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# explorebigsky



explorebigsky

**ON THE COVER:** A very familiar bird across most of North America, the American robin is a sure sign that spring is on its way. The robin's rich caroling is among the earliest bird songs heard at dawn in spring and summer, often beginning just before first light. NPS PHOTO

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A Big Sky winter for the ages

Lone Mountain Ranch celebrates 'Year of the Bird'

World's tallest geyser erupts in Yellowstone

**Q&A** with freeride coach **Cooper Raasch** 





**Special section: Travel** guide



After winning a Freeride World Qualifier event at Crystal Mountain Resort, Big Sky local Chance Lenay sits in first place in the rankings on the qualification circuit for Men's Snowboard in North America. He will compete at California's Kirkwood Mountain Resort the weekend of March 31-April 1 with the hopes of securing a spot on next year's Freeride World Tour, a worldwide circuit of freeride competitions featuring the best freeride athletes in the world. PHOTO COURTESY OF CHANCE LENAY

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

**CORRECTION:** In the March 16 edition of EBS, Olivia Bulis was misidentified as Anna Bulis in the article "Big Sky students protest gun violence in national walkout.'



## 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** March 30 - April 12, 2018 **Explore** Big Sky



# NEWS IN BRIEF



# NorthWestern Energy to update public on substation proposal

**EBS STAFF** 

North Western Energy will hold a public engagement meeting at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11 to update the community on the development of a new mid-mountain electrical substation.

According to NorthWestern energy, the new electrical substation, which was proposed last July, will help meet the community's growing energy needs and will improve service reliability for current as well as future customers.

As proposed, the new substation would be an open-air structure, however in a letter sent to the community on March 9, NorthWestern Energy said they are also considering the viability of a gas-insulated substation or low-profile substation technology.

After initial scoping meetings ended in August 2017, NorthWestern Energy met with substation operators at Holy Cross Energy in Aspen, Colorado, to learn more about gas-insulated substations and their applicability to Big Sky. They have also assessed low-profile substation technology.

NorthWestern Energy will share the results of their substation-type assessment during the April 11 meeting.

Additionally, the company will discuss the appointment of a team of 11-13 community members tasked with providing specific feedback and recommendations on the site and technology options, under direction of the Burton K. Wheeler Center. This group will consist of current residential property owners, developers, small and large business owners, community group representatives and non-owner members of the workforce.

Recommendations for the advisory team can be made through April 25 by emailing bigskysubstation@gmail.com. For more information about the Big Sky Substation Siting Project, visit bigskysubstation.wixsite.com/bigskysubstation.

#### Resort tax board candidate roundtable April 2

EBS STAFF

Voters in the Big Sky Resort Area District will select two new members to serve four-year terms on the resort tax board of directors, when elections are held Tuesday, May 8.

At Buck's T-4 Lodge on Monday, April 2 at 5:30 p.m., Big Sky's Top Shelf Toastmasters will host a candidate roundtable with the four community members running to fill the seats vacated by Heather Budd and Ginna Hermann.

Sarah Blechta, Paul "Buz" Davis, Steve Johnson and Craig Smit will answer questions from the moderators, who belong to the Big Sky chapter of Toastmasters International, a nonprofit organization that helps members improve their communication and leadership skills.

Big Sky's 3-percent resort tax is charged on "luxury" items and services, and during fiscal year 2017 the district collected more than \$5.1 million. This money is appropriated annually in June, to fund services and programs in this unincorporated resort community.

Big Sky School District board trustee candidates Matt Jennings and Margo Magnant will also participate in the roundtable. There are two seats open on the school board and Jennings and Magnant were the only candidates to file as of EBS press time on March 28. The filing deadline was March 29.

This event will also be broadcast live on Explore Big Sky's Facebook page.

# **Application period opens for Rotary student scholarship**

ROTARY CLUB OF BIG SKY

The Rotary Club of Big Sky has announced its annual George MacDonald Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 to be awarded to a Big Sky resident attending college or a vocational post-high school program. This scholarship is one of many community projects that the Rotary Club of Big Sky is able to fund as a result of the community's support during the annual Gold Raffle and Auction held each January.

The criteria for the scholarship will be based on financial need, community service and academic performance. In addition to a completed application, a school transcript must be included. Applicants will also be asked to write a letter to the scholarship committee, explaining college or post-high school education plans, academic and extracurricular history, and a description of community service endeavors.

A committee of three Rotarians will review each application, and a winner will be announced by May 31. The deadline for the application is April 30. All information provided to the review committee will be kept strictly confidential to the members of that committee.

Big Sky residents interested in applying for this scholarship should contact a Rotarian for an application or send an email to bigskyrotary@gmail.com.

### Campus radio station celebrates 50 years on-air

KGLT

KGLT FM 91.9, the noncommercial campus radio station at Montana State University in Bozeman, is celebrating their 50th year on-air, and will hold an annual two-week fund drive from Sunday, April 1 to Saturday, April 14.

This annual two-week on-air event keeps the station operating throughout the year, and this year's pledge goal is \$200,000.

Community members that make a pledge of support will receive one of several incentive gifts. In addition to 50th anniversary shirts, hats, mugs and totes, gifts include a mountain bike from Summit Bike and Ski, a Martin acoustic guitar from Music Villa, a season ski pass from Bridger Bowl, and a variety of gift cards for everything from restaurants to yoga studios.

In addition, works from famous artists like the late Freeman Butts, Livingston's Parks Reece, and Ella Watson of the Holter Museum in Helena will be offered over the airwaves.

"KGLT reaches out to communities across the southwestern portion of our state ... to bring us all together into one large community of listeners and volunteers," said Station Manger Ellen King-Rodgers.

Being an all-music format, the station provides many services to communities who otherwise might not have access to grassroots community information. Locally-produced programming like the Montana Medicine Show providing on-air history vignettes, or Chrysti The Wordsmith offering daily derivations of common words and phrases, are just some of the many shows and services provided.

In celebration of the 50th anniversary, KGLT will broadcast the station's varied history to listeners throughout the area.

To make a donation to KGLT, call the station's request line at (406) 994-4492 or (800) 254-5458. Pledges can also be made directly through the station's website, kglt.net.

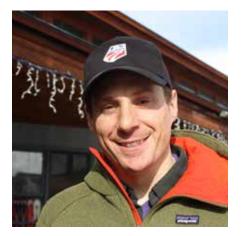


# What is your favorite memory from this winter season?



Cassandra Marfia Big Sky, Montana

"[It's going to be] April 11, Traverse. It's fun, it's a big scavenger hunt ... I probably look forward to that more than closing weekend."



**Noah Haanen** *Big Sky, Montana* 

"My favorite memory would have to be hanging out with all my friends on the great powder days that we had, because there's been a lot of them."



Eric Lipton
Park City, Utah

"I travel to a lot of resorts for my job. One of the things that I can say, is proudly reporting Big Sky Resort's great snow."



Tara Vandersloot
Bozeman, Montana

"Going to Japan with my personal guide ... I got invited on a trip."

### Letter:

# Access to proposed Meadowview development concerning

A request for approval of the Meadowview Condominium Development has been made to the Gallatin County commissioners. This development is for a 52-unit residential "workforce housing" condominium subdivision located in Big Sky, north of Little Coyote Road, behind the community park. The projected access to this development will be a single road from Little Coyote Road, located at the west edge of the tennis court parking lot.

The owners of this property, Meadowview II, LLC, have requested relaxation of certain Gallatin County subdivision regulations. This request states: "Relaxation of the required 60-foot public right of way to a 32-foot public right of way, relaxation of required pedestrian facilities on both sides of street to one pedestrian facility on the downhill side of the street and the elimination of the required 4-foot boulevard, relaxation of the required 150-foot centerline radius on the first curve on the proposed Arapaho Trail and requirements for secondary access."

This singular road, Arapaho Trail, is projected to have 302 daily trips, according to the Gallatin County Planning Department. Approval of relaxation of these standards results in substandard vehicular/pedestrian street facilities and a traffic and public safety concern. In case of an emergency, such as fire, accident, blizzards, earthquake, etc., restricted access to and from the Meadowview development will occur. Daily usage of Little Coyote by residents, school buses, Skyline shuttles and others will be adversely affected by this development.

The Gallatin County commissioners will meet in Bozeman on April 24, for the first presentation of this Meadowview II, LLC request, to be presented by the Gallatin County Planning Board. To express your comments and concerns you can email: Gallatin County Commission, Attn: Chairman Steve White at commissioners@gallatin.mt.gov, and to Gallatin County Planner Tim Skop at tim. skop@gallatin.mt.gov.

Roger and Carolynn Brislawn Big Sky, Montana



### ROUNDTABLE

April 2 | 5:30 p.m. | Buck's T-4 Lodge

#### MEET THE CANDIDATES

Sarah Blechta Paul "Buz" Davis Steve Johnson Craig Smit

Ballots mailed in late April, due to Gallatin County by Tuesday, May 8

School board trustee candidates Matt Jennings and Margo Magnant will also participate in the roundtable discussion.

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# OUTLΛW

## News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

# PBR golf tournament registration opens April 1

## Event to raise funds for Western sports athletes

EBS STAFF

Registration for the second annual Big Sky PBR Golf Tournament opens on April 1. The event benefits the Western Sports Foundation and will take place on Wednesday, July 25, at The Reserve at Moonlight Basin, an 8,000-yard Jack Nicklaus Signature Design Golf Course with majestic mountain views.

Twenty teams of five players—four guests plus a Big Sky PBR bull rider—will play an 18-hole scramble tournament with a shotgun start at 11 a.m.

"I equate the PBR golf tournament at Moonlight to having dinner with a gladiator the night before they go out and lay it on the line for your entertainment," said Andy

Dreisbach, a player in last year's tournament. "It's an incredible scene that makes the entire PBR event much more personal. The next time you see these young men they are not a nameless face, but a friend that you are hoping and praying for."

The cost to register is \$1,250 per team of four, but an early bird price of \$1,000 is available to those who register before May 31. The registration fee includes a golf carts, greens fee, range balls, gift bags, boxed lunches and a happy hour awards ceremony.

All proceeds from the tournament benefit the Western Sports Foundation, a nonprofit that supports the health and well-being of athletes competing in all Western lifestyle sports. The foundation provides medical, life-counseling



The second annual PBR tournament pairs up teams from the community with a PBR bull rider to raise money for Western Sports Foundation, a nonprofit that provides multi-faceted support for all Western sport athletes. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

and financial resources to address the athletes' immediate needs and help them prepare for life beyond competition.

"We have had such great success raising money for injured athletes, both at the Big Sky PBR event and at last year's inaugural golf tournament," said Aubrey O'Quin, Western Sports Foundation operations manager. "We are so excited to be back in Big Sky, at Moonlight Basin, and to have the opportunity to continue to build relationships with the community and share our new mission."

Last year, the Big Sky PBR Golf Tournament raised approximately \$50,000 for the Rider Relief Fund, now the Western Sports Foundation, which has expanded its

services and made them available to all Western sports athletes.

"The 2017 tournament was a huge success," said Greg Wagner, director of golf at The Reserve. "The traction from last year's event really helped this become a not-to-miss event of the summer. I think it's great that the Moonlight and Big Sky communities have the chance to share a stress-free day with the riders, and get to know them before they watch them compete over the weekend."

Registration opens April 1 at bigskypbrgolftournament.eventbrite.com. For sponsorship opportunities call (719) 242-2900 or email aoquin@ westernsportsfoundation.org. Visit westernsportsfoundation.org for more information.



# **Obituary: Robert Chester Juel**

This is the story of Robert (Bob) Juel. Bob was a wonderful man who was loved, is missed, and will always be remembered for his smile, large bear hugs, and booming laughter. Bob, who passed away on March 26, was a doting husband, a wise brother, a devoted son, a generous father and grandfather, and a faithful friend who could catch largemouth bass with the best of them.

Bob's story began on July 2,1947, the oldest child of Chet and Mary Juel of Scobey, Montana. He grew up with nine siblings on the plains of eastern Montana where he made lifelong friends, worked on the family farm, and played football as a proud Spartan. He later attended Montana State University – Northern where he met the love of his life, Sharon Johnson of Cut Bank, Montana. They dated all through college and married shortly after graduation.

The couple moved to Big Sky in 1977, where Bob had a thriving property maintenance and snow removal business. With the help of good friends and neighbors, the couple built a log home with a barn-shaped roof and enough bedrooms and space for their five active children to grow up in.

Bob was an active fisherman, backcounty elk hunter, and outdoor enthusiast. His love of hunting took him all over Montana, Alaska and Canada. Bob loved the mountains—something he was able to share with his wife Sharon during their 47 years of marriage. Some of their best memories were fishing at Canyon Ferry Lake all summer long.

Bob's grandchildren were his heart and joy. He was so proud of how smart, caring, and hardworking all eight boys and girls are. One of his greatest pleasures was teaching, sharing his love of the outdoors, and celebrating the accomplishments of the next generation of the Juel family.

Loved ones that were waiting for Bob in heaven include his younger brother Ronny and his mother Mary. Loved ones who will miss Bob until they see



him again are his wife Sharon Juel, his father Chet Juel, his daughter Sarah Juel, his son and daughter-in-law Eli and Crystal Juel, his daughter Bethany Juel, his son Robert Juel, Jr., his son Aaron Juel, his eight grandsons and granddaughters, his many siblings and nieces and nephews. The story will go on until we see Bob again. We love and miss you Dad.

A celebration of life service will be held at Christian Center Assembly of God in Bozeman on Saturday, March 31, at 10:30 a.m. with a reception to follow.



# A winter to remember: Putting the 2017-2018 season in perspective

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – What a winter it has been. This ski season in Big Sky started auspiciously on Thanksgiving Day, boasting nearly twice the average snowfall for late November—impressive for a mountain known for its historically low standard deviation in snowfall. With a 36-inch base on the summit—and despite above-freezing temps—ski patrol was able to open the iconic Big Couloir on opening day, a rare occurrence.

The skiing has only gotten better since then, registering 66 days and counting with reported snowfall and no shortage of bluebird days in between. While Big Sky Resort will still be turning the lifts until April 22, it's safe to say that the 2017-2018 season will be remembered as one of the best winters in recent memory.

### "I think we've been discovered the cat's out of the bag." -Joe Muggli

One thing is certain: the favorable ski conditions compared to other ski destinations in the American West brought more visitors to Big Sky, many for their first time, and local businesses have been thriving as a result. "I think we've been discovered—the cat's out of the bag," said Joe Muggli, master bootfitter at Grizzly Outfitters, where a few patrons were waiting on his services.

