

# Winter wolf watching in Yellowstone

Drought Forum addresses local water supply

Sam Byrne shares business expertise

Making it in Big Sky: OZssage

Local smashes tram-lap record



explorebigsky.com

Wildlife Expeditions' new educational safari, Winter Wolves of Yellowstone, on page 29. NPS PHOTO

**ON THE COVER:** A wolf negotiates deep snow in Yellowstone National Park in November 2017. Read about Jackson, Wyoming-based



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Drought Forum 14

Sam Byrne shares business expertise

**Making it in Big Sky: OZssage** 



Local smashes tram-lap record



Youth competitors make a transition during the annual Mad Wolf Winter Relay on Feb. 25. This year saw 20 teams and five individuals skiing, running and biking. Top finishers for each of the categories were: Individual, Troy Nedved; Youth, Gus Hammond, Chloe Hammond, Libby Flach and Carly Wilson; Mixed Youth and Adult, Rob McRae, Lucy Stratford and Finn McRae; Women, Liz McRae, Ciara Wolfe, Nicole Barker and Karin Mittelstaedt; and for Co-ed Adult, Sawyer Kesselheim, Kitty Phelan, Emma Stein and Luke Stein. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

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

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From \$1,200,000



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

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**4** March 2 - March 15, 2018 **Explore** Big Sky



## Community foundations accepting spring grant applications

**EBS STAFF** 

Nearing the turn of the season, many Big Sky foundations are preparing for their 2018 spring grant cycles with fundraising efforts and calls for applications.

The Moonlight Community Foundation, the nonprofit charitable arm of the Moonlight Community, has worked to improve education and youth development in Big Sky since 2014. They will host their fifth annual Spring Social on March 11, from 5-8 p.m. at the Moonlight Lodge and will accept grant applications for the spring grant cycle through May 15. Visit moonlightcommunityfoundation.org to learn more.

The Yellowstone Club Community Foundation is also preparing for the spring cycle, and in addition to supporting local organizations, they will award scholarships to several college-bound high school students this spring.

Since 2010, YCCF has awarded more than \$3 million, and this year's grant applications will be accepted through May 1. Applications for several student scholarships were due in January. Visit yellowstoneclubfoundation.org to learn more.

In February, the Spanish Peaks Community Foundation announced a successful winter fundraising season.

Since 2015, SPCF has granted \$331,740 to 23 nonprofit projects in the Big Sky community related to the arts, education, community service projects and management of the outdoors. SPCF is currently accepting applications for the spring funding cycle. Applications must be received by April 1 for a May 1 determination. Visit spanishpeaksfoundation.org to learn more.

## **Glacier Bank absorbs First Security**

EBS STAFF

Effective March 1, First Security Bank will join the Montana-based Glacier Bank family that includes Big Sky Western Bank under the holding company Glacier Bancorp, Inc., headquartered in Kalispell.

Later this year, First Security Bank branches in Gallatin County will merge with Big Sky Western Bank, using the name First Security Bank, Division of Glacier Bank. In northcentral Montana, offices will join with First Bank of Montana.

Glacier Bancorp uses a community banking model that allows local banks to enjoy relative autonomy to serve their communities. As a division of Glacier, First Security expects to operate in the same way it always has, and layoffs are not expected.

With this merger, clients in the Glacier Bank family will have access to all of Glacier Bank's divisions and ATMs across Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado, Utah, Washington and Arizona.

At this time, no action is required of First Security customers. Further details will be mailed in the coming months once the merger process is complete.

## Arts Council accepting bids for summer alcohol vending

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

The Arts Council of Big Sky is accepting bids for the exclusive rights to sell alcohol at the popular free Music in the Mountains summer concert series. The concerts are held every Thursday in Town Center Park from June through August, and also includes the July 4 concert and the Classical Music Festival.

The summer concerts are the most popular weekly event in Big Sky and average attendance is estimated at about 3,000 people per week. The vendor that is selected will be the sole provider of alcohol at all arts council events in Town Center Park for 2018.

"We're opening up the selection process to the local business community," said Brian Hurlbut, ACBS executive director. "We've been very happy with our past alcohol vendor but want to make sure we give everyone that is interested an option to apply."

The vendor will be selected in early March and must comply with all state and local regulations and have all licenses in place.

For those interested in a bid application, contact the Arts Council of Big Sky at (406) 995-2742 or email brian@bigskyarts.org.

## Realtor course focused on land and water

GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

The Gallatin River Task Force has teamed up with the Gallatin Association of Realtors to host "Conserving Land and Protecting Water," a four-credit continuing education course for realtors, on March 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Buck's T-4 Lodge in Big Sky.

In 2016, with the support of the Big Sky Resort Area District tax, GRTF designed and certified a continuing education course for real estate professionals. The course received positive reviews from participants, and was picked up by the Gallatin Association of Realtors in 2017.

The course introduces real estate professionals to a range of water resource topics that are relevant to real estate transactions. The goal of the course is to empower realtors with relevant water resource information to pass along to landowners, to help them make wise land and water use decisions.

Speakers for the 2018 Big Sky course include: Stephanie Lynn and Emily Casey, GRTF; Ron Edwards, Big Sky Water and Sewer District; Brittney Krahn, Gallatin City-County Health Department; Dan Blythe, Montana Bureau of Mine and Geology; Jennifer Mohler, Gallatin Invasive Species Action Alliance; and Christian Dietrich, Montana Land Reliance.

GRTF is a locally-led watershed group headquartered in Big Sky, whose mission is to partner with their community to inspire stewardship of the Gallatin River watershed.

To register for this course, contact the Gallatin Association of Realtors at (406) 585-0033, or visit gallatin realtors.com.



# What's been the highlight of your visitor experience in Big Sky?



Cheryl Decker
Anacortes, Washington

"The cross-country trails and the coffee porter."



**Robin Elkus**Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

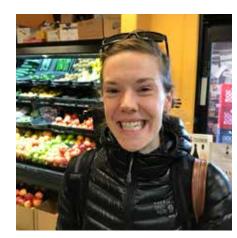
"We came for a ski vacation and it was so beautiful. One highlight was hiking Ousel Falls trail.

Lunch at Everett's was delicious too. I highly recommend the mushroom appetizer."



**Bob Elkus** *Bloomfield Hills, Michigan* 

"The panoramic view from the top of the Shedhorn lift is stunning. That is our new happy place."



Mary Bayley Minneapolis, Minnesota

"Coming from a big city, I was struck by the tranquility of the town and the kindness of the local residents. Oh yeah, and the divine landscape."





# Down payment assistance now available to Big Sky home buyers

BY MARGO MAGNANT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY - After series of blows to the affordable housing effort in Big Sky, the newly available down payment assistance program can now alleviate some of the challenges for those looking to purchase housing in the community.

The Big Sky Community Housing Trust was formed in 2016 and has held monthly advisory council meetings since mid-2017. During that timeframe, Gallatin County commissioners denied approval of affordable housing projects proposed by developers of the Bough Big Sky Community and Powder Light subdivisions, for various reasons.

The BSCHT advisory council sees down payment assistance as an important interim solution to the financial roadblocks many working residents confront when it comes to buying a home in Big Sky.

"The biggest barrier is the down payment," said Brian Guyer, HRDC community development manager and a guiding member of the BSCHT advisory council. "Scraping together \$30,000 is not an easy task for many people working and living in Big Sky."

Guyer said that many people seeking ownership are paying rents in excess of what a mortgage payment would be on the same property.

The program, known as HOME, is a federal program that has only recently become available in the Big Sky area thanks to the efforts of Guyer and the BSCHT. The financial assistance will act as a second mortgage for approved parties, and the costs associated with it will be rolled into a single mortgage payment.

For those interested in benefiting from the program, the first step is taking the Homebuyer Education Course offered by HRDC, a prerequisite for consideration. The next course will be held from 5-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 6, and Wednesday, March 7, at Buck's T-4 Lodge. Contact HRDC housing counselor Roselle Shallah at (406) 585-4895 to register.

A second requirement is having a one-on-one session with a housing counselor. Shallah will be available for appointments in Big Sky on March 6 and 7, in conjunction with the course.

Guyer said the eight-hour course is intense, but "the process [of home ownership] becomes a whole lot less daunting when you know what you're getting into."

This program is intended as a trial for a locally based fund that would be managed by the BSCHT with the help of local donors for the same benefit.

A potential difference between the currently available federal program and a Big Sky-specific option is increased flexibility in terms of qualifying incomes and properties that more accurately reflect the average home price in Big Sky. The current cap on properties that qualify is \$272,000 for the federal program.

"The down payment assistance program will be a valuable tool for locals looking to invest in home ownership in Big Sky," explained Brian Hurlbut, executive director of the Arts Council of Big Sky and a BCHT board member. "It has the potential to be a game changer when it comes to providing families with an affordable path toward home ownership."

## Moonlight Basin development hits snag in Madison County

BY TYLER ALLEN EBS MANAGING EDITOR

BIG SKY – At a Feb. 26 meeting of the Madison County Planning Board in Virginia City, Lone Mountain Land Company encountered a setback to its new overall development plan for Moonlight Basin.

The board voted six to two in favor of adopting the recommendation of Planning Director Charity Fechter, who suggested denying the additional 203 hotel units requested in Moonlight's overall development plan (ODP). In 2007, the ODP called for 1,651 total residential units and was revised to 1,854 units for 2017. An ODP must be updated every 10 years.

"The only difference between what we had submitted and approved in '07 versus 2017, is we did ask for approximately 200 additional density units," said Kevin Germain, LMLC's vice president of planning and development.

"The reason we did that—if you read the definition of a unit in the Madison County subdivision regulations—a hotel unit is treated the same as a 10,000-square-foot custom home," he said. "The difference between '07 and 2017 was a plan with more hotels in it than we had in '07, so an increase in density."

Fechter said that wildlife and habitat connectivity was a concern in the updated ODP. "It is an extremely sensitive area, especially in the Moonlight Territory. ... The bottom line is, I don't believe the planning board believed the additional units were justified."

Approximately 100 of the additional units would have been developed in the area called Moonlight Territory, west of Jack Creek Road and north of the golf course. The remaining 100 hotel units are proposed for other future subdivisions, like Lee's Poole, Overlook and Madison Village.

Moonlight Territory has not yet been developed, though two 160-acre properties have been sold and neither of them is currently under conservation easements, according to Germain.

Bob Zimmer, the water programs coordinator for the conservation nonprofit Greater Yellowstone Coalition, attended the meeting and was pleased the board voted in favor of Fechter's recommendation. He said that GYC will be represented at the March county commission meeting and will urge the commissioners to deny the additional hotel units.

"The commission could adopt the [LMLC] plan ... we'll again be there lobbying for them to adopt the recommendation the planning board put forward," Zimmer said.

"About 400 units of their [approximately] 1,600 they can allocate as hotel, condos or single family," Fechter said. "They can adjust the additional units they already have and bring them back for our approval—we can deal with the bulk of it."

Germain said he presented Moonlight's 1994 plans to the board because he's heard people say, "Moonlight had a bigger conservation story than they do today." He noted that the vision at that time was for many 5- to 20-acre parcels, including an area the original developers called "Wildlife Single Family," which would have led to less density and open space than they're seeking now.

"So it's a much more concentrated, and I think more wildlife-friendly plan, based on better science than was available in '94 when they were looking at how to plan it," he said.

Of the original 25,000-acre purchase by Lee Poole and his group of investors, 72 percent of it would have been left as open space and the other 18 percent would have been chopped up into 5- to 20-acre tracts, according to Germain, and the updated ODP leaves 86 percent of the initial land purchase in open space or conservation easements.

The planning board's recommendation will be presented to the Madison County commissioners at their next meeting on March 13, which is tentatively scheduled for 10 a.m. in Virginia City. The planning board will advise authorization of the plan, but capped at the 1651 units approved in 2007.



# WINTER AT THE GHEE

## SPRING SESSIONS: March 22 - April 15

Mark your calendars! During Spring Sessions, present your season pass from your home mountain and receive 50% off the purchase of an all-day lift ticket. Spring Sessions is jam-packed with great events, live music, spring skiing, and more!

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING

MARCH 3 - 4 USASA Slopestyle & Rail Jam

MARCH 8 Brewer's Dinner at the Branding Iron featuring

Roadhouse Brewing

MARCH 10 Terrain Park Takeover

MARCH 25 Rubber Legs Banked Slalom

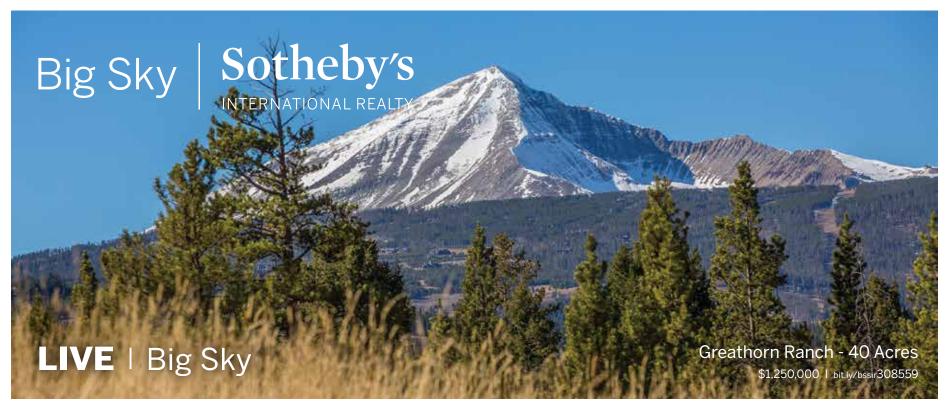
MARCH 30 Sick Trick Comp & DJ on the Trap Deck

APRIL 7 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Cardboard Box Derby

APRIL 14 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Pond Skim

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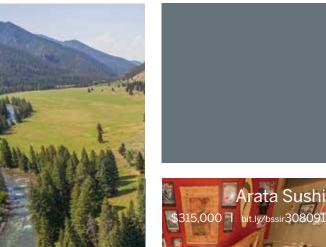
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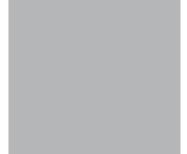


















## National skijoring event comes to Big Sky Town Center

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY - How fast can you ski across 900 feet of horizontal snow?

What if you were towed behind a horse?

Professional skijoring athletes from around the country will come to Big Sky to put those questions to the test on Saturday, March 17, and Sunday, March 18, for the first nationally sanctioned skijoring event held in the area. Hooves and snow will fly in Town Center next to the PBR arena bleachers, from 12 to 5 p.m. both days.

From the Norwegian word "skijøring," meaning ski driving, this is an intense winter sport where a horse and rider pair pulls a skier or snowboarder through a course of jumps and turns at breakneck speeds. With some of the top times in the range of 17 seconds, and winners walking way with potentially \$2,000 for the team, skijoring is a powerful combination of two Montana favorites: horses and skis.

A last-minute addition to Skijoring America's national circuit, Big Sky's Best in the West Showdown will close the 2018 season as the unofficial new national finals competition. This event will be the last chance to earn winning points for cowboys and skiers who make good money traveling the circuit.

The event will be broken into several classes, including an open class for the most advanced competitors, a sport class for amateur teams, and a novice class for beginners.

In the days leading up to the event, representatives from Skijoring America will come to build the 900-foot track and Lone Mountain Ranch will provide the grooming. The course will run in a horseshoe shape, incorporating jumps, a tabletop and navigation around approximately 15 gates.

The clock begins counting when the skier crosses the start line and ends when he or she crosses the line on the other side. A sheer speed event, 5-second penalties will be added for each element of the course that is missed.

"When you watch those open pro guys, it's incredible how fast they go. Open class guys rarely miss a gate. ... It becomes a horse race at that point," said Pete Jessen, a national competitor and co-organizer for Big Sky's showdown. He added that the novice and sport classes are fun to watch as the team navigates and makes their turns and jumps.

A rider and skier team competes during the eighth annual skijoring competition held at the 320 Guest Ranch in February. On March 17 and 18, the first nationally sanctioned event will hit the snow in Big Sky. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

## **Best in the West Showdown Schedule**

## March 16

Open registration for Skijoring America members as well as the public **Choppers Grub & Pub** | 6-9 p.m.

## March 17

Skijoring | 12-5 p.m.

Calcutta auction giving spectators a chance to bet on Sunday's winning teams

Choppers Grub & Pub | 7 p.m.

## March 18

Skijoring | 12-5 p.m.

Awards ceremony at Choppers following the close of the event

"You've got a skier, a rider and a horse, and those three have to communicate with each other," he said. "Any time you can combine two sports, it's always twice as fun."

Following the independently organized skijoring event at the 320 Guest Ranch on Feb. 3 and 4, Jessen and his wife and skijoring partner Anna got to talking with Justa Adams, who is also a competitor. With the Bozeman stop cancelled this year on the national circuit tour, the trio thought, "Why not bring the event to Big Sky?"

"Southwest Montana is the epicenter of skijoring," Jessen said. "80 percent of riders [who compete in the national circuit] are within a short drive of Bozeman."

Encouraged by representatives from Skijoring America, Adams and the Jessens set to work planning a course and gaining sponsorships from the community, with limited time to get things in place for a March competition.

Working closely with champion skijoring skier Tyler Smedsrud and champion skijoring horseman Richard Weber III—both board members of Skijoring America—Adams and the Jessens formed the Big Sky Skijoring Association, of which Pete is the director.

"The reason that we can pull this off is because of the community. The support from the community really fueled me," Adams said. "We're excited it's going to be here, in Big Sky, in our town."

Jessen said a portion of the proceeds from this event will be donated to Three Forks-based Heroes and Horses, a nonprofit that couples combat veterans with horses in the remote wilderness of Montana. A donation will also be made to the Big Sky-based Erika Pankow Scholarship Fund for outdoor education.

At EBS press time on Feb. 28, BSSA organizers had not yet disclosed whether the Best in the West Showdown will be a ticketed or free event. However, if ticketed, entrance fees would be in the \$5 range.

## An après good time in Big Sky

Slopeside to Scissorbills, Lone Mountain Ranch to Beehive Basin Brewery and still time to hit Rainbow Ranch, the après scene in Big Sky offers terrain as vast and varied as Lone Mountain itself.













PHOTOS COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES





#### 217 GOSHAWK TRAIL | \$4,225,000

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



12 RUNNING BEAR ROAD, UNIT 46 | \$625,000

Beautifully furnished and very well maintained Big Horn condo in the heart of the Big Sky Mountain Village. With 3 bedrooms and 3 full baths this condo is being sold sold turnkey, just bring your skis and lifestyle gear. Owners have paid special attention to detail in both remodeling and decorating. A new sauna was added to the garage for after ski relaxing. Rental income and expense numbers are available upon request as well as a list of upgrades. // MICHAEL THOMAS | 406.581.2400



37 SWIFT BEAR ROAD - CASCADE 247 | \$439,000

Fantastic views of majestic Lone Mountain await you from this .86 +/- acre ski-in/ ski-out lot in Cascade! Located on a quiet cul-de-sac, this south-facing lot has a groomed ski trail running along the border of the property! City water and sewer, a gentle slope, and on the uphill side of the road provide the ideal location to build your Big Sky home! Proximity to both the Big Sky Resort and Moonlight Basin base areas as well as the Beehive Basin trailhead. // SANDY REVISKY | 406.539.6316



THE HOMESTEAD CHALETS | \$1,750,000

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



SHOSHONE CONDOMINIUM 1984 | \$495,000

Million Dollar Views at less than half the price! Located in Big Sky Ski and Summer Resort's Mountain Village, this end unit, corner location on the top floor offers a feeling of privacy as well as incredible views from the large windows. Shoshone is adjacent to the slopes, has ski storage, an exercise center, spa, pool and laundry facility on the premises. Restaurants and shops are right outside the door // LYNN MILLIGAN | 406.581.2848



MORNING SUN CONDOMINIUMS | \$382,900+

This is the last 6-plex in the Morning Sun Condominiums and all units are finished and ready to occupy! Located off of Two Gun White Calf Road in the Meadow Village of Big Sky, these condos have 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, kitchen appliances, washer & dryer, deck, patio, and 1-car attached garages with ample storage and extra parking. The only project approved for Fannie Mae financing, qualified buyers may put down as little as 3-5%. // MARY WHEELER | 406.539.1745





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Big Sky, Montana





## LOCAL LOOK BACK

# Childhood summers in the canyon

BY PAUL SWENSON EBS CONTRIBUTOR

My early memories of Big Sky revolve around my family's cabin near the Cinnamon Lodge, or Almart to the old timers. My parents bought it in the summer of 1970 when I was between second and third grades. My Mom, my sisters, and I would move up there from Bozeman the day school let out, and would head back Labor Day weekend. Dad would drive back and forth to MSU for the week.

