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#explorebigsky

Outdoors







ON THE COVER: Volunteer election officials performed their civic duty on Nov. 6 overseeing the Big Sky polls from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Big Sky Water and Sewer District office. Turn to page 15 to see how Big Sky and Gallatin County voted compared to the rest of the state. PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

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Arts and Entertainment,& Fun

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Future uncertain for Big Sky recycling

Yellowstone Geyser spews visitor history



Holiday Gift and Gear Guide



Big Sky's Evie Rogala was crowned with the title of "Little Miss Montana" at the Our Little Miss state pageant in Butte the weekend of October 26-28. The 19-month old won the categories of Montana's Baby Petite Queen, Most Photogenic, Prettiest Smile, Picture Perfect, Best Interview, and Best Party Dress. Evie will go on to compete in the 2019 World's Universal Beauty competition in Baton Rouge, Louisiana Jan. 17-21. PHOTO COURTESY OF KIRA ROGALA

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



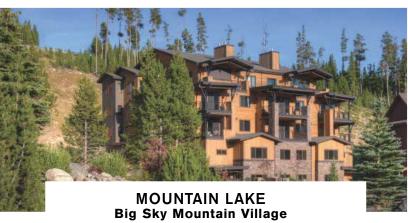
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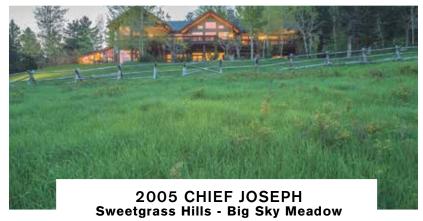
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4 November 9 - 19, 2018 **Explore** Big Sky



Vote now for Best of Big Sky 2018

EBS STAFF

Voting is now open for Best of Big Sky 2018, when EBS asks you, our readers, to cast a vote for your favorite local businesses and community members—the places and people that make this growing resort town so unique. The 2018 Best of Big Sky survey will remain live through end of day Dec. 1.

Highlights from last year's "election" include Lotus Pad's win for "best restaurant," Olive B's for "best date night restaurant," Lone Peak Brewery and Taphouse for "best burger," Scissorbills Saloon for "best après," Arts Council of Big Sky for "best nonprofit," Big Sky Build for "best builder" and Monica's Salon for "best salon," just to name a few.

Explore Big Sky received more than 3,000 votes last year and hopes to increase the voting numbers this year.

New categories on the ballot this year include best coffee, best fishing outfitter, best tourist attraction and more.

"This is a chance for the community to express support for the businesses that it keeps alive year-round," said Eric Ladd, publisher of Explore Big Sky. "Year after year, the competition has gotten stronger with the growth of our community and more new businesses moving in each year."

So, vote now and vote often. This is your opportunity to recognize another standout citizen in Big Sky, as well as your favorite eateries, après ski destinations and outdoor retailers, among others. One vote per day, per email address will be accepted.

Best of Big Sky 2018 results will be published in the Dec. 21 issue of Explore Big Sky.

Cast your vote at explorebigsky.com.

Rotary Club sponsors Christmas Giving Tree

ROTARY CLUB OF BIG SKY

The Rotary Club of Big Sky, with the support of the Big Sky community, is once again sponsoring the Christmas Giving Tree to assist families during the holiday season. For the 11th consecutive year, the Giving Tree will help families during Christmas by providing gifts for children and a Christmas dinner for families.

Families wishing for support this holiday season can make their requests by picking up a Santa Letter from First Security Bank, American Bank, Big Sky Food Bank, or The Country Market. Santa Letters, which remain completely confidential, must be returned in the provided self-addressed stamped envelope no later than Dec. 7.

Wrapped gifts and a family Christmas dinner basket will be delivered by members of the Rotary Club on Dec. 20.

Can the Griz food drive ends Nov. 17

MSU NEWS SERVICE

The 19th annual Can the Griz food drive—an off-field competition between Montana State University and the University of Montana to see which school can collect the most donations for its local county food bank—ends Nov. 17 at the finish of the first quarter of the annual Brawl of the Wild football game between MSU and UM, which will be held this year in Missoula. The winner of the competition will be announced during the second half of the football game.

Organizers of the drive ask that nonperishable food donations be taken to collection locations throughout Bozeman to support those in need in Gallatin County. A list of participating locations can be found at canthegriz.com.

Bobcat supporters can designate their contribution to MSU by telling the Gallatin Valley Food Bank or collection location host that their donation is for the Can the Griz food drive.

Those wanting to donate are also invited to bring cans to the MSU football game on Nov. 10 versus Northern Colorado. Collection bins will be located at the Ressler and XL Country tailgates.

Monetary donations may be made directly to the Gallatin Valley Food Bank by visiting canthegriz.com/donate. Each dollar donated counts as 1 pound of food.

Reach Air Medical air ambulance has closed its Helena base

HELENA (AP) – Reach Air Medical Services has closed its Helena base, which was served with a helicopter and a fixed-wing aircraft

Company President Sean Russell tells the Independent Record the evolving health care market in Montana made it too difficult to sustain the Helena base. It closed on Nov. 2.

The 2017 Legislature passed a law requiring air ambulance providers and health insurers to negotiate air ambulance payments. The law prevents air ambulance companies without in-network agreements from sending patients bills for tens of thousands of dollars.

Robyn Dondero, senior director of business operations, says a Bozeman-based helicopter can serve the Helena area. Benefis Health System in Great Falls also can serve Helena with a helicopter and an airplane.

Reach Air employs 23 people in Helena. Dondero says they will be offered other jobs within the company.



Did you vote in the recent midterm elections? If so, what were the major issues for you? If not, why?



Jean White *Big Sky, Montana*

"I voted and the main issue for me is environmental. That's not even listed 90 percent of the time when they scroll through the polls. But that's very important for me."



Roberta Adair Big Sky, Montana

"You're asking old people on Medicare. You should ask some younger people. Healthcare will always be a leading issue with them. We all have good insurance, so it matters less to us."



Cybyl Hancock *Big Sky, Montana*

"No, I didn't. I'm from Alaska. I wasn't sure how to register. I'm kind of on my own down here and didn't know anyone to ask."



Chad RiffleBig Sky, Montana

"Yes. I guess the main things for me were the House and Senate races. And I-185, the tobacco issue. I wanted it to pass so that we could expand eligibility for Medicaid coverage by raising taxes on tobacco products."



OUTLAW.

News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

Dear readers, advertisers and fans of Explore Big Sky,

:We are proud to announce some exciting updates to our media platform as we enter our 10th year as Big Sky's local newspaper.

A community resource like EBS is meant to help build community. We are more committed to that than ever, and there are now four ways to stay in tune with Big Sky news.

The media world is rapidly changing and expanding, and we realize Explore Big Sky readers have different means of consuming news. Whether via print, digital, social media or apps, EBS is committed to expanding these areas in 2019.

We are also thrilled to welcome back Joseph T. O'Connor, longtime Outlaw and Big Sky local, as vice president of media and editor in chief of Outlaw's publications. You'll see Joe around the turn of the New Year as we work on aggressive new plans to grow our distribution through a variety of print and digital platforms.

EBS staff and our media advisory board have dedicated significant time this fall to analyzing our coverage, readership and advertiser base in order to answer a simple question: "What do you want to see from EBS?"

Here are a few things we plan to roll out over the next year: a robust digital platform that fully supports and balances our two-week print

cycle, including a revamped website, new EBS app, and enhanced Instagram and Facebook feeds; more relevant stories on important local topics; content augmented with video coverage; and a new business directory to help market the amazing entrepreneurs who operate in Big

Explore Big Sky remains the most widely distributed paper in Big Sky, reaching more locals, second homeowners and tourists visiting the Yellowstone region than any publication ever to come to this community.

Our No. 1 goal is to continue creating world-class publications that are community resources—both for giving a voice to Big Sky and helping document this growing town. We always welcome your ideas on how to make the media more relevant to you, and encourage you to email your thoughts, story ideas and feedback to media@theoutlawpartners.com.

You are Big Sky and Explore Big Sky is your newspaper.

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Resort tax sees sizable jump in spring collections

First-annual taxation of private club dues credited

BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – Annual resort tax collections have been steadily on the rise since 1999, with the exception of a couple of years that were flat or saw minimal decline during the Great Recession, according to annual resort tax collections data published on the Big Sky Resort Area District website.

But beginning in 2013, annual collections started increasing by numbers in the hundreds of thousands—a reflection of the growth and health of the Big Sky business community—until finally exceeding an annual increase of more than \$1 million between fiscal years 2017 and 2018.

Fiscal year 2017 concluded with total annual collections of \$5,165,082. Fiscal year 2018, which ended June 30, raked in a record-breaking \$6,809,242, a total increase of approximately \$1.6 million.

According to Whitney Brunner, Big Sky Resort Area District operations manager, this significant leap is in part attributed to the first bi-annual remittance of taxable membership dues allocable to ski and golf activities at Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and Moonlight Basin, received by the district last spring.

May of fiscal year 2017 brought in \$56,482 in resort tax, while that number leapt to \$302,291 for May 2018. Moving forward, taxation of club membership dues allocable to ski and golf activities will be collected twice annually, in the spring and the fall.

With present membership rates and number of memberships, the increase in annual resort tax collection is conservatively estimated at \$275,000 by the district.

For years the resort tax board had been fielding inquiries from the public about how resort tax is applied to the sale of some of the services provided by Big Sky's private clubs. Although they had been routinely paying the correct resort tax on all food service, catering, lodging, retail sales, and other items and services that qualified as "luxury goods," the board has been working on the appropriate taxation of membership dues for many years.

Despite a June 2015 ordinance to include taxation of "discretionary or voluntary ski and golf fees and dues," questions still remained about its correct interpretation regarding the taxability of membership dues and how the portion of membership dues allocable to ski and golf activities should be determined.

A resolution was finally reached and announced in June.

At the Yellowstone Club, the board determined that 39 percent of membership dues were attributable to ski and golf, and therefore subject to resort tax. At Spanish Peaks and Moonlight Basin, the board determined the golf valuation was the difference between golf and non-golf (i.e. social) membership dues and therefore subject to resort tax.

The Big Sky Resort Area District tax board does not disclose specific remittance data without business approval; and club representatives either did not respond to EBS by press time on Nov. 7 or declined to provide additional information. A June press release about the new club dues taxation policy stated that "all three clubs are some of the largest collectors of resort tax in the district."

Brunner added that of the 1,300 or so district businesses, including short term rentals, registered with resort tax, 20 of those businesses remit 80 percent of annual resort tax collections.

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Big Sky Shuttle donates portion of sales to Gallatin River Task Force

Donation launches 'Buck a Sale' campaign

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Tracie Pabst, owner of Big Sky Shuttle, recently announced she will donate \$1 from every airport shuttle seat booked during the 2019 winter season to the Gallatin River Task Force. This contribution is a part of Pabst's personal goal to reduce the amount of traffic in Gallatin Canyon and launches her new campaign, "Buck a Sale for Big Sky."

"I started my business literally to save lives in Gallatin Canyon," said Pabst, who founded Big Sky Shuttle 13 years ago as a private employee transportation service. Over the course of five years, she shuttled 170,000 Yellowstone Club employees before developing her business further in order to offer daily airport shuttles in her 32-seat luxury coach and private car and charter services.

She calls the business move her "Save the canyon, ride the coach" program and as an added way of giving back this year, Pabst will donate a portion of her proceeds to the task force. The idea of a cash donation germinated into a larger challenge for Big Sky businesses to participate in the community campaign "Buck a Sale for Big Sky," where businesses are

encouraged to donate a percentage of sales to charity, perhaps seasonally or even annually.

"It's not that other businesses aren't donating," she said. "But this is an organized cash give away. It can actually put money into the nonprofit organizations that need it. Let's get some cash generated."

Andrea Saari, the Gallatin River Task Force development director, said she is very excited about the community campaign. "I think this is a really good way for the Big Sky community to engage their nonprofits locally," she said. "I hope it inspired other businesses in Big Sky to find a nonprofit to partner with and do something similar."

While Pabst is giving her commitment to the task force, she said there are plenty of nonprofits in Big Sky to choose from and the charity could be changed each season. "Gallatin River Task Force is my charity of choice, but other nonprofits are important too."

Visit bigskyshuttle.net/airport-shuttle-service to learn more about the Big Sky Shuttle campaign.







Speed limit changes on Lone Mountain Trail

BY BAY STEPHENS EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – The speed limits changed on two stretches of Lone Mountain Trail on Oct. 30 after a speed study by the Montana Department of Transportation found an illegal speed limit in place between Andesite Road and the resort.

