Dec. 7 - 20, 2018 Volume 9 // Issue #25

926F: How one wolf death can alter a pack

County commissioners' biannual visit Big Sky's rapid growth on full display

The future of ski tuning touches down at Grizzly Outfitters

Special Sections:

Real Estate Guide & Guide to Giving



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December 12, 2018

CORRECTIONS

Please report errors to media@outlaw.partners.

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ON THE COVER: Sunshine, smiles, snow and sledding: what could be a better combination? With an abundance of snow this winter season, there is no shortage of outdoor activities to enjoy the fluffy stuff. PHOTO BY JENNINGS BARMORE

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The above quote was recited by former Wyoming Senator Alan Simpson at former President George H. W. Bush's memorial service on Dec. 5, 2018. CC PHOTO

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.

CORRECTION: In the article titled, "The Rocks Tasting Room is a foodie's delight," published in the Nov. 20, 2018 edition of EBS, it was reported that their duck bacon is made in-house at The Rocks. The duck bacon is made at Buck's T-4.



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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
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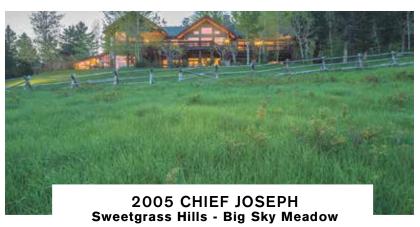


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4 December 7-20, 2018 Explore Big Sky



Task force welcomes new development director

GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

Ryan Newcomb stepped into his role as the first fulltime development director for the Gallatin River Task Force on November 15. The new position was supported through a capital campaign contribution made possible by a public-private partnership between the Yellowstone Club and Madison County.

Newcomb joins the task force from Washington, D.C. and brings ten years of experience fundraising for various organizations including the Boy Scouts of America and American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. As a member of the task force leadership team, he will create and implement fundraising strategies to support the organization's mission and strategic plan.

"We are absolutely thrilled to have Ryan join our team in a role that the Task Force has needed for quite some time," GRTF Executive Director Kristin Gardner said "And we are incredibly grateful for the visionary gift from the Yellowstone Club and Madison County that will undoubtedly have a long-lasting impact on our organization and ultimately the future of the Gallatin River."

The Yellowstone Club and Madison County fully funded the position through the Gallatin River Forever Campaign, a drive to monitor, repair, and improve the Gallatin and its tributaries to ensure the long-term health of the watershed.

Yellowstone opens for winter season Dec. 22

EBS STAFF

Beginning on Dec. 15, pending snow conditions, permitted snowmobilers and visitors on guided trips will begin exploring Yellowstone's Winter Wonderland. The majority of roads are slated to open to oversnow travel by snowmobile and snowcoach at 8 a.m., while the road from the East Entrance to Lake Butte Overlook will open Dec. 22.

The winter season transforms Yellowstone into a white, frigid world with fewer crowds and steaming geyser basins. While access is more limited than it is during the warmer month, there are still a variety of ways to enjoy the nation's first national park.

For those wishing to snowshoe or ski, there are miles of trails, though they are seldom groomed. There are a selection of warming huts open throughout the season, some of which offer light snacks and hot drinks to skiers, snowshoes and snowmobilers. Many ski trails are accessible at the North and West entrances, while others can be reached via a skier shuttle on certain days of the week.

Those successful in drawing a permit as a part of the Noncommercially Guided Snowmobile Access Program can explore the park with relative ease. Permit holders may enter and travel on designated roads with a certified New Best Available Technology snowmobile that is designed to release fewer emissions and operate at quieter levels.

While most facilities are closed during the winter, the Old Faithful Snow Lodge and Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel remain open for overnight guests. Reservations for these, as well as guided winter snowmobile and snowcat tours, can be made online.

Visit nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/visiting-yellowstone-in-winter.htm to learn

Yellowstone Club Community Foundation grants

YELLOWSTONE CLUB COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

The Yellowstone Club Community Foundation extended its commitment to the region's nonprofit sector through its annual fall grant cycle. This autumn, over \$265,000 was awarded to 26 local groups. The foundation members are excited to announce that with the release of these grants, they have donated over \$5 million to the Big Sky and Gallatin communities since inception in 2010.

Reinforcing its focus in education, healthcare, conservation, community services and arts and culture, the foundation's latest grants support the following: Big Sky Youth Empowerment; Friends of the Avalanche Center; The Arts Council of Big Sky Big Sky youth arts education partnership; Montana Land Reliance's landscape conservation program; Big Brothers Big Sisters of Gallatin County Big Sky; Morningstar Learning Center's family assistance and professional development programs; Warren Miller Performing Arts Center; Human Resource Development Council's Big Sky down payment assistance program; Big Sky Skating and Hockey Association's rink relocation project; and Big Sky Community Food Bank's community coatroom and wellness services.

The foundation will also partner with Bozeman Area Community Foundation to support Give Big Gallatin Valley. The 24-hour online giving campaign will take place May 2, 2019, while nonprofit registration opens on Feb. 4.

The Yellowstone Club Community Foundation accepts donations from Yellowstone Club members and guests and well as local community members. It stages three annual fundraisers, the summer Weiskopf Cup golf event, the March Wine and Song Benefit, and the "Name That Run" auction.

BSSHA to implement refrigeration for ice rink in Town Center

BIG SKY SKATING AND HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

The Big Sky Skating and Hockey Association confirmed that they have raised the funds necessary for a refrigeration system at the ice facility they operate each winter in the Town Center Park. According to Gary Hermann, vice president of the BSSHA, the organization expects to have enough components in place in the coming weeks to operate a refrigeration system for the 2018–2019 season. He emphasized that these steps only constitute the first phase of the overall refrigeration plan. Some aspects, such as encasing pipes in a concrete slab, cannot be achieved until they raise additional funds.

Support for the refrigeration project comes from a wide range of sources, including individuals, businesses, and foundations both in and outside Big Sky. According to Ryan Blechta, President of the BSSHA, an essential starting point was a commitment from the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board to provide \$197,500 if the BSSHA first raised \$111,500.

"Once we raised enough money to make people believe that we had a good chance of raising the money needed to obtain the resort tax match, the community overwhelmingly responded," Blechta said.

Since June, the BSSHA has received a record amount of donations, which have been key to coving unexpected costs of site preparation, according to Blechta. He also believes that a critical piece of completing the first phase of their project has been the assistance of a virtual army of volunteers, including some local contractors, who have donated both time and materials.

Visit bssha.org to learn more.



What national nonprofits do you support and why?



Carrie Radtke
Big Sky, Montana

"I focus more locally than nationally, but one national nonprofit that we support is seva.org. It's an iCharity that helps prevent blindness and restore sight because we feel everybody should be allowed to see beautiful things, really. We have friends who spend time and energy for the organization and they do amazing stuff around the globe."



David MooreBig Sky, Montana

"The Humane Society of the United States. We're huge animal-lovers."



Dan KellyBig Sky, Montana

"I support any national nonprofit that does its best to minimize their administrative costs while maximizing the benefits of those they seek to serve. One of the problems with many nonprofits is that people in charge use the 501(c)(3) status to enrich themselves while operating under the guise of altruistic benevolence."



Ariane Coleman Big Sky, Montana

"Well, I'm pretty locally oriented when it comes to nonprofits, but this year we donated to a national nonprofit for veterans' causes. I come from a military family and the ones that serve our country allow me to live free in this perfect little bubble called Big Sky so it makes sense."



Water and sewer district plans \$21.7 million plant upgrade

BY BAY STEPHENS EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Water and Sewer District unveiled an estimated \$21.7 million wastewater treatment plant upgrade Nov. 27 to meet the district's growing flow and load demands and resolve failing equipment issues during a special meeting at the district office.

Arranged in two phases, the first would include upgrading the plant with a new filtration technology that would provide a higher DEQ classification of effluent, allowing effluent disposal options beyond irrigating area golf courses, according to project manager Scott Buecker of Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, which the district hired for the upgrade.

Based on very preliminary numbers, district finance officer Terry Smith said the phase one upgrade would increase ratepayers' annual sewer bills by approximately 45 percent once the plant came online.

The second phase of the upgrade would position the district to reach even higher levels of effluent quality and could usher in drinkable reuse options.

The district currently disposes of all its treated effluent through irrigation on local golf courses, pumping a significant amount to Spanish Peaks Mountain Resort and the Yellowstone Club. Through this system, the district operates without any direct discharge to the Gallatin River or its tributaries, which is extremely rare among water treatment facilities nationwide, Buecker said.

However, last winter set records for snowfall and visitation, and the district's capacity to store water was maxed out last spring as they waited for the summer to begin irrigating, Water and Sewer District Board President Packy Cronin said.

"We just didn't have anywhere to store water," Cronin said.

Once irrigation season began, the district disposed of roughly 200 million gallons of effluent through irrigation, pumping more than half that volume 2,000 feet in elevation uphill through a 7.2-mile pipeline to the Yellowstone Club and Spanish Peaks, according to Grant Burroughs, the district's wastewater superintendent. Without the clubs' additional disposal ability, the district would not have been able to handle the volume of effluent produced last winter, Edwards said.

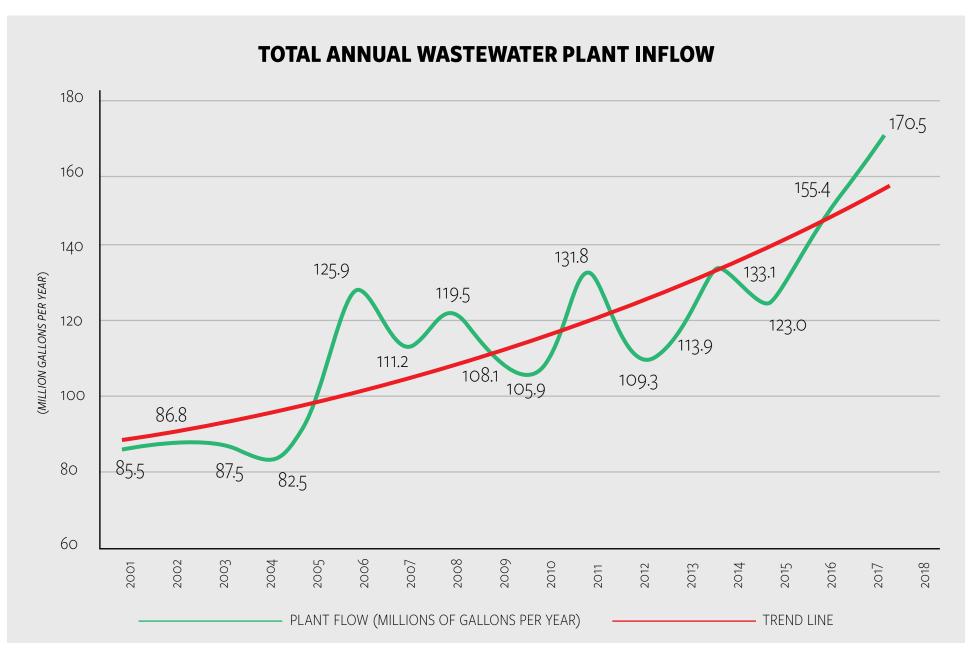
The treatment facility is also pressing against its capacity for treating raw sewage, reaching 90 percent of its rated daily capacity on April 23, Buecker said, adding that the plant is due for an expansion.

"Besides encroaching on its rated capacity, we're starting to see equipment that is starting to degrade," he said.

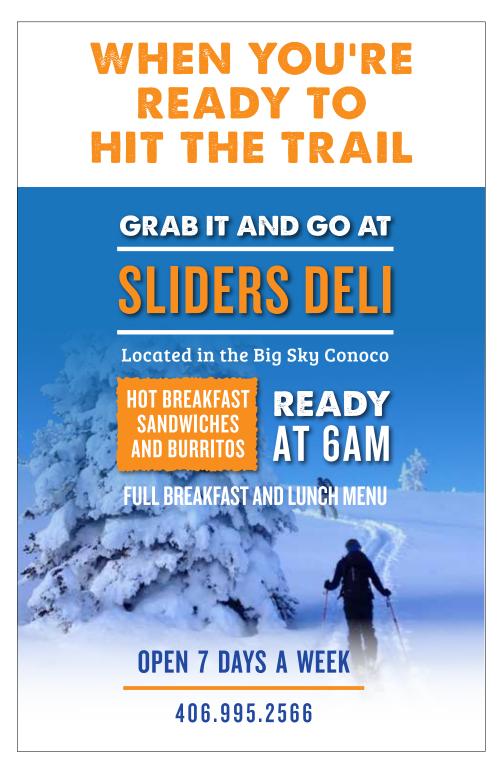
The phase one upgrade would approximately double the treatment capacity of the facility and would allow the district to diversify its "portfolio" of possible effluent disposal options by pursuing avenues such as snowmaking, subsurface discharge, and potentially direct discharge to the main stem of the Gallatin River.

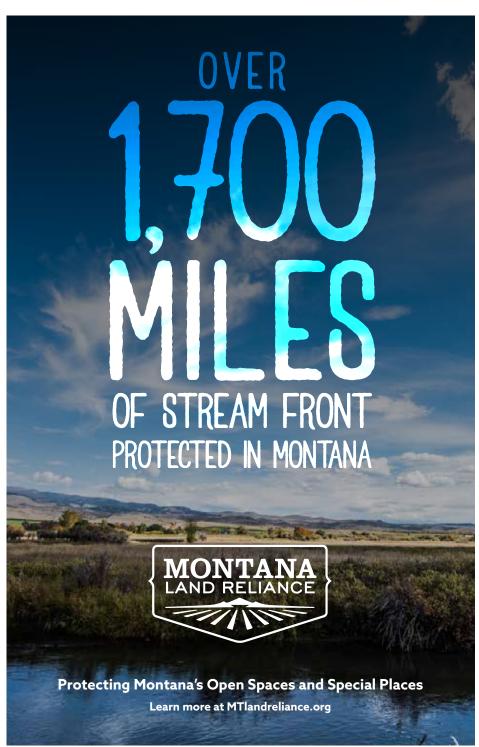
The district clarified that they don't intend to stop irrigating effluent in exchange for discharging into the Gallatin, when contention arose at the meeting over the possibility of direct deposit into the river, potentially harming the fragile ecosystem. Rather, the upgrade would enable the district to develop redundant means of effluent disposal so that if a pipeline went offline or a holding pond required maintenance, the district would have other disposal options. Phase one would not yet create this redundancy but would be the first step toward it with the higher quality of effluent.

Visit bigskywatersewer.com for more information or to watch a video of the full meeting.



Total annual wastewater inflow to the Water and Sewer District treatment plant is increasing, and the rate of the increase is also increasing as Big Sky's growth has accelerated. With the current plant operating at or near its maximum capacities, engineer Scott Buecker recommends the district upgrade and expand its facility.

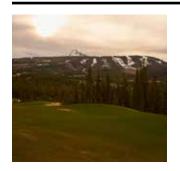




NONSTOP HEALTHCARE



SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB*



Lot 38 Bitterbrush Trail 1.27 ACRES / \$800K



Lot 64 Goshawk 1.04 ACRES / \$775K



Lot 119 Old Barn Rd. 3.13 Acres / \$490K



Lot 113 Crow Point Rd. 2.59 Acres / \$350K



MOONLIGHT BASIN*

Lot 44 Diamond Hitch 1.25 ACRE / \$685K

BIG SKY



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



Black Eagle Lodge #30 2,549 SQ FT / \$1.35M



2078 Little Coyote 2986 SQ FT / \$1.079M



2250 Curley Bear 2,952 SQ FT / \$925K



Crail Ranch Unit 68 2,742 SQ FT / \$850K

BIG SKY



Royal Coachman Ranch 160 Acres / \$4.8M



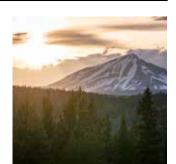
Mountain Meadows Big Sky, MT 120 Acres / \$3.495M



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



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



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

GREATER MONTANA



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



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



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



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

I&**K**Real Estate

BIG SKY



Lot 39 Diamond Hitch 1 ACRE / \$595K



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



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



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



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

BIG SKY



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



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



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



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



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



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



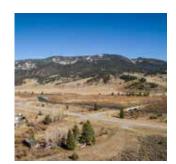
Lot 3 Joy Rd. 6.83 ACRES / \$395K



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



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



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

COMMERCIAL



78 Meadow Village Dr. *Big Sky, MT* 4,769 SQ FT / \$1.5M



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



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



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County commissions hold joint meeting

Highlight growth, housing, transportation

BY TYLER ALLEN EBS MANAGING EDITOR

BIG SKY – A joint Gallatin and Madison county commission meeting on Dec. 5, hosted by the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, covered a wide range of topics and initiatives.

The venue was Lone Peak Cinema and one of its theaters was nearly full of community members who joined the county commissioners to hear about current initiatives from Visit Big Sky, the chamber of commerce, Big Sky Resort Area District, the local housing trust, an update on the TIGER infrastructure grant, the Big Sky Transportation District, and NorthWestern Energy's planned substation.

The morning began at 8:30 a.m. with the chamber's biannual "Eggs and Issues" forum, which featured Dax Schieffer, the director of Voices of Montana Tourism. Schieffer was live-streamed on the movie screen because he had a conflicting engagement in Whitefish, at the Business of Outdoor Recreation Summit hosted by the Office of Montana Gov. Steve Bullock.

Schieffer spent nearly 20 years working for Big Sky Resort, finishing his tenure in 2015 as the human resources director. He began his presentation by outlining four components of a healthy tourism economy: attraction, accommodation, access and awareness. An attraction like the skiing or fly-fishing in Big Sky, for example, will move someone to take a vacation here, and accommodation—caring for someone's needs like a room to stay or the gear they need to enjoy their trip—will keep them coming back.

Transportation is crucial to access a tourist destination, Schieffer said, though he noted that a majority of people still drive to Big Sky. But awareness, he stressed, is the lynchpin of any successful tourism economy. "Without it, it doesn't matter if you have the top three," Schieffer said, telling the audience it was a struggle in the early days in Big Sky to make people aware that Montana wasn't a part of Canada and that residents of the state actually had running water.

He presented a number of slides showcasing the growth of tourism over the last several years, particularly in Gallatin County. Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport now has 30 percent of the airline customers in the state—it overtook Billings in 2013—and Bozeman is leading the state in annual air traffic growth.

In 1987, the state implemented a 4 percent lodging tax, which stabilized tourism-related funding, Schieffer said, and was a big step in the growth of Montana's burgeoning recreation and visitation industry. In 2017, the state had 12.5 million visitors who spent \$3.4 billion, supported 53,000-plus jobs, generated \$205 million in state and local taxes, and lowered taxes for each Montana household by almost \$500. That data is based on a report published in March 2018 by the Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research.

In Big Sky, Schieffer said, the bed tax collection experienced a 46-percent increase from 2007 to 2018, and in Gallatin County as a whole, restaurants and bars account for nearly 20 percent of visitor spending, while outfitters and guides—two industries that employ many of the residents in the Big Sky area—account for 14 percent.

Schieffer closed his presentation by noting that the real value of tourism in Montana is the "ladder of success," which allows more residents to stay and work in the state, himself included, as a native of eastern Montana.

Candace Carr Strauss, the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce executive director, spoke after the live stream and told the audience about JetBlue's recent announcement of its new nonstop service between Bozeman and Long Beach, California. The Bozeman airport will host a celebration of the new flight on Thursday, Dec. 13 at 3 p.m.

Joint county commission meeting

The event continued with the joint Gallatin and Madison commissioner meeting—Madison County Commissioner Ron Nye arrived later in the session after dealing with a flat tire. Outgoing Gallatin County Commissioner Steve White began the proceedings with a moment of silence for former President George H.W. Bush, who passed away Nov. 30.

Gallatin County commissioners Don Seifert and Joe Skinner were also in attendance, as well as Madison County Commissioner Jim Hart. Commissioner Dan Allhands from Madison County was unable to attend. The commissioners heard about the following initiatives in Big Sky, abbreviated for space:

Visit Big Sky

Candace Carr Strauss presented on Visit Big Sky's "Imagine Big Sky 2023" initiative, and emphasized that, more than quantity, VBS is focused on the quality of visitors to Big Sky—those that want to return year after year. The strategic priorities are threefold: develop sustainable outdoor recreation experiences, promote the destination to broaden Big Sky's reputation, and establish VBS as a leader in the tourism industry.