In the summer of 1971, my father was driving up the canyon and saw the construction of a new road up the West Fork. He looked into it and found out it was for a ski hill and golf course. I remember his reaction like it was yesterday: "They are building a road for a ski hill!

Who the hell is ever going to come this far from nowhere to go skiing?" After several seasons of the resort losing money, he thought his prediction of failure might come true. Then Big Sky Resort was sold to Boyne, and the resort turned a corner.

Several decades later, when Big Sky was thriving, my father pursued an idea, decades in the making, to develop a research institute in Big Sky focusing on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. He approached several influential community members, research faculty at MSU, and Big Sky Resort, and to his astonishment, the creation of the Big Sky Institute progressed at a very rapid pace. Within a couple years, the BSI gala was one of the premier fundraising events in Big Sky.

I was lucky enough to attend several of those galas. They were held in the meadow where Ophir School now sits, in a huge white tent full of residents eating food, listening and dancing to music, and outbidding one another during live auctions. Those events would almost outshine the beautiful summer evenings on which they were held.



Paul Swenson's family bought a cabin near Cinnamon Lodge in 1970. Swenson recalls vivid memories from those early years and the decades that followed. PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL SWENSON

Dad was always amazed by the enthusiasm, generosity and engagement of the community. Unfortunately, in the long run, BSI did not materialize, but the memories of swing dancing to Montana Rose with my wife, meeting new people excited about my father's dream, and experiencing the willingness and commitment of Big Sky's residents to try something new, remain vivid.

I hope that all people that come to Big Sky get to experience the uniqueness of our community, not only the scenery and outdoor activities, but the forward-thinking, dedicated, and generous people that make Big Sky home.





## **Business leaders share insights with the Big Sky community**

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – As part of ongoing efforts to cultivate a flourishing professional climate in the area, the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce hosted a public forum Feb. 21 with successful entrepreneurs Sam Byrne and David Ulevitch.

As managing partner and co-founder of CrossHarbor Capital Partners, Byrne has overseen the investment of more than \$20 billion in real estate and financial assets, but is best known in Big Sky for his company's acquisition of the Yellowstone Club, where Byrne serves as principal owner.

Ulevitch, 36, and a member of the Yellowstone Club, is senior vice president and general manager for Cisco's global security business. He joined Cisco during the 2015 acquisition of his company OpenDNS, a cloud-delivered security service.

Nearly 100 community members filled the banquet room at Buck's T-4 Lodge to listen to the two businessmen reflect on their professional paths and perspectives.

Dr. Kregg Aytes, dean of the Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship at Montana State University, moderated the conversation and opened by asking Byrne and Ulevitch what led them to take the entrepreneurial leap.

Ulevitch explained that he had a job since the eighth grade, so when a college project became a company, he already had a network of former bosses—one of whom was at a successful startup that showed Ulevitch what was possible if your model really catches fire.

The bank Byrne went to work for at age 21 would become the largest bank in U.S. history. When he was 26, single and without kids—and fewer opportunity costs—he wrote a business plan to start an investment company of his own.

Aytes asked the two entrepreneurs if naiveté was an asset.

"I think I always knew I wasn't going to work for someone the rest of my life," Byrne said. "But I didn't expect for it to happen as suddenly as it did. I was quite naïve about what it would take to raise those amounts of capital."

"When I was younger, I didn't know enough to know I didn't know what I was doing," Ulevitch laughed, adding that he would soon learn that hiring friends was a lot more fun than firing friends.

Byrne divulged that after striking out on his own, still freelance consulting to make ends meet, he had a "single most fortuitous event." At an international cook-

ing class with his future wife, he made a connection that led to the "huge pool of capital" that enabled him to get his business off the ground.

Leaving "the mothership of one investor"—due to travel demands and his difficulty swallowing aspects of Saudi culture—would be the most pivotal challenge for Byrne's company, and it would take about a decade to overcome the obstacle of raising capital domestically, with no track record as fiduciary.

What kept him going, asked Aytes.

"I'm a deal guy," Byrne said. "The harder, the better. I'm always trying to find creative solutions to entrepreneurial problems."

Byrne and Ulevitch discussed management lessons they learned on the job. For Byrne, it was letting go and trusting in the next generation of the firm. For Ulevitch, it was learning to hold all his employees accountable to the same standards.

While Byrne and Ulevitch often echoed each other's sentiments, their perspectives also diverged, a reminder that there are many roads to success.

But the two men also exhibited plenty of traits in common—namely having the minds, personalities and drive to be successful entrepreneurs.

"I feel like my whole life has been performing outside of my comfort zone," Ulevitch said. "Public speaking, firing people, hiring people—all that seemed way beyond my expertise, but nothing ... is really that hard, you just have to do it."

Byrne responded first to a question about successfully achieving work-life balance.

"That's why I moved here originally," he said. "But it didn't work out that way. I fell in love with the skiing and my wife said, 'OK, as long as you promise you will not get involved in business out here.' I could not have failed more miserably, [but] I don't know if I'm capable of that, personality wise."

Ulevitch followed by saying, "I'm either all-in, dogged, relentless or I couldn't care any less."

Both men see Gallatin County as on the cusp of an undeniable business boon.

"It's definitely coming," Byrne said. "The biggest constraint is talent. We need more people in the community to recognize [this area] as one of the biggest economic engines in the Rocky Mountains, much less our state. My big passion point is for the community to be able to catch up with what is going on here."

## 'Of Wilderness and Resort' explores Big Sky's past and present

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – On March 16, the community is invited to take a walk through time and learn about the evolution of the Big Sky area, which developed from a group of ranches to one of resorts and a tourism economy.

"Of Wilderness and Resort: 150 Years of Change in Gallatin Canyon and Big Sky" will begin at 6 p.m. at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, opening with a showing of the documentary "From Homesteads to Huntley." The 2017 film chronicles Big Sky's history, from its early days as a tiny ranching community, to the opening of Big Sky Resort under Chet Huntley's guiding vision.

Twenty-six minutes in length, "Homesteads to Huntley" includes a narrated montage of interviews with the Huntley family, historic footage of the legendary news anchor, archival photographs and early resort plans and sketches.



Taken circa 1900, this photograph captures the early years of U.S. Highway 191, showing a stretch of the road just upstream from present-day 35 mph bridge. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GALLATIN HISTORY MUSEUM

professor Duncan Patten, who is also director of the Montana Water Center, will give a presentation that includes past and present photos of the area, taken from his book "The Gallatin Way to Yellowstone: A Changing Pathway Through Time."

Following the film, Montana State University

Many of Patten's historic images date to the early 1900s, and show minimal development in the canyon and the narrow road that led the way. In 1914, the pathway from Gallatin Valley to West Yellowstone was complete and guest ranches began to develop, such as the Halfway Inn (originally called Dew Drop Inn and now known as Rainbow Ranch Lodge), Buffalo Horn Ranch (now the 320 Guest Ranch) and Nine Quarter Circle Ranch.

With the development of Big Sky Resort in the 1970s, the modern era of Big Sky emerged, leading to a burgeoning tourist economy and today's rapid growth in development.

Visit warrenmillerpac.org for more information.

## Attention turns to water supply concerns at community meetings

BY MARGO MAGNANT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Education and awareness. Those are the keys to implementing an effective drought management plan in the Upper Gallatin River watershed, according to a small focus group that met Feb. 21 in Big Sky.

A number of interrelated factors have compounded to make drought planning a necessity in the region, among them warmer, drier climate trends and the threat of wildfire. Currently, the Big Sky Water and Sewer District board is discussing plans to address the largest usage of water resources within the district: irrigation.

At a Feb. 20 meeting of the BSWSD board, considerable time was spent discussing the strain that unrestricted landscape irrigation puts on supply, and the necessity to redefine "surplus," since water designated as such can be sold to entities outside of the district.

Brian Wheeler, director of real estate and development at Big Sky Resort, pointed out that the board has been so focused on wastewater disposal while there was also this other major issue of supply. He turned to district Water Superintendent Jim Muscat who agreed that addressing imminent water supply shortages should be as high a priority as implementing wastewater disposal solutions.

Gallatin River Task Force is on track to present a "Landscape Water Efficiency Ordinance" to the district board next month.

The drought focus group, facilitated by the Gallatin River Task Force, has met five times since last spring, and is a parallel effort to the Big Sky Water Solutions Forum, which culminated in the release of the Big Sky Area Sustainable Watershed Stewardship Plan in January.

Big Sky Fire Department Battalion Chief Seth Barker, a member of the focus group, stressed the importance of the planning effort in terms of the local economy. For example, he said that if the availability of local recreational activities is reduced due to poor drought planning, "it affects everyone."

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Local resident Steve Johnson, a candidate for the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board, pointed out that second homeowners might not be aware of the importance of sustainable landscaping when it comes to fire mitigation efforts and a reduced strain on local water resources. "They're a difficult stakeholder group to reach," Johnson said.

To address this challenge, the group discussed targeting local homeowner associations as well as landscape and property management companies to advocate for more awareness of drought concerns among part-time residents.

An outline of the Upper Gallatin Drought Management Plan is posted on the GRTF website. Many models for implementation of the plan exist across Montana and the U.S., but Big Sky's rapid growth and unique community infrastructure create additional challenges for the focus group moving forward. The city of Bozeman finalized a plan of its own in January 2017.

Barker emphasized that the fire department has been advocating for "fire-wise" community engagement for more than 20 years. For example, Big Sky resident Janelle Johnson explained how BSFD Chief William Farhat visited her house and provided recommendations for her and her neighbors in terms of providing defensible space from a fire threat. The fire department's website includes a variety of resources for property owners as well.

Spreading the word about these available programs and resources is key to mitigating the effects of an increased threat of drought and limited water supply resources, the group concluded. "But there is a strong need to gain more input from other community members and groups," said Emily Casey, the GRTF's water conservation program coordinator.

film 'Still Punching the Clown'. He also hosts the popular podcast, "Do You Need

a Ride", with Karen Kilgariff on All Things Comedy.

Come see Chris perform at The LOFT - laughs are guaranteed!

The next meeting of the Big Sky Water and Sewer District board will be Tuesday, March 20, at 8 a.m. in the BSWSD building in the Meadow Village Center. Visit gallatinrivertaskforce.org for more information about the drought forum.

EBS Senior Editor Sarah Gianelli contributed reporting for this story.



# Fish and Wildlife Commission endorses legislation to fund conservation efforts

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS

Under a new piece of bipartisan legislation working its way through Congress, Montana would get a significant boost for conserving wildlife and habitat.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act (H.R.4647) was introduced in December by Rep. Jeff Fortenberry, R-Nebraska, and Rep. Debbie Dingell, D-Michigan, and could provide \$1.3 billion in annual funds to state wildlife agencies for conserving wildlife and habitat, increasing wildlife associated recreation opportunities, and increasing conservation education programs.

Funding for the legislation would come from revenue generated by existing on- and off-shore oil and gas drilling as well as other energy sources developed on federal lands and would require a 25 percent non-federal match.

At a regular Feb. 15 meeting, the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission signed a resolution endorsing the legislation. This endorsement came on the same day the House Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on the act.

"Imagine a source of funding dedicated to keeping sensitive species off the Endangered Species List, or one that fosters partnerships in wildlife education that helps get kids out from behind a computer screen and into the wild, or one that helps promote the enjoyment of Montana's abundant and accessible outdoor resources," said Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks director Martha Williams.

The legislation is a proactive approach to addressing consistent needs wildlife management agencies across the nation are facing.

"This is an important and creative legislative initiative to protect ecosystems across our nation through constructive partnerships in states," said Fortenberry in a statement about the act. "The bill provides smart upstream

policy to avoid triggering the 'emergency room procedures' of the Endangered Species Act.

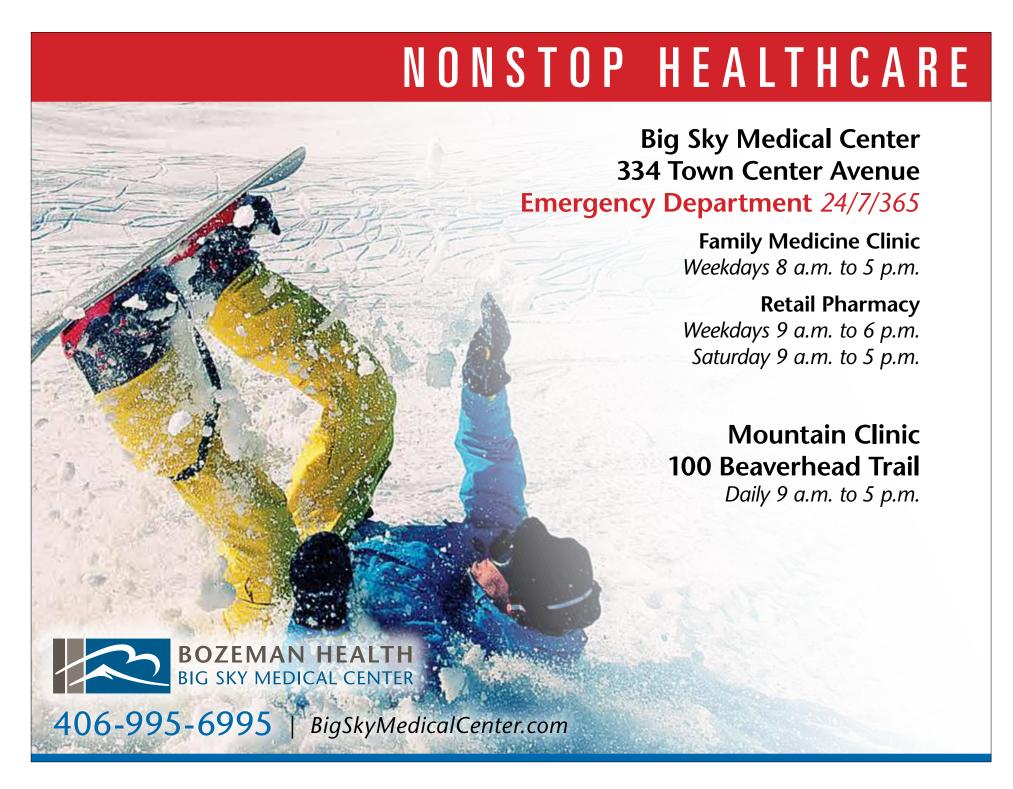
"By effectively putting preventative measures in place, we can now better protect habitat and wildlife from becoming lost or endangered in the first place," he added. "This will benefit farmers, hunters, anglers, boaters, birders, hikers and other wildlife enthusiasts, as well as the burgeoning field of eco-tourism. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act will also prove to be a powerful new tool to connect resource extraction policy with prudent resource recovery."

The majority of wildlife in the United States falls under management of the state wildlife agencies, like Montana FWP. These agencies are largely funded by hunter and angler dollars, collected through a variety of sources including license and user fees and federal excise taxes on hunting, angling and sporting equipment.

Over the last 80 years, this money has funded the recovery of many game species across the West, including Westslope cutthroat trout, elk and bighorn sheep, as well as nongame species such as the bald eagle and peregrine falcon. In Montana, this funding also goes toward monitoring species critical to our economy, livelihood and unique landscapes such as bats, sage grouse and golden eagles.

If approved, the \$1.3 billion allocation would mean nearly \$30 million new dollars each year for critical work to recover and manage even more species and habitats. Expenditure of any new funds would be guided by the State Wildlife Act Plan, direction from the citizen commission and legislative approval keeping the state accountable to its commitments to conserve all wildlife while offering recreational and educational opportunities.

Visit fwp.mt.gov for more information on Recovering America's Wildlife Act.



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







## The New West: Russel Chatham sees artists holding societal mirror



BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

In Jackson Hole, the irrefutable, unmistakable muse for generations of visual artists has been the Tetons. In Big Sky, that landmark is Lone Mountain and in Bozeman, the Bridger Range.

Just east of Bozeman, painter, writer, restaurateur and incorrigibly addicted angler Russell Chatham became legend for his association with a different topographical feature, the Paradise Valley.

We all know of Paradise Valley for the Yellowstone River that runs through it from Yellowstone National Park to Livingston.

A lot of folks have also treated themselves to a sojourn at Chico Hot Springs before moseying into Livingston where Chatham for decades was a social fixture and held court at his signature restaurant.

Scores of residents throughout the Greater Yellowstone own original Chatham oil paintings and high-end lithographs, displaying them next to priceless works by French Impressionists and treasured Western artists like Albert Bierstadt, Thomas Moran, Carl Rungius and George Catlin.

Some of the notable private collectors in the region and beyond include Robert Redford, Warren Beatty, Ted Turner, Jessica Lange, Margot Kidder, Jack Nicholson, Tom Brokaw, Jeff Bridges and Harrison Ford.

Chatham's artistic life force was his grandfather, the great California muralist Gottardo Piazzoni. A few years ago, Chatham moved back to his child-hood homeland in Northern California and recommenced painting where his extraordinary career began.

I asked one of Chatham's closest friends, William Randolph Hearst III, to interpret Chatham. "You must understand that 'Russell The Personality' is a wholly separate character from the life of Russell Chatham the painter, though at the same time they are inseparable. No matter what he does, his adventure with it becomes larger than life," Hearst said.

"As good a painter as he is," Hearst added, "Russell's an equally wonderful storyteller and devoted friend, an absolutely superb fisherman who might be among the best on the planet, an intrepid restaurant owner, gourmet cook, wine aficionado, writer, boutique book publisher and general roustabout."

If any contemporary painter qualified as a genuine rock star in the Northern Rockies, it was Chatham, now a late septuagenarian.

Starting in the 1960s, he was among a group of artists who went to Paradise Valley to escape the rat race, to fish, and go about their own media adventures without being hassled.

Those figures included writers Jim Harrison, Tom McGuane, the late William Hjortsberg and Richard Brautigan; actors Peter Fonda, Jeff Bridges, Kidder, Warren Oates, Nicholson, Dennis Quaid, Meg Ryan and Sam Waterston; singer Jimmy Buffett; and director Sam Peckinpah, among others.



"Pale Winter Moonrise," a limited edition lithograph by Russell Chatham. IMAGE COURTESY OF TODD WILKINSON

Chatham's style of painting landscapes, known for its fleeting, muted, tonal bands of horizontal color, summons up moods of introspection rather than blushes of superficial sanguine cheeriness.

They evoke the feeling you get when you realize you're getting older, and the sensation hits home when you take a good hard look at yourself in the mirror, thinking about the kind of life you've led.

When I asked Chatham to ponder that feeling, he said, "Early on, I was never concerned about having a career, so I didn't have one. And now nothing could interest me less. But I think we all have a programmed tape running inside us, and most of mine is now stored on the right hand side of the cassette.