From the intersection of Lone Mountain Trail and U.S Highway 191 to close to Andesite Road, the speed limit—which was previously 50 mph—dropped to 45 mph. Deputy Sheriff Travis Earl said the lowered limit makes sense on

the lower section, which includes the entrances to Ace Hardware and the Meadow Village Center, which lack turning lanes.

Earl could not, however, account for the 5-mph increase to 50 mph on the upper section of Lone Mountain Trail between the Andesite Road intersection and the resort.

When EBS contacted Jeff Ebert, the area's Montana Department of Transportation district administrator, he was initially surprised to hear that the speed limit had increased, saying that limits rarely increase.

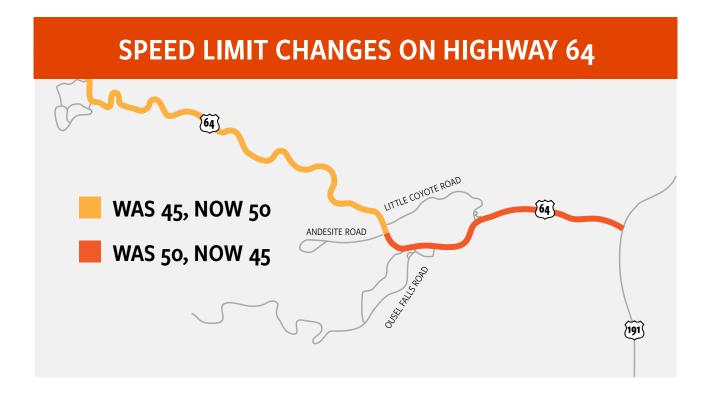
In Montana, a rational speed limit is based on an engineering speed study, which identifies the 85th percentile of speeds—the speed at or below which 85 percent of people drove the roadway during ideal conditions.

After gathering some information, Ebert said

that a speed study conducted earlier this year revealed that the 45-mph speed limit on the upper section of Lone Mountain Trail was actually illegal, not having been approved by the Montana Transportation Commission.

"How it got in there, I have no clue," Ebert said. "[The study] found that everything above [the intersection of Andesite Road] should be set at 50 [mph], based on traffic flow and development."

He added that, additional development near the resort would likely lead to the limit being lowered again, "but at this time, we don't want to set up an artificially low speed limit that could be called a 'speed trap."









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Resort to host recreational ski racing for locals

Ski Town Race Series makes a comeback

BY BAY STEPHENS EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – Locals will be able to race toe-to-toe for official times this winter in the recreational Ski Town Race Series, an on-slope competition that will allow participants to compete in teams on Big Sky Resort's NASTAR course, then enjoy après get-togethers afterward.

In partnership with Outlaw Partners (publisher of EBS), the resort will host weekly races beginning in January and ending in March for a total of seven race days. Locals and businesses can assemble teams of four to six racers to compete in afternoon races and then convene at a local establishment to share drinks and compare course times.

A team and an individual will win every week and overall for the season, which will be announced at a grand finale barbecue celebration in March.

The Big Sky Ski Education Foundation, a local race program, ran intermural races for years, according to Big Sky Resort Vice President of Mountain Services Troy Nedved. The races were discontinued several years ago, but with the reintroduction of the resort's NASTAR course in the 2016/2017 season, the mountain decided to reinvigorate the town series, starting small last winter. The goals are bigger for the 2018-2019 season.

"We're really trying to ... get businesses and a broader reach of the community involved in the race series," Nedved said, adding that the Big Sky community has grown to a size that warrants a legitimate Town Race Series.

Ski communities like Vail, Aspen and Steamboat in Colorado all host thriving town races that allow locals on telemark skis, snowboards and alpine skis to face

off on the slopes then share in camaraderie at après gatherings at restaurants around the base.

"[We want] to create a winter community gathering, like softball league has become for the summer," Outlaw Partners CEO and publisher of EBS Eric Ladd said. "A fun competition for all levels of skiers and boarders."

NASTAR, which stands for "National Standard Race," is the world's largest public grassroots ski racing program, developed by Ski Magazine in 1968, according to the NASTAR website. Through a handicap system, participants can compare their times to competitors across the country, regardless of when or where they race.

Participants earn a handicap when they race, which represents the difference between their race time and the par time, which is set by U.S. Ski Team alumni. Each competitor is then able to measure how close they were to the "fastest possible time" set by the U.S. Ski Team pace-setter for that course.

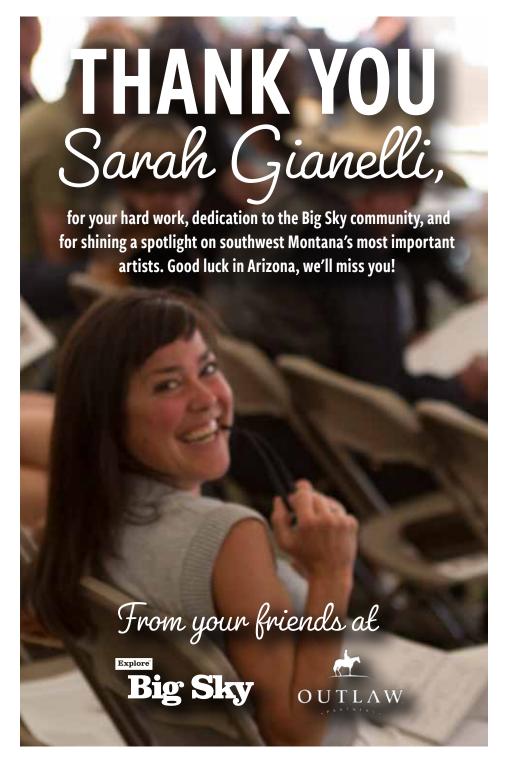
Racers will need a lift ticket or season pass to ride up the lift, which aren't included in team registration. Nedved said racers registered with a team will not need a NASTAR season pass, although the resort will offer discounted NASTAR passes to race series participants so they can practice outside of race days.

Registration is \$500 per team and will open in the near future.

Visit bigskyresort.com/events for more information.







Recycling challenges continue to plague Big Sky

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE EBS CONTRIBUTOR

LIVINGSTON – After approximately two years of heavy use, the public recycling site located off of Highway 191 may be outgrowing its welcome in an already stressed recycling market, where costs continue to go up.

Situated on property owned by John Haas of Haas Builders approximately one mile south of the intersection with Lone Mountain Trail, the recycling site provided by the Gallatin Solid Waste Management District is beginning to feel the strain of Big Sky's growth. It's the only public recycling facility in Big Sky, and Republic Services is currently the only company offering any curbside pickup in the area.

"It's been working well until recently. It seems like the site is overwhelmed and it's causing traffic and littering issues," said GSWMD District Manager Jim Simon, adding that neighboring property owners and the Montana Department of Transportation have expressed concerns regarding access to the site and the potential for litter to blow out onto the highway.

"It's very hard in [the Big Sky] area to find a location because space is limited and people want it, but they don't necessarily want to deal with the problems."

The site is serviced by We Recycle, a facility located at Four Corners that compacts and packages the recycling from multiple counties in southwest Montana before sending it to a materials recovery facility where it's sorted and prepared for sale to manufacturers who process the recycling and turn it into new products.

According to Simon, cardboard is the largest offender and the five bins fill up very quickly. He also said that sometimes the recycling doesn't make it into the bins or trash is tossed out next to them. This littering necessitates almost daily cleanup and, during the busy winter season, We Recycle sends a truck to empty the bins about six days a week and sometimes that isn't enough, Simon added.

While a decision has not yet been made, Simon said the district might have to close down the site, though he'd prefer to find a new location that can either replace or take some of the pressure off the current site.

"It's just a product of growth in the Big Sky area," he said. "I don't want to have to pull the site, but I'm getting pressure to. ... It's very hard in [the Big Sky] area to find a location because space is limited and people want it, but they don't necessarily want to deal with the problems."

Prior to the site off of Highway 191, the county had bins in Big Sky Town Center but they were removed in 2015 to make way for construction projects. Simon says it was a challenge securing a new location then, and though sites were considered at Ophir School, the hospital, and the Water and Sewer District, traffic issues were a common problem with each site.

Haas offered his property at the time in the absence of any other recycling options. "I love to recycle and I love to take care of the planet as best I can and this is what I had to offer," he said. "Haas Builders is happy to do their part."

Aware that recycling is a valuable option, Simon said it may be time to develop a permanent recycling center in Big Sky, complete with compactors and equipment. "But that needs pavement and power," he said. "We need to have something long-term and specific to Big Sky. I think as Big Sky develops, that needs to be a part of the conversation."

The public drop-off sites are subsidized with tipping fees charged at the Logan landfill and the entire county program—which includes

COMMON RECYCLING MISTAKES RECYCLABLE ITEMS - YES! ★ No food contaminated items Plastic: #1 and #2 bottles only Nothing that contained **Steel & Aluminum** chemicals or oil Paper: Magazine, phone books, X No aerosol cans, cfl bulbs or newspaper, office paper, junk mail styrofoam Cardboard: Brown paper bags and ✓ No plastic clam shells, salad packing paper tubs or fresh fruit containers Visit werecyclemt.com/ask-us to learn more about recycling specific items.

approximately 17 sites—costs between \$300,000 and \$350,000 annually. This pays for the bins and site services, while property owners host the recycling bins for free.

While Big Sky's growth is pressuring the local system, the worldwide market is in a state of conflict as well.

Glenda Bradshaw, the general manager for Republic Services, said the recycling market has crashed since China stopped taking various types of plastic and paper at the beginning of this year. The move came in response to the high rate of contamination in plastic recyclables, commonly a result of leftover food products.

Material recovery facilities within the U.S. have gotten pickier too, and the competition continues to drive up the prices packaging facilities like We Recycle must pay for disposing of recycling. Republic Services sends their customers' recycling to We Recycle and must pay a fee to transfer that material. This is reflected in the service fee to customers.

"The cost is so high," Bradshaw said. "We don't want to end service to folks, but it's hard to price our services. We're forced to make some tough choices given the economy right now."

She added that the company is working to further define their service area in Big Sky and anticipates that over the coming weeks, they will have to make decisions about which routes are feasible, based on where the actual volume of recycling warrants the cost to dispose of it.

Given the expensive nature of the business, Bradshaw said is it even more important that people are diligent about the way they recycle. She said they commonly find grass clippings, glass bottles, plastic bags and other non-recyclables thrown into the mix of accepted paper, plastic bottles, cardboard and steel or aluminum cans.

Referring to this as "wishful recycling," Bradshaw said people throw it into the recycling and it seems to disappear but in fact can lead to entire truck loads being thrown away. "It's so disappointing because we want to recycle those things, but if the load is so contaminated we can't sort it, we have to send it to the landfill."

Bradshaw reminds those who recycle to always clean and dry their plastics that way leftover food waste doesn't lead to mold and unsalvageable material. She also said it's important to know what can and can't be recycled.

"If we do those things, it makes it more affordable for everyone and helps us to find a good home for the recycling," she said.

Speaking about plastic, she said the material is categorized based on its chemical composition and each category is given a number. Plastics No. 1 and No. 2 are made from PETE/PET and HDPE resin and require a different recycling process than No. 3-7, the former of which is somewhat more stable and readily available than the latter. For this reason, the county's public drop-off bins only accept No. 1 and No. 2 plastics, though Republic is able to accept No. 1-7. Some items, like plastic bags or thin plastic wrappers, aren't accepted by either facility.

One of the biggest things consumers can do to help, Bradshaw said, is to reduce the use of plastic. "There's a reason recycling is the last of the R's in reduce, reuse, recycle," she said.

Visit gallatinsolidwaste.org/recycling or werecyclemt.com to learn more about the Gallatin County's recycling programs.

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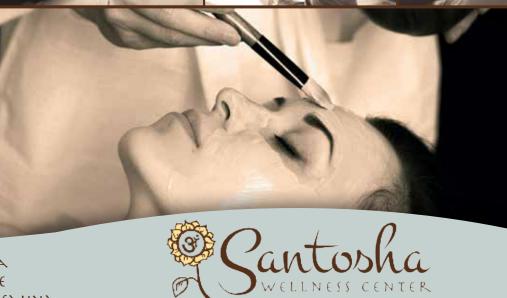
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TUESDAY

7:30-8:30am All Levels Yoga

9:00-10:00am All Levels Yoga

5:45-7:00pm Heated Flow

WEDNESDAY

7:30-8:30am All Levels Yoga 9:00-10:15 All Levels Yoga

11:00-12:30pm The Practice (Level 2-3 Yoga)

4:15-5:15pm All Levels Yoga

THURSDAY

7:30-8:30am Core Focused Yoga

9:00-10:00am All Levels Vinyasa Flow

FRIDAY

7:30-8:30 Dance to Fit

9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga

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Tester, Gianforte selected to represent Montana

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE EBS CONTRIBUTOR

LIVINGSTON, Mont. – Despite a turn to snowy weather on Nov. 6, long lines of people turned out to the polls, waiting to cast their vote in the general election. As of EBS press time at 5:45 p.m. on Nov. 7, of the nearly 80,000 people registered to vote in Gallatin County, 47,349 votes had been counted, while state totals indicated that the incumbents, Democratic Sen. Jon Tester and Republican Rep. Greg Gianforte, were heading back to Washington.