Strauss highlighted Visit Big Sky's new website as well as the new developments at Big Sky Resort, such as the new Ramcharger 8 chairlift, in addition to the resort's participation in both the Ikon and Mountain Collective passes, as ways to attract more skier visits. She also highlighted the May 1, 2019 opening of the Wilson Hotel in the heart of Town Center Plaza, and the Montage hotel coming to Spanish Peaks Mountain Club in 2021.

Big Sky Chamber of Commerce

Strauss continued by highlighting the chamber's "Elevate Big Sky 2023" initiative and said, "If we don't have a sustainable community our businesses cannot thrive." She touched on the many projects that the chamber has played an integral part in, including the TIGER grant, the Big Sky Housing Trust, and telecommunication infrastructure improvements. Facilitating local governing and encouraging community infrastructure development are two of the chambers top priorities, she added.

Strauss showed a slide demonstrating how Big Sky is part of the "Greater Gallatin Canyon Ecosystem," which includes the Bozeman airport, Montana State University and Bozeman, the fastest growing micropolitan area in U.S.

Big Sky Resort Area Tax District

Resort tax board member Steve Johnson opened by saying that with all of the recent area growth, decisions need to be made about the impact of growth here. "There are a lot of moving parts in Big Sky, Johnson said, "let's get this on the table and face the music."

Chrissy Gilmore with Logan Simpson, the consulting firm that the resort tax district hired to implement Big Sky's community strategic plan, took the microphone and gave a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation about what her company is going to be asking of the community going forward. She presented a five-phase plan with their strategy to involve the entire community, and also directed a number of questions at the county commissioners in attendance.

When pressed, the commissioners touched on the things that make Big Sky special. "I love coming over here. It's almost a cliché but Big Sky is unique," Hart said. "It's about to be one of the biggest communities in Madison and Gallatin counties."

The commissioners also discussed the unusual governance here as an unincorporated community, how the counties have a lot of resources to assist Big Sky's vision and how important it is to involve part-time residents in this visioning process.

Big Sky Community Housing Trust

Tim Kent, the chair of the community housing trust, extolled the hiring of Laura Seyfang as program director of the Big Sky Community Housing Trust, though she wasn't available to attend this event. Kent presented slides and said there should be a spectrum of affordable housing in Big Sky. He said that someone in Gallatin County at 80 percent of area median income (AMI) earns approximately \$65,000 a year.

Kent said the housing trust is working with potential buyers in the 80 to 120 percent AMI range for the Meadowview property under construction in Big

Sky Meadow Village, where 52 condo units are about to begin their vertical construction phase in the second week of December. Currently, 32 qualified applicants have completed their buyer education class and received one-on-one counseling, which is the first step in the process for affordable housing ownership.

TIGER grant

David Kack, with the Big Sky Transportation District and Western Transportation Initiative, opened the presentation about the \$10.4 million federal TIGER grant awarded to Big Sky in March for transportation projects along Lone Mountain Trail, including a number of protected turn lanes to prevent rear-end vehicle collisions. Gallatin County will be administering the money, Kack said, and hopes to get grant agreement signed and money flowing soon.

Ciara Wolfe, executive director of the Big Sky Community Organization, said that BSCO recognizes there hasn't been a grant contract signed, since it's up to the federal Department of Transportation, but as soon as that contract is finalized they're prepared to activate the money.

"We're ready for design and engineering to begin as soon as the grant contract is signed," she said. Wolfe highlighted data from past traffic studies indicating that 80 percent of westbound traffic on Lone Mountain Trail turns left on Ousel Falls Road, and urged the commissioners to consider solutions to the construction traffic that churns daily up to the Yellowstone Club and Spanish Peaks Mountain Club.

Candace Carr Strauss made a statement at the end of the presentation to inform the community that Montana DOT performed a traffic study on Lone Mountain Trail and subsequently raised the speed limits on portions of the highway, against the chamber's recommendation to lower them throughout the corridor.

Big Sky Transportation District

Kack opened his presentation about the Skyline bus service by stating they're beginning their 13th year of service and are soon to hit 2 million riders since being established in 1991. The district is currently circulating a petition to expand the district, since the boundaries were drawn before Big Sky experienced its significant recent growth.

The district needs to get signatures from 20 percent of residents that live in the Big Sky Resort Area District, but do not reside in the current transportation district. They would have to collect all the necessary signatures by Dec. 17 for the May elections, but he said that probably isn't realistic and that the counties will have to call a special election. This would give the district the authority to put a property tax mill levy on future ballots to help fund transportation services in Big Sky, and between here and Bozeman.

NorthWestern Energy

Eric Austin, the director of the Burton K. Wheeler Center for Public Policy at Montana State University, closed the event describing the community dialogue that NorthWestern Energy had with Big Sky homeowners in finding a site for the proposed energy substation here.

After many public meetings involving diverse stakeholders to find a suitable area for a midmountain energy transfer station, NorthWestern Energy landed on the Rainham site and a design choice to stabilize and accommodate future power demands in Big Sky. NorthWestern is currently working on final construction planning and when the weather breaks, sometime in the spring, site work will begin through most of next summer, he said. Construction will happen during the summer of 2020 with the substation coming on line in late 2020.

Visit the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce's Facebook page to watch a complete video recording of the event.





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Resort Tax Summit reveals share challenges across state

BY BAY STEPHENS EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – In the third annual Resort Tax Summit members from Montana's various resort tax areas and communities convened on Nov. 30 in the Big Sky Resort Tax office to discuss shared challenges in sharing short-term rental data from the state, fair tax remittance from businesses operating within their boundaries.

Attendants included resort tax members from Gardiner, West Yellowstone, Whitefish, Virginia City, and Red Lodge, along with the Big Sky Resort Area District board members. A common thorn in the side of these resort tax areas and communities is that, although they provide lists of known short-term rentals in their perspective resort tax boundaries, the state doesn't share their lists of the same data, which would allow the resort tax areas and communities to cross reference and ensure short-term rental owners are remitting their share of resort tax.

"This seems to be something we're all facing," Big Sky resort tax chairperson Kevin Germain said. "One thing I can't believe is that we can't share information with the state and get information back ..." While the state can use the information to collect lodging tax from VRBO-type rentals, the resort tax entities must develop their own lists, often through paying for services such as STR Helper or MUNIRevs, which help ensure compliance with local tax laws.

In June, Montana and Airbnb reportedly entered into an agreement in which the rental organization will collect lodging sales tax from guests and remit them to the state, according to the Great Falls Tribune. Although the state is protective of lodging tax, they don't appear concerned about resort tax compliance throughout the state, Big Sky resort tax vice chair Steve Johnson said.

"I think there's little education on what resort tax is and what we bring to the state in some regards," Whitney Brunner, Big Sky resort tax operations officer said, adding that these areas and communities had been excluded completely from the conversation as the state negotiated with Airbnb.

In Big Sky, short-term rentals have significantly exacerbated the affordable housing shortage, taking long-term rentals off the market, which drives up rents by restricting supply, and in turn diminishing the

available workforce. According to Brunner, MUNIRevs has mapped over 1,000 short-term rentals at different times of year in the Big Sky Resort Area District.

"The impact [of short-term rentals] on affordable housing for our workforce is tragic," Johnson said. "I think we're all saying that."

Short-term rentals that do not remit resort tax also gain an unfair advantage over other lodging companies and diminish collections direly needed in the burgeoning resort area.

The group chorused a general frustration with the state's lack of transparency.

"Show us the law that you can't pass it down to us, because that's what I want to see," said Dana Smith of the city of Whitefish resort community. "Where does it state that you can't get a list of business name[s] and the contact info?" This information would allow the resort areas and communities to follow up with short-term rental owners to ensure businesses are remitting the resort tax."

Through the toolbelt it has as an incorporated municipality, Whitefish has been able to use STR Helper software to track down and register around 100 short-term rentals, requiring that owners acquire a business license and remit per unit. According to Whitefish city manager Adam Hammatt, they were able to zone areas of the city to allow short-term rentals and other areas to not, aiming to incentivize homeowners to convert their accessory dwellings into long-term rentals.

Big Sky lacks these mechanisms as an unincorporated area.

On multiple fronts the resort tax representatives found commonalities and expressed interest in more serious collaboration in order for their voice to be heard at the state level, including pressuring the state to allow resort areas and communities to tax an additional 1 percent on luxury goods and services. From there, constituents would be able to vote to approve a 1 percent resort tax increase in their respective resort area or community.

The summit attendees agreed that 3 percent does not effectively represent the impacts tourists have on infrastructure.

Workforce housing update: Meadowview construction delayed two weeks, Applicant list is short

Laura Seyfang, program director of the HRDC's Big Sky Community Housing Trust, shared with the Big Sky resort tax board that construction for the Meadowview project has been slightly delayed, now with an estimated completion in late April.

There will now be a two-part closing between the developer and the HRDC, the first portion for the land in mid-December, which would fund continued construction without further delays. The second would be after the property's final plat.

"We probably lost about two weeks with this negotiation process but we're still forecasting now that the first units will be completed at the end of April, whereas before we were hoping for earlier in April," Seyfang said.

Mike Scholz explained that releasing the funds early is within the contract between the HRDC and resort tax, requiring no formal action from the board.

Seyfang also shared that the list of applicants to subsidized housing in Big Sky is short, with 32 qualified individuals as of Nov. 30. She and the community housing trust council are encouraging individuals in need of subsidized housing to take the homebuyer's education class through the HRDC—a prequalification to getting on the list—even if they don't think the incoming Meadowview units will fit their specific needs as the list will carry over into other workforce housing projects in the future

After reviewing the list of applicants with some resort tax board members, the HRDC is also considering adjusting pricing and subsidy level based on income, potentially offering units at different price levels, Seyfang said.

Canyon development crosses first hurdle

Zoning committee approves density increase

BY TYLER ALLEN EBS MANAGING EDITOR

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Zoning Advisory Committee on Dec. 3 unanimously approved three requests regarding a parcel in Gallatin Canyon, which Big Sky's Scott Altman has been trying to develop for approximately three years.

The property includes the Big Sky gravel pit and surrounding land west of Highway 191, and one request was a conditional-use permit amendment to convert nearly 7 acres from the 46.5 acres of Commercial-Industrial (CI) zoned property, which includes the gravel pit itself, to residential zoning. Another request was to adjust the classification of that remaining 40 acres to allow hotel construction because it's currently zoned for motels only, a technicality that's remnant of historical Montana state law.

It was the third request, one pertaining to density, which has raised eyebrows in the community. With the additional 7 acres from the CI parcel, the total parcel size that's zoned residential would total 135.5 acres and the developer hopes to obtain a zone map amendment to reclassify the density from one single-family home per acre to five per acre. That would result in 136 new residential units in that area of the canyon.

"We're trying to make homes for the community to live in," Altman said. "Our goal is to make housing up there, smaller homes that locals can live in."

The property already has water infrastructure in place to support this size development, from wells in the Lazy J Utility Association to the south that went online in August 2017, according to Altman. But the

real concern with every major development proposed in Big Sky is about where the sewage will go. The canyon is not part of the Big Sky Water and Sewer District and for homes and businesses in close proximity to the Gallatin River, a blue-ribbon trout fishery, wastewater is dealt with by private septic tanks and small treatment facilities.

The engineer on the project, Genesis Engineering, is working on developing a sewer system currently and has been going back and forth on potential designs with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, according to Altman.

"The sewer is a big deal down there," said zoning committee member Steve Johnson, adding that the satellite sewer systems in the canyon are notorious for being in various states of disrepair. "They're talking to DEQ and they think they have something that will work. We're all holding our breath to find out what that is."

Johnson said any project that could potentially address the affordable housing crisis in Big Sky will get the zoning committee's attention, and the canyon is the most likely place for a big project like this to be built given land prices in Big Sky Town Center or Meadow Village.

"It's their land and if they want to do something different with their land, there's hardly any reason we can say no," he said, adding that Gallatin County Health Department and Montana DEQ would have to sign off on anything regarding wastewater for a planned unit development.

The project application will be presented before the Gallatin County Planning and Zoning Commission on Thursday, Dec. 13 at 9 a.m. in the Gallatin County Courthouse in Bozeman.



Big Sky Fire Department aquires new vehicle

With the recent acquisition of a new command vehicle, the Big Sky Fire Department (BSFD) was able to donate a 2008 Chevy Suburban to the Sheridan, Montana Rural Volunteer Fire Department, whose vehicle was recently destroyed by a fallen tree.

Pictured from left to right are: Ben Hitchcock, Sheridan Fire Chief; Dustin Tetrault, Big Sky Deputy Chief; Rahn Abbott, Sheridan Deputy Chief; and Greg Megaard, Big Sky Deputy Chief.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BIG SKY FIRE DEPARTMENT



NorthWestern Energy customers to see credit after tax cuts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HELENA, Mont. (AP) _ NorthWestern Energy customers will soon be seeing a credit on their bills due to the utility's savings under the federal tax cut enacted last December.

The Montana Public Service Commission on Nov. 28 approved an agreement reached between NorthWestern and consumer groups that calls for a total one-time credit of \$20.5 million.

NorthWestern estimates average customers will receive a credit of \$24 on their power bills and \$3.50 on their natural gas bills by the end of December.

The settlement also reduces rates for all natural gas customers by about \$1.3 million annually beginning in January and provides funding for low-income energy assistance and weatherization.

"Because our rates are based on the cost to provide the service, changes to those costs eventually flow through to our customer bills when we reset rates in a formal review process," NorthWestern President and CEO Bob Rowe said in a statement.

NorthWestern initially estimated a \$14 million benefit after the federal corporate tax rate fell from 35 percent to 21 percent. The utility initially proposed returning about \$8.5 million to customers while spending the rest to remove hazardous trees near power lines.

Consumer groups, including the Montana Consumer Counsel, intervened and negotiated a larger refund.

The consumer groups also agreed to support spending on hazardous tree removal as part of NorthWestern's current electric rate review.

Separately, NorthWestern recently announced it was protecting its customers from this winter's higher natural gas prices after purchasing about 9 billion cubic feet of natural gas over the summer and putting it in storage. The utility paid an average of 88 cents per dekatherm while the market price for natural gas during Thanksgiving week was \$4.65 per dekatherm.

The utility estimates a typical residential customer will see a 9 percent reduction in their November natural gas bill compared to last year due to the summer purchase along with its ownership of natural gas wells near Havre and a pipeline that brings in lower-priced natural gas from Canada.





Zinke blasts Arizona congressman who urged him to resign

BY MATT VOLZ AND MATTHEW DALY ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) _ U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke unleashed a scathing personal attack Nov. 30 against a congressman who had called on him to resign, accusing the Arizona Democrat of drunkenness and using taxpayer money to cover up inappropriate behavior.

Zinke sent his tweet after Rep. Raul Grijalva wrote an opinion column, published in USA Today on Nov. 30, saying that Zinke must resign because of what Grijalva called ``ethical and managerial failings."

"It's hard for him to think straight from the bottom of the bottle," Zinke tweeted. "This is coming from a man who used nearly \$50,000 in tax dollars as hush money to cover up his drunken and hostile behavior. He should resign and pay back the taxpayer for the hush money and the tens of thousands of dollars he forced my department to spend investigating unfounded allegations."

The tweet also included the hashtag (hash)TuneInnForMore, a reference to a legendary Washington, D.C., dive bar frequented by Grijalva.

Zinke's extraordinary accusations come against the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, which oversees Zinke's Interior Department. Grijalva is seeking to head the panel once Democrats take control of the House in January. The back-and-forth on Nov. 30 sets a sharp tone for their relationship if Grijalva becomes chairman.

Grijalva released a statement in response to Zinke's tweet that did not directly address the Interior secretary's accusations.

``The American people know who I'm here to serve, and they know in whose interests I'm acting. They don't know the same about Secretary Zinke," Grijalva said.

Zinke spokeswoman Heather Swift didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Zinke's comment on `hush money" is a reference to news reports last year about a settlement between Grijalva and a former staffer who accused him of being drunk and creating a hostile work environment.

The Washington Times and The Arizona Republic reported that the 2015 settlement paid the staffer \$48,000, or five months' additional salary when she left the job after working there for three months.

Grijalva acknowledged last year that a new employee had left his staff and said he signed a non-disclosure agreement preventing him from discussing the details.

His spokesman, Adam Sarvana, repeated what Grijalva said then in defending the congressman on Friday.

"He's not drunk at work. He doesn't slur his words on the floor," Sarvana said, referring to the House floor. "He doesn't create a hostile work environment."

In the Nov. 30 column, Grijalva questioned Zinke's fitness to serve as Interior secretary amid multiple investigations into allegations of wrongdoing by him and his department. The congressman specifically mentioned the Interior Department inspector general's referral to the Justice Department of an investigation into a land deal between the chairman of the energy services company Halliburton and a foundation that Zinke created in his hometown of Whitefish, Montana.

Zinke has denied any wrongdoing in the deal with David Lesar, whose company does significant business with Zinke's agency.

Grijalva also accused Zinke of driving out senior staffers in the agency, administering policies that benefit energy companies and ``dumbing down" science, particularly when it comes to the effects of climate change.

"As ranking member, I have sent dozens of unanswered letters seeking information about Interior Department policies and Mr. Zinke's conduct," Grijalva wrote. "Should I chair the committee in January, as I hope to do, those questions will only intensify as part of my and my colleagues' legitimate oversight duties."

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi responded to Zinke on Twitter: "We couldn't have a clearer contrast with the values-based leadership of (at)RepRaulGrijalva to protect the planet for our children than (at) SecretaryZinke's toxic, special interest agenda."

The head of a conservation group that frequently criticizes Zinke called the secretary's tweet ``a new low."

``It's also foolish to pick a fight with a member of Congress who will soon have oversight and subpoena power over your agency," said Center for Western Priorities executive director Jennifer Rokala.



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SECTION 2: ENVIRONMENT, SPORTS, & OUTDOORS







The New West:

Chronic wasting disease is on Yellowstone's doorstep



BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

Chronic wasting disease, the dreaded, alwaysfatal malady that infects members of the deer family and essentially turns their brains to mush, is invading Montana wildlife from both the north via Canada and from Wyoming to south.

As of this writing on Dec. 4, seven deer this week were confirmed to have tested positive for the

disease, the largest number since CWD was confirmed to have arrived in the state a year ago.

Just a few weeks ago, tests of a mule deer revealed CWD is now officially in Grand Teton National Park.

"This is a most disturbing reality we knew was coming," said Lloyd Dorsey, the Wyoming conservation director for the Sierra Club, who along with disease experts and prominent wildlife scientists, has been warning the public for years. "We knew its arrival was overdue. And we knew that, more than likely, the first case in Jackson Hole would involve a deer."

Notably, CWD is part of a group of illnesses called bovine spongiform encephalopathy. They involve prions, misfolded proteins that often are manifested in the brain. CWD is a close cousin of mad cow disease, which jumped from cattle to humans in Britain during the mid-1990s and left at least 177 dead.

So far there has not been a case of CWD being transmitted to humans from big game animals they eat, though the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued an advisory that hunters have their game meat tested in known CWD-endemic areas and never to eat animals with disease symptoms.

Across the Lower 48, CWD is considered the most problematic, uncontrollable pandemic affecting wildlife in modern times, and has struck wild free-ranging and captive deer herds in 25 states and three Canadian provinces.

"Deer are the vanguards of disease progression in North America," Dorsey notes. "It's especially significant that not only was this alarming discovery made in a crown jewel national park, where millions of people go to observe wildlife each year, but that it happened in close proximity to the National Elk Refuge where thousands of wild elk are now gathering for the winter."

In Colorado, CWD has infected elk herds and shown its ability to have population-level effects.

For years, Dorsey and federal experts, now retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have expressed grave concern about the controversial practice of artificially feeding thousands of elk at 22 feedgrounds operated by the state of Wyoming and at the National Elk Refuge in Jackson Hole.

Wyoming wildlife officials and politicians have long downplayed the threat, denying it would reach wildlife there and continued to feed elk in order to placate the interests of hunting outfitters and guides.

Studies have shown that if CWD infects Greater Yellowstone's world-famous elk herds it has a high probability of leaving the majority of wapiti in the region, which possess the same genetic makeup, extinct in decades

to come. At present more than 20,000 elk gather at feedgrounds in three western Wyoming counties.

Last year, Montana wildlife officials wrote a letter to Wyoming registering its protest of the state's widely condemned practice of feeding wildlife, but it was dismissed.

