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### explorebigsky

#explorebigsky





**ON THE COVER:** Big Sky Resort Ski Patrol's avalanche dogs posed Nov. 10 for their team photo in between trainings for the upcoming winter season. These obedient and highly specialized canines (three of seven pictured on the cover) are trained to find humans that have been buried beneath the snow, aiding in avalanche rescue. PHOTO BY CODY WHITMER

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

| Section 1: News                                   |  |
|---|--|
| Opinion5  |  |
| OP News7  |  |
| Local8  |  |
| Montana15   |  |
| Section 2: Environment, Sports, Outdoors & Dining |  |
| Environment17                                     |  |

# Section 3: Business, Health, Arts and Entertainment & Fun

| Business               | 33  |
|------------------------|-----|
| Health                 | 35  |
| Arts and Entertainment | 36  |
| <del>-</del> un        | .43 |

Big Sky, meet
YNP's Cam Sholly

27 Ski season is upon us!

TEDxBigSky lineup announced: Tickets on sale Dec. 1

Treasure State
Triple: Bobcats
triumph over Griz



Current Air Force cadet and Lone Peak High School alumnus Tate Tatom gave a speech on Nov. 12 during Big Sky School District's Veterans Day assembly, thanking those who have served our country. The school honored veterans with an a cappella Star Spangled Banner, an Armed Forces Medley by the LPHS band and a student-organized ceremony that was attended by members of every branch of the military. PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

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.



# MARTHA JOHNSON Vice President of Sales | Founding Broker THE BIG SKY REAL ESTATE CO.

Martha, a full time Big Sky resident since 1988, is the Co-Exclusive listing broker for Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and Moonlight Basin. CONTACT MARTHA FOR ANY OF YOUR BIG SKY REAL ESTATE QUESTIONS: (406) 580-5891 MARTHA@BIGSKY.COM

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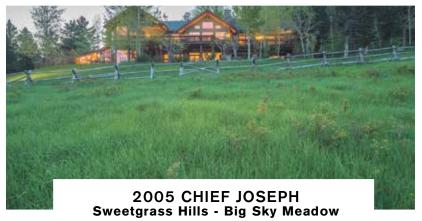


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**4** November 20-December 6, 2018 **Explore** Big Sky



### Discovery Academy hosts third annual Holiday Home Tour fundraiser

#### **BIG SKY DISCOVERY ACADEMY**

On Saturday, Dec. 8, beginning at 3 p.m. the friends and families of Big Sky Discovery Academy will open their homes for a holiday celebration involving tours of festively decorated Big Sky homes, with holiday-themed drinks, dishes and desserts. The evening concludes with Discovery's second annual Holiday Bazaar at the school.

The fundraiser helps underwrite scholarships and programming at the school, which now serves 48 full-time students from preschool through high school.

"The Holiday Home Tour provides a festive way for people from all over to gather, have fun and enjoy seeing the different ways people celebrate the winter holidays, and we love ending the festivities in the school," said Discovery Academy board chair Karen Maybee.

The Holiday Bazaar features area artists and vendors and will also have student-created items for sale. This year the bazaar will be open both the night of the Christmas Stroll on Dec. 7 from 5:30-9:30 p.m., as well as the night of the Holiday Home Tour on Dec. 8 from 5-9 p.m. At both events light food and beverages will be served.

"As a growing community, we are blessed to have multiple schools and community organizations working to enrich the lives of the youth and adults who live and visit here," Maybee said. "As part of this community, we wanted to create an event that brings us all together to celebrate the joys of the season."

For participants who wish to ride together from house to house, a bus will leave Discovery Academy in Town Center at 3 p.m., before returning to the school around 6:30 p.m. for the Holiday Bazaar at Discovery's Community Learning Center.

Tickets for the Holiday Home Tour on Dec. 8 are available online, at the school, or during the night of the Christmas Stroll on Dec. 7, and seats on the bus are filling quickly. Ticket holders will also enjoy dishes prepared by local chef Ryan LaFoley.

### Ribbon cutting for Pecunies gallery, Stay Montana on Small Business Saturday

#### EBS STAFF

Dave Pecunies Photography and Stay Montana will have a ribbon cutting at 12:30 p.m. for their shared space in Town Center next to Big Sky Sotheby's in Town Center during Small Business Saturday on Nov. 24. Both businesses are participating in the annual event's retail deals as well.

The photo gallery is offering a 10-percent discount for anything purchased on Nov. 24 or 25. Pecunies has been a photographer for more than 15 years and specializes in architecture, scenery and landscapes, wildlife, and action sports.

Stay Montana, a property management and vacation rental firm, will be offering Montana residents 20 percent off any booking from Nov. 24 through Dec. 20.

The two businesses will be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Small Business Saturday and seven days a week through the ski season.

Small Business Saturday kicks off with coffee and treats at the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce from 9-10 a.m. Attendants have the opportunity to win one of four \$50 gift cards to be used the day of, at participating local businesses. The chamber will also provide a Shop Small Specials guide for shoppers.

Last year, 32 Big Sky businesses participated in the event, which American Express founded in 2010 to foster local spending and strengthen communities after the economic recession.

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

# Avalanche season, education courses begin

#### EBS STAFF

"Winter has returned and so has the increased potential for triggering avalanches," Eric Knoff, an avalanche forecaster for the Gallatin National Forest Avalanche Center, wrote in an early season avalanche advisory Nov. 17. "Practice with your rescue gear, and test your partner's skills. Put fresh batteries in your beacon and check your shovel and probe for any damage, and replace them if needed."

A slew of avalanche introductory and refresher courses allows backcountry travelers to get their wits about them as they begin recreating in uncontrolled terrain on snowmobiles, skis and snowboards, snowshoes or en route to ice climbing routes.

Below is a list of upcoming avalanche education opportunities in the area, offered by GNFAC and other regional organizations and businesses:

Nov. 26: MSU Snow and Avalanche Workshop

Nov. 29, 30 and Dec 1, 2 or 8: Intro to Avalanche with field day

Dec. 5: Avalanche Awareness at REI

Dec. 6: Avalanche Awareness and Beacons at Story Mill Park

Dec. 8, 9: Avalanche course for ice climbers with Mountain Alpine Guides Level 1 refresher/companion rescue weekend with Beartooth Powder Guides

Dec. 8: ASMSU snowmobile specific field course

Dec. 10-11: West Yellowstone snowmobile intro to avalanches with field day

Dec. 12: Snowmobile awareness at Yellowstone Motorsports Every Friday and Saturday in Cooke City starting Nov. 23: Free Rescue training and Snowpack update

Visit mtavalanche.com to view daily avalanche advisories or to learn more about education opportunities in the region.



Area resorts are considering using treated effluent for snowmaking, which is unprecedented in Montana. Big Sky Water and Sewer District needs other ways to dispose of wastewater. What do you think of snowmaking with treated effluent as a solution?



Nathan Conneran
Bozeman, Montana

"I was always taught: 'Watch out where the huskies go, and don't you eat that yellow snow.' I think that's Frank Zappa. Tell them to dump it in the river like the Yellowstone Club."



**Sally Fisher**Big Sky, Montana

"I'm not an expert on poopwater, and I can't have an informed position without more information. What chemicals are they using? What are the effects on the environment? I have no idea. Sorry."



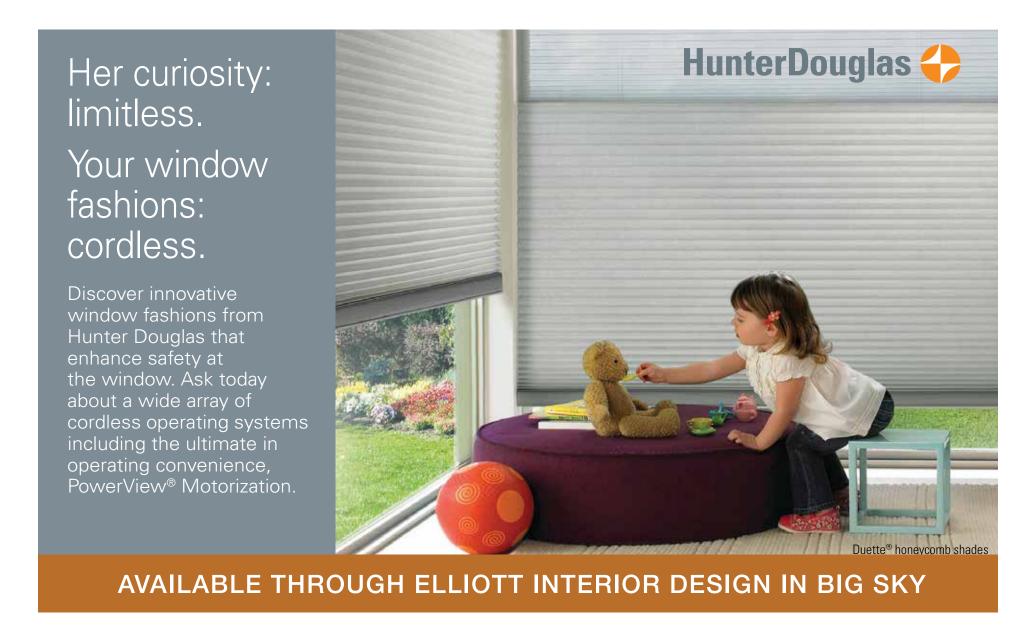
Ivett Cser
Big Sky, Montana

"I'm against that. I just moved here from L.A. and we had our own problems down there. It's gorgeous around here. Why do you need to muck it up? It's not just humans that are using Big Sky."



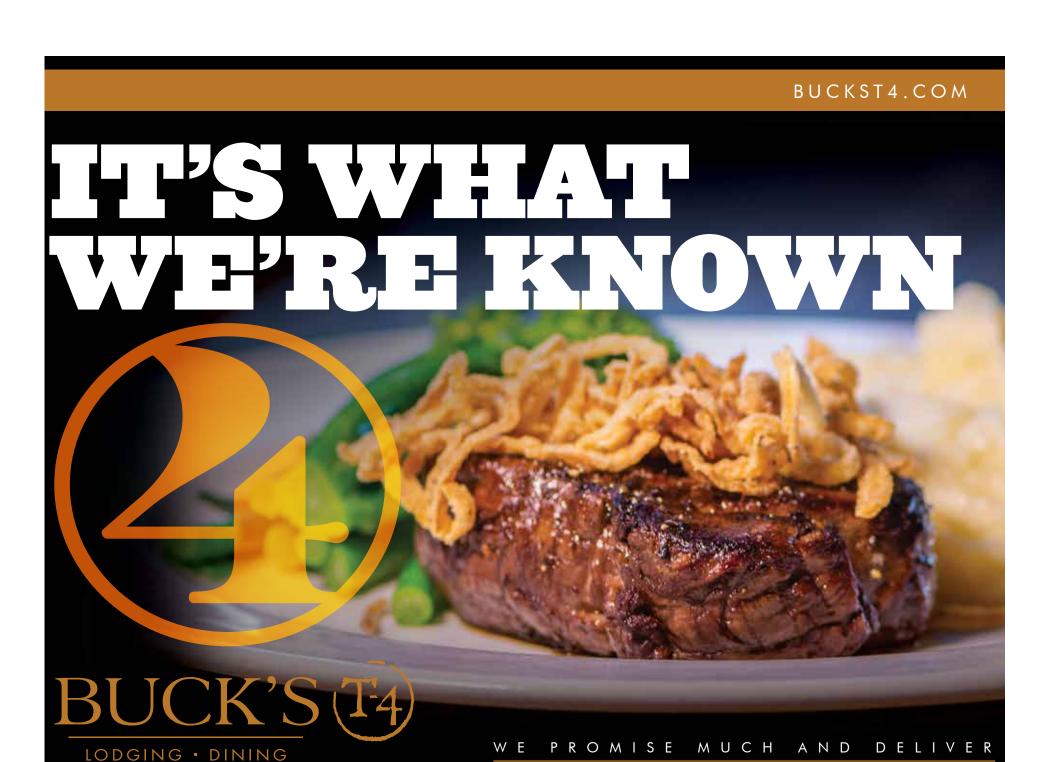
Mack Miesser
Big Sky, Montana

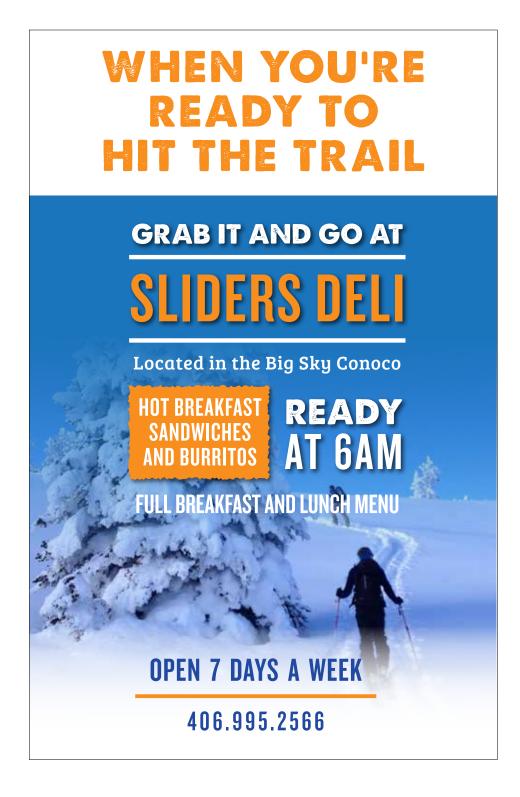
"Yeah, I'm alright with that. I'm sure they have to test it. As long as its below EPA regulations then what's the problem. Typically, they dispose of it in rivers, lakes, and oceans. What is the difference?"

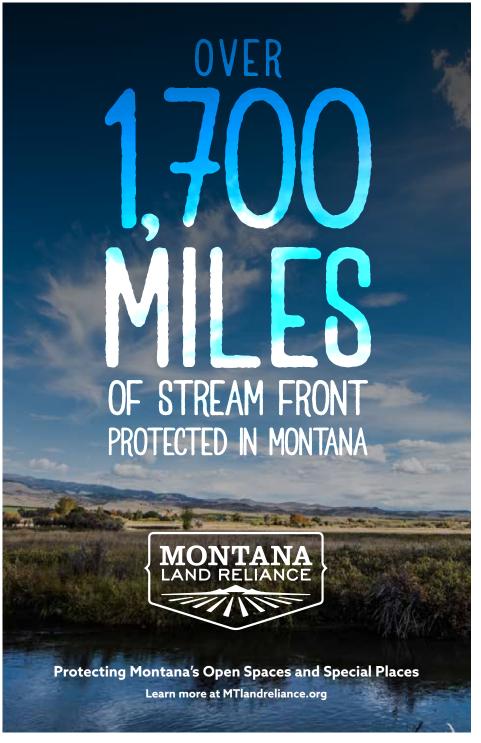




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 $OUTL\Lambda W_{\tiny{\tiny M}}$  News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

# Big Sky PBR takes hardware home from World Finals for sixth consecutive year

BY DOUG HARE **EBS STAFF** 

On the third night of the PBR World Finals at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, members from Outlaw Partners, along with Andy and Jacey Watson of Freestone Productions, accepted the "Event of the Year" award for Big Sky PBR.