"March is the 35th consecutive month of year-over-year growth [for my business]," said Steve Nordahl, owner of Lone Peak Brewery. "Combined with better-than-average snow and poor conditions elsewhere, this season has been nuts. There's been a big influx of first-timers—people from Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado."

How does this season stack up against some of the other epic winters in Big Sky's history? A good point of reference is a direct comparison with the 1996-1997 winter season, which also stands out for well-above-average snowfall.

The Lone Peak Tram had opened the previous season, carrying skiers and snowboarders to the 11,166-foot summit and expanding Big Sky's skiable terrain by approximately 50 percent. Originally, it was painted pink



December 2017 was chock full of face shots at Big Sky Resort. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

# "There's been a big influx of first-timers—people from Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado." -Steve Nordahl

inside to calm riders, and this was the year that Big Sky Resort began to gain recognition for lift-accessible, expert terrain that drew comparisons to the Alps.

Bob Dixon, ski patrol director for 37 years, recalls a storm around Christmas that season that left more than 2 and a half feet of snow on the mountain. "That was one of the biggest dumps that I've ever seen in southwest Montana," said Dixon. "There were major avalanche cycles in early January—those are hard to forget."

業 SNOWFALL 業		
	1996/1997	2017/2018
Average snowfall	145% of average	130% of average
Total snowfall	~350"	~300"
December Snowpack	152%	137%
March Snowpack	183%	140%
Average and total snowfall measured at the resort, November through March. Snowpack percentages taken on the first of each month.		

TOP 5 YEARS
of Snow Water Equivalent
in the Gallatin Basin

#1 1997 28.2%

#2 2014 23.2%

#3 2018 22.8%

#4 1982 22.2%

#5 2011 21.7%

Rankings based on 38 years of data (1981-2018.)
Data collected on March 27 of each year.



According to the photographer's notes on the slide sleeve of this image, 148 inches of snow was measured in The Bowl when this photo was taken in the spring of 1997. PHOTO BY LONNIE BALL

While the memories of past seasons will fade, the economic impact of winters such as this one will be long-lasting, with businesses not only seeing a rise in short-term profits, but Big Sky Resort continuing to prove its merits as a world-class ski destination.

"We've grown tremendously in the last 20 years," said Ryan Kunz, general manager of Lone Mountain Ranch. "This is a record year for us in terms of cabins and dining. It's the busiest year we've seen, and I imagine it's been the same for the rest of the town. It's been a perfect storm for Big Sky."

Kunz added that Lone Mountain Ranch, which has 24 cabins, has been at over 90 percent occupancy all season and after speaking with other property owners and general managers, he estimates that businesses around town have been trending up 20 or 30 percent.

Jackie Robin, owner of the Hungry Moose Market and Deli, remembers 1996-1997 as the first winter after the birth of her son Micah, and still jokes that his early exposure to massive snowfall is the reason he enjoys skiing so much. Robin recalls cross-country skiing right out of her door in the



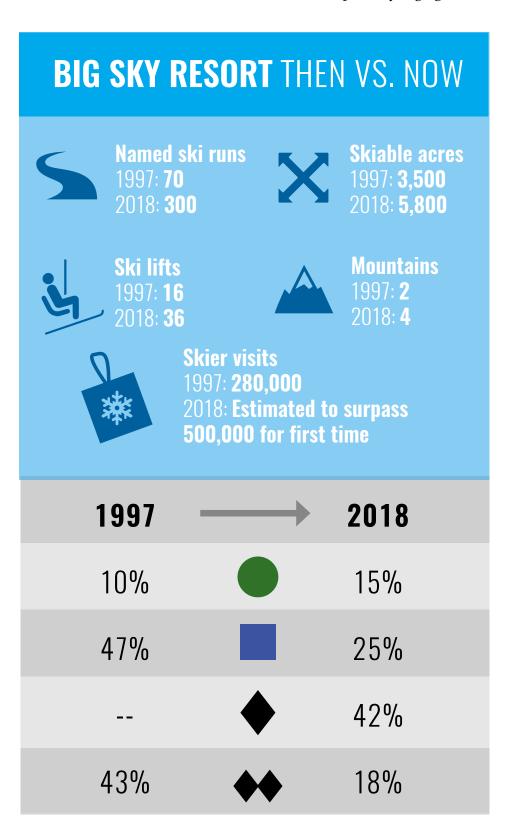
This toboggan was hurled more than 300 yards, and lodged 12 feet up in a tree, by the wind blast of an avalanche that ripped down the south face of Lone Mountain on Dec. 26, 1996. It was first published in Powder magazine in 1998. PHOTO BY LONNIE BALL

# "The older I get, the deeper it was." -Anonymous

Westfork neighborhood, and her then 4-year-old son Andrew climbing snow banks the size of "small mountains" on his way to look at the fire trucks at the nearby station.

When the Hungry Moose opened in 1994, their original shop on Lone Mountain Trail was only 700 square feet. "Now we have two locations," Robin said. "Both stores have been very busy this winter. It's great to have a season where no one—staff, locals, visitors—is complaining about lack of snow or poor conditions. Everyone is happy and having fun. The only problem, of course, is keeping up and not having enough staff."

While the weather patterns and snowpack characteristics are comparable between the two seasons, with the 1996-1997 winter probably edging

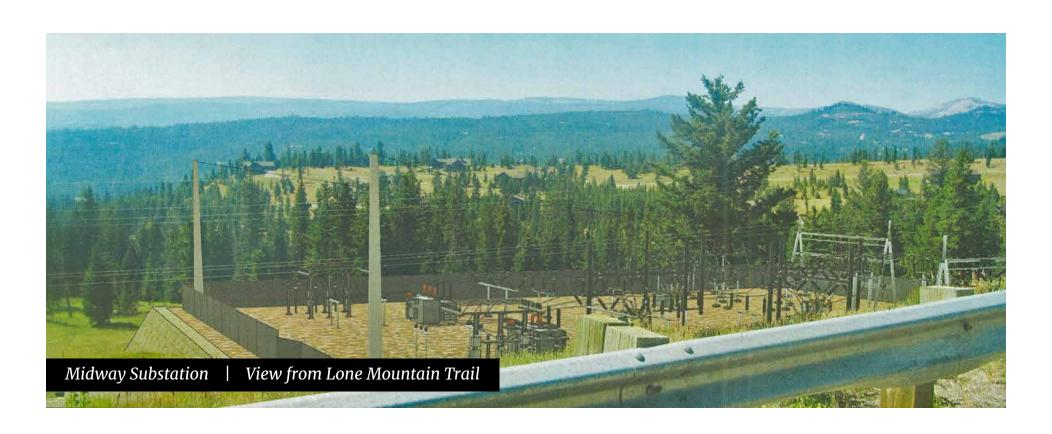


out this year in terms of total precipitation, other statistics reveal a ski community that has nearly doubled in its capacity to entertain those who come to recreate on and around Lone Mountain—in under a quarter century.

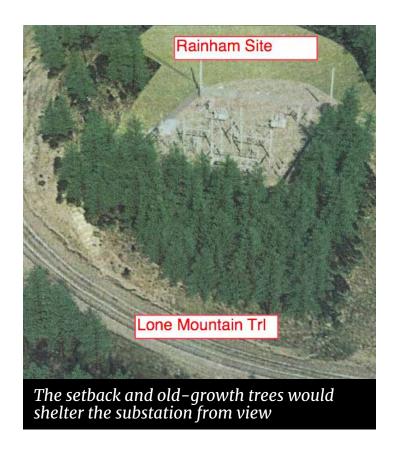
While future snowfall in Big Sky is unpredictable, the continued growth of the resort and town—more chairlifts, more housing units, more shops and restaurants—is not. Having winter seasons like this one will only expedite the process.

EBS Senior Editor Sarah Gianelli and Jessianne Wright contributed reporting to this story.

# This is the future of Big Sky. Let's do it right.



# **Substation Site & Design - Public Meeting**April 11 at 6:30 p.m. | Warren Miller Performing Arts Center



Big Sky is too special of a place to spoil with poorly planned infrastructure. More than 400 people have signed a petition indicating their preference for a new substation located out of view from Lone Mountain Trail.

NorthWestern Energy has said they are taking the community's input into account as they choose a substation location and design. Time is running out to voice your opinion on a decision that will permanently alter Big Sky.

Attend a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. on April 11 at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center where NorthWestern Energy will update the community on substation site and design options.

Brought to you by

The Big Sky Alliance for Responsible Development



# **Remembering my** grandmother Nancy Hough

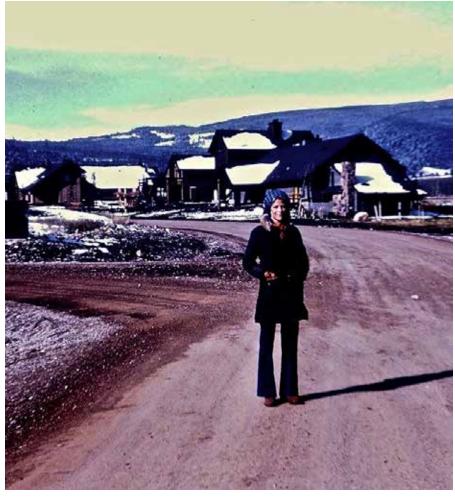
#### BY CASEY FOLLEY

My grandmother Nancy Hough was a remarkable woman. She was a world traveler, fluent in several languages and one of Big Sky's first seasonal visitors. She lived with her husband, Richard Hough, in Illinois after World War II, but during the war they were stationed in Tonopah, Nevada, where they both learned to love the mountains. Soon thereafter they began visiting Diamond J Ranch in Ennis.

I was told that they met Chet Huntley when he came to the Diamond J Ranch to try and get people interested in Big Sky and his vision for a resort. The story goes that they drove up into the Meadow and sat on the floor of a large teepee where he gave them the pitch.

My grandparents were sold on Big Sky and soon thereafter purchased a Silverbow condo that they owned for the rest of their lives. Until her death in 2005, Nancy was known in Big Sky for walking the spur road from the Meadow to the mountain and back every day during the summer. In Chicago she was known for volunteering as a translator at the Chicago Children's Hospital. To her family she was simply known as Ralph.

Casey Folley has been living in Big Sky since 2010 but has been visiting since 1982. His grandparents introduced Folley to Big Sky when he was a baby. His grandma exposed him to hiking, and his grandpa taught him how to fly fish on the Gallatin River. Folley is now co-owner of Beebive Basin Brewery.



Nancy Hough was a fixture on Lone Mountain Trail during daily walks from the Meadow to the mountain and back. Here she is pictured in front of the Silverbow condominiums circa 1970. PHOTO COURTESY OF CASEY



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acupuncture: monday & wednesday



Winter Hours: 7 days, 10:00am - 7.30pm







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# Auction for the Arts raises nearly \$100K for Arts Council

Community 'ponied up' to support the arts



Funds raised will support the Town Center Butterfield installation and public art; and the entire span of Arts Council programming, from art education to music, film, theatrical, and dance events.

- Big Sky Sotheby's owner Cathy Gorman won the raffle for R. Tom Gilleon's donated painting, valued at \$3-4,000
- Highest selling live auction piece: R. Tom Gilleon's "Tatonka Metanoia" at \$25,000.
- Kevin Red Star was the second highest live auction producer; sales of his three pieces totaled \$21,000.
- Highest selling silent auction piece was a Tahitian pearl necklace by Shelly Bermont at \$2,400
- A close second was Carol Barmore's painting "Montana Cowgirl" at \$2,100

The Big Sky community really turned out this year to support the arts. The Auction for the Arts has become a signature Big Sky event and we're thankful for how it's grown over the years. Brian Hurlbut



**\$90,0000** RAISED **200+** ATTENDEES

22 LIVE AUCTION SALES35 SILENT AUCTION SALES





We made twice as much in the silent auction than ever before, we sold more VIP tickets, and we had our most successful paddle raise ever," said event chair Linda Goldinger. "The community really 'ponied up' for the Butterfield installation, raising more than \$28,000 for public art. We're thrilled. Linda Goldinger









### Traditional and Contemporary Western Art



# DID YOU KNOW?

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

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

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

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

### RESPECT. PROTECT. CHERISH.

Paid for by the animals in your backyard.

# **Annual LPHS musical group** pushes new limits in 'Once **Upon a Mattress'**

**BIG SKY BROADWAY** 

**14** March 30 - April 12, 2018

The Lone Peak High School Thespian society will present a comical retelling of the classic fairytale story "The Princess and the Pea" in the popular musical "Once Upon a Mattress." The performance will be held at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. on April 5 and 6.

This popular musical explains the backstory of the Princess and the Pea fairytale, and also address the consequences: An entire kingdom anxiously awaits a royal marriage.

"'Once Upon A Mattress' is exactly the kind of story our actors love to tell," said Barbara Rowley, the musical's producer. "[It's] funny, fast-moving, with both silly and beautiful songs and a few dance numbers that push new limits of what our cast has ever done."

The musical has been made into movies twice and is rated G.

Produced and directed by the Big Sky Broadway staff, which includes Rowley, John Zirkle, Jennifer Waters and Sarah Mitchell, the high-school aged cast will be accompanied by Sean Clifford Carter on piano.

Many of the students in the cast have nearly a decade of experience in Big Sky Broadway shows. This includes seven seniors: Anna Alvin, Liam Germain, KP Hoffman, Abi Hogan, Bryn Iskenderian, Carter Johnsen and Evan Redmon, all in lead roles. These seasoned veterans are joined by 15 other local high school players.

Tickets are available at the door and can also be pre-purchased online at warrenmillerpac.org.



# Public input sought on bison grazing proposal

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** 

The Bureau of Land Management is asking for the public's help in determining what the agency should analyze as it considers proposed changes to several grazing leases.

American Prairie Reserve controls private properties tied to 18 BLM grazing allotments in Fergus, Petroleum, Phillips, and Valley counties. They have submitted a proposal asking the BLM to modify their grazing permits.

APR is seeking permission to change the class of livestock from cattle to bison; allow for season-long grazing; fortify existing external boundary fences by replacing the second strand from the top with an electrified wire; and remove interior fences.

The BLM plans to analyze all 18 grazing allotments in one environmental assessment to consolidate efforts across the district.

