recognizing his wide-ranging recording achievements, Sony/BMG released a compilation album, "The Best of Edgar Meyer."

In 2011, Meyer joined cellist Yo-Yo Ma, mandolinist Chris Thile, and fiddler Stuart Duncan to record "The Goat Rodeo Sessions" which was awarded the 2012 Grammy Award for Best Folk Album.

The broad spectrum of musicians he has collaborated with also includes Joshua Bell, Hilary Hahn, Jerry Douglas, Béla Fleck, Zakir Hussain, Sam Bush, James Taylor, Mike Marshall, Mark O'Connor, Alison Krauss, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Guy Clark, and Nickel Creek.

Hailed by The New Yorker as "...the most remarkable virtuoso in the relatively un-chronicled history of his instrument," Meyer's musicianship has earned him



Double-bass virtuoso Edgar Meyer performs a solo recital of original works and a Bach suite at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on March 3. PHOTO BY JIM MCGUIRE

an equally vast and varied audience, a cross-section of which likely comprise the WMPAC audience.

"As far as I can tell, Edgar Meyer is the most accomplished double bass player on the planet," said WMPAC Executive Director John Zirkle, adding that he likes to wind down the winter season with a solo act that showcases an area of the performing arts that might get overlooked.

"The double bass is a fascinating and often overlooked instrument in both the folk and classical traditions, and to get to know this instrument through the lens of Edgar Meyer's incredible playing is an experience not to be missed by any type of music lover in Montana."

Visit warrenmillerpac.org for tickets and more information.

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Gallatin River Gallery features encaustic artist Lorri Lagerbloom

Adds new works by metal artist Nolan Salix

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

BIG SKY – A solo exhibition featuring local encaustic artist Lorri Lagerbloom, runs through March 31 at Gallatin River Gallery in Big Sky Town Center, with an opening reception Friday, Feb. 16, from 6-8 p.m.

"Flocking Together" is Lagerbloom's second solo exhibition at GRG and will showcase her signature bird life as well as new landscapes, all highly textural compositions created out of layers of beeswax, oil pigments, paper, fabric, and other mixed media.

Lagerbloom is endlessly inspired by nature. "I find certain elements in nature that catch my eye and bring me joy over and over again," she said. "The blue gray color of juniper berries against the snow and their woodsy fragrance.

The way snow melts away in perfect circles underneath trees in the winter. The shapes of snowy rock mounds in the river."

Lagerbloom is a minimalist at heart, always trying to capture the essence of her subject—whether a mountain bluebird or sweeping Montana valley—with the fewest dashes of color and line possible.

The resulting works are impressionistic, but direct in their quiet powerfulness.



Artist Lorri Lagerbloom exhibits bird paintings and new landscapes in a solo show at Gallatin River Gallery. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GALLERY

"Ultimately what I am trying to get to with both birds and landscapes is bringing a little piece of those immense feelings of awe, peace, and connectedness to everything one feels in nature into one's living space," Lagerbloom said.

"Lorri Lagerbloom continues to express her lifelong adoration for landscape and nature in these new works," said GRG owner Julie Gustafson. "She creates with a tendency towards less-is-more imagery and an intentional unrefined quality. Color and information [are] minimal, yet [her pieces] evoke a sense of quiet and poetry."

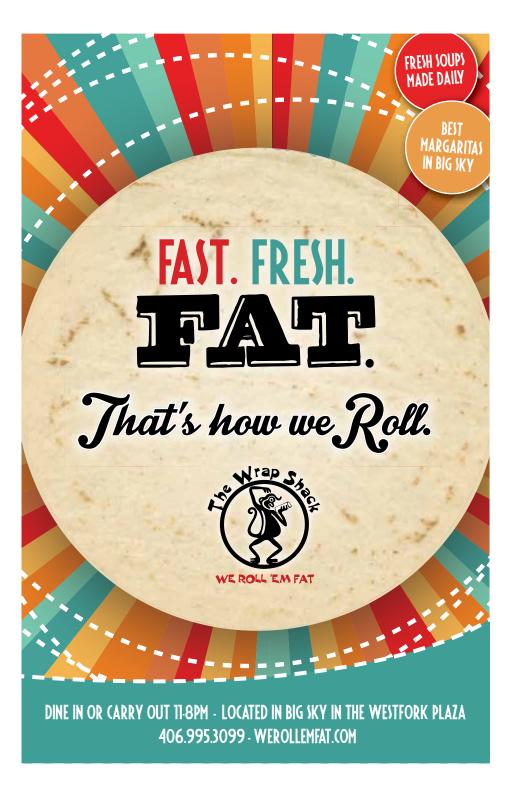
Gustafson is also excited to announce the acquisition of additional works by Dillon, Montana, artist Nolan Salix.