This marks the sixth year in a row that Outlaw, the Big Sky-based marketing, media and events agency, and the Watsons were honored with the award—along with third producer Continental Construction—chosen by the bull riders over more than 300 events nationwide.

"There are two factors that set Big Sky PBR apart: the outdoor, intimate setting under the shadow of Lone Peak, and the hardworking cowboys who have made it a tradition to come and ride in Big Sky year after year," said Ersin Ozer, Outlaw Partners' media and events director. "These guys are living from one head-nod to the next, and it means the world to them to show up to an event and be fed dinner, and see the support of the community that rallied behind them, and wants to see them succeed."

For the first time last summer, Big Sky PBR was extended to include a third night of bull riding, after tickets for the two-night event sold out in under 10 minutes. An analysis by Rob Gilmore of Circle Analytics estimated the economic impact on the community of 'Big Sky's Biggest Week' at \$3.4 million. That estimate includes \$1.1 million in spin-off benefits as the dollars circulate throughout the local economy, and approximately \$2 million of which is retained within Gallatin County.

"Those who vote—the top 40 PBR bull riders in the world—are my friends, colleagues, and 'on the road' family. To have their stamp of approval is very gratifying," Andy Watson said. "I have no doubt what makes this event so special to them. It's the Big Sky community and their energy behind the cowboys that ignite the venue into a special space in time, as well as the crew and the heart and soul they pour into the event to make it happen."

Andy and Jacey Watson also produce the Livingston PBR and their business Bull Stock Media is the official photographer for PBR.



Big Sky PBR was selected by the top 40 bull riders in the world as the "Event of the Year" for the sixth year running.



On a river trip on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River, Eric Ladd and six women with ties to the Yellowstone Club hatched a plan to form an LLC and buy a bull from legendary cowboy Cord McCoy. That bull, 51 Viper, recently won the Wild Card round at the PBR World Finals in Las Vegas, garnering a reputation as a bull-to-watch on the PBR circuit. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BULL STOCK MEDIA

"Big Sky PBR is one-of-a-kind. It's a unicorn. It's lightning in a bottle," Andy said. "As soon as you have the chance to experience it, you understand it's significance. That is why we keep winning."

This summer, Outlaw Partners will bring three more nights of bull riding back to Big Sky from July 24-27 and will also soon release dates for a two-night summer PBR event in Jackson, Wyoming, after last summer's inaugural success.

In September, Outlaw Partners and six women from the Yellowstone Club formed Big Sky Bulls, LLC, and bought a bull named 51 Viper from bullrider-turned-stock-contractor Cord McCoy, who will manage the 3-yearold's career from his Oklahoma ranch. At the world finals in Las Vegas,

> 51 Viper put his bucking skills on full display, impressing judges and winning the Wild Card round.

"I knew a little bit about bull riding from going to Big Sky PBR every year, but after buying a bull I know a lot more, said Melissa McKeithen, one of Viper's co-owners. "Cord [McCoy] knows about everything there is to know, and he treats his animals so well. This upcoming year for Viper is really when bucking bulls are entering their prime."

McCoy said that he's excited to be involved with a bull that has its roots in Big Sky, where he comes every summer to help emcee the annual bull riding festival.

"Big Sky PBR is an event that the best riders in the world put on their schedule and plan for it," said McCoy, who retired from bull riding in 2013 after a decorated career. "[It's] so cool how Big Sky sets the scene and the magic happens year after year!"

Visit bigskypbr.com for more information and to see media coverage of past events.

# Resort tax board chooses firm for community strategic plan

# New housing trust director gives update on workforce housing, resort tax summit approaches

BY BAY STEPHENS EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – Consulting firm Logan Simpson was chosen to implement the community strategic plan at the Big Sky Resort Area Tax District meeting Nov. 14; an update on the down payment assistance program and Meadowview property was given; and the board discussed the statewide resort tax summit held in Big Sky on Nov. 30.

After an interview process with three bidders, which responded to the board's request for proposal to develop and implement a community-wide strategic plan for Big Sky, Logan Simpson, a firm that specializes in community planning, won the overwhelming favor of those involved in the interview process. With offices in Boise, Idaho, and Salt Lake City—as well as various other locations throughout the West—the firm stood out for its experience, as well as an innovative and viable approach that is expected to involve the whole community.

"We were particularly impressed with their approach to engaging the community and their enthusiasm for the project," resort tax board Vice Chair Steve Johnson said.

Along with having the best understanding of Big Sky as a mountain resort community, Logan Simpson offered the most robust plan to reach all segments of the local population using varied communication mediums, such as texting, that would allow the voices of younger and less time-rich populations to be heard.

"They really go out of their way to make this accessible to everybody in the community," said Buz Davis, who recently replaced Jamey Kabisch as secretary of the board. "The quality of this work is going to depend on the quality of participation that we get from the community."

As Big Sky grows and changes, the resort tax board's role has potential to significantly transform as well. In determining the function they will play in the area going forward, the resort tax board wants the community as a whole to ultimately make the decision, resulting in a strategic plan to direct the board moving forward.

Logan Simpson is currently working with the city of Bozeman to update its comprehensive plan, the town of Jackson and Teton County in Wyoming, Salt Lake County on an update to the general plan for the Wasatch canyons, and many more.

As part of the housing update, Laura Seyfang, the newly appointed program director of the HRDC's Big Sky Community Housing Trust, introduced herself to the resort tax board and shared that the \$100,000

in appropriations set aside for the down payment assistance program had not yet been used.

To date, the program has had only two applicants, both of whom were not qualified due to their level of earnings and other factors. Seyfang partially credited the low interest to a lack of broadcasting the program and for whom it was designed. The housing trust has developed a communication plan to clarify that the program isn't exclusively for people considering purchasing a unit in the subsidized Meadowview development under construction, but for anyone who meets eligibility standards, Seyfang explained.

As for the Meadowview project, Seyfang said the first units will be completed by April, despite construction delays. Phase one of the project will include three studios and 15 two-bedroom units, each with its own single-car garage.

Arranged as duplexes, the two-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bathroom units will be 1,001 square feet, while the studios will be 350 square feet, according to Big Sky Resort's Director of Real Estate and Development Brian Wheeler, who is also on the advisory council of the housing trust.

Seyfang announced that 32 individuals were interested in purchasing Meadowview units and looked like they would qualify, after first participating in eight hours of home-buyer assistance classes and a homeowner counseling session with the HRDC. Both the down payment assistance program and Meadowview applications require these steps.

The second phase of the Meadowview construction likely won't be completed until the end of 2019.

The resort tax board also discussed the third annual resort tax summit, which will take place on Nov. 30 from 2-5 p.m. in the Big Sky Resort Area District office. The summit gathers representatives from Montana resort tax areas and communities including Gardiner, Red Lodge, Virginia City, West Yellowstone and Whitefish. The goal is to share ideas, successes and challenges as a means of being resources to one another, according to the Big Sky Resort Area District website.

As of the Nov. 14 meeting, the majority of representatives from around the state were going to call in to the meeting, but board members intended to reach out and encourage more to attend the summit in person.





# School district looks at partnering with Habitat for Humanity

# Afterschool tutoring available again for students

BY BAY STEPHENS EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY - At the Big Sky School District board meeting Nov. 12, the board agreed to invest funds to continue exploring a partnership with Habitat for Humanity to build employee housing on campus, and to reinstate a tutoring program to benefit students and teachers.

The board agreed to invest \$2,000 for Habitat for Humanity to draft a memorandum of understanding outlining specific project details, such as budget and appearance of the structures, should they decide to partner with the organization. After the board discusses the details in this future proposal, they would decide whether to bring the project before the community to request funding.

Approximately a month ago, district Superintendent Dustin Shipman met with Laura Seyfang, the newly appointed program director of the HRDC's Big Sky Community Housing Trust, and with Habitat for Humanity of Gallatin Valley Executive Director J. David Magistrelli, to discuss options for a partnership. According to Seyfang, who has previously worked with Habitat for Humanity, she approached Shipman with the idea when she heard the school had its own land, which is a limiting factor for building affordable housing in Big Sky.

Magistrelli, outlined at the Nov. 12 meeting the organization's approach to building, history and possibilities of a joint venture. He said they are proposing to build housing for the district, utilizing their volunteer workforce and discounted rates with contractors, which would substantially lower the project's cost for the school.

Since Habitat for Humanity's arrival in Gallatin County in 1991, it has built 75 homes throughout southwest Montana, but this is the first time they've considered a joint venture with a school in the state, according to Magistrelli. Gallatin Valley Habitat for Humanity is having similar conversations with the Bozeman School District to provide employee housing.

According to Shipman, the school has the ability to build employee housing on campus per the HOA guidelines, and he's had indications from an area real estate lawyer that

the permitting process would go smoothly because the district is exempt from county zoning regulations as a government entity.

"Our mission is to put people in housing that, one, they can afford, and two, is energy efficient and sustainable," Magistrelli said. The Montana branch of Habitat for Humanity sets many of the energy efficiency standards for the rest of the country, using prefabricated structural insulated panels for walls and orienting homes so that the sunlight provides a substantial portion of the heat in the winter.

Unlike their other developments, Habitat for Humanity would not own the resulting homes.

"It's still very preliminary to understand what we're going to take to the community, but we need this [memorandum] to be able to show the actual dollars and cents that we'll be asking," school board Chair Loren Bough said. "We're looking at every possible avenue. ... So, we may come up with other ideas, but this is the first we think is really encouraging because Habitat for Humanity has such a great track record."

#### Afterschool tutoring

Using a \$20,000 anonymous private donation, the district will begin offering afterschool tutoring from 4-5 p.m. daily, beginning after Thanksgiving. This program will fill the void left by a previous program that allowed teachers to earn a Big Sky Resort season pass by tutoring.

For the district, the program checks two boxes: providing students extra academic help and allowing teachers an additional opportunity for income.

The walk-in program will be open to all students, only requiring them to sign in so that teachers can track attendance.

"We were hoping that enough kids would come that it would warrant two teachers," second-grade teacher Brittany Shirley said. "I think that's an appealing work environment for the teachers and could create some synergy among the teachers and students all working together."



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# Snowmaking remains wastewater disposal option, but it won't be this winter

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – When the mercury dips into single digits and humidity is low, snowmaking is at its best. Water is pumped into large snow guns where a nozzle restricts the flow to create small water droplets. These drops of water vary in size, and as compressed air forces the water through the nozzle, the smallest drops instantly freeze into tiny ice particles, which mix with the larger droplets to create snow crystals. In a matter of seconds, millions of crystals fall to the ground, accumulating as snow.

While snowmaking remains an important tool for establishing a skiable base layer across many of the resort slopes in Big Sky, this air and water technology could come to play a significant role in the community's disposal of wastewater.

Currently, the Big Sky Water and Sewer District operates as a zero-river-discharge facility, meaning that treated wastewater is not released directly into any nearby streams. Instead, the bulk of wastewater is stored and released via irrigation at the Big Sky Resort, Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and Moonlight Basin golf courses. However, with burgeoning growth, the district is approaching its disposal capacity, and it could hit its upper disposal limit as early as 2022.

Snowmaking was identified as a priority option for wastewater disposal in the Big Sky Area Watershed Stewardship Plan released in January 2018, and since then, Big Sky Resort—which is also responsible for current snowmaking operations at Spanish Peaks and Moonlight—and the Yellowstone Club have been in conversation with the district to explore wastewater snowmaking options.

According to the watershed stewardship plan, the existing storage pond at the Yellowstone Club, which receives water from both BSWSD and Yellowstone Club wastewater treatment facilities, could be utilized for snowmaking on Eglise Ridge. The recently constructed pond at Spanish Peaks, which receives treated wastewater from BSWSD, could be utilized for snowmaking at Big Sky Resort, while wastewater from Moonlight Basin's treatment facilities could provide for snowmaking on ski terrain in the Jack Creek watershed.

Turning effluent into snow—sometimes called "snowfluent"—has been on the horizon for some time, according to Mike DuCuennois, the Yellowstone Club's vice president of development and a member of the BSWSD board. He referred to a pilot program that the Big Sky Wastewater Solutions Forum launched in 2011, when the club blew 1 million gallons of snow made from effluent in order to test the impacts to groundwater by looking at pH, total bacteria, solids and turbidity.

"We had favorable results," he said, adding that skiers probably wouldn't be able to tell a difference. "You wouldn't even know it. There's no smell, it's white snow, it acts and feels like snow.

"You store [the snow] in the basin then end up increasing snowpack. That returns the water to the hydrological cycle," he added. "What a great benefit it would be if we could get a second use out of our watermaking snow."

While other resort communities have embraced effluent snowmaking, such as at Flagstaff, Arizona, and Sugarloaf Resort in Maine, Big Sky is challenged by the fact that it's never been done in Montana. The process would require a surface water discharge permit from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, and with a lack of precedent, terms and regulations will need to be established.

Currently, Yellowstone Club is working with a multi-department team from DEQ to establish these rules, and DuCuennois said he hopes the club will be able to apply for a permit in the next three months.



A snowgun at the Yellowstone Club, currently used to make snow in the early season using fresh water. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE YELLOWSTONE CLUB

Ron Edwards, the Big Sky district's general manager, said the district is still a long way out from applying for any permits. "We have no plans to apply for a snowmaking permit right now," he said, adding that the district is focused on a new treatment facility first. "Yellowstone Club will be ahead of us, which I think is a good thing because it could pave the way."

He also said snowmaking will be an extensive partnership between the district and the resorts. "Our part would be getting water to a pond," he said. "Then Big Sky Resort or Spanish Peaks would be responsible for snowmaking."

To fully implement reused water snowmaking, additional ponds and pipelines would need to be installed, but Edwards said that won't happen until the permitting process is complete.

During a Big Sky Sustainable Water Solutions Forum meeting in October 2017, many stakeholders expressed their support, though several questioned whether the resort would use energy and resources to make snow with treated effluent even when Big Sky has a robust snowpack.

"We currently snow-make with about 100 million gallons of water, but we could snow-make with 300 million gallons of water," said Taylor Middleton, Big Sky Resort's general manager, during a September 2017 forum meeting. "If you really got after it up in the bowl, you might be able to make a glacier up there."

Brian Wheeler, the resort's director of real estate and development and a BSWSD board member, said Big Sky Resort will certainly work to investigate this option. "We think it is a tremendous opportunity, but it has to be done properly with monitoring and treatment levels," he said in a recent interview. "We absolutely need to explore it."