"We need to immediately end the artificial feeding of elk," Dorsey said. "And along with it, we need to conserve wolves, bears, coyotes and mountain lions that are the best natural tools we have to hopefully slow the progression of this terrible disease."

Scientists say that those carnivores, by targeting sickened prey species, help to reduce the number of infected animals moving across the landscape. Wyoming, however, is known for its hostile attitude toward predators.

With wolves, which are considered the most effective animals in targeting CWD-infected prey, they are allowed to be killed without a license, for any reason, by any means, any day of the year in more than 80 percent of the state.

This year, a federal court ordered the Bridger-Teton National Forest, which encompasses a huge swath of northwestern Wyoming to redo its analysis, which allowed the controversial Alkali Creek Feedground near Jackson Hole to continue operation.

"There is no question that Alkali Creek Feedground could become a reservoir for [chronic wasting disease] infection if it becomes established in elk populations in Northwest Wyoming," U.S. District Judge Nancy Freudenthal wrote.

In a separate court case more than 10 years old, managers at the National Elk Refuge promised to phase out feeding within a decade, but it has not happened.

Shane Moore, a renowned wildlife filmmaker and Wyoming native, has known it was inevitable that CWD would reach the heart of Greater Yellowstone.

The key point to remember, Moore said, is how CWD differs from other serious chronic diseases in that it reaches epidemic proportions on a slower-moving time scale. Yet its impacts, at least from what's known today, are dire and total.

"If we come up with a sky-is-falling message today, skeptics will ask in five years why the sky didn't fall," Moore said. "But if you listen to the experts and look out 15 to 20 years, you realize we'll be living with the consequences of what we did or didn't do now."

"It's kind of like the start of being diagnosed with terminal cancer," he added. "You know it's the start of a battle, in which the effects at first seem minor. You don't know exactly how it will end but you know that if you try to ignore its advance or pretend it doesn't exist, it is certain not to end well."

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.

Montana mine expansion advances amid owner's bankruptcy

BY MATTHEW BROWN ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILLINGS (AP) – A major coal mine expansion in southeastern Montana received a preliminary green light from state and federal officials on Nov. 30 even as the mine's owner remains tied up in bankruptcy proceedings with plans to sell the property.

Officials released an 800-page environmental study of Westmoreland Coal Co.'s expansion of the Rosebud Mine expansion that clears the way for a final decision in coming months.

Westmoreland declared bankruptcy in October with more than \$1.4 billion in debt amid declining demand for the heavily polluting fuel. The Colorado-based company is one of the oldest coal companies in the U.S., with mines in Montana, Wyoming, New Mexico, Ohio, North Dakota and Texas.

The move to advance the Montana project came after environmentalists pressed unsuccessfully for a delay until the mine's fate is determined in January.

The 10-square-mile (25-square kilometer) expansion area holds more than 70 million tons of coal. Development would extend the Rosebud mine's operating life another 19 years beyond its current end date of 2030.

The office of U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke mistakenly announced approval of the expansion in December 2017, but

later retracted its statement and blamed an internal miscommunication.

A federal bankruptcy judge recently approved plans to auction Rosebud and other company assets on Jan. 22.

Regulators from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and U.S. Department of the Interior have closely tracked the bankruptcy, but DEQ spokeswoman Kristi Ponozzo said the decision on the expansion was made independently of those proceedings.

"We can't prejudice against the company because they are in bankruptcy," she said. "We have to move forward with the permitting decision." Representatives of Westmoreland declined comment.

Rosebud serves the Colstrip power plant, one of the largest coal-burning plants in the Western U.S.

Environmentalists who have been seeking to close down the Colstrip plant opposed the expansion. They said burning the coal that would be mined would contribute to climate change and damage natural resources including wildlife and water supplies.

The Nov. 30 study said the greenhouse gas emissions from mining and burning the coal would account for about one-fifth of one percent of total U.S. emissions.

Mike Scott with the Sierra Club said officials should hold off final approval of the expansion until after the auction. The concern, he said, is that a new owner wouldn't be able to carry out post-mining land reclamation work proposed by Westmoreland in detail in its permit application.

"Are they going to have the resources to do reclamation? Do they have the same expertise as Westmoreland? How financially stable are these companies?" Scott asked, adding, "There's all kind of things up in the air."

Rosebud employs about 340 people and produces roughly 9 million tons of coal annually. Since opening in 1968, it's produced a cumulative total of almost a half-billion tons of coal.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTMORELAND COAL CO.





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Ski tips: Skiers and riders are flying by

BY DAN EGAN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

These days people are skiing and riding faster than ever before. Whether on groomed slopes, bowls, glades and off the trails, the average speed of skiers and riders has increased due to better ski equipment, snowmaking and grooming.

Add to that skis and snowboards are now built to float and make turning easier in the powder and the crud, and you have a population of riders of different abilities ripping around the resort.

Unfortunately, many of these skiers are distracted by headphones, mobile phones and helmets hindering the riders hearing and attention to their surroundings. It is safer to assume that other skiers don't hear you coming than it is to assume they're listening and paying attention to others.

This makes for a combination of challenges for both riders overtaking slower skiers and slower riders being overtaken by faster ones. It's important

to remember that the rider downhill of you has the right of way. The obligation to stay clear falls on the uphill skier or snowboarder.

The obligation of the skier or snowboarder downhill is to stop in view of uphill traffic, and to enter slopes and intersections by looking up the hill and avoid oncoming uphill traffic.

When it comes to overtaking a slower skier or rider on a groomed trail there are a few basic techniques to do it safely.

The first step is getting the slower skier in your line of sight as early as possible. This will give you awareness about how they're skiing, their ability, style and how much of the trail they are using. Try to get a sense of their turn shape, rhythm and pacing.



When overtaking a skier or rider on the mountain, it is the obligation of the uphill skier or boarder to exercise caution and overtake them in a safe manner. PHOTO BY DEGAN MEDIA

Keep in mind: it's the obligation of the uphill skier to keep clear of the skier below and overtake them in a safe manner.

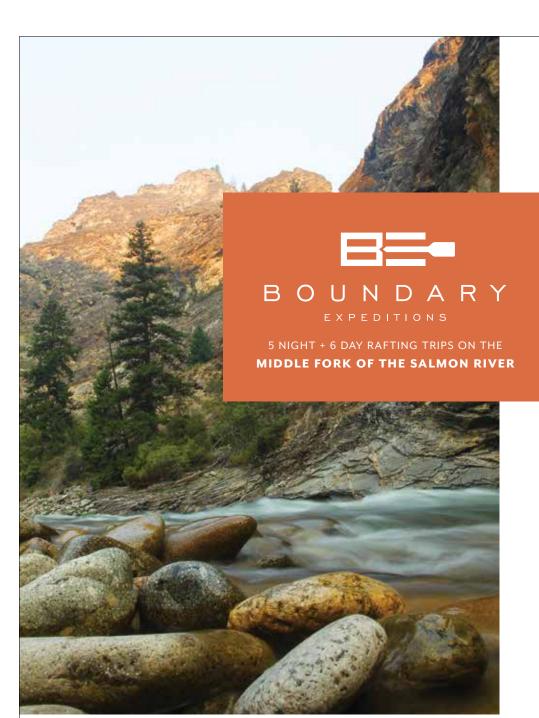
If the trail is crowded, come up behind the skier and sync your turns with theirs, and when ready to pass, break out of rhythm and turn above them and in the opposite direction—this will provide some time and distance from them. As you make your next turn in their direction, open up the radius of your turn and increase your speed slightly. Now you'll be in their sightline and passing them downhill of their next turn with room to maneuver, if needed, for a clean pass.

This allows them to see you and it does not startle them or interfere with their run.

If you're on a steep run, off piste or in a narrow place, never overtake another skier until they stop and give you the OK to pass. Few skiers or riders follow this advice these days, but it's very important, especially here at Big Sky with steep terrain and narrow rocky areas. Here there is great potential for skiers and riders falling and sliding long distances.

There is plenty of room out there for everyone. If you're an expert skier or snowboarder riding faster than others, have respect for others traveling more slowly and remember the rider below you has the right of way. Give others time and space to descend at their own pace and when passing, don't startle them, cut them off or impede anyone's path. This will make for a safer day on the mountain for all.

Extreme skiing pioneer Dan Egan has appeared in 12 Warren Miller Ski films and countless others. He was inducted into the U.S Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame in 2016. Today he teaches clinics and guides trips at locations around the world including Big Sky, where he'll be teaching this season (contact Big Sky Mountain Sports for availability). Find more information on Dan Egan camps and clinics go to skiclinics.com.



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THE LONE PEAK PLAYBOOK





Senior captain Solae Swenson (pictured) led the way for the Big Horns scoring 15 points, Brooke Botha was also productive offensively with 12 points, and junior captain Emma Flach rounded out those performances with 6 points and strong defensive play. PHOTO BY RICH ADDICKS

Big Horn basketball teams win close openers

EBS STAFF

In their opening games on the road Dec. 1 in Roberts, Montana, at the Hybrid Tip-Off Jamboree, the Lone Peak Big Horns boys and girls basketball teams took on Harrison/Willow Creek. Both games were nail-biters, where late clutch plays helped the Big Horns escape with narrow victories.

Junior captain Frankie Starz knocked down two free throws in the final seconds to put a hotly contested game in the win column for the Big Horns, 46-45.

"Saturday's game was good, hard-fought win. Although we didn't play offensively as we had hoped to, we made up for it in rebounding and defense," said head coach Brian Van Eps. "We need to clean up our turnovers and make every possession matter. We've got to find a way to make teams play at our pace, and our emphasis in practice will be playing with more confidence."

For the Lady Big Horns, 6-foot-2-inch senior Brooke Botha rejected a game-tying, three-point shot in the last seconds of the fourth quarter, a crucial block that secured a win in their first contest of the season.

"We have a lot of work to do before our first conference game, but I'm happy with how far we've come so far," said head coach Ausha Cole. "Between now and our game against White Sulfur, we will be working hard on our toughness, discipline and taking care of the ball."

BOX SCORES

LPHS BOYS

⁷ 11 13 15 46

Harrison / WC 8 8 15 14 45

LPHS GIRLS

Lone Peak 14 5 10 11 40

Harrison / WC 8 5 9 14 37



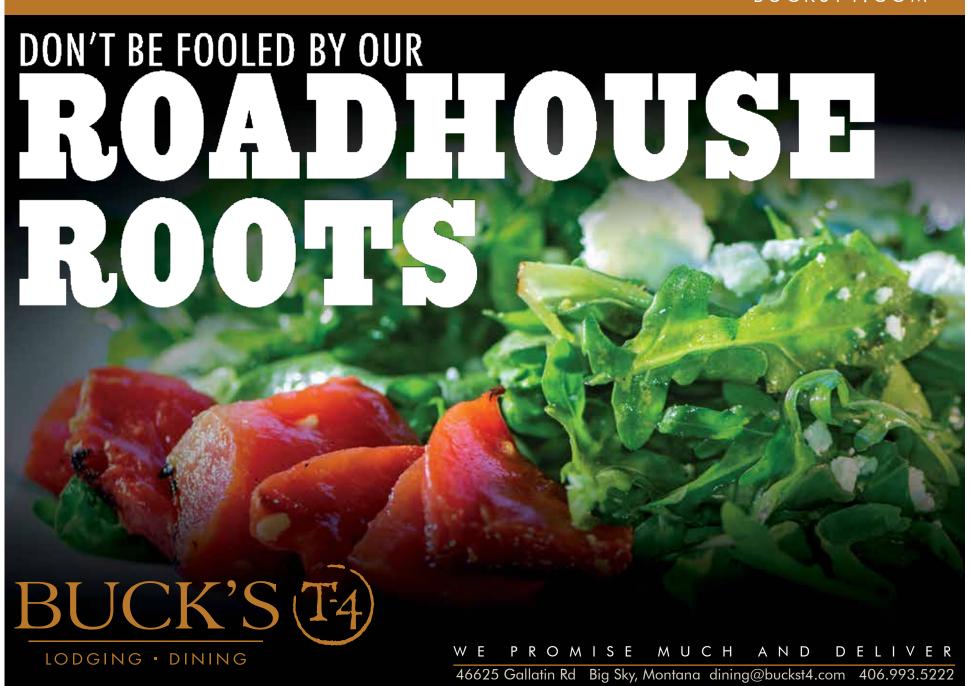
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Heated Flow

SUNDAY

10:00-11:30am All Levels Yoga

5:00-6:15pm Heated Yin/ Restorative Yoga

MONDAY

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

All Levels Yoga 4:15-5:15pm Gentle Apres

Ski 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 & 9:00-10:15 All Levels Yoga

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

> 4:15-5:15pm Apres Ski Yoga

7:00-8:00pm Awareness Wednesday

FRIDAY

9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga

12:00-1:00pm

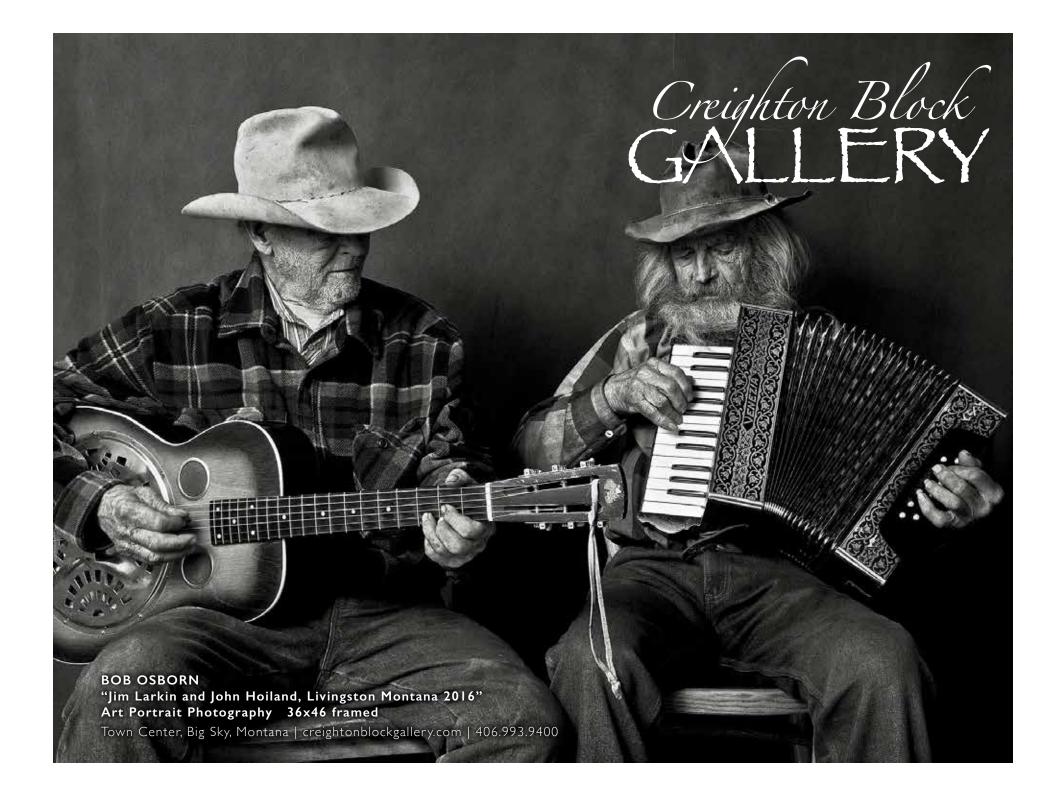
All Levels Yoga Heated Flow 5:45-6:45pm

SATURDAY

9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga

5:00-6:15pm All Levels Yoga

7:30-8:30pm Yoga Jam



Montana State's surprise season comes to end in Fargo

BY COLTER NUANEZ EBS CONTRIBUTOR

A tumultuous season that finished with a surge, came to a screeching halt for the Montana State Bobcats at the Fargodome on the first Saturday of December.

MSU traveled to North Dakota State as one of the hottest FCS teams in the West. At the end of October, many had left the Bobcats for dead. But four straight wins, which included a goal line stand to beat the rival Grizzlies and the first playoff win at Montana State in six years, had MSU feeling optimistic entering the round of 16.

MSU President Waded Cruzado served as an honorary captain Dec. 1, walking onto the hostile field with the standard collection of leaders for the pre-game coin toss. The Bobcats won the flip and elected to take the ball first, playing in one of the most fearsome venues in the Football Championship Subdivision.

Montana State quarterback Troy Andersen lofted a deep pass on the first play of the game that landed right in captain Kevin Kassis' breadbasket. The junior sprinted nearly to the end zone, diving for the pylon before being ruled down at the North Dakota State 4-yard line.

MSU settled for a 24-yard field goal from Tristan Bailey. The rest of the game belonged to North Dakota State, a dynasty unrivaled in the history of college football.

The Bison are heavyweights the caliber of Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano, Muhammad Ali or Mike Tyson. North Dakota State boxed the Bobcats into a corner with a 39-yard kickoff return to spark a scoring drive on its first possession. And the hosts threw haymaker after haymaker the rest of the first half, battering and bludgeoning the hard-nosed Bobcats with startling physicality, sound execution, relentless effort and a power running attack that was as advertised.



Redshirt junior safety Brayden Konkol celebrates a defensive stop this fall at Bobcat Stadium. PHOTO BY JASON BACAJ/SKYLINE SPORTS

By the time the first half dust settled, the only semblance of a stop earned by the Bobcat defense came after a bobbled snap led to a blocked punt, which gave the Bison possession at the MSU 14. MSU held the Bison to a field goal, hardly any consolation for the drubbing Montana State found itself on the wrong of in the second round of the FCS playoffs.

The defending national champion Bison rushed for 243 yards on just 21 carries, Lance Dunn scored four rushing touchdowns and NDSU rolled to a 38-3 advantage at halftime on the way to a thorough and convincing 52-10 victory over the Bobcats.

NDSU, winners of six of the last seven FCS national titles, won at the Fargodome for the 22nd time in 23 playoff games at the raucous venue. North Dakota State has now won 109 of 117 games dating back to the beginning of the 2011 season.



Montana State head coach Jeff Choate examines his play card during a game at Bobcat Stadium earlier this season. Choate led the Bobcats to their first winning season since 2014 and to the second round of the FCS playoffs. PHOTO BY JASON BACAJ/SKYLINE SPORTS

"It starts at the line of scrimmage and you can tell how dominant they were on the offensive side of the ball on the offensive line," Choate said. "I really liked their running backs and [quarterback] Easton Stick, what can you say about him? The ultimate winner at this level.

"You know what I take away from that? I have to go recruiting tomorrow," he added. "That's what I take away from that."

NDSU will host No. 8 Colgate on Dec. 8. The Raiders (10-1) used a 14-point third quarter to emerge with a 23-20 win over James Madison in the second round Dec. 1.

Montana State quarterback Troy Andersen ended his outstanding sophomore season with 1,412 rushing yards, the most ever by a quarterback in the Big Sky Conference. He scored MSU's lone touchdown on Saturday, a 51-yard burst on a fourth down try.

The touchdown was his 21st of the season, breaking Don Hass'school record that had stood since 1966. Andersen finished with nine 100-yard rushing games this season, breaking Matt Engelking's school record set in 1995.

Montana State's record of 8-5 included four straight wins to enter their final contest as one of the hottest teams in the country. A team picked to finish eighth in the Big Sky Conference instead reached the round of 16 in the FCS playoffs for the first time since MSU lost to Sam Houston State in the quarterfinals of the 2012 playoffs.

"We were picked to finish eighth by the media, the coaches, everybody, and one thing we hang our hats on in this program is the courage to live our lives as we see ourselves, not as others see us and don't let somebody else define you," Choate said. "We are going to learn from this, lick our wounds and get better.

"The thing I love about this team and these young men is that's how they look at it. They have bought into that and they believe it," he added. "We had an opportunity to play extra football this year and nobody else thought we would. I'm proud of what these guys accomplished."

The finish marks Montana State's first winning record since 2014 and first under Choate.

Montana State captains, nose tackle Tucker Yates, defensive tackle Zach Wright, and center Alex Neale, along with classmates inside linebacker Grant Collins, defensive end Tyrone Fa'anono and tight ends Connor Sullivan, Curtis Amos and Wilson Brott, each played the final game of their Bobcat careers in Fargo. Injured wide receivers John D'Agostino and Jabarri Johnson, along with early graduating offensive lineman Colin Hammock, will also move on from the football program.