Salix's subject matter is the industrial landscapes of the West. Working on patinaed copper and stainless steel, often reclaimed from the site itself, Salix's pieces begin as

plein air sketches performed during extensive time spent in the field.

"Fascinated with environmentalism, his pieces are layered with reflection on our impact from production and progress, and controversy," Gustafson said. "His paintings [also] literally reflect light," she said, referring to his use of metal "canvases."

Gallatin River Gallery is located on Ousel Falls Road in Big Sky Town Center. Call (406) 995-2909 or email grg@gallatinrivergallery.com for more information.





EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, FEB. 16 – THURSDAY, MARCH 1.

*IF YOUR EVENT FALLS **BETWEEN MARCH 2 AND 15.** PLEASE SUBMIT IT BY FEB. 21 BY EMAILING MEDIA@ **OUTLAW.PARTNERS.**

BIG SKY

[title of show], musical **Warren Miller Performing Arts** Center Feb. 16-17, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 18, 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16

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

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

The Dirty Shame, music Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

The Jauntee & Moth, music Lone Peak Brewery, 9 p.m.

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

Hannah and Zander, music Choppers, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 BSF & USASA Slopestyle/Rail Jam Big Sky Resort, all day

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

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

Brian Stumpf, music Choppers, 4:30 p.m.

Lauren lackson, music Rainbow Ranch, 5 p.m.

Rocky Mountain Pearls, music Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

BSF & USASA Slopestyle/Rail Jam Big Sky Resort, all day

Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

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 20 Tax Assistance with VITA Big Sky Community Food Bank, 11 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.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Upper Gallatin Drought Focus Group Big Sky Water and Sewer conference room, 9 a.m.

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

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

Entrepreneurship lecture with Sam Byrne and David Ulevitch Buck's T-4, 5 p.m.

Wild Mushroom Risotto, cooking class **Big Sky Discovery Academy,** 6 p.m.

'80s Party M.R. Hummer's, 10 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

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.

John Hannahs, music Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Big Sky Chapel, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

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

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

Sugar Daddies, music Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

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

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

Scavenger, music Choppers, 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Mad Wolf Winter Relay Race Big Sky Resort and Lone Mountain Ranch, all day

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

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

Brian Stumpf, music Rainbow Ranch, 5 p.m.

Double Barrel, music Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 7 p.m.

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

Lone Mountain Trio, music Chets Bar, 9 p.m.

Montana Jack, 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Special Olympics Moonlight Base Area, all day

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

Service Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

Chet's Brewery Dinner Series: MAP Brewing Chet's Bar and Grill, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

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.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 "Tracks and Trails" hike **Hummocks Trail, 10:30 a.m.**

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

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 1

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

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

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

Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Big Sky Chapel, 8 p.m.

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

BOZEMAN

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16 Jazz Night Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

MSU 125th Birthday Bash Montana State University, 7 p.m.

Backcountry Film Festival Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture, 7 p.m.

Voices of Broadway: The Phat Pack, music Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

She Loves Me, opera Rialto Theater Feb. 16-18, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

Bridger Gully Freeride Bridger Bowl Ski Area, all day Winter Farmers' Market Emerson Ballroom, all morning

Family Costume Gala Gallatin History Museum, 5:30 p.m.

MSU 125th Birthday Bash Montana State University, 7 p.m.

Great American Taxi, music Live From the Divide, 8 p.m.

Montana Fishing Film Festival Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture, 8 p.m.

Howard Beall and the Fake News, Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Dan Dubuque, music Red Tractor Pizza, 6 p.m.

Lane Norberg, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Silversmith's Mine, music Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Beer Maven women's brewing event MAP Brewing Co., 6 p.m.

30th Annual Bug Buffet MSU SUB Ballroom A, 12 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Tizdale, music Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

Wild Rivers Night, benefit dinner Baxter Ballroom, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Montana 1864-1889, lecture Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m. Wild and Scenic Film Festival Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture, 6 p.m.

Monophonics, music Rialto Theater, 7 p.m.

Bridger Creek Boys, music Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Ethan J. Perry and the Remedy Band, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

A New Comedy, Jimmie and Pete, play Feb. 22-24, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 25, 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Jazz Night, music Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Community Welcome Back Celebration with Paige and the People's Band Rialto Theater, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Terrain Park lam Bridger Bowl Ski Area, all day

Bozambique, music Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25 2018 Oscar Shorts Rialto Theater, 1 p.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Ty Stevenson, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Ryan Ehlke, music Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

Why? music Rialto Theater, 8:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Previvor Dinner Cancer Support Community, 5:30

Brews and the Big Sky: McGill Museum of the Rockies, 5:30 p.m.