According to Jon Olsen, the director of development and engineering at Lone Mountain Land Company, both Moonlight Basin and Spanish Peaks also support reused water snowmaking as a possibility, though snowmaking operations are overseen by Big Sky Resort.

# Yellowstone superintendent meets Big Sky, addresses relationships and future

BY BAY STEPHENS EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – Newly appointed Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Cameron Sholly spoke at the Big Sky Real Estate Discovery Center in Town Center on Nov. 15, sharing his perspective on visitation caps, budget issues, and wildlife management in the park.

Structured as a dialogue between Sholly and area locals and business owners, the event organized by Visit Big Sky revealed how Sholly's connections to Big Sky, and the region, run deep.

"This place is near and dear to my heart," Sholly told the audience.

He first skied Big Sky Resort in 1985 as a junior at Gardiner High School. He worked in the resort's conference center after four years in the military, then spent his first season working in Yellowstone in 1990. He attended Montana State University, joining the U.S. Army Reserve unit in Bozeman, which was activated during Desert Shield. After a deployment in Desert Storm, Sholly worked another season in the park and then as a bellman at Big Sky Resort's Shoshone Lodge in 1991.

Sholly's father lives in Big Sky six months out of the year, so Sholly and his son visit every year. Sholly's sister, Alex Tyson, is the executive director of Visit Billings.

A recurring question Sholly has heard is whether the park is considering visitation caps or other mechanisms to rein in visitor numbers.

"At this point, the answer to that is no," Sholly said, asking rhetorically: "Does that mean that at some point that couldn't happen?"

He said that if visitation rose significantly, conversations about ways to reduce numbers would likely ensue, but that they would include Yellowstone's gateway communities.

A theme he brought up throughout the conversation was his commitment to building and maintaining relationships with the communities that ring the park, acknowledging that the park's decisions will heavily affect these communities. He shared his mantra, "Listen, learn and act," explaining that he wants these neighboring communities to feel heard, even if the park's decisions aren't ideal for each individual town.

"There's a danger if you listen and learn too much and you don't actually take an action," Sholly said.

An audience member asked whether it would be viewed as negative if visitation decreased, and marketing efforts were scaled back, such as the Find Your Park campaign, a collaboration between the National Park Foundation and the National Park Service designed to personally connect individuals to parks.

"Find Your Park was outstanding, on multiple levels," Sholly said. "It was designed really to connect with the next generation of stewards, visitors, applicants. It was very successful."

He added that it's a difficult topic of conversation, considering approximately \$4 million was spent with one of the most prominent marketing firms in the world, which grew system-wide parks visitation by 50 million in five years—yet a chief challenge Yellowstone faces is too many visitors.

So far in 2018, the park hosted 4,078,770 visits, according to a Nov. 14 press release, which is down 0.15 percent from the same period last year and down 3 percent from the park's record visitation year in 2016.

"I don't think less visitation is bad," Sholly concluded, adding that determining visitation thresholds and impact on resources is a large focus of his office.



Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Cam Sholly (middle) with Visit Big Sky CEO Candace Carr Strauss and event sponsor Dan Martin, the owner of Karst Stage. PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

While visitation burgeons, the opposite seems true of federal funding, another audience member pointed out.

Sholly described that, of the \$11.6 billion deferred maintenance backlog in the national parks system, approximately \$500 million is in Yellowstone, and half of that sum is differed maintenance on roads, bridges and structures within the park. He pointed to the passage of the Restore Act as an opportunity for a substantial influx of funding to address the deficit, but does not think more money solves all of the park's problems.

"I think there's a lot we can do better with what we have, before we get to the conversation about how much more we need," Sholly said. "Any organization, public or private, has similar challenges and the answer is not always more."

He also said he believes there are several actions park management can take to address priorities within their current funding limits. He indicated that some high-priority items are not being funded, while ones lower on the list are. Once priorities are straightened out, and the system is closer to optimal, then requesting more funds would be appropriate, Sholly said.

EBS also asked Sholly questions about grizzly bear relisting and quarantine for brucellosis-infected bison. Although he declined to comment on how relisting grizzly bears on the Endangered Species list would affect the species and future management, he said he's very committed to getting bison on the larger landscape, working with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and tribal partners.

"We've got bison that are currently quarantined and undergoing testing for brucellosis and our plan is, in the next 12 months or so, to move those bison—as long as they test brucellosis-free—to the Fort Peck tribes," Sholly said.

He concluded his time with the Big Sky audience by saying it is a privilege to be working in such a place. He said he's not as much concerned with his legacy as with doing the right thing in the park.

"There will never be anything I do that compromises the resources at that park," Sholly said.

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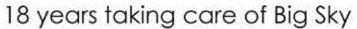
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# MSU approves new strategic plan

BY ANNE CANTRELL MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN — Montana State University leaders voted on Nov. 7 to approve a new strategic plan that will guide the university's efforts for the next seven years.

The new plan, called "Choosing Promise," articulates the university's strategic direction and will serve as its roadmap through 2024. It states the university's mission, vision and values. It also lists areas of intentional focus and goals, as well as metrics that will be used to measure progress toward those goals and the specific actions needed to help reach them. The plan was approved by MSU's University Council, which includes members from across the university.

"This plan reflects our proud heritage and proposes a bright future for Montana's land-grant university. As the last plan guided budgets and decisions, this plan will help us to make disciplined decisions about the allocation of the resources entrusted to us," said MSU President Waded Cruzado.

"Choosing Promise" states MSU's land-grant mission to integrate education, the creation of knowledge and art, and service to communities. The plan details MSU's vision to "transform lives and communities in the people's interest" and lists six key values: excellence, integrity, inclusion, collaboration, curiosity and stewardship.

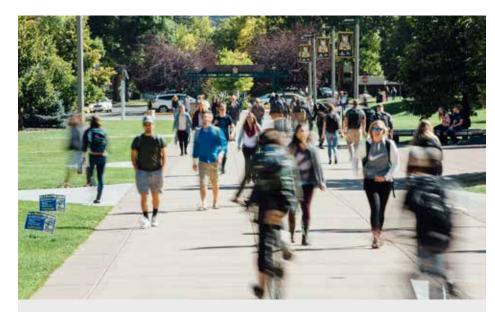
The plan lists three high-level focus areas: transformational learning experiences; research, creative activity and scholarship with impact on lives and society; and engagement with communities.

Some of the plan's goals include increasing the access to education and success of students from a variety of backgrounds, enhancing graduate education, providing additional evidence-based teaching and learning experiences, strengthening research and creative activity that is responsive to regional and national needs, and increasing interdisciplinary research. The plan also calls for greater responsiveness to Montana's American Indian tribes, strengthened partnerships with communities and organizations within the state, and a collaborative culture on campus.

Specifically, by the year 2024, the plan calls for meeting 80 percent of student financial need, compared to the current 74 percent. It seeks to increase the number of dual enrollment students—those who take college courses while they are still enrolled in high school—by 40 percent. It also seeks to increase the number of 1-year and 2-year degrees and certificates awarded by 50 percent.

The plan calls for increasing the number of new freshmen and transfer students who return their second fall—a measure referred to as student retention—from 72 percent to 85 percent. It also seeks to reduce disparities for students who are economically disadvantaged, first generation students, veterans, adult learners, individuals with disabilities, and students from underrepresented races and ethnicities.

In addition, MSU will foster four "Grand Challenges of Montana" that are responsive to regional and global needs. Those include caring for the environment, promoting wellness in communities, encouraging food and fuel security, and securing the future of Montana. The university plans to define



Students walk to classes at Montana State University, on Sept. 21, 2018, in Bozeman. MSU PHOTO BY ADRIAN SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ

ways to measure success in the grand challenge areas by 2020 and will monitor for demonstrated, research-related improvement by 2024.

The plan outlines a number of metrics and actions related to the university's work with American Indian students and tribal partners. For example, it calls for building and maintaining an inventory of current partnerships with tribal partners by 2020. It also calls for working closely with partners to develop a plan to improve and increase tribal partnerships with mutually defined outcomes by 25 percent by 2024. By enhancing partnerships with Montana tribal colleges, MSU also seeks to increase the number of tribal college graduates who enroll at MSU by 2024. And the plan calls for completing construction on the American Indian Hall by 2022.

The 10-member Strategic Planning Committee prepared the draft based on the input of hundreds of faculty, staff, students and community members. Feedback was solicited throughout the process over the last 12 months.

Chris Fastnow, chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, expressed gratitude for the work of the committee and for the participation of the community in the planning process.

"The committee made improvements to the plan in response to community feedback throughout the process, even up to the final draft that the council saw," she said. "We have been so pleased with the level of engagement from our faculty, students, staff and community. The plan is more aspirational and inspirational because of it."

MSU's current strategic plan, "Mountains and Minds: Learners and Leaders," has guided the university's efforts since 2012. Because that plan concludes in 2019, MSU has been developing the next strategic plan over the past year in order to provide continuity of direction and purpose with no gaps between plans, Fastnow said.

The university will begin using "Choosing Promise" in January 2019.



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SECTION 2: ENVIRONMENT, SPORTS, OUTDOORS & DINING







### The New West:

# Healthy places are booming, but face being loved to death



TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

Many healthy landscapes in the 21st century, like those around us in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, experience economic prosperity because they attract creative people wanting to live in or near them.

Conservation, despite what old-guard economists say, is not an economic liability but can be a tool for driving prosperity and getting out of the rut of boom-and-bust cycles involving traditional natural resource extraction, says Ray Rasker, who founded Headwaters Economics in Bozeman.

The public-land-rich West has not, despite claims by some, been hobbled by federal ownership, Rasker notes.

During the last four decades, the West created jobs twice as fast as the rest of the nation, and western non-metro counties with significant protected federal land added jobs more than four times faster than peers without protected federal land.

From 1970 to 2010, western non-metro counties with more than 30 percent of the county's land base in protected federal status, on average, increased jobs by 345 percent.

By comparison, similar counties with no protected federal public land increased employment by 83 percent. Compellingly, Headwaters Economics found that for every 100,000 acres of protected public land inside county boundaries, per capita income was \$4,360 higher.

In our region, the economic impact of Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks is around \$1 billion annually, anchored to nature tourism and wildlife watching—a figure also confirmed by separate economic assessments compiled by the National Park Service.

Rasker says the economic value of nature throughout Greater Yellowstone "is at least three times that."

On top of it, the value of "ecological services" delivered by healthy landscapes are increasingly being recognized. In the arid West, 33 percent of the region's water supply starts as rain, snowpack or springs on national forests. National forests provide water that reaches the tap of 66 million people in 3,400 communities and possesses an economic value of at least \$7.2 billion annually.

That value will only skyrocket with climate change; moreover, when water flows clean off of healthy public lands it saves billions of dollars in expensive water treatment and pollution control costs, plus it fuels the recreation economy.

In 1980, former University of Montana professor Dr. Thomas Power published a book that was ahead of its time, "The Economic Value of the Quality of Life." He also contributed to the 2008 book, "Accounting for Mother Nature: Changing Demands for Her Bounty," that was edited by Bozeman free-market economists Terry Anderson and Laura Huggins.

Power now runs a consulting business and says that since the start of the frontier mindset, the West has been propped up by subsidies that benefit certain industries. Instead of creating wealth that endured and towns that continued to thrive after the last flakes of gold were extracted, it left behind communities struggling with economic desperation in their wake. Many became ghost towns, and some were stuck with huge environmental messes.

Power was among the first to note that states which rely upon natural resource extraction, such as Montana and Wyoming, and fail to diversify their economies, were setting themselves up to fail.

Just as he predicted, Wyoming has dealt with crushing revenue shortfalls caused by the downturn in the coal market—linked more to an abundance of cheaper natural gas than environmental regulations related to climate change. Power also warned that the new economy is replete with its own challenges, namely that it's easy to criticize natural resource extraction of old but few conservation groups are willing to take a real hard look at the impacts of population growth and corresponding rises in the number of outdoor recreation users.

According to the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor recreation generates \$887 billion annually in consumer spending and is linked to 7.6 million jobs. Separately, the U.S. Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis in February 2018 pegged the worth of outdoor recreation at \$373.7 billion during 2016, or about 2 percent of the annual U.S. economy, and it is growing.

Missing from both stats is reflection on what the costs of outdoor recreation are to the character of wild public lands, which are both finite and, in many cases, fragile. How can we use places without loving them to death?

Rasker says the West needs to have an adult conversation that moves beyond tribalism, partisan politics, denial and vitriol. Resource extraction jobs are not going away, nor should they, he explains, but any promise they represent in achieving a "better West," one which yields a marked improvement over boom-and-bust thinking, needs to be tempered by reality.

"Despite national politics, the biggest promise is to stop the us-versusthem rhetoric. We're seeing lots of examples, driven by communitybased collaborative efforts, that have led to, for example, responsible timber harvesting alongside new land protections," Rasker said before heading on a mountain bike ride along an old logging road. He too worries about recreation's impacts: "At the local level we still have the opportunity to get good things done."

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.

# THE LONE PEAK PLAYBOOK



# Big Horns basketball teams set lofty goals for season ahead

#### **EBS STAFF**

**LEFT:** Senior captain point guard Kolya Bough (pictured driving to the basket) will lead a versatile front court that also includes senior captain Cole March, junior captain Frankie Starz, and left-handed shooting guard Austin Samuels. Keegan Babick will provide a much needed presence in the paint for a fast-paced team that is not oversized.

"With our quickness and shooting ability, I'm not worried about putting up points. We might not ever be a defensive team, but we are going to need to learn to play defense as a team for this season to be successful," said Brian Van Eps, in his first year as head coach but who has been with the LPHS basketball program for four years now.

Van Eps said the team had a meeting to discuss goals for the upcoming season, and the upperclassmen hope to finish first or second in the district tournament, advancing to the divisional tournament, something no LPHS men's basketball team has done in the past.

**RIGHT:** Senior Brook Botha (pictured getting to the rim in traffic) and senior captain Solae Swenson just finished a successful volleyball season together, and both garnered 1st Team All-Conference, All State honors. Along with junior captain Emma Flach, the LPHS girls basketball team looks forward to competing with rivals Manhattan Christian and West Yellowstone this year.

"We have good leadership from the upperclassmen, and freshmen Carly Wilson and Cassidy Boersma will be great additions to our squad," said head coach Ausha Cole. "I think if this team comes together, that we can make it through divisionals and do well in the state tournament."





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# **Treasure State Triple**

# Goal line stop lifts Bobcats to historic win over rival Griz

BY COLTER NUANEZ EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – Tucker Yates knocked his opponent on his heels, threw Cy Sirmon to the side and dove at the ball carrier barreling toward the goal line.