At EBS press time, 474,845 ballots had been counted state-wide, amounting to approximately 67 percent of Montana registered voters, while 118 precincts in the state still had not reported full vote tallies.

Initial results were delayed in Gallatin County due to unexpectedly long lines. A traffic accident in Gallatin Canyon the night of election also delayed counting ballots from West Yellowstone, which were driven to Bozeman after the polls closed.

"It's been out the door and up the block the entire day. It started at 7 o'clock and it's been that way the whole day. A lot more of late registrations than we ever expected," Gallatin County Election Administrator Charlotte Mills told Montana Public Radio at 9:45 p.m. on election night.

"It's really tough when you have, when everybody in the office has already been here for 13, 14 hours and we have to put in another 30," she added.

Preliminary results indicate that Montana voted down ballot initiative 185 to raise tobacco taxes in order to fund an expansion of Medicaid. Voters also denied I-186, which would have added restrictions for the development of new hardrock mines.

Voters did pass legislative referendum 129, prohibiting individuals from collecting ballots unless they are elected officials, postal service workers, caregivers, family members, household members, or individuals known by the voter.

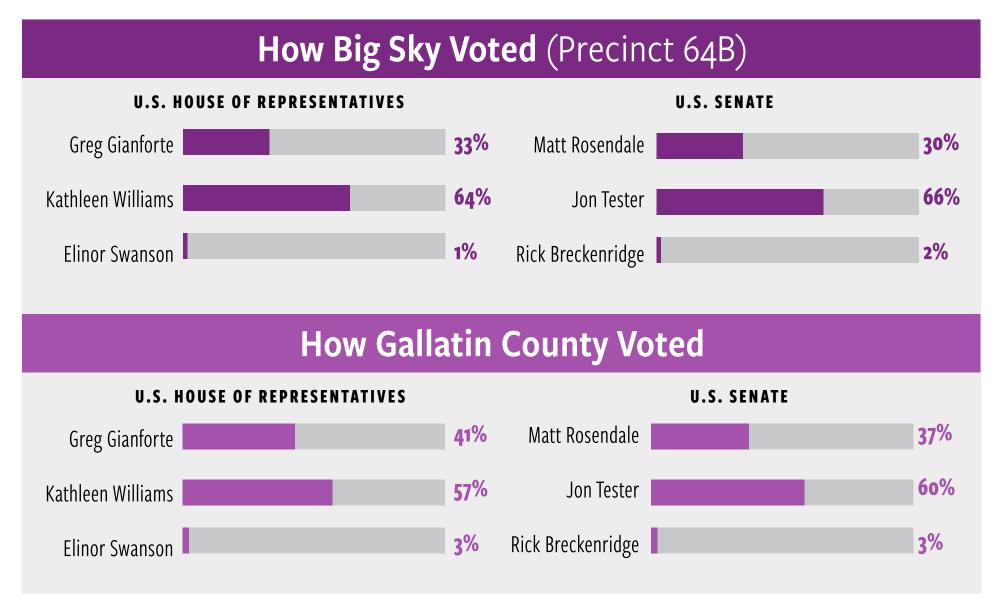
The request to renew the 6-mill levy for the Montana University System, LR-128, also received support from voters.



U.S. Sen. John Tester



U.S. Rep. Greg Gianforte



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SECTION 2: ENVIRONMENT, SPORTS, DINING & OUTDOORS







The New West:

House shifts, but will Democrats ever gain traction in rural West?



BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

And just like that, everything in America changed, while, in reality, nothing did.

Democrats taking control of the U.S. House now means official scrutiny and oversight will come to the Trump administration in ways it hasn't existed before.

While the congressional shift will result in hearings on a wide range of topics, it dramatically changes the one-sided guise of public policy in the American West—in particular prolific anti-conservation policies involving federal public lands, environmental laws and bureaucratic directives.

Make no doubt, with President Donald Trump in the White House and Montana's embattled Ryan Zinke as his Interior Secretary—and with the GOP's hold on the Senate deeper than before—the push to treat the West as a 21st-century natural resource colony for fossil fuel companies, above most other considerations, will continue.

But what hasn't happened since the Trump presidency began in 2017 is a significant check on controversial actions coming down the pike that met little legislative resistance or scrutiny because Republicans held all of the cards.

Now, with Democrats commanding the House, and having committee chairmanships enabling them to decide what hearings will be held and who can testify at them, the consequences of attacks on the country's longstanding conservation traditions will get full airing.

The era of having a loyal opposition has re-begun. Still, the reality is that in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem—the tri-state region of Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho, where every incumbent GOP congressperson won re-election—fact-based rhetoric will remain a problem.

U.S. Reps. Greg Gianforte of Montana, Liz Cheney of Wyoming, and Mike Simpson of Idaho will continue to deny human-caused climate change and make a push to resurrect the dismal fortunes of the coal industry.

They will join Zinke in opening up public lands to increased oil and gas drilling at the expense of wildlife habitat, clean air and water concerns. They will carry on with their thinly veiled positions, consistent with the GOP's official party platform, of hoping to transfer management of some federal lands over to states. They will delight in advancing efforts to undermine landmark laws such as the Wilderness Act, Endangered Species Act and full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Yet now they must contend with Democrats summoning a battery of scientists, public policy experts and others whose voices have been absent or muted. This will result in another dynamic: with Democrats in the House offering a counter-narrative to the GOP's anti-science positions, perhaps now U.S. Reps. Gianforte and Cheney will be forced to stop fleeing from the media and the public they serve, refusing to hold live

town hall meetings or answer questions from real journalists. To date, both have only listened to partisan constituents and special-interest industries that told them what they wanted to hear or who contributed to their re-elections.

This, after all, was the same charge leveled by Tea Partiers in 2010 who claimed Democrats weren't listening. Yet here are a couple of fascinating anecdotes that put the rural West within a larger context: Democrats nationwide cumulatively won the popular vote and, secondly, they claimed a higher percentage of the plurality than Tea Party candidates did eight years ago.

What it means is that by remaining obstinate, remaining entrenched in anti-science rhetoric, they position their states to remain stuck in a 19th-century natural resource exploitation—frontier mentality that will only continue to leave Montana, Wyoming and Idaho falling further behind. All three are struggling to create truly sustainable economies and prepare young people to thrive in the future.

At the same time, the national Democratic Party needs to stop treating the rural West as a sacrifice zone—a throwaway—and cease making specious excuses every time their candidates lose.

Gianforte and those in charge of running his campaign were relentless in falsely portraying his challenger Kathleen Williams of Bozeman as a "Nancy Pelosi Democrat." Pelosi's name is radioactive in the rural West, so is that of U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York.

As smart as Pelosi and Schumer might be and as rooted as they are in the Democrat's bi-coastal identify, so long as they remain the party's figureheads, Democrats are going to lose in the rural West because both Pelosi and Schumer seem clueless in understanding what's on the minds and in the struggles of rural people everywhere.

While the rural West isn't where the big vote pools are, the center of the country, including the heartland and Midwest, hold the values with which a huge percentage of Americans still culturally identify.

Kathleen Williams may have lost her congressional bid but someone as charismatic as her—she is a progressive who also hunts, fishes and has professional experience working with ranchers and farmers—should be considered to lead the Democratic National Committee. And, she is capable of firmly pushing back rhetorically.

Until Democrats begin to take personal responsibility for why their party message isn't resonating, and so long as they are merely a coalition of disparate single-issue interests—and not a party of compelling common values—they may win the popular vote, but in the rural West they will continue to be perceived as being grossly out of touch with reality.

Todd Wilkinson is founder of Bozeman-based Mountain Journal (mountainjournal.org) and a correspondent for National Geographic. He also is author of "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek" about famous Jackson Hole grizzly bear 399 featuring 150 photographs by Tom Mangelsen, available only at mangelsen.com/grizzly.





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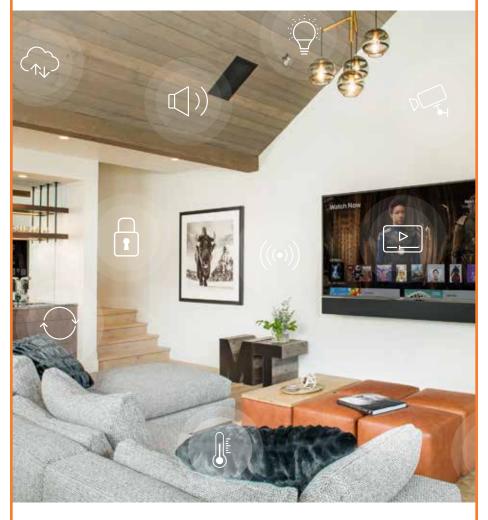
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THE LONE PEAK PLAYBOOK



Big Horns lace up, shoot high for basketball season ahead

BY BAY STEPHENS EBS STAFF WRITER

Fall sports officially came to an end when the girls volleyball team was knocked out of the district tournament at Manhattan Christian School Oct. 24-26, and now Lone Peak High School's basketball teams are dusting off their shots. Head coaches of the girls and boys basketball teams, Ausha Cole and Brian Van Eps, respectively, gave EBS a preview of the season ahead.

Girls Basketball

The Lady Big Horns will be hitting the court with a young team this year, explained Cole, who's led the team for the past two years and been on the team staff for the past three. She said freshmen Kassidy Boersma and Carly Wilson will be strong additions to the roster.

"Kass has height and a great shot while Carly is a strong ball-handler and defender," Cole said of these young players. As for returning talent, coach Cole looks to junior Emma Flack and senior Solae Swenson to lead the team.

With a team of nine players, last year's record was above .500—they won more games than they lost—but with a team of 10-11 players this year, Cole's expectations are high: a winning season and top-two placement in the conference. Their biggest obstacles will be Manhattan Christian and West Yellowstone.

"I think it's also fair to expect an opportunity to go to state," Cole said. "If these girls work hard and want it bad enough, they'll make it happen."

Boys Basketball

On the boys' side of the court, Van Eps steps in as the third head coach in three years after Al Malinowski stepped down two years ago and Austin Barth moved on to teach in Anaconda.

Although this will be Van Eps' first year as head coach, he's worked with many of the players as their middle school and junior varsity coach the past four years. John Hannahs, who doubles as the athletic director, will be Van Eps right-hand man, coaching JV and assisting with varsity.

After last year's 8-11 season, the team only graduated two players: Liam Germain and Jackson Wade. The senior trio of Colton March, Milosz Shipman and Kolya Bough, along with juniors Frankie Starz and Austin Samuels, comprise the team's backbone of upperclassmen.

Van Eps said speed and shooting will be their strengths this season, not their size. The "X Factor" in his mind is how the team matches up defensively, especially against height-stacked teams.

"We'll be fun to watch, I'll tell you that," Van Eps said.

The top two teams in the district tournament go to the divisional tournament, terrain the Big Horn boys basketball team has never traversed. Only the league's perennial powerhouses, Manhattan Christian and Gardiner, stand between the Big Horns and their goal.

"Our whole year will be a buildup to knock off one of those two teams," Van Eps said.