Weston Lewis, music Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Comedy Night, music Red Tractor Pizza, 7:30 p.m.

Alcoholics Anonymous can help if you think you might have a drinking problem. Call (888) 607-2000 to talk to a member of A.A.. or go to aa-montana.org for meeting times and locations.

WORTH THE DRIVE

Virginia City, MT

Chautauqua

Elling House Arts and Humanities Center Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m.

The Elling House will host their first Chautauqua of 2018 in February as a way of bringing entertainment and culture to the community with speakers, teachers, musicians, entertainers and specialists of the day. First popularized in the 19th and 20th centuries, the Chautauqua is hailed as a sharing of entertainment and intellectual knowledge; Teddy Roosevelt claimed it was "the most American thing in America." Today the tradition continues with a variety of writers, musicians and special topic speakers taking center stage at the Elling House. The monthly event begins with a potluck dinner at 6:30 p.m. and performances start at 7:30 p.m. Those wishing to be on stage are encouraged to contact Toni James to make reservations at (406) 843-5454 or ranksmerc@yahoo.com.

Livingston, MT

Moving History Speaker Series Yellowstone Gateway Museum Feb. 28, 7 p.m.

The Friends of the Yellowstone Gateway Museum announce their upcoming speaker series, A Moving History, featuring area experts. The first program, "The Railroad: Livingston and the Beginnings of a County," presented by Museum Director Paul Shea, is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6 p.m. for people to enjoy exhibits before the 7 p.m. program. Attendees must climb stairs to the museum's top floor. Yellowstone Gateway Museum, 118 W. Chinook. Call (406) 222-4184 or visit yellowstonegatewaymuseum.org for more information.

West Yellowstone, MT

Guided cross-country and snowshoe tours Rendezvous Ski Trails Feb. 21, 22, 24

The Forest Service's Hebgen Lake Ranger District is offering free guided cross-country skiing and snowshoeing programs once monthly throughout the winter. Guided tours will take place on West Yellowstone's Rendezvous Ski Trails, with snowshoeing on Feb. 21 and cross-country skiing on Feb. 22, from 1 to 4 p.m. The ranger station will also offer free programs on making survival snowshoes on Feb. 24, from 4-7 p.m. For more information call the ranger station at (406) 823-6961.



SUBMIT YOUR EVENT

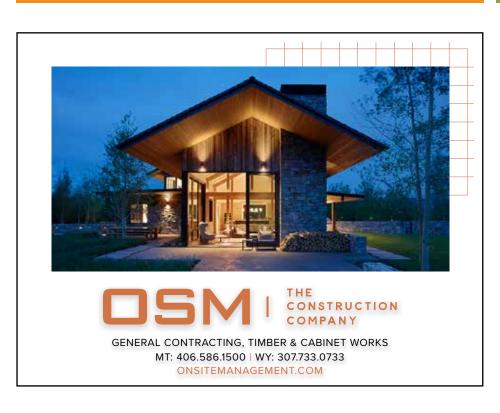
email media@theoutlawpartners.com

Billings, MT

Art Auction

Yellowstone Art Museum March 3, 5 p.m.

The Yellowstone Art Museum's art auction was the region's first and continues to be the area's finest and most exciting auction of contemporary regional art. This year's annual art auction celebrates its 50th anniversary and the museum hopes it will be their largest fundraising event, generating proceeds in support of exhibitions and educational programming that will continue to inspire the community of Billings and surrounding region throughout the year. Open seating tickets will be available at the door and reserved seating can be made by calling (406) 256-6804 or visiting artmuseum.org/special-events/art-