"We are asking the public to provide input on what they feel needs to be analyzed in the EA," said BLM North Central Montana District Manager Mark Albers. "The most helpful comments are those that describe specific issues upon which we should focus our analysis, rather than a personal opinion on the relative merits of the proposed changes."

The BLM will hold four open-house style scoping meetings in Winnett, Winifred, Malta and Glasgow, Montana.

The scoping period runs from April 9 to May 9. After scoping comments are received and reviewed, a draft environmental assessment will be



BLM is seeking public input on the assessment of several grazing leases in North Central Montana, under which season-long grazing of bison could be considered. NPS PHOTO

produced and released to the public for a 30-day review period. During that review period, BLM will return to these same communities and host meetings to gather input from the public.

Scoping comments can be sent to blm mt scoping ncmd@blm.gov or APR Scoping Comments, BLM Malta Field Office, 47285 Highway 2, Malta, MT 59538.



Resort Tax applications for funding the fiscal year starting a July 1, 2018 are due to the Resort Tax office by Monday, April 30th at 3:00p.m.

Questions? Contact Kristin Drain at Kristin@resorttax.org



#### ATTENTION BIG SKY COMMUNITY

The Burton K. Wheeler Center and NorthWestern Energy invite you to an update on the mid-mountain substation project.

6:30 P.M. April 11th at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center

Eric Austin, from the Wheeler Center and Mike Cashell, from Northwestern Energy will share the results of the site and technology assessments that have been underway since the August 2017 community-wide meeting. They will also describe the next steps for continuing to engage with the Big Sky community, and NorthWestern Energy's timeline for selecting a site and proceeding with the purchase, permitting, design and construction of the substation.

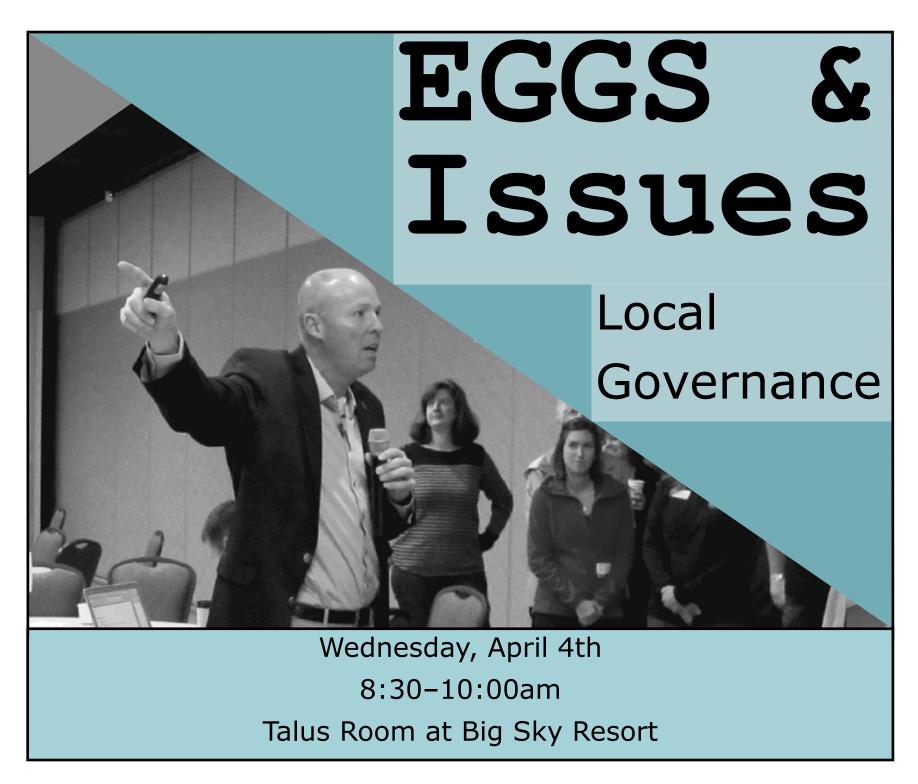
For those who are interested but unable to attend this meeting, all of the information presented at the session will be available at the website below beginning on April 12th.

Additional information about the meeting can be found on our website:
bigskysubstation.wixsite.com/bigskysubstation

Or you can contact us by email: **bigskysubstation@gmail.com** for further information.



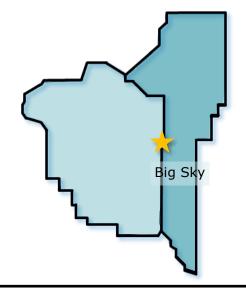




Dan Clark, from MSU's Local Government Center, will be sharing his preliminary findings on options available to the Big Sky community to formalize an areawide governance structure that allows for a representative voice for the community. The Center is reviewing various statutory options available in the Montana Code Annotated and their applicability to the community of Big Sky.

Hosted breakfast will be provided,

RSVP at www.BigSkyChamber.com/events



Joint
Gallatin & Madison
County Commission
Meeting

Wednesday, April 4th 10:00am—12:00pm Talus Room at Big Sky Resort

Agenda to Follow

### **SAVE**the **DATE**

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**Section 2:**OUTDOORS,
ENVIRONMENT & SPORTS







# INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



# World's tallest geyser erupts in Yellowstone

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – On March 15, the world's tallest active geyser erupted in Yellowstone National Park after quietly simmering and stewing for four years. At approximately 5:30 a.m., Steamboat Geyser shot thousands of gallons of scalding water into the still frigid March air.

Nobody was there to witness Steamboat's glory; much of the park remains closed for routine spring snow plowing. However, past eruptions have sent water more than 300 feet into the air.

Park spokeswoman Vicki Regula said a nearby University of Utah seismometer picked up the vibrations caused by the eruption. Meanwhile, sensors operated by the U.S. Geological Survey installed in Steamboat's outflow channel recorded a hot water flow that lasted nearly an hour.

"Park staff visited the site on March 16 and [March] 19 and noted several other surrounding features were bubbling with muddy water and some altered rocks were strewn about," Regula said. Steam was still visible rising from the geyser's vent eight days after the eruption.

While not unusual, these indicators suggest the unwitnessed blast was a major eruption, something that hasn't occurred since Sept. 3, 2014.

"There are visual observations of Cistern Spring—about 90 meters away—draining. This is always the case when a major eruption of Steamboat takes place," said Shaul Hurwitz, a research hydrologist with the USGS Volcano Science Center in Menlo Park, California.

Hurwitz added that billowing steam commonly pours from the vent after an eruption, however there are not many documented observations that indicate the actual duration of the steam plumes after an event.

Steamboat, which sits within the Norris Geyser Basin and the hottest, most dynamic thermal area in the park, is highly unpredictable. The vent has gone through periods of high activity erupting every few days and has also experienced relative dormancy—from 1911 to 1961, the geyser didn't erupt once.

"Most geysers actually are not predictable," Hurwitz said, adding that Old Faithful's roughly 94-minute interval, while steady right now, has changed in the past. "The bottom line is that all of the geysers and thermal features change over different time scales," he said.

Geysers are created when water percolating down into the earth is warmed by geothermal heat. Captured within underground cavities, this warming water is brought to the boiling point but does not convert to steam due to pressure underground. If the water is able to leak from the underground cavity, such as through the opening of a geyser, the pressure within the cavity drops, allowing the superheated water to boil and transform to steam. The steam rapidly expands and pushes water into the air as a geyser eruption.

While scientists understand the general underground plumbing that creates a geyser, they are still learning about what initiates an eruption. Hurwitz said there could be a number of causes.

In the past, large earthquakes have caused geysers to blow. Following the 1959 magnitude-7.5 Hebgen Lake earthquake, Hurwitz said a number of thermal features in the park changed, some became more active, while others disappeared entirely. In 2002, a magnitude-7.9 earthquake in Alaska—more



The runoff channel below Steamboat Geyser houses USGS sensors that monitor water flow and can indicate when an eruption occurs. NPS PHOTO

than 1,900 miles away—changed the behavior of several geysers, and Hurwitz said it took three months before everything returned to normal.

If one geyser goes off, Hurwitz said that can affect nearby geysers as well, as the underground water is interconnected. "Once a nearby geyser erupts, that changes the water pressure that affects another geyser," he said.

Additionally, the water flowing underground usually carries silica-rich minerals, which causes the unusual fissures and shapes surrounding many thermal areas. In addition to deposits above ground, these minerals can build up underground, possibly causing changes in a geyser's eruption.

Hurwitz also said that meteoric water—from rain and snow precipitation—could lead to some changes within a geyser system, though this is not fully understood. Changes in water recharge could affect geyser eruptions on annual scales. Due to the depth required of the water to percolate before reaching superhot temperatures, the impact of precipitation may not be seen for some time.

"In years that we have more rain [and snow], we do have more thermal water flowing through the system," Hurwitz said.

# **Bozeman Health Annual Health Fair**

Bozeman Health Deaconess Hospital Saturday, April 7 7 a.m. to noon

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\*You must fast for 12-hours before any lab test.

# **Registration opens for Greater Yellowstone scientific conference**NPS calls for abstracts

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Abstract submissions and registration are now open for the 14th Biennial Scientific Conference on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, to be held in September in Big Sky. The deadline for abstracts is April 30. Registration will remain open until the conference fills.

Since 1991 the Biennial Scientific Conference has brought together scientists, students, academics, land managers and the general public to build relationships and protect treasured public lands for future generations. This year's conference theme, Tracking the Human Footprint, focuses on the human experience and the role scientific research and communication will play in shaping future management of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem.

Conference presentations will be grouped around topics like human and wildlife movement patterns, cultural resource protection and education, ecosystem economics and tourism, communication and outreach, ecosystem stressors and ecological restoration, partnerships and collaboration, as well as recreation and the urban interface. Environmental economist Ray Rasker will deliver the keynote address.

Hosted by Yellowstone Forever, the conference takes place Sept. 11-14. To learn more, register or submit an abstract, visit trackingthehumanfootprint2018.org. Conference staff may be reached at yell\_conference@nps.gov or (307) 344-2260.



## Lone Mountain Ranch celebrates 'Year of the Bird'

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – One hundred years ago, the U.S. Congress adopted the Migratory Bird Treaty Act with the intention of protecting threatened avian populations. The act outlaws the possession or sale of select migratory birds and their nests, feathers or eggs, including eagles, hawks, bluebirds, chickadees and ravens.

To celebrate the centennial anniversary of this act, National Geographic is promoting programming centered around "Year of the Bird" and is committing to protecting birds for another hundred years.

As one of National Geographic's "Unique Lodges of the World," Big Sky's Lone Mountain Ranch has stepped up to the plate to recognize the impact birds have in the environment.

Randy Hall, a naturalist at the ranch, is thrilled to see birds take center stage.

"The idea is to awaken people to see birds on their feeder ... to educate about birds and the ecosystem," he said.

National Geographic has tasked each unique lodge to take meaningful action each month throughout 2018, either by building programs around avian education, or taking hands-on steps to increase the number of feathered friends on the landscape.

With snow melting in Big Sky, the ranch is preparing to open a 1- to 2-mile figure-8 trail that will be open for community members or guests to spend time learning about birds. Working with Bozeman's Wild Birds Unlimited, Lone Mountain Ranch is building different bird feeders and houses designed to attract particular species. With benches scattered along the trail, walkers will be able to simply sit and listen to the birds.

"We're hoping to create a walk where anyone in the community can come in and just enjoy birds," Hall said.

He added that the ranch hopes to create a photography program and is working to track migrating birds this spring. Locals are invited to send photos and sighting accounts of any birds in the area to Hall, who will compile the information as a community journal.

Birds migrating into the area this spring include red-winged blackbirds, owls, robins, mountain bluebirds and red nuthatches, while the full-time residents include Clark's nutcrackers, chickadees, eagles, hawks and ravens.

Beyond offering supplemental feeding, Lone Mountain Ranch has decided to take an active approach to promoting birds in the environment. Hall says this is



The mountain chickadee, a fulltime resident of Big Sky, is one of many bird species of interest at Lone Mountain Ranch, where expanded programing and habitat development is focused on promoting birds in our area. PHOTO BY RANDY HALL

important because birds impact various aspects of the ecosystem.

"They're so small, we don't really think about it, but [birds] are huge in pollination, in planting seeds; they eat insects and rodents that could interfere with our own food growth," Hall said. "It's actually quite a large role for such a little guy."

To keep birds healthy in Big Sky, the ranch is working with partners from Sacajawea Audubon in Bozeman, as well as many others. They are designing appropriate feeders and birdhouses, planting native plants that offer natural food and protection, and also implementing noise reduction measures. Hall hopes the ranch will move toward quieter vehicles, he said, "So the birds—and really the wildlife—will return.

"While we're trying to attract birds, we're trying to also create environmental improvement and lessen our footprint," he added, saying he'd like to see increased recycling at the ranch to remove plastics, which can be mistakenly consumed and lead to various health concerns.

To learn more about Lone Mountain Ranch's "Year of the Bird" programming, visit lonemountainranch.com, and to participate locally in the migratory bird watch, email Randy Hall at randyb70@gmail.com. For more information on National Geographic, visit nationalgeographic.org.

# **MSU lecture series presents FWP Director Martha Williams**

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The Montana State University Library will present Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Director Martha Williams as its 2018 speaker for the annual Trout and Salmonid Lecture Series.

Williams will present "Wild Trout in Montana" on Tuesday, April 3, at 7 p.m. in the Strand Union Building Ballrooms in Bozeman. A reception will follow the lecture.

Williams will tell the story of retired FWP fisheries biologist Dick Vincent, and how his pioneering research shaped the department's habitat protection and water conservation policies for trout in the Madison River. She will also discuss current work by FWP to protect Montana's trout fisheries from future threats.

Appointed by Gov. Steve Bullock in February 2017, Williams is FWP's 24th director. She has spent her career dedicated to natural resource management.



Martha Williams, the first female director for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, will present on Montana's wild trout for the annual MSU Library Trout and Salmonid Lecture Series. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

of Montana's Alexander Blewett III School of Law, co-directed UM's Land Use and Natural Resources Clinic, and worked as the deputy solicitor at the U.S. Department of Interior.

At the Department of Interior, Williams oversaw legal issues and litigation for the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia and her Juris Doctor with honors from UM's law school.

"Through this annual lecture, the MSU Library strives to speak to all aspects of trout and salmonid, and to represent the diversity of angling culture," said special collections librarian James Thull. "Martha is the first female director of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and we look forward to the perspective she will bring to this year's lecture."