LPHS 2018-2019 BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Saturday 12/8 Hybrid Tip Off Jamboree @ Harrison vs. Roberts 11:00 / 12:30 Friday 12/14 Away @ White Sulphur Springs 2:30 / 4:00 / 5:30 / 7:00 Saturday 12/15 Away @ Manhattan Christian 2:30 / 4:00 / 5:30 / 7:00 Tuesday 12/18 Away @ Harrison / Willow Creek 2:30 / 4:00 / 5:30 / 7:00 Thursday 12/20 Home vs. Shields Valley 2:30 / 4:00 / 5:30 / 7:00	
Saturday 12/15 Away @ Manhattan Christian 2:30 / 4:00 / 5:30 / 7:00 Tuesday 12/18 Away @ Harrison / Willow Creek 2:30 / 4:00 / 5:30 / 7:00	
Tuesday 12/18 Away @ Harrison / Willow Creek 2:30 / 4:00 / 5:30 / 7:00	
Thursday 12/20 Home vs. Shields Valley	
2.30 4.00 3.31 7.00	
Thursday 1/3 Home vs. Gardiner 2:30 / 4:00 / 5:30 / 7:00	
Friday 1/4 Home vs. Twin Bridges 2:30 / 4:00 / 5:30 / 7:00	
Friday 1/11 Home vs. West Yellowstone 2:30 / 4:00 / 5:30 / 7:00	
Saturday 1/12 Home vs. Sheridan 2:30 / 4:00 / 5:30 / 7:00	
Friday 1/18 Home vs. Ennis 2:30 / 4:00 / 5:30 / 7:00	
Thursday 1/24 Away @ Gardiner 2:30 / 4:00 / 5:30 / 7:00	
Friday 1/25 Away @ Shields Valley 2:30 / 4:00 / 5:30 / 7:00	
Thursday 1/31 Home vs. White Sulphur Springs (senior night) 2:30 / 4:00 / 5:30 / 7:00	
Friday 2/1 Home vs. Manhattan Christian 2:30 / 4:00 / 5:30 / 7:00	
Saturday 2/2 Away @ Twin Bridges 2:30 / 4:00 / 5:30 / 7:00	
Friday 2/8 Away @ West Yellowstone 2:30 / 4:00 / 5:30 / 7:00	
Saturday 2/9 Away @ Sheridan 2:30 / 4:00 / 5:30 / 7:00	









Bobcats hope to close with winning season

BY COLTER NUANEZ

BOZEMAN – Montana State began the month of November with a 49-42 victory over Cal Poly that was more dominant than the one-touchdown final margin indicated.

Behind a record-setting day by true freshman running back Isaiah Ifanse, MSU rushed for 430 yards, the fourth-highest single-game total in program history. Ifanse's third touchdown run, a 29-yard burst just five minutes into the second half, pushed the rookie to 227 yards rushing, the most ever by a Bobcat freshman, and gave MSU a 42-14 lead.

Montana State cruised from there, moving to 3-3 in Big Sky Conference play, 5-4 overall, with two regular-season games remaining, each one with big picture repercussions as head coach Jeff Choate tries to rebuild the once-proud program.

Between 2002 and 2014, MSU strung together a string of 14 straight winning seasons, the longest such streak in the Big Sky Conference. Montana

State won or shared six Big Sky titles and advanced to the FCS playoffs eight times in that span.

But a 5-6 finish in 2015 resulted in former head coach Rob Ash's termination after nine seasons, despite a school-record 70 wins, a run of three straight Big Sky titles from 2010 until 2012 and four playoff appearances in five years capped by the 2014 trip to the postseason, MSU's last playoff appearance.

Choate took over before the 2016 season and started laying the foundation for a program he wants to be built upon character, accountability and toughness. MSU lost its first six Big Sky games under Choate only to win two straight to finish his first season.

Montana State has won 10 of its last 16 league contests since, including beating the rival Montana Grizzlies in back-to-back seasons. Last year's 31-23 win over Montana



Montana State senior defensive tackle Tucker Yates rushes Idaho quarterback Mason Petrino in September. PHOTO BY BROOKS NUANEZ

in Bozeman marked the first home victory for the Bobcats in the rivalry since 2003 and helped end Bob Stitt's three-year tenure as head coach at UM.

On Nov. 17, the Bobcats will travel to Montana gunning for its third straight win over the program's fiercest rival. Montana State has not defeated Montana three consecutive times since a three-game winning streak that began in 1983 and ended in 1985. In 1986, Montana began a 16-year domination of the Bobcats that didn't end until MSU's 10-7 victory in Missoula in 2002.

But before Montana State can shoot for a historic win over the Griz, the Bobcats first have to play their final home game on Nov. 10 against a struggling Northern Colorado team. If MSU can secure a victory over the 2-8 Bears, the team will sew up its first winning season since 2014.

"I think winning seasons are the expectation and it's been kind of a struggle," Choate said. "We've had incremental progress around here. I still think we are waiting for that breakthrough moment."

Montana State's final home game of 2018 also marks the final home games for 10 seniors.

"It's a special day but it's also a bittersweet day," Choate said. "Some guys who have played a ton of football for us, sacrificed a lot, went through a coaching change—bought into a new culture. These are guys who had to persevere through some adversity."

Colter Nuanez is the co-founder and senior writer at Skyline Sports, an online news-gathering organization providing comprehensive coverage of Montana State and Big Sky Conference athletics at skylinesportsmt.com.



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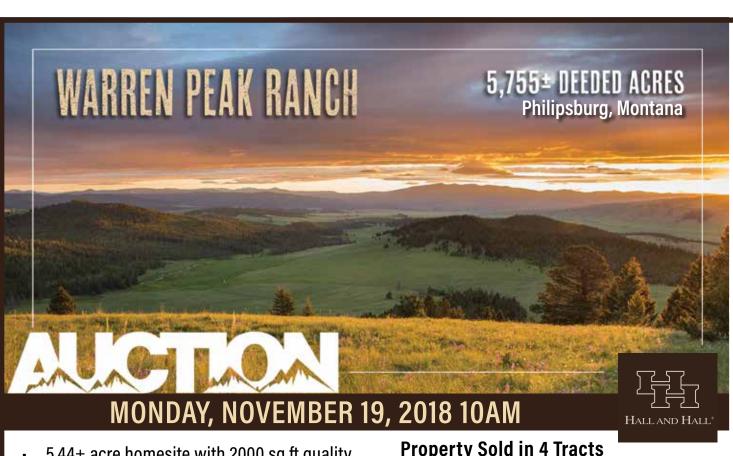


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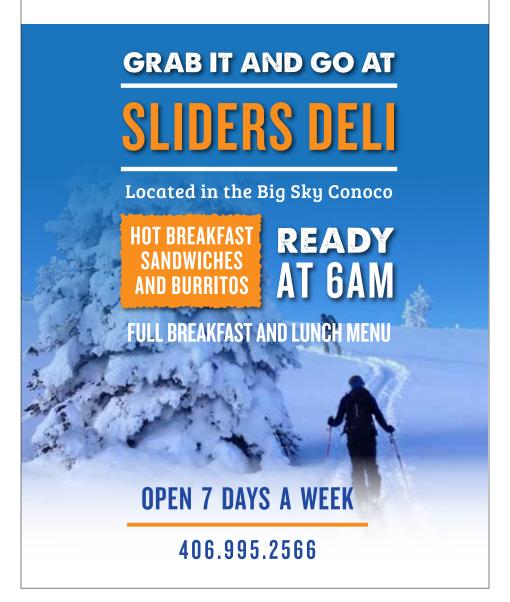
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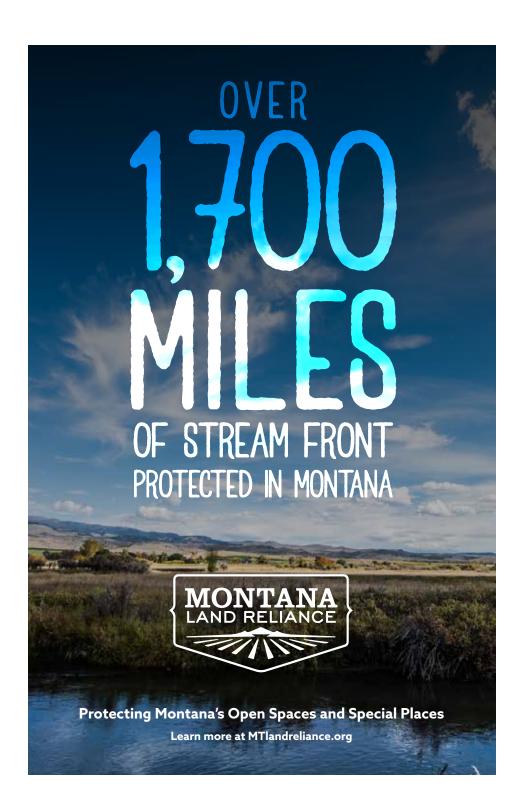






WHEN YOU'RE READY TO HIT THE TRAIL





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.

The most unlikely of pioneers



BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

The history of restaurants and bars in America is short compared to that of the Old World. We didn't really see the modern, fine dining restaurant as we know it until the turn of the last century. And we credit New York City's Delmonico's and its a la carte menu for that.

In hindsight, Wolfgang Puck was the first "celebrity chef." His restaurants were packed with the Hollywood elite; he

created an empire that included a grocery store line of products, regular television appearances; and was one of the first people in America to open what we now refer to as a brewpub, Eureka, which closed in 1993.

Alice Waters, the self-proclaimed hippie chef from Berkley, California, opened Chez Panisse in 1971. It changed the way we experienced dining in a restaurant and approached menus. Creating smaller plates, and focusing on locally sourced, seasonal ingredients, rather than technique, and establishing direct relationships with farmers and ranchers, Chez Panisse remains a formidable dining institution to this day.

And any multi-unit restaurant on the globe has the golden arches of McDonalds to thank for establishing reliable systems of duplication anywhere in the world.

But there is another pioneer—a restaurant that has had more influence on America's modern dining and bar scene, yet seldom gets acknowledged for the many oncerevolutionary practices that have since become commonplace.

I'm not talking about The French Laundry in Napa Valley, or New Orleans' Commander's Palace, but none other than T.G.I. Fridays.

From interior to floor plan, cocktails, branding, movies and much more, Fridays, the casual dining chain single handedly shaped a multitude of new concepts into common practices that now span an entire industry.

Wishing there was an unintimidating bar where he could meet girls (but not in a "two wild and crazy guys" kind of way), Alan Stillman opened the first Fridays on Manhattan's East Side in 1965.

Stillman wanted to create an atmosphere were a group of women could have a drink in a bar and feel safe, rather than at the apartment cocktail parties that were popular at the time. The staple Friday's interior of wood and Tiffany lamps was to create the feeling of one of those apartments. And it didn't hurt that the neighborhood was filled with flight attendants and fashion models—just shy of 500 according to Stillman.

What soon followed was what is now known as "ladies night." And these evenings became so popular that ropes were put in place outside the entrance, like theaters. No other bar had ever had this "problem."

What followed, in partnership with college friend Ben Benson, was to open seven more locations throughout the south.

What's more, Fridays created mixed drinks with fruit juices and fruit garnishes, the precursor to the craft cocktail.

Previously, bars were where you went to get a beer from a bartender who kept his interaction with you to a minimum. But Fridays soon had bartenders from all over clambering for jobs in their restaurants because they actually engaged the customer in an open friendly dialogue.

What followed was fresh, from scratch, approachable menu items that appealed to a wide audience.

And it didn't hurt that the Tom Cruise movie Cocktail was based on T.G.I. Fridays and its founder. And we had yet another Fridays original; bartender and server "Olympics."

You could make the argument that being able to memorize 400 drinks, make a handful of them blindfolded, and train as a bar-back for up to nine months before earning your first bartender shift at a Fridays, that they were the original mixologists. By today's standards, T.G.I. Fridays may be a Myspace rather than a Facebook, but the restaurant absolutely changed the way Americans ate and drank for all time.

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.

INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



Geyser activity spews decades-old trash

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE EBS CONTRIBUTOR

LIVINGSTON – Typically when a geyser erupts, onlookers rejoice at the cascade of thermal water. But when Ear Spring erupted on Sept. 15, more than steam and vapor came billowing from the vent. In a rare display—the spring hasn't erupted to such a height since 1957—water spewed 20 to 30 feet in the air, bringing with it 50- to 100-year old trash and debris.

Rebecca Roland, a ranger at the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center, was one of the first park personnel at the scene, arriving roughly 10 minutes after the event. "As I got there, I noticed that Ear Spring itself was empty and garbage was just strewn everywhere," she said during a Facebook Live event on Oct. 31. "The amount of runoff was huge and some of the stuff it spit out was pretty old."

These items, mostly thought to have been thrown into the spring prior to the 1970s, were collected and catalogued as a part of the collection at the Yellowstone Heritage and Research Center in order to tell the story of the park's past.

"Stuff like this can tell us a story and the history of how people were, unfortunately, using the spring while they were visiting it," said Coleen Curry, the curator of the Yellowstone Heritage and Research Center. Despite the fact that many items were thrown in as trash, she added that "We try to document [visitor use] through tangible objects."

Among the artifacts were signs and cinder blocks, which were violently thrown approximately 6 feet from the spring, as well as smaller items such as coins, Polaroid film packs and cans.

"Sometimes the smallest items can help tell the biggest stories," said park archeologist Beth Horton, pointing to three small items laid out on a table. They comprised a flash motif that likely broke off from a toy, a token from the NAMCO amusement and game company, and a pacifier from the '30s that, "probably one young child was very sad to have ... dropped," Horton added.

Ear Spring sits within the Upper Geyser Basin, where most of the thermal features are alkaline. According to Roland, Ear Spring has a neutral pH of between 6 and 6.5 with a temperature of approximately 190 F, which allowed for the preservation of most of the items.