Junior safety Brayden Konkol finished the game with a game-high 10 tackles for Montana State. Collins notched eight stops and Hill made five tackles and the interception in his first game back since the end of the 2017 season.

Montana State opens its 2019 season at Texas Tech on Aug. 31.

INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



Wolf hunting near Yellowstone criticized after famous female is shot

State and park biologists weigh in

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE EBS CONTRIBUTOR

LIVINGSTON – In late November, a well-known wolf living in Yellowstone was legally shot in Montana when it ventured outside of the park near Cooke City. While her death stirred a hotbed of controversy over the ethics of hunting wolves near the park boundary, biologists report wolf hunting around Yellowstone probably hasn't influenced population numbers, although it can impact social dynamics within packs.

"So far, we have not found an impact of wolf hunting outside of the park on the population [of wolves in Yellowstone]," said park biologist Doug Smith, who has been the project leader for the Wolf Restoration Project in Yellowstone since the program's inception more than 20 years ago. While wolf hunting around the park boundary may not drive numbers down due to limited harvest quotas in Montana and Wyoming, in the regions closest to the park, Smith said it can influence changes in social order.

According to Smith, the main factors affecting a pack's social stability are pack size and the presence of a dominant breeding pair. If one of the alpha wolves is lost, or if a small pack loses an adult, it makes the pack more vulnerable overall, he said.

This information comes from an ongoing research project looking at the impacts of wolf hunting, whose collaborators include specialists from Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, as well as Alaska's Denali National Park and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.

Kira Cassidy, a research associate for the Yellowstone Wolf Project, spoke more about this joint research during the Biennial Scientific Conference on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, held in Big Sky in September 2018.

Thus far, she said data compiled prior to and after the start of wolf hunting show that nine out of 10 packs naturally survive to the following year, though when at least one pack member is killed during the hunting season, only six out of 10 make it to the next year.

"Certain wolves have different responsibilities. Females choose den sites and really specialize in selecting and chasing prey. Males are really built for fighting other wolves and also bringing down large prey," Cassidy said. "The loss of certain high-quality individuals, or high-value individuals for the pack, can sometimes be more detrimental or have a bigger impact on that pack's persistence the next year."

Cassidy added that a number of elements must be considered in managing wolves in and around Yellowstone, from the impacts of hunting on the population and pack structure, the potential economic benefits of wolf-watching, and the potential loss of research when collared wolves are shot, to livestock depredation and potential for negative conflict with humans.

"What we essentially have to do as citizens of these states, citizens of this country, as homo sapiens, is figure out where we agree and disagree on these things," she said. "When these important decisions are made, based completely on science, we end up reversing this tendency that we have to polarize a species like the wolf. My hope is that we can all work together to understand these different aspects of a wolf's life history and not only how they impact us but also how we impact them."

Speaking about the wolf taken near Cooke City—who was popularly called "Spitfire" by wolf enthusiasts and known as 926F to park officials—Smith said the 7-and-a-half-year-old female was once the alpha in the Lamar Canyon pack. Last year, observers noticed changes in dominance patterns

within the group, which was composed of just three adults and hadn't raised pups in several years. 926F began to submit to her daughter and this year it was confirmed that she had given up her dominant breeding position, possibly due to her age.

Wolf 926F's daughter is joined by a 3-year-old black alpha male who became part of the Lamar Canyon pack in 2016 when he moved from the Beartooth pack that lives east of the park boundary. The pair is also supporting four pups that were born this spring, bringing the total count for the Lamar Canyon pack to six individuals.

"Given that the breeding pair is alive, I'm more confident they'll make it," Smith said, however he added that "whenever you lose an adult from a small pack, you risk the pack breaking up."

Overall, Yellowstone currently supports 10 wolf packs. Historically, the population has hovered around 100 individuals, but Smith reports a recent downtick to about 80, though he is still finalizing reports from recent flight counts. "It could be food related, it could be disease related—we had distemper last year. Some packs also move out of the park," he said.



926F pictured at 2 years old during the summer of 2013, less than a year after her mother, known as "o6" for the year she was born, was legally shot by a Wyoming hunter. PHOTO BY DEBY DIXON

Because Yellowstone's wildlife can move in and out of the park relatively freely, park managers work closely with state wildlife officials in what both agencies describe as a good working relationship.

Abby Nelson, a wolf management specialist for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, said the agency manages wolf hunting in a democratic process and quotas are established around Yellowstone as a compromise. "We have a lot of people interested in hunting wolves," she said. "From the other side, there's an interest in protecting individual wolves for tourism and for research."

After the gray wolf was removed from the Endangered Species list in Montana and Idaho in 2009, both states opened a hunting season on the predator in 2010. Wolves were removed from the Endangered Species list in Wyoming in the spring of 2017 and a wolf season has since been established there.

Nearly 2,000 wolves roam across the tri-state area, and according to Nelson, approximately 850 of those run wild in Montana. During eight hunting seasons, between 2010 and 2017, 36 of Yellowstone's wolves were killed in legal hunts, 13 of which wore radio collars at the time of the harvest.

Wolf hunting regulations in Montana have changed several times as managers strive to strike a balance, Nelson explained. Every two years, wildlife officials re-evaluate hunting quotas and regulations. A part of that evaluation includes public meetings and hearing citizen comment.

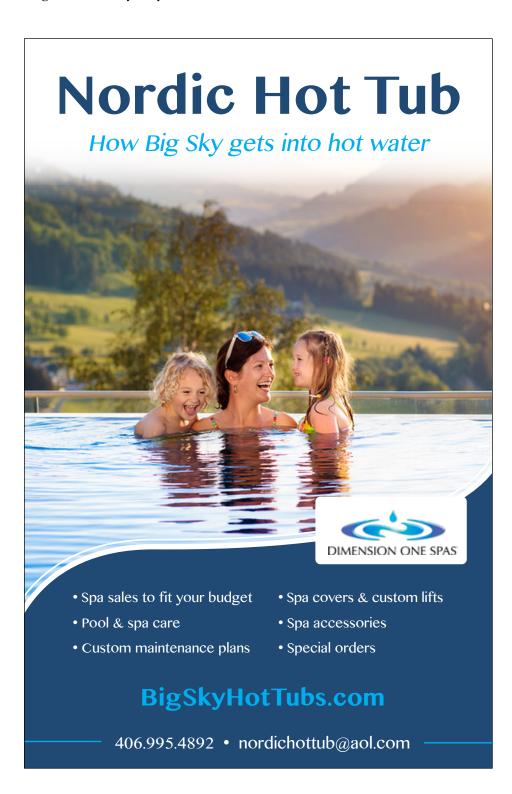
In recent years, Montana's wolf hunting season has opened on Sept. 15 and a hunter may take up to five wolves through March 15. In an area around Glacier National Park, as well as the two hunting districts near Yellowstone's northern boundary, however, only two wolves can be shot within each district. Additionally, in these two areas around Yellowstone, a single hunter may only kill one wolf.



As 926F matured, her black coat slowly grayed, illustrated by this May 5, 2018, photo of her at 7 years old. NPS PHOTO

Nelson typically visits with hunters when they bring in a harvested wolf's skull and pelt for mandatory reporting. "One thing I hear over and over again from the hunters is they worked so hard to get that wolf," she said.

Often, the Gardiner and Cooke City quotas are filled by mid-November, Nelson said, though this year they are closing more slowly. At EBS press time on Dec. 5, 926F was the only wolf taken near Cooke City, while the hunting area near Gardiner reached the two-wolf limit during the last week of November.





Visit historic Fort Yellowstone this winter

BY CHRISTINE GIANAS WEINHEIMER YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

Most visitors to Yellowstone National Park are familiar with the cluster of charming, red-roofed buildings at the heart of Mammoth Hot Springs. But many miss the opportunity to tour the Fort Yellowstone-Mammoth Hot Springs Historic District and learn about its fascinating story—a wonderful winter experience in the park.

In the 1880s, Yellowstone was part of the Wild West. Since being established as the world's first national park in 1872, it was increasingly threatened by visitors of the wrong kind. Poachers killed animals by the thousands, vandals broke large pieces off geyser and hot spring formations, and unregulated tour companies set up camps complete with bath and laundry facilities at hot springs. Word got back to Washington, D.C. that the civilian superintendents struggled to protect the park's precious resources.

In 1886, US Army soldiers marched into Mammoth Hot Springs and took over the management of Yellowstone, setting up temporary frame buildings at the foot of the Mammoth Hot Springs terraces. The soldiers performed many of the same diverse duties that rangers perform today: law enforcement, visitor education, emergency medical care, wildlife management, and firefighting.

As park visitation steadily increased, it became apparent that the Army's continued presence was needed. In 1891, Congress granted funding for a more long-term post and the construction of several permanent buildings commenced. Among the first buildings were a guard house, officers' quarters, headquarters, a hospital, barracks for enlisted men, and stables for their horses.

Scottish masons were brought in to continue expansion of the fort in 1909, constructing sandstone buildings including the Bachelor Officers' Quarters and the beautiful chapel. Today, you can step inside the Bachelors' Officers' Quarters, as it is now the Albright Visitor Center. The Center offers trip-planning information, exhibits on the park's history and wildlife, ranger programs, a Yellowstone Forever Park Store, a backcountry office, restrooms, and free wi-fi.

In all, 60 structures were erected at Fort Yellowstone. When the National Park Service was established in 1916, the US Army began their departure to make way for civilian guardians. Thirty-five original fort buildings remain and are still in use today as park headquarters. Fort Yellowstone is now listed as a National Historic Landmark District, the highest designation.

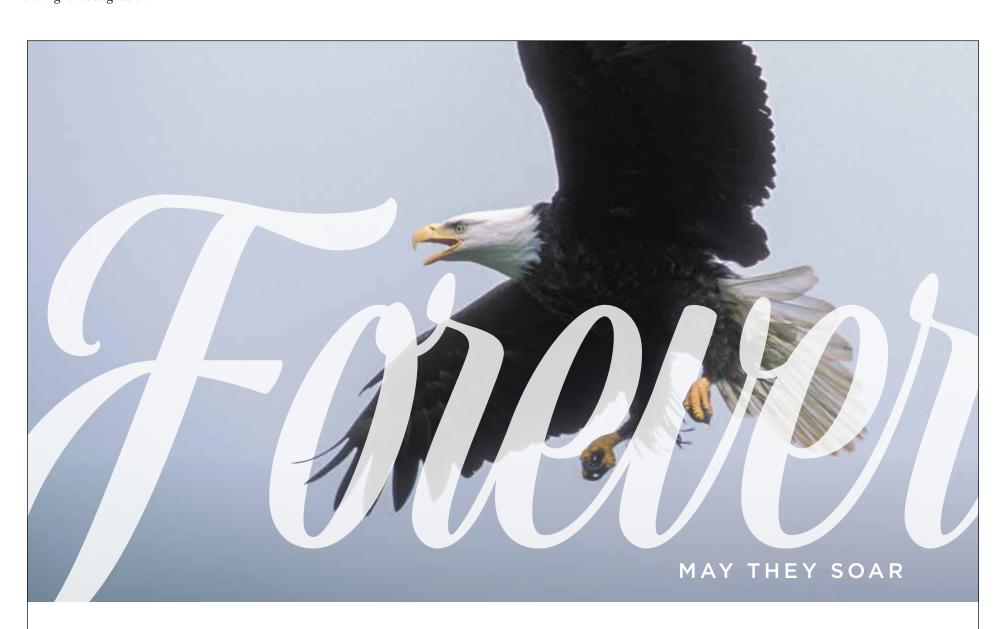


NPS PHOTO

Mammoth is accessible by wheeled vehicles year-round, via the North Entrance in Gardiner, so visitors can tour Fort Yellowstone during the winter, or any season. Other winter activities in the immediate area include exploring the Mammoth Hot Springs terraces and enjoying cross-country skiing and snowshoeing trails. Mammoth is also a great starting point for winter wildlife watching in the Lamar Valley, as roads through the Northern Range are plowed throughout the winter.

When you are ready to check out Fort Yellowstone, it's easy to identify each building and learn about its past by following the Fort Yellowstone Self-Guiding Trail either online or with a printed booklet. To follow the trail online, access the interactive map at nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/explore-mammoth.htm.

You can also pick up the Fort Yellowstone Self-Guiding Trail booklet, for a suggested donation of \$1 to Yellowstone Forever, the park's official nonprofit partner. Booklets are available at the Albright Visitor Center, open daily in the winter from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.





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 | 1000

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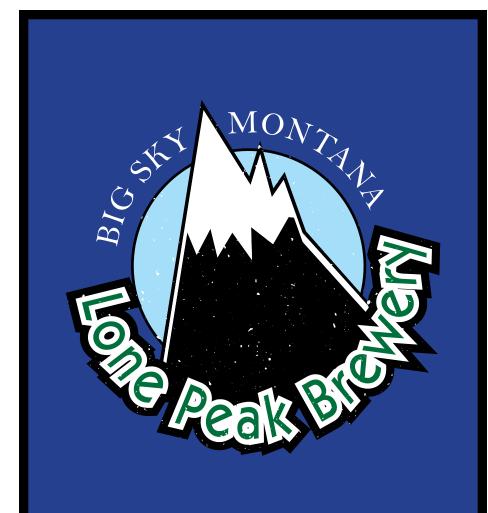




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RESORT ROUNDUP

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

All-time early season at Big Sky Resort

Madison Base opens one week earlier than scheduled

EBS STAFF

Big Sky Resort had received more than 100 inches of snow as of EBS press time on Dec. 5 and set a new November snowfall record with 76 inches—190 percent of average for the month. Translation: the resort has some of the best early season conditions in its history and one of the deepest snowpacks in North America.

On Dec. 5, mountain operations opened the Dakota chairlift, bringing the total skiable terrain to 2,713 acres on 120 trails. Those numbers increase significantly with the Madison Base area opening Friday, Dec. 7, one week earlier than scheduled. Six Shooter and the Lone Tree Quad are spinning on the Moonlight side of the mountain and limited services are offered at the Madison Base, including lift ticket sales, lockers and restrooms, as well as grab-and-go food from Headwaters Grille. On Dec. 14, the resort plans to open all services at the Madison Base area.

The much-anticipated debut of the new Ramcharger 8 is still scheduled for mid-December, and the snow guns have been blanketing Andesite Mountain with man-made snow to ensure solid coverage once the lift is online. If you enjoy sliding down a mountain on boards, Big Sky Resort is the place to be right now.







UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 7

Madison Base Opening Day

Due to amazing conditions, Madison Base will open one week earlier than expected

DECEMBER 15-16

Military Appreciation Weekend

Join Big Sky Resort for a weekend of appreciation for our military members

DECEMBER 22-23

Educator Appreciation Weekend

Join Big Sky Resort for a weekend of appreciation for our educators

DECEMBER 24

Torchlight Parade

Join Big Sky Resort for the annual Torchlight Parade in the base area

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Service

In the Yellowstone Conference Center

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Dinner

Enjoy a festive Christmas Eve dinner with the family at the Huntley Dining Room

DECEMBER 31

New Years Eve Dinner at Peaks

A special New Years Eve dinner at Peaks, located in the Summit Hotel

DECEMBER 31

New Year's Eve at Everett's

8,800

Ring in the new year in style at 8,800 feet





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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.

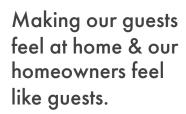


LOT 149 FOURPOINT RD | \$240,000 #214051 | CALL DON

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.







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Lone Mountain's rock glacier mapped by lasers

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BOZEMAN – As skiers carve powdery turns down the Big Couloir at Big Sky Resort, the ground beneath them is constantly moving by fractions of an inch. Overall, surveys indicate an ancient glacier on Lone Mountain moves as much as 11 inches each year, and advanced mapping technologies suggest the activity is here to stay, at least for a while.

Last summer, a team of students and professors from Montana State University worked with technicians from Bozeman photonics company Blackmore Sensors and Analytics, Inc., using portable lidar laser scanners to create a digital 3-D model of the Lone Peak Rock Glacier. The MSU research team is comparing this model with decades-worth of survey data to better understand trends in activity.

While researchers are particularly interested in the Lone Peak Rock Glacier, the mountain likely holds at least 10 distinct rock glaciers, though the majority are inactive today. These formations consist of a layer of ice that is protected by a thick blanket of talus. The Lone Mountain glacier is suspected to be 100- to 200-feet thick, with 9 feet of rock covering the surface.

Science writer and geologist, Mary Caperton Morton of Big Sky, said rock glaciers are very common in the Rocky Mountains and that Lone Mountain's are most likely the remnants of traditional ice glaciers. She said that if you look closely, you can see evidence of the glacial activity. "As it melts, it drags rocks with it," she said, adding that a rippled pattern can sometimes be seen in the snow or rocks below the Big Couloir.

Colin Shaw, an assistant research professor in MSU's Department of Earth Sciences, is among the group of researchers studying Lone Mountain and its glaciers. He said initial analysis indicates the active portion of the Lone Peak Rock Glacier is approximately 1.5 miles long, extending from the headwall of the east cirque, where the A-Z Chutes are, down to Upper Morning Glory.

"The rate of flow doesn't seem to be changing even after 50 years," he said. "Perhaps the talus protects the ice, insulates it from warming."

While the glacier doesn't seem to be melting any faster despite warming temperature trends, it's losing mass as the ice melts—a defining



Montana State University students collect lidar scan data in the east cirque of Lone Mountain in June 2017, using instruments supplied by the National Science Foundation funded consortium, UNAVCO. PHOTO COURTESY OF COLIN SHAW

characteristic of a glacier. However, Shaw said, "Even though we're losing ice mass, the glacier is still getting longer. It's stretching."

The glacier was first studied in the 1970s prior to the establishment of Big Sky Resort and this initial survey helped developers install infrastructure on the moving ground surface.

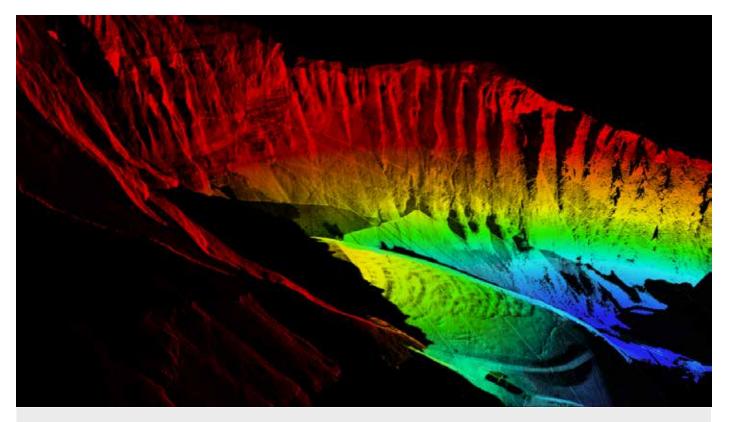
"The configuration of the Lone Peak Tram is such to allow for the bottom terminal to move," wrote Big Sky Resort's vice president of Mountain Operations, Mike Unruh, in a statement sent to EBS. "By installing a tram instead of a gondola and eliminating the need for towers, complications due to this movement were greatly reduced. The tram is surveyed routinely to track its movement, and inspected methodically by Doppelmayr engineers from Europe who are familiar with installations on glaciers."

Researchers also routinely survey the area, often using GPS. Additionally, in 2005, an early iteration of lidar was used in an aerial scan by a doctoral student at MSU, while in 2017, students in MSU's Geology Field Camp used land-based lidar supplied by the National

Science Foundation-funded consortium, UNAVCO, to make initial images.

A technology that has been around for years, lidar has been developed for a number of applications. It relies on a high-speed laser that calculates distances real-time in a similar fashion to radar.

Blackmore's chief technology operator Stephen Crouch said the scanning process can provide accurate 3-D data and orient technology such as drones. He added that his company is interested in developing lidar as a tool for the Department of Defense and as a sensor for autonomous vehicles.



An image of a 3-D digital model of the Lone Peak rock glacier, captured using lidar laser technology. IMAGE COURGESY OF BLACKMORE



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







Grizzly Outfitters turns to a robot for the perfect tune

BY AMY WIEZALIS EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The founders of Big Sky's Grizzly Outfitters Ski & Backcountry Sports, Ken Lancey and Andrew Schreiner, have been immersed in the outdoor industry for well over 25 years. They constantly seek out the best that the industry has to offer with the goal of optimizing customer experience. Their scientific approach to helping the best gear perform even better is downright academic. Enter the Crystal Rock.