Guests can register for this lecture at calendar.msu. montana.edu/events/25907 or by calling (406) 994-6857. For information on the MSU Library's Trout and Salmonid Collection, visit lib.montana.edu/trout.

Williams served as legal counsel for FWP from 1998 to 2011, taught natural resource law, public land and resources law, and wildlife law at the University

**Explore** Big Sky



Division of Glacier Bank

Featuring a showing of art by Greg Alexander displayed by Creighton Block Gallery of Big Sky. Please stop by the bank lobby to see in person.









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# New youth program teaches snow safety to girls Registration still open

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT **EBS CONTRIBUTOR** 

BIG SKY - On April 14, a diverse group of girls will take to the slopes at Big Sky Resort, outfitted with snow safety tools like avalanche beacons, probes, a rescue sled and first aid kits.

Accompanied by ski patrollers and other female volunteers, these girls—all between the ages of 8 and 16—will spend the day as members of the ski patrol crew, learning important snow safety skills and gaining exposure to the industry.

"There aren't many women involved with ski patrolling," said Christy Pelland, who is responsible for bringing the junior ski patrol camp to Big Sky.

Based in Washington state, Pelland works with SheJumps, a nonprofit organization that develops outdoor opportunities for women of all ages. Pelland is the director of youth programing, called Wild Skills, which is composed of overnight adventures and day camps.

Motivated by her own 7-year-old daughter's interest in donning a red coat, Pelland decided to add ski patrol to the Wild Skills curriculum in December 2017. She joined forces with her friend and Crystal Mountain ski patrol director Kim Kircher. Together, the duo mapped out a day in the life of a ski patroller and spun the daily routine into fun activities for kids.

Kircher, who has a cabin in Big Sky and is married to former Big Sky Resort General Manager John Kircher, started volunteering for ski patrol in 1989 at 17 years old. Having worked as a paid patroller since 1995, Kircher says she doesn't see very many younger volunteers these days.

"I really want to encourage younger people to get involved with ski patrol," she said. "Big Sky is one of my favorite ski areas in the world and Big Sky ski patrol does an amazing job and to be instilling that in young girls is pretty awesome," Kircher said, adding that she hopes to travel to Big Sky for the program.

With camps held at Crystal Mountain, Park City Mountain Resort in Utah and Idaho's Sun Valley Resort, Big Sky's will be the last of the season and will be capped at about 33 girls.

"It's amazing how much enthusiasm there was right away," Kircher said, adding that a second camp was held at Crystal because the waiting list was longer than the acceptance list. "People are so excited about this."

"It caught fire as soon as it came out," Pelland added.

For more information, or to register for the Wild Skills Junior Ski Patrol, visit getwildskills.org/day-camps.



Participants in the junior ski patrol camp enjoy hands on activities at Park City Mountain Resort in Utah. PHOTO BY RYAN FRENCH



## On the Trail: Hummocks Trail

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

### BY CIARA WOLFE BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A favorite summer trail, Hummocks is also an excellent spot in the wintertime. Open to fat bikers, dogs, snowshoeing, hikers and backcountry Nordic skiers, this ungroomed trail gets significant traffic throughout the winter, creating a hard-packed snow surface enjoyable for a variety of users.

This 3-mile trail is named for its rolling topography and is known for its three lollipop loops. These three loops allow users to customize the length of their journey, providing a turnaround point at varying distances.

Hummocks is a moderately difficult trail. Those looking for a bit more of a challenge can tack on another 2.2 miles by continuing onto the Uplands Trail, which takes off from the same trailhead.

Located less than a mile from Town Center, Hummocks is popular year-round due to its flexibility for both distance and difficulty. In addition to varied terrain and scenery, you may spot moose, elk or even bear.

Fat bikes, snowshoes and backcountry Nordic ski rentals are available at local outdoor retailers. Those closest to Hummocks Trail include Gallatin Alpine Sports, Grizzly Outfitters and East Slope Outdoors.

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.



Adam Johnson enjoys the varied terrain on Hummocks Trail. PHOTO BY SCOTT HOEKSEMA



TRAIL STATS











3-mile loop

east side of the road.

hike, snowshoe,

moderate

**Elevation** 6,285 feet

Surface packed snow

nordic ski, fat bike 400 feet gain **Directions:** From Town Center, head east on Aspen Leaf Drive for .75 miles. You will

cross a bridge over the river and continue up the road until you see the parking area on the

# THAIKIAGU

The Arts Council of Big Sky sincerely thanks all of the artists, volunteers and sponsors who made our sixth annual fundraiser a success!

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# Inside the Big Sky

# A newcomer's guide to Big Sky Resort

VISIT BIG SKY

With spring break season bringing many skiers and snowboarders to the slopes at Big Sky Resort for the first time, it's helpful to have an introductory guide to the top runs in each difficulty category.

#### Easy (green) - Mr. K, accessed from the Swift Current lift

For those who are new to skiing, or want to start the day with a warm-up lap, the most popular green run at Big Sky Resort is Mr. K. It's a long, smooth, groomed ride from the top of the Swift Current lift down to the base area where you can start the journey all over again.

#### Intermediate (blue) - Elk Park Ridge, accessed from the Ramcharger lift

This is a long run with good pitch and big arcing turns. The middle of the run offers beautiful views and is a good place to stop and take a rest. This is the longest intermediate run on the Andesite portion of Big Sky Resort and has the added bonus of taking the lift with the coolest name back to the top—Thunder Wolf .

#### Advanced (black) - Moonlight run, accessed from the Challenger lift

As its name suggests, the Challenger lift provides access to some advanced terrain. The Moonlight run offers some epic skiing with a long run that will have you sweating by the end. Take Fast Lane back to the resort side or explore the Madison Base Area via Elkhorn.



The most popular green run at Big Sky Resort, Mr. K is perfect for beginner skiers or anyone who wants to start the day with a warm-up lap. PHOTO COURTESY OF VISIT BIG SKY

#### Expert (double black) - Marx, accessed from the Lone Peak Tram

Just like the philosophies of Karl Marx, this run is unforgiving and not for the faint of heart. It features 1,200-plus vertical feet in the upper 40-degree range. A small mistake or fall could be catastrophic, but as long as you make it, the adrenaline rush is well worth the risk.

Read more about Big Sky and southwest Montana at Visit Big Sky's blog at visitbigskymt.com/category/blog/.





# Fly-fishing casts that aren't really casts



BY PATRICK STRAUB EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

There's a rock on the Gallatin River not far from my fly shop that we call "Brad Pitt Rock." Upon that rock, more than 30 years ago, the actor stood, casting a fly line high into the air. Robert Redford's dreamy voice provided narration, "He called it shadow casting ..."

As a lifetime guide whose tenure began shortly after Redford's film, "A River Runs Through It," hit the-

atres, many of my fishing clients asked me to teach them how to shadow cast. My response is pretty candid: "Sure, I can teach you how to shadow cast, but I'd rather teach you how to cast so you can actually catch fish."

The fly cast, by nature, is a blessing and a curse—an enjoyable and artistic activity in its own right, yet the utilitarian aspect of the fly cast should overrule aesthetics if your goal is to catch fish over catching a Hollywood director's eye. Here's some advice on fly fishing's blue-collar casts.

**The roll cast.** This is an essential cast to learn for many applications. It's performed by slowly bringing the rod grip to slightly above and away from your ear, so the rod tip is pointed straight above your head or angled slightly back toward the sky behind your head. The fly line arcs in front of you with the bulk of the fly line still on the water. The rod is then accelerated quickly to a stop in front of you—at the same point the stop would occur on a normal forward cast.

The roll cast is useful when obstructions occur behind you, making a normal back cast problematic. It's also helpful when an abundance of slack line has piled up at your feet. By using a roll cast you can uncoil the slack and cast it in front of you, then go into a normal back cast once the roll cast is performed.

Lastly, a roll cast is used to unsnag a foul-hooked fly from an obstruction in front of you—this is called an unsnagging roll cast. It is performed by an aggressive roll cast in the direction of the snag, ensuring you roll cast enough fly line past the snagged fly so the fly is dislodged.

**Tension cast or water haul**. Similar to a roll cast, this cast can be used if an obstruction is behind you. It's also an ideal cast when using weighted nymph rigs with a strike indicator, or when fishing sink-tip or sinking lines and large streamers from a boat.

When wading, begin by allowing the current to carry the fly line downstream of your standing position. Once the line has straightened out below you, use the tension of the current on the fly line to help you reposition the line upstream of you. Raise your rod hand to about head height and turn your palm upward to the sky. Then accelerate the rod forward and stop it as if in a normal forward casting motion.

When you're in a boat, the cast is performed in two parts—first, a "reverse" tension cast by starting with the fly line downstream and in front of you, then



The tension cast, also known as the water haul, is a two-part cast performed by using the weight of the water on the fly line as it's downstream of the angler. It is best performed by tilting the palm upward and allowing the fly line to straighten downstream, then accelerating forward, as if in a normal false cast. PHOTOS COURTESY OF GALLATIN RIVER GUIDES

accelerating into a back casting motion, allowing the fly line and flies to land on the water behind you. Then, with a very short pause, go into a forward cast while the tension of the current behind you on the fly line and flies helps you reposition the forward cast.

**Two "after the cast" casts.** A reach cast is essential for obtaining a long, drag-free presentation of the fly. Perform a reach cast by an extended follow through, across your body, of your cast after a stop is made on the forward cast. This follow through allows for a mend to be placed in the fly line before it lands on the water.

A slack line/pile cast allows for a fly to softly land on the surface, while creating a cushion of slack fly line to immediately accomplish a natural drift. It's performed by stopping the forward cast slightly higher than normal. While the fly line is dropping to the water's surface, gently wave the rod up and down to feed out a few curls of slack fly line.

Fishing slack line near Brad Pitt Rock is essential. There's a few nice fish that live in the run below the rock; however, in the 30-plus years I've been fishing that run, I've never tried shadow casting while standing on the rock—my tension cast has always proved successful. I'm no movie star, but maybe that's because in my fishing I choose what works over what's sexy.

Pat Straub is a 20-year veteran guide on Montana's waters and has fished the world over. He 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.







# RESORT ROUNDUP

Your guide to events, activities and news at Big Sky Resort

## **WORD FROM THE RESORT**

# Easter eggs and high-flying fun at the resort

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – As April weather turns the corner on a record winter in southwest Montana, snow conditions remain great at Big Sky Resort. With nearly a full month left in the ski season, the resort is gearing up for a round of exciting Easter activities, as well as the annual Sam Adams 3-D Air and Après.

The various activities scheduled for Easter on April 1 offer a fun twist on many family traditions. There's just something special about celebrating Easter on top of a mountain.

The nondenominational Sunrise Service will once again happen at the top of Swift Current chairlift, and folks can catch a lift to the top between 6:15 and 6:45 a.m. The service will start promptly at 7 a.m. and will last about an hour.

After the service, hang out at the top of Swifty and enjoy the sunrise, join ski patrol and ski or snowboard down Mr. K, or ride Swifty back down to the bottom.

Two skiing Easter Bunnies will also grace the mountain. One hangs out on Cinnabar on the Madison side of the mountain; the other on Mr. K and the Mountain Village side of the mountain. Both bunnies love taking photos with the kiddos.

Approximately 4,000 Easter eggs stuffed with candy, toys, temporary tattoos and erasers will be scattered at the Madison Base Area, Mountain Village and on the

mountain on Mr. K and Cinnabar. These Easter egg hunts will begin at 9 a.m. at Madison Base and Mountain Village, and 10 a.m. on the mountain.

There will also be three special eggs hidden on the mountain. These eggs contain monetary prizes and will be found on terrain accessed via Swift Current, Powder Seeker and Six Shooter chairlifts.

Big Sky Resort will host the Sam Adams 3-D Air and Après on April 7 at 8 p.m. This nighttime showcase brings some of the best skiers and riders together for a display of thrill and technical skill.

The fifth stop on the show's tour, this event juxtaposes high-flying action with 3-D projections on the jumps to create an on-snow spectacle. There will be live music, fireworks and Sam Adams beers available. Immediately following the show, join skiers and riders for an autograph session and after-party.

Scotty Lago, the 2010 Olympic snowboarding bronze medalist, will return this year to perform after appearing in last year's big air show.

Catch the remainder of the season at Big Sky Resort and make the most of this winter's big snowfall. Perhaps find yourself on the slopes in celebration of Easter, or join in the excitement during the Sam Adams show, but don't miss out on the last few weeks of the season.



# J LIVE MUSIC

#### **Mondays**

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

Mike Haring Montana Jack, 4 p.m.

#### **Tuesdays**

Lauren Jackson Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

#### Wednesdays

Brian and Ben Chet's Bar, 4:00 p.m.

#### **Thursdays**

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

Kenny Diamond Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Laruen & Jeff Chet's Bar. 4 p.m.

#### **Fridays**

Diamond Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Mike Haring Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m. Krazy Karaoke Montana Jack, 10 p.m.

#### **Saturdays**

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

Lone Mountain Trio Chet's Bar. 4:30 p.m.

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

DJ Montana Jack, 10 p.m.

# 7

# **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

#### **APRIL 14**

#### **Wild Skills Junior Ski Patrol**

This day camp is sponsored by She-Jump's Wild Skills and is intended to get young girls outdoors. Girls between the ages of 8 and 16 will learn mountain safety and first aid while working with the strong women of the ski patrol community. See page 20 for the full story.

# APRIL 14, APRIL 21 Sunset Saturdays

Ski until 5 p.m. every Saturday on Andesite Mountain. This includes terrain served by Ramcharger chairlift.

#### APRIL 21

#### Pond Skim 2018

This event wraps up the 2017-2018 season, with folks skimming across a slushy pond at the Ambush Headwall.

#### **Lift Closures**

#### APRIL 1

Pony Express lift closes for season.

#### **APRIL 8**

Madison Base closes for season.

#### APRIL 15

Headwaters and Lone Tree lifts close for season.

#### **APRIL 22**

Winter Closing Date

# **ACTIVITIES**

#### **Sunset Saturdays**

#### MARCH 31, APRIL 7

Ski until 5 p.m. every Saturday on Andesite Mountain. This includes terrain served by Ramcharger chairlift.

#### **Easter celebration**

#### **APRIL 1**

Big Sky Resort offers special Easter activities each year, including a special Easter Sunrise Service at the top of Swift Current chairlift, Easter egg hunts, as well as an appearance by the Easter Bunny.