"I finally feel I know enough to paint what I could only dream about in my twenties," he added. "People say it's time to slow down, relax, go fishing. Well, I took the first 40 years of my life off and went fishing, and now my tape is telling me to finish what I was put on earth to do. Before, time didn't matter. Now it does."

Given the times, he feels compelled to act upon a conviction he stated earlier in his life about the role of an artist. "The artist does not simply hold a mirror to society. If the world now is greedy, the artist must be generous," he said. "If there is war and hate, he must be peaceful and loving. If the world is insane, he must offer sanity, and if the world is becoming a void, he must fill it with his soul."

Chatham didn't say it, but one could add that the artist's challenge is really no different from the obligation of the viewer. If painting represents a near-religious experience for some, perhaps it's not a bad thing to act on those kindly impulses.

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







GET IN & GO



## Bighorn sheep transplanted in Madison Valley

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – The third wave of an effort to expand the bighorn sheep population in the Madison Mountain Range occurred Jan. 20 in the Madison Valley south of Ennis. Biologists and wardens from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks worked with community volunteers, and Montana State University faculty and students to capture and relocate 23 bighorns to the Wolf Creek area, in the hope that the sheep will colonize there.

Approximately 50 individuals gathered near Quake Lake, a highly populated bighorn winter range, to assist in the capture. Volunteers physically restrained and blindfolded the sheep, which were caught beneath a large net, while wildlife officials collected samples to test for disease, and collared several individuals. The sheep were then transported to the release site, some 10 to 12 miles north.

Ryan Castle, a Bozeman-area resident, volunteered to help with the relocation effort. "The most important thing was making sure sheep were safe throughout the process," he said, adding that handlers were careful not to roughly handle the sheep or let them get injured in the net.

"It's always cool to be that close and handle a wild animal. It's not every day you do that," Castle said. "We're helping to relocate bighorn sheep to better Montana's bighorn sheep population. It feels like a big deal to be part of helping Montana's bighorn sheep—rather than sitting back and hearing about it, you are actually helping."

Currently, bighorn sheep populations are suffering throughout the western U.S. due to a variety of respiratory diseases. In Montana, wildlife officials are most concerned about epidemic or chronic respiratory diseases, which have been associated with large-scale pneumonia die-offs that affect all ages of sheep, and can also lead to low lamb recruitment following an outbreak, said Emily Almberg, disease ecologist for FWP. Almberg, one of the veterinarians assessing health panels for each sheep, said they expect results from the tests in about a month.

Using a drop net to capture the sheep is considered by researchers to be one of the better methods for capturing entire social groups. Relocating groups of sheep that are already familiar with each other might lessen the likelihood they will return to the capture site and their native range and herd.

Each year, some sheep return to the capture site, but so far, the newest group of sheep have stayed, said Julie Cunningham, Bozeman area wildlife biologist for FWP. There has been one mortality in the new group, which she suspects was due to predation.

"It feels great to open that trailer door," Cunningham said, referring to the moment when the sheep are released from the transportation trailer into the new area. "Years and years of work lead up to that moment. But the work isn't done yet. We have to evaluate the success of the project and report on the results. We are trying a new method to increase bighorn sheep populations in Montana. These within-mountain range transplants are new tools, and preliminary results are positive."



Ryan Castle, a volunteer for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, places hobbles on a bighorn ewe in preparation for transport to a new home range in the Madison Valley. PHOTO BY ADRIAN SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ

Unlike deer, elk or pronghorn, bighorn sheep do not pioneer and travel into new territory, but prefer to remain in familiar areas. Recognizing this, the Madison relocation initiative is an attempt to move sheep from an area of high density to an area of low density.

Wolf Creek was once native bighorn habitat, however sheep disappeared from the area during the 1960s after several die-offs. On the west side of the Madison Range near Ennis, the overall sheep population is divided into two herds, one that winters along Quake Lake and is known as the Taylor-Hilgard herd, and another smaller band that winters in the upper reaches of Moose and Sun creeks.

The group of sheep wintering near Big Sky known as the Spanish Peaks herd is geographically separated from these other bighorn populations by areas of non-habitat.

This year's relocation effort is the third in the Wolf Creek area and officials hope the relocation will help the overall Madison sheep population grow and make the species more resilient should disease breakout, as several semi-isolated bands of sheep are more likely to survive in the event of disease than one or two large groups.

In January 2015, 52 sheep were relocated to Wolf Creek and 22 more were moved the following winter. There was no transplant last year. The majority of these relocation efforts have been funded by auction-generated dollars for bighorn sheep hunting licenses, as well as the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds.

# No grizzly hunts in Montana this year Idaho and Wyoming to be determined

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – In a Feb. 15 meeting, Montana's Fish and Wildlife Commission announced that the state will not organize a grizzly bear hunt this year.

After grizzlies in the Greater Yellowstone area were removed from the Endangered Species List last year following four decades of recovery effort, the states of Montana, Wyoming and Idaho agreed to a tri-state management agreement. The agreement outlines a division of harvest numbers based on bear density and habitat within each state, should grizzly management hunts be adopted.

Wyoming, which has the most grizzly habitat within the Greater Yellowstone, would be able to harvest the most grizzlies, followed by Montana and then Idaho.

In 2017, officials released a population estimate of 718 bears. Combined with known and probable mortalities that occurred last year, there are a maximum of 17 males and 2.5 females potentially available for harvest in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. That means Montana could harvest one female and six males.

However, according to documents discussed during the commission meeting, because of the limited number of bears available to harvest, especially females, and because of ongoing litigation challenging the delisting, FWP recommended to postpone grizzly hunting in 2018.

Ken McDonald, wildlife division administrator for FWP, said a male-only season is also not an option for 2018. "Primarily because it is difficult to discern a male from a female if the female is not accompanied by cubs," he said. "So with only one female available, even a male-only season could result in a female being taken."

In a Feb. 8 news release, FWP Director Martha Williams elaborated. "Our focus, now they are delisted, is managing these iconic species for long term recovery and at the same time having the ability to respond to conflicts in the Yellowstone ecosystem," she said.

"Holding off on hunting for now, I believe, will help demonstrate our commitment to long term recovery and at the same time allow us the science-based management flexibility we need," Williams added. "We also are continuing to work hard at responding proactively to bear conflicts and educating people and communities in grizzly country how to be bear aware."

While Montana has announced their decision, Wyoming and Idaho have not released decisions on a 2018 grizzly hunt.

According to Renny MacKay, communications director for Wyoming Game and Fish, the department is working on a hunting season proposal that will be considered by the Wyoming Wildlife Commission this spring and will allow time for public comment.

The Idaho Commission will address the topic at their March meeting. Toby Boudreau, assistant chief of wildlife for Idaho, said there are no definitive plans at this time. "There is still a lot of process to do," he said.



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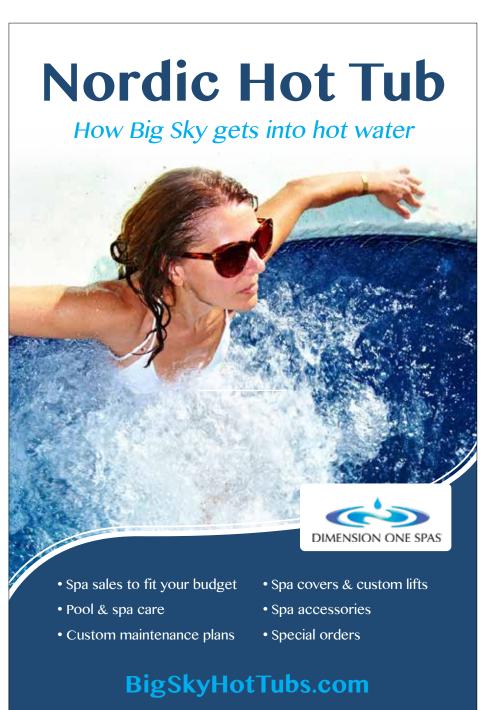
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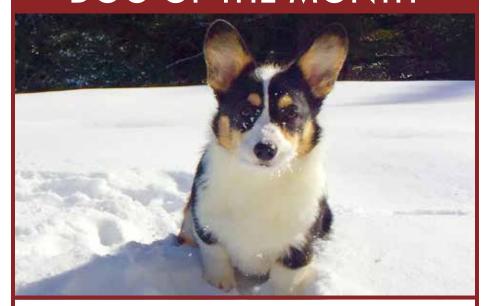
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# Big Horns fall in districts, reflect on a strong season

BY DAN KELLY EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY - The Lone Peak Big Horns basketball season came to an end in the District 11C tournament in Churchill, Montana, on Feb. 17, just as the previous issue of EBS was going to press.

Defeated in the Thursday night game by White Sulphur Springs, 70-50, the boys battled hard but came up short. They were subsequently beaten in the consolation bracket by West Yellowstone, 77-60, on Saturday. Nonetheless it was a good season for the Big Horns, who started out at a torrid pace, reaching an 8-4 record early in the season, before hitting a slump that saw them finish at 8-9 for the regular season.

In their first year under Coach Austin Barth, who was assisted by John Hannahs, the Big Horns exhibited flashes of greatness, but struggled against bigger, more physical teams on nights when their outside shots were not falling and rebounds were hard to come by.

Overall the team displayed vast potential and has a lot to look forward to next season as they welcome back the majority of their team. They are losing three seniors who were key contributors, but are retaining two top scorers and a group of talented sophomores slated to make a bigger impact as their playing time increases and their team chemistry develops.

Reflecting on the season, senior captain Jackson Wade offered these words: "This year we were able to accomplish a lot ... from sophomore year when we had seven players to now when we have a flourishing program. This year especially I felt that we all really came together from the start of the year and played as a family on and off the court. That is something I am going to miss immensely. I could not be more proud of my team and this past season."

When asked about his thoughts on the season, fellow senior and captain Liam Germain said, "The team improved tremendously and I believe the Big Horns are destined for big things next year. I had a ton of fun this season and I am sad I will not be a part of Big Horn basketball next year."

One highlight that stands out from the season was the Big Horns' victory over rival Ennis, a first for the program against a team that has been a perennial powerhouse in the region. This game perhaps best exemplified the trajectory of the Lone Peak basketball program as it now stands, accomplishing firsts for the program each season as the school and the team grow at a rapid pace.

Barth recalled the team's exuberance after the big win against Ennis. "One of the most rewarding experiences this year was walking into the locker room [after we beat Ennis]," Barth said. "The boys were so fired up; it was a very proud moment for us coaches."

Without a doubt the Big Horns will continue to improve with junior captain Kolya Bough returning next season alongside an exciting and dynamic group of sophomores who will return as upperclassmen.

"Next year we are returning a lot of key players," Barth said. "Bough, March, Shipman, Starz, Vaile and Samuels all played a lot of minutes for us this year. We have to get stronger and faster this offseason ... find that next gear from being good to being great."



Junior point guard Kolya Bough going hard in the paint against White Sulphur Springs. PHOTO BY DAN KELLY

# Lady Big Horns advance to 2nd consecutive divisional tournament

BY DAN KELLY EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY - The Lady Big Horns played their final game of the season on Feb. 23, after a strong post-season run.

Lone Peak played their way into the divisional tournament, beating Gardiner 43-36 on Feb. 15, followed by a victory over Shields Valley the next night, 46-42, advancing to the District 11C Finals against Manhattan Christian. Lone Peak couldn't get the win against the heavily favored Eagles, host of the districts this year, losing 53-37, but still secured their place in the next round of tournament play.

The girls traveled to Hamilton, Montana, on Feb. 22, to face the Twin Bridges Falcons, a fierce team that



Senior forward K.P. Hoffman attacks the basket against Gardiner in the District 11C Tournament on Feb. 15. PHOTO BY DAN KELLY

beat the Lady Big Horns 59-27 on their way to the State Tournament.

Moving into the consolation bracket, the Lady Big Horns were vanquished by the Alberton-Superior Mountain Cats on Feb. 23, in their final game of the season.

Lone Peak ended the year on a high note despite tough losses at divisionals, advancing out of districts from the 3-seed position and playing their best basketball of the year in the post-season.

"This team did a great job of doing what was asked of them and they all did everything to the best of their ability," said Coach Ausha Cole. "I threw a lot of new plays and defenses at them and they executed everything very well. I'm just proud of their fight and drive."

Senior forward K.P. Hoffman has signed with Miles Community College and will continue to play at the collegiate level, a first for the Lady Big Horns. Senior guard Jay Cole hopes to do the same, and is currently exploring playing opportunities for colleges in her home state of Missouri.

With Cole at the point and Hoffman on the post, both departing seniors demonstrated great leadership throughout the season and, at its close, Hoffman reflected on her high school experience.

"My four years as a part of the Lone Peak basketball program have been some of my most fond memories of high school," Hoffman said. "To end it at the divisional tournament with an amazing team and great coach is very fitting."

Lone Peak has a lot to look forward to next season after a strong start to Coach Cole's position at the helm of the Lady Big Horns, returning three starters, junior Solae Swenson, sophomore Emma Flach and freshman Ivy Hicks. They will be joined by junior forward Brooke Botha and the freshman trio of Ruth Blodgett, Reilly Germain and Sara Wilson, all of whom were key contributors as they clocked more time on the court as the season progressed.

"I love seeing the bright spots from everyone, it's very rewarding and exciting when players give their all and you are able to see it," Coach Cole said.

Looking to build on the success of this season, and a consecutive trip to divisionals, the Lady Big Horns will be a force to be reckoned with next year in District 11C. Coach Cole recognizes her team's potential and anticipates a strong showing next season.

"Next year we have a very strong squad coming back," she said. "Our freshman gained a lot of experience and have seen what it takes to make it to divisionals. I am proud of the team's determination and [the] work ethic they displayed throughout the season."

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



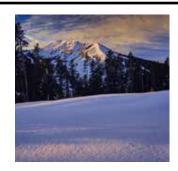
68 Upper Cedarview 13,349 SQ FT / \$18.95M



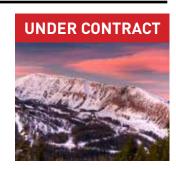
Lakeside Lodge Unit C-104 3,981 SQ FT / \$8.995M



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



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



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

#### **BIG SKY**



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



Hill Condo 1329 668 SQ FT / \$219K



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

## 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

#### **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

#### 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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#### **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**



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



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



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



281 Village Center 473 SQ FT / \$295K



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

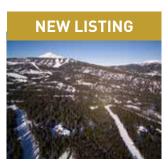
#### **BIG SKY**



Lot 1 Ciel Drive 8.03 ACRES / \$415K



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



Lot 63 Silverado Trail 4.22 ACRES / \$390K



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

#### **BOZEMAN**



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

## RANCH & RECREATION



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



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## Moe's Original BBQ adds to Town Center dining options

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – Just east on Town Center Avenue from Compass Café, and sharing the same building as Luxe Spirits & Sweets and Lotus Pad, Moe's Original BBQ opened up shop in late February, rounding out the growing number of options to grab a bite in Town Center.

Owner and Alabama-native Tyler Schumen also operates a Moe's restaurant in his hometown of Cullman, Alabama, north of Birmingham, and before moving to Big Sky he was serving up Alabama-style barbecue from his food truck in Bozeman.

"We smoke all of our meats in-house, twice daily. And we make everything from scratch, no processed food," Shumen said about his new location.

With the Feb. 28 approval of a liquor license pending, Moe's will soon have local Montana beers rotating on draft for diners to wash down their meals. Dinner entrée specials include a fried green tomato BLT and mahi-mahi, and Moe's plans to host live music on weekends.

"We're excited to expand the variety of food options in town by offering some Southern soul food," said bar manager Kristen Hovs. "Good, fast, affordable ... we're hoping to be a spot where people can grab a quick, satisfying lunch and get back to work."

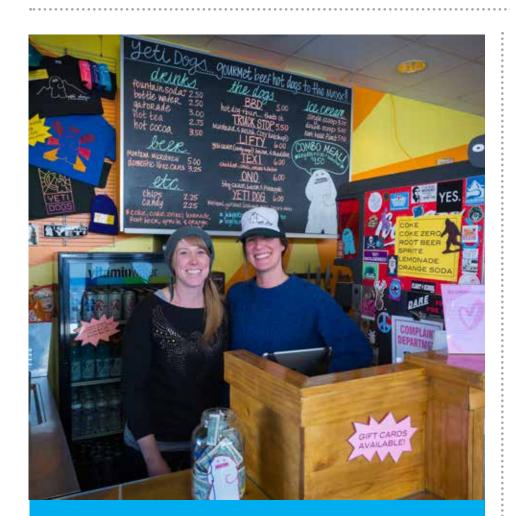
With a mix-and-match menu, special sides every day, and staples like pulled pork, Southern-fried catfish and banana pudding, the newest Big Sky eatery is already drawing more foot traffic on Town Center Avenue.



Moe's Original BBQ is now serving up pulled pork sandwiches and other Southern style comfort food in the heart of Town Center seven days a week. PHOTO BY KRISTEN HOVS

"Business has been consistent, and we've been getting good feedback about the food and fast service," Shumen said.

Moe's Original BBQ is open seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. The bar will remain open later depending on crowd size, with late night food options including nachos and wings. During the warmer months, two garage doors will open and patio seating will be available.



## **Yeti Dogs celebrates 10 years**

Yeti Dogs, winner of the 2017 Best of Big Sky category for best "Dirt Bag Meal," celebrates a decade of business this ski season. Located just minutes from Big Sky Resort's Swift Current chairlift, Yeti Dogs owner Nikki Hogan (right), pictured here with Anna Husted, has kept tourists and locals coming back for creative, quick and dirty dogs at a reasonable price from the beginning. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES



# Beer mavens gathered to taste, talk and toast to hops

Approximately 50 beer-loving women of all ages gathered at MAP Brewing Co. on Feb. 20 for the second Beer Maven event, hosted by Fermentana co-founders Jesse Bussard and Loy Maierhauser. Big Sky was represented by Beehive Basin Brewery bartenders Heather Rapp, Claire Clevenger, and Emily Hengel. A special brew "Fempire Strikes Back" was crafted by Loy and Maierhauser specifically for this event. Tickets are still available for the final night of the series, which focuses on sour beers and is a benefit for Haven, on March 27 at Montana Ale Works, PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI



## Inside the Big Sky

## Warm spirits for cold weather

VISIT BIG SKY

There is no denying that we are in the midst of a cold snap here in Big Sky. With temps dipping down into negative territory, it's only natural to find yourself daydreaming about a hot beverage to warm the soul. Fortunately there is no shortage of places in Big Sky to find the perfect drink to warm your spirits.

Everett's 8800 - Shredding down the slopes at Big Sky Resort is a sure-fire way to build up a thirst for a hot beverage. Take the Ramcharger lift on skis or foot (they will slow the lift for the latter) and stop in to Everett's 8800 for one of their signature hot toddies. Steeped with an orange peel, it's a perfect way to recharge and keep you going for the rest of the day.

Olive B's - For a doubling up of warmth, head to Olive B's in the Meadow Village Center for a hot lunch complemented with a warm beverage. Their French onion soup is a bubbling hot offering that will warm you from the inside out. For dessert, try their huckleberry hot chocolate made with Willie's Distillery huckleberry liqueur to further fortify you against the elements.

Spice and Tea Exchange - If you've had a long day and just want to relax in the comfort of your own accommodations, head to the Spice and Tea Exchange in Town Center to get the essential spices for making your own mulled wine or cider. They sell pre-packaged satchels of mulling spices like ginger, nutmeg, and cinnamon. Add the spice satchel to a large saucepan filled with wine or cider, bring to a boil and simmer over low heat for 10 minutes. For a citrusy flavor and aromatics, add orange slices to the pot. Pour into mugs and enjoy.