On Nov. 17, as Montana State's senior nose tackle thrust his hips and put his head perfectly across the bow, he punched the ball out of Adam Eastwood's hands in a moment that will never be forgotten in the 121-year history of the fierce Treasure State rivalry.

In an ending that was fitting, storybook, shocking and thrilling all at once, Yates' final punch helped the Bobcats swing the pendulum back even further in a rivalry owned by the Grizzlies for most of the modern era.

Yates' enormous goal-line play served as the crescendo to one of the wildest contests during the 118-game series. And the final forced fumble of Montana's fumble-ridden season helped Yates and his fellow Montana State seniors cement their place as Bobcat legends.

When Derek Marks fell on the ball in the final seconds, MSU owned a 29-25 victory, which took a 22-point fourth quarter for the Bobcats to erase a 15-point deficit and solidify their first three-game winning streak over Montana since 1983-1985.

"Great team win, an unbelievable team comeback and we couldn't be happier," Marks, a Belgrade native, told ROOT Sports TV after moving to 3-0 in his career against the Griz. "This is the dream and beating Montana is the new standard. Three years in a row, that's unbelievable."

With the shock setting in for the Washington-Grizzly Stadium record crowd of 26,508 fans, Yates rose from the pile and the four-year starter from Colstrip walked slowly toward

his team's sidelines as the rest of the Bobcats burst into bedlam. One of just eight players recruited by former head coach Rob Ash who made it to his final season had a signature play that helped propel MSU into the FCS playoffs.

"Amazing college football game," Bobcats head coach Jeff Choate said. "I just can't say enough about the heart that was shown by both teams on that field today. I have a ton of respect for the University of Montana, that group of men and how they played today. ... The people of Montana should be proud of both of these teams."

The Bobcats have won four times in Missoula this decade alone. Montana State moved to 7-4, the team's best mark since its last playoff berth in 2014. The seventh win, combined with a schedule that featured losses to three of the Top 10 teams in the



**ABOVE:** Montana State quarterback Troy Andersen hurdles a host of Montana defenders in MSU's 29-25 win over the Griz in Missoula on Nov. 17. PHOTO BY JASON BACAJ/SKYLINE SPORTS

**BELOW:** The Montana State Bobcats carry the Great Divide Trophy out of Washington-Grizzly Stadium for the third straight season, MSU's first threegame winning streak over the Griz since the 1980s. PHOTO BY BROOKS NUANEZ/SKYLINE SPORTS



FCS, coupled with North Dakota's 31-16 loss at Northern Arizona on Saturday, earned the Bobcats an at-large postseason berth.

Montana State will host the Southland Conference's Incarnate Word from San Antonio, Texas, on Saturday, Nov. 24, in Bozeman. The winner of that game will visit No. 1 overall seed North Dakota State in the second round.

But no matter their playoff result, on this sun-kissed Saturday in the Garden City, the memorable moment belonged to the Bobcats.

Tough-running true freshman Isaiah Ifanse landed an impressive backflip during the postgame celebration. Senior captain defensive tackle Zach Wright took a head butt to his bare forehead and rejoiced in tasting the blood that streamed down his face.

Choate took an ice bath and kept charging toward the middle of the field, the emotion pouring from within him. As he embraced tortured defensive coordinator Ty Gregorak—an assistant at Montana for 12 seasons—Gregorak beamed after watching his defense force two crucial fumbles in the final six minutes. With three fingers raised above his head for the duration of MSU's celebration at the center of Montana's home field, Choate exclaimed, "Three in a row and don't think this is going to stop any time soon."

"Quite honestly, processing all this is probably not going to hit me for a while," Choate said. "I think this is a game that will be remembered for a long time for the courage of the young men who fought in it and for the excitement that was provided."

For the third straight season the Bobcats cut into the Grizzlies' all-time lead in the series. UM now holds a 72-40-5 advantage and since both teams joined the Big Sky as charter members in 1963, Montana leads 30-25. Since the construction of Washington-Griz in 1986, the Griz own a 24-8 advantage. But since Travis Lulay led MSU to

a 10-7 victory in Missoula in 2002 to snap MSU's long streak of futility in the rivalry, UM's advantage slims to 9-8.

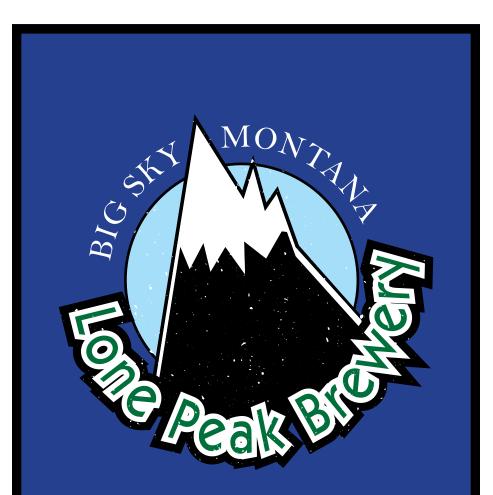
"It's hard to quantify this win," Choate said. "This is such a big deal in this state. It's awesome. These kids are absolutely unbelievable. We've been through a lot together for a long time. It's extremely rewarding for them.

"I'm the 32<sup>nd</sup> head coach at Montana State. There [are] going to be more after me," Choate added. "This is about them and their legacy. I couldn't be more proud of them."

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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# Ski Tips: The lost art of the kick turn

BY DAN EGAN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

At my camps and clinics, I like to give a quick review of some basic skills and one of them is the "kick turn." As a boy I learned to kick turn in my back yard; it was one of the first skills my older brothers drilled into me. Over the years I have used this valuable skill to reverse my direction in a variety of situations, and I encourage you to set a goal to master it this winter.

Unfortunately, many people have never learned the kick turn and your skiing agenda is limited if you don't have this basic skill. The kick turn allows you to peer over the edge or around the corner and gather information. It also empowers you to retreat to safer ground or better snow and change direction on a dime. This skill is as important as pole planting, edging and stopping.

The skill requires commitment. Remember: K.I.C.K your way around to the kick turn.

Kick: Kick your downhill ski up and onto the tail.

**Inertia:** The move is a fluid motion, once you start the kick turn you have to finish it. Don't allow inertia to creep in.

**Commitment**: You have to be totally committed to the kick turn or the mountain will reject your effort.

**Keep**: Keep your skis across the hill and stay on your feet, do not lean into the hill or sit. You have to stay on your feet, kick your edges into the snow and slide down the mountain.

There are three key moves to a good kick turn:

- 1. Kick your downhill leg up and forward so the tail of the ski hits the snow by the tip of your uphill ski.
- 2. Once the uphill ski is up and vertical, start to rotate your shoulders down the hill and swing your uphill hand down into the fall line, and place your downhill ski 180 degrees across the hill.
- 3. Finish by having your former uphill ski swing instantly with your uphill hand so that it comes 180 degrees across the fall line and becomes the new downhill ski.

You will want to practice this move on a slight incline, which will make your movement easier. Become a "switch kicker" by practicing this to both the left and the right. As you start to progress, increase the incline of your slope and the conditions under your feet. Mastering the kick turn will pay benefits in the deep snow, on steep terrain and in the trees, plus it will build your confidence on where you go and allow you to go there safely.

Extreme skiing pioneer Dan Egan has appeared in 12 Warren Miller Ski films and countless others. Today he teaches clinics and guides trips at locations around the world including Big Sky, where he'll be teaching Dec. 15–16, Feb. 21–23, Feb. 28 to March 1 and March 7–8. To find more information on Dan Egan camps and clinics, visit skiclinics.com.







Three important things to keep in mind while executing a kick turn (clockwise from top left): The first step is to kick your downhill ski up and onto the tail; move fluidly, once you start the kick turn you have to finish it; keep your skis across the hill and stay on your feet. PHOTOS BY DAN EGAN

# Big Sky Youth Empowerment raises nearly \$2 million for expansion

#### **BIG SKY YOUTH EMPOWERMENT**

The Bozeman-based nonprofit, Big Sky Youth Empowerment (BYEP), has raised more than \$1.8 million in expansion funding from a small group of donors to address the growing demand for its programs. Aiming to benefit Gallatin Valley's most vulnerable teenagers, BYEP creates opportunities for young adults to experience success through life-skills curricula and outdoor adventures.

The 17-year-old organization currently serves 128 youth, and routinely has a waitlist for its 100-percent scholarship-based program. The expansion funding will allow BYEP to increase the total number of teens served to 200 by the year 2021. In addition, the number of hours that participants can access BYEP's programs will increase. Currently, teens can engage in BYEP programming twice a week, averaging 10 hours per week, for 36 weeks out of the year. The expansion will allow young adults to engage in programs up to five times per week, with annual program hours growing from 46,000 to a projected 83,000 hours annually.

With support from Montana State University, the organization will expand tutoring to four nights per week during the school year and will also provide ongoing elective workshops, which will include book discussions, art workshops, and mindfulness and wellness training.

Big Sky Youth Empowerment will also expand its job skills training, placement, and independent living workshops for older participants and alumni. This commitment to the community's adolescent population is the realization of a long-held dream of BYEP's founder and Executive Director Pete MacFadyen.

In order to accommodate this expansion, the organization will increase its approximately 3,000-square-foot footprint in its existing location on East Mendenhall Street to 9,000 square feet by occupying adjacent space via a long-term lease. BYEP's operating budget is projected to grow to \$1.5 million annually, which places it in the top tier of nonprofits based in Bozeman.



Big Sky Youth Empowerment currently serves 128 young adults in the Gallatin Valley, but with a planned expansion, the nonprofit will be able to serve 200 teens in its life-skills curricula and outdoor programs. PHOTO BY PETE MACFADYEN

With this expansion plan in place MacFadyen will be stepping down as BYEP's executive director in July 2019. MacFadyen will remain an integral part of the organization by taking a seat on its board of directors.

For more information about Big Sky Youth Empowerment and its expansion, or about volunteering opportunities with the organization, visit byep.org or call (406) 551-9660.





# Big Sky plans for future trail needs

# Community input deadline Dec. 15

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE **EBS CONTRIBUTOR** 

BIG SKY – Following an initial release of the Big Sky Master Trails Plan in October, the Big Sky Community Organization will accept public comment through Dec. 15 on a plan that will guide efforts to develop and maintain trails year-round.

The Master Trails Plan was released during the Fall Fest on Oct. 14, and was compiled by consultants from Alta Planning + Design and BSCO after a year and a half of development. It spans portions of both Madison and Gallatin counties and is based on preliminary public input regarding in-town connections that aid in commuting and recreational trails outside of town.

BSCO will assess public commentary after Dec. 15, before submitting the final plan to both counties for adoption.

According to a Nov. 8 press release by BSCO, the organization envisions Big Sky as a world-class destination with a trail network that provides a variety of experiences during all seasons, for all ages and abilities and user groups, serving and connecting residents and visitors.

"The [Master Trails Plan] will be of great help for the BSCO as it prioritizes desired trails that will steer where BSCO can focus trail expansion efforts, both short term and long term," wrote BSCO parks and trails director Adam Johnson in an email to EBS. "The types of comments we would like to receive range from feedback from those who did not participate last summer, to additional trail connections that were not identified, as well as overall questions or concerns that were not sufficiently addressed."

Copies of the draft Big Sky Master Trails Plan can be found at the Big Sky Community Organization and water and sewer district offices in Big Sky; the Madison County planning office in Virginia City; the Madison Valley Library in Ennis; and the Gallatin County planning office in Bozeman. An electronic copy can be found online at bscomt.org/hike-bike/trail-projects.

Comments can be submitted by emailing Alta Planning at joegilpin@altaplanning.com.

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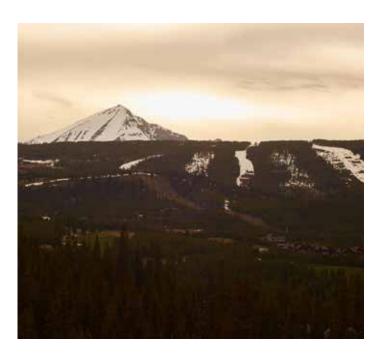
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#### PRIVATE CLUB HOMESITES



Lot 38 Bitterbrush\* | Spanish Peaks Mountain Club | \$800K 1.27 ACRES Spanish Peaks & Lone Peak view on golf course

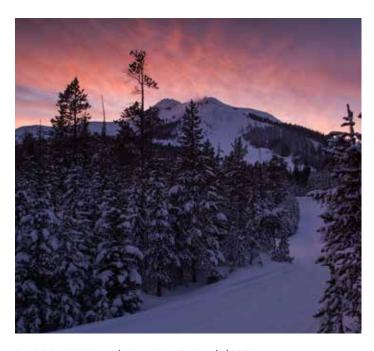


**Lot 119 Old Barn Road\*** | Spanish Peaks Mountain Club | \$450K 3.13 ACRES

Private creekside homesite at the end of a cul-de-sac



Lot 44 Diamond Hitch\* | Moonlight Basin | \$685K 1.283 ACRES Large Diamond Hitch lot with breathtaking views bordering open space



Lot 39 Saddle Horn\* | Moonlight Basin | \$595K 1 ACRE Ski-in, ski-out homesite surrounded by mountain views.



LKRealEstate.com | 406.995.2404



# New equipment slated to improve community trail grooming this season

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – This winter season, the regular whir of an Arctic Cat snowmobile will be a welcome sound on the trails in Big Sky Town Center. Operated by the Big Sky Community Organization, the snowmobile will allow for routine grooming on both Nordic ski and walking trails, while a snowmobile donated by Lone Mountain Ranch will be used to maintain trails at the Big Sky Community Park.

Early operations began Nov. 8, when BSCO hardpacked trails in the community park and grooming will continue as snow conditions allow. Once a base has developed, BSCO plans to implement a grooming schedule throughout the park and on many trails near Town Center located south of Lone Mountain Trail. All of these public trails will be open to skis, snowshoes, hiking, fat bikes and dogs. Parking will be available in Town Center near the ice rink off of Aspen Leaf Drive, while parking for trails at the community park will be available in a plowed lot near Crail Ranch.

This will be the first year BSCO has taken the reins in maintaining these public trails, after Lone Mountain Ranch historically provided the service in addition to grooming its own network of Nordic trails. Lone Mountain Ranch will continue to groom their own trails, which open on Dec. 7 and require a ski pass available for purchase online or at the Lone Mountain Ranch outdoor shop.