# **Chet's Brewery Dinner Series: Outlaw Brewing**

#### **APRIL 6**

Chet's restaurant will wrap up the Brewery Dinner Series on April 6 with a four-course meal paired with some of Bozeman-based Outlaw Brewing's very best brews.

### Sam Adams Big Air 2018

#### APRIL

This nighttime showcase combines the thrill and technical skill of some of the best skiers and riders in the sport, alongside cutting-edge 3D projection mapping. Stop by the Sam Adams Festival Village during the day and check out the noon-time demo before the night show.

#### **Sunday Church Services**

MOUNTAIN CHURCH SERVICE MAIN CHAPEL AREA, 1:30 P.M.

MOUNTAIN CHURCH SERVICE MOONLIGHT BASIN CHAPEL AREA, 3 P.M..

# 2018 WINTER CLOSING DAY: APRIL 22







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estment products and services are offered through Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network, LLC (WFAFN), Member SIPC. Shore to Summit Wealth Management, LLC is a separate entity from (WFAFN)

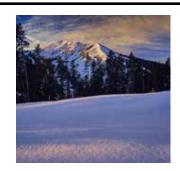
#### **YELLOWSTONE CLUB\***



Skiers Paradise 13,349 SQ FT / \$18.95M



Lakeside Lodge Unit C-104 3,981 SQ FT / \$8.995M



Lot 338 Bristlecone Dr 14.6 Acres / \$4.95M



Lot 433 Serpens Trail 1.89 Acres / \$2.95M

#### **BIG SKY**



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



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



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



70 Upper Whitefish 2,656 SQ FT / \$895K



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

#### **BIG SKY**



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



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



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



Lot 1 Ciel Drive 8.03 ACRES / \$415K



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

#### **RANCH & RECREATION**



Yellowstone Ranch Preserve *Hebgen Lake, MT* 753 ACRES Whiskey Jug Cabin: 2,702 SQ FT



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



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



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



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



#### **SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB\***



Ski Tip Lot 10 1.02 Acres / \$975K



Lot 38 Bitterbrush Trail 1.27 ACRES / \$800K



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



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

**MOONLIGHT BASIN\*** 

Lot 39 Diamond Hitch 1 ACRE / \$595K

#### **BIG SKY**



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



21 Antler Drop 2,470 SQ FT / \$479K



281 Village Center 473 SQ FT / \$270K



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



Hill Condo 1329 668 SQ FT / \$219K

#### **BIG SKY**



Lot 63 Silverado Trail 4.22 ACRES / \$390K



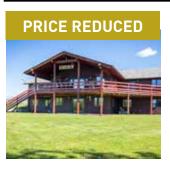
Gallatin Rd. Tract 4 1.4 ACRES / \$254K

#### **BOZEMAN**



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

#### **GREATER MONTANA**



Osprey Cove Lakehouse Hebgen Lake, MT 4,628 SQ FT / \$1.495M



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

#### COMMERCIAL



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



Marketplace Unit 104 Big Sky, MT 1,204 SQ FT / \$560,920 Lease Option



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



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



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5:00 - 6:00pm Yin Yoga

#### MONDAY

7:30 - 8:30am All Levels Pilates 9:00 - 10:15am All Levels Yoga 12:00 - 12:50pm Gentle Yoga 4:15 - 5:15pm All Ages Apres Ski Yoga

**Evening Workshop** 

Series

#### TUESDAY

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

Sacred Sweat

#### WEDNESDAY

7:30-8:30am All Levels Yoga 9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga 11:00 - 12:30pm The Practice Yoga Level 2-3 4:15 - 5:15pm Apres ski yoga Awareness Wednesdays

#### THURSDAY

7:30 - 8:30am
Yoga
All Levels Mat Pilates
9:00 - 10:00am
All Levels Yoga
30pm

5:45 - 7:00pm All Levels Yoga

#### FRIDAY

7:30 - 8:30am Dance to Fit

9:00 - 10:15am All Levels Yoga

12:00 - 12:50pm All Levels Yoga

5:45 - 7:00pm Heated Yoga

#### SATURDAY

9:00 - 10:15am All Levels Yoga

Check our Website for Weekend Workshops and Special Events.

4:30 - 6:00pm Heated Yoga

### The New West:

# As science speaks, the region's politicians run the other way



BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

If you're a politician, it is one thing to conveniently feign ignorance in order to get reelected, or to sprint as fast as you can in the other direction from reality, or even to gleefully engage in the spreading of "alternative facts."

Yet it is quite another when your constituents expect you to tell them the truth.

Were members of the three different Congressional delegations in the northern Rockies courageous enough to hold real town hall meetings with their constituents—instead of glorified, carefully orchestrated political pep rallies—there is certainty they would face questions about one topic: climate change.

Bobbing and weaving, dodging and deflecting, lawmakers from Montana, Wyoming and Idaho have all offered lame excuses for not holding public gatherings in which they might get grilled en masse by citizens, thus having to deliver honest answers in order to earn their vote.

For years, as Wyoming has reeled fiscally because of its dependence on a coal economy—its market crushed by the rise of cheap natural gas—her politicians have refused to accept anything that challenges their worldview. Today in Montana, refusing to heed that lesson, U.S. Sen. Steve Daines and U.S. Rep. Greg Gianforte are trying to resuscitate coal even though they know it represents a dead end.

The climate may be changing, they claim, but there is no evidence that warming is being caused by humans burning fossil fuels and releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

Just recently, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, largely considered the premiere scientific entity in the world, unveiled its review of draft findings by the Fourth National Climate Assessment. The report, prepared by the U.S. Global Change Research Program, draws upon thousands of peer-reviewed research articles and hard data.

One would think that U.S. Sen. John Barrasso of Wyoming, in particular, would pay close attention—he being a public health official and a doctor whose profession has been informed by many of the National Academies' recommendations. So, too, Daines, Gianforte and Wyoming Congresswoman Liz Cheney—they being acolytes/defenders of President Donald Trump, who has claimed climate change is a hoax concocted by the Chinese.

Here, in a nutshell, are just a few of the report's findings, verbatim:

- Human activity, especially emissions of greenhouse gases, are the dominant cause of observed warming since the mid 20th century.
- We are living in the warmest time in the history of modern civilization and it is heating up; some 16 of the warmest years on record globally occurred in the last 17 years.
- Since 1980, the cost of extreme weather/climate events for the U.S. has exceeded \$1.1 trillion; therefore, better understanding of the frequency and severity of these events in the context of a changing climate is warranted.
- Global average sea level has risen 7 to 8 inches since 1900 with half of the rise occurring since 1993 and is greater than any rise going back 2,800 years. Global average sea levels are expected to continue



IMAGE COMPOSITE COURTESY OF COLTON STIFFLER/GUS O'KEEFE

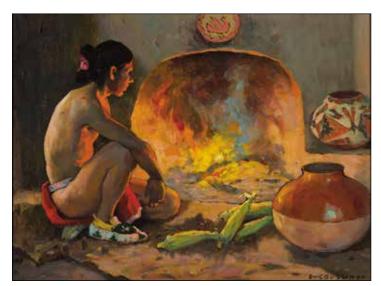
to rise—by at least several inches in the next 15 years and by 1 to 4 feet by 2100. A rise of as much as 8 feet by 2100 cannot be ruled out. Sea level rise in the future will be higher than the global average on the East and Gulf coasts of the U.S.

- Substantial reductions in western U.S. winter and spring snowpack are projected as the climate warms. Earlier spring melt and reduced snow water equivalent have been formally attributed to humaninduced warming and will very likely be exacerbated as the climate continues to warm. [That's bad news for farmers, ranchers, water and forests in Montana and Wyoming.]
- Under higher scenarios, and assuming no change to current water resources management, chronic, long-duration hydrological drought is increasingly possible by the end of this century. Future decreases in surface soil moisture from human activities over most of the U.S. are likely as the climate warms under the higher scenarios.
- The world's oceans are currently absorbing more than a quarter of the CO2 emitted to the atmosphere annually from human activities, making them more acidic with potential detrimental impacts to marine ecosystems. [It's harming plankton, a key staple for ocean life.] Higher-latitude ocean systems typically have a lower buffering capacity against changing acidity, exhibiting seasonally corrosive conditions sooner than low-latitude systems. The rate of acidification is unparalleled in at least the past 66 million years.

Here is the link to the Fourth National Climate Assessment report: science 2017. global change. gov. I suggest you email it to your elected officials, both Democrats and Republicans, and ask them to respond. Let me know what they tell you, I would like to print it. Email me their responses at todd@mountainjournal.org.

Todd Wilkinson is the founder of Mountain Journal (mountainjournal. org) where you can read his latest story about climate change. He is author of "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek" about famous Greater Yellowstone grizzly hear 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. Portions of Wilkinson's piece for MoJo appeared in the winter 2017 issue of Mountain Outlaw.

# SCOTTSDALE ART AUCTION SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 2018



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# **Q&A** with Freeride Coach **Cooper Raasch**

**EBS STAFF** 

Explore Big Sky recently interviewed Big Sky Ski Education Foundation Freeride Coach Cooper Raasch, to look back at another successful season for many of Big Sky's junior winter athletes, and to discuss his philosophy of coaching.

**Explore Big Sky:** How long have you been the coach of the Big Sky freeride team? Where were you before Big Sky?

Cooper Raasch: [I've been] coaching five years now. I came from Mount Hood, Oregon, and had coached racing, freestyle and skier cross previously.

EBS: Where/when did you learn to ski? Can you talk a little bit about your own freeride career?

**C.R.:** I raced on Mount Hood for the Mount Hood Academy and have mostly an FIS—[the top international alpine racing circuit]—racing background. I competed as a pipe- and slope-style skier for many years. No freeride experience.

EBS: Do you have a philosophy for coaching young freeride athletes? What are some obstacles that high school students must overcome to take their riding to the next level?

**C.R.:** My philosophy on freeride skiing is to learn through your mistakes and try to progress every second—never take a turn off. Our sport is decided by decisions [made in] milliseconds and you have to trust yourself and your abilities. I trust our athletes to make intelligent decisions and to use their skill sets wisely.

The athletes have to overcome a myriad of personal boundaries, whether it's a fear of heights or high speeds. Honestly, I just try to keep them out of their comfort zone based on ability level. In Holden [Samuel's] case, I try to inspire him to push himself, and it's quite hard to do with an athlete so naturally talented and driven. He has a tenacity like I've never seen, and a drive to match it.

**EBS:** How often do Big Sky freeride athletes train? What type of training is the most useful?

**C.R.:** The athletes train from two to four days a week with a coach, but I know Holden trains more than that. I always think you need to train like you compete—so cliffs, steeps and working on tricks.

EBS: Looking back on this freeride season, would you consider it successful?

**C.R.:** Of course this year was a success, we are a very small team and frequently have the best athletes in the nation in the age groups that we [are competing] in.

EBS: You recently traveled to Kappl, Austria, with Holden Samuels where he finished second in the Freeride Junior World Championships. Any guesses as to what the future has in store for Samuels?

**C.R.:** Holden is a professional-level athlete and he will have an amazing career on the Freeride World Tour if he chooses that route.

EBS: Who else has been instrumental in making this season a success?

**C.R.:** All of our coaches deserve a shout out. Wallace Casper, Drew DeWolf, Wes Shifrin, Julie Hygon and Jordan Aid ... without them none of this [would be] possible.



Big Sky Freeride Coach Cooper Raasch comes from an alpine racing background, but that hasn't stopped him from coaching Big Sky's junior athletes to another successful winter season. PHOTO COURTESY OF COOPER RAASCH

**Explore** Big Sky March 30 - April 12, 2018 **31** 

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## 4 LITTLE PLUME RD | \$2,300,000 #216922 | CALL STACY OR ERIC

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



# 235 FOUR POINT RD | \$1,985,000 #312836 | CALL DON

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

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#### NORTH FORK RD, LOT 8 | \$1,300,000 #301292 | CALL STACY OR ERIC

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# 10 ROSE BUD LOOP | \$1,249,000 #216776 | CALL STACY OR ERIC

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#### LOOKING GLASS RD | \$275,000 #300099 | CALL STACY OR ERIC

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# **Section 3:**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT, DINING, BUSINESS & HEALTH









# Ott Jones: Immortalizing wildlife in bronze

### BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BOZEMAN – In addition to observing wildlife, studying anatomy books, sketching and taking photographs, Bozeman-area sculptor Ott Jones also keeps a "roadkill freezer" for reference. It's currently inhabited by game birds and a fox, although he's been known to have a resident coyote from time to time.

"It's great research between observing in the wild and using a dead animal," he said, explaining that the corpses are especially helpful for rendering details like feathers, feet or a beak. "Of course they get quite ripe, so I can't keep them a long time."

That said, he prefers to work from live models whenever possible, and has corralled dogs, chipmunks, roosters and turkeys for extended sessions.

Jones focuses on the details prior to constructing the original clay mold, so that they inform his bronze sculptures with accuracy, but don't necessarily show up in the finished result.

"If you don't have your subject's anatomy right, your whole sculpture is going to be off," he said.

However, Jones abides by the "less is more" aesthetic.

"I want viewers to look and to really enjoy the form and the composition and not get tied up in every feather or hair," he said. "Detail in certain areas is crucial—faces, eyes, the fins on a fish, antlers—but you don't have to have every hair on an elk [defined] for it to be a nice sculpture."

Because his pieces are built on a foundation of anatomical accuracy they ring true, but aesthetically lean toward the impressionistic, his fingerprints visible in many of his finished bronzes.

"Art is a very subjective field and that's the nice thing about painters and sculptors ... our techniques and philosophies are all unique," he said. "Some are entirely abstract, some are very tightly detailed. There's no right or wrong—it's all good in that realm of creativity."

The artist starts with a mental picture of how he wants to present his subject and creates a maquette—a very rough, loose study in clay. Once he creates another, more perfected sculpture, he sends it to a foundry in Livingston or Belgrade where it's turned into bronze through an involved eight-step process.

Jones traces his love of wildlife and sporting game back to his childhood in Spokane, Washington, where some of his fondest memories are hunting and fishing with his father. He first started sculpting wildlife in third grade.

"My mom would find all these little balls of wax in the carpet, but she was very understanding," he said.

Despite his parents' support of his artistic tendencies, Jones pursued an education in college with an eye toward pre-med. But, he said, when he was supposed to be in the library studying, he was working on his art.

Upon graduation, Jones got a job as a fishing guide in Iliamna, Alaska. He would guide during the day—observing the arctic caribou, fox and birds of the tundra—and sculpt at night.