In their quest to offer a more perfect tune, they recently purchased a Crystal Rock fully automated tuning robot from Montana of Switzerland. It is the first machine of its kind in North America, and a team of four representatives from the company traveled to Big Sky to oversee installation.

Schreiner and Lancey chose the Crystal Rock based on its unique components that offer consistent, precise tunes. The machine's computer divides the ski or board into 10 distinct zones, offering infinite combinations catering to the style and skill level of each customer. It works efficiently, reducing human error and minimizing employee exposure to fumes and particulate. The Crystal Rock also enables Grizzly employees to create a highly customized tune catering to a particular skier or snowboarder.

"I can take a ski racer, park rider, Nordic skier, a child, whoever—then vary the grind and bevels to make their ski or board do whatever they need it to do," Schreiner said.

Schreiner explained that the overall feel of your ride comes down to the base: "You want a flat surface with a perfectly centered structure." If your skis or board are feeling "grabby" or "squirrely," chances are the base is fundamentally uneven. Tune techs slide a precisely flat "true bar" along the bottom to reveal discontinuities.

If the surface is convex, it results in a wiggly feel and will be more difficult to engage the edges. More commonly, the surface will be concave or "railed." Railed skis feel grabby and resist turning. A stone grind is required to remedy both of these problems.

Base structure is the pattern of grooves running through your base material. As you slide, friction melts the snow into a thin layer of water. "Structure is crucial to properly move water, decrease friction, and improve glide," Schreiner said. A proper base grind can make your old sticks feel magical again. Even if the powder is bottomless, you'll still want to channel snow crystals in the right way.

The Montana Crystal Rock utilizes a unique pneumatic system to pick up the ski or board and precisely adjust the pressure applied as it works. The technology also ensures the ski will move through the machine without getting knocked askew, resulting in an off-center grind or uneven tune.

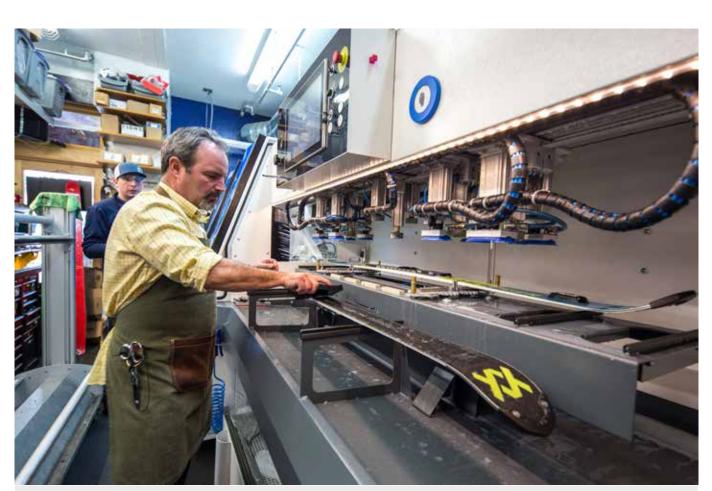
Today, ski and snowboard profiles incorporate several configurations of camber and rocker. Traditional tuning machines force the ski flat during the tune. Montana's pneumatic suction mechanism suspends the ski or board from above, applying variable pressure in harmony with the normal contour of the ski or board. This calculated base grinding reserves base material and extends the life of your skis or board.

Everyone is looking for a responsive edge that won't catch too aggressively and cause a fall. Again, this depends on individual style and terrain choice. A World Cup racer will require different edges than a park skier, but both will be floored by the tuning technology exclusive to Montana of Switzerland.

Montana's GRIPtech is the only tuning system that grinds the side edge in a vertical direction. This creates a consistent angle along more of the edge than a traditional horizontal ceramic wheel can achieve. And Grizzly's Crystal Rock is the only machine in North America that features Montana's HTT system to angle and polish the base side of your edges. During their radial tuning process, certain areas are tuned more aggressively than others. The bevel angle is varied throughout the length of the ski in a precise way to maximize safety and performance. The HTT system also finishes edges with no burrs.

Grizzly continues to use Wintersteiger's Wax Future machine with infrared radiation that helps the wax thoroughly penetrate your snowboard, alpine or Nordic skis.

Tuning robots like the Crystal Rock offer speedy tuning with unparalleled precision, and these robots have elevated tuning possibilities to match the design innovations of the ski and snowboard industry. However, each tune at Grizzly Outfitters is still finished the old-fashioned way, by hand.



Grizzly Outfitters' co-owner Andrew Schreiner demonstrates the cutting-edge technology of the ski shop's new Montana of Switzerland Crystal Rock tuning machine. PHOTO BY JENNINGS BARMORE



Making it in Big Sky: Hammond Property Management

BY BAY STEPHENS EBS STAFF WRITER

Scott Hammond established Hammond Property Management in 1997 and now manages 24 homeowner and property associations, spanning from large estates to condominiums. Hammond employs 18 staff, the longest serving of whom, Ryan Welch, has worked with Hammond for 16 years.

They conduct weekly inspections on homes, facilitate sub-contractors for maintenance work, plow and shovel properties, provide consultation and advice to mostly volunteer boards of homeowners, and provide 24-hour emergency access to clients.

As part of this ongoing series, Scott Hammond shared his 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?

Scott Hammond: That's easy, long-term relationships, including with staff, subcontractors and, of course, clients. I am most proud of HPM's ability to maintain healthy long-term personal and professional connections with the people of Big Sky.

EBS: Do you remember your first customer or first sale?

S.H.: Yes, in September of 1997, Clyde DeShields hired me to manage his Meadow Village property. I am happy to say all these years later I still work for Clyde and his family.

EBS: What are the biggest obstacles to operating a property management company in Big Sky?

S.H.: Staffing, the cost of living, and limited housing options as some major ones, but also being an hour from the supplies and services of Bozeman.

Specifically, property management work covers such a variety of services, keeping the costs and expenses of sub-contracted services reasonably priced is a big challenge, and with the surge in new construction this has been even more difficult lately.

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

S.H.: A larger pool of competition, new property management companies opening and numerous ownership changes among them has been prevalent of late. The demographics of some of the HOA's we manage have changed. Ownership user patterns have changed, where once vacation ownership was prevalent, we have seen a shift toward permanent resident and long-term rental usage. This pattern shift in ownership has required changes in management of the properties. The advent of VRBO and Airbnb have also changed the climate of HOA management.

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

S.H.: Our location and people. The outdoor recreational options are just so good. When I visit other areas of Montana, you realize that our combination of skiing, Nordic trails, mountain bike trails, fishing, mountain bike riding, hunting and access to public ground is truly exceptional. I have found over the years that the people of Big Sky are genuine and hearty souls.

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

S.H.: There are many. But generally speaking in business, it's the times that myself or my staff makes a mistake. I have witnessed that owning up to it, quickly rectifying



The Hammond Property Management team. PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMMOND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

it, learning from it, and then moving forward can be rewarding. That, and when I first learned that they were building a tram to the peak.

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

S.H.: This is a funny one, I read Doug Bing's "Making it in Big Sky" [Blue Ribbon Builders] earlier this year. He stole mine: "always do what you say you're going to do," which is what my first clients told me almost 22 years ago and has always stuck with me. But I must add a favorite: "Good judgment comes from experience, and experience comes from bad judgment."

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

S.H.: Be aware of what a great client base Big Sky offers. We have large, intelligent and often appreciative group of customers here in Big Sky.

Hold your staff and employees high, support them, and understand how challenging it can be to afford to live and work here. Remember, it's a tough hiring environment. Be prepared for the shoulder seasons, and don't forget to enjoy the woods around us.

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

S.H.: I hope to be moving forward, working toward making the HOAs we manage great places to live, while maintaining the great staff we have now.

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

S.H.: That's a tough one. I would rather tell you where I hope we can be. First and foremost, I hope that Big Sky can have numerous affordable, deed-restricted homes for locals and their families. I hope to see the school district continue to thrive and grow. I believe that Town Center and Meadow Village can grow with solid urban planning, with an emphasis on pedestrian-friendly design and access to the woods around us. I see an expansion of the mountain biking specific trail system (selfishly).

Generally, I hope that further development is controlled and considerate to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in which we all reside.

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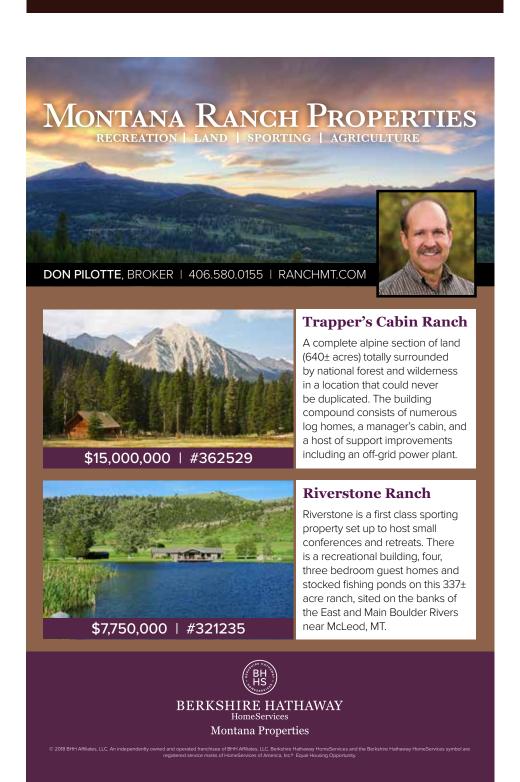
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AMUSE-BOUCHE

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

A ranch visit like no other



BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

We have a saying at Buck's T-4 that relationships matter. And because we are the stewards of these relationships, we hold them in high regard. Whether they're an employee, vendor, guest or community member, they matter to us. But equally fulfilling is forming new relationships.

We met Joel McCafferty, of McCafferty Ranch, and his daughter Megan at a Montana food show in Bozeman back in September. After learning what they do, which sets them apart from any other ranchers in the state, and possibly the country, we decided that we had to see the ranch in person. So, a couple of weeks ago, a friend of mine and fellow chef, Eric Stenberg, and I visited them in Belt, Montana.

The ranch is located on a desolate gravel road about 22 miles off Highway 89. As if this wasn't far enough, and just our luck, they had received several inches of snow the night before, and up to 18 inches in some areas of the ranch.

"This looks like about where Steve Buscemi buried the money and marked it with an ice scraper in Fargo," I said with a touch of fearful humor.

"Don't even joke about that," Eric volleyed back. The unplowed road had a barbed-wire fence on either side that was barely visible in the flat light for reference—let alone any trees or distinguishing landmarks.

We went as far as we could, at which point Joel picked us up in his giant four-wheel drive diesel truck. We sped off at a far greater speed than I expected, given the conditions.

"I really hate this truck. It just isn't good in snow," Joel said as he looked over at me, for what seemed like an eternity. "Just watch the road!" I thought, as I looked back at Eric who was clearly thinking the same thing. The fact that he has driven that road his entire life was only slightly comforting. I kept thinking about how fast we'd be going if he had a truck he liked.

We arrived inside the home, which had a warmth that went far beyond the cast iron wood burning stove with hours-old embers.

Eric and I cooked for them while we all enjoyed wine and beer in the kitchen. After a momentary prayer led by the patriarch, we were seated around the family dining table dating back to 1876.

We talked in detail about what it is they do, whether it's something a chef would want, and how we could make this fledgling idea come to fruition and make financial sense.

We decided that what they have is special, and possibly a wave of the future.

Joel drove us off property to the cabins they put us up in. Fortunately, the next morning's drive back to the ranch was met with blue sky and plowed roads.

And yes, I haven't actually said what it is they are doing and why it intrigued us all from the start. You'll have to wait until the next column for that.

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

Yours in health



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

I hear a frequent phrase that causes me cringe around town: "Welcome to the ACL club!" This is one club that nobody is excited to become a member of. Keeping your knees healthy is vital to having a great ski season and being able to continue to ski pain free with age. Having had a knee injury myself, I have learned a lot about

keeping the knees strong throughout the season.

The knee is a complex hinge joint. It's the largest joint in the body and is meant to be strong and stable. However, if there is decreased or increased mobility, or range of motion, at the hip or ankle it can ultimately make the knee unstable. Here are a few exercises to help keep your knees strong and healthy during the season:

Unavoidably, there are always those dreaded weeks of cramming our feet in ski boots at the beginning of the season. Rolling your foot on a lacrosse or tennis ball is a quick, therapeutic exercise, and is also great for relieving symptoms of plantar fasciitis. Place a tennis or lacrosse ball on the floor near your feet and put your foot on top of the ball and roll it around, massaging the bottom of your foot. Increase or decrease pressure as needed. There will be points of pain, but try to continue to work until the pain dissipates and do this daily.

Keep your body healthy through ski season: part 2

Another regimen I recommend is toe curls. This exercise strengthens the muscles at the top of the feet and toes. In a seated position, lay a kitchen or hand towel on the floor in front of you. Put the toes of one foot on the end of the towel and scrunch your toes so you pull the towel toward you. Repeat this several times with each foot.

Lunges are an excellent exercise to keep the knees and quadriceps strong. Doing a lunge in different planes of motion helps with increasing the range of motion in the ankles and building up strength in order to stay strong when doing tram laps. "Around the clock" lunges are a functional exercise that is geared toward skiers.

Picture standing in the middle of a clock with the numbers one through 12 around the outside. Face forward so your front body points toward 12 o'clock; face 12 for the duration of the exercise to ensure you're moving in a lateral plane of motion. Each time push back to the start position. The goal is to hit every clock number. Start with your right foot, use your left leg as a stabilizer, and lunge forward to 12, then forward and slightly right to one, all the way until you step back to 6. Switch feet and finish the other part of the clock with your left foot.

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.



Big Sky Ideas Festival to give winter signature event

Cord McCoy added to TEDxBigSky lineup

BY BAY STEPHENS EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – TEDxBigSky will not stand alone this year but will be enveloped into the inaugural Big Sky Ideas Festival from Jan. 23-27. And also joining the TEDxBigSky lineup is former bull rider and three-season veteran of CBS's "The Amazing Race," Cord McCoy, a staple of Big Sky PBR. The festival will "activate" curated speakers through breakout sessions involving the community to promote thought and action.

Organized by Outlaw Partners (publisher of EBS), the vision for Big Sky Ideas Festival began with the success of the Professional Bull Riders event that Outlaw has hosted in Town Center the past eight summers. Outlaw CEO Eric Ladd said the goal was to create a winter counterpart to PBR and chose to build the platform around TEDxBigSky, which debuted in 2017.

"It came from a desire to create a signature event in winter that the community could rally behind and participate in," Ladd said. The festival allows the community additional touchpoints with the speakers, breaking down the presenter-audience dichotomy for more experiential learning opportunities.

As ideas festivals such as those hosted by TED—a nonprofit devoted to "Ideas Worth Spreading"—have grown in popularity, Outlaw decide to host its own independently organized version of TED Talks, called TEDx.

"Our mission at Outlaw is to create connections that inspire others to act," Outlaw's Media and Events Director Ersin Ozer said. "We do this through journalism and storytelling, video and marketing, and live events. The Big Ideas Festival is an example of Outlaw's mission coming to life and gives our community more opportunities to apply what they will hear about at TEDxBigSky into their lives."

At this point, the festival will include a performance by flutist Ulla Suokko, and a concert by the Jamie McLean Band, the namesake of which will close out the night at TEDxBigSky with a musical performance on Saturday, Jan. 26.

The Outlaw team also is interested in hosting a more intimate gathering with Jay Sanguinetti, so audiences can have a closer look at how the positive effects of meditation could be enhanced by neuromodulation. Other events are in the works with dates, times and locations forthcoming.

Visit tedxbigsky.com for more information, updates and to find tickets.



CONFIRMED EVENTS

FRIDAY, JAN. 25

Jamie McLean Band

Big Sky Resort's Montana Jack, time to be announced TICKETS: events.ticketprinting.com/event/Jamie-Mclean-Band-Headliner-Dammit-Lauren-And-The-31631

SATURDAY, JAN. 26

Third annual TEDxBigSky

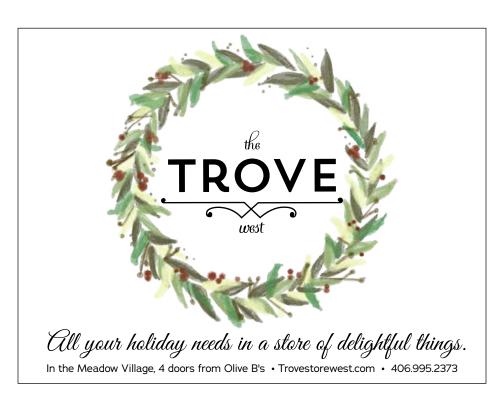
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, doors open at 4 p.m., event begins promptly at 5 p.m.

SUNDAY, JAN. 27

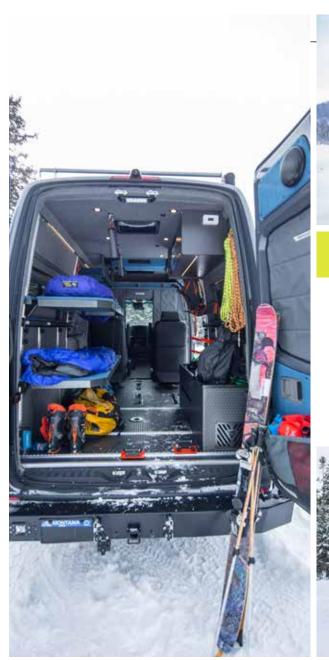
An Evening of Music, Stories and Poetry with Ulla Suokko

Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, doors open at 5 p.m., show starts at 5:30 p.m., followed by meet and greet with Suokko

Event organizers are working to expand the week to include a fundraiser movie screening for Protect Our Winters—an organization committed to fight climate change—a neuroscience event with Jay Sanguinetti, and a networking event with Yellowstone Forever, Yellowstone National Park's nonprofit education and fundraising partner. Details are coming soon.









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BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7 – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

If your event falls between Dec. 21 and Jan. 4, please submit it by Dec. 12 by emailing media@outlaw.partners.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

Christmas Stroll
Town Center, 5:30p.m.

Holiday Bazaar Big Sky Discovery Academy, 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Locals Lowdown: Live music Rainbow Ranch Lodge, 5 p.m.

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8

Holiday Home Tour and Holiday Bazaar Big Sky Discovery Academy, 3-6 p.m.

Community Fitness Class Headwaters Fitness, 8 a.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Rotary Club of Big Sky Meeting Town Center Conference Room, 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

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, DECEMBER 14

Locals Lowdown: Live music Rainbow Ranch Lodge, 5 p.m.

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

Breakfast with Santa The Inn on the Gallatin, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Community Fitness Class Headwaters Fitness, 8 a.m.

Holiday Choral Program with Aoide Big Sky Chapel, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Rotary Club of Big Sky Meeting Town Center Conference Room, 6 p.m.

Country Swing Dance Buck's T-4 Lodge, 5:30-9 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

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.

WORTH THE DRIVE



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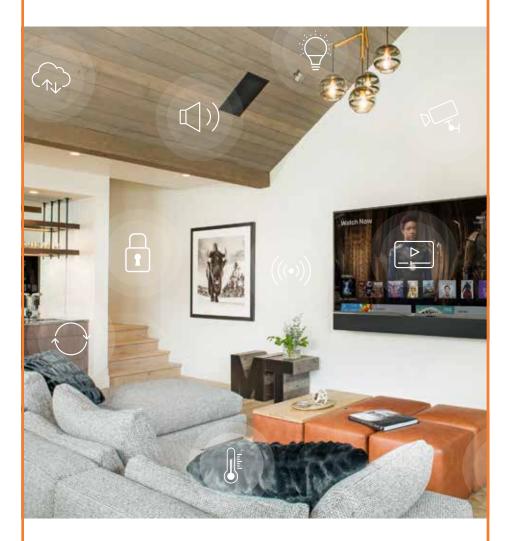












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REEL REVIEW

'Outlaw King'

BY ANNA HUSTED **EBS FILM CRITIC**

The biggest flaw of Netflix's newest action flick, "Outlaw King," is its historic inaccuracies of Scotland.