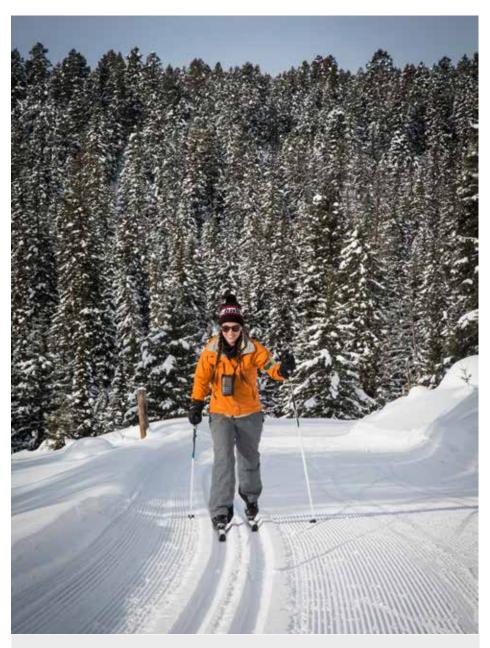
The change comes after construction in Town Center prevented Lone Mountain Ranch from getting equipment to the trails last year and both BSCO and Lone Mountain Ranch look at it as an exciting partnership.

Ryan Kunz, the guest ranch's general manager, said he's glad to partner with BSCO in order to keep public trails accessible this winter. "Grooming this year is an entire collaboration," he said, adding that the ranch administrators were happy to donate a Ginzu groomer and snowmobile to BSCO in order to help with new operations.

In addition to the donation, BSCO used funds appropriated by the Big Sky Resort Area District tax to purchase a second groomer and snowmobile, as well as a compactor. This small fleet of dedicated equipment will allow BSCO to groom Town Center and the community park without hauling cumbersome equipment back and forth or risking damage from driving it across asphalt in order to get from one site to another.

While snow accumulation will dictate when the public trails are ready for skiing, BSCO parks and trails director Adam Johnson said their team will be out and about as they are able.

"Our equipment is new to us and we are taking this early-season opportunity to make sure all the equipment is working correctly and also fine-tune the routes we will be grooming," he said. "People have been, and are welcome to continue, using the BSCO trails while we begin this preparation process."



Nordic ski trails open at Lone Mountain Ranch on Dec. 7, while public trails in and around Town Center will be groomed winter-long as snow conditions allow.

OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Johnson added that Lone Mountain Ranch, while not physically doing the grooming, will be a key component of this year's operations, in part due to their experience and advice. "Having the support of Lone Mountain Ranch and having the donation of the Ginzu helps us to do this. We really couldn't set up the network we have otherwise."

At EBS press time on Nov. 18, Lone Mountain Ranch and BSCO were finalizing their winter trails maps, which will be available on their websites in the coming weeks.





#### **Bear basics with Bernadette**

### Help keep bears wild this Thanksgiving

BY KRIS INMAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

It is the time of year to be thankful, and in Big Sky there is a lot to be thankful for. The natural beauty and amenities that bring us to live and recreate here also provide suitable habitat for healthy populations of black bears, as well as grizzly bears as they continue to expand their range beyond Yellowstone National Park.

The great smells of your Thanksgiving feast will draw the remaining bears, still fattening up prior to hibernation, for their last call of food before heading to their winter dens. If you're frying a turkey, remember that grease is a strong attractant—the same is true for your turkey carcass. Store cooled fryers inside after use and dispose of grease, and the turkey carcass, in a bear-resistant trash can to keep bruins from getting into trouble.

Trash left on top of a container is not something bears will be thanking you for. Access to garbage can condition bears to seek out anthropogenic food and become bolder—including breaking into cars and walking through open garage doors. Eventually, this will put both you and the animal in danger. Ensure that garbage is placed inside the trash can and it's latched properly.

If you don't have a bear-resistant can, keep trash indoors before your scheduled pickup, or better yet, convert to a bear-resistant can from L&L Site Services or Republic Services. It's approximately \$7 more per month to make this change, and bears will be thankful for this small concession to keep them wild.

Don't forget to post photos of bear sightings and check in with Bernadette Bear on Instagram @bearsmartbigsky and #bernadettebear. Help support Bernadette in her campaign to create a more bear-safe and bear-aware community in Big Sky.











#### BHHSMT.COM | 406.995.4060 | 55 LONE PEAK DRIVE | BIG SKY TOWN CENTER



#### TRAPPER'S CABIN | \$15,000,000 #321234 | CALL DON

640± acres surrounded by national forest and the Lee Metcalf Wilderness. Privately held since the 1930's, Trapper's Cabin Ranch has never been offered for public sale until now.



# TBD MOUNTAIN LOOP | \$875,000 #326156 | CALL DON

Ski-in-ski-out lot in Moonlight Basin Resort, terrific views of Spanish Peaks. Build site is on the south side of the property just above a ski trail.



#### SUMMIT HOTEL CONDO | \$599,000 #312593 | CALL DON

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



# TBD BIG BEAR ROAD | \$575,000 #324440 | CALL DON

Incredibly beautiful 10± acre property bordering public land. Spectacular alpine meadow leading into a mature forest canopy with a mixture of aspens, mature evergreens, shrubs and bushes.



#### LOT15A BEAVER CREEK WEST | \$530,000 #324111 | CALL DON

Stunning views of Lone Mountain, Spanish Peaks and Buck Ridge. Forested west facing lot with abundant grassy meadows. Two adjacent lots are also available to create one 54± acre block.



# LOT 24 BEAVER CREEK WEST | \$500,000 #220532 | CALL DON

Bordering Forest Service land, the 20± acre parcel has incredible views and privacy in a forested location. Just minutes away from Meadow Village Center and Town Center.



# TIMBERLOFT DR LOT 22B | \$475,000 #206525 | CALL DON

Outstanding forested parcel w/ views of Lone Mountain. Grassy meadows w/ forested building site very private! Additional acreage available up to 140± more acres. End of the road privacy!



# TIMBERLOFT DR LOT 22A | \$425,000 #206527 | CALL DON

Outstanding forested parcel with views of Lone Mountain and Spanish Peaks. Grassy meadows with forested building site, very private! End of the road privacy!



# LOT15B BEAVER CREEK WEST | \$399,000 #324556 | CALL DON

West facing lot provides impressive views of Lone Mtn as well as the Spanish Peaks and Buck Ridge. Two adjacent lots are also available to create a 54± acre parcel. Motivated sellers.



1053 TURKEY LEG | \$385,000 #326055 | CALL DON

Bright and sunny 2 bd, 2 ba condo overlooking a small stream in one of the most convenient locations in Big Sky's Mtn Village. Close and convenient to dining and skier services.



114 WHITE BUTTE | \$339,000 #309556 | CALL DON

Beautiful lot in the highest part of Cascade Subdivision, this lot borders Ulery's Lakes Subdivision to the north so no homes or development onthe northern side of this lot.



# LOT 149 FOURPOINT RD | \$240,000 #214051 | CALL DON

This ridge lot has views of Lone Mountain, Yellow Mountain and even looking east toward Ramshorn and the Gallatin Canyon. As a ridge lot it is very sunny and has a great building site.



# RESORT ROUNDUP

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

# Thanksgiving Day ushers in highly anticipated ski season at Big Sky Resort

**EBS STAFF** 

Big Sky Resort had already received over 6 feet of snow as of EBS press time on Nov. 18, more than any other ski resort in the Northern Rockies and opens Thanksgiving Day with excellent early-season conditions.

On Nov.15, a crew of 40 team members from Big Sky Resort, Doppelmayr, and Fatzer ropes worked together to splice the 78,000-pound haul rope for the new Ramcharger 8 chairlift. Once the haul rope is on the lower bullwheel, crews will check for alignment, finish up wiring, chair assembly and terminal assembly, planning to finish the project by mid-December. Nearly all of the chairs, each more than 15 feet wide and weighing over a ton, have been hung on parking rails in the chair barn near the top of the lift.

Big Sky Resort also recently announced the lineup for the 13th annual Big Sky Big Grass music festival, which in years past has been held in early February, but this winter will take place April 11-14. The four-day festival will include a mix of small-stage and large-venue shows at Montana Jack, Chet's Lounge, the Carabiner and the Missouri Ballroom.

The lineup includes nationally recognized acts such as Sam Bush Band, The Travelin' McCourys, Drew Emmitt Band featuring Jeff Austin, as well as Boulder-based Grant Farm, and Montana's Laney Lou and the Bird Dogs. The Treasure State's finest bluegrass talent will also be on hand, including The Lil Smokies, Bozeman roots-rock band The Hawthorne Roots, and local acoustic group Lone Mountain Trio.

Big Sky Resort will once again this season partner with Bozeman-based Eagle Mount to offer adaptive snow-sports lessons for children and adults with a wide range of physical and developmental disabilities. The Eagle Mount Big Sky ski program is still looking for more volunteers for the upcoming season.

As part of their preparation for the ski program, volunteers will receive professional training in specialized skills to assist standup skiers, bi-skiers, mono-skiers, and/or snowboarders. Ski lessons are based at both the Big Sky Mountain Village and the Madison base area.

### Volunteer Schedule for Eagle Mount Big Sky Ski Program

Dry Land Training: Nov. 28 – Water and Sewer Building, 5:30–7 p.m. On Snow Training: Dec. 15-16 – Madison Ballroom/Huntley Lodge 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more information, visit eaglemount.org or call (406) 539-5520.





**ABOVE:** With opening day just around the corner, crews are putting the finishing touches on the new Ramcharger 8 lift after splicing the haul rope together. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BIG SKY RESORT

**BELOW:** Bozeman-based non-profit Eagle Mount is hoping for a few more volunteers for their Big Sky ski program this winter.



# Art Appreciation Sale NOW-THROUGHTHANKSGIVING SAVINGS OF UP TO 20% ON SELECT PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURES



Creighton Block GALLERY

# INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



# Skiing Yellowstone's western range

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE EBS CONTRIBUTOR

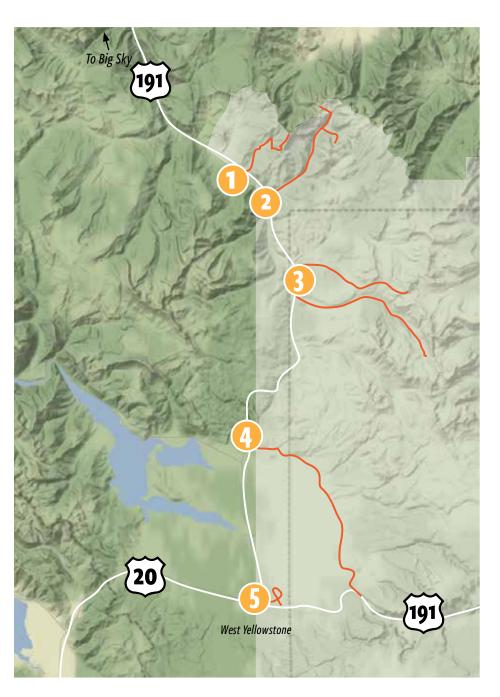
LIVINGSTON – Set your first tracks in Yellowstone this year on one of several trails within an hour's drive of Big Sky. You could catch sight of wintering elk and other wildlife, and you'll see firsthand how the landscape is transformed into a winter wonderland.

Dramatically fewer visitors explore Yellowstone in the wintertime, and those that do are most often guided on snowmobile, snowcat or ski. While the majority of park roads remain closed until Dec. 15, when permitted snowmobiles and snowcoaches are allowed to make tracks on the snow-covered roads, trails along Yellowstone's western boundary remain open to skiing as snow conditions allow.

Many of these trails are accessible along Highway 191 between Big Sky and West Yellowstone, with parking available at designated trailheads. Typically, the trails start easy and get more challenging the farther you go, making for a great season-long experience.

The majority of Yellowstone's western trails are not groomed and anyone venturing out should be prepared for changing weather conditions, avalanches, deep snow and open streams. Remember that these trails are within the Yellowstone National Park boundary and require a park pass. Passes are available online at yourpassnow.com/parkpass/park/yell.

Below is a selection of ski trails in Yellowstone's western range. Most years, as snow accumulation develops, ski conditions improve drastically by the end of November and beginning of December.



#### 1. Trail: Black Butte

**Distance:** 14 miles roundtrip

Difficulty: Difficult

**Restrictions:** Within Yellowstone National Park, no pets **Directions:** 18 miles south of Big Sky on Highway 191

**Description:** Following Black Butte Creek, this trail includes a number of short, steep sections. Between the trailhead and Daly Creek Cutoff (2 miles), it gains 769 feet in elevation before climbing an additional 4 miles to Bighorn Peak. The last 2 miles of trail are extremely steep and exposed.

#### 2. Trail: Specimen Creek

**Distance:** 8 miles one-way **Difficulty:** Easy to difficult

**Restrictions:** Within Yellowstone National Park, no pets **Directions:** 21.5 miles south of Big Sky on Highway 191

**Description:** This popular trail follows Specimen Creek through rolling forests for 2 miles to the Sportsman Lake Trail junction (Sportsman Lake Trail is not recommended). Specimen Creek Trail continues along the north fork of Specimen Creek, ascending for 4 miles to the Shelf Lake/Crescent Lake Y. Shelf Lake is 2 miles north and Crescent Lake is 2 miles east, with avalanche danger more likely on the Shelf Lake portion.

#### 3. Trail: Fawn and Bighorn passes

**Distance:** Up to 11 miles one-way **Difficulty:** Easy to difficult

Restrictions: Within Yellowstone National Park, no pets

**Directions:** Fawn Pass, 26 miles south of Big Sky on Highway 191; Bighorn Pass, 28 miles south

**Description:** The paralleling trails to Fawn and Bighorn passes provide a variety of skiing options. With a cutoff trail connecting the two after about 5 relatively easy miles on either trail, a skier can make a loop from either trailhead, or continue up climbing 6 miles to Fawn Pass or Bighorn Pass.

#### 4. Trail: Gneiss Creek

**Distance:** 14 miles one-way **Difficulty:** Easy to difficult

**Restrictions:** Within Yellowstone National Park, no pets **Directions:** 38 miles south of Big Sky on Highway 191

**Description:** Gneiss Creek is a lightly-used trail that runs across rolling meadows and open forest. The trail crosses several creeks. You can return the same way you came, or ski back 7 miles along Highway 191 from Seven Mile Bridge to West Yellowstone.

#### 5. Trail: Riverside

**Distance:** Up to 7 miles **Difficulty:** Easy

Restrictions: Within Yellowstone National Park, no pets

**Directions:** 48 miles south of Big Sky on Highway 191, trailhead is in West Yellowstone

**Description:** With two loops that follow the Madison River, Riverside Trail provides several easy ski options where you can enjoy views of the Gallatin and Madison mountain ranges. The trailhead is located on the east side of Boundary Street. The first mile extends through forest and a Y will take you on either the downriver or upriver loops. The first 2 miles of this trail are occasionally groomed.

Yellowstone offers many more miles of trails accessible from Gardiner or via several ski shuttles. Guided trips are also available. Visit nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/skiing-and-snowshoeing.htm to learn more.