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



There are plenty of spots in Big Sky to satisfy a craving for a hot beverage. Pictured here is Olive B's huckleberry hot chocolate made with Willie's Distillery huckleberry liqueur. PHOTO COURTESY OF VISIT BIG SKY

## CHECK OUT OUR NEW OFFERINGS!

Low Back Yoga Therapy

7 week series - runs through 4/9 Mondays 5:45-7:15pm.

Develop Your Intuition Workshop 9am-4pm Saturday, March 31 with Elizabeth Thorson

Surviving Cancer Support Group First Wednesday of every month 7-8pm

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#### SUNDAY

10:00 - 11:15am All Levels Yoga

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 7:00 - 8:00pm Awareness Wednesdays

#### **THURSDAY**

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

9:00 - 10:00am All Levels Yoga

5:45 - 7:00pm All Levels Yoga

#### **FRIDAY**

7:30 - 8:30am Dance to Fit

9:00 - 10:15am

All Levels Yoga

12:00 - 12:50pm All Levels Yoga

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



As the driver of economic development for the Greater Big Sky Area, the Big Sky Chamber works to provide a positive business environment for its 400+ members of which nearly 10% are nonprofits. The community of Big Sky has a thriving group on non-profits organizations with hundreds of volunteers that fill the gaps of community service which are not currently address by either Big Sky's "public" or private sectors. It is this vital Third Sector which oftentimes has helped drive economic development in Big Sky, and allowed for community growth. The Non-Profit Leadership Roundtable Series aims to provide a more formalized educational forum for our community's nonprofit leaders and boards.

## **BSRAD - FY19 Resort Tax: Application Assistance**

Please bring your Resort Tax Application draft and any questions you may have

Wednesday, March 7 12:00 - 1:30pm Loft at Lone Peak Brewery

To register, please visit: bigskychamber.com/events

Arrive early to grab a **hosted lunch** as the discussion begins promptly at noon

Thank you to our Underwriting Sponsors:







Big Sky Chamber Non-Profit Westfork Membership Available for \$205/year

The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce is a 501(c)(6) Non-Profit Organization



## **Sunchokes:** Tasty and versatile

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER

The sunchoke, more technically referred to as a Jerusalem artichoke, has nothing to do with the city of Jersusalem, nor do they taste similar to or resemble an artichoke.

The sunchoke plant is more closely related to the sunflower, but produces edible tubers, or roots. The skin of the root has a knobby texture, similar to that of a piece of ginger, but is more tubular shaped. It is a resilient species and grows well in cold climates, allowing it to be harvested through the winter. The peak of the sunchoke season is late fall through early spring.

Sunchokes contain high amounts of inulin, a form of fiber not to be confused with insulin. While the plant is growing, this fiber provides a means for storing energy, as well as regulating the plant's temperature. This allows it to withstand cold temperatures and survive the winter months. When we eat a sunchoke, this same fiber acts as a prebiotic in our digestive tract, providing a food source for probiotics, which aid in digestion and live in our gut.

The sunchoke is known for its trademark earthy and nutty flavor. They are one of many vegetables that lend themselves to a variety of cooking methods and flavor profiles. You can use them in many of the same applications as other root vegetables, but their texture works particularly well pureed or mashed. Equally delicious when left raw, they can add complexity to a salad's flavor—but be sure to slice them thinly to avoid adding too much fibrous material to your salad.

Sunchokes have gained attention in recent years in dining establishments as well as farmers' markets across the country, probably due to their low cost, health benefits and versatility. They are a great option because they can take the place of other starches on your plate, but are a low-carb, lowcalorie, high-fiber option. If your grocer carries some of these odd-looking root veggies, don't be afraid to give them a try!

This story originally appeared in the March 17, 2017, edition of EBS.

## Sunchoke & Wild Mushroom Bisque

2 tablespoons olive oil I medium onion, diced 2 cloves garlic, minced 3 medium sunchokes, peeled and diced

1 russet potato, peeled and diced

1 cup wild mushrooms, cleaned and roughly chopped

 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup white wine

3 cups vegetable stock

2 tablespoons fresh thyme, minced salt and pepper, to taste

In a medium pot, sauté onions, garlic and mushrooms in olive oil over medium heat until soft. Add wine and cook until wine is absorbed, about three minutes.

Add all remaining ingredients except thyme and cook until sunchokes and potatoes are soft, about 20 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in thyme.

Puree the mixture with an immersion blender, or carefully in a regular blender. If using a regular blender, leave the lid cracked open to allow heat to escape.

Taste the mixture, season with salt and pepper as necessary, and garnish with a drizzle of olive oil.

## **AMUSE-BOUCHE**

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

## It's not blood!

BY SCOTT MECHURA **EBS FOOD COLUMNIST** 



Life can be full of misbeliefs, misnomers and downright confusion at times. Ideas that become rooted in our social minds can also be nearly impossible to convince the John Q. Public otherwise.

For example, you might believe the Great Wall of China is visible from space, but Apollo astronauts have confirmed it is not. Or that toilets flush in the opposite direction in the Southern Hemisphere, which is also not

The epicurean world is no different. There are hundreds of falsehoods, enough to write several articles on them. A couple of my favorites are eating chocolate causes acne or the tryptophan in turkey makes you sleepy.

Another is that coffee beans are beans, which they aren't. Coffee "beans" are actually the seeds, or the pit of the coffee plant.

How about the "5-second rule" about dropping food on the floor? Bacteria is bacteria, and food that touches it picks it up upon contact, no matter for how long.

But perhaps one of the hardest food myths to debunk is the belief that a piece of red meat on your plate is bloody.

If a steak on your plate still has blood in it, then wouldn't it stand to reason that a plate with fish or chicken would also have blood on it?

As logic would dictate, and as several of the Buck's team have witnessed firsthand on field trips, once an animal is killed for processing, the carcass is drained of its blood.

So what is that red liquid in my steak and on my plate? It's called myoglobin.

Sounds like a word from a primetime doctor show, right? "We need 100 cc's of myoglobin, STAT!"

Myoglobin collaborates with hemoglobin to deliver and maintain oxygen in our blood.

But not all proteins are created equal. I repeat, not all proteins are created equal.

Vertebrates and most mammals have it in their bodies. Diving animals such as whales, seals and otters have copious amounts of it, which allows them to stay under water for long periods of time. Humans only produce it after injury to a

Myoglobin is affected by time and oxygen exposure. I can't tell you how common it is in restaurants for a medium rare steak to be sliced for presentation, and in the few minutes it sits on the plate before it is presented to the guest, that red myoglobin has intensified in the open air, causing the steak to then look rare rather than medium rare.

Myoglobin is more abundant in active muscles. Using an example from poultry, leg meat is darker than breast or wing meat because it contains more myoglobin.

So don't be too quick to turn down that beautiful pink steak, or the roast in the grocery store that has red liquid in the plastic.

In a forthcoming article, I will elaborate on the anatomy of a steak and what goes on inside the meat when you cook it. In the meantime, if you prefer to have your steak cooked well-done to avoid the juice, be my guest. Just don't tell your medium-rare dining companion that they are eating blood.

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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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.









Brooke Anderson Real Estate Loan Officer

Direct: 406.556.3816 Email: banderson@bigskybank.com NMLS#1631849

Brooke is a South Dakota native who has been with Big Sky Western Bank since 2010. She has extensive knowledge of real estate mortgage products, and specializes in Conventional, Construction, Jumbo, and FHA transactions. She is passionate about customer relationships, is a trusted source for anyone looking to buy a home, and will work hard to provide a great experience for you!

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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

Ridge home in Antler Ridge with views of Lone Mountain. Reclaimed beams, granite, high-end appliances, convenient mid-mountain location. Designed by Jerry Locati. 3 bd, 4.5 ba.



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

Incredible views of the Spanish Peaks from one of the highest and most scenic locations in Cowboy Heaven. Completely remodeled, 4 bd, 4 ba, 2,629± sq. ft. Excellent ski access.



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

Beautifully furnished Powder Ridge Cabin with direct Ski-in (Bozeman Trail)/ Ski-out (White Otter Lift) access. Ponderosa plan on 3 levels with 2,567± sq. ft. of livable area. 4 bd, 3 ba.



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

One-of-a-kind top floor, nicely furnished Skycrest Penthouse. 4 bd, 4 ba with bonus room. Two decks offer front row views of Lone Mountain. Well kept interior hot tub & rock fireplace.



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

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



## TBD GOSHAWK TRAIL | \$795,000 #314359 | CALL DON

Bright beautiful corner lot, with outstanding views located in Spanish Peaks Mtn. Club. Close to the clubhouse and golf course, yet with views and privacy this sunny site is in a great location.



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

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



#### SUMMIT #10402 | \$599,000 #312593 | CALL DON

Big Sky Mountain Village's premier hotel, with the best location in the Mountain Village. This west facing, 2 bd, 3 ba, condo has impressive views of Lone Mountain and the surrounding area.



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

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

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

**Section 3:**OUTDOORS, HEALTH,
BUSINESS & BACK 40







# INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



## **Connecting through learning with Wildlife Expeditions**

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – Offering a small window into the habits of wild animals, Wildlife Expeditions' multi-day Yellowstone National Park safaris are likely to spark curiosity. Led by trained naturalists and guides, the small winter groups often spot bison, mule deer, bighorn sheep, moose, bald eagles and wolves and experience steaming thermal features set against a backdrop of crystalline snow.

On Feb. 27, the Jackson, Wyoming-based company wrapped up a new trip offering called Winter Wolves of Yellowstone. The seven-day expedition toured the National Elk Refuge, as well as Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks, providing ample opportunities to spot predators on the hunt and ungulates foraging for food.

The longest standing wildlife viewing company in Jackson, Wildlife Expeditions has offered trips since 1999. In addition to regular day trips, the company offers several animal-specific trips each year. And while the aim might be to spot a certain animal, it's possible to spot any number of Yellowstone's other critters.

Predator species like wolves are very elusive, explained Sarah Ernst, a guide with Wildlife Expeditions since 2011. Even with radio collars, their locations are often a rough estimate.

"The network of wolf watchers and researchers in the Northern Range gives us the best chance of finding them, but sightings are still up to luck and weather conditions as well as experience," she said. "Patience is required for finding wild wolves, and an understanding that we will be standing outside in a variety of winter conditions, including snow, wind and cold."

Winter clients ride in Mercedes-Benz snowcoaches with roof hatches that allow for wildlife viewing, but guests are also encouraged to get out of the vehicle to observe with provided binoculars or look through company spotting scopes.

"Whenever we are looking for wolves, there is a big adrenaline rush when we do find them," Ernst said, adding that she gets most excited when she hears the echo of a good howl. "I was not particularly interested in wolves when I first moved to Jackson Hole, but ... some of our encounters have been the most memorable wildlife experiences in my life.

"Despite our polarized and controversial view of wolves, we are perhaps more like them than any other wild animal of Yellowstone," she said, explaining that humans are able to relate to wolves because of similarities in human and wolf family dynamics, as well as a wolf's likening to a dog.

"For example, even non-dog-owners can tell the difference between friendly and aggressive body language in a wolf, but with bears or bison, most members of the public have difficulty reading their body language," she added.

Wildlife Expeditions guides are trained in pedagogy, or the art of teaching. "Education is the underpinning to what we do," said Patrick Leary,



Wolves are among the many animals frequently spotted during a Wildlife Expeditions trip in Yellowstone National Park. PHOTO BY PAUL BROWN

director of field education for Wildlife Expeditions. "Our guides are not just knowledgeable about the ecosystem, but they are trained in how to communicate that in a digestible way."

Together, Wildlife Expeditions' nine guides have over 60 years of experience working as wildlife guides, and many have master's degrees and advanced training in related fields.

"Rather than just be the sage on the stage, so to speak, our guides are there to get guests to ask questions," Leary said. "We believe people tend to retain more by being an active participant. ... We see so much greater good by connecting people to this place by teaching them about it."

In addition to conversational learning, guests are invited to partake in hands-on experiences. After watching pronghorn feed, the group might venture out to learn more about what vegetation the animal was feeding on, discussing habitat as well as larger issues like conservation. Guests also have the opportunity to handle a variety of specimens, from antlers and skulls, to pelts and hooves.

Unique among Jackson's other wildlife viewing companies, Wildlife Expeditions operates as a nonprofit through a partnership with Teton Science Schools, a network of outdoor education programming with four campuses in Wyoming and Idaho that reaches about 15,000 people every year, from pre-kindergarten-aged children to participants in their 90s.

Yellowstone National Park will close to over-snow travel on March 15, concluding Wildlife Expeditions' winter season. Until then, the company will offer full- or half-day trips throughout the park as well as in Grand Teton National Park. Beginning in April, they will offer three-day bear and wolf expedition packages.

For more information or to view a complete expedition schedule, visit tetonscience.org.





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## Winter survival: A lesson in Darwinism

BY JOSEPH T. O'CONNOR EBS CONTRIBUTOR

In mid-February, a north wind ushered in bone-chilling temperatures from Canada and the mercury in Big Sky dipped to 17 below zero the morning of Feb. 20. In West Yellowstone, residents awoke to a crisp minus 38 that shattered the previous record low for that day of minus 2.

Meteorologists warned that frostbite could affect exposed skin in less than 20 minutes, and cautioned pet owners to keep their animals inside or, if necessary, outside for limited time periods.

If our pets can freeze overnight in the deep snowdrifts, how does Montana's abundant wildlife survive the hypothermic winters year after year? And what are some techniques these intrepid animals utilize to make it in the wild?

Dr. Lance McNew, assistant professor of wildlife ecology and director of the Wildlife Habitat Ecology Lab at Montana State University, says it depends on the species but many animals become experts in their respective environments. It's Darwin's theory of natural selection, and the ones that don't adapt typically don't survive.

"We are beginning to understand that most species are masters at identifying and using the thermal landscape, as well as the vegetative one," McNew wrote in a Feb. 26 email. "Winter is a tough time for wildlife in our neck of the woods."

Having extensively studied game birds in their habitats, McNew says many species of grouse, for example, only expose themselves to the winter elements for short amounts of time during feeding, and use snow to their favor. Just below the snow's surface, the "subnivium" layer actually traps heat and keeps certain animals, including grouse, warm as they wait out the freeze.

"They bury themselves in the snow during really cold temps," McNew said, "effectively creating a makeshift igloo that keeps them (relatively) toasty. They fill their crops and then return to safe cover to process that food into energy."

In Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, bears, marmots and some birds stave off Old Man Winter through varying degrees of hibernation, during which their heart rates and metabolism slow. Others, including elk, pronghorn and bighorn sheep, migrate to lower elevations. The rest, including the indomitable mountain goat, which grows a double layer of white fur in winter to insulate from temps as low as minus 50 F, must adapt to the frozen country.



Elk bedded east of Big Sky. To survive Greater Yellowstone's harsh winter season, elk migrate to lower elevations. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES

twice that of other animals their size, meaning they must remain constantly active—and eating—to survive harsh winters. They are active hunters, even in the coldest weather, and remain so throughout the winter months, when their coat changes from brown to a camouflaging white. Their slender bodies allow them to move quickly through tunnels just below the snow surface, where they track mice, chipmunks and other burrowing creatures.

**Moose:** Weighing up to 1,600 pounds, moose are the largest of all deer species. Their unmistakable racks can grow as broad as six feet and the telltale flap of skin suspended from their chins is known as a bell. In winter, the moose is right at home in the Greater Yellowstone region. All deer, moose included, have hollow hair that protects them from the frigid air. The moose's massive hooves spread when it steps down, mimicking snowshoes, and its long legs can rotate in all directions to ward off predators and help them navigate in deep snow.

Black-capped chickadee: The black-capped is one of a number of chickadees that live in Montana year round. Weighing in at a trim half-ounce, this feathered phenom is a master at winter survival. According to McNew, the chickadee has a countercurrent heat-exchange system that warms blood coming from its extremities. All day it gorges on seeds—up to 60 percent of its body weight—and at night performs an amazing feat: The chickadee lowers its own body temperature by as much as 15 F, achieving a state known as "torpor" that preserves energy. "They not only seem to survive in the cold," McNew said, "but they seem to like it."

## Winter survival in the Greater Yellowstone

American bison: The mountains surrounding Yellowstone National Park trap frigid air inside the regional caldera. Fortunately, the park also has a cold-weather antidote: hot springs. Bison gather near these super-heated geysers, which are warmed by subsurface geothermal energy sources. The warm earth allows bison to conserve energy for extended periods of time, but can also prove fatal if these 2,000-pound behemoths slip into the pools. Bison also grow a thick coat of hair for the winter months and utilize their huge heads to plow snow away from the vegetation they eat beneath the surface.

**Ermine:** One of eight members of the weasel family found in the Greater Yellowstone, the ermine is more than just a cute little beast. It's a cold-weather expert. A mustelid and cousin to the otter and wolverine, the ermine has a metabolism



Yellowstone's short-tailed weasels, also known as ermine, turn from brown to white during the winter. PHOTO COURTESY OF YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

## **Shedhorn Skimo showcases Lone Mountain terrain**

BY JESSIANNE WRIGHT EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Designed to put technical mountaineering and skiing skills to the test, the fourth annual Shedhorn Skimo Race returns to Big Sky Resort on March 17, with the addition of a shorter event.

Staged atop Lone Mountain, the race attracts some of the best skiing and mountaineering athletes from across the U.S., and challenges fit locals to showcase their endurance skill set.

Short for ski mountaineering, the Skimo is sanctioned by the United States Ski Mountaineering Association and co-organized by the Colorado-based Cosmic Ski Mountaineering Series.

"It's a fairly difficult race," said Noah Ronczkowski, who dreamed up the event in 2015 with longtime climbing partner and fellow avalanche technician for Big Sky Ski Patrol's Snow Safety Department, Casey Heerdt.

Ronczkowski said the race was inspired in part by Justin Griffin, a Bozeman climber who died on Nov. 14, 2015, while descending a new route on Nepal's 21,463-foot Mt. Taboche just after he volunteered his efforts to build the Khumbu Climbing Center in Phortse.

"He is inspiration to go hard in the mountains," Ronczkowski said, adding that the 35-year-old Griffin was a good friend to the Bozeman-area skiing and climbing community.

After the race's debut, which was an invitation-only event, the Shedhorn Skimo quickly gained popularity as a challenging open race. On Feb. 25, over 30 individuals had already registered to compete in one of two races: the longer Shedhorn, or the shorter Pronghorn. Event organizers also expect to see athletes stop to compete on their way to the North American Championships at Lake Louise Ski Resort in Alberta, Canada, March 23-25.

Ronczkowski said he and Heerdt wanted to design a race that emulated the experience of skiing in the backcountry. The courses' ascents and descents were selected to showcase some of Lone Mountain's most scenic routes, those skiers would want to take if Lone Mountain didn't have ski lifts.

"Lone Mountain is an aesthetic, it's a ski mountaineering dream," Ronczkowski said. "It's true steep skiing."

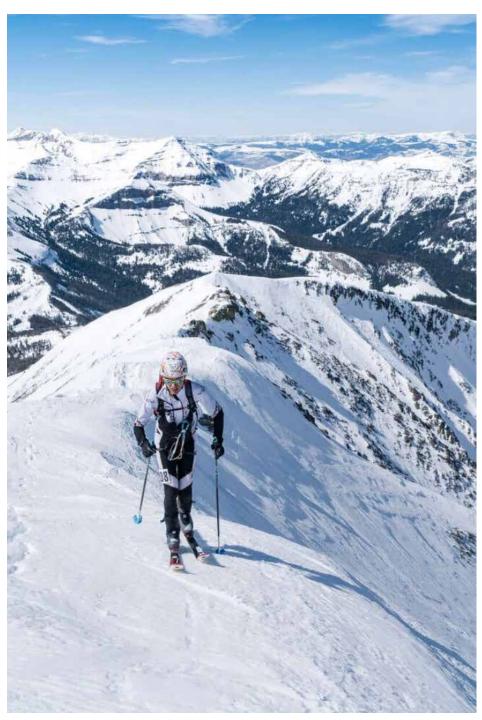
Due to the unpredictability of conditions, the exact course will be announced the morning of the race. Shedhorn competitors can expect a 16- to 18-mile course with 8,600 to 9,500 feet of elevation gain at altitudes ranging between 7,200 and 11,166 feet, and not one, but two ascents and descents of Lone Mountain.