Filmmaking, like any art form, allows for creative wiggle room if it's used to establish a greater theme or direction, but "Outlaw King" fails to do so. Creative licensing should be used to make a statement, make great art, or present us with an overarching issue such as in Spike Lee's "BlacKkKlansman" of this year.

"Outlaw King" had so much opportunity to be as relevant as ever from the Scottish-born director David Mackenzie. In 2014, Scotland voted on independence from England and it was narrowly defeated 55.3 percent against, to 44.7 percent in favor. "Outlaw King" had this opportunity to show real-world relevance, but instead focused on closed-room meetings and romance. Although the film has plenty of fight scenes, it still fell short in packing a punch as a great historical film.

What I was hoping would be as powerful and exciting as Mel Gibson's William Wallace in 1999's "Braveheart" was an underused Chris Pine as King Robert the Bruce. Pine's performance is so subdued that even in the battle scenes he is less a man of action and more a man of romance.

Although Robert the Bruce was known as the humble and wise rebel king, it is also unknown if he was the one to betray Wallace in order to seek glory for himself, a storyline that would have brought balance to the two sides for and against independence. The film does not go into these historic discrepancies, but rather portrays Robert the Bruce as Scotland's unsung hero.

While accuracy may be its greatest flaw, cinematography and battle choreography are its greatest achievements. The camera shows the audience points of view unique to an action film, taking us into the muddy trenches alongside the few men standing by the Scottish king. The handheld camera following the king, and his new bride, ducks behind townspeople selling meat and goods, which gives the film a corporeal feeling—these were flesh and blood people.

Netflix was once reliable for making the best original movies, a torch now passed to Amazon Prime, but "Outlaw King" is still worth a watch. If nothing more than to get you thinking about Scottish history and possibly doing your own research on the small island's complicated politics.

"Outlaw King" also has a strong supporting cast with up-and-coming actress Florence Pugh, best known for her turn as murderous lady of the house in 2016's "Lady Macbeth," and James Cosmo, who also starred in "Braveheart." My favorite character, Douglas, is played by indie-film star Aaron Taylor-Johnson, who delivers a passionate love-for-land-and-country performance.

Despite its weaknesses, "Outlaw King" is worth a watch because Mackenzie is a director to keep an eye on. One day we will be measuring his canon of films as a whole and might not even remember what it was we didn't like about "Outlaw King."

"Outlaw King" is available to stream on Netflix.

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.



WMPAC winter season dedicated to its namesake

WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Big Sky's hub for arts and cultural offerings, the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, has organized its most impressive lineup yet for its 2019 winter season. Now in its sixth season, WMPAC has made a name for itself by bringing some of the most influential names in dance, theater and music to Big Sky.

In addition to the opportunity to see leading performers, WMPAC provides the opportunity for enriching experiences outside the standard sphere of ski town life.

"The reason we all live in Big Sky is we seek out and crave adventure," said John Zirkle, WMPAC's executive director. "WMPAC performances give us a chance to satisfy that spirit in intellectual and cultural realms as well."

WMPAC is also dedicated to commemorating its namesake, the late Warren Miller, who passed away in January, with this season's lineup. "He devoted his life to pushing limits, and we're honored to continue his legacy on that front," Zirkle said.

Shows such as Eighth Blackbird on Jan. 19 and James Sewell Ballet's March 23 performance best embody that essence. Eighth Blackbird is a contemporary chamber ensemble dedicated to performing music by living composers, particularly those who have been traditionally marginalized from the classical music world—namely female composers and composers of color. The group epitomizes the notion of radical inclusion in what is often seen as a staid, stodgy artform, and are at the forefront of redefining it.

Continuing WMPAC's theme of supporting pioneering art, James Sewell Ballet returns to Big Sky for its sixth season. They will debut an all-new dance program at their March performance, this time featuring a collaboration with musician Martin Dosh, who is composing new music for the event and will perform live onstage with the dancers.



A March 9 performance by Ira Glass, creator of "This American Life," will be one of many highlights of this winter's season at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center. PHOTO BY JESSE MICHENER

"This will be a chance for Big Sky locals to see a brand-new work of art, designed exclusively for us," Zirkle said. "It's just a mind-blowing opportunity to be on the leading edge of where this artform is headed."

Whether audiences come to the theater looking for family entertainment, a night out with friends, or to stretch their understanding of an artform, they will carry on the tradition of exploring the unknown, and pushing limits, that Warren Miller exemplified.

"Locals can access a huge range of moving, challenging, gratifying experiences that you can't get anywhere else in Montana, and we're so grateful to Warren for instilling us with our spirit of adventure," Zirkle said.

Learn more about WMPAC's full winter season lineup and ticket information at warrenmillerpac.org.



Free chapel concert features Aoide Chamber Singers

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

On Saturday, Dec. 15, the Arts Council of Big Sky presents a free concert of holiday choral singing featuring the Aoide Chamber Singers in the Big Sky Chapel. The free, all-ages performance begins at 7 p.m. and seating is on a first come, first served basis.

With performances described as the best choral singing ever heard in the Gallatin Valley—or almost anywhere—the Aoide Chamber Singers has established itself as one of Montana's leading vocal ensembles. Founded in fall 2012 at Montana State University by then-freshman Andrew Major, Aoide humbly began with seven singers. Their high level of artistry and commitment to modern music drew attention from others and membership now exceeds 20 singers.

The chapel holiday program, entitled "Aoide at Christmas: Advent Evensong," features a diverse program including works from Bo Holten, David Lang, Herbert Howells and Gabriel Jackson, among others. Aoide is a

dedicated advocate for contemporary composers, with an overwhelming majority of their repertoire encompassing the last decade of choral writing. The group's performances routinely range from hauntingly



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

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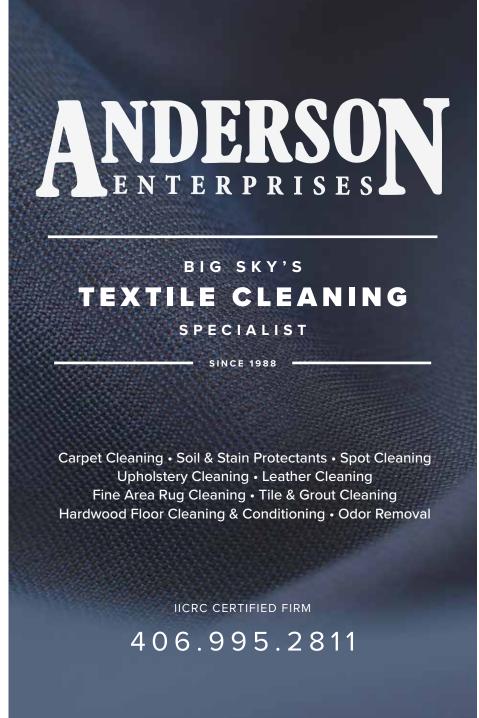
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American Life in Poetry: Column 715

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

Alaska Quarterly Review put out a special double issue late in 2017 to celebrate its 35th year, a very long tenure for a literary magazine. Among the many fine works I found there was this touching portrait of his mother by Michael Mark, who lives in California.

Estelle

By Michael Mark

Even when they danced, Dad couldn't keep her in his arms. She'd spin off, leave him to fade

back into the circle of others, clapping, hooting. Days when the pond would freeze, mothers took

their children's hands and worried them around in slow circles. Mom raced in uncharitable loops

past me and my brother like we weren't hers. Same way she didn't see my report card Fs as Fs.

She'd take the matching color pen and glide the ballpoint so it looked like the B was always there.

You could ask how she convinced the butcher his scale was wrong, how she'd roll her cart away

with three-eighths of a pound of corned beef, paying for only a quarter – fat trimmed, the way dad liked,

but she'd skim that question like she did all surfaces, even air. Now she's given her own memory the slip.

Doctors say there's no reaching her.

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Sudoku

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

7			3	2	8	9 8		
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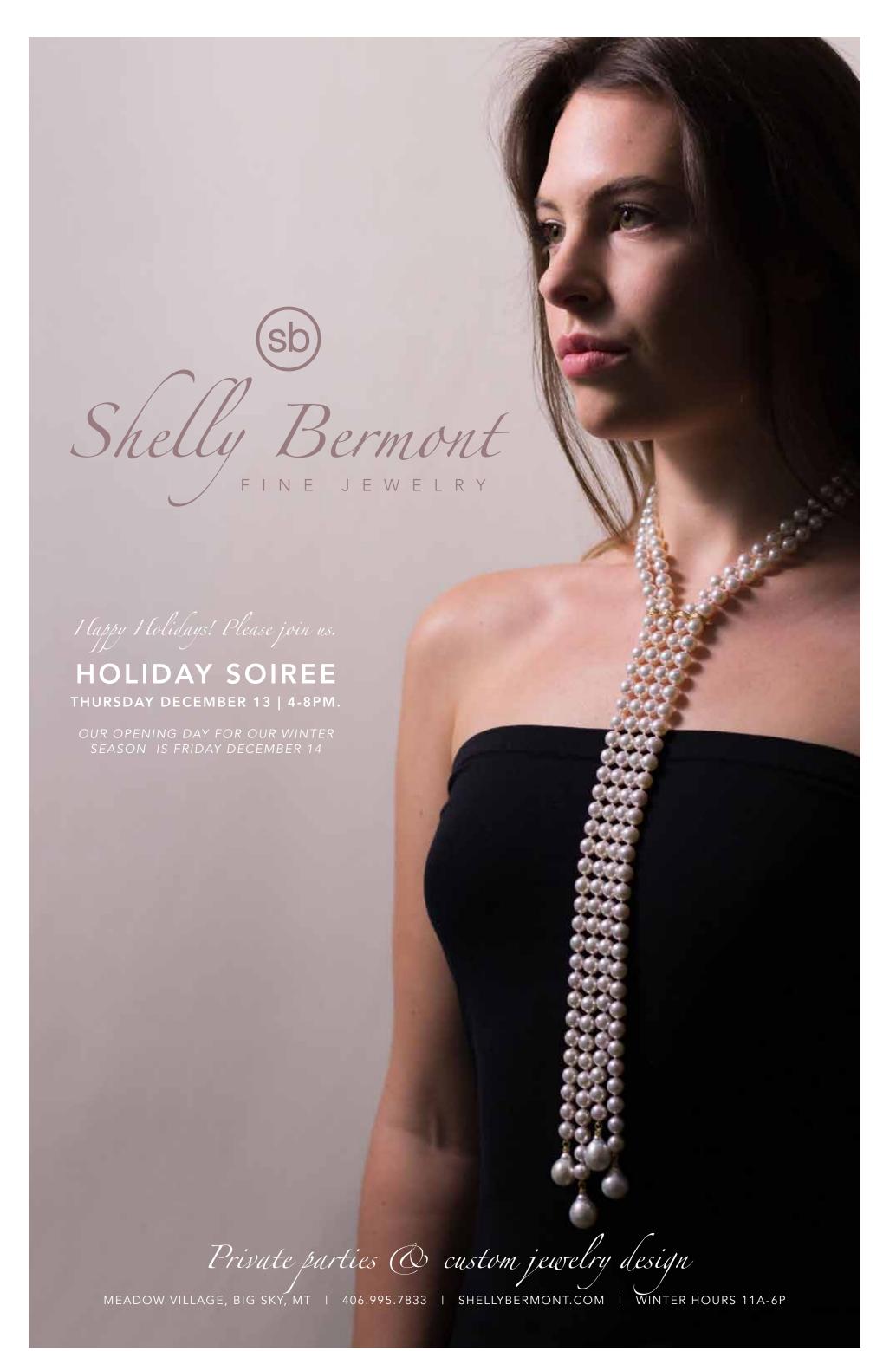
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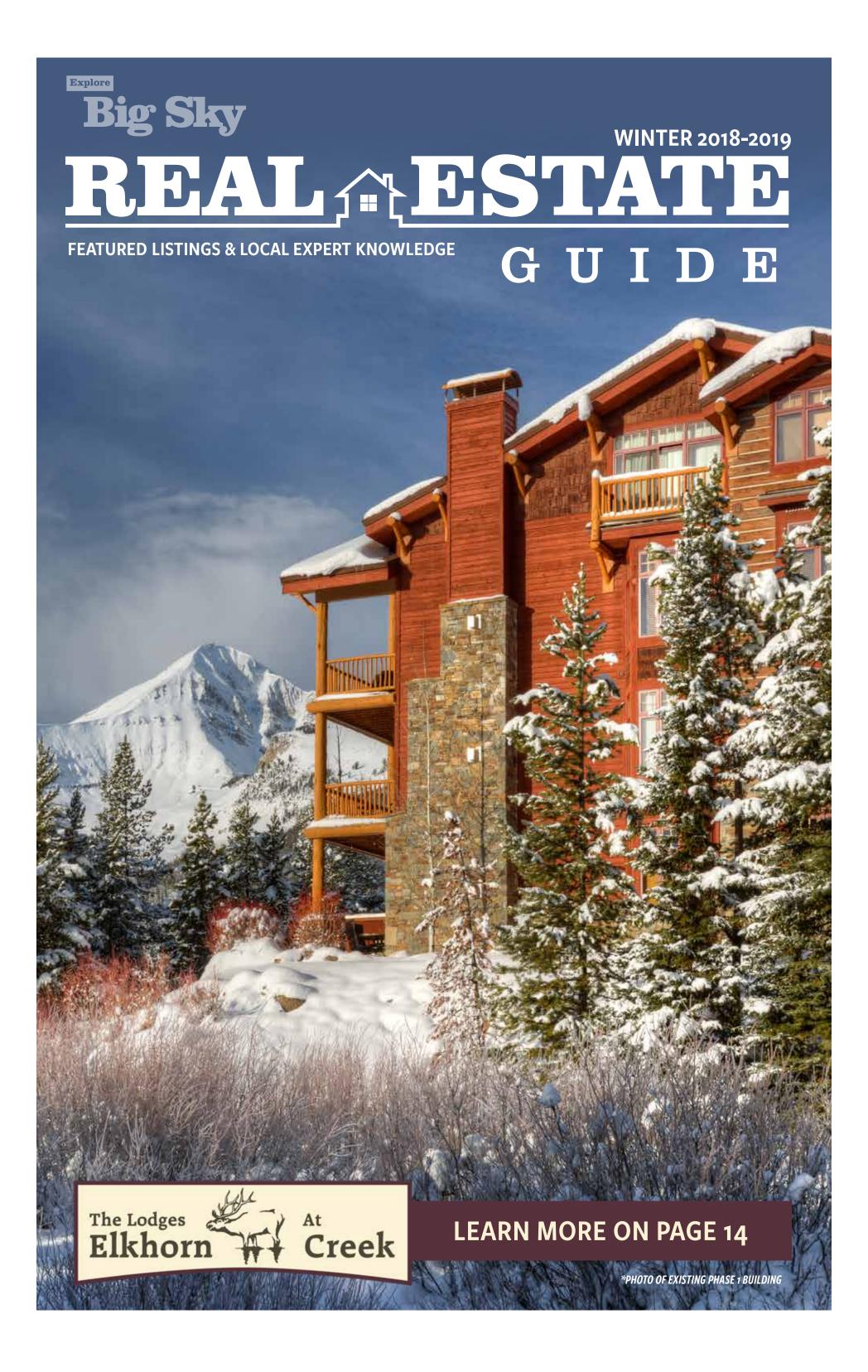
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Big Sky's top real estate brokers, the current market, future community

A roundtable discussion

BY BAY STEPHENS EBS STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 30, EBS brought together five of Big Sky's top real estate brokers and agents for a roundtable discussion to gain a well-rounded understanding of Big Sky's current real estate market. Martha Johnson, with Big Sky Real Estate Company; Lauren Knox, with the Yellowstone Club; Eric Ladd, with L&K Real Estate (and publisher of this newspaper); Tallie Lancey, with Sotheby's International Realty; and Sandy Revisky, with Christie's International Real Estate Pure West attended, representing more than 85 years of combined experience in the Big Sky market.

Using words like "robust," "dynamic," "vibrant" and "momentous" to describe the market, these experts provided insights on everything from buying, selling and investing in Big Sky, to issues of affordable housing while we filmed and facilitated the discussion.

While national real estate prices slowed this year after a decade of growth, the Big Sky market is on track to outstrip any one of the past 10 years. Last winter may be a big reason why.

"2018 may forever be remembered as the year that Big Sky was really discovered and kind of hit the map," Knox said. "It started snowing in Big Sky and it never stopped ..."

While Utah, Colorado and California had historically bad snowfall, Big Sky's deep and consistent coverage was shared far and wide on social media, bringing throngs of first-time visitors to the Montana resort. The word got out, and people are looking to buy here, Knox said.

Big Sky often lags national trends by one to two years, Johnson said, adding that while some clients talk of a softening market, buyers are still bullish.

Considering the healthy Big Sky market, these realtors advised prospective buyers to be well informed and prepared to act quickly. Now is also a great time to sell, they agreed, counseling owners to enter the market with their properties priced fairly.

On the investment front, the group has seen few short-term investors coming into Big Sky's real estate market lately. A high percentage of cash buyers are more interested in the lifestyle than flipping properties, a far cry from the norm of 2008.

"People are buying in Big Sky because they love Big Sky," Revisky said. "They love everything about it."

Unless clients are emotionally attached to the area, have a long view and will bank on their property appreciating, Lancey advises her clients against buying for cashflow purposes. "In so many of my initial phone calls with buyers, I say, 'Big Sky's not a good investment," she said.

Knox thinks there are likely many good investments from an appreciation, rather than cashflow, standpoint, comparing the local market to that of Vail in the mid '90s or Jackson Hole, Wyoming, in the early 2000s. These combine for the makings of a strong residential community.

The Big Sky community excels in philanthropy, Lancey said, exemplified by the \$3.27-million anonymous donation to the Big Sky Community Organization to build a community center in Town Center. However, the area lacks an abundance of activities for visitors to do aside from skiing, Ladd has repeatedly heard from buyers.

The area needs an increased diversity of family friendly off-mountain options. These create opportunities for families to be together and make memories that build traditions, Knox said.

The realtors addressed growth in Big Sky, an issue met with ambivalence by longtime locals. While Johnson thinks growth has been controlled and sustainably managed in the absence of a nearby metropolitan center, the recently established amenity base—including a hospital, grocery stores, schools and new hotels, among others—sets the stage for accelerated growth. Ladd had a different perspective.

"I do believe there's such a thing as too much too fast," he said. "And I think we're dangerously approaching that line." Ladd thinks Big Sky shouldn't be afraid to put a governor on growth to preserve the area's integrity, and avoid pinches with water supply, sewer volume and traffic.

Lancey chimed in with what she often tells her buyers about the land here that could still be developed: "We're only halfway there, so buckle up."

As growth continues, the enduring shortage of affordable housing will come into sharper relief—an issue complicated by a land shortage, slow permitting approval at the county level, and short-term rentals, such as VRBO and AirBnB, that take long-term rentals off the market.

"I personally think that it is partially the responsibility of our different resort areas to spend the money to put that sort of affordable housing into place," Revisky said. In her opinion, Big Sky Resort, Moonlight Basin, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and the Yellowstone Club need to chip in the majority, considering that they are the largest employers. She added that there may be no other recourse than for these entities to set aside valuable land for the sake of affordable housing.

"Without government, it's going to come down to the people that live here to make these hard decisions," Ladd said. He believes that the real estate market has so much momentum and money that if the need for affordable housing isn't championed, it will not be effectively realized.

Moonlight, Spanish Peaks and the Yellowstone Club make for a unique dynamic in Big Sky. Through trickle-down economics, the realtors agreed that these clubs have driven the area's momentum, have brought in an estimated billions of dollars annually to the county, acted as additional marketing engines for Big Sky, and supplied jobs to communities up to 40 miles away.

"We're only halfway there, so buckle up."

"If you live in Gallatin County, you are probably only one step removed from dollars coming out of this area," Ladd said. The clubs have also driven up building costs for land buyers who want to start from the ground up, he added.