# Catch the winter wildlife action in Yellowstone

#### BY CHRISTINE GIANAS WEINHEIMER YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

Winter is an ideal time to watch Yellowstone National Park's spectacular wildlife. Deep snow brings animals down to lower elevations, and they are easier to spot and observe against the park's stark white landscape. Winter is also the best time of year to catch a glimpse of wolves. Yet knowing exactly when and where to go, and understanding wildlife behavior, will greatly increase your chances of a successful outing.

That's where the naturalist guides from the Yellowstone Forever Institute come in. If you're heading out for a day in Yellowstone, and are hoping to see the park's legendary wildlife, these guides are ready to help you catch all the action.

Yellowstone Day Adventures, a new day-tour program launched earlier this year, offers a convenient, affordable, expert-led wildlife watching experience for visitors to Yellowstone National Park. Based on the popularity of the summer program, the Institute recently announced that they would extend the program throughout the winter season, with tours starting Dec. 19.

Pickup begins in Gardiner at dawn, when wildlife activity is at its peak, then the group departs for Yellowstone's Lamar Valley. This location offers the possibility to see several species including elk, bison and the park's famous wolf packs.

"Whether our guests are from the local area or have traveled a great distance to see the park, this tour will help ensure that their visit is a truly inspirational experience," said Zachary Park, Yellowstone Forever's assistant director of Institute operations.

"The guides will adapt their route and schedule based on their knowledge of the latest wildlife activity, making the most of your time in the park. They will also provide you with the use of top-quality optics," Park said.

Park explained that the tour includes the use of state-of-the-art spotting scopes and the latest digiscoping technology, which allows you to capture what you're seeing in the scope on your smartphone, and share the images later with friends. He notes that the animals visitors most want to see, such as wolves, will likely be far from the road, so top-notch optics will ensure that guests enjoy an enhanced wildlife viewing experience.

Guests should plan to take home more than pictures, though, as they will also learn from fascinating commentary on the behavior and ecology of Yellowstone's wildlife as well as in-depth, facilitated group discussions based on their interests.

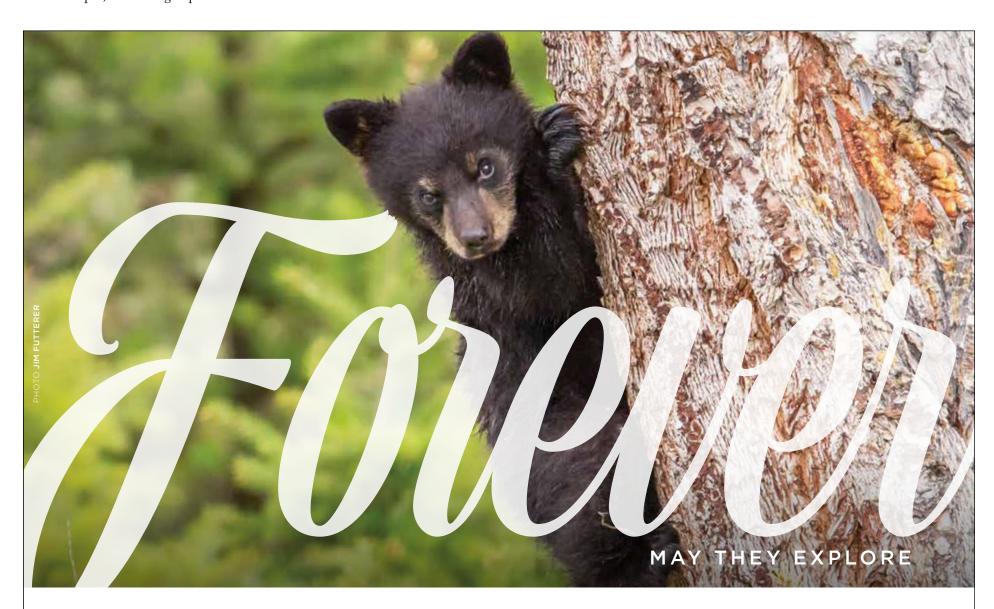


"Yellowstone Forever Institute's naturalist guides are experts on Yellowstone's wildlife and ecosystem," Park said. "This half-day tour is a rare opportunity to get in the field with high-caliber professionals who work closely with park researchers and can communicate the most recent scientific findings about the park's wildlife."

Yellowstone Day Adventures are offered on Wednesdays and Fridays this winter. Tours include early morning pickups in Gardiner, breakfast and hot beverages, specialized instruction, all transportation, scopes and binoculars, and digiscoping equipment.

To sign up for a tour, visit the Yellowstone Forever Park Store in Gardiner or call (406) 848-2844. You may sign up as late as 5 p.m. the day before the tour. Visit yellowstone.org/ day-adventures for more information.

Yellowstone Forever is the official nonprofit partner of Yellowstone National Park. Learn more at yellowstone.org.





Help us preserve the Yellowstone you love for generations to come. Join our community today at Yellowstone.org/forever

Official Nonprofit Partner of Yellowstone National Park 406 | 848 | 2400 | 6900

# The Rocks Tasting Room is a foodie's delight

BY CARIE BIRKMEIER **EBS STAFF** 

When I heard there was a new restaurant in Big Sky that was serving up one of my favorite cold weather dishes, Vietnamese pho, I had to try it immediately. I bundled up, dusted the heavy October snow off my windshield and drove to Town Center to get my fix.

When you walk into the cozy and intimate space, you're greeted with a vast display of Montana-made spirits adorning the back wall behind the bar. The neatly stacked, Art Nouveau-inspired glassware sparkles in the sunlight filtering through the massive garage door, which leads to an outdoor patio area open in the warmer months.

I eyed the handwritten cocktail menu, beer tap handles and wine list as I contemplated what I was in the mood for. Passing on the house cocktails and deciding on a beer, I chose the Golden Ale from MAP Brewing Company out of Bozeman—although my server explained that they could make any spirit concoction I desired. Despite displaying only regional spirit bottles on the wall, they also have a fully stocked bar with more household liquors.

While waiting for my beer, I sipped on ice water from the elegant glassware and looked over the menu indecisively. I had come for the pho, but the unique salads and flatbreads were also tempting my taste buds—I would simply have to return to try the other menu items. So, I went with my gut and ordered pho with Kurobuta pork belly. Kurobuta pork is similar to Wagyu or Kobe beef, yielding a more tender and flavorful pork product.

When the dish arrived, it took up half the table—the presentation is gorgeous. The steaming broth was fragrant, with rice noodles and veggies mixed in, and was accompanied by an array of fresh toppings: jalapenos, carrots, cilantro and a selection of spicy sauces. It was a huge serving that took me awhile to finish, but I finished it all, and my belly was grateful.

Since this initial experience I've returned to The Rocks for several more meals, trying something new nearly every time, though occasionally reverting back to



The array of toppings that accompany pho, including house-made sauces, allow you to finish the soup to your liking. PHOTO BY CARIE BIRKMEIER

my go-to pho. Everything served on their menu is made fresh in-house, from the duck bacon to the hoisin sauce that accompanies the pho. The only issue I've had so far with this restaurant is trying to find a place to sit, because the small space often fills up quickly with patrons.

If you live in Big Sky, you've probably been in a similar predicament alternating between the same handful of your favorite restaurants, hopeful for a new and different option to add into the rotation at some point. The Rocks will certainly become a go-to for me, and I look forward to sampling more of their menu items throughout the winter—if I can resist ordering the pho, again.

Carie Birkmeier graduated from Michigan's Les Cheneaux Culinary School and continues to practice her culinary passion in her home kitchen.

#### CHECK OUT OUR SPECIAL EVENTS!

### Get your Santosha Winter Season Pass Today!

Acupunture is back at Santosha

Sonic Bliss Bath with Will and Cache Hartzell

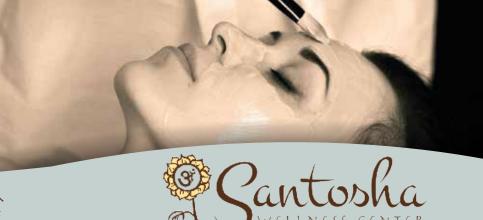
Raise your Vibration | November 28th | 7:00pm Register Today!

Join us for our Winter Kick-Off Open House and Holiday Party!

December 1st | 5:30-8:30pm

YOGA MASSAGE **ACUPUNCTURE** SPRING & FALL CLEANSES

AYURVEDA SKIN CARE FAR-INFRARED SAUNA THAI MASSAGE CRANIOSACRAL THERAPY



406-993-2510 • 169 Snowy Mountain Circle • Big Sky, Montana SANTOSHABIGSKY.COM

#### SUNDAY

10:00-11:15am All Levels Yoga

5:00-6:00pm Yin Yoga

#### **MONDAY**

7:30-8:30am All Levels Mat Pilates 9:00-10:15 All Levels Yoga 5:45-7:00pm

All Levels Yoga

#### 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**

12:00-1:00pm Power Hour Yoga

#### **SATURDAY**

9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga

### **BIG SKY CHAMBER**

# Elevate Big Sky 2023

**FACILITATING LOCAL GOVERNANCE** 

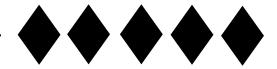
# Join Us! ECONOMIC IMPACT OF TOURISM





# WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2018 | 8:30 - 10 AM LONE PEAK CINEMA (Breakfast Served)

Join the Big Sky Chamber and special guest, Dax Schieffer with Voices of Montana Tourism to discuss the economic impact of the 12.5 million non-resident visitors who spent \$3.4 billion in Montana supporting 53,380 jobs in 2017 and what that means for the Big Sky community.



**IMMEDIATELY TO FOLLOW** 

Gallatin-Madison

JOINT COUNTY COMMISION MEETING

10 AM - 12 PM

BigSkyChamber.com/events | 406.995.3000

**OUR COMMUNITY. OUR BUSINESS.** 

**BIG SKY CHAMBER** 

# SECTION 3: BUSINESS, HEALTH, ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT









& FUN

# Making it in Big Sky: Willow Boutique

### BY BAY STEPHENS EBS STAFF WRITER

Debbie Applebaum and two friends opened Willow Boutique in September 1994, selling clothing, jewelry, gifts and home furnishings out of the space that The Trove West now occupies. After three years, the trio purchased a space next to Olive B's Big Sky Bistro in Meadow Village Center and moved locations. With the post office, the Big Sky Owners Association office and, at the time, Grizzly Outfitters also located in Meadow Village Center, it was a main hub of Big Sky.

In 2001, they opened a satellite store in Moonlight Basin, and in 2006, Applebaum bought her partners out and has been a sole proprietor for the past 12 years.

As part of this ongoing series, Applebaum shared her thoughts with EBS about what it takes to make it as a small business owner in Big Sky.

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

**Debbie Applebaum:** The key to my success has been my longevity and in the beginning being somewhat of a department store and the only game in town. I also owe a large portion of my success to my employees. All five of them have lived here for many years and pretty much run the day-to-day operations.

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

**D.A.**: The two obvious challenges of owning a business here are finding employees and trying to survive during the off seasons.

EBS: What unique challenges have you faced running your boutique?

**D.A.**: One of Willows' biggest challenges from the beginning has been getting people to my shop. It has certainly improved since Olive B's has opened next door, but I wish there could be more foot traffic.

EBS: How do you choose the merchandise that you sell?

**D.A.**: When Willow first opened it was primarily Western fashion and the lodge look for the home. Today it is maybe 20 percent Western, and buyers seem to want a more modern-city look for their homes. When I travel to my markets for buying, I try to find a unique mix of these.

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



Debbie Applebaum (right) in her store, Willow Boutique, with employee Karen Davids. PHOTO COURTESY OF DEBBIE APPLEBAUM

**D.A.**: There have been numerous changes in the business landscape in the past 25 years. Of course, the greatest change in our landscape is the internet, primarily Amazon. It has made [running] our mom-and-pop, small retail stores a real challenge. This has forced [me] to open a retail outlet on the web, willowoutwest.com. I began this seven years ago and am now working on reconstructing it. I feel this is the wave of the future.

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

**D.A.**: Big Sky is a wonderful place to call home and I feel blessed to live here.

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

**D.A.**: My only advice to new small business owners is to be prepared for the off seasons. I do not think these down times will change much in the future. I was fortunate to get in the business at a good time and besides a few blips in the economy, have enjoyed the ride.

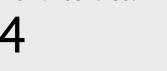
# WILLOW BOUTIQUE - BY THE NUMBERS



5



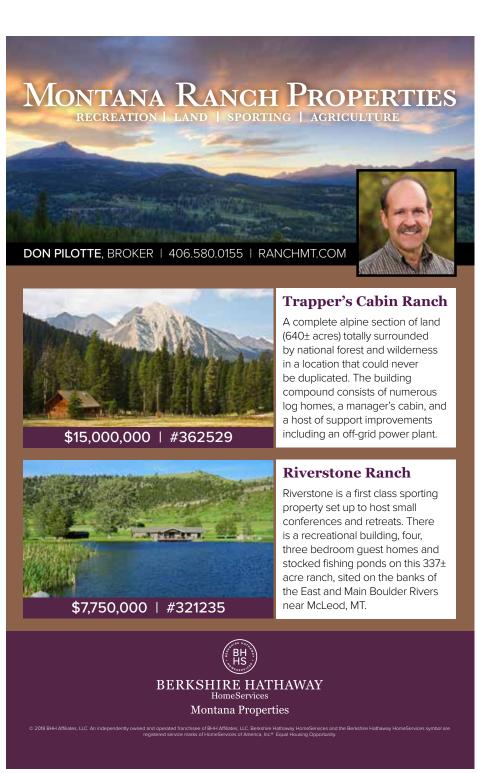
**YEARS IN BUSINESS:** 





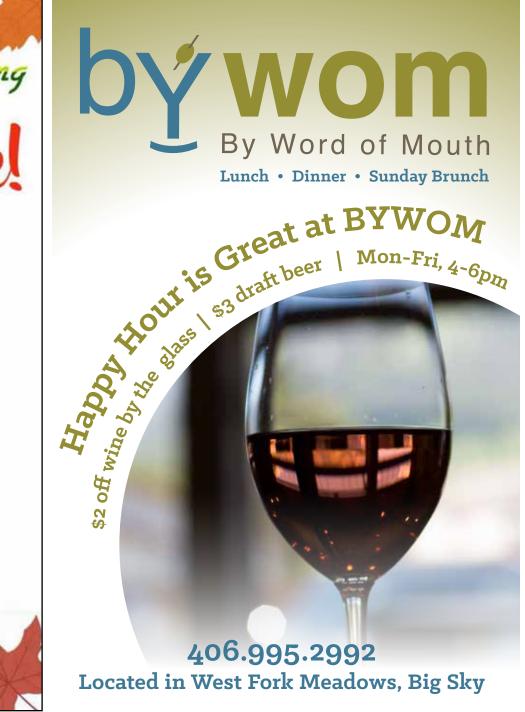
LONGEST SERVING EMPLOYEE:

Barbara Rupp, 12 years









# Yours in health



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

During ski season, it's easy to break out of a normal exercise routine and adopt skiing as your only workout. While skiing is great exercise, it's also a sport that is tough on the body and can create posture imbalances.