His boss allowed him to display his bronzes in Iliamna's Rainbow King Lodge,



Jones' sculptures are inspired by a life outdoors—hunting, observing, and appreciating the wildlife around him. PHOTO BY OTT JONES

which is how he began to build a customer base for his work, even after he went on to work as a welder's helper on an oil rig in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.

While the creation of a single sculpture might take two to four months, Jones said each piece is really the culmination of decades of experience and observation.

"It really takes a lifetime to complete a piece," he said. "It's my lifetime of working in the field, observing animals, research in the field, and trying to perfect my technique."

A major highlight of Jones' career is having one of his pieces in Queen Elizabeth II's vacation home in Sandringham, England.

One of his friends buys Labrador puppies from the royal kennels and commissioned Jones to make a sculpture for the queen. "Birth of the Labrador" depicts cod fishermen off the Newfoundland coast in the 1600s, and Labradors that were first used to retrieve cod from the sea that had gotten off their hooks.

Jones also has a fly fisherman and Labrador sculpture in the Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport, and a monument of mountain man Jim Bridger at the Bozeman Chamber of Commerce. His work can also be found locally at Rocky Mountain Rug Gallery in Bozeman and Creighton Block Gallery in Big Sky.

"I want to paint animals in a desirable and honorable way," Jones said. "But the other important satisfaction for me is how happy the client is with their piece. It may remind them of a special experience they had or a place they visited ... [or] if I patina a hunting dog sculpture to look like their dog it can memorialize their companion forever."

Visit ottjones.com to see more of the artist's work.

# Movie review: 'Brawl in Cell Block 99'

BY ANNA HUSTED EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The story of violence in America is unpleasant, and director S. Craig Zahler tells it as brutally as possible in the 2017 film "Brawl in Cell Block 99."

Zahler's second directorial feature plays out like a gory one-man circus about a good-intentioned man, Bradley Thomas (played by an aggressive, but reserved Vince Vaughn), who just wants to do right by his family.

After losing his job, Thomas resumes running drugs to support his newly pregnant girlfriend. A drug exchange gone wrong lands him in jail and in the bad graces of a drug lord. To pay for the lost merchandise he has to get to cell block 99 in Redleaf Correctional Facility to take care of a cartel "issue," but everything is not as it seems.

Justice and credo play out with all-American cross-wielding violence in "Brawl in Cell Block 99," first to the viewer's satisfaction and then to his or her chagrin. Much like Zahler's

debut film, "Bone Tomahawk," in which an unsuspecting sheriff (played by Kurt Russell) seeks to protect his townspeople from a rogue band of American Indians; so do the characters in "Brawl in Cell Block 99" dole out their substantiated, but over-the-top revenge.

With gun violence on many people's minds and domestic terrorism as prevalent now as it was in the Old West, Zahler's films are an important part of the conversation around violence and American masculinity.



Vince Vaughn stars in S. Craig Zahler's film about a drug exchange gone wrong, prison violence and the white American male's place in modern day society. PHOTO COURTESY OF ASSEMBLE MEDIA

It sheds light on a kind of masculinity that can only be expressed through flexing bigger muscles than the next guy, and shelling out non-restorative violent revenge in an everchanging America.

"Brawl in Cell Block 99" needs to be seen because it addresses the greater issue of the American white male's place in a society where defending one's family against the non-white "other" is more important than the acceptance of all creeds. This may seem like a disparaging perception of Zahler's work, but his films also illuminate the problem of white fear in an ever-diversifying America.

Zahler's work is highlighting the sentiments of Americans who feel that neighborhoods and jobs are being taken by the non-white other. It's important to watch Zahler's work to the very end to fully grasp the film's place in American and film history.

Zahler is a progressive, risk-taking director who still has much to say about violence in America. Gory, thrilling, curb-stomping "Brawl in Cell

Block 99" not only provides a glimpse into prison violence, but reminds us where white male violence belongs in the American story—back in the circus tent.

"Brawl in Cell Block 99" is available on Amazon Prime Video and Netflix DVD.

Anna Husted has a master's degree in film studies from New York University. In Big Sky she can be found behind the bar at Lone Peak Cinema or slinging hot dogs at Yeti Dogs. When not gazing at the silver screen or watching her new favorite TV show, she's skiing, fishing or roughhousing with her cat, Indiana Jones.





# April at the Rialto brings films, live music, and a 'girls night out' event

**EBS STAFF** 

Saturday, March 31 @ 7:30 p.m. Positive Altitude: A celebration of good

The Rialto and Stay Glad Productions—an offshoot of Bomb Snow Media—have partnered to throw a celebration of general mountain gladness that will benefit the Bozeman Youth Empowerment Program (BYEP). The evening will feature local positivity-inspired music by Jackson Thornburg, and the '80s sounds of the New Wave Time Trippers.

#### Monday, April 2 @ 8:30 p.m. Mac Lethal, Devin the Dude, Wax

The Rialto and Filthy Fam present a night of hip-hop hosted by Los Angeles-based emcee Wax. The evening opens with local acts Twin Riches and Buckshot Killit, followed by multi-talented rappers Mac Lethal from Kansas City and Houston's Devin the Dude.



New York musician and producer Bilal comes to the Rialto on April 6. Recognized for his wide vocal range and genre-busting repertoire, the artist has collaborated with Kendrick Lamar, Erykah Badu, Jay-Z, Beyoncé, The Roots, and many more. PHOTO COURTESY OF RIALTO BOZEMAN

#### Friday, April 6 @ 8 p.m. Bilal

A soulful rumination on love's varying rhythms, Grammy Award-nominee Bilal describes his latest album, "A Love Surreal," as a "musical art gallery." A nod to surrealist painter Salvador Dali, the self-produced album showcases Bilal's smooth meandering vocals against the backdrop of his jazz, soul and hip-hop influenced instrumentation that tells the story of falling in and out of love.

#### Saturday, April 7 @ 8:30 p.m. Jerry Joseph and the Jackmormons

A prolific songwriter who has written hits for Widespread Panic and created 30 albums in his career as a solo artist, Jerry Joseph takes the Bozeman stage with the Jackmormons, a longtime collaboration with drummer Steve Drizos and bassist Steven James Wright.

### Bozeman Film Society Sundays: April 8 @11 a.m. "Howl's Moving Castle"

A continuation of the on-going Studio Ghibli Series, Bozeman Film Society presents Hayao Miyazaki's "Howl's Moving Castle," an enchanting anime tale about a young woman, an endearing "demonic" fire, a clever magician, and an enormous castle that moves across the land on robot legs.

#### 3:30 p.m. "A Fantastic Woman"

In this timely Chilean drama about a transgender woman, actress Daniela Vega delivers a powerful performance as Marina, a waitress and singer in Orlando whose life is thrown into disarray by the sudden death of her older boyfriend.

#### April 9 and 10 @ 8:30 p.m. Men Next Door Uncovered: A girl's night out

Richie Rich, the former producer of Chippendales, presents the Men Next Door, an erotic, theatrical dance performance.

#### Thursday, April 12 @ 7:30 p.m. Our Wild Film Festival

The Wilderness Society hosts a night of short adventure films that advocate for the protection of public lands.

Visit rialtobozeman.ticketfly.com for more information about events at Rialto Bozeman.



# EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, MARCH 30 – THURSDAY, APRIL 12

\*IF YOUR EVENT FALLS
BETWEEN APRIL 13 AND 26,
PLEASE SUBMIT IT BY APRIL
4 BY EMAILING MEDIA@
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#### **BIG SKY**

Resort Tax Applications are due to the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board office by Monday, April 30, at 3:00 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 30

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, all evening

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, MARCH 31**

Live music

Horn and Cantle Saloon, all evening

#### Pinky and the Floyd, music Rainbow Ranch Lodge, 7 p.m.

Che Malambo, dance performance WMPAC, 7:30 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 1**

Easter Brunch Horn and Cantle Saloon, 8 a.m.-2p.m.

Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, all evening

#### MONDAY, APRIL 2

Live music

Horn and Cantle Saloon, all evening

Service Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

#### **TUESDAY, APRIL 3**

Online Nonprofit Conference with Nonprofit Learning Lab All day

Big Sky Medical Center Blood Drive Big Sky Medical Center, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Top Shelf Toastmasters Town Center Sales Office, 12 p.m. Locals Lowdown: Jeff Bellino, music Rainbow Ranch Lodge, all evening

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, all evening

# WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4 Egg & Issues: Government Big Sky Resort Talus Room, 8:30 p.m.

Joint Madison/Gallatin County Commission Meeting Big Sky Resort Talus Room, 10 a.m.

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, all evening

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

#### **THURSDAY, APRIL 5**

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, all evening

A.A. Meeting Big Sky Chapel, 8 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 6

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, all evening

Fish Fry BYWOM, all evening

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Timmy & The Tourettes, music Choppers, 10 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, APRIL 7**

Tom Marino, music Choppers, 4:30 p.m.

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, all evening

Lauren Jackson, music Rainbow Ranch Lodge, all evening

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 8**

Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, all evening

#### **MONDAY, APRIL 9**

Resort Tax Board Meeting Sewer and Water Meeting Room, 10 a.m.

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, all evening

Service Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

#### **TUESDAY, APRIL 10**

Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting

Chamber Board Room, 8:30 a.m. Bear Smart Committee Meeting BSCO, 9 a.m.

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

Locals Lowdown: Jon Parvin, music Rainbow Ranch Lodge, all evening

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, all evening

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

Trails Committee Meeting BSCO, 2 p.m.

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, all evening

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

Public Engagement Meeting: NorthWestern Energy Mid-Mountain Substation WMPAC, 6:30 p.m.

Awareness Wednesday Santosha Wellness Center, 7 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, APRIL 12**

Live music

Horn and Cantle Saloon, all evening

Parks Committee Meeting BSCO, 5:30 p.m.

#### Wild Rivers Film Tour Lone Peak Cinema, 7 p.m.

A.A. Meeting Big Sky Chapel, 8 p.m.

### **BOZEMAN**

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 30

American Indian Council Pow Wow Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 6 p.m.

International Fly Fishing Film Fest Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Gaelynn Lea, music Live From The Divide, 8 p.m.

Ranges, music Rialto Bozeman, 8 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, MARCH 31**

Winter Farmers' Market Emerson Ballroom, all morning

#### American Indian Council Pow Wow Brick Breeden Fieldhouse, 6 p.m.

"The Godfather, Part II," film Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Glow Skate Party Haynes Pavilion, 7 p.m.

Positive Altitude: A Celebration of Good, music Rialto Bozeman, 7:30 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 1**

Easter Brunch Gallatin River Loge, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

"Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein," film Ellen Theatre, 2 p.m.

Bluebelly Junction, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, APRIL 2**

Mac Lethal, Devin the Dude, and Wax, music Rialto Bozeman, 8:30 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, APRIL 3**

"Wild Trout in Montana," lecture MSU Strand Union Building, 7 p.m.

Gill Landry, music Live From The Divide, 8 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4**

California Guitar Trio, music Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 5

Ocelot Wizard, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

"RBG," film Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture, 7 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 6

Jennifer Pulchinski and Tad Bradley, artists' reception Old Main Gallery, 6 p.m.

Bilal, music Rialto Bozeman, 8 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 7 Bridal Walk Downtown, all day

"Parenting Teen Girls 24/7," book signing Barns and Noble, 11 a.m. Organic Gardening Made Easy, class Broken Ground. 1 p.m.

QSA's Rainbow Ball Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture, 7 p.m.

Jerry Joseph and the Jackmormons, music Rialto Bozeman, 8:30 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, APRIL 8**

Hayo Miyazaki's "Howl's Moving Castle," film Rialto Bozeman, 11 a.m.

"Loving Vincent," film Ellen Theatre, 2 p.m.

"A Fantastic Woman," film Rialto Bozeman, 3:30 p.m.

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

#### **MONDAY, APRIL 9**

Rising Stars Research Roundup, presentation Museum of the Rockies, 5:30 p.m.

Men Next Door Uncovered: A Girl's Night Out Event Rialto Bozeman, 8:30 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 10

Craft Beer Week Schedule Release Party Sidewinders American Grill, 5 p.m.

Men Next Door Uncovered: A Girl's Night Out Event Rialto Bozeman, 8:30 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

"Hand Raised: The Barns of Montana," author presentation Museum of the Rockies, 6 p.m.

Wild Rivers Film Tour Rialto Bozeman, 7 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 12

"Living the Change," film Bozeman Public Library, 6 p.m.

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

Our Wild Film Festival Rialto Bozeman, 7:30 p.m.

Wylie and the Wild West, music Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.



# PAGE 36-37

to view a complete schedule of events at Big Sky Resort, complete with upcoming ski deals and more.

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

Livingston, MT

#### Tap into Montana Beer Fest Miles Park April 2-7

Montana craft beer with live music and local food, this community event continues to grow into its fourth year. The celebration kicks off with a week of craft beer related events throughout Livingston April 2-7, and includes beer and sushi pairings, beer trivia, a print making and beer class, the beer mile, and the 2nd Annual Creek to Peak Soap Box Derby. Festivities culminate with the brew fest on April 7 from 2-7 p.m., featuring beer selections from 29 Montana breweries. Visit tapintomt. com for a complete schedule or to purchase tickets.