"Metals and other materials don't normally dissolve in near neutral pH. They just sit in hot water for a long time," she explained. "I think that the exception is copper."



Ear Spring geyser erupted on Sept. 15, spewing decades-old trash and debris.



Among the items found after the eruption were park signs from the '70s, a pacifier dated to the 1930s, and a piece of science equipment suspected to have been used to collect water samples and accidently dropped into the geyser many years ago. NPS PHOTOS

The Ear Spring eruption is one of several unusual events on Geyser Hill in recent weeks, including new vents and surface fractures and a new thermal feature that resulted in the closure of a boardwalk. However, officials say this activity is not cause for alarm.

"We've always had that hot water right below the crust," Roland said, adding that water levels are high right now. "It doesn't have anything to do with movement of magma or the Yellowstone volcano—none of that. It's mostly just the movement of hot water as it moves back and forth. Hydrothermal features and hydrothermal flows can move around."

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50 Firelight Dr. Unit D 10 1,092 SQ FT / \$324.9K



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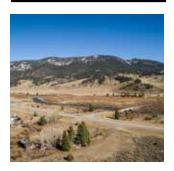


Beehive Basin Lots 11A & 12A 40+/- ACRES / \$1.1M



Big EZ Lot 42: \$339K / 20 ACRES Lot 43: \$375K / 20 ACRES Combined: \$589K

GREATER MONTANA



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



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



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



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Lot 39 Diamond Hitch 1 ACRE / \$595K



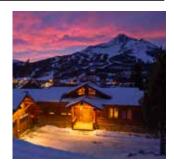
64 Lodgepole 6,160 SQ FT / \$3.895M



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

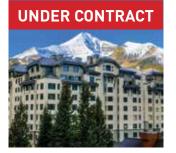


30 Beehive Basin Rd. 6,203 SQ FT / \$2.95M



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

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Summit Hotel 911/912 1,303 SQ FT / \$595K



136 Juniper Berry 2,092 SQ FT / \$595K



Cottonwood Crossing 1,854 SQ FT / \$539K



21 Antler Drop 2,470 SQ FT / \$459K



149 Juniper Berry 1,152 SQ FT / \$348K



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



Lot 2 Big Buck Road 20 ACRES / \$485K



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



Lot 40 Half Moon Court .81 ACRES / \$325K



Lot 16 Andesite Ridge .756 ACRES / \$259K

COMMERCIAL



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



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Marketplace Unit 202 Big Sky, MT 966 SQ FT / \$389K



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Kick off your winter Yellowstone adventure at Mammoth Visitor Center

BY CHRISTINE GIANAS WEINHEIMER YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

While most Yellowstone National Park roads recently closed to automobiles for the winter season, the town of Mammoth Hot Springs—the park's headquarters—is accessible by car year-round. Five miles south of the park's North Entrance, the historic village is a great place to begin your winter Yellowstone adventure, and stopping by the Albright Visitor Center is the perfect way to kick off your day. From free ranger programs to trip-planning information and hands-on exhibits, you'll find everything you need to make the most of your Yellowstone experience.

Fort Yellowstone in Mammoth Hot Springs was built by the U.S. Army to be their park headquarters when they administered Yellowstone in the 1890s and early 1900s. One of the buildings they constructed in 1909 was the bachelor officers' quarters. This transformed historical building is now the Albright Visitor Center, named after Horace M. Albright, the second director of the National Park Service. It is the only visitor center in Yellowstone that is open year-round.

The center reopened in spring 2015 after a major two-year renovation to make it more accessible, retrofit it for seismic activity, completely refurbish the interior, and upgrade the educational exhibits. Several of the exhibits, which were funded by Yellowstone Forever, guide visitors through Yellowstone's cultural history beginning with its early Native American inhabitants. Other exhibits illustrate the relationships between Yellowstone wildlife and to their mountainous home. Visitors of all ages will enjoy checking out a life-size bison, a hands-on antler vs. horn comparison, specialty movies, interactive displays, and more.

The visitor center is your go-to source for trip-planning information. Park rangers at the desk can help you plan your time, and if you're hitting a winter trail or driving out to the Lamar Valley it's a good idea to inquire about road or trail conditions and wildlife activity in the area. You can also pick up a park map or a self-guiding trail booklet for the Mammoth Terraces or Fort Yellowstone. In addition, the visitor center houses a Yellowstone Forever Park Store, a backcountry office, and restrooms. Looking for Wi-Fi service? You'll find it there, too.



Open all year, the Albright Visitor in Mammoth Hot Springs is full of useful and educationa resources such as free ranger programs, trip-planning information and hands-on exhibits. PHOTO BY MATT LUDIN

While you're there, be sure to check out the schedule of free ranger talks and tours that begin at the center. During past winter seasons (December to March) the calendar has included snowshoe tours, Mammoth Terraces walks, and afternoon or evening talks that highlight a fascinating aspect of Yellowstone.

Families traveling with children ages 4 and up will want to participate in the self-guided Winter Junior Ranger Program by requesting the \$3 Junior Ranger book. Some winter activities require the use of a thermometer and hand lens, so ask to check out a Junior Ranger Snowpack, also available at the visitor center. Children will enjoy checking activities off the list as their family explores Yellowstone, and those who complete the program will earn a special snowflake patch.

The Albright Visitor Center's winter hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.



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RESORT ROUNDUP

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

Ramcharger 8: A closer look

EBS STAFF

When Ramcharger 8 starts carrying skiers to the top of Andesite Mountain in mid-December, Big Sky Resort can boast having the most technologically advanced chairlift in the world. It will also be the first eight-seat chairlift in North America, and the first D-line direct drive chairlift to debut in the world. Three similar Dopplemayr lifts are slated to begin operating in Europe in September 2019.

Ramcharger 8 sports a highly efficient gearless drive called the Doppelmayr Direct Drive, which reduces noise to a whisper and is also very low maintenance. The DDD enables eco-friendly heat recovery, incorporates water-cooling technology, and features individual tensioning belts between each set of accelerator tires, designed to reduce maintenance time.

From the innovative, cone-shaped base station, lift attendants will be able to manually raise and lower the loading carpet height to more easily seat children on the lift. With 13 lift towers already installed, the crew from Big Sky Resort is currently installing 64 wind-resistant, heated chairs crowned with blue weatherproof bubbles and equipped with a speaker system allowing for communication with lift attendants.

Weighing over a ton, each chair is nearly 15 feet wide and 13 feet tall, and the bubble on each chair measures over 4 feet deep from front to back at its widest point.

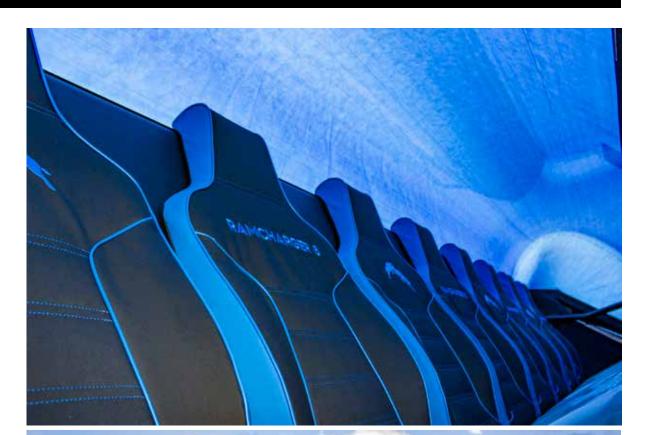
With the press of a button, the chairs will be stored overnight in a chair barn located near the top terminal.

Ramcharger 8 comes equipped with the latest version of controls by Doppelmayr referred to as "Doppelmayr Connect," which includes a remote stop button that is worn by the lift operator. Next summer, the chairs will be configured to transport mountain bikes, as well as accommodate foot traffic.

As of EBS press time on Nov. 7, crews were also busy finishing installing and splicing the haul rope into one continuous loop. Chairs will attach and detach from this cable at both ends of the lift, allowing easier loading and unloading while the haul rope continues to move at a speed of over 11 mph.

Although Big Sky Resort did not release exact numbers, skier days for the 2017-2018 winter season shattered previous records and can be estimated at tipping over the 500,000 mark. According to Stacie Mesuda, public relations manager for the resort, Big Sky expects to surpass that number this season.

When Ramcharger 8 opens, it will have the capacity to transport more than 3,200 skiers an hour, giving it the potential to transport as many as 23,000 winter sport enthusiasts in a single day.







Slated to open mid-December, Ramcharger 8 will be the first eight-person chairlift in North America. Pictured, a 'barn' was constructed near the top of Andesite Mountain to house 64 bubble-wrapped, technologically advanced chairs in a protected enclosure overnight. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BIG SKY RESORT

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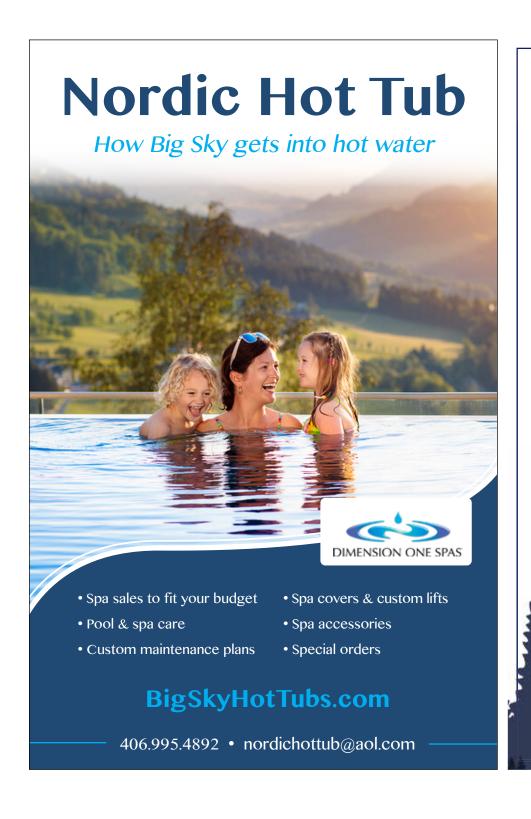
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EVENTS · NOVEMBER 2018 TUESDAYS Tuesdays Downtown (Drop the kids off for a 5 - 9 PM fun-filled evening with Dino Drop-In, relax and immerse yourself in the Big Sky Life) **NOV 11** Pint Night At Beehive Basin Brewery (Enjoy craft beers and help raise funds for the Erika 4 - 9 PM Pankow Scholarship Fund) Meet & Greet With YNP Superintendent Cam-**NOV 15** eron Sholly (Presenting at The Big Sky Real 12 - 1:30 Estate Co.) 9TH ANNUAL BSSEF Turkey Trot (5K Fun Run **NOV 22** Thanksgiving Day at Fire Pit Park) 7:30 AM Shop Small Saturday (Get out, support small **NOV 24 ALL DAY** businesses and keep it local) **DEC 7** 21st Annual Big Sky Christmas Stroll (Join all of Big Sky for an evening of family friendly events, 5:30 - 9:30 entertainment, and holiday cheer!) Find more of the Big Sky Life @BigSkyTownCenter TOWN CENTER LEAVE THE DRIVING TO US Free shuttles daily at SKYLINEBUS.COM

The Way it Used to Be

Discovering Argentina's Patagonia region through its rivers and estancias

BY ERIC LADD

"This place reminds me of stories of the American West 100 years ago," I said, gazing across a vast landscape toward the Andes and nearby Chilean border. Crouched under a willow tree ablaze with fall colors, second-generation flyfishing guide Peter Treichel peered into a deep, clear pool on the Malleo River and smiled.

"Si, si, I hear that all the time," Treichel said. "Now cast your line towards that big rock and give it a good mend, there's a nice fish feeding there."

With endless similarities to the western U.S., Argentina is home to sweeping horizons like those seen in Montana, dramatic volcanoes reminiscent of those found in Oregon and Washington, remote river canyons like Idaho's, and immense wild spaces characteristic of Alaska. The country's raw beauty inspires photographers, writers and painters to travel there from around the world.

Argentines have a proud culture—they sing out loud, aren't shy about public displays of affection and can easily lose track of time on the riverbanks. Late nights, slow mornings and time for yerba mate tea accentuate most days. Patagonia is a land of rooted traditions, indigenous people and gauchos, and an identity increasingly associated with ecotourism and boundless outdoor resources.

The word *Patagonia* comes from "Patagones," the name Portuguese explorer Fernando Magellan gave to the native people he purportedly found there during his 1520 expedition. A mythical race of giants, Patagones were believed to be at least double normal human height, with some early European accounts describing natives as tall as 12 to 15 feet.