I learned this the hard way, enduring a knee injury a few years ago, but because of the injury, I learned how to be stronger and healthier. Through my road to recovery I adopted an exercise routine that would help me become a better, more confident skier post-injury. Here are some tips on how to avoid injuries this season.

In general, 80 percent of Americans will experience low back pain at some time in their life. Chronic low back pain is usually a biomechanical issue. Having a strong core is vital to avoiding back pain and other injuries. Exercises that are easy and help to strengthen your abdominals are plank variations, heel slides, bird dogs, hamstring and psoas stretches.

To start a plank, come down onto your forearms and pull your belly button up towards your spine—this is the most important part. Then engage your legs and squeeze your buttocks. Hold this position for one minute, rest, then repeat. If you already are experiencing low back pain, I recommend that patients do not hold a plank for more than eight seconds. After eight seconds drop to your knees and continue to pull your belly button towards your spine. And repeat up to six rounds of an eight second plank, resting your knees for eight seconds.

Always remember to draw your belly button into your spine, this helps stabilize your core and develop the deep transverse abdominis muscle group.

To start heel slides, lay on your back on the floor with your knees bent, feet flat on the floor, toes pointing straight ahead and arms by your sides. Draw your belly button in towards your spine and hold this position throughout the exercise. Slide one foot away from you extending your knee and hip. Slowly return to the starting position. Repeat on the opposite leg. Do 10 repetitions.

The bird dog exercise is great practice in balance and core strength. Start in a tabletop position with your hands underneath your shoulders, and your legs strong, with your belly button pulled towards your spine, extend your right arm forward as you lift your left foot off the ground. Return to either a tabletop or plank position—for a more advanced move—and then extend your left arm forward and lift your right foot up. Return to

# Keep your body healthy through ski season: part one

plank. Continue to alternate back and forth for one minute. Rest, and then repeat.

The psoas muscle helps to flex your hips and move your body forward in motion. It's a difficult muscle to stretch and is abused a lot while skiing. We ski down the mountain in the matter of minutes and then sit on the chair lift allowing our muscles to get cold and stiffen. The psoas muscle becomes tight from sitting for prolonged periods of time, so it's important to stretch and strengthen. Symptoms of tight hip flexors include low back pain, stiffness and poor posture.

A runner's stretch is one of my favorites for loosening the psoas muscle. Start on your hands and knees, and lunge forward with your right leg so your right foot and left knee are contacting the ground. Being sure to keep your back straight and pelvis tucked, lunge forward until you feel a stretch in your left hip. Hold this stretch for 15 seconds, and then repeat three times. Repeat on the other leg. For an even deeper stretch, I recommend reaching one arm above your head and bend into the leg that is lunging forward.

Finally, stretching the hamstrings is vital to having a strong and healthy lower back. When the hamstring muscles are tight, they pull the pelvis posterior and back, causing pain. Performing a hamstring stretch with a towel or a belt is great way to start. Lie on the floor on your back. Loop a long bath towel or belt around your toes and hold the ends of the towel or belt in both hands. Slowly pull on the towel or belt to lift your straight leg up. Be sure to keep your knee straight. Bring your leg up until a stretch is felt behind your thigh. Hold the stretch for 15 to 30 seconds, and then relax. Repeat three to five times on each leg.

It's important to remember when performing these exercises and stretches to not feel an abnormal amount of discomfort. If anything causes pain, don't do it.

Along with these exercises and stretches I highly recommend yoga and Pilates. A Pilates reformer class is a great way to get an excellent workout while also strengthening the low back and core. Other added benefits include increased coordination, balance, flexibility and overall better posture. Along with yoga, Pilates would be a great activity to add into your exercise routine during the ski season.

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.



# Introducing the 2019 TEDxBigSky lineup

### Third annual event slated for Jan. 26 as part of wider festival

BY BAY STEPHENS **EBS STAFF WRITER** 

BIG SKY - TEDxBigSky returns as part of the Big Ideas Festival which is currently being arranged and curated, slated for Jan. 23-27. An independently organized event, TEDxBigSky will take place Saturday Jan. 26, revolving around the concept of "flow." The idea encompasses everything from water running downhill to the mental state of flow that athletes enter in the midst of extreme sports.

No matter how one interprets the theme, it provides a jumping-off point for speakers to share knowledge and insights from various backgrounds and areas of expertise with the Big Sky audience. Tickets go on sale Friday, Dec. 14. Below is a brief overview of this year's TEDxBigSky presenters.

#### Daryl Davis: Musician and race-relations expert

The 2016 documentary film "Accidental Courtesy: Daryl Davis, Race and America," follows the everyday life of Daryl Davis, a black musician living in Washington, D.C., who makes friends with racists, including Ku Klux Klan members, as he tries to answer the question: "How can you hate me, when you don't even know me?"

As a young rock 'n' roll musician Davis let Klan members use his band's bus for a Klan rally, he has trailblazed a path of unlikely friendships that have, on multiple occasions, led Klan leaders to forfeit membership and send Davis their robes.

#### Ulla Suokko: International Flute Soloist

Finnish flutist, performer and transformational coach Ulla Suokko has serenaded crowds in the most renowned concert halls across the globe, having cut her teeth with the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra. Coming from her current home in Cusco, Peru, she will speak at TEDxBigSky about drawing on expertise in music, breath and movement, and will also perform another night of the Big Ideas Festival.

#### Doug Smith: Yellowstone Wolf Restoration Project Lead

Wildlife biologist and project leader of the Wolf Restoration Project in Yellowstone National Park, Doug Smith has studied the species for more than 20 years. He's been involved with the reintroduction program since its inception, working from an understanding that a natural ecosystem, which Yellowstone managers aim to maintain in the park, requires natural predators.

#### Twila Moon: Glaciologist

Big Sky's own Dr. Twila Moon will offer insights from her extensive studies in the cryosphere, which is basically anything related to ice. She is a research scientist for the National Snow and Ice Data Center and cofounded the Wheelhouse Institute, an organization dedicated to equipping professional women with a supportive network and skills to fulfill their leadership potential. Moon's passions include ice, science communication, art and the outdoors.

#### Jay Sanguinetti: Neuroscientist

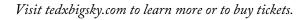
Brain stimulation through ultrasound is called neuromodulation, and it could potentially be used to accelerate the benefits of meditation. It's called "consciousness hacking," and Jay Sanguinetti is at the cutting edge of what the human brain is capable of when aided by ultrasonic waves.

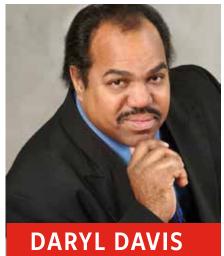
#### Lynne Dale: Mother of Summer's Team founder

After being diagnosed with an aggressive form of sarcoma cancer, Summer Dale, Lynne's daughter, discovered her ability to give gifts to other kids with cancer. The movement Summer's Team began built relationships with other kids with cancer, dreaming up personal gifts for each child. Lynne witnessed her daughter's love and generosity and has helped to carry on the organization after losing her daughter to the disease in 2012.

#### Jamie McLean: Musical performer

Guitar and vocals flavored by the South will close out the night as the Jamie McLean takes the stage. Former lead guitarist for New Orleans' Dirty Dozen Brass Band, McLean and his band have played at Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival, Targhee Fest and Mountain Jam. The full band will perform on a different night as part of the Big Ideas Festival.







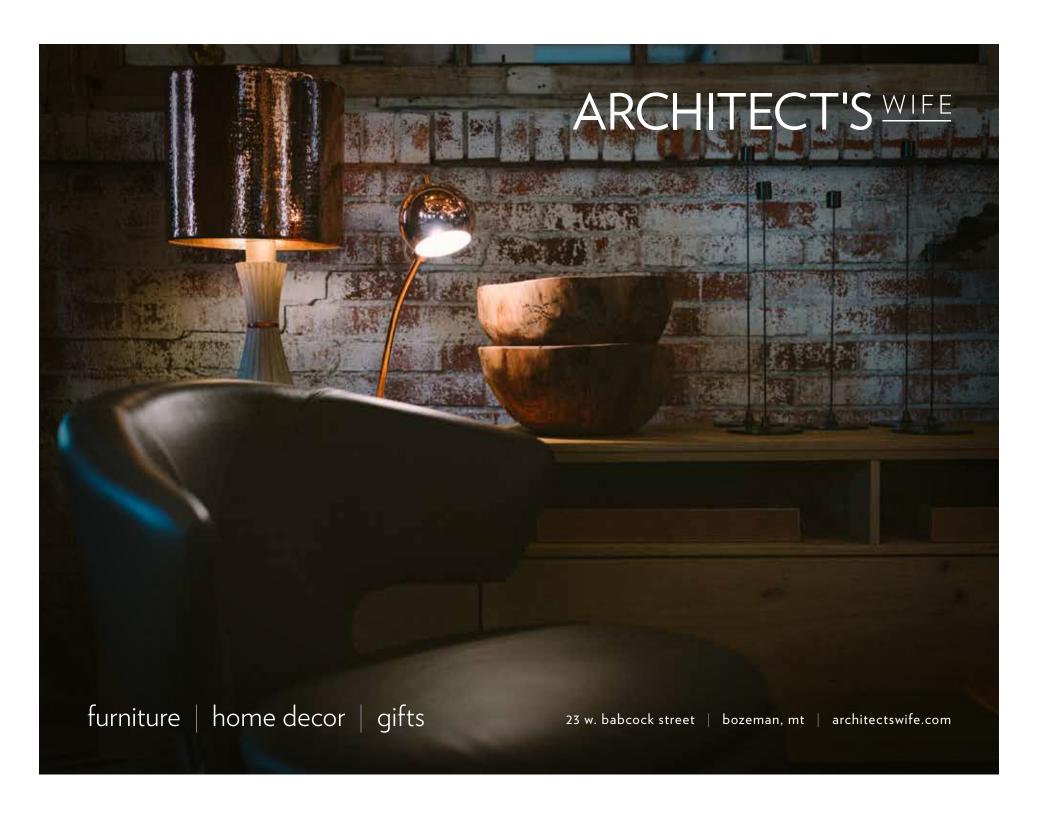


















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The Montana Ballet Company will return to The Warren Miller Performing Arts center for a one night performance of "The Nutcracker" on Dec. 2. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

# 'The Nutcracker' returns to Big Sky Dec. 2

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

The Arts Council of Big Sky will bring a production of Montana Ballet Company's "The Nutcracker" to the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center on Sunday, Dec. 2, at 4 p.m.

MBC's production of "The Nutcracker," set to Tchaikovsky's beloved score, is one of the largest artistic collaborations in the region. It features the work of accomplished dancers, local- and national-level choreographers, guest artists, live musicians, seasoned stage technicians, lighting and costume designers and a host of dedicated volunteers.

For this special performance at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, a live chamber orchestra will perform the music and local dancers will again be part of the cast.

"Having a production like 'The Nutcracker' in Big Sky is a real treat for our community," said ACBS Executive Director Brian Hurlbut. "It's one of the most popular ballets in the world and great for audiences of all ages."

Montana Ballet Company will welcome guest artists Rachel Van Buskirk and Christian Clark, principal dancers with the Terminus Modern Ballet Theater in Atlanta, who will be appearing in the Big Sky performance. Both guest artists have notable careers and have danced professionally throughout the United States and abroad.

Van Buskirk and Clark will share the stage with MBC's own company dancers, as well as local dancers from Big Sky. Also featured in the cast is Soren Kisiel, codirector of Bozeman's all-female performance ensemble Broad Comedy, who will once again dance the role of Drosselmeyer.

Tickets are now on sale at warrenmillerpac.org and for more information on the event call (406) 995–2742 or visit bigskyarts.org.

# Madrigal Dinner returns to Buck's T-4 on Dec. 3

#### ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

The Arts Council of Big Sky will present the 22nd annual Madrigal Dinner, on Monday, Dec. 3, at 5 p.m. in the Montana Room at Buck's T-4 Lodge.

This event is considered by many in the Big Sky community as the traditional opening of the holiday season and an annual highlight. The Madrigal Dinner is a joint production between the Arts Council of Big Sky and the Montana State University School of Music.

Tickets for the event can be purchased in advance and include a three-course dinner prepared by the chefs at Buck's T-4, as well as festive music from the Montanans, the MSU Brass Quintet and the MSU Chorale. The occasion typically sells out so tickets are by advanced reservation only.

"The Madrigal Dinner is a fun, festive event," said ACBS Executive Director Brian Hurlbut. "Not only is the food amazing, but the singing from the Montana State students is incredible."

The evening begins with a no-host bar at 5 p.m., followed by seating for the dinner promptly at 6 p.m., in preparation for the Ceremonial Procession of the Lord and Lady of the Manor and their guests. Olde English customs are the theme throughout the evening, including fanfares introducing the Ceremonial Procession, the Wassail Bowl and Christmas Toast, the Boar's Head Procession and the Flaming Pudding Dessert.

The MSU Montanans serenade guests throughout the evening and the MSU Chorale presents a concert finale. The dinner closes with the audience joining the musicians in singing familiar carols.

This year marks the 53rd annual Madrigal Dinner, produced by the MSU School of Music, and the 22nd year the production has traveled to Big Sky.



The Madrigal Dinner has become a festive holiday tradition for many families in Big Sky. This year marks the 22nd annual event, which is hosted at Buck's T-4. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

The Arts Council of Big Sky is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing musical and artistic performances to the Big Sky area. For more information call (406) 995–2742 or visit www.bigskyarts.org.

# **BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR**

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20 - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

If your event falls between Dec. 7 and Dec. 20, please submit it by Dec. 12 by emailing media@outlaw.partners.

#### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

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

#### **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

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

# THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22 Big Sky Ski Education Foundation Turkey Trot 5K

Fire Pit Park, 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Bridge

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

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

Thanksgiving Dinner Buck's T-4 Lodge

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

#### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24**

Community Fitness Class Headwaters Fitness, 8 a.m.

Small Business Saturday kickoff Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, 9-10 a.m.

Small Business Saturday Big Sky retail outlets, all day

#### Ribbon Cutting: Dave Pecunies Photography and Stay Montana

Dave Pecunies Photography, 12:30 p.m.

#### **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 25**

Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

#### **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26**

Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

#### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27**

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

#### **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28**

Rotary Club of Big Sky Meeting Buck's T-4 Lodge, 5:30 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29**

Bridge

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

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

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

#### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

#### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1**

Community Fitness Class Headwaters Fitness, 8 a.m.

#### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2**

Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

#### **The Nutcracker**

Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 4 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, DECEMBER 3**

Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

#### **Madrigal Dinner**

Buck's T-4 Lodge, 5 p.m.

#### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4**

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

#### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5**

Eggs & Issues: The Business of Tourism Lone Peak Cinema, 8:30 a.m.

Madison and Gallatin counties joint commission meeting Lone Peak Cinema, 10 a.m.

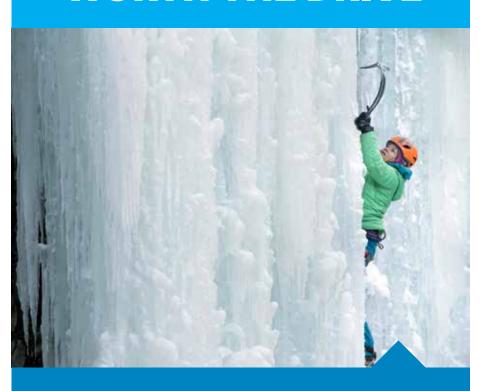
Rotary Club of Big Sky Meeting Buck's T-4 Lodge, 5:30 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

Bridge

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

### **WORTH THE DRIVE**



#### **BOZEMAN**

### **Bozeman Ice Festival**

Various locations Dec. 5-9

Black Diamond Equipment presents the 22nd annual festival which includes ice climbing clinics in Hyalite, après-climb gatherings with speakers, and adventure film screenings such as National Geographic's "Free Solo." Bozeman establishments such as Lockhorn Cider House and Bridger Brewing will host events, while most screenings will take place at the Emerson Crawford Theater. Visit bozemanicefest.com to see the full schedule of events and ticketing information.

# Have you sometimes wished you could spend a holiday sober? We can help.

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

# **Mark your Calendars for these upcoming Big Sky events:**

#### FRIDAY DECEMBER 7

#### Holiday Home Tour Big Sky Discovery Academy, 3 p.m.

Tour three exceptional Big Sky homes for architectural and holiday décor inspiration while enjoying drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Transportation is available to each home on a first come, first served basis.

#### **FRIDAY DECEMBER 7**

### 21st annual Big Sky Christmas Stroll Town Center, Meadow Village, Westfork Meadows

Town Center, Meadow Village, Westfork Meadows 5:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

The streets of the Big Sky area will come alive for the community-wide Christmas Stroll, an evening of family friendly events, entertainment, holiday cheer—and, for many, the official start of ski season.

It's a long standing tradition for many to come up to Big Sky, ski and après with family and friends at the stroll. Big Sky Resort and many local business celebrate and show their holiday spirit as well with ski and stay packages and open houses that weekend.

# FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7 & SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

#### Holiday Bazaar

Big Sky Discovery Academy Learning Center, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Browse local artists, vendors and student made for a wide range of holiday gift options. Tickets for Saturday's Holiday Home Tour will be available for purchase Friday night event.

# **CLASSIFIEDS**

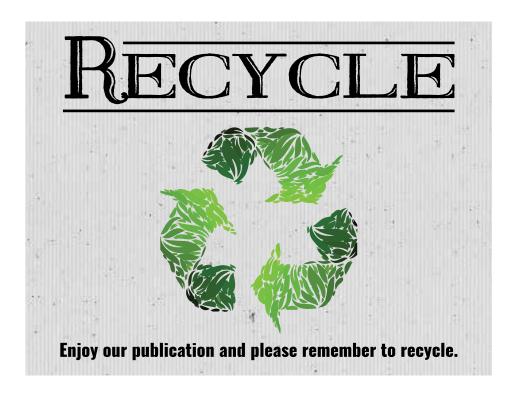
#### HIRING

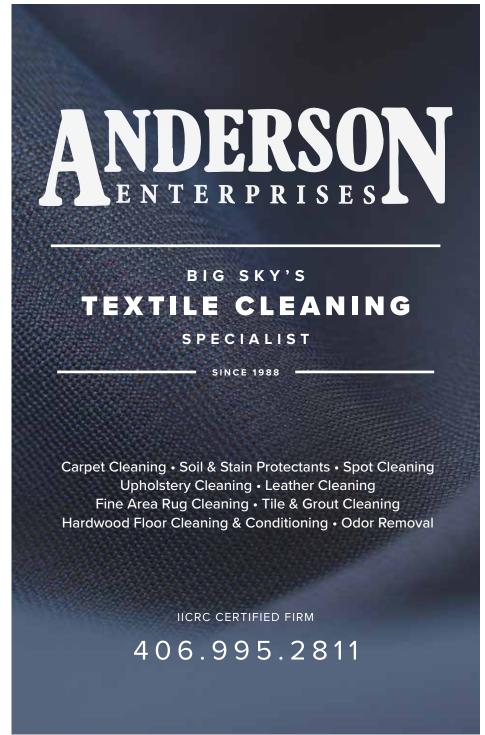
#### Journeyman Carpenters Wanted

Blue Ribbon Builders is now hiring experienced/skilled journeyman carpenters and lead carpenters for full time, year-round work in Big Sky. We offer an exemplary compensation packages and work environment.



Employee housing may be available. Apply online at: http://blueribbonbuilders.com/employment/. Send resumes to: hr@blueribbonbuilders.com. For more information call 406-995-4579.

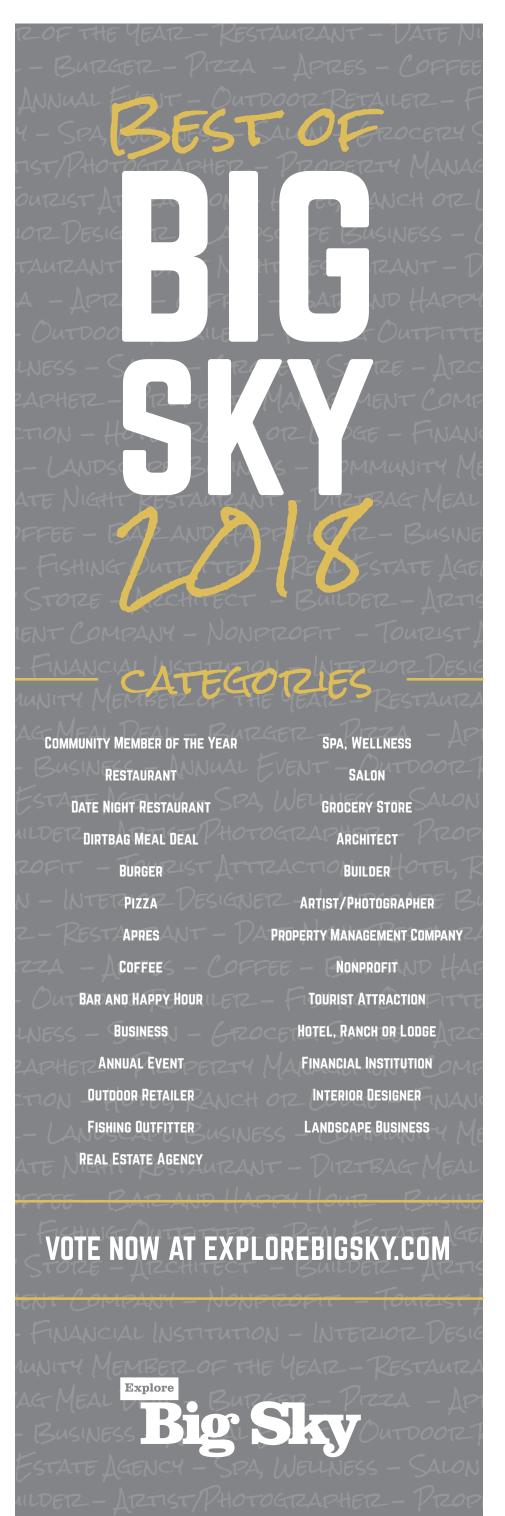








PREMIER LIFESTYLE CRAFTERS





# 'Paddington'

BY ANNA HUSTED EBS FILM CRITIC

"Paddington" has a 98 percent rating from critics on Rotten Tomatoes and an 80 percent rating from audiences. Paddington is the cutest, ignorant little bear you'll ever meet, and the movie has a moral center with heart. "Paddington" is a smart kid's movie that gives kids and adults an unlikely hero in a bear that just wants to belong.

When we meet Paddington he is living in Peru with his aunt and uncle bears. When Uncle Pastuzo must move into the home for retired bears, Aunt Lucy sends Paddington, with a case full of marmalade, to find the family of the English explorer who helped the bears decades earlier.

Paddington's first soirée in the big city of London is at Paddington Station, where he gets his English namesake. He is trying to find someone to assist him, but no one seems to pay a bear in London any attention until the Brown family sees him and the matriarch, Mary Brown, asks him what he needs. And his answer, as would be the response of any bear who has traveled from Peru to England, is food.

Mary (Sally Hawkins), her husband Henry (Hugh Bonneville), and their two kids decide to let Paddington stay with them for one evening despite Henry's reluctance. Henry believes housing a bear is too dangerous, even one as friendly as Paddington.

Meanwhile, the movie's villain, Millicent Clyde (Nicole Kidman), gets tipped off about Paddington's presence in London and sets out to find him, stuff him, and put him on display at the Natural History Museum. The movie plays out like a game of cat and mouse with Paddington searching for the explorer who helped his family, while unknowingly being hunted by Millicent, who works for that very museum that sent the explorer to Peru.

For a British movie, "Paddington" has a very American lesson—pursue happiness without fear of the unknown. Paddington is a stand-in for all who live on the margins of society such as immigrants, those in the gay community, or anyone of color. The Brown family patriarch must stop being so afraid of what others will think of Paddington living with them, as well as fearing that his children will be harmed if they open their lives to help a stranger.

"Paddington" is replete with themes of love and acceptance, and the idea that ignorance is bliss. I would venture to say "Paddington" is one of the most thoughtful and well-made movies of 2015.

This film's high ratings speak for themselves, yet I know few adults who have seen the movie—myself included until recently. "Paddington" is colorfully shot, perfectly costumed, funny, and family-friendly. I cannot recommend this movie enough.

"Paddington" is available to rent on Netflix DVD or Amazon.

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.



"Paddington" isn't just for kids—or Brits. It contains the very American ideal of not letting fear of the unknown interfere with the pursuit of happiness. PHOTO COURTESY OF STUDIO CANAL

# **American Life in Poetry:**

### Column 712

#### BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

Until about 100 years ago, the worth of a poem was measured by how noble and elevated was its subject and its manner of delivery, but with the appearance of modernism all hell broke loose and suddenly there were all sorts of subjects one had license to write about. Here's an example of a fine contemporary poem with a richly detailed subject that no doubt wouldn't have seen the light of day in the 1880s or '90s. It's by Sally Van Doren, who lives in New York, from her 2017 book from Louisiana State University Press, entitled "Promise."

#### Housewife as Poet

By Sally Van Doren

I have scrawled audible lifelines along the edges of the lint trap, dropping the ball of towel fuzz in the blue bin lined with a thirteen-gallon bag. My sons' wardrobes lounge on their bedroom floors, then sidle down to the basement, where I look forward to the warmth of their waistbands when I pluck them from the dryer. Sometimes I wonder why my husband worries about debt and I wish he wouldn't. Sometimes I wonder how high the alfalfa will grow. Sometimes I wonder if the dog will throw up in the night. Like my mother, I'm learning not to tamper with anger. It appears as reliably as the washing machine thumps and threatens to lurch across the floor away from the electrical outlet. Nothing's worth getting worked up about, except for death. And when I think of the people I have lost, I wish them back into their button-down shirts, their raspberry tights.

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 Sally Van Doren, «Housewife as Poet,» from "Promise," (Louisiana State Univ. Press, 2017). Poem reprinted by permission of Sally Van Doren and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2018 by The Poetry Foundation. The introductions author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.

# CROSSWORD

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- Spain 14 Condition (suf.)
- 15 Cob (2 words)
- 17 Bone: Gr.
- 18 Soul or spirit
- 19 Claro 21 Youngster
- 22 Feline 23 Theme: music
- 25 Brother of Esau 28 Altar shelf
- 31 Axillary
- 32 Reverence 33 Dressed
- 34 Threefold
- 36 Small anvil
- 37 Eject
- 38 Serum (pref.) 39 Chance

- 41 Twofold 43 Compass
- 46 Above (Ger.)
- 48 Term 50 Foreign (pref.) 51 Amer.
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- 54 Nat'l Public Radio (abbr.) 55 Work (Sp.)

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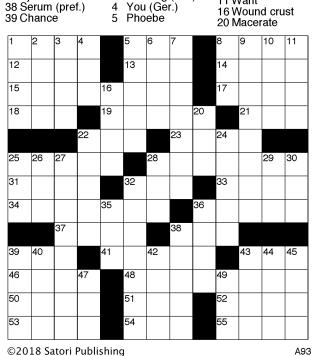
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  - officer 25 Punjab Sea cow P.I. peasant Fluid inhabitant
- 10 Proceedings 26 Pub fare 11 Want 27 Vitamin A
  - source 28 Railway (abbr.)
  - 29 Article (Fr.) 30 Eastern daylight
  - time (abbr.) 32 Craftsman 35 Asbestos

  - (abbr.) 36 To or from a
  - distance (pref.) 38 Phil. island 39 Richness
  - 40 Son of Ruth 42 Wagon tongue
  - 43 Knife 44 Endure
  - 45 Mother of
  - Brunhilde 47 Lance of King
  - Arthur 49 Theater sign



SATURDAY, JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>

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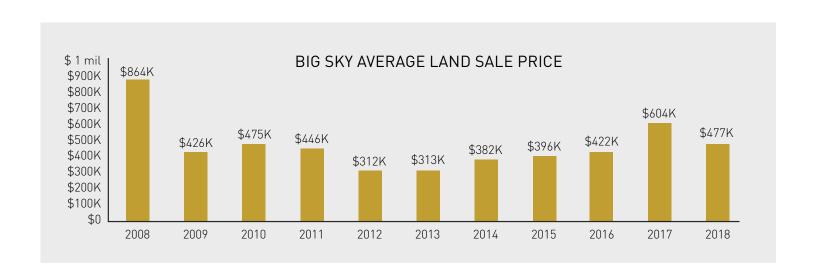








#### **BIG SKY MARKET HOTSPOT: LAND**



Land in Big Sky has not seen a significant increase in average price over the past 10 years.

There are still great values within this sector of the market including:



Lot 16 Andesite Road | \$259K .756 ACRE Old growth trees and Spanish Peaks views create a haven in Aspen Groves



**Lot 40 Half Moon Court** | \$325K .81 ACRE *Trailside lot with wetland areas and mountain views* 



Lot 113 Crow Point\* | \$350K 2.59 ACRES Great value with beautiful views in Spanish Peaks Mountain Club



Big EZ Lots 42 & 43 20 ACRES EACH Lot 42: \$399K | Lot 43: \$375K | Together: \$699K Beautiful acreage with expansive views



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