Billings, MT

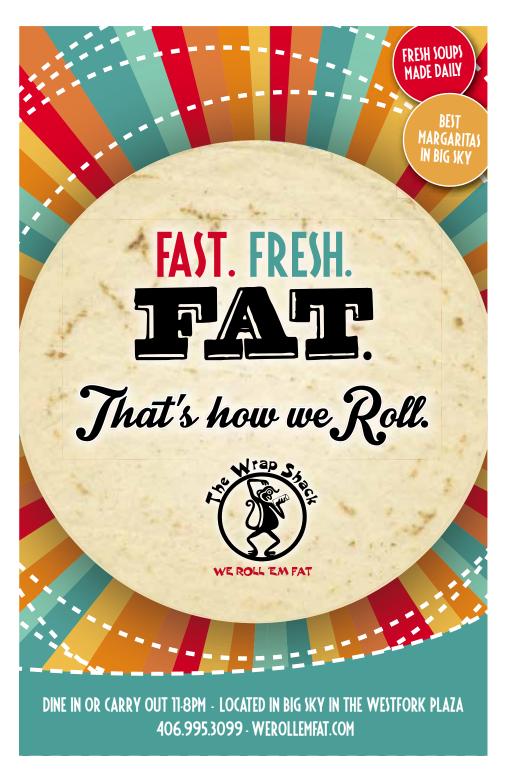
# ArtWalk and Jam at the YAM Yellowstone Art Museum April 6

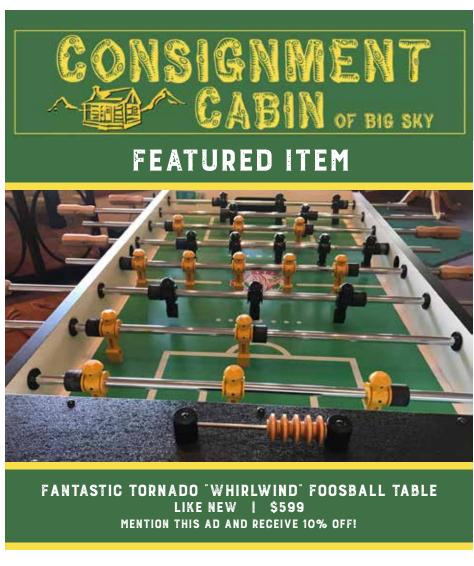
Yellowstone Art Museum's ArtWalk begins with an early bird opening at 4 p.m., followed by Jam at the YAM live music from 5-8 p.m. View the museum's current exhibitions including "Nature's Cadence: Paintings by Clyde Aspevig," "Emil Carlsen's Quiet Harmonies" and "Rough and Tumble, Smoke and Rope."



# **SUBMIT YOUR EVENT - IT'S FREE!**

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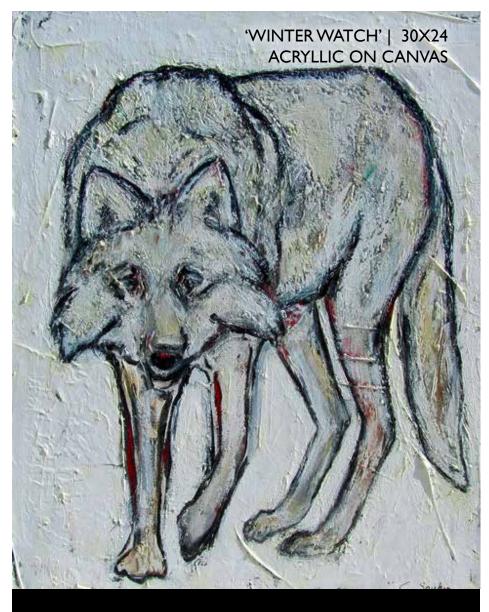


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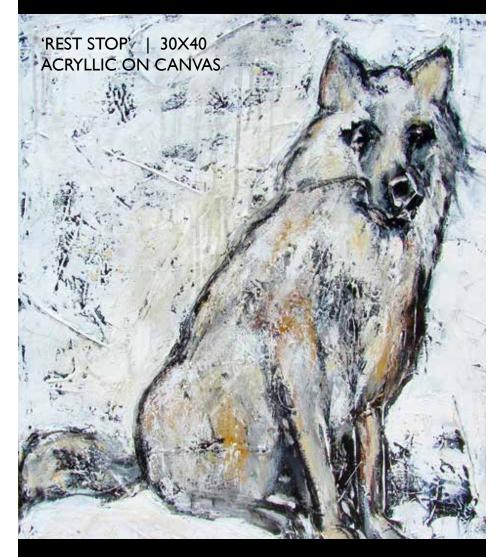








#### **CAROL SPIELMAN**



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

#### **Greg Keeler: Montana's minstrel**

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

Bozemanite Greg Keeler is a bit of a Renaissance man; poet, fiction writer, memoirist, musician, painter, playwright and fisherman are a few of the titles he could lay claim to.

Keeler taught in the English department at Montana State University for nearly four decades, and now holds emeritus status at the school where he had to fight to get tenure. He says that title sounds fancy for a guy who grew up in the flatlands of Oklahoma.

Keeler's eighth collection of poetry, due to be released this May, is a mashup of 180 new sonnets entitled "The Bluebird Run."

Crafting a sonnet is no easy task. English sonnets are a restrictive form, calling for 14 lines with an "ABAB CDCD EFEF GG" rhyme scheme and written in iambic pentameter—meaning that each line is ten syllables and has five "feet" that are "iambs," alternating unstressed syllables with stressed syllables (duh-DUH, duh-DUH).

Here is one selection from "The Bluebird Run" (reprinted with permission from Elk River Books) that is insightful in the way it self-consciously describes the process of composing a sonnet.

I'm writing this because I want to show my true love how I try to write a poem.
In this tradition accents always go at five per line before I bring them home into a rhyme which alternates except the couplet, which wraps up the last two lines.
When followed strictly this gets too adept, and one hears just the meter and the rhymes.
So sometimes I'll put a bunch of unaccented syllables around the strong ones just to make it sound like a prosy chat in a form that seems unfulfillable until the reader hears it read aloud.
And by the way that last rhyme's called a slant. It's when I really want to rhyme but can't.

The first few times I read a poem, I try not to analyze it all. I recommend letting the imagery conjure up what it may, getting a sense of the cadences and rhythms, and letting the poem make its impression upon your aesthetic sensibilities and personal memories.

Later on, some analysis might help illuminate how the poem achieves its effects, intended or not. When interpreting sonnets, it helps to think of the first two quatrains as the "octave" and the final six lines or "sestet" beginning with the "volta" or a ninth line that juxtaposes the theme or argument of the first eight lines.

Obviously, the octave in this poem describes the strict requirements of this form of verse. But note how the third quatrain breaks sharply with convention. The volta and the eleventh line disregard the pattern of iambic pentameter—both holding 15 syllables and having feet which read more like "prosy chat" than typical lines of a sonnet. The 10th and 12th line attempt to rhyme "sound" with "aloud." And then the couplet offers a sort of resolution by returning to proper form.

For me, this ostensibly simple poem holds insight about how we are bound by traditions and rules, but also able to shape and transform them, finally gesturing at the beauty of imperfection and improvisation.

"The Bluebird Run" is chock full of memorable poems and Keeler's range as a sonneteer is impressive. His gems include effervescent commentary on the mundane—say shopping at Costco—as well as irreverent, yet solemn odes about love and dying. This book should garner Keeler the recognition he deserves as one of the finest poets under the Big Sky.

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

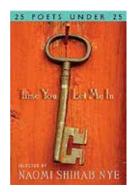


#### **Between the shelves**

BY AMY HUNTER ASSISTANT COMMUNITY LIBRARIAN

There are many types of literature in the world. One genre that I greatly admire, but doesn't always resonate with me is poetry. My lack of symbolic understanding frustrated both me and my English teachers on a regular basis. My relationship with poetry has not improved with age or experience, but I am excited to give it another try in April in honor of National Poetry month.

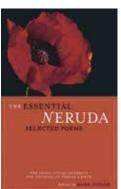
Here are a few facts about poetry:



The most popular poetry form in the world is the haiku. The longest poem in the world is the Indian epic "Mahabharata."

The shortest poem is "The Shortest and Sweetest of Songs" by George MacDonald. It consists of two words, "come home."

The oldest poem is the Babylonian "Epic of Gilgamesh." Poetry can increase your vocabulary.



In order to encourage you to explore poetry this month, we have a few suggestions for you. Check out the DVD "Slam Safe" to learn how young people are utilizing poetry to respond to today's issues. The library also has "Time You Let Me In: 25 Poets Under 25," an anthology curated by poet Naomi Shihab Nye. For those interested in classic Spanish poetry, check out "The Essential Neruda," a selection of poems by Pablo Neruda. Be sure to stop by the library and share the poems that impacted you this month.

Visit poets.org/national-poetry-month to learn more about National Poetry Month.



# COMPLIMENTARY HOME STAGING

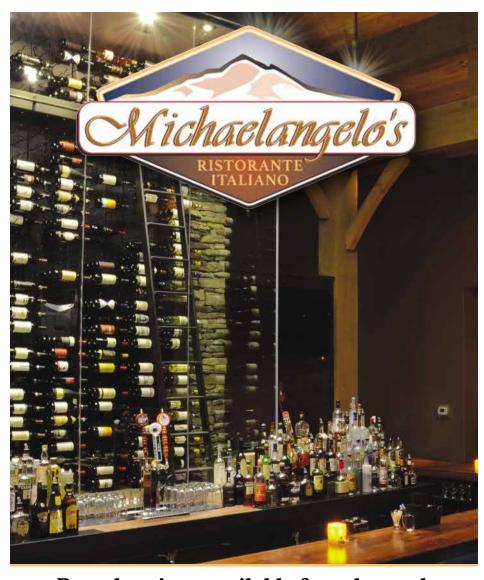
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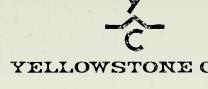
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## JULY 25-28, 2018 | BIG SKY, MT

**THURSDAY JULY, 26** PBR BULL RIDING \*TICKETS AVAILABLE!\* **BIGSKYPBR.COM** 

### 2018 Schedule of Events

25

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11am

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| FREE

THURSDAY JULY 26

**Third Annual Big Sky Art Auction** PBR Arena Tent | 3-6pm | FREE www.bigskyartauction.com

Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 1 PBR Arena | 6-8pm

Music in the Mountains Featuring Shovels & Rope **Presented by Big Sky PBR** Town Center Park | 8:30pm | FREE

**JULY 27** FRIDAY

Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 2 **PBR Arena** 

**5pm** — Vendor Village opens and Golden Buckle gates open 6pm - Calcutta auction in the Golden Buckle tent and General Admission gates open **7pm** – Bull Riding Begins

Big Sky PBR After Party & **Music Featuring Steel Woods** 

SAV Stage | 9pm

SATURDAY JULY 28

Big Sky PBR Bull Riding Night 3 **PBR Arena** 

**5pm** — Vendor Village opens and Golden Buckle gates open **6pm** – Calcutta auction in the Golden Buckle tent and General Admission gates open **7pm** – Bull Riding Begins

Big Sky PBR After Party & **Music Featuring Thunderpussy** SAV Stage | 9pm

#### MORE INFORMATION, SCHEDULE & TICKETS AT BIGSKYPBR.COM































































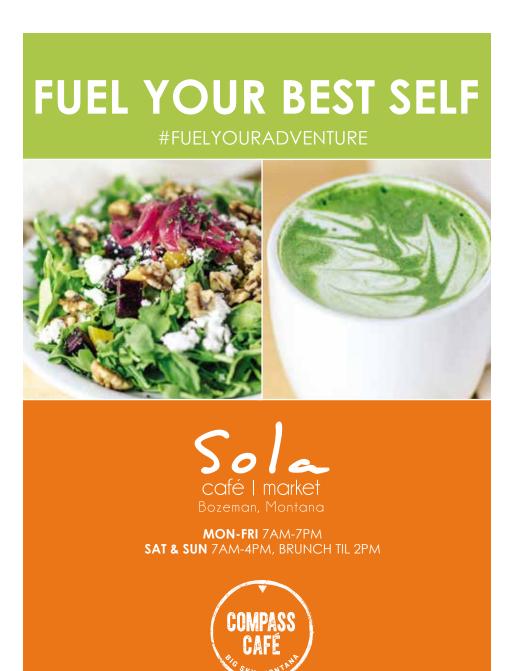












MON-FRI 7AM-6PM

SAT & SUN 8AM-6PM, BRUNCH TIL 2PM





#### Designing a cheese board

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER

Who doesn't love a great cheese board? They often become the centerpiece of gatherings, offering a little something to satisfy everyone's taste buds. With countless types of cheese and accompaniments, it can be daunting to choose the "correct" ingredients. Here are a few simple tips to follow when assembling a board for your next shindig.

#### The main event

When it comes to the cheese itself, variety is key. Consider factors such as the sharpness of the cheese, milk type, texture and its visual appearance when making your selections. If you keep the options diverse, you will end up with a cheese board that is both visually appealing and includes something that will please every guest's palette.

Incorporate some cheeses that are more approachable, such as a mild cheddar, and complement it with a more potent variety like blue cheese. Similarly, choose a firm cheese—Manchego and pecorino are great options—and one that is soft or spreadable, like brie or goat cheese.

The number of cheeses depends on the number of guests, as well as your preference. I typically choose at least three varieties. In terms of portions, a good rule of thumb is 3-4 ounces per person. Here are some of my favorite cheese combos for a small group of people:

Jarlsberg, goat's milk brie or camembert, and sharp cheddar Chèvre, gorgonzola dolce, gouda and Manchego Triple cream brie, Mimolette or gruyere, and a mild blue

#### The accompaniments

Every cheese board needs a few elements to round out the cheese flavors. I like a variety of crunchy, acidic and sweet accompaniments. For the crunchy component, choose a few different kinds of crackers or crusty bread, and slices of apples or pears that can also act as a vehicle for the cheese.

Nuts and pickles, such as cornichon or gherkins, offer a welcome crunch, with pickles adding an acidic component, as do whole grain mustard or olives. Whole honeycomb makes for a beautifully presented sweet element, but a small ramekin of store bought honey can do the trick as well. Fresh fruit preserves or dried fruit make for a great accompaniment to sharp cheeses.

#### The filler and the tools

If you find empty space on your board bothersome, you can fill these gaps with grapes or greenery like fresh rosemary or, my favorite come summertime, edible flowers. Be sure to include plenty of utensils so that your guests can slice, share and shmear the night away. Don't forget serving utensils for accompaniments such as honey or mustard as well.

#### **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 3: A bitter pill to swallow



BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Research has shown that salt, fat and sugar all have a downside when it comes to our health, but one of them far exceeds the other two—sugar.

While we know there are healthy fats, and salt is a requirement for our bodies, sugar may be as dangerous

and addictive as any substance humans have encountered.

But why has sugar gotten a pass for so long?

The insulin shot heard round the world was the "study" conducted by the sugar industry in 1967 in which they paid scientists at Harvard University to conclude that fat and cholesterol were largely to blame for heart disease, and all but exonerate sugar.

Simultaneously, in a desperate effort to find a use for the excess of corn we were sitting on, the U.S. Department of Agriculture came up with the new nectar of the gods: high fructose corn syrup.

We didn't associate an ingredient that all humans have access to and costs less than a cup of coffee with setting the stage for a potentially life-threatening addiction until only a few years later.

Computed tomography scans of the human brain after consuming dessert or a full-size candy bar look identical to those of someone high on cocaine.