Big Sky's commercial sector constitutes an area of concern for him, as the shoulder seasons still expose small businesses without more consistent year-round visitors

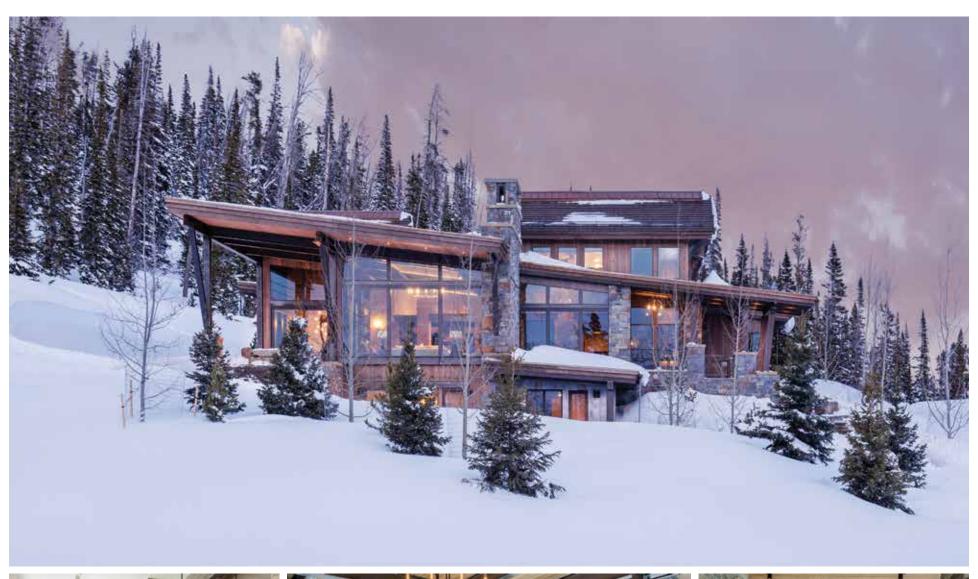
The Marriott-branded Wilson Hotel, slated to open this spring in Town Center, will be a major benefit to businesses that have suffered the quiet times of year, Johnson said.

Knox and Revisky shared that their clients generally come to Big Sky because people are largely hospitable, kind and happy, which the group attributed mainly to the area's abundant recreation resources and access to open land.

"I don't think there's any question that we could do more to protect what we find special," Lancey said. Although she's not sure what that looks like without an incorporated municipality, she called on realtors to work together: "It's incumbent upon us as an industry to identify what is special and do the best we can to protect it."

The roundtable concluded with each broker and agent sharing their vision for Big Sky, 20 years from now. Collectively, they dream of a Big Sky where its natural beauty remains intact; that is more connected throughout, with trails and infrastructure that tie the Gallatin River to Lone Mountain's summit; and that has a thriving community not overrun by crowds.

Find a full video recording of the Nov. 30 real estate roundtable discussion at explorebigksy.com.











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Stacy Ossorio / Engel & Völkers

The state of real estate, winter 2018-2019

ENGEL&VÖLKERS STACY OSSORIO

Volumes have been said or written recently about the community of Big Sky. The main attraction, and the reason that adventurers and travelers have been flocking to Big Sky for more than 40 years in the first place, remains the same: the exceptional, expansive natural beauty and unmatched access to all of the wonders that define this area.

In recent years, Big Sky has become a busy place and several new visitors and residents are taking advantage of the many wonderful real estate opportunities that are available.

Let's take a look at our current market:

This past year there were an average of 338 listed properties per month for sale in Big Sky, down significantly from 2107, when the average number of listed properties was 445 per month. Year to date in 2018—not including December—there have been 359 closed sales reported in the greater Big Sky Area. That's up from 322 sales during January to November in 2017. The average closed price to listing price was 97.1 percent.

2018 year-to-date sales volume is \$312,660,331, averaging \$28,423,666 per month, with the average value of listed properties at \$426,316,029.

In all of 2017, sales volume was \$289,840,313, with the average value of listed properties at \$578,146,692.



Powder Ridge Cabin No. 10, 4BD / 3BA / \$1,299,000 / MLS 328666 PHOTO COURTESY OF IDEAL PHOTOGRAPHY

The statistics show that while the amount and value of available inventory is lower than last year, the sales volume for the past 11 months is approximately 8 percent higher than 2017.

The total number of properties in 2017 that sold for under \$500,000 was 222 out of the 394 reported; 83 properties sold for prices between \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 and 89 properties sold over \$1,000,000.

The median price of property in Big Sky has increased over the years as well. (The median equals 1/2 of sales over and 1/2 under). In 2017, it was \$417,000 and so far in 2018, the median price is \$568,500.

The average sales price of a property listed in Big Sky in 2017 was \$764,625 and in 2018 the average sales price is \$877,601. In November of 2017, we had a value of \$480,068,615 in listed inventory, compared to November of 2018 with a value of \$409,102,218.

While a smaller percentage of overall sales, the luxury market is not to be ignored. Moonlight Basin, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and the Yellowstone Club are all thriving and appeal to the luxury buyer looking for beautiful new construction with a modern take on architecture and a resort experience with private amenities. MLS shows that year to date in SPMC and Moonlight 28 properties sold for \$2,000,000 to \$4,000,000. These are significant sales and speak to the preferences of some of the new buyers coming to the area.



88 Summit View Drive, 6BD / 6.5BA / \$4,200,000 / MLS 326199 PHOTO COURTESY OF PEAK PHOTOGRAPHY

The overall trend we are seeing is that absorption of real estate inventory is increasing across the board and will likely drive more development of new products as well as absorption of undeveloped land. While pricing on existing inventory is also increasing, the trend is much less dramatic than 10 years ago, and many wonderful opportunities exist for well informed buyers.

What's next for Big Sky? Our longer-term outlook is dependent on slated developments coming to fruition in order to maintain our current momentum. We now have at least three new hotels in the offing. The Wilson Hotel, a Marriot/Residence Inn, located in Town Center is scheduled for completion in spring of 2019. Resort hotels are planned for the Spanish Peaks Mountain Club and Moonlight Basin areas as well. Additional workforce housing will provide more affordable opportunities for some locals. And there is the ever-increasing number and quality of local dining and retail businesses to support our growing population.

There is no absolute certainty as to the strength of the market. But there is certainty that the draw to Big Sky remains unchanged. Big Sky's magic lies in its rugged landscape and beauty, and its access to world class skiing, fishing, hiking, mountain biking and other outdoor adventures. This is the reason that so many visitors return again and again. And, the abundant early snow promises the certainty of a wonderful winter sports season ahead.

Stacy Ossorio is a broker with Engel & Völkers and can be reached at stacy. ossorio@gmail.com or (406) 539–8553. https://bigsky.evusa.com



Moonlight Mountain Home No. 20, 4BD / 4.5BA / \$1,825,000 /MLS 328729 PHOTO COURTESY OF PEAK PHOTOGRAPHY

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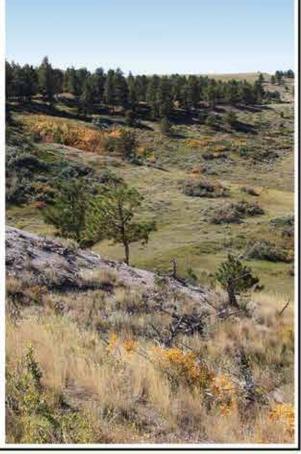
\$ 9,950,000



34,665 Acres East of Lewistown, Montana

This historic cattle ranch was established in 1884 and contains 34,665 acres all in one block of which 18,760 acres deeded. The convenient highway location is 36 miles east of Lewistown, Montana. There are 2,000 acres of productive tillable lands. 21 miles of meandering McDonald Creek and lush habitat provides some of the finest upland bird hunting in Montana. The Teigen Ranch is a self sufficient 1,000 head cattle ranch along with the opportunity to fulfill your upland wing and big game hunting dreams of trophy whitetail deer, mule deer, and elk.

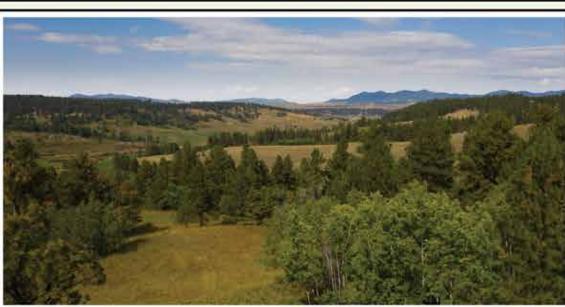
\$ 21,000,000



Lewistown, Montana

679 deeded acres located 7 miles south of Lewistown, Montana in the foothills of the Big Snowy Mountains. Castle Creek meanders through the property splitting the fertile alfalfa fields for over a mile. Cross fencing and developed springs allows the ranch to provide summer grazing for 100 head. The balanced mix of pine trees, aspen groves, and meadows provide an ideal habitat for elk, whitetail deer, mule deer, turkey, and black bear.

\$ 2,250,000





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Don Pilotte / Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Montana Properties

Montana's lesser-known recreation opportunities

When most visitors consider visiting Montana, or other western states, there are certain recreational magnets that attract the most attention: national parks such as Yellowstone or Glacier, large wilderness areas such as the Bob Marshall, Absaroka-Beartooth, Great Bear or the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge.

However, tucked away across Montana are a number of state parks and recreational access sites that provide incredible recreational opportunities often overlooked by not only visitors, but also in-state residents.

Some of the lesser-known recreational opportunities include:

Lewis & Clark Caverns State Park: This amazing limestone cave system is located about 19 miles west of Three Forks, Montana, on Highway 2. It is filled with spectacular formations and boasts new state-of-the-art lighting. It is open to the public between May 1 and September 30. There is also an adjacent camp ground that is open all year long.

Lost Creek State Park: Located about 6 miles north of Anaconda, Montana, this 502-acre park features the 50-foot Lost Creek waterfall, towering rock formations along with hiking, camping and biking trails.



A first-class sporting property setup to host small conferences and retreats, Riverstone could also be used as a family retreat. Sited in the Boulder River valley, south of Big Timber, it also has Boulder River frontage. MLS No. 321235, priced at \$7,750,000



Crazy Mountains Alpine Ranch is a very private hunting and retreat property on the west side of the Crazy Mountains, just 45 miles from downtown Bozeman. MLS No. 220737, priced at \$10,750,000. PHOTOS COURTESY OF DON PILOTTE

Sluice Box State Park: Belt, Montana, is about 20 miles east of Great Falls and this park is about 12 miles south of Belt. Approximately 8 miles of Belt Creek flows through this beautiful limestone canyon that contains reminders of the mining and railroad history contained between the canyon's cliffs. It's open for backcountry camping, hiking and fishing all year long.

Crystal Park: While not a state park, this is an interesting place to hunt for, find and collect crystals. The site is open from May 15 to Oct. 15 and is located on the Scenic Byway between Wise River and Dillon, Montana. There is nearby camping, and to get further information, contact the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest administrative offices.

In addition to these extraordinary attractions are a host of other lesser known state parks and recreational areas in Montana. This of course is not even considering the numerous access sites to Montana streams and rivers made available to the general public by the 1985 Stream Access Law.

For more information on properties near recreation areas in Montana, contact Don Pilotte at Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Montana Properties in Big Sky at (406) 580-0155, or email don.pilotte@bhhsmt.com.

Makoshika State Park: This is the largest state park in Montana, at approximately 11,000 acres, and is located south and east of Glendive, Montana. It contains rocks and features from the Hell Creek Formation, which is known to have some of the best-preserved fossils in the world. Hiking, camping and biking through these formations can be enjoyed all year long.

Salmon Lake State Park: This 42-acre park is about 32 miles northeast of Missoula. The lake contains an incredible variety of fish. some of which are, cutthroat, brown, bull and brook trout as well as rainbow, northern pike and largemouth bass. Open from early summer through late October, the park offers a host of fishing opportunities as well as hiking and camping.

Bannack State Park: Southeast of Dillon, Montana, is Bannack, the first territorial capital of Montana with over 60 preserved buildings and it's one of the best-preserved ghost towns in the West. There are two campgrounds and the town is open all year long.



Hamilton Ranch, a sporting property, is 560 +/- acres with approximately 2.25 miles of private stream fishing, 12 individual parcels, and is also ideal for a conservation easement minded buyer. It's minutes from Bozeman Yellowstone International airport.

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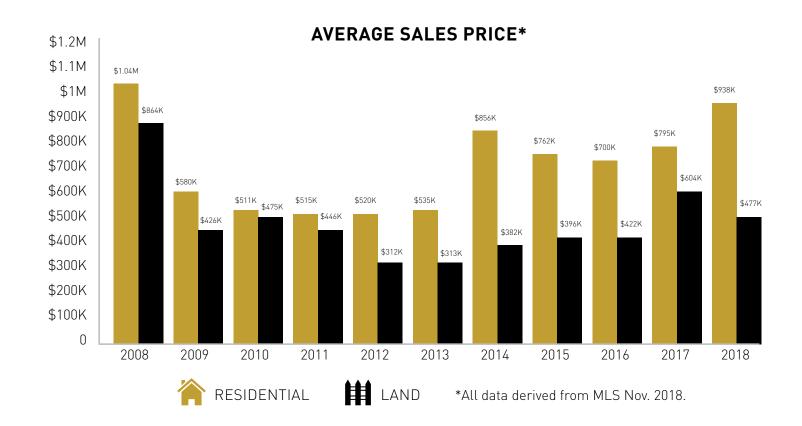






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BIG SKY MARKET REPORT



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2550 Curley Bear Road | Big Sky Meadow | \$925K .275 ACRES | 2,952 SQ FT | 3 bedrooms | 3.5 bathrooms Charming home on the Big Sky Golf Course



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

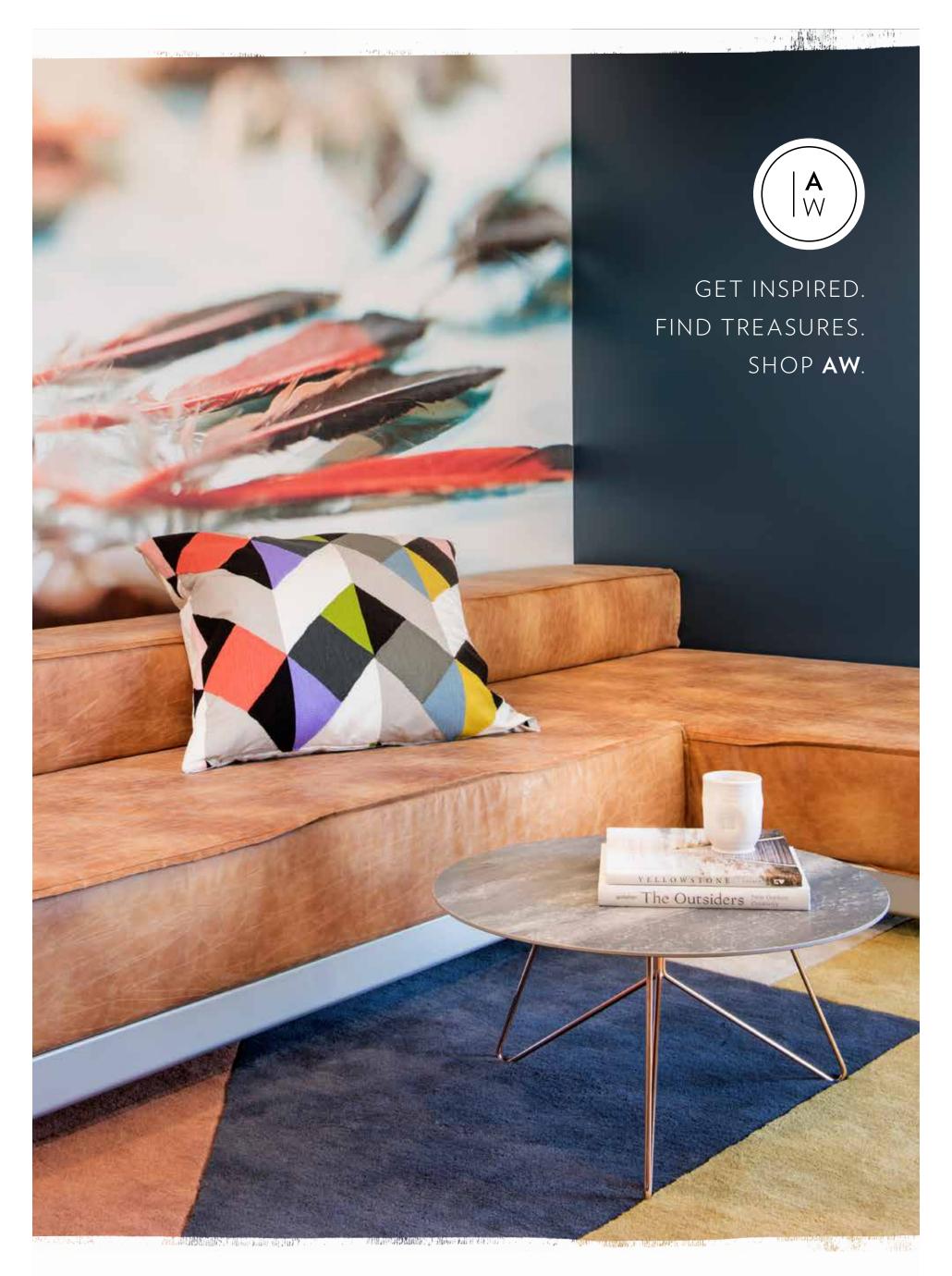


Lot 113 Crow Point* | Spanish Peaks Mountain Club | \$350K 2.59 ACRES Great value with beautiful views in Spanish Peaks Mountain Club









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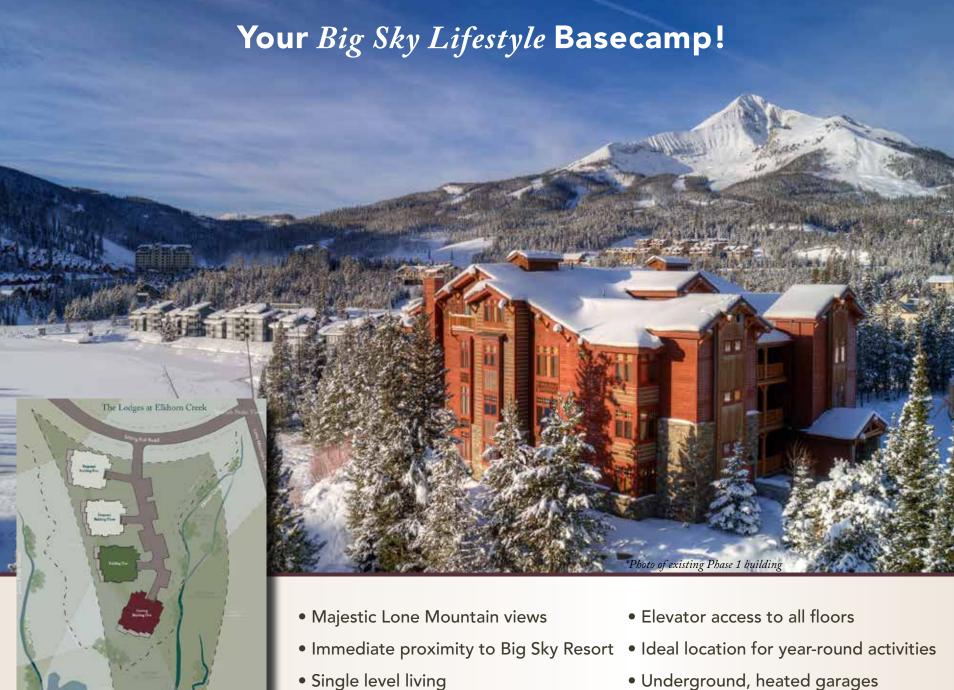
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MARTHA JOHNSON

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.