Athletes will test their skills on four alpine climbs and ski descents with exposure to cliffs and along avalanche paths, knife-edge ridges, and bootpacks—or kick-in steps while ascending—up 50-plus degree terrain. Four aid stations will be set up along the route, and competitors will start in waves every five minutes.

New this year is the shorter, more approachable Pronghorn Race—the course will be about 7.5 miles, with 4,000 to 4,600 feet of elevation gain.

British Columbia skier Eric Carter took first in the men's race in 2016, finishing in 3 hours and 52 minutes. Carter, who grew up in Minnesota, is among the top Americans in the International Ski Mountaineering Federation.

"[When I entered Shedhorn], I didn't really know what to expect," Carter said during an interview with EBS after the 2016 race. "A lot of races are pretty mellow, so this is pretty different."



A competitor skins across a ridge during the 2016 Shedhorn Skimo Race. PHOTO BY JASON THOMPSON

Also in 2016, Inge Perkins of Bozeman took second in the women's category. On Oct. 7, 2017, an avalanche on Imp Peak in the southern Madison Range claimed the life of the 23-year-old.

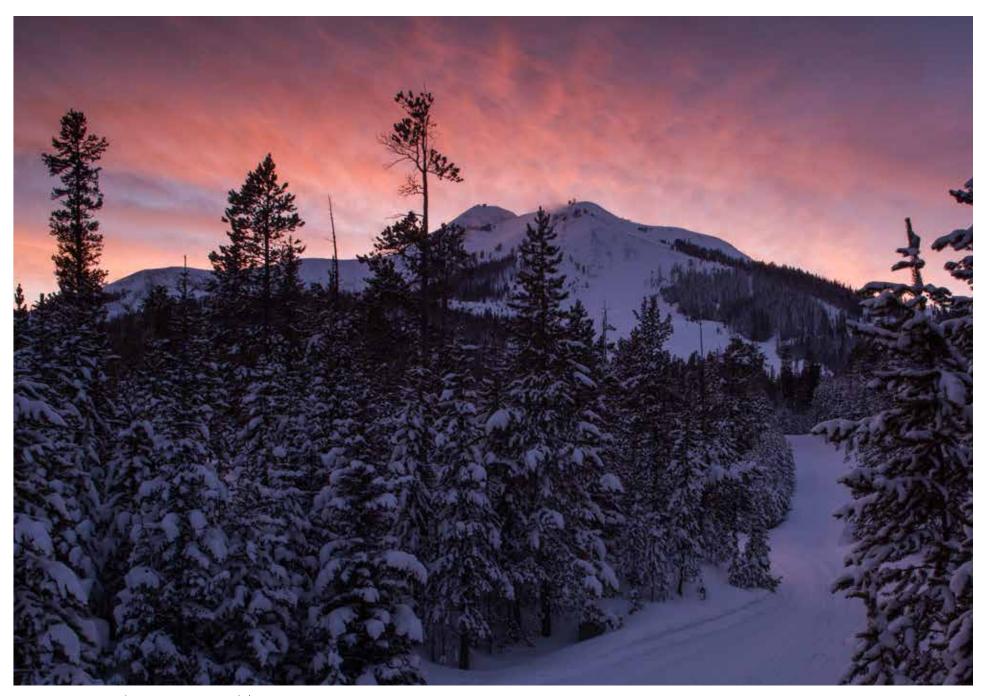
An event with a gear requirement list, Skimo competitors will be asked to prove their proficiency with crampons, ice axes and skins. Other requirements include a standardized beacon, shovel and probe. Further requirements will be announced prior to the race, dependent upon the course and race-day conditions.

Although a fast-paced race, spectators are encouraged. Big Sky Resort will be open to the public during the race, and Ronczkowski said spectators at the Bowl should have a good view of competitors climbing the ridge and skiing the Big Couloir.

By the two-hour mark, onlookers should be able to spot some of the fastest competitors making a descent while some of the slower competitors will be making their way to the top. The finish line for both races will be at the base area.

The Shedhorn Race begins at 8 a.m. March 17, followed by an 8:15 start time for the Pronghorn Race. A pre-race meeting will be held the night before. For more information about the Skimo race or to register, visit cosmicski.com/event/shedhorn. Contact Noah Ronczkowski at shedhornskimo@gmail.com for more information.





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Development

## Ski tips: Floating between turns

BY DAN EGAN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The moment between turns is magical. It's a time of detachment from what was and what will be; a feeling of weightlessness generated by the energy of the last turn mixed with a freedom of floating through time and space.

If you want to learn to float between your turns, you must digest a few key truths about skiing:

**Have a game plan.** Descending a snow-covered mountain requires strategy and tactics, and these take preparation, planning and execution. Pushing off the top of a run with a game plan of where you're going will add purpose to your skiing. Once you understand your destination and why you are going there, your confidence will build, allowing you to arrange your body in proper skiing positions throughout the run.

**Skis are designed to accelerate.** The main function of turning is to change direction, not slow down. Every time I tell skiers this they look at me in disbelief, but it's true. Technology is built into skis to absorb and control energy, and redirect skiers across and down the slope. Once you believe this you'll enter into a new level of freedom on the mountain.

**Stand perpendicular to the mountain.** Between turns, standing at right angles to the slope you're skiing will unlock your body from the cage of apprehension. It will place you in control and place you in a position to work with gravity rather than fight it.

**To slow down, plan ahead.** Deceleration happens over a series of turns. If you want to slow down, remain in balance and gain control, and practice slowing down over a series of three turns. This will introduce a whole new understanding to your run.

**Ski the mountain in sections.** Get in the practice of saying, "I'm going to start here and end there." Then regroup and do it again. By skiing the slope in sections, you'll feel more relaxed and confident going from point A to point B and the quality of your skiing will reflect this newfound confidence.

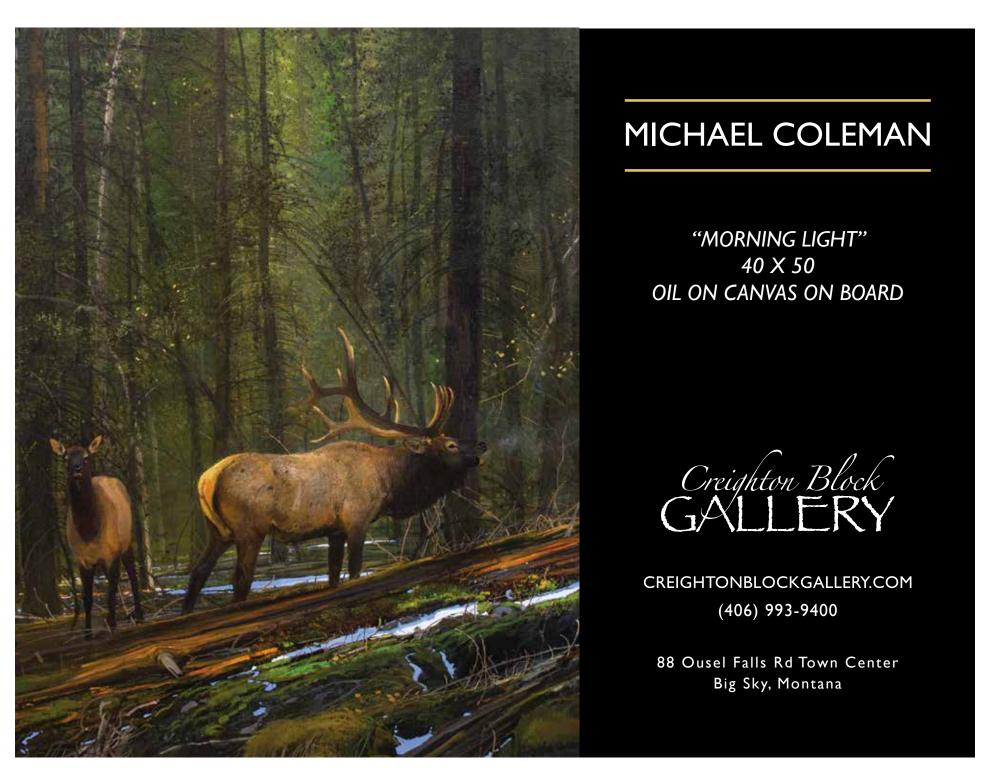


Dan Egan accelerates between turns on the south face of Lone Mountain. PHOTO BY JEN BENNETT/RUMBLE PRODUCTIONS

Try these simple steps on terrain below your ability level, and focus your attention on what is happening between your turns. Self-evaluate to determine your level of freedom. If you start to feel a release of energy and a detachment from the slope you'll slowly start enjoying the feeling of time and space between turns and enter into a new dimension of the sport.

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

A version of this story ran in the Dec. 11, 2015, edition of EBS.





## On the Trail: Andesite Loop

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

## BY CIARA WOLFE BSCO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Cross-country ski trails located on the south side of Lone Mountain Trail have recently been designated as multi-use trails so that both fat bikers and dogs are welcome to use them. As a mom to two black labs that live to play outside, Nordic skiing has been my saving grace for recreation options that tire them out during the winter months, while also being close to home.

Of the newly opened trails, the Andesite Loop is my favorite to take the dogs on for a quick after-work ski.

I park at the lower parking area where the cross-country trails intersect the Lone Mountain Ranch driveway so that all trails I am accessing are dog friendly. From there I walk across the small skier bridge where I put my skis on and begin my ski.

You immediately cross under Lone Mountain Trail in the skier tunnel and then have the option to ski the loop clockwise or counterclockwise. I chose to ski the loop clockwise, taking a left onto Tree Farm to get to the Andesite Loop itself.

After an easy 0.3 kilometers, you begin a short climb and then reach Andesite Road. Cross the road onto Andesite Loop and begin a 3-km intermediate level loop that takes you on a scenic treed trail along the rim above Town Center.

Please note that after skiing the loop, the quickest return to the ranch is down the Beaver Slide hill which is an advanced level feature. If you do not want to attempt going down this hill, you can ski the loop counterclockwise so that you only have to duck walk up the hill versus skiing down it.

Once you successfully cruise down the Beaver Slide hill you will take a right onto a fairly flat trail that follows the river for 0.5 km. Then take a left at the intersection following the signs back to the ranch for a final 0.4 km, where you will cross back under Lone Mountain Trail in the skier tunnel and be back to your vehicle.

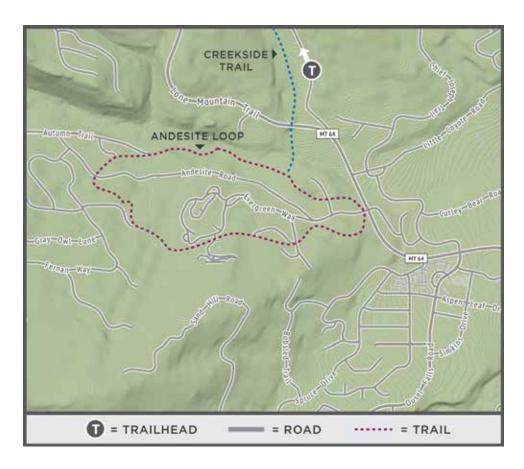
We give a huge thank you to Lone Mountain Ranch for changing the designation of these trails. Please respect their decision by ensuring you clean up your dog's waste and remember that skiers have the right-of-way when biking.

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

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



Ciara Wolfe enjoys a cross-country ski on dog-friendly Little Willow Way with her dog Junebug. The Andesite Loop is now dog- and fat bike-friendly as well. PHOTO COURTESY OF BULLOCK IMAGES





## **TRAIL STATS**



**Distance** 4.9 km

Uses

biking

Difficulty

dog-friendly intermediate cross-country skiing and fat



**Elevation** 

6,700 feet



**Surface** 

classic track includes both skate and classic groomed trails

**Directions:** From the canyon, take Lone Mountain Trail west from U.S. Highway 191. Turn left at the Lone Mountain Ranch sign approximately 4.5 miles up. Park in the dirt area directly to your left after you pass under the entrance sign.



## RESORT ROUNDUP

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

## **WORD FROM THE RESORT**

## A new record set 35 Lone Peak Tram laps

CHELSI MOY BIG SKY RESORT PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER

BIG SKY – It was Valentine's Day and Rob Leipheimer was loving life. At 1 p.m., he beat his Lone Peak Tram all-time record of 27 laps.

"I was doing five laps an hour," he said. "I was thinking this is a really good pace. After I matched my personal record and had an hour still in the bank, I turned up the volume. They were really fast laps after that."

Leipheimer, 50, finished with 35 Lone Peak Tram laps—a new record by many accounts, breaking the longstanding



Rob Leipheimer recently made Big Sky Resort history, setting a new record of finishing 35 Lone Peak Tram laps in a single day. PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY RESORT

record of 31 tram laps set by Luke Stratford in 1998. Leipheimer started at 9:30 a.m. loading the first tramcar and was in the last tram of the day at 3:06 p.m.

Leipheimer has been skiing Big Sky Resort since he was a teenager. This season alone he's already logged 80 days on the snow, a majority of them at the resort. He knows every route, rock and ridgeline on Lone Mountain like the back of his hand.

Visibility on this particular day wasn't optimal. Leipheimer's route down was the same all day: First Gully to Cron's and back to the tram, which was the same path Stratford took 20 years before. With almost no line, Leipheimer was able to walk right onto the tram. There was a short line at one point, he admitted, but most of the day, Leipheimer was skiing Lone Mountain with very few others.

While Leipheimer wondered if he might beat his own personal best, completing thirty-five laps was not in his plans.

"It was organic," he said. "It just happened."

Lone Mountain has been skiing great, Leipheimer added. On this day, conditions were chalky and soft.

A Lone Peak Tram ride is, on average, 4 minutes long, and Leipheimer was skiing fast enough to beat to the bottom the tramcar he rode up. Tram operators cheered him on, helping keep track of his run count, he said. Leipheimer never stopped to eat, skiing only on the two cups of coffee he had earlier that morning.

"I feel good that I can achieve such a great goal at my age. Skiing is an awesome sport," he said, although he added that the next day his legs felt like "Jell-O." In total, he skied 50,750 feet of vertical, not including the Mr. K run at the end of the day to get back to his vehicle.

"It's great that Rob got so many in," said Stratford a week after Leipheimer told him about his feat. "You need to be fast, able to know our line in zero visibility, and be a little psychotic to repeat ski the same line over and over again. Rob shares the same feeling as me ... skiing the Lone Peak Tram is so fun, that if you can, you've got to do it as many times as you possibly can."

## TI DINING SPECIALS & APRÈS

## **DEALS FOR ALL PATRONS**

**All Locations:** \$10 mules mixed with Montana distilled spirits on Mondays **Andiamo**: 50 percent off appetizers, 4 to 5:30 p.m. daily.

Every Tuesday enjoy the "Exploring Italian Wine" series at 4 p.m.

**Chet's**: Half price on starters, 3 to 6 p.m. daily

**Hummers**: \$6 house margaritas and \$9 nachos, 3 to 6 p.m. daily

Montana Jack: Saturday afternoons showcase regional breweries with prizes

and giveaways from 3 to 5:30 p.m.

**Peaks and Carabiner**: 40 percent off bottles of wine on Tuesdays

## **DEALS FOR SEASON PASSHOLDERS**

**Andiamo:** 50 percent off Aperitivo food menu items, 4 to 5:30 p.m. daily **Chet's:** \$2 off hot bar drinks and \$10 barbecued pulled pork sandwiches with potato wedges, 3 to 6 p.m. daily

**Montana Jack:** 25 percent off all burgers, beginning at 5:30 p.m. daily **Peaks:** 25 percent off the Peaks lunch buffet, every weekday



## **MONTANA PASS DIRECT TO LIFT**

The Montana Pass is Direct-to-Lift April 9 through 22, including Pond Skim. Passholders also receive a non-transferrable lift ticket to ski any date of choice. Visit bigskyresort.com/the-mountain/lift-tickets-and-season-passes/season-passes/montana-pass to learn more.

## J LIVE MUSIC

#### **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.

Lone Mountain Trio Chet's Bar, 9 p.m. DJ Montana Jack, 10 p.m.

## **SUNDAYS**

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

#### MONDAYS

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

Mike Haring Montana Jack, 4 p.m.

#### **TUESDAYS**

Lauren Jackson Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Milton Menasco Duo Chet's Bar, 4:30 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAYS**

Diamond Montana Jack, 3:30 p.m.

Brian and Ben Chet's Bar, 4:30 p.m.

#### **THURSDAYS**

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

Kenny Diamond Carabiner Lounge, 4 p.m.

Laruen & Jeff Chet's Bar, 4:30 p.m.

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



## **ACTIVITIES**

#### **Showshoe Shuffle**

SATURDAY, MARCH 3 MADISON BASE AREA, 5:30 P.M.

The 14th Annual Snowshoe Shuffie benefits Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter and is a great event for you and your four-legged friends. Experience a snowshoe hike, après chili dinner and a raffie. The torch-lit snowshoe trail will start at the Madison Base Area and wind its way up and around through the Moonlight area ski terrain, then lead back down to Headwaters Grille.

# Headwaters Spring Runoff

MARCH 9-11 Madison base area

The Headwaters Spring Runoff has become an annual tradition for local tough guys and gals, drawing competitors from around the region to test themselves on the steep chutes, gullies and cliffs on the north side of Lone Mountain. Spectators can watch the event from Stillwater Bowl, with great line-of-sight views into the cirque.

#### Mountain Odysseys from the Arctic to the Alps with Dan Egan

SATURDAY, MARCH 10 YELLOWSTONE CONFERENCE CENTER, 7 P.M.

Join extreme skiing pioneer Dan Egan for an engaging evening of adventure and stories of his adventures skiing around the world in Warren Miller films.

## **Level 1 Avalanche Class**MARCH 9-11

Learn how to do stability tests, interpret snow data, group dynamics and decision making, improve search proficiency, and understand how to recognize and evaluate avalanche hazards.

#### **CHURCH SERVICES ON SUNDAYS**

Mountain Church Service Main Chapel Area, 1:30 p.m.

Mountain Church Service Moonlight Basin Chapel Area, 3 p.m.





# Spirits were high and smiles were wide at Big Sky Area Special Olympics

More than 98 athletes and 130 volunteers turned out for the annual Special Olympic Winter Games held at Big Sky Resort on Feb. 26. It snowed nonstop all day, but spectators lined the race course anyway, ringing cowbells and cheering on the smiling participants. PHOTOS BY HOLLY JONES



## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

#### MARCH 17 Shedhorn Skimo 2018

A technical ski mountaineering race, the Shedhorn Ski-Mo will see competitors ski and climb nearly 18 miles and gain about 9,500 feet in the big event. Participants may also compete in the shorter 7.5-mile course.

#### MARCH 19-24

#### **FIS Masters World Criterium**

This international competition returns to Big Sky Resort and will see competitive athletes perform in the Slalom, Giant Slalom and Super-G ski race events.

#### MARCH 21

# Vine and Dine Winter Dinner Series

Sommelier Don Jost will give a glimpse of what is on tap for the summer's Vine and Dine festival by offering select wine pairing dinners this winter.

#### **APRIL 6**

# Chet's Brewery Dinner Series: Outlaw Brewing

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

#### **APRIL 7**

#### Sam Adams Big Air 2018

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, check out the noon-time demo at the show site all to get you get ready for the night show.