Many inflection points have led rural Argentina, and especially the Patagonia region, to seem trapped in time. The nine national parks and three national monuments in the region have protected its sense of vastness and secured nature's importance in Patagonia's culture. Cultural anthropologist Francisco Moreno, as well as a series of supportive governments, led the efforts of incorporating large parts of Patagonia into natural reserves.

Moreno was a prominent naturalist and explorer, and for his efforts was given large tracts of land in Patagonia, which he subsequently donated back to the government in 1903, as a precursor to the country's land preservation efforts. In 1934, a federal law was passed making Argentina the third country in the Americas, after the United States and Canada, to establish a national parks system.



PHOTO BY ISAIAS MICIU NICOLAEVICI



PHOTO BY ISAIAS MICIU NICOLAEVICI

To discover Patagonia through its remote rivers, ditch the guidebooks and choose an authentic experience with a guide company like Montana-born Patagonia River Guides. Fly fishing in this part of the world is a dream trip fueled by legendary tales of 30-inch fish, gin-clear waters and iconic lodges and estancias. The introduction of trout to Argentine Patagonia began in 1904, and they have flourished ever since.

Twenty years ago, Montana natives Travis Smith and Rance Rathie came to Argentina to work as seasonal guides and after a few seasons they returned to Big Sky Country. During a year off from guiding, Rathie married his Argentine sweetheart and he and Smith decided to finally act on all of the big talk about owning their own company.

"Long story, but we started as the smallest outfitting business in the country and grew into the largest," Smith said about PRG's two-decade history.

PRG has become an industry leader in high quality, inclusive and personalized trips at over 50 different locations. Fishing nearly 1 million acres of privately leased waters, in three different Patagonia regions, they also offer accommodations at 12 different lodges.

"Our approach to guiding is to always have the best guides, on the best water, at the best times, with the best equipment humanly possible to give our guests the best chance to catch fish in any situation," Smith said.

The lodges are handpicked for quality and aesthetics, with front-end travel planning provided by a partner company, LOL Argentina, based in the capital Buenos Aires. Good food and comfortable beds are a must, as days are long, with many river and road miles, and some fishing days ending in the dark.

PRG's northern operation has an adventurous and pioneering feel to its daily operations. PRG North manager and partner Alex Knull helps organize guest journeys through his hometown region with anglers typically moving river locations daily, and new lodging every couple of nights. Knull and his guides grew up fishing this region together, and a trip with them is like having a good friend show you his secret fishing holes, taking all of the back roads to get there.

PRG North is based out of San Martín de los Andes, an area rich with history, towering volcanoes, vast open landscapes and massive estancias. Locals have a passion for the outdoors—summers and falls are spent chasing fish or hunting, and winter months revolve around the ski mountains.

Anglers quickly find that a trip to northern Patagonia is much more than a fishing adventure, it's an experience where you'll share fields with red deer stags, learn the ways of the gaucho lifestyle and cultivate a deep respect for the land. Though initially we wondered how we would fare on a 10-day fly-fishing intensive, we soon learned it was just enough time to start to feel the pulse of the culture and perfect our casts.



PHOTO BY ISAIAS MICIU NICOLAEVICI

A typical day on the river includes wading or floating in the clear waters of rivers like the Malleo, Chimehuin or Caleufu, with the 12,388-foot snow-capped Lanín volcano hovering over you. It's easy to get spoiled fishing these rivers, as trout average 16 inches in length, with most hard-fighting rainbows approaching 20 inches. The elusive Patagonia brown trout is what legends are made of, and one perfect cast can turn a good trip into an unforgettable one.

Elaborate riverside lunches are an Argentine tradition, with a gourmet spread of homemade breads, salamis and "vino tinto" as guests swap stories with guides. You won't go hungry in Argentina, I promise.

Our first stop was at the relatively new and cozy Northern Patagonia Lodge, overlooking the Chimehuin River. With a large deck and wood-fired hot tub, the off-grid lodge is a perfect place to begin planning your adventures. Treichel tied on the famous Patagonia "bicho" dry fly and within minutes a beautiful brown trout shattered the surface of the water. The lodge also offers non-fishing activities, including an hour walk to the breathtaking Lago Huechulafquen, which is more than 19 miles long and one of the birthplaces of Argentina fly fishing.

Moving on to an estancia called Quemquemtreu—a working ranch of nearly 200,000 acres—homemade jams, breads and farm-fresh milk and yogurts greeted us each morning. Quemquemtreu is located deep in a pristine countryside, at the end of a long dirt road lined with tall poplar trees that leads to a compound of cabins and barns built in the 1920s.

In the mornings, guests move slowly while shaking off the late-night dinners of ranch-raised beef and empanadas, paired with endless bottles of regional malbecs. Guides gather on the tailgates of their Toyota Hilux diesel trucks, sipping yerba mate and divvying up the endless river miles that flank three sides of the historic estancia. Ranch managers Paula and Mauricio Zimmerman, have an elegant efficiency that has earned them a nearly 90-percent return guest ratio.

Our guide Hernan Zorzit led a hunt-and-stalk fishing expedition at Quemquemtreu, taking us on side channels of the Collón Curá River, where brown trout get trapped in seasonal pools and become desperately hungry. Hernan introduced us to the downstream stripping technique of fishing minnow patterns, which are prevalent on this river in the fall. With one good cast, a 6-pound brown burst from a shady patch in a coffee-table-sized pool, and the hunt was a success.

A signature offering of PRG North is their "unplugged trip," where guests are driven two hours from the Andes to the open expanses of the Limay River Valley, to float and camp for three days. The Limay is a wide river with a character reminiscent of Montana's Yellowstone. The deep runs are lined with red sandstone cliffs and the night sky is a planetarium of unfamiliar constellations.

Flowing between two large reservoirs, which provide most of the region's power, this stretch of the Limay promises some of the best chances of hooking a trophy brown over 10 pounds, while enjoying a safari-like camping experience.

Waking up riverside in a spacious tent, wrapped in a down comforter on top of a padded cot is a great way to slow down time and immerse yourself in this landscape. PRG provides all the amenities a guest might want, including hot showers, and steak dinners cooked by chef and retired extreme skier, Estanislao "Tato" Vasiuk.

Sunrise on the Limay can be a living work of art, the sky painted red and orange, while birds and fish frolic in the eddy lines. Our days began with the PRG crew waking us up by singing along with their favorite Cuban music while rigging rods and loading up boats. The riffles regularly produced 18-inch rainbows and kept anglers busy between working the deeper channels for larger browns.

The next stop on our journey found us at Tres Rios Lodge under a full moon with red stags bugling in the surrounding fields. Tres Rios has embraced the green-energy movement in Argentina, and use wind and solar power to run the quaint and elegant lodge. The chef's homemade lamb ravioli helped fuel dinner table stories from Oklahoma anglers and longtime friends Mark DeHart and Larry Brown. Tres Rios is a great location to attack a few different rivers, including the Chimeuin and Collón Curá. Both can yield great dry-fly hatches with endless beds, pools and riffles to court trout.

Patagonia has attracted top anglers from around the world, as well as visits from dignitaries like President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Estancia Arroyo Verde was one stop for the former president, and its 20,000 acres of property is stunning, with towering stone outcroppings flanking both sides of its valleys.

For 80 years, the Larivière family have owned and operated this ranch within Nahuel Huapi National Park, and it offers polished European hospitality and more than 10 miles of exclusive access the Traful River. Our guide Alex stalked fish by scaling boulders and climbing to ledges 30 feet above the clear pools to sight cast for trophies. Savvy salmon and large trout inhabit these waters and anglers with a polished cast and patience will love this river.

During our final day of fishing, I ventured off with guide Peter Treichel for a float on the Chimeuin River, a stream similar in size to my hometown Gallatin River. At the put-in, Treichel peered over the river and noticed a small mayfly hatch beginning. He tied on a size-20 dry fly, and we slowly approached each pool and riffle.

"Moving slow will pay off on days like today," Treichel said. We let a few other anxious anglers get ahead of us, which is usually taboo on stateside rivers, as more fishermen downstream disturbing the waters often results in fewer fish. Patience paid off—as we inched our way down the stream nearly every seam produced some action.



PHOTO BY ISAIAS MICIU NICOLAEVICI



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

On the final bend we encountered our Oklahoma friends, and Larry instantly hooked into the fish of the day, a beautiful 20-inch rainbow. It just happened to be his birthday, and as he fought the fish both boats broke into song, with a Spanish and English blend of "Happy Birthday" filling the canyon air.

While the fly fishing in Patagonia is world class, it's the people you meet along the way, the history you experience at the estancias and lodges, and the unspoiled landscapes that make the journey unforgettable.

"We want everyone who leaves to go home and tell their friends that Argentina is an easy country to travel to, and to travel in," said PRG co-owner Travis Smith. "That it is safe, the food is great, the wine is fantastic, the fishing is amazing, the scenery is unparalleled and that the people are friendly."

There is a lifetime of travel opportunities in Argentina, from wine country in Mendoza and tango lessons in Buenos Aires, to visiting Tierra del Fuego at the far southern reaches of the continent. And the visual beauty of this country's rivers, mountains and pampas is only rivaled by the grace, humility and good nature of the people who call it home.

Occasionally travel can be distilled into just a few unforgettable moments, like that blood orange sunrise over the Limay River. The 8-pound brown trout I lost at the net the day prior, well, that was pretty amazing too, and will likely haunt me for years. Since I didn't get a photo, it will have to be a fish tale, until my return.

A version of this story first appeared in the summer 2018 edition of Mountain Outlaw magazine.



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SECTION 3: BUSINESS, HEALTH, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT & FUN









Making it in Big Sky: Montana Backcountry Adventures

BY BAY STEPHENS EBS STAFF WRITER

Montana Backcountry Adventures began in 1997 as a snowcat skiing operation on the slopes of Moonlight Basin. In 2000, the previous owner purchased a 30-foot yurt and began the "Moonlight Dinners" enterprise, offering snowcat-accessed dining. In 2004, the Lone Tree lift was installed on MBA's ski terrain, ending the snowcat ski business. The yurt moved to its current location on Big Sky Resort property in 2005.

Kevin Daily, along with two partners, purchased Moonlight Dinners in 2007, and in 2008 they opened the Bell Lake Yurt backcountry ski hut in the Tobacco Root Range, offering guided skiing, avalanche courses, and overnight yurt rentals. In 2011, Kevin's wife Jodi bought out his partners. They sold the Bell Lake Yurt in 2013, allowing Kevin and Jodi to concentrate on the Big Sky operations.

Montana Backcountry Adventures now runs two yurt restaurants, the Montana Dinner Yurt and the Shedhorn Grill. After dark, guests are whisked away by snowcat to the Montana Dinner Yurt hidden on the slopes of Big Sky Resort. The Shedhorn Grill—which opened in 2009—offers on-slope lunches beneath the Shedhorn Chairlift on the south face of Lone Mountain.

As part of this ongoing series, Jodi and Kevin shared their thoughts with EBS about what it takes to make it as small business owners in Big Sky.

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

Montana Backcountry Adventures: The Montana Dinner Yurt is one-of-a-kind. Guests have a blast riding the snowcats, sledding the hill, dining by candle and oil lantern, and enjoying the acoustic guitar music. Our food is great, and our employees work hard and are devoted to offering a quality experience.

The expansive sun deck and fun atmosphere make the Shedhorn Grill a favorite place for locals to show off to their visiting friends, and second homeowners to swing in for a burger and a brew after a long tram lap.

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

MBA: Like everyone else says: finding and retaining employees in this tough housing environment.

EBS: What challenges are unique to your business?

MBA: Running two off-the-grid restaurants with no running water, high up on the ski hill is no picnic; maintaining and servicing two German-built snowcats is hard work.

EBS: How has the business landscape changed since you took ownership of Montana Backcountry Adventures?



Kevin and Jodi Daily own the Montana Dinner Yurt at Big Sky Resort as well as the Shedhorn Grill, a yurt on the south face of Lone Mountain serving lunch to riders all winter. PHOTO COURTESY OF JODI DAILY

MBA: Big Sky is certainly bigger and busier than it was in 2007. We haven't had to spend a penny on advertising in many years now!

EBS: Have you noticed a shift in your clientele since you've been in operation?

MBA: The number of returning guests continues to grow as more locals and second homeowners dine with us.

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

MBA: Living in Big Sky is amazing. We love the people that live here—our community is second to none! Big Sky offers all the benefits of small-town living together with lots of big city amenities, great schools, and of course, a massive ski resort for our kids to grow up on.

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

MBA: Last spring, our 4-year-old son Frank skied with us to the Shedhorn Grill for the first time, which was a special moment for us as a family.

EBS: What was a business idea that didn't work?