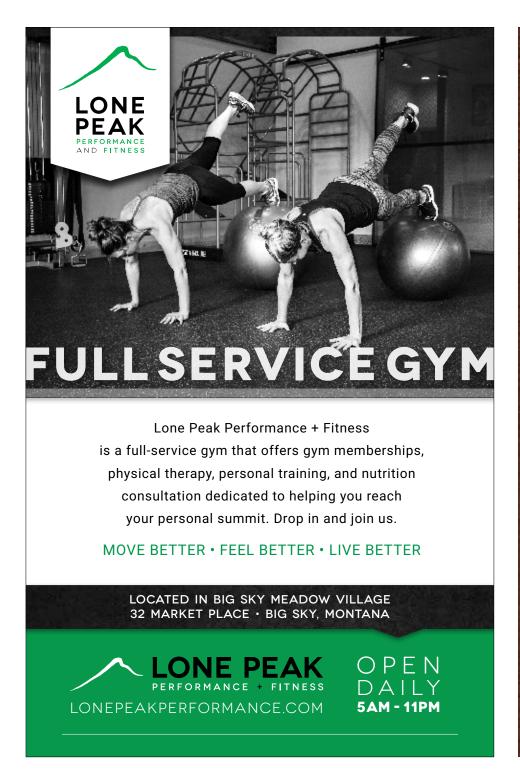
Sudoku

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Inside the Big Sky

More Montana-made movies hit the big screen

VISIT BIG SKY

It's been just over 25 years since the iconic Montana film "A River Runs Through It" was released in theaters nationwide. For many viewers, it was their first glimpse of the awe-inspiring landscape of southwest Montana.

A young Brad Pitt spends much of the film peacefully casting a line out into the Gallatin River with easily recognizable Gallatin Canyon landmarks, like Storm Castle peak, in the background.

The film, which can be interpreted as a love letter to the pristine outdoors and fly fishing, might be the most famous movie to be filmed in the region, but it's certainly not the only one.

In 2017, the highly anticipated "Walking Out," by Missoula brothers Alex Smith and Andrew J. Smith was released in select theaters. The Smith brothers, also responsible for "The Slaughter Rule" and "Winter in the Blood," are committed to making films entirely set in Montana. "Walking Out" tells the story of an estranged father and son who are forced to rely on one another to survive in the unforgiving Montana wilderness.

"The Ballad of Lefty Brown," directed by Jared Moshe, is the latest Hollywood film to set their cameras on the picturesque scenery of southwest Montana. Filmed in Bannack State Park, 25 miles southwest of Dillon, Montana, the Wild West film stars Bill Pullman, who taught at Montana State University early in his career.



"The Ballad of Lefty Brown" is the latest Montana-filmed movie to grace the silver screen. PHOTO COURTESY OF BOZEMAN FILM SOCIETY

Pullman plays side-kick Lefty Brown, who is pulled into the fray when his longtime partner and newly elected senator (Peter Fonda) is murdered. Lefty assembles a posse to enact revenge and, in doing so, viewers are taken on a cinematic tour of the sun-soaked plains of Montana. The sweeping shots of horseback riding and the big Montana sky might reignite the public's interest in the region in very much the same way "A River Runs Through It" did long ago.

Other lesser known films that immortalize the region include "Everything that Rises," a film directed by and starring Dennis Quaid as a Montana rancher trying to maintain his lands after a family tragedy. "The Last Ride," stars a young Mickey Rourke who falls in love with a free spirit. A particularly memorable bar fight is set in Gallatin Gateway's historic waterhole, Stacey's.

To learn more about Big Sky and southwest Montana, visit the Visit Big Sky blog at visitbigskymt.com.

Moth opens for The Jauntee at Lone Peak Brewery

EBS STAFF

On Feb. 16, Lone Peak Brewery hosts a concert featuring Denver-based The Jauntee, with Montana's own Moth as the opening act. Doors to The Loft above the brewery open at 8 p.m. with the show beginning at 9 p.m.

Like many groups loosely defined as a jam band, The Jauntee's improvisational style spans multiple genres, from rock and jazz to bluegrass, psychedelic, and ambient. Their willingness to explore genres, abandon song structure, and dive into "the weird" has earned them a home on the jam band touring circuit.

Averaging more than 100 shows per year, The Jauntee continues to expand its nationwide fan base, adding Pacific Northwest and West Coast venues to its 2017-18 tour, which also includes a three-night run in Montana—in Livingston, Big Sky and a final show at the Filling Station in Bozeman on Feb. 17.

Moth—a band that describes itself as "a powerhouse electro jam band"—is sure to heat up the dance floor before The Jauntee takes the stage and keeps the dance party going and the laser lights beaming late into the night.

Visit the jauntee.com or call Lone Peak Brewery at (406) 995-3939 for more information.



The Jauntee teams up with Moth to deliver a night of jam band grooves on Feb. 16 at Lone Peak Brewery. PHOTO COURTESY OF EVER UPWARD ENTERTAINMENT

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Jack Clinton: On oil and rocks

BY DOUG HARE

After graduating high school, Jack Clinton decided to move from the suburbs of New Haven, Connecticut, to northwest Wyoming where he found refuge in the ski- and climbing-bum lifestyle. During those formative years, he worked odd jobs and befriended many of the eccentrics, itinerates, dreamers, seekers and madmen that comprise those who relentlessly seek out mountain adventure.