#### APRIL 21

#### Pond Skim 2018

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



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# How to fish a spring creek without going crazy



BY PATRICK STRAUB EBS FISHING COLUMNIST

Mention spring creek fishing to your angling friends and you'll get a myriad of responses—the trout are selective, the flies are too small, the leaders too long, and you have to be sneaky.

Fishing, like alcoholic beverages, offers something for every palate. Fishing double nymph rigs below

an indicator from a drift boat may be the canned light beer of the fly fishing world, while stalking finicky trout with single dry flies on a gin-clear spring creek is akin to a Napa cabernet.

In the eyes of this veteran guide, spring creek fishing can be like a fine wine, but it's still fishing so I'll liken it to drinking wine out of the bottle. Spring creeks offer a mix of angling intimacy, just the right amount of challenge, and often fish well when other rivers are in runoff, too cold or too warm to fish, and can be found in many places throughout the world. Here's some advice on how to best enjoy these unique waters.

What is a spring creek? A spring creek results from springs or flowing water that emerges from the ground with enough flow to produce a creek or stream large and cool enough to harbor trout. Most spring creeks are less than 50 feet wide, with a few exceptions like Amstrong and DePuy creeks in Montana, Silver Creek in Idaho, and Big Spring Creek in Pennsylvania.

Spring creeks can be especially challenging because they have clear and consistent water flow, and the aquatic environment corresponds with a similar consistency. Trout become used to this stability and adjust their behavior accordingly. When a prolific hatch occurs trout are opportunistic and feed in abundance, however their feeding often is on a specific insect during a specific phase of a hatch.

Adjust your angling attitude. Like a Napa cab, spring creeks are not found everywhere, and therefore your objectives and expectations when fishing a spring creek are unique as well. When fishing a spring creek, attention to the angling process is paramount—satisfaction should be based in quality of experience over the quantity of fish caught. It's best to embrace

a spring creek as an opportunity to improve and appreciate your angling rather than reaffirm your skills in an easy situation.

Problem solving must be enjoyed, not scoffed at. An interest in understanding the hows and the whys will result in more enjoyment.

How is that fish feeding? Is it eating insects below the surface, on the surface, or near the bottom? These questions can aid in appropriate fly selection and tackle adjustments. Acute adjustments are often crucial—changing fly size from 20 to 22 could be the difference between catching or observing. Using a dry fly powder instead of a dry fly gel may allow your emerger pattern to float more naturally, enticing a strike versus a refusal.

#### It's a bug's life on a spring creek.

Advanced knowledge of trout entomology is important. Learn the life cycle of midges, mayflies, and caddis. Know the difference between an emerger, an adult, and a spinner and be able to recognize them on the water.

Study riseforms as trout breach the surface. If you see a nose or mouth, they are most likely eating adults. If you see a back and a tail fin, they are probably eating emergers. Splashy rises could mean emergers or they are eating adult caddis. Nervous water but no breach could mean they are keying into active nymphs. Observe, observe, observe before choosing a fly or making a cast.

Your tackle must be lighter and more sensitive. Fish smaller weight rods and more supple fly lines. Choose leaders that are longer and softer and no less than 12 feet long. Tippet sections tend to be longer, but smaller in diameter—5X is heavy for most spring creeks. If you use weighted nymphs while sight fishing, be prepared to use micro-sized split shot to obtain the ideal drift.

Learn some fundamental skills to obtain better drifts. Presenting your fly so a fish thinks it's a natural offering is paramount. Mastering a drag-free drift is a key component of proper presentation. Learning a reach cast, stack cast, or pile cast is a must. Practice adding slack line during a mend to allow your fly to float longer, and more naturally, throughout its drift. These refined skills are not difficult to master, but they do require practice and patience.

Like the water emerging from the earth to create spring creek, the passion for spring creek fly fishing is deep-rooted. It commands the desire to understand the process of fly fishing, embracing the unique approach of fishing spring creeks, and attempting to understand why we go fly fishing in the first place.

Unlike a canned beer that immediately loses quality once opened, pleasure from fishing spring creeks often gets better with time.

Pat Strauh is a twenty year veteran guide on the Paradise Valley Spring Creeks, the cofounder of the Montana Fishing Guide School, 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.



Spring creek angler, Paul Meripol, observes rising fish on a small riffie on a local spring creek. PHOTO BY ART MERIPOL

# From Jackie with love The problem with statins



BY JACKIE RAINFORD CORCORAN EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

Why do we care about cholesterol? Because cholesterol is linked to heart disease which is the leading cause of death in the U.S.

Nearly 2,200 Americans die of heart disease every day with an average of one death occurring every 40 seconds. And this isn't just among men—it's the leading cause of death in women over age 65.

The truth is, we can't live without cholesterol. It's in every cell in our bodies and is necessary for cell growth and repair. It helps us digest food and is a precursor to vitamin D, estrogen, testosterone, cortisone, and other vital hormones. Yet we often talk about cholesterol like it's a disease that should be prevented or treated.

It's estimated that only 5 percent of the population has a genetic tendency toward heart disease. Therefore, the leading cause of death in our country is largely preventable through lifestyle choices like a healthy diet, exercise and avoiding smoking. However, we've created a culture that has led us to rely heavily on drugs (primarily statins) to reduce cholesterol.

Roughly 32 million Americans take a statin or cholesterol-lowering drug. Statins work by blocking a liver enzyme responsible for producing cholesterol.

While statins are among the most prescribed medications in the world, they also present complications:

- 1. Heart disease risk-assessments that doctors use to decide if statins should be prescribed are often funded by pharmaceutical companies.
- 2. Statins can have side effects that include muscle pain, memory loss, confusion, fatigue, and intestinal and liver problems. Their use has been linked to Type 2 diabetes.

A study led by researcher Giovanni Corona at the University of Florence in Italy, found that men on statins were twice as likely to have low testosterone. Ironically, maintaining healthy levels of testosterone is necessary for healthy heart function. The researchers emphasized they found a link, not a cause and effect, between statins and lower testosterone.

- 3. Statins don't treat the cause of heart disease; at best, they suppress the symptoms.
- 4. The efficacy of statins is uncertain. They are often prescribed as preventive medicine for people who have never had a stroke or heart attack. Critics argue that out of every 100 people taking statins for five years, only one or two people will avoid a heart attack, and none will live longer.
- 5. We're relying on outdated risk factor measurements for heart disease. Functional medicine clinician Chris Kresser often talks about the inefficacy of typical tests that measure total cholesterol, low-density lipoprotein (LDL) and high-density lipoprotein (HDL), saying they aren't strongly associated with heart disease.

He argues that the ratio of HDL to non-HDL cholesterol is a better predictor than tests for total cholesterol or LDL, but still nowhere near as predictive as some of the newer markers like LDL particle numbers. Even more predictive is Lipoprotein(a), or Lp(a) levels, which is not typically lowered by statins. He also suggests more broad tests that look at fasting insulin, inflammatory markers and dysbiosis (the balance of bacteria in the gut).

What preventive measures are you currently taking to maintain a healthy heart?

This is part two of a three part series on cholesterol. Part one can be found online at explorebigsky.com/cholesterol-testing/24296. My column in the March 16 edition of EBS will focus on dietary fats and cholesterol.

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



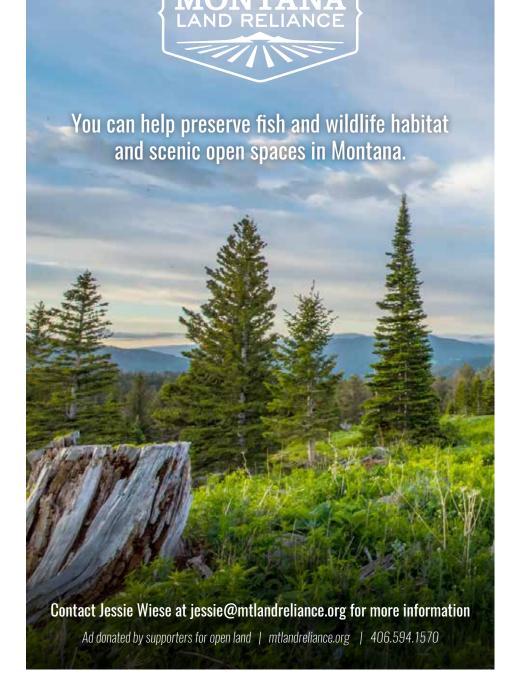
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# Finding hope on the front of a greeting card



BY DARYN KAGAN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

A greeting card saved my life. It was the best \$3.97 I ever spent. I found it while numbly passing through a local dime store. "There will come a time when you believe everything is finished; that will be the beginning."

Western writer Louis L'Amour gets the credit for that one.

I bought it for the first half; I didn't believe the second. Not that day, the day my everything finished. I was sure of it.

After 12 years as a CNN news anchor, the network informed me they wouldn't be renewing my contract. I never asked why. Part of me figured, "What was the point?" The other part of me was shattered from ending a romantic relationship the week before with someone I loved very much.

No job. No husband. No kids. The end of everything I had worked and hoped for.

This was supposed to be my beginning?

It's possible I bought that card just to prove it wrong. It sat on my desk at home, getting tattered, spilled on, piled on. Abused, but steadfastly there. The promise I so desperately wanted to be true.

Even if I didn't believe it.

Darn, if that card didn't turn out to be right in ways I could've never dreamed. Not overnight by any means. But losing my job brought the opportunity to reinvent my career, and losing love made way for the family bigger than I'd dreamed of.

Because our space here is limited, I will fast forward to tell you I started my own company which spreads uplifting and positive news and content. This column is part of that effort.

And I met a single dad who was raising his young daughter alone after his first wife passed away. We got married and I adopted her, which turned into my sidedoor into motherhood.

The year before I met them, I signed up to be a Big Sister in the Big Brother Big Sister program. Now that "little girl" also lives with us full time.

You want to talk beginnings? How about going from single and never married to married with two kids?

About seven years ago, as all of this was beginning, I received the opportunity to start writing this column. It's evolved into a place where I share big challenges—sometimes mine, sometimes yours. I'm no longer amazed by how much we have in common. Maybe the details are different, but I'm guessing you have also lost someone or something you loved very much. You've probably also found incredible gifts in circumstances you would've never picked for yourself. Or maybe you're still at that "everything is finished" place. Either is fine.

This is a "come as you are" party.

I hope you're up for a good cry. Some laughs. Life stuff. That's what we'll do here in this space—share the ups, the downs. Oh, and my dog. I like to write about my dog. A lot

Got dog? Got obstacles?

Big Sky, it's possible this is the beginning of something great.

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.

# Sliding scale mental health services now available in Big Sky

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – A \$25,000 grant from Yellowstone Club Community Foundation has made it possible for the nonprofit Women in Action to provide mental health services on a sliding scale at their offices in the Grizzly Outfitters on the River building on Highway 191 in Big Sky.

Dr. Hillary Morin, a clinical psychologist with a private practice in Bozeman and a professor in Montana State University's psychology department, now offers her services in Big Sky on Fridays.

Originally from New Hampshire, and educated at Bowdoin College and the University of Virginia, Morin specializes in eating disorders, but has treated Big Sky residents for issues relating to interpersonal dynamics, depression, anxiety, and obsessive compulsive disorder.

Growing up in a rural community, the accessibility of mental health services for the under-insured and the uninsured has always been important to Morin, who cites how prohibitive it can be to have to travel to Bozeman for treatment. Currently, Morin is the only certified clinical psychologist seeing patients in Big Sky. She has six slots available on Fridays and still has openings.

"I'm from a rural community so I've always been interested in access to care and the barriers to rural mental health care," Morin said. She has also spent a great deal of time studying suicidality, noting that ski towns have a higher suicide rate, and that the problem is compounded by stigma, a lack of access to services, and an underinsured population.

For her services in Big Sky, payment is based on household income. The YCCF grant pays half, and Morin donates her services to cover the remaining portion. She will still see individuals who have insurance or are above the income threshold to qualify for the sliding scale arrangement.

Morin, who just began seeing patients in Big Sky in mid-January, said it's an evolving model, but she is confident that they will continue to secure funding to maintain—and hopefully expand—the services.



Via a Yellowstone Club Community Foundation grant and Women in Action, Dr. Hillary Morin now offers sliding scale mental health services on Fridays in Big Sky. PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI

"We're really hoping to use this time as a trial period to better assess the needs of the community, and see if it would be fruitful for additional practitioners to come to Big Sky," she said

Morin is involved in the Big Sky Psychological Consortium, a group of practicing Bozeman psychologists who are working together to establish a stronger mental health practitioner presence in Big Sky.

Morin stresses the fact that people can view her services as an opportunity to improve their mental wellness.

"[It doesn't have to be] the 'I'm down in a ditch and need a therapist to help me out of it' [sort of situation']," she said.

"There's no commitment," she added. "See what the experience is like and if you find the space helpful."

Using a metaphor, she said a patient might be able to walk, but she has a bicycle.

"I can help you get from point A to point B faster. Seeking help will increase the pace at which you can improve your symptoms."

Morin offers her services to all ages, but minors do require parental consent. All sessions will remain confidential, unless the patient poses a threat to themselves or others.

"I think it's particularly crucial for young adults and emerging adults who might need help learning to better manage the increased stressors that come with school and adulting to have a space to explore what contributes to their mental health issues, and hopefully alleviate them in a way that allows them to more fully engage in their lives."

To set up an appointment with Dr. Morin call (406) 415-2017 and leave a message with your availability and presenting concern. You can also visit bigskywia.org for more information.





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# Making it in Big Sky

# Jacquie Rager of OZssage Therapeutic Spa

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY - Jacquie Rager started OZssage Therapeutic Spa in 2001 with two rooms in the Skywood building, the current location of 3 Rivers Communications. Two years later OZssage relocated to the Golden Eagle Lodge and partnered in starting the gym. In the years that followed, Rager started massage programs at the Lodge of Big Sky (2005-2009) and at Spanish Peaks Mountain Club (2007-2014).

In 2008, Rager expanded OZssage services to include acupuncture and chinese medicine, which Rager said had a large influence on her development of a blend of Eastern and Western, or "ortho-Asian" techniques.

In 2009, OZssage moved into its present space in the Meadow Village Center, which now includes five treatment rooms, a couples suite, a tranquility room, a private rain shower and steam room and the Madison Suite for hosting private spa groups.

That same year, OZssage also started offering esthetics services with skin care as the primary focus. Now they provide oxygen infusion facials, LED therapy and Qi Gold magnet facials. In 2015 Rager launched the skincare line OZ Therapeutics, which she has found to be a success in the Big Sky market.

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

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

Jacquie Rager: When I started OZssage, I wanted to create an environment that expanded on the spa world with more focus on treatment while retaining a spa ambiance. I wanted to keep the therapists engaged in the learning process and the challenges clients presented to them so that it would be a win-win for both the therapists and the clients. I have never been scared to keep changing and moving OZssage forward—learning and researching has been key, and remaining passionate about developing our menu and bringing in skin care technologies and new products as well as refining massage techniques.

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

**J.R.:** Definitely the seasonality, increasing operating costs and the challenge of hiring good employees.

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



Jacquie Rager has been expanding, growing and refining her business and services since opening OZssage in 2001. PHOTO COURTESY OF OZSSAGE

J.R.: I have seen an increase in tourists at OZssage, but I am happy to say a good percentage of our clientele is return clients, with strong support from part-timers and locals.

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

J.R.: I still love what I do—learning and improving our therapists' skills and the business. It's rewarding and inspiring to hear my clients who travel all over the world say that now they won't get massages or facials anywhere else. OZssage has become a part of their Big Sky experience.

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

J.R.: I've had many, many memorable moments with clients and therapists along the way. A recent memorable moment was during the beginning of winter and stopping to take a look around the spa, knowing that after many renovations and expansions that OZssage is now complete.

EBS: Why do you think so many new

businesses fold relatively quickly?

**J.R.:** I am sure every business has different reasons, but the seasonality has an impact. We still have off seasons and you need to plan for that.

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

**J.R.:** Expect long days. Save and plan for the off seasons. Hiring management staff and retiring will be a long way down the track.

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

**J.R.:** Always remember to look big picture.

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

**J.R.:** Handing over my business to someone that will keep the spirit of OZssage alive. I will still probably be around and working but at 60 I'm not so sure I will be putting in as many hours as I do now, but you never know.

### OZSSAGE - BY THE NUMBERS



**STAFF:**4-5 year-round
8-9 summer
10-12 winter



**YEARS IN BUSINESS:** 



#### **LONGEST SERVING EMPLOYEE:**

Leah Robinson, 9 years; former employee Sarah Rainwater, 10 years

# BACKLI

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

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

# Adventures in ice fishing: An exciting seasonal option

BY JOHN HALL EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Imagine walking into what looks like a very large meadow blanketed in snow. You pick a random spot, drill a hole and drop a fishing line down. After a likely wait and fight with the rod, you catch a vibrant, multicolored, feisty fish that was swimming beneath you just moments prior.

Fishing out on a lake in the middle of winter without a boat is a surreal experience. What had been a rippling, emerald-green lake in summer has been transformed into a frozen field of possibility. The majestic beauty of the snow-covered landscape in southwest Montana is especially enjoyable when sitting atop the ice in the company of friends, sipping on the beverage of your choice, and anticipating the exhibitantion of a twitching rod tip.

To experience the rewards of ice fishing, there is some essential equipment and attire you will need to be successful.

**Ice auger** – Ice augers come in hand, gas, propane and electric-powered varieties. Hand augers are the least expensive and can efficiently drill a few holes at a time with some effort. To speed up the process and be able to drill more holes in a day, go with a powered option. Gas and propane augers work great, but electric powered augers are quickly gaining popularity because they are lighter, fumeless and quieter.

Ice fishing rods – One bonus of ice fishing is the rods are relatively inexpensive compared to other types of fishing rods. More expensive brands and styles exist, but basic rod, reel and line combos go for \$15-\$20. They come in different lengths and actions, "action" referring to the rod's stiffness. Generally, shorter rods have a lighter action or more flex, and are used to catch smaller species of fish, while the mid-to-heavy action rods are for larger fish. Always pack at least a few rods so you can fish multiple holes at a time, up to the rod limit per person.

**Terminal tackle**, **lures and bait** – Terminal tackle is what is tied to the line and can include hooks, leaders, swivels, sinkers, floats and any kind of snaps or connectors to attach lures and/or bait. The most common



Depending on the lake you fish, you might catch trout, walleye, perch and other species you decide to target.



An ice auger is an essential tool for the ice fisher, and come in a variety of styles for drilling holes in the ice. PHOTOS COURTESY OF REEL LIFE MONTANA ADVENTURES

ice fishing lures are jigs, spoons and swimming lures. You can add bait to increase the odds of attracting a fish. Bait types in this area include nightcrawlers, meal worms and maggots. Be sure to check fishing regulations for the body of water you are fishing.

Accessories – An ice skimmer is needed to clear the slush and ice from your holes. Five-gallon buckets are useful to hold your skimmer, rods and the catch-of-the-day. It's also nice to have a few chairs and rod holders. A sled is handy for hauling your gear onto the ice. For added comfort, some ice fishers bring a pop-up ice shanty and a small propane heater to protect them from the elements.

**Warm clothing** – This is most critical because clothing can make or break your day. Though pricey, ice fishing suits are very warm—and float, to boot—however ski pants and jacket will do if you layer up. Tall, insulated, waterproof boots with warm wool socks will keep your feet comfortable. Finally, ice cleats allow you to move over the ice with confidence.

Some popular ice fishing destinations in southwestern Montana include Hebgen Lake, Hyalite Reservoir, Ruby Reservoir, Canyon Ferry, Clark Canyon Reservoir and Georgetown Lake. Depending on which lake you fish, you can catch trout, perch, walleye and any other species you can target. Don't pass up smaller local, public ponds as they are a great option too.