MBA: The Bell Lake Yurt was a very rewarding experience because the location and the skiing there is incredible. As a business venture however, it was certainly mostly a "labor of love."

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

MBA: Stuart Leidner, previously of Prospera Business Network, a small business development non-profit, once told us: "If you aren't growing, you are dying."

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

MBA: If you put locals first, the tourists will follow.

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

MBA: We plan to improve and expand our current business models and offer summer yurt dining.

EBS: Where do you see Big Sky in 20 years?

MBA: We hope that well-managed development together with care for our local natural resources will make Big Sky an even more incredible place to live and work for our children and their children after them.

EBS: What has been the most satisfying aspect of your work?

MBA: Our customers, be them tourists, locals, or second homeowners, seem to love what we do, and we've made many friends through the business.

MONTANA BACKCOUNTRY ADVENTURES - BY THE NUMBERS



STAFF:

14



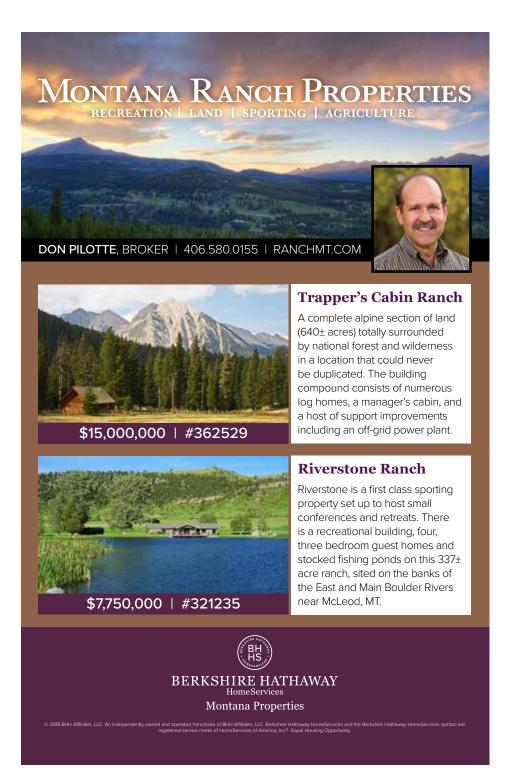
YEARS IN BUSINESS:

21



LONGEST SERVING EMPLOYEE:

Brian Rumbaugh, 15 years







Shop local on Small Business Saturday

BY BAY STEPHENS **EBS STAFF WRITER**

To find holiday shopping deals while supporting the local economy, look no further than Big Sky on Saturday, Nov. 24. The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce has partnered with American Express to encourage shoppers to buy locally as part of their nationwide event, Small Business Saturday.

From 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., the chamber will serve coffee and treats, as well as draw attendees' names out of a hat to win one of four \$50 gift cards, which must be used at participating Big Sky businesses on the day of the event. A Shop Small Specials listing courtesy of the chamber will guide shoppers to participating businesses and the awaiting deals.

"I'm just excited to participate in it and to have a good turnout," Antler Clothing Company owner Kelly Piccardo said. She will include a gift of Happy Socks to anyone who purchases \$120 or more worth of products. Chamber Programming and Events Manager Caitlin Lundin, who is organizing the event locally, said that Trove West will serve hot cocoa and cookies and to keep an eye out for masseuse Kira Rogala, who will be offering massages.

Last year, 32 Big Sky businesses, ranging from boutiques to breweries, participated in Small Business Saturday. Lundin hopes to match or surpass last year's numbers.

According to the American Express website, in 2017 "an estimated 108 million consumers reported shopping or dining at local independently-owned businesses on Small Business Saturday generating roughly \$12 billion in reported [spending]."

American Express founded Small Business Saturday to strengthen communities across the nation by buying local. Shopping close to home fosters charitable giving in communities and supports the employment opportunities that small businesses provide.

For more information or to become a participating business email caitlin@bigskychamber.com or call (406) 995-3000.



Antler Clothing Company owner Kelly Piccardo will include a gift of Happy Socks to anyone who purchases \$120 or more of product on Small Business Saturday on Nov. 24. PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

Lone Peak Performance and Physical Therapy now offering ski assessments

LONE PEAK PERFORMANCE

With the turn in the weather over the past couple of weeks, we are beginning to remember what an epic ski season we had last year. If this upcoming season is anything like last winter, it isn't the lack of snow that forces you to take days off in Montana.

Countless pow days can lead to stubborn knee pain, an achy back, and complete exhaustion. If you experienced this last winter, you know that there's nothing worse than having to stay home while watching the snow stack up on the powder cams. If you want to maximize your enjoyment by feeling strong and skiing pain-free, the time to prepare for the 2018-2019 ski season is now.

Lone Peak Physical Therapy and Lone Peak Performance are excited to announce that they are offering affordable ski assessments that provide guidance in ensuring you are training effectively and efficiently for the upcoming season. Our personalized approach will help you understand where to focus so that you are ready to shred from first chair to last chair on those epic days.

What is a ski assessment? Our staff of exercise physiologists, personal trainers, and physical therapists will guide you through a series of ski-specific movements to evaluate potential imbalances that may predispose you to future pain or potential injuries. Sessions will include strength testing, motion and stability testing, and ski-specific performance testing. Assessments last 40 minutes, and cost \$75 per person before Nov. 30.

After leaving your appointment, you will know what exercises to add to your regimen so that you are prepared to ski your best this season. If you need additional help beyond the assessment, our team is here to help you get ready for the ski season. We will be offering this exciting service at our Big Sky Performance Center and in the Gallatin Valley at Lone Peak Physical Therapy's Belgrade clinic.

To schedule an appointment at Big Sky Performance, call (406) 995-4522. For Lone Peak Physical Therapy – Belgrade, call (406) 388-2235. Visit lonepeakperformance.com for more information.



ABOVE: During a preseason ski assessment at Lone Peak Performance and Fitness in Big Sky, or at Lone Peak Physical Therapy in Belgrade, staff will ensure you are training effectively and efficiently for an enjoyable winter on the slopes. PHOTOS BY ALLIE EPSTEIN

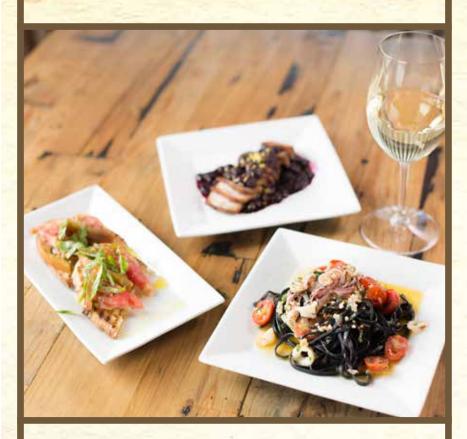
RIGHT: Certified personal trainer Jeff Hendrickson demonstrates being tested on the 1080 Quantum, a sophisticated system for performance training, testing, rehabilitation and research that provides data for a personalized ski assessment.







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BY DR. ANDREA WICK, D.C. EBS HEALTH COLUMNIST

Pregnancy can come with complications and discomfort. However, there are approaches a woman can take to make for an easier and safer birth.

During pregnancy, hormones, such as relaxin, cause a woman's center of gravity to shift forward which increases laxity of joints and pelvic misalignment. This can result in low back and pubic bone pain,

and hip discomfort. These misalignments can have a detrimental effect on the overall nervous system. Misalignment of the pelvis, and specifically the sacrum, can limit the amount of room a growing baby has to move inside the placenta. This can result in a frank breech presentation, meaning the baby's bottom is down, but his legs are straight up with his feet near his head.

Round ligaments connect the mother's uterus to the pelvis. As the baby grows, the round ligaments that connect the mother's uterus to the pelvis become even more important in helping the baby grow. The uterus is supposed to take on a pear sized shape, but if the pelvis is misaligned this will pull on the ligaments causing torsion of the uterus, making it more difficult for the baby to grow and move in-utero.

A specific adjustment called "Webster Technique" can be applied to the low back and effleurage (or massage) of the round ligaments. This helps loosen and rebalance the uterus, allowing the baby the room it needs to move freely. This may result in a normal head down presentation and relieve low back pain. Breech baby presentations ultimately result in a C-section.

Misalignment of the pelvis may also contribute to torticollis, a condition where the baby's neck muscles contract and cause the head to twist to one side.

The intention of these natural treatments is to lower the risk of having to turn to more serious procedures such as C-section, or induction via pitocin, forceps or vacuum extraction.

Pregnant and postpartum patients of mine have stated that chiropractic treatment has helped relieve low back, hip and sciatic pain, as well as nausea and heartburn. Adjustments can also help alleviate labor pains and facilitate the ease of delivery. Neuro-emotional Technique, a method that specifically addresses emotional stress, can assist in the release of stress and fear relating to labor and childbirth.

Exercising during pregnancy can also make for an easier labor, while helping maintain healthy weight. Only an additional 300 calories need to be consumed during pregnancy—it is a myth that a pregnant woman needs to eat for two.

When it comes to diet, research shows that staying away from excess sugar can decrease the risk of allergies for your child. A study of 9,000 mothers and children in London concluded that women who had high intakes of sugar and fructose corn syrup during pregnancy increased the child's risk of becoming allergic to two or more allergens by 73 percent. Women who ate large amounts of sugar were also twice as likely to have children who developed allergic asthma.

Women are becoming increasingly empowered about the option to have a natural birth. It is exciting to live in a time that supports women in their pursuit of becoming their highest selves while embracing the immense capabilities and beauty of the female body.

Dr. Andrea Wick is a chiropractor and applied kinesiologist. She graduated from Life University in Marietta, Georgia, and now practices in Big Sky. She has a passion for holistic health care and being active in the outdoors. Her practice, Healing Hands Chiropractic, is located in the Meadow Village Center. Visit drandreawick.com to learn more.

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BY SARAH GIANELLI EBS SENIOR EDITOR

BIG SKY – On Oct. 22 the most recent addition to Big Sky's blossoming public art movement—an initiative of the Arts Council—was installed in Town Center, this time a bison sculpture by Belgrade artist Kirsten Kainz on the northeast corner of Fire Pit Park. The sculpture is on loan and will remain in its current location for at least one year.

A complex assemblage of repurposed metal—gears, tools, chains, keys, car parts and the like—the sculpture was designed to be interactive, and incorporates dials that spin, switches that switch, and a tail and fur made of loose, jiggly chain. She even hid a geocache pod somewhere in the body of the bison, but won't divulge its precise location—geocachers have to find it.

Sometimes it's simply the shape or beauty of an object that attracts Kainz. But for the Big Sky piece, which she knew would be seen by a lot of people, she looked for components that were easily identifiable, or had a humorous, playful, or interesting aspect to them.

As Kainz's renown has spread, she's had to spend less time foraging for materials in junk- and recycling yards, as admirers of her work increasingly contact her with offers of metal cast-offs. Such was the case for the Big Sky sculpture, named "Waldazo" after the poetry alias of the late father of the woman who donated its parts.

"[Her father] had an incredible collection of iron, junk really, and she invited me to take a look," Kainz said. "I tried to purchase it, but all she wanted was for me to name the piece for her father."

The artist is often asked how long it took to create the bison, how much it weighs and how many parts it's made of.

"It took too long; it weighs too much; and there are way too many pieces in it," is Kainz's standardized response.

After experimenting with many sculptural mediums in college—ceramics, glass blowing and bronze casting—Kainz discovered metalsmithing and her creative heart was captured.

Kirsten Kainz: Fusing many parts to create the whole



Kainz' large scale metal sculptures can be found in public spaces all over Bozeman and beyond, including this moose outside of Mackenzie River Pizza in Kalispell, Montana. PHOTO BY PATRICK KAINZ

"The processes involved are so amazing and then there's the longevity and permanence of the product," she explained. "There are so many avenues you can take—casting, cutting, shaping, soldering, hammering—to achieve your vision ... there are just so many possibilities."

However, about 12 years ago, just before Kainz had her first child, she decided to teach herself how to paint, largely because of the health hazards of working with metal, and knowing that she'd need a creative outlet she could practice at home, and during the long winters, when she was unable to sculpt.

She gets a different kind of satisfaction from this relatively new medium.

"It's just a completely different language, a completely different process," Kainz said. "I make discoveries almost daily." Her paintings are predominantly impressionistic landscapes that often feature a horse or two, an animal she admits being a little obsessed with because she "sees them as people." She feels that viewers can better identify with the landscape through the horse's presence.