Sugar alters metabolism, damages the liver, contributes to heart disease, cancer and diabetes, alters mood, and has addictive properties. It affects behavior by releasing dopamine which triggers the brain's pleasure receptors, can lead to an overdose effect in some people, and a gradual tolerance build-up in others. Robert Lustig, of University of California, San Francisco, does not candy-coat it. He says sugar is a poison, plain and simple. It is a chronic, not acute, dosedependent toxin.

Today, the typical U.S. grocery store has, on average, 600,000 food items. Of those items, 82 percent contain added sugar cleverly disguised in no less than 44 names.

To add to the confusion, I once saw a bag of Publix brand sugar with packaging that read "sugar free." That surely begged the question, "then what exactly is in that bag?"

Additionally, the website Live Science estimates there are 250,000 illicit drug-related deaths worldwide each year. Congruently, the website Healthline estimates 180,000 sugar-related deaths each year. Those figures are fairly close.

Have we simply lulled ourselves into a syrupy, lethargic hypnosis? Or are we hopelessly punching a giant, heavy bag of refinery sugar that will always get the best of us? Perhaps big tobacco should have taken a few cues from big sugar.

But, and this is a big but, our brains require sugar. It is the brain's main fuel source and we cannot do without it. So what are we to do? How do we fight against such a pervasive substance masked in many varieties and behind new, unrecognizable names every year? Do we put sugar into the ever-expanding category of "everything in moderation?" Maybe.

But the idea that weight loss is as simple as calories in versus calories out is no longer viable. Lethargy and laziness are not the cause of obesity, they are the result. Most processed foods contain far too much sugar to give the average child or adult a fighting chance. That's a bitter pill to swallow.

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





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# Making it in Big Sky

#### **American Bank**

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY - American Bank opened its doors in 1947 as Livingston State Bank in Livingston, Montana. The company was, and still is, a full-service, family-owned bank with a focus on providing products and services geared to meet Montanans' needs.

The company attributes its growth into a business with 75 employees serving five communities across Montana—Livingston, Big Timber, Bozeman, Big Sky and Whitefish—to their ability to understand customer needs.

American Bank opened the Big Sky branch in January 1999 with Ross Pfohl, Marla Ganoom and Joanne Welch as the first employees. The bank was first located in Meadow Village until their current location at 1700 Lone Mountain Trl. was renovated and ready for business.

The team of employees still includes Pfohl and Ganoom, with the addition of Marie Rapp in 2005, Maria Locker in 2007, and Sarah Beer in 2012.

They consider one another like family and pride themselves on their longevity with the company and providing excellent customer service to the community.

As part of this ongoing series, Branch Manager Ross Pfohl shared this thoughts with EBS on the reasoning behind the bank's success and longevity in Big Sky.

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

**Ross Pfohl:** We have an amazing team. Our method of working together is how we offer the hands-on service that we are proud of. I often receive compliments about our team going the extra mile to service our customers. We have all lived in Big Sky for many years and know our customers as friends and neighbors and strive to do our best for our community.

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

**R.P.:** The off seasons, or shoulder seasons, used to be the biggest obstacle in running a business in Big Sky, but now, that seems to be less of an issue. We have been very fortunate in retaining quality employees. The last time we hired someone was four years ago. Marla and I have been with American Bank for 19 years; Marie, 13 years; Maria, 11 years; and Sarah, 5 years. I am proud to be part of such a professional and hardworking team.

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

**R.P.:** The Erickson family, owners of American Bank, started lending in Big Sky the first year the ski resort opened. The founder, Claude Erickson, who lived in Livingston, loved spending time up here in the early days. I recall his stories of horseback rides from the Meadow area before Big Sky was developed. Obviously, we have seen a lot of growth in Big Sky since that time and we are proud to be a part of the growth.

There is a lot more competition as well as opportunity now that we are an established community, and banking as a whole has moved into the electronic age with online banking services. Thanks to many innovations that are now available to smaller banks, we are lucky to offer the entire suite of these state-of-the-art products and services.



The loyal team at the Big Sky branch of American Bank. From left to right: Sarah Beer, Marie Rapp, Ross Pfohl, Maria Locker and Marla Ganoom. PHOTO BY KENE SPERRY

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

**R.P.:** We all love Big Sky ... it's an amazing place. We have made a commitment to our customers and to the community since Big Sky's inception. At times the changes are hard to fathom, but the energy and spirit of Big Sky will continue to grow positively and we are excited to be a part of it.

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

**R.P.:** From the business side it's been great to see customers start out with a dream and build those dreams into thriving businesses. From a personal side, it was the first time I ever rode a chairlift with Warren Miller, listening to him talk made me feel like I was in a surround-sound ski movie. I truly cherish all my memories with him and having had the opportunity to spend so much time with Warren, his wife, Laurie, and stepson, Colin, over the years.

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

**R.P.:** Before you open a small business make sure you completely know the Big Sky market. Only now can we say that we have qualities of a four-season community. Our summers are so much more vibrant now than they were just a few years ago. The mountain biking scene is just one of the newer features that we are proud of.

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

**R.P.:** Bruce and Carolyn Erickson used to say "work hard, have fun and make money." This has become the mantra for American Bank. To me it really means to be attentive and diligent at work, but don't forget to enjoy your surroundings and community.

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

**R.P.:** American Bank will continue to grow, but we will never forget where we came from: small town Montana. We are a bank family, and will continue to reinforce our culture and traditions. We are honored to carry this heritage forward. Our focus is to be here for our customers and our community. We love to listen and look forward to offering products and services that our customers want.

#### AMERICAN BANK - BY THE NUMBERS



STAFF:



**YEARS IN BUSINESS:** 

19



#### Montana's Jelt Belt achieves B Corp status

BY CALEDONIA RICE EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN - Jen Perry is an eco-conscious entrepreneur and the founder of Jelt Belt, a Bozeman-based company whose signature item is a stylish, but practical belt made out of recycled materials.

Perry started the company in February of 2014 because she saw a need for a functional, sustainably manufactured belt that looked good, and was travel and outdoor activity-friendly. She also saw her company as a means to give back to the community.

"After a near-death experience, I knew I wanted to do something to create a positive impact on the world." Perry said.

In early February, after an intensive eight-month review process, Perry announced that Jelt Belt had achieved Benefit Corporation, or B Corp, status, joining only six other Montana-based businesses with the certification.

B Corp is to businesses what Fair Trade certification is to coffee, or what USDA Certified Organic is to milk. B Corps are for-profit companies that meet the rigorous standards of the nonprofit B Lab in terms of social and environmental performance, accountability and transparency.

Perry's support of social causes is one reason her company became B Corp certified. She donates 1 percent of annual sales to local veterans in partnership with the Warriors and Quiet Waters Foundation, an organization that utilizes fly fishing as a means of healing. Another 1 percent goes to nonprofit organizations focused on the environment. The company also donates \$1 of every junior Jelt Belt sold to



Jen Perry's Bozeman-based company Jelt Belt was recently awarded B Corp status for its socially- and environmentally-conscious practices. Jelt Belt is only the seventh Montana company to achieve B Corp status. PHOTO BY CALEDONIA RICE

Thrive, a Bozeman nonprofit dedicated to helping kids succeed in school, at home and in life.

Jelt Belts are also eco-friendly. Its packaging is made of 100 percent recycled cardboard, reflective of Perry's desire to reuse existing materials rather than contribute more waste to the planet.

The belts themselves are made of RePET, a recycled polyester yarn manufactured out of plastic water bottles. Jelt Belts are also recyclable—and convenient. Gel pads on the interior hold the belt in place, loops or no loops; and contain no metal, meaning it's one less accessory to take off in the airport security line.

Perhaps the most laudable community-oriented aspect of Jelt Belt is the company's manufacturing practices.

Jelt Belt paired up with the Montana Correctional Enterprise Program at the Montana Women's Prison in Billings to keep the manufacturing local, while also providing incarcerated women with valuable skills they can use upon their release. These employees are paid a fair wage and their earnings help pay for restitution, legal fees, and child support. All Jelt Belts are made in the correctional facility.

"Being a certified Benefit Corp means that I am using business as a force for good," Perry said. "Since launching Jelt, I have met thousands of ... amazing people working hard to make the world a better place, whether through nonprofits or through the work they are doing with kids and families. I am honored to have a business that supports these worthy organizations and to call the people who run these organizations my friends."

Visit jeltbelt.com for more information.







BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

As we age, our bodies tend to lose muscle and store fat more readily. We might gain a pound or two over the holidays and have the scale creep higher still after a hearty dose of backyard barbecues throughout the summer.

Gaining a pound here and there is fine. The problem is when we start accumulating those pounds year after

year and then wake up one morning and realize that we're 10 to 20 pounds overweight.

When we do decide to do something to lose the excess weight, we often turn to drastic measures like unsustainable diets that cause our weight to yo-yo, along with our emotional wellbeing. Or we might attempt to go from couch potato to marathoner in a week, only to find ourselves laid up with shin splints.

Since losing weight often requires tremendous effort, not gaining it in the first place is key and is worth placing high on the priority list. In order to do this, a scale is an invaluable tool. Give yourself a "hard stop" number and weigh yourself every week or month to check in. If the scale shows you're above your pre-determined healthy weight, it's time to take stock and ask yourself what changes need to made in your diet, physical activity, sleep and stress management to thwart the insidious weight creep.

If weight creep has already managed to make it's way to your waistline, it's crucial to have patience and create a plan to turn it around. Rather than succumb to emotions of frustration or disappointment, do a reality check and consider how long this has actually been happening. Give yourself ample time to turn it around—shoot for a pound a week.

In 2011, the New England Journal of Medicine published a study that included nearly 121,000 Americans. They evaluated them every four years from 1986 to 2006 and found that, on average, participants gained 3.35 pounds in each four-year span.

The study showed that weight gain was most strongly associated with eating potato chips, sugar-sweetened beverages, unprocessed red meats and processed meats, and was inversely associated with eating vegetables, whole grains, fruits and nuts.

Other lifestyle factors that were measured showed that exercise helped keep weight down, while drinking alcohol, sleeping less than six hours per night and watching television all contributed to weight gain.

The time it takes upfront to make small adjustments to our lifestyle in order to prevent weight creep ultimately pays dividends. But if we find ourselves needing to make more aggressive changes, it's time to map out a strategy, recruit accountability partners and stay the course. You've got this!

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

#### Drawing the line on my husband's love affair



BY DARYN KAGAN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

I drew the line at Chex Mix. I had to draw it somewhere. Had you been here to see what was going on in this home, you would've expected me to do something. Anything—and a lot sooner.

How many wives could calmly standby and bear witness to their husband's love affair? It started innocently enough: taking a walk with her, private conversations, snuggling on the couch, wrestling games.

Husband has shown no shame. He even feels free to share with me on a regular basis how happy he is with her—the incredible connection they have, the little games they like to play.

I, Wife, have mostly been in shock. I never expected this. Not from him.

Husband loves a dog. Not just any dog—our dog. The one he swore he'd never have. The same man who took me to premarital counseling to explain why he never would want any pets. Yeah, that guy.

That soft-hearted guy who grew to be kind to my old Lab, Darla, in the final years of her life. When she passed late last year, I would've bet he'd insist that be the end of our dog days. Then, came the day when he gave in to our daughter's whining for a puppy.

Oh, what has developed since that fateful day we walked out of the humane society with this miniature hound dog mutt. Pup gets the first kiss when Husband walks in the door, and the last snuggle before we turn out the lights.

Mr. "I take my workouts seriously" now takes the dog. Have 30 minutes? He'll share their routine of sprints, wrestling and playing with other dogs and kids in the park. Have another 30? He'll explain to you how a dog, this dog, offers a love unlike any he's experienced.

Yes, dear dog lover, he'll explain this to you as if it's breaking news. Which brings me to our dining room table/home office where we were both working the other day.

Husband was treating himself to some Chex Mix. Not any Chex Mix—my mother-in-law's. She makes a batch for him each Christmas and he waits all year to enjoy the crunch, snap, and salt of it.

"Tap."

I thought I heard something fall. Husband's face betrayed nothing. A couple minutes later I heard it again, along with the jingle of Pup's collar.

"You can't give Chex Mix to the dog," I said, busting Husband.

"But, but," he protested, seeing nothing wrong with gifting the object of his affection.

"You can't buy love," I explained.

"Don't be so sure about that," Pup's brown eyes darted at me.

Which is why I had to draw the line at Chex Mix—the sure sign that this family has spun out of control. I'm back to work, training Pup. I can't have a dog who begs at the dining room table. As for Husband, I know better to try to train this one, and a heart falling deeply, desperately into the abyss you understand, into the love of a dog.

Daryn Kagan was a featured speaker at TEDxBigSky 2018. She is author of "Hope Possible: A Network News Anchor's Thoughts on Losing her Joh, Finding Love, a New Career, and my Dog, Always my Dog," and the founder of darynkagan.com, a resource for uplifting and positive news.



#### Family Cooking Night at Ophir

Oliver (left) and Carver Liedburg develop their cooking skills with their mother Kura at Ophir Family Cooking Night, a monthly public event hosted by the school district's Wellness Committee. PHOTO BY ERIK WALNUM

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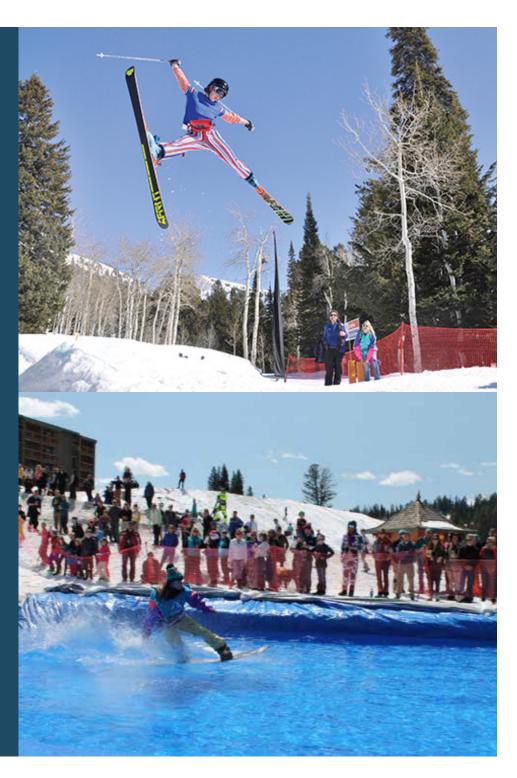
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