It's extremely important to be sure that the ice is safe. Sporting goods stores will often post an ice fishing report on the thickness of the ice on area lakes. A good rule of thumb is ice must be 3 inches thick to safely walk on it. Ask a local or observe what others are doing (or not doing) on the ice. Features of ice to avoid include pressure ridges, areas with current under it, and spots where warm springs are entering the lake. Always take a partner and if you feel unsure, don't risk it.

John Hall is a local fishing outfitter and owner of Reel Life Montana Adventures in southwestern Montana. He has been guiding fly fisherman for over 20 years. Ice fishing adventures have recently become an exciting seasonal option. Visit reellifemontanaadventures.com for more information.

# **Section 4:**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT









# Jill Zeidler: Fusing fine art and functionality

### BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – It's been a year and a half since ceramicist Jill Zeidler opened a retail and working studio space in the Big Horn Shopping Center, and the artist's business is flourishing. The space, just down the hall from Bugaboo Café, is light, airy and clean, very much like the hand-formed functional and decorative stoneware thoughtfully displayed around the room.

On the working side of the studio, clay is in various stages of metamorphosis, from a heap of yam-shaped lumps to tall, smooth cylinders nearly ready for the kiln, a gleaming piece of equipment that will work its magic—or misery—on whatever she puts in it.

"There are a lot of 'seconds' [with ceramics]," Zeidler said. "You can work so hard on a piece, put it in the kiln and it could crack or a fleck from the atmosphere could land on the piece ... it's really unpredictable."

But it's the challenge of that unpredictability and having her hands constantly immersed in the making process that has kept Zeidler engaged with the medium since she discovered it prior to earning a degree in the art form.

When Zeidler, who has been making her art in Big Sky for 15 years, transitioned from her home-based studio into a storefront, her business model also shifted, from a largely web-based wholesale clientele, for which she was supplying more than 25 stores nationwide, to a greater concentration on Big Sky and the surrounding region.

She now has the added benefit of walk-in retail traffic, and sells primarily out her gallery-studio, in Big Sky at Gallatin River Gallery and Rhinestone Cowgirl, in Jackson, Wyoming at Workshop, and online through Etsy.

"I'm definitely a global artist," she said. "But the Big Sky clientele has been amazing. The collectors are what drive my business, but with the growth of tourism my business has grown for sure. But it's always a hustle—if you want to work as an artist, you've got to work hard to get the exposure."

While she says she'll "always be making mugs for people," Zeidler's true passion is for large-scale sculptural pieces that serve as utilitarian fine art.



Zeidler creates hand-formed decorative and functional ceramics in her signature minimalistic style and light and airy aesthetic.



Ceramicist Jill Zeidler sells her work out of her working studio and retail space in the Big Horn Shopping Center, at Gallatin River Gallery and Rhinestone Cowgirl, and online through Etsy. PHOTOS BY SARAH GIANELLI

Her vases, platters and signature tall-lipped "gourd" bowls could just as easily sit on a coffee table as a decorative piece or hold a big salad on the dining room table. Often working in a contemporary neutral or pastel palette with occasional splashes of gold leaf or accents of grassy green are perfectly imperfect, just enough to retain an elegant handmade quality.

Another of Zeidler's signatures is overlaying xeroxed images on her pieces. Stylized arrows, hearts, birds, flowers, trees, and horseshoes—nature being her greatest inspiration—are often incorporated like a faint, sweet stamp on her work. Currently, Zeidler is working on a line of new pattern-focused designs that will be released this spring.

This will be Zeidler's fourth year participating in the Arts Council of Big Sky's Auction for Arts at Moonlight Basin on March 22. This year, Zeidler has entered one of her large gourd bowls, an impressionistic take on the shape of a gourd, in the silent auction. She will also be featured in an exhibit in the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center lobby gallery called "The Wild Unknown" that opens March 10.

In addition to mugs and her more sculptural decorative work, Zeidler also makes cheeseboards and small bud vases—all in her minimalistic, but by no means sterile, style. She also does a lot of custom work, especially creating dinnerware sets for weddings and custom printing projects for businesses.

Whether or not Zeidler will retain her retail space in perpetuity is uncertain, but even if Zeidler shifts her model again, she isn't going anywhere.

"I'll never stop making art," she said. "Even without a retail space, I'll never stop working. I'll never disappear."

Shop and watch Jill Zeidler create in her working studio and retail space located at the intersection of Highway 191 and Lone Mountain Trail in Big Sky. Visit jillzeidler.com for more information.



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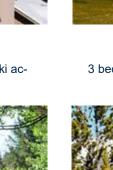
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# Tips for collectors of fine art

**EBS STAFF** 

With the Arts Council of Big Sky's Auction for the Arts fast approaching and the Big Sky Art Auction this July, Explore Big Sky consulted with Curtis Tierney of Tierney Fine Art in Bozeman to offer guidance for the aspiring and seasoned art collector on how to build a quality art collection.

As a private art dealer specializing in 19th and 20th century American, Western and Sporting art, Tierney spends much of his time helping collectors locate and acquire sought-after works of art. When beginner collectors ask for assistance on the art of collecting, Tierney offers the following tips.

**Educate yourself** - Before your first purchase, acquire knowledge. Visit museums, galleries and attend art exhibitions and auctions. Read everything you can, including art magazines, catalogues and articles on collecting. Talk to artists and other collectors, and develop relationships with local gallerists and art professionals. Don't hesitate to ask questions. Immerse yourself in the fine art world by looking at as much artwork as possible. The more art you observe, the more knowledgeable you become about your own tastes, which aids in identifying the art and artists you truly love.

**Develop a focus** – The art market can be overwhelming, with tens of thousands of artists and innumerable forms of expression. As you gain knowledge, you will find a collecting focus—a style, genre and/or specific mediums and subjects you most enjoy. For example, you will quickly discover whether you prefer representational, contemporary or abstract art. Narrowing your field of focus enables you to develop an expertise that, over time, will help refine and enhance your collection.

**Buy quality** – Quality defines "good art," meaning that it follows principles of color theory and value, composition, drawing, use of light and shadow, texture and harmony. Buy original works of art by experienced, highly regarded artists. My number one piece of advice is to identify these artists and buy a standout example of his or her artwork.

**The purchase decision** – Ask yourself these questions to determine it's a "winner":

Does the piece make your heart sing? Just like your first love, artwork should make your heart race and evoke an emotional response.



Bozeman art expert Curtis Tierney, lead juror of the ACBS Auction for the Arts silent auction, offers tips for the aspiring and seasoned art collector. PHOTO COURTESY OF TIERNEY FINE ART

Does the piece represent a fair value? To get a reasonable price one needs to understand market value. Do your homework—research the price points of other artists with similar experience.

Does the piece fit into, align with, complement, your collecting focus?

If you're considering a period work of art, you also have to educate yourself about the condition of the piece.

#### Follow these basic tenets:

Develop knowledge, define your focus, understand and select quality, and carefully weigh every potential purchase. If you do so, you will build a collection of aesthetic merit.

Collecting artwork is one of the most gratifying and enjoyable pursuits in life. If you choose wisely, your paintings will be a never ending source of pleasure.

Curtis Tierney served as the lead juror for the Auction for the Arts silent auction, a key element of the Arts Council of Big Sky's fundraising event on March 22 at Moonlight Lodge. Visit bigskyarts.org for tickets and more information.

# **Madison Valley Arts Festival call for entries**

ENNIS ARTS ASSOCIATION

The Ennis Arts Association will host the 23rd annual Madison Valley Arts Festival on Saturday, Aug. 11, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Artists working in all media are invited to submit entries for the juried exhibition. The festival will take place in Peter T's Park in downtown Ennis. The deadline for applications is April 6.

Visit ennisarts.org for additional information and an application.





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

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

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

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

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

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# James Sewell Ballet and Ahn Trio to share the WMPAC stage

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – In what has become a perennial favorite of Big Sky audiences, James Sewell Ballet returns to the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center to close out the winter season on March 10 at 7:30 p.m. Sewell's dance company will once again be accompanied by the Ahn Trio, three sisters that combine their talents on the piano, violin and cello in innovative performances that reflect their worldly background.

James Sewell Ballet and the Ahn Trio presented a workshop performance of their collaborative new project at WMPAC in July 2017 to a full house. Featuring new music by jazz guitarist and composer Pat Metheny and arrangements from the Prince album "Purple Rain," the show seamlessly integrates contemporary music and ballet into a compelling narrative that explores.

This collaboration is another original production in an ongoing partnership between WMPAC and presenting organizations in Minnesota, the home state of James Sewell Ballet.

James Sewell Ballet was founded in New York City by James Sewell and Sally Rousse and brought to Minnesota in 1993. Combining their expertise, vision and determination they formed a close-knit company of 10 dance artists who were willing to challenge their physical limits as well as their notions about ballet. In the course of two-plus decades, the ballet company has amassed critical acclaim for enlivening that vision through productions that explore and stretch the technical and conceptual boundaries of ballet.



The Ahn Trio joins James Sewell Ballet in a Big Sky born production at WMPAC on March 10. PHOTO COURTESY OF WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Since WMPAC opened in 2013, James Sewell Ballet has played an integral role in the development of the center's winter season, and the Big Sky Conservatory, a summer residence program that brings together performing arts professionals, talented amateurs and youth to create, develop and collaborate.

Sewell's distinctive choreography dovetails effortlessly with the sound of the Ahn Trio. Both the dancers and the musicians are steeped in classical training, a sturdy foundation from which they can take their art forms to new and exciting heights.

The Ahn sisters—Lucia (piano), Angella (violin), and Maria (cello)—were born in Seoul, Korea, and educated at the Juilliard School in New York City. Shaped by the two cultures they grew up in, and extensive touring around the world, the trio invigorates the chamber music genre with a welcome

fresh energy and passion.

Hailed as "exacting and exciting musicians" by the LA Times, Maria, Lucia and Angella thrive on dissolving the barriers between art forms. They have fused their work with a range of artists and musical genres, from dancers and lighting designers to DJs. They toured extensively for a collaborative production with the David Parsons Dance Company, and enjoy inviting surprising guest artists to join them on stage, among them the Kin, a two-brother rock band from Australia, and electronic music artist Juno a.k.a Superdrive from Berlin.

"Put an enigmatic and worldly piano trio with a group of contemporary dancers who all love the mountains, and greatness ensues," said WMPAC Director John Zirkle.

Visit warrenmillerpac.org for tickets and more information.



# New exhibit at WMPAC explores the essence of 'wildness'

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – The visual arts component of the Warren Miller Performing Art Center might get overlooked in the excitement of the theater performances, but the rotating exhibits are typically quite captivating conceptually and aesthetically, and worthy of perusal.

On March 10, in conjunction with the James Sewell Ballet and Ahn Trio performance, "The Wild Unknown" opens in the lobby gallery space, featuring local artists Lorri Lagerbloom, Jill Zeidler, Megan Buecking, Heather Rapp and exhibition coordinator Liz McRae, among others selected by members of the WMPAC visual arts committee.

The theme of the exhibit is exploring the essence of wildness through art. The featured artwork will address questions such as how do we respond to a "wild spirit?" Does "wild" still truly exist? If so, where do we find it?

While the dancers and musicians explore the wildness of sound and movement on the stage, the artists present the visual outcomes of their own exploration.



Liz McCrae is one of a handful of local artists featured in a new exhibit that opens March 10 at WMPAC and explores the essence of "wildness." PHOTO BY LIZ MCCRAE

Some artists might look within and explore the "wild woman" archetype, while others might look outward and find the wildness they seek in the Montana wilderness. The theme is open to individual interpretation, and the process and result will be unique to each artist.

The opening celebration begins at 6:30 p.m. on March 10, one hour prior to the James Sewell Ballet and Ahn Trio performance, and will include appetizers, cocktails, and other thematically relevant activities.

"The lobby gallery is a place for our community to gather, create, celebrate and show art," said McCrae, who in addition to sitting on the visual arts community also initiated Art Harvest, a student exhibition and fundraiser for Ophir Elementary School's arts programming. "Whether it's a visual component that relates to the performance taking place on the WMPAC stage, an art cafe for students

to create work, or a space to show local, national or global art, the gallery provides artistic opportunities for our community."

Visit warrenmillerpac.org for more information.



# Eduardo Garcia to appear at March 5 screening of 'Charged'

MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN- Eduardo Garcia, the inspirational subject of the award-winning documentary "Charged" will answer questions following a screening of the film at 7 p.m. Monday, March 5, in Montana State University's Strand Union Building Ballroom A. Garcia will be joined by Jennifer Jane, who plays a pivotal role in the film.

The screening and Q&A are free and open to the public, although advance tickets are required. While tickets are free if ordered online, over the phone or at Rosauers, a \$2.50 convenience fee per ticket will be charged. Tickets picked up in person at the Bobcat Ticket Office or Ask Us Desk will not incur any additional charges. There is a four ticket limit per person.

The film chronicles the journey of Garcia, a chef to celebrities and outdoorsman whose life nearly ended in 2011 when he was shocked by 2,400 volts of electricity after touching the carcass of a dead bear with the tip of his knife while hiking in the backcountry of Paradise Valley. Garcia lost his hand, ribs and muscle mass and was airlifted to a burn center in Utah. Through sheer resilience, and with the help of his former partner, Jennifer Jane, Garcia gained back his health only to learn that he had another battle, this one with cancer. The film recounts Garcia's learning to embrace his past, his family and his future.

MSU connections in the film include director and cinematographer Phillip Baribeau, who is a graduate of the MSU School of Film and Photography in the College of Arts and Architecture, and Dennis Aig, a professor in the school who produced the documentary. Aig, Jane and others who worked on the film will attend a public reception after the screening.

"Charged" was featured on the opening night of the Santa Barbara Film Festival, and won the audience choice award at the 2017 Woods Hole Film Festival. It was also selected for the DocFest in San Francisco, where it was chosen as the best feature. It also won best international documentary at Puerto Rico's Enfoque festival and is an official selection for the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, the Martha's Vineyard Film Festival and the Greenwich Film Festival.

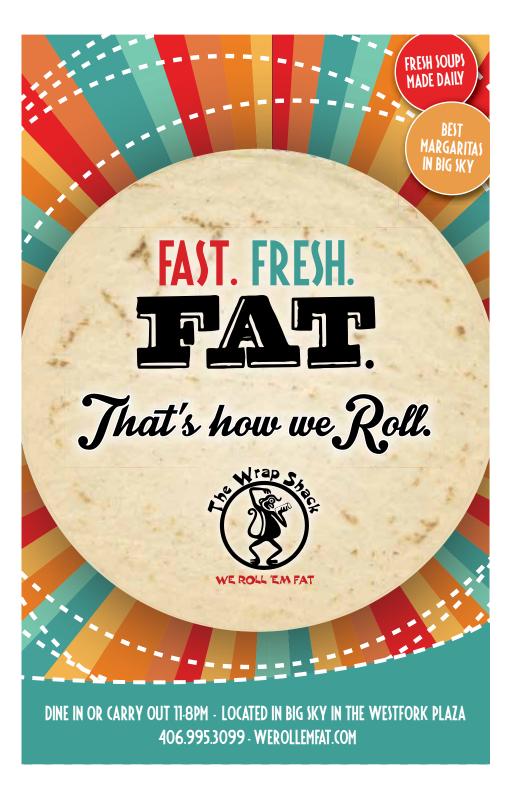


Eduardo Garcia, star of the documentary "Charged," will answer questions from the audience after a screening of the film March 5 at MSU. PHOTO BY PHILLIP BARIBEAU

Raised in southwestern Montana, Garcia is an athlete, motivational speaker and entrepreneur who co-founded Montana Mex, a Mexican food company. Since his accident, Garcia has rebuilt his life and career. He is now known worldwide as the "Bionic Chef," and is also the host of the TV show "A Hungry Life," as well as a spokesperson for the Challenged Athletes Foundation. He lives in Gallatin Gateway.

"This inspirational film will leave viewers with a revitalized perspective on their own lives," said Ben Manion, a film major and student associate of the MSU Leadership Institute. "His fight for survival along with his outlook on the value of life gives me all the more reason to be grateful for what I have in my own life."

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the film begins at 7 p.m. Call the MSU Leadership Institute at (406) 994-7275 or visit montana.edu/leadership for more information.





# EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, MARCH 2 – Thursday, March 15

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

#### **BIG SKY**

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 2

Fish Fry BYWOM, all evening

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, 6 p.m.

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 3 Snowshoe hike with Montana Wilderness Association Lava Hike, all day

Bruce Afinson, music Horn and Cantle Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Kent Johnson, music Choppers, 4:30 p.m.

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, 6 p.m.

#### Edgar Meyer, Double-Bass, music Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, MARCH 4**

Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, 6 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, MARCH 5**

Service Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

Live Music Rainbow Ranch Lodge, all evening

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, 6 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, MARCH 6**

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

Big Sky Homebuyer Education Class Bucks T-4 March 6 and 7, 5 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

Nonprofit Leadership Roundtable Series Lone Peak Brewery Loft, 12 p.m.

Bruce Afinson, music Horn and Cantle Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, 6 p.m.

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

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 8 Wine Dinner Buck's T-4, all evening

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, 6 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 9

Realtor Continuing Education: Conserving Land and Protecting Water in Big Sky Buck's T-4 Lodge, 9 a.m.

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, 6 p.m.

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

Staykation, music Choppers, 10 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, MARCH 10**

Bruce Afinson, music Horn and Cantle Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

Mathias, music Choppers, 4:30 p.m.

Jeff Bellino, music Rainbow Ranch Lodge, all evening

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, 6 p.m.

Ahn Trio and James Sewell Ballet Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, MARCH 11**

Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, 6 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, MARCH 12**

Service Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, 6 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, MARCH 13**

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



### PAGE 36-37

to view a complete schedule of events at Big Sky Resort, complete with upcoming ski deals and more. Top Shelf Toastmasters Town Center Sales Office, 12 p.m.

#### **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14**

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

Bruce Afinson, music Horn and Cantle Saloon, 3:30 p.m.

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

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, 6 p.m.

Awareness Wednesday Santosha Wellness Center, 7 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, MARCH 15**

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

BSCO Board Meeting BSCO Office, 1 p.m.

Live music Horn and Cantle Saloon, 6 p.m.

#### **BOZEMAN**

#### Bozeman Splitfest Various locations March 2-4

# FRIDAY, MARCH 2 Tales from the Backcountry, benefit Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture, 6 p.m.

Jazz Night Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Steep Canyon Rangers, music Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Lil Smokies, music Rialto Theater, 8 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, MARCH 3**

Pinhead Classic Race Bridger Bowl Ski Area, all day

Winter Farmers' Market Emerson Ballroom, all morning

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

Ten Strings and a Goat Skin, music Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Shovels & Rope, music Rialto Theater, 9 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, MARCH 4**

Sled Hockey Clinic Haynes Pavilion, 9 a.m.

My Neighbor Totoro, film Rialto Theater, 11 a.m.

Call Me by Your Name, film Rialto Theater, 1 p.m.

Grease, film Ellen Theatre, 2 p.m.

In the Fade, film Rialto Theater, 3:30 p.m.

Silversmith's Mine, music Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m. The Hollars, film Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

Satsang, music Live from the Divide, 8 p.m.

Yonder Mountain String Band, music Rialto Theater, 9 p.m.

### Alcoholics Anonymous can help if you think you might have a drinking problem.

Call (888) 607-2000 to talk to a member of A.A., or go to aa-montana.org for meeting times and locations.

Joe Knapp & Chelsea Hunt, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

This is Congo, film Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture, 7 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, MARCH 5**

Left on Tenth, music Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 6 Wine Dinner Gallatin River Lodge, 6 p.m.

Saving Snow, film and panel Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture, 7 p.m.

Larry Kiff, music Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

The Jive Aces, music Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7

Yellow Dog Community Conservation Foundation Benefit Bozeman Spirits Distillery, 6 p.m.