This bison sculpture by Belgrade artist Kirsten Kainz is the newest public art addition to Town Center. On loan to the Arts Council of Big Sky, "Waldazo" will remain on the corner of Fire Pit Park for at least one year. PHOTO BY DOUG HARE

Her sculptures pepper downtown
Bozeman: a cow in front of the Bozeman
Public Library, a blue tortoise on Main
Street, a butterfly outside the Emerson
Center for the Arts and Culture, a
giant ladybug on Tracy Avenue, a large
chandelier in the Lark Hotel, and a large
moose at MAP Brewing, which she coowns with her husband, Patrick Kainz.

Her work ranges from the serious, such as "How the West was One"—another bison but this one dripping bright red chains from its coat—to the purely whimsical, like the glossy green caterpillar installed at the Bozeman headquarters of the nonprofit Thrive.

"I think when I'm creating, it just goes in accordance with what I'm feeling or seeing," Kainz said. "So if I'm really feeling intensely about a certain issue, that will come out in my work and sometimes it's a little dark. But there's also a really important place for fun and accessible energy as well. I do make pieces just for the wonderfulness of them too."

Visit kirstenkainz.net for more information and to see more of the artist's work.



SATURDAY, JANUARY 26TH

TWILA MOON • JAY SANGUIENETTI

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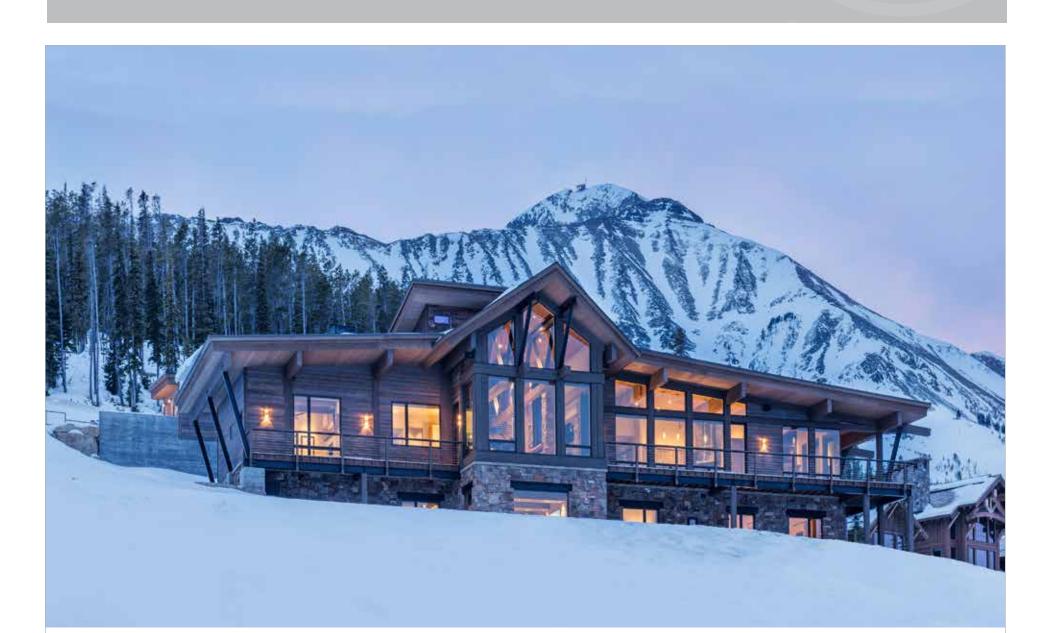
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BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9 - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19

If your event falls between Nov. 20 and Dec. 6, please submit it by Nov. 14 by emailing media@outlaw.partners.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Friends of the Library Used Book and Scholastic Book Fair

Ophir School gym, 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Community Fitness Class Headwaters Fitness, 8 a.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Erika Panko Scholarship Fund Pint Night Beehive Basin Brewery, 4-9 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

Veteran's Day Assembly

Lone Peak High School Bough-Dolan Athletic, 2 p.m.

Big Sky Futbol Club Annual general meeting Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 6 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

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

Bingo

American Legion benefit Gallatin Riverhouse Grill, 6:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Business After Hours RMR Group, 5 p.m.

Rotary Club of Big Sky Meeting Town Center Sales Office, 6 p.m.

Awareness Wednesday Santosha Wellness Center, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Bridge

Big Sky Water and Sewer District, 10:30 a.m.

Conversation with Cam Sholly - Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Big Sky Real Estate Discovery Center, 12 p.m. Email caitlin@bigskychamber.com to RSVP

Al-Anon Meeting Big Sky Chapel, 4 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Fish Fry

BYWOM, all evening

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Community Fitness Class Headwaters Fitness, 8 a.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

Quaker Meeting Big Sky Chapel, 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22

Big Sky Ski Education Foundation's Turkey Trot 5K Fire Pit Park, 9 a.m. (Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m.)

Big Sky Broadway enrollment opens Dec. 15

Children and youth in first grade through 12th grade are invited to enroll in Big Sky Broadway beginning on Dec. 15 at 9 a.m. For its 10th season, grades nine through 12 will bring Disney's "High School Musical" to life on April 5 and 6. Fifth through ninth graders will perform Disney's "Tarzan" on June 21 and 23; while students in first through fifth grades will perform "Lion King Kids" on Aug. 16.

All students who enroll will be cast, however enrollment is limited. Enrollment will be processed in the order emails are received by producerbigskybroadway@gmail.com and closed when capacity is reached.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

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

WORTH THE DRIVE

Explore Big Sky



BOZEMAN Broad Comedy

The Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture 8 p.m. November 14, 15 & 16

After an exciting year with their Off-Broadway run in New York City, the NYC cast of Broad Comedy will be joining forces with local actresses Louise Musial and Cara Wilder as they bring their feminist and politically savvy laugh-riot of sketch comedy and musical satire to Bozeman. Broadcomedy.com

BOZEMAN

'Wildlife'

The Ellen Theatre | 7 p.m. November 14

Bozeman Film Society presents an advance screening of the acclaimed film "Wildlife," an adaptation of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Ford's 1990 novel and the directorial debut of actor Paul Dano. The film stars Carey Mulligan as Jeanette, a complex woman whose determination and self-involvement disrupts the values and expectations of a 1960s nuclear family living in small-town Montana. When husband Jerry (Jake Gyllenhaal) loses his job to take one fighting fires, his wife and son are forced to fend for themselves. Bozemanfilmsociety.org

WEST YELLOWSTONE

Yellowstone Ski Festival

November 20-24

For over 30 years, cross-country skiers from across North America and around the world have traveled to West Yellowstone to begin their Nordic ski season on the Rendezvous Ski Trails. The event's highlights include a series of Nordic skiing clinics, competitive races, Biathlon races, the On Snow Gear Demo, an Indoor Ski Show, and a variety of presentations, clinics, and classes. Skirunbikemt.com

CLASSIFIEDS

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AUDIT PUBLICATION STATEMENT

An audit of the affairs of Big Sky Fire Department has been conducted by Rosie Barndt CPA, P.C. The audit covered the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

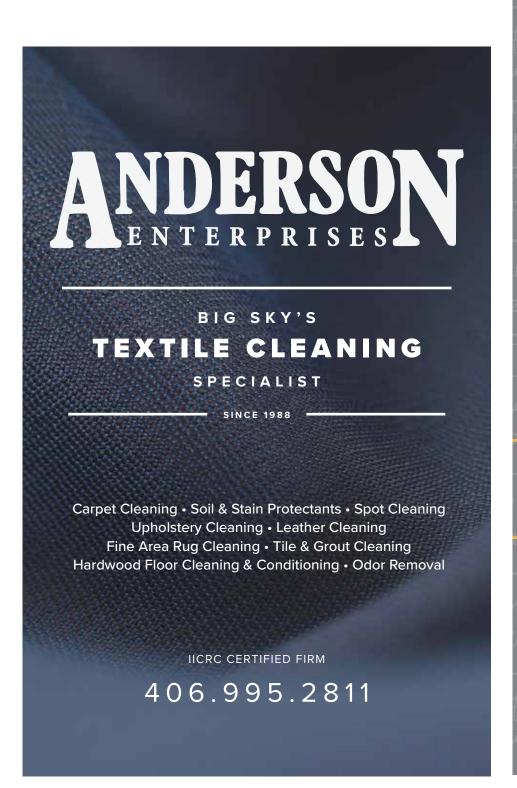


Section 2-7-521, MCA, requires the publication concerning the audit report

include a statement that the audit report is on file in its entirety and open to public inspection. This report is available to the public at 650 Rainbow Trout Run, Big Sky, MT 59716 or at www.bigskyfire.org (Home Page/About BSFD/ Annual Reports/2018 Audited Annual Financial Report). Big Sky Fire Department will send a copy of the audit report to any interested person upon request.

Sincerely,

Big Sky Fire Department







NOV. 10 TGR'S FAR OUT

NOV. 21 WARREN MILLER ENTERTAINMENT'S FACE OF WINTER

DEC. 15 TGR'S ODE TO MUIR

JAN. 5 THIS MOUNTAIN LIFE



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REEL REVIEW

'The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension'

BY ANNA HUSTED EBS FILM CRITIC

Since reading Ernest Pile's novel "Ready Player One" two years ago, and watching Steven Spielberg's 2018 film adaptation of it, I have intended to watch the 1980s movie referenced both—"The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension."

Director W.D. Richter's directorial debut, "The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension" is a fun, family-friendly film from 1984 about rock 'n' rolling, dimension-traveling brain surgeon, Buckaroo Banzai (Peter Weller of "RoboCop"), and his crime-fighting band, the Hong Kong Cavaliers. Banzai and the Cavaliers find themselves in quite the pickle when Banzai travels through a mountain and returns with an alien being, supposedly from the 8th dimension.

Upon hearing about Banzai's cargo, Dr. Emilio Lizardo (John Lithgow), who first discovered that the 8th dimension resided on earth, escapes from a mental institution to come after Banzai. Lizardo went crazy when he attempted to cross into the 8th dimension years earlier, but only made it halfway—merging his identity with that of the aliens

The only thing more ridiculous than the plot is the clothes. Only the coolest '80s fashion is worn by the Cavaliers, particularly by Perfect Tommy (Lewis Smith) who sports bleach blonde hair and a white blazer. Each character has their own icy-cool '80s style except the newest member of the team, New Jersey (Jeff Goldblum). New Jersey has been begging Banzai to join the band/crime-fighting team, but his cowboy style and country singing leaves something to be desired.

"The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension" is so entertaining to watch and a creative science-fiction ride, but isn't without its faults. The main female character, Penny Priddy (Ellen Barkin), is constantly a damsel in distress. We meet her at a club where Banzai is performing and everyone is having a good time, except tearful Priddy, a buzzkill throughout the film. The second issue is the casting for Banzai, who is supposedly Japanese-American, but played by white, Wisconsin-born Weller.

On the plus side, the music is shoulder-padded, big-hair, synthesizer '80s, and the actors are so immersed in these strange characters you feel like you have known them for ages. The acting and writing supports the idea suggested by the film's title, that Banzai and the Cavaliers have had many adventures before, even though this is the only Buckaroo Banzai film. We jump into their world where inside jokes are never explained and fighting aliens is a normal, every day activity.

Garnering a justified cult following over the years, "The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension" deserves some attention despite its flaw—especially if you're a kid of the '80s.

"The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension" is available to stream on Amazon Prime.

Anna Husted has a master's in film studies from New York University. In Big Sky she can be found at the movies at Lone Peak Cinema or hiking up a mountain. When not gazing at the silver screen or watching her new favorite TV show, she's running, fishing or roughhousing with her cat, Indiana Jones.



Flash back to the '80s with a family-friendly cult classic film about rock 'n' rolling, dimension-traveling brain surgeon, Buckaroo Banzai and his crime-fighting band, the Hong Kong Cavaliers. PHOTO COURTESY OF MGM STUDIOS

American Life in Poetry:

Column 711

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

Squirrels hide many more acorns than they can find, and thus we have oaks. And a child might hide precious belongings, then hide the map that gives their location, then hide the clue to where the map is hidden. Dan Gerber, who lives in California, remembers just such a hiding place, as well as a place and time that's far beyond finding. This poem is from his 2017 new and selected poems from Copper Canyon Press, entitled "Particles."

The Cache

By Dan Gerber
Behind the house in a field
there's a metal box I buried
full of childhood treasure, a map
of my secret place, a few lead pennies
from 1943.
The rest I've forgotten,
forgotten even the exact spot
I covered with moss and loam.

Now I'm back and twenty years have made so little difference I suspect they never happened, this face in the mirror aged with pencil and putty. I suspect even the box has moved as a mole would move to a new place long ago.

We do not accept unsolicited submissions. American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2017 by Dan Gerber, «The Cache,» from "Particles: New & Selected Poems," (Copper Canyon Press, 2017). Poem reprinted by permission of Dan Gerber and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2018 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.

Sudoku

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

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