After eight years of researching gravity in and around the Tetons, and finding the solace and sanctuary of the backcountry, he decided to go back to study at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. Eventually earning a bachelor's in English and master's in Spanish, he soon began a career as a teacher.

Having dabbled as a freelance writer covering environmental news during his time as a student, he eventually came up with the idea for a novel while on a hike with his future wife after finding a piece of Clovis, a distinctive spearhead relic from the Paleo-Indian culture that many scholars believe hunted mammoths and giant bison more than 11,000 years ago.

This January, 19 years later, the now 60-year-old, Red Lodge, Montana-based Spanish teacher has published an impressive debut novel, "Clovis," in which the experiences of his youth and the characters he met during his Wyoming days are transmogrified into a riveting social and environmental exploration of the New West.

Told from the point of view of a working crew of anthropologists and archeologists tasked with approving the path of the fictional CanAm gas pipeline, and most of whom go mountaineering on their days off, "Clovis" is topical in the way that it takes a deeper look into the various competing interests, but also the lives of the people, involved in deciding the fate of our nation's public lands.

The characters are authentic, their personal struggles and interactions nuanced, and their sexual liaisons always unpredictable. At the center of the novel is the unassuming heroine Hanna, a vegetarian archaeologist and avid runner trying to navigate her way in the rough-and-tumble, misogynistic world of petroleum companies and vast expanses of unforgiving terrain.

Circling back time and again to the image of the prehistoric spearhead, this book's imaginative exploration of the history of the Clovis people and their unique stone tool provide a backdrop for a stark depiction of the struggles, as well as the beauty and joy to be found in modern day Rocky Mountain deserts, prairies, basins and peaks.

"Clovis" succeeds as a subtle reexamination of the true value of friendships, love, artifacts and pristine wilderness areas in the modern West.

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

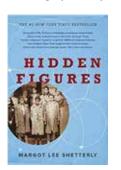
I remember the first time the significance of perspective hit me. I was sitting in a high school history class with students from around the world. My teacher said something about "America" and a student raised her hand and asked if the teacher was referring to the entirety of North and South America or something more specific. He looked at her a little surprised and said the United States. She then mentioned that she was also from America, Central America to be more specific, and the lesson the teacher was teaching had nothing to do with her America.

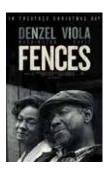
February is Black History Month. This month we have the opportunity to see past our own history to better understand the lives and experiences of others. We have the chance to celebrate all of the contributions of African Americans and the ways every life is enriched by the diversity of culture that defines our country.

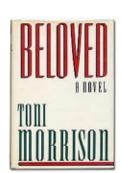
One way to do that is through literature. This month, read or watch "Hidden Figures" by Margot Lee Shetterly about African American women at NASA. Watch the Academy Award-nominated film "Fences," or read any of Toni Morrison's hauntingly honest books about race.

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Traditional and Contemporary Western Art



Old Main Gallery features finalists of juried exhibition

OLD MAIN GALLERY AND FRAMING

Bozeman's Old Main Gallery & Framing hosts an exhibit of two-dimensional works by the finalists of the 2018 annual juried art exhibition entitled "Nostalgia."

An opening reception will be held Friday, March 2 from 5 to 7 p.m., during which a Best of Show and two honorable mentions will be announced. The recipient of Best of Show will be awarded a \$500 gift certificate to Old Main Gallery & Framing. Those in attendance will be able to cast their vote for People's Choice award.

The finalists, who were chosen by artists Michael Blessing and Meagan Abra Blessing, include Alan KnowsHisGun, Bridgette Meinhold, Carmen Campbell-Tyler, Cyrus Walker, David Swanson, Deborah Mckenna, Diane Whitehead, Jason Lohmeier, KJ Kahnle, LeeAnn Ramey, Marcia Wendell, Michael Maydak, Morgan Irons, Pat Branting, Sarah Angst, Scott Fabriz, Shari Chandler, Susan Crawford Stevens, Tess Lehman, Tracie Spence, Wendy Marquis and William Stebe.

"Nostalgia" will be on display through April 1.

Old Main Gallery & Framing is located at 129 E. Main St. in Bozeman. For more information call (406) 587-8860 or visit oldmaingallery.com.



Old Main Gallery hosts its annual juried exhibition through April 1. Billings artist Alan KnowsHisGun is one of more than 20 artists represented. PHOTO COURTESY OF OLD MAIN GALLERY & FRAMING



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Meeting Topics:

Upper Gallatin Drought Management Plan content review, strategizing broader engagement

RSVP: emily@gallatinrivertaskforce.org

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