#### On the Trail of the Mountain Shoshone Sheep Eaters, lecture Museum of the Rockies. 6 p.m.

Call Me by Your Name, film Ellen Theatre, 7 p.m.

Lucius, music Rialto Theater, 8 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 8

Ashley Ross, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

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

Cole & The Thornes Record Release Party Rialto Theater, 8 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 9

Facilitating Creativity, lecture Bozeman Public Library, 8:15 a.m.

Jazz Night Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 10

Slushy Slalom, snowboard race Bridger Ski Bowl Area, all day

Juice Box Band, music Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

Well-Strung, music Ellen Theatre, 8 p.m.

Bryan John Appleby, music Rialto Theater, 8 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 11

Slushy Slalom, ski race Bridger Ski Bowl Area, all day

Finding Nemo, film Ellen Theatre, 2 p.m.

Lazy Owl String Band, music Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

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

#### **MONDAY, MARCH 12**

Left on Tenth, music Red Tractor Pizza, 6:30 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 13

Mike & Mike, music Red Tractor Pizza, 7 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14 Dervish, music Ellen Theatre, 7:30 p.m.

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

The Motet, music Rialto Theater, 8 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 15

West My Friend, music Bozeman Hot Springs, 7 p.m.

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

Don't Close Your Eyes: Live Radio Theatre Rialto Theater, 8 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 16

Global Impact Series Hatch, multi-media Rialto Theater, 7 p.m.

# WORTH THE DRIVE

#### Livingston, MT

# "Big River: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" Shane Lalani Center for the Arts March 2-25

The Shane Lalani Center for the Arts is pleased to announce its spring Community Theatre Production, "Big River." Twain's timeless classic sweeps us down the mighty Mississippi as the irrepressible Huck Finn helps his friend Jim, a slave, escape to freedom at the mouth of the Ohio River. Their adventures along the way are hilarious, suspenseful, and heartwarming, bringing to life your favorite characters from the novel. Propelled by an award-winning score from Roger Miller, the king of country music, this jaunty journey provides a brilliantly theatrical celebration of pure Americana. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m., with special Saturday matinees at 3 p.m. on March 10, 17 and 24. To learn more, visit theshanecenter.org/events/big-river/.

#### **Butte, MT**

# Montana Annual Summit 2018: Celebrating Leadership March 8-9

Register today for the premier green building event in Montana. Connect with U.S. Green Building Council Montana members and supporters during building tours, education workshops and networking events at the 2018 summit. This event unites sustainability leaders and professionals exploring solutions to a more resilient, profitable and equitable built environment in Montana. Visit usgbc.org/usgbc-montana to learn more.kidsnsnow.org.

#### West Yellowstone, MT

#### Kids'N'Snow March 3-4

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

#### Virginia City, MT

# "Climbing Mountains in Skirts"

Elling House | March 10, 7 p.m.

In recognition of March as Women's History Month, the Elling House presents "Climbing Mountains in Skirts". This program profiles three women who courageously made their mark upon Montana history: Dorothy Eck [1924-2017], social activist and long-time Montana legislator; Martha Edgerton Rolfe Plassman [1850-1936], first woman editor/publisher of a Montana newspaper; and Mildred Walker [1905-1998], author of several books, including "Winter Wheat," which was a One Book Montana selection. Presenting the stories of these women are Doris Fischer of Sheridan, Erin Leonard of Virginia City, and Ann White of McAllister.

#### West Yellowstone, MT

#### Taste of the Trails Rendezvous Ski Trail March 10, 11 a.m.

Taste of the Trails is designed to encourage skiers of all ages and abilities to try cross-country skiing in a simple and festive format. A 5-kilometer course will take skiers and snowshoers around the Rendezvous Ski Trails. Skiers can casually stride from spot to spot, revel in the winter landscapes, refuel with friends, and explore the trails in a relaxed, non-competitive atmosphere. Visit skirunbikemt.com/events for more information.

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

# **Snowmobile Expo, Powersports & Races March 9-11**

A terrific end and beginning for snowmobilers and powersports enthusiasts, the West Yellowstone Snowmobile Expo will feature snowmobile, snow bike and UTV races, plus the National Vintage Show. Exhibitors will be on hand with the newest machines and accessories, as well as demos. Nighttime activities include a "Funny-Money" Casino night on Friday at the Holiday Inn. Visit snowmobileexpo.com for a full schedule.



## HATCH ignites creativity to enact global change

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY - Who would you be without an identity? This question, as it applies to the millions of women worldwide unable to obtain a simple ID, and therefore a legal identity, is one of many fueling HATCH's mission to create long-lasting positive change on a global level.

On March 16 at Bozeman's Rialto theater, HATCH will host a stimulating evening to benefit "The Identity Project," the brainchild of one the evening's five featured guests, Kimberly Motley.

Motley, an international human rights attorney, will discuss her revolutionary plan to use the law to empower and invoke basic rights for women around the world. The goal of her project is to put ID cards into the hands of thousands of women, giving them a political voice, the right to work and access to an education, all of which will enable them to contribute more effectively to society.

In its 15th year, HATCH connects innovative minds in the sciences and the arts to resources and a global network that expedites solutions to the most pressing local, domestic and global issues through a multi-disciplinary approach to problem solving. This new series offers the public a chance to experience the inspiring stories and efforts of exceptional individuals that are the signature of their invitation-only seminars held annually in Big Sky and around the world.



HATCH founder and Bozeman native Yarrow Kraner fuels the nonprofit's mission to enact global change with an event at the Rialto on March 16. PHOTO BY SARAH GIANELLI

In addition to Motley's presentation, there will be talks and performances by Scottish singer-songwriter KT Tunstall, music-tech startup founder Philip Sheppard, poet Steve Connell and musician Paul Durham.

Turnstall's debut album was nominated for a Grammy Award, and her popular hit "Suddenly I See" was featured in "The Devil Wears Prada" soundtrack.

As the CEO and co-founder of LifeScore, Sheppard has worked with entertainment industry moguls to compose 60-plus film and theatrical scores. His latest collaboration with Odesza was nominated for two 2018 Grammy Awards.

Connell is an actor, poet, and dynamic entertainer who has given private performances for President Obama, Oprah Winfrey, Maya Angelou, and Norman Lear.

Durham is a singer-songwriter for the band Black Lab, whose songs have been featured in multiple feature films, TV shows, and commercials.

This HATCH event marks the first in a series that will merge entertainment and inspiration to bring tangible results to important social issues.

The fundraiser for The Identity Project begins at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 16 at the Rialto in downtown Bozeman, with doors opening at 6 p.m.

Visit hatchexperience.org, rialtobozeman.com, or contact HATCH founder Yarrow Kraner at yarrow@hatchexperience.org for more information.



## Rialto diversifies with film, live radio and events

**EBS STAFF** 

The Rialto entered March with three long-sold out shows by Lil Smokies on March 2, Shovels & Rope on March 3, and Yonder Mountain String Band on March 9, but the rest of the month still has plenty of varied entertainment up for the taking.

On Sunday, March 4 at 11 a.m. the Rialto hosts "My Neighbor Totoro," a family friendly film by acclaimed director Hayao Miyazaki that follows the adventures of two children upon moving to the countryside. Much to their delight, they discover that their new neighbor is Totoro, a mysterious forest spirit who can only be seen by children.

That same day at 1 p.m. Academy Award-nominated "Call me by your Name" graces the silver screen. Set in northern Italy, the film is about the love affair between an American professor specializing in Greco-Roman culture, and his new intern, a handsome young American scholar working on his doctorate.

At 3 p.m., there's a showing of "In the Fade," an award winning German film about a woman's survival after a neo-Nazi bombing kills her husband and son.

Live music takes the stage again at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7, with a performance by **Lucius**, an enchanting quartet of musicians fronted by Jess Wolfe and Holly Laessig, and rounded out by talented multi-instrumentalists Peter Lalish and Dan Molad. The band has released a pair of critically praised albums, and recently contributed the song "Million Dollar Secret" to one of the last episodes of the HBO show "Girls" and scored the soundtrack to the film "Band Aid."

Local outfit **Cole & the Thornes** celebrate a new record release at 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 8.

After a tour to Maui and a freight train music tour across the country, the R&B, reggae-influenced duet of Cole Thorne expanded into the seven piece group that



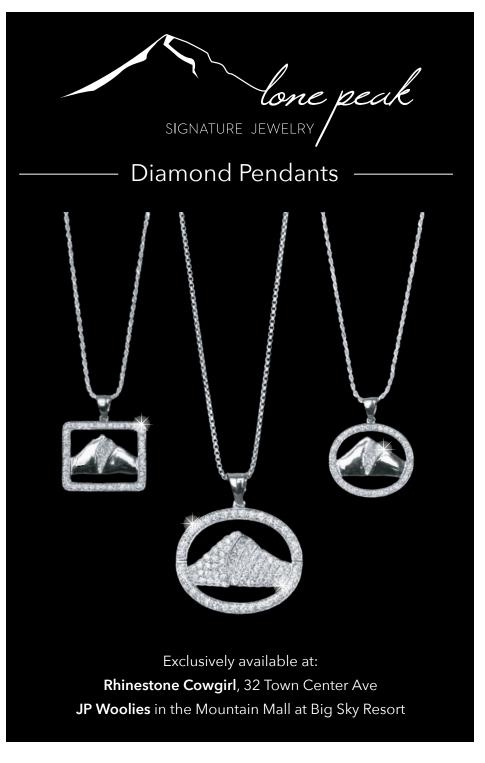
Live radio theater is only one of the varied acts and events at the Rialto in March. "Don't Close Your Eyes," Montana's longest running live radio program, airs at the venue on March 15. PHOTO COURTESY OF RUTHL+SS PHOTOGRAPHY & DESIGNS

includes Jelani Mahiri on afrobeat-inspired percussion, Andy Gavin on drums, and Aaron Banfield on jazz guitar. Then the Thornes added Daniel Wood on the pocket trumpet and Matt Sloan on saxophone, adding a playful horn section.

Veteran jam band **The Motet** performs at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14 at the Rialto, followed by the **live radio theater** program "Don't Close your Eyes," on March 15 at 8 p.m. Montana's longest running live radio theater company is committed to recreating the golden era of on-air, family friendly audio theater.

Visit rialtobozeman.com for tickets and a complete schedule of events.









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# Thomas McGuane: Living(ston) legend

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

Books by Thomas McGuane hold a privileged place on my bookshelf. For 40 years, many of them spent on his ranch outside of McLeod, Montana, he has been producing not only acclaimed novels but also short stories that have established him as a true master of the form, chronicling the fringes of American culture from Key West, Florida, to Big Sky Country.

On March 6, McGuane will release "Cloudbursts: Collected and New Stories," comprised of selections from his first three short story collections: "To Skin a Cat" (1986); "Gallatin Canyon" (2006); "Crow Fair" (2015); and eight new stories. Now in one place, we can look back on his lifelong attempt to make sense of the emotional dislocations and loneliness of backwater America.

"Cloudbursts" showcases a brilliant writing career. Each story is remarkable in its own way, demonstrating McGuane's range and evolution as a writer, his earlier work more exuberant and experimental, his most recent more cautious, precise, and then suddenly tempestuous—as the title of the collection suggests.

I'm not sure exactly what his secret is, but I haven't come across many other writers who can conjure the surreal out of the mundane with such fluidity. Awash in the broken dreams and bad decisions of outcasts, misfits, and malcontents trying to make their peace with the world, McGuane can make seemingly unrelated events and images cohere in a single paragraph—a maestro of extracting order out of chaos.

Never read anything by McGuane? I'd recommend the short story he published in The New Yorker last year called "Riddle." (An audio recording by the author and a text version are available on the magazine's website.)

It begins, benignly enough, with an old cowboy stumbling around Main Street in Livingston after the bars have closed: "There weren't many of these fellows left, the ones whom horses had broken so often in accidents far from help, their hands still as hard as lariats. They kept their worn-out Stetsons so you wouldn't confuse them with railroaders."

Then there is a disgruntled architect, a car accident, a carjacking, an unexpected sexual tryst, and a reckoning with a police officer all in the span of three pages. In the final paragraph, with the suddenness of a cloudburst, the imagery of the battered old cowboy hobbling down the deserted street takes on a whole new meaning, somehow illuminating the murky vicissitudes of the human condition in plain sight.

Like most of his best work, "Riddle" is a precise, but nonformulaic incantation invoking both the humor and pathos of the human condition.

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

March is Women's History Month. During February, Black History Month, I started thinking about the Winston Churchill quote, "history is written by the victors."

No matter what your thoughts about Churchill's phrase or its implications for the history you have been taught, it is hard to dispute that there is significantly less written about African Americans and women throughout the course of history.

As a woman, I appreciate learning about the struggles and achievements of the women who came before me. It provides a greater sense of reality and possibility about the inner and outer lives of women. Check out "Dear Life" by Alice Munro, "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood, or "The Meaning of Michelle: 16 Writers on the Iconic First Lady and How her Journey Inspires our Own".

While you are deciding what to read and learn this month, consider sharing your suggestions for books the library should add to their shelves and any other programming suggestions to offer the community. We are always receptive to your ideas.

In the next few weeks, the Big Sky Community Library will be initiating two new programs. The stack above the adult nonfiction will be the new home for book recommendations for fellow library patrons, and the library will soon host a community book club. Stay informed about additional library programming through the BSCL website, the S'more and Books and Bits newsletters or by coming in to the library.

Visit bigskylibrary.org for more information.











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SAT & SUN 7AM-4PM, BRUNCH TIL 2PM



MON-FRI 7AM-6PM SAT & SUN 8AM-6PM, BRUNCH TIL 2PM





#### A Montessori education aims to cultivate a life-long love of learning

Discovery Academy kindergarten student Nicolas Kamieniarz tackles decimals in the third year of his Montessori education. PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY DISCOVERY ACADEMY



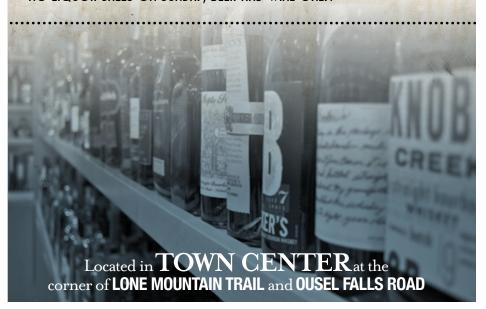
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### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS** 

Kind of buoy Diagonal

Lumberman's

boot 12 Sound

13 Catholic book of feasts

14 Estuary 15 Nipa palm

16 Sora (2 words)

18 Grain 20 New Mexico art

colony 21 Spume

24 Chemical salt 27 Abuse 31 Queensland hemp plant 32 Camel hair

cloth 33 Parcae

35 Shipshaped clock 36 Recent (suf.)

38 Hair 40 Sp. hero (2 words)

42 Assam hills 43 Camelot lady 45 Boys' author

49 Depute 53 "Last Days of Pompeii" character 54 Or best offer

(abbr.)

55 Adjectiveforming (suf.)

56 Night (pref.) 57 Dance company (abbr.)

58 Sesame 59 Fencing sword

**DOWN** 1 Fabian Society

member Route

Wings Meal

Polish general

6 Irish Republican Army (abbr.) Mine entrance

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE												
Α	L	В	Α		Т	Α	С		В	Α	Α	L
R	Π	0	Т		0	О	Α		Α	L	Т	0
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Sea goose Primeval 10 Demeanor 11 Computer

assisted design (abbr.) 17 Woods (Fr.)

28 Brother of Seth 29 Friend of King 22 Unwilling to Arthur 30 Web 34 Scand. legend

23 Silk fabric

Nod

26 Float

25 Land west of

27 Nutmea husk

37 A (Ger.) 39 Net fabric 41 Toe 44 Carplike fish 46 Slimy stuff 47 Noun-forming (suf.) 48 Plexus 49 Dead on arrival (abbr.) 50 Move back 51 To (Scot.) 52 Building wing

A84

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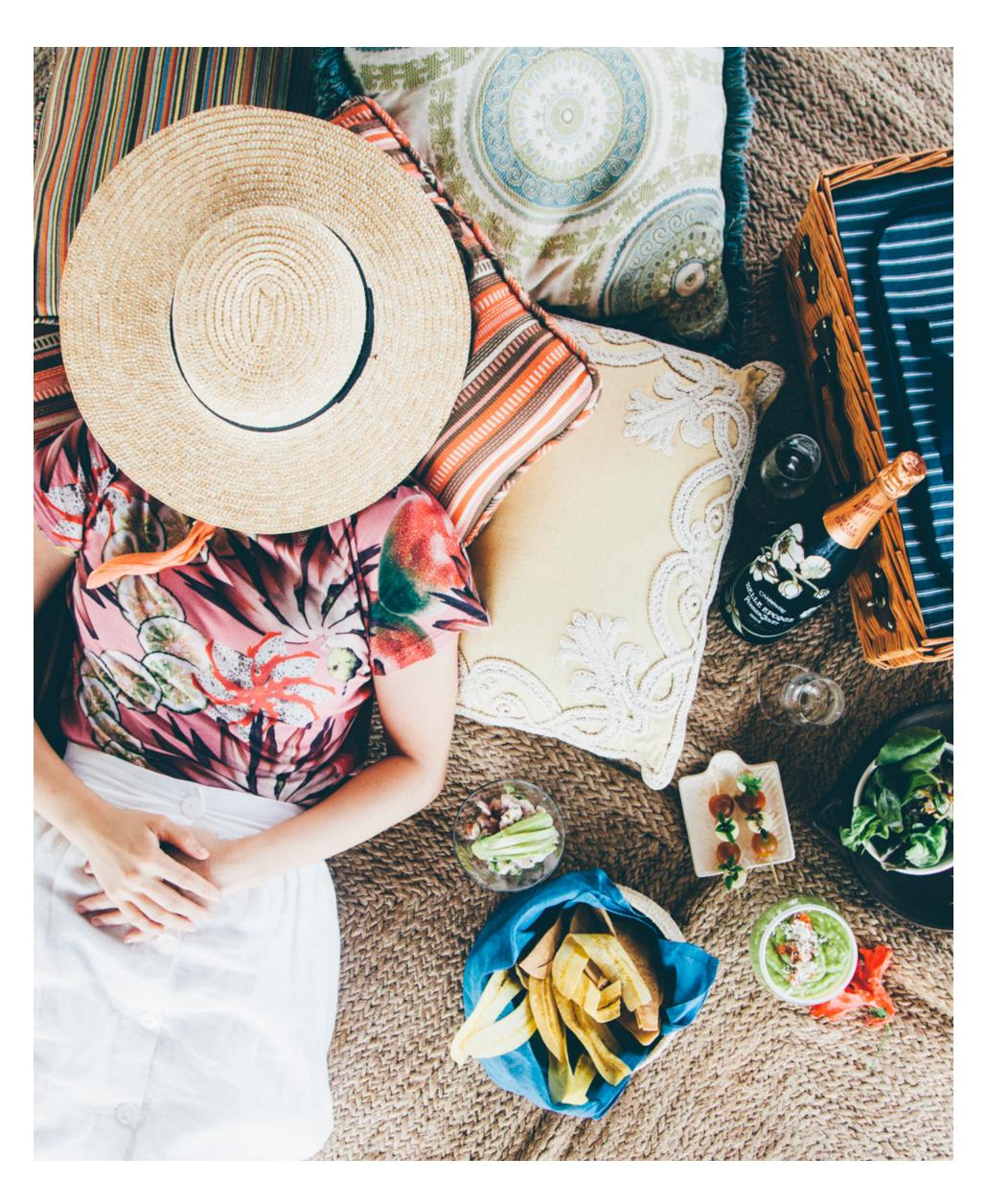
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