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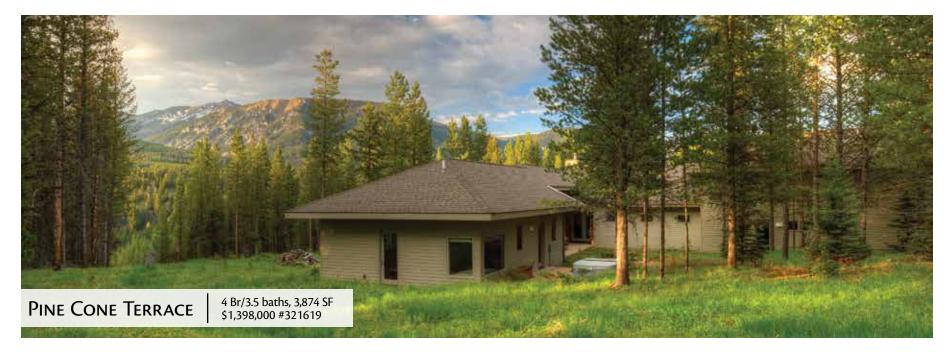


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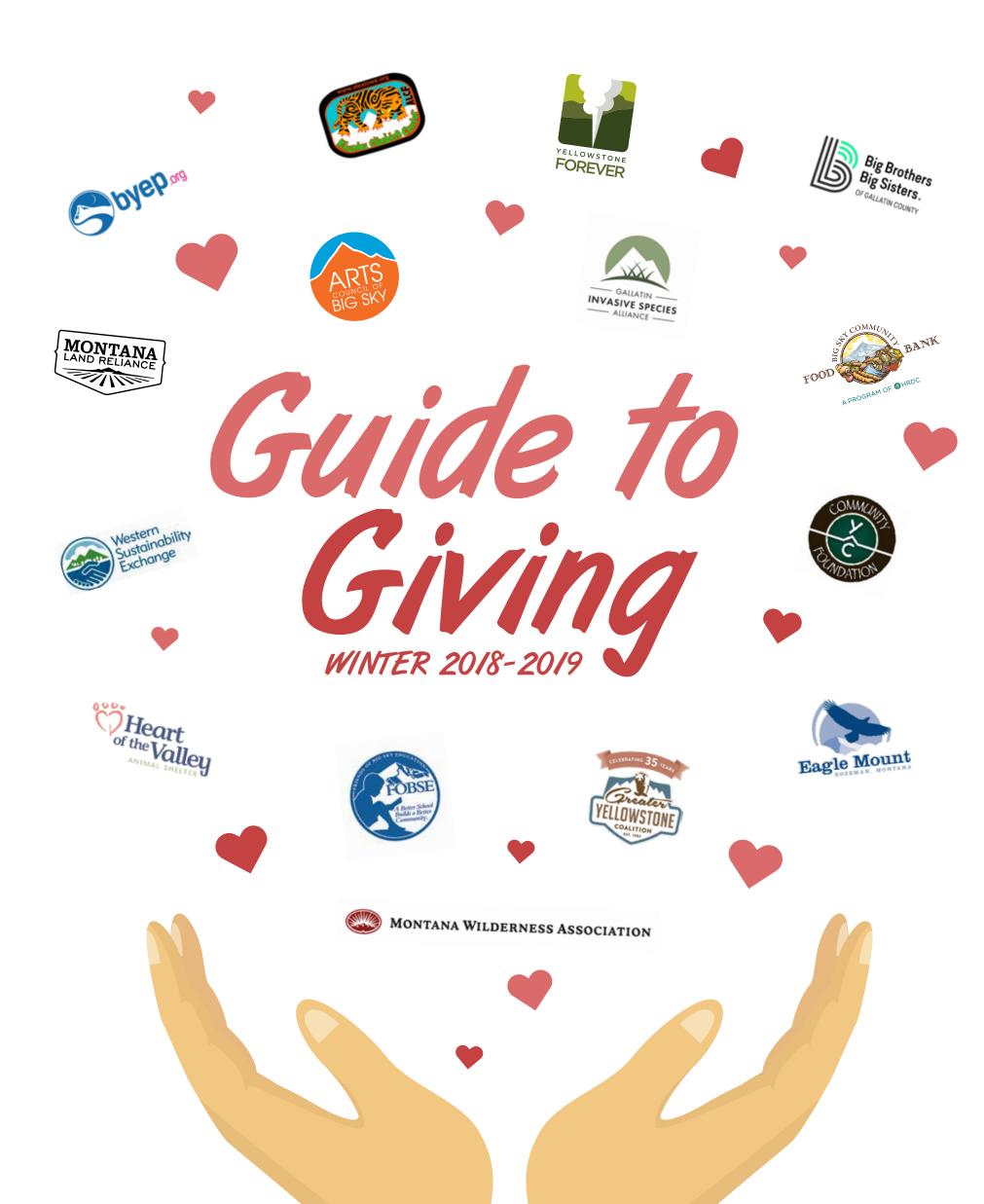
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Eagle Mount – Bozeman	eaglemount.org		
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Women In Action	bigskywia.org		
Wortman Lung Cancer Foundation	wortmanlungcancerfoundation.org		
Yellowstone Club Community Foundation	yellowstoneclubfoundation.org		
Yellowstone Forever	yellowstone.org		

There are countless nonprofits in our region, and we couldn't possibly list them all here, but we encourage you to find one that you identify with and feel inclined to support either monetarily or by volunteering.

The gift of giving

How to maximize your tax benefit when making charitable donations

BY TYLER ALLEN EBS MANAGING EDITOR

Everyone has their own reasons for giving their time or money to charitable causes, and philanthropy is a personal decision. Yet, for those with the means, there are some strategies to enhance your tax benefit when giving monetarily.

EBS recently spoke to Doug Neil with Neil & Company CPAs P.C., a Bozeman accounting firm that opened in 1976, and asked him how to maximize your tax benefit when giving to nonprofits and other charitable organizations.

Depending on an individual's income and age, there are a few things to consider when donating to a 501(c)(3), Neil said. With the passage of the 2018 federal tax reform, retirees can benefit by contributing money straight from their Individual Retirement Account, which is considered a qualified charitable distribution.

"[These donations] go straight from your IRA to the organization and the IRA is then not taxable," he said. "Prior to the tax reform, a lot of those folks might have itemized the deductions, but the reform made the standard deduction increase, meaning if you took the standard deduction you can't benefit. But now you can donate straight from your IRA and still benefit." This lowers an individual's adjusted gross income, which ultimately lowers their tax burden.

Neil said that there are also benefits to making charitable donations at year's end, especially because it's a particularly good time for organizing your tax portfolio. "A lot of people are trying to figure out what they can do for tax planning [at the end of the year], and charitable donations are a great thing to include in their planning," he said, adding that people who itemize their returns can take a tax deduction for the amount they give throughout the year.

When considering how much to donate, and how it will affect your taxes, there is no minimum amount required—but you must consider substantiation rules: if you make a one-time donation of \$250 or less to a nonprofit, you just need a record of a canceled check, bank or credit card statement. "That's a good reason that using a check or credit card is preferable over cash—you have a paper trail," Neil said.

However, if you donate more than \$250 at one time, you're required by the IRS to obtain acknowledgement from the organization. Additionally, many people will give in-kind donations—anything that isn't cash, such as a piano, or taking a bag of clothes to Goodwill—and you must have the nonprofit provide you with documentation that estimates the value of that donation, Neil said, adding that if it's an object valued at more than \$5,000 you technically need to get an appraisal.

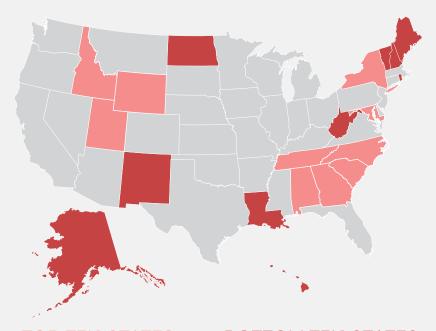
Neil sees clients in every tax bracket participating in philanthropy, and there's no stereotypical charitable donor based on income. "It really depends on personal values," he said. "Some people just pick what's important to their values or town, it's different for everyone out there."

Most people who donate to nonprofits diversify their giving portfolio, he said, determining the amount they want to give and then identifying the five to 10 organizations—from hyper local to national 501(c)(3)s—and dividing that amount as they see fit.

If you're in the giving spirit this holiday season, take some time with this special nonprofit guide to find organizations or causes that you care about.

giving BY THE NUMBERS

GIVING BY LOCATION



TOP TEN STATES

- 1. UTAH
- 2. WYOMING
- 3. GEORGIA
- 4. ALABAMA
- 5. MARYLAND 6. SOUTH CAROLINA
 - 7. IDAHO
- 8. NORTH CAROLINA

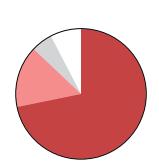
 - 9. TENNESSEE 10. NEW YORK

BOTTOM TEN STATES

- 1. LOUISIANA
- 2. NEW MEXICO
 - 3. ALASKA
- 4. RHODE ISLAND

 - 5. HAWAII
- 6. VERMONT 7. NEW HAMPSHIRE
 - 8. MAINE
- 9. NORTH DAKOTA
- 10. WEST VIRGINIA

CHARITABLE GIVING



DONOR SOURCE

- Individuals \$281.86 billion
- Foundations \$58.28 billion
- Corporations \$18.55 billion
- Other

POPULATION GIVES

CORPORATE GIVING

8%

In 2017, corporate donations increased to **\$20.77** billion

9 out of 10 companies

offered a matching gift program

indicated that partnering with reputable nonprofit organizations enhances their brand

believe partnering leverages their ability to improve the community

WHERE MOST CHARITABLE DOLLARS GO:



Religion - 32%



Education - 16%



Grant-Making Foundations - 11%



Human Services 16%



Health - 9%

GENERATIONAL GIVING

	MILLENIALS 1980-1996 25.9% of U.S. population	GENERATION X 1965-1979 20.4% of U.S. population	BABY BOOMERS 1946-1964 23.6% of U.S. population
ENROLLED IN MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM	40%	49 %	49 %
DONATE TO CROWDFUNDING CAMPAIGNS	46%	45%	35 %
VOLUNTEER LOCALLY	64%	64%	71 %
VOLUNTEER INTERNATIONALLY	9%	8%	9 %
ATTEND FUNDRAISING EVENTS	55%	56 %	58 %

Yellowstone Club Community Foundation

Nonprofits are the backbone of our community. They nourish and protect our people, land, water, wildlife and culture. Whether you enjoy the free Thursday night summer concert series put on by the Arts Council of Big Sky or love exploring our amazing trail system maintained by Big Sky Community Organization, chances are you have personally benefited from the work of a local nonprofit.

The Yellowstone Club Community Foundation serves as a resource for nonprofits in the greater Big Sky and Gallatin Valley areas. The foundation has a small staff that focuses on engaging Yellowstone Club member donors and finding ways to strategically support our community most effectively. To do that, YCCF spends a lot of time researching best practices across the nation and collaborating with other community foundations in the West to learn about systems and approaches that have been successful in their towns.

Currently, we are seeing a trend wherein many donors and foundations are moving away from targeted grants for projects (such as paying for supplies for one education event) and toward broader support for their nonprofits. This includes unrestricted funds, multiyear gifts and/or "capacity building" support.

Capacity building encompasses development including things like training for fundraising, leadership development, software installation and collaboration or team building. The objective is that these trainings increase a nonprofit's overall effectiveness to meet its mission. YCCF is working to find the right balance of targeted grants and capacity building. We encourage you to think strategically about your philanthropy this giving season and throughout the year.

Five ways to further your philanthropy:

1. We are all philanthropists, no matter the donation amount. Consider how you can be most strategic with your funds. You might want to focus your giving on your passions such as art, children, education or the environment, for example.



Here, Sarah Gaither, Big Sky Community Food Bank's operations manager, stocks shelves. The food bank is open Tuesdays from 3-7 p.m. and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. PHOTO BY KYLE REED

- 2. Think beyond money. Volunteer your time, talents and/or network.
- 3. Come listen to a national nonprofit thought leader. YCCF is proud to collaborate with Montana State University to bring speaker Vu Le to speak in Bozeman on Thursday, March 28, 2019. Vu is insightful and hilarious about nonprofits, foundations and donors, and you can learn more here: nonprofitaf.com. Come laugh, learn, and be inspired.
- 4. Utilize online giving days to engage with community nonprofits and their projects. Give Big Gallatin Valley is Thursday and Friday, May 2-3, 2019 and supports almost 200 Gallatin Valley and Big Sky nonprofits. You can participate regardless of your geographic location that day. Spread the word on social media to engage friends and new donors.
- 5. Ask the nonprofits and people you want to help what they really need. You may be surprised by the answer, and it could be an action as simple as helping write thank-you cards.



The Yellowstone Club Community Foundation hosted a communications training for local nonprofits with Lori Addicks at Fork & Spoon Homestyle Kitchen in Bozeman. PHOTO BY ANNA SHIPLEY



Gallatin River Task Force volunteers plant vegetation as part of the Moose Creek Flat restoration project. Volunteers rebuilt streambanks, restored streamside vegetation and improved access at the popular day-use area. PHOTO BY JEFF DUNN

Montana Wilderness Association

Ken Baldwin was fed up. The manager of a Bozeman-based oil distribution plant, Ken spent his weekends deep in the Madison and Gallatin Ranges with his wife Florence, but his beloved backcountry was changing before his eyes. Intensive logging, unfettered motorized use, and road construction were taking a heavy toll on the wildlife and solitude that, in Ken's eyes, made southwestern Montana's high country so special.

In 1958, the Baldwins sent a letter to 100 friends and colleagues, inviting them to a meeting to discuss what they saw as a fast-growing need for wilderness protection in Montana. Two weeks later, 21 people from across the state met at Bozeman's Baxter Hotel, and Montana Wilderness Association was born.

In the six decades since that initial meeting, MWA has been at the forefront of public lands protection in Montana. In the early '60s, we championed the Wilderness Act, which created Montana's first five wilderness areas: the Anaconda-Pintler, Bob Marshall, Cabinet Mountains, Gates of the Mountains, and Selway-Bitterroot. We have been behind the designation of every Montana wilderness area since then.

Our work has helped shape the destiny of southwest Montana's most treasured wild places, from the towering plateaus of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness to the jagged peaks and deep canyons of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness, which permanently protects large swaths of the Madison Range.

Today, our commitment to southwest Montana's wildlands is exemplified by our participation in the Gallatin Forest Partnership, a group of individuals, businesses and organizations that has come together to find solutions for the management of public lands, wild places, wildlife habitat, recreational resources and clean water in the Madison and Gallatin Ranges. You can learn more about the Partnership and add your endorsement at gallatinpartners.org.

Our commitment to protecting Montana's wild and public lands hasn't wavered in the 60 years we've been operating. In 2017, we successfully led the fight to defend the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument from possible elimination. And in 2018, we fought back three bills from Sen. Steve Daines and Rep. Greg Gianforte that would strip longstanding protections from 29 wilderness study areas comprising more than 800,000 acres of our wildest public lands.



PHOTO BY SCOTT WHEELER

Today, our focus is on passing the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship Act, which would add 80,000 acres to the Bob Marshall, Scapegoat, and Mission Mountains wilderness areas. We are also committed to permanently protecting the Badger-Two Medicine on the Rocky Mountain Front, an area sacred to the Blackfeet Nation, and to permanently protecting 180,000 acres of wilderness in the Cabinet Mountains, Scotchman Peaks, and Yaak Valley of northwestern Montana.

We couldn't do this work without the support of all those who love Montana's wild public lands and the opportunities for fishing, hiking, camping, wildlife and solitude they provide. If you'd like to join us in fighting for these special places, become a member at wildmontana.org/donate today.



Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance

Living in Big Sky means that we are blessed to have access to almost unlimited recreational opportunities. Pick a trail, pack the gear and go explore! But have you noticed those trailhead parking lots filling up?

The area is booming again. Combine the increased impacts with the stressors of a changing climate, and the pressures on our natural resources add up. Resource managers everywhere recognize the threat that invasive species pose to the integrity and function of the environment. The Gallatin watershed is no exception. In 2004, two forward-thinking individuals formed the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, to help conserve native plants, wildlife habitat and water resources through invasive species education and management.

Non-native invasive species reduce property values, decrease biodiversity and disrupt ecosystem function, while displacing native species, increasing the severity and frequency of wildfires, and further threatening endangered and rare species.

So, what does the Alliance do?



PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLATIN INVASIVE SPECIES ALLIANCE

Provide Free Help for Landowners

To date we've helped 707 individual landowners, providing information and resources on sustainable land management. We've also led community cooperative treatment days, representing a value of \$25,000 for the community.

The greater Big Sky area is comprised of 50,000 acres of private land surrounded by National Forest, so what happens on private property can significantly impact public lands. If you own land in the greater Big Sky area or Gallatin Canyon, contact us for help at gallatinisa.org.

Work to Improve Wildlife Habitat

Since 2000, we have worked to improve the Spanish Peaks bighorn sheep herd's winter range. This effort represents eight years of work with six different partners, \$61,000 in matching funds and a completed study on native revegetation efforts.

In addition, the Alliance has held annual weed pulls along the Gallatin River, Big Sky Community Park, and other public lands resulting in 600 volunteers removing more than 12,500 pounds of noxious weeds.

Detect New Invaders

The Alliance has identified new invaders, including field scabious and yellow flag iris, as well as monitoring and treating patches of leafy spurge in highly used public spaces.

Promote Clean Recreational Habits

By land: This fall we installed four "PlayCleanGo" trailhead signs at Hummocks/Uplands, Black Diamond, Little Willow Way and South Fork Loop. Two more signs will go in next spring at Ousel Falls and Beehive Basin.

By water: In 2016, the Alliance reached out to Gallatin River Task Force to promote clean fishing habits with the "CleanDrainDry" public relations campaign.

Inspire the Community

The Alliance is excited to announce it will break ground next spring for the Native Demonstration Garden at Crail Ranch. This cooperative project will educate, inspire, and beautify a beloved community asset through water-wise landscape principals that showcase native plants and compliment the many conservation efforts already underway in Big Sky. The Alliance is actively seeking donations to help make this project extraordinary. Help us to grown native and donate online now at gallatinisa.org.



Heart of the Valley

Are you thinking about adding a four-legged companion to your family? We encourage you to adopt from Heart of the Valley. Last year, we found new homes for over 2,100 homeless dogs and cats, and our dedicated staff is eager to help you find your new best friend.

At HOV, our mission is to compassionately shelter the lost and surrendered pets of the Madison and Gallatin valleys and to enhance the lives of people and companion animals through pet adoption and education.

Each year, we care for thousands of lost and homeless animals until they can go home. This care can be lifesaving for animals like Mia, who was brought to HOV by a group who rescued her from a reservation. And at only 8 weeks old, she was in really, really rough shape. She tested positive for both parvovirus and distemper, and was very sick. She also had a skin condition called mange. And to top it off, lack of proper nutrition as she was growing had prevented one of her front legs from developing properly. Mia was in desperate need of lifesaving medical attention.

We slowly nursed her back to health and she impressed us with her will to live. Mia recovered from her illnesses, and with proper nutrition and lots of love from her adoptive family, her leg began to straighten out until miraculously today she jumps and runs just like any other puppy. Instead of merely surviving, she is now thriving in her new home.

In addition to reuniting lost pets with their grateful families and finding new homes for homeless animals, HOV serves as an educational resource for our community. We offer training classes and behavioral consultations. We provide humane education courses for children through schools, youth groups and our Pet Pals summer camp. We offer special programs for veterans and seniors and provide low cost spay/neuter services for low-income families.

In return, we rely on community support to operate the shelter. Hundreds of volunteers give thousands of hours of service each year to help care for animals and provide outreach and education. The majority of our annual funding comes from the generosity of donors who believe in our mission and have a passion for helping animals and for giving back to their community.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HEART OF THE VALLEY

You can find out more about HOV by visiting the shelter (we are open seven days each week from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.), going to our website, heartofthevalleyshelter.org, or by calling us at (406) 388-9399.

We are proud to serve the Madison and Gallatin valleys and hope you will visit the shelter to learn how you can get involved. This holiday season, please consider a donation to Heart of the Valley to help us continue our lifesaving work.



Big Brothers, Big Sisters, Big Sky

Growing up isn't getting any easier, even when you live under the Big Sky. That's why Big Brothers Big Sisters is committed to providing long-term, life-changing mentors for kids.

BBBS pairs children facing adversity with mentors, or "Bigs." One way or another, adversity can and does reach children, even those who grow up skiing, snowshoeing, and fly-fishing with a near-constant view of the Madison Range. A major life change can throw kids into turmoil and send them hunting for solace. What's the best antidote to loneliness and confusion? Another caring person to listen and help guide them is the answer.

One example: Big Sister "Tanya" plays that role for Little Brother "F." Now matched for almost two years, Tanya helps shape the person 7-year-old F is becoming. When they meet weekly, Tanya often suggests an outdoor activity, to which video-game-loving F sometimes responds, "No, I don't think I will like that." Tanya is persistent and knows the benefits of being outside; she also knows F and is a trustworthy mentor. After visiting a new park together, F recently reported, "I changed my mind. That was fun. When can we do it again?"



BBBS facilitates life-changing relationships. Through two program models, this nationally recognized mentoring organization helps children achieve greater confidence, better relationships, stronger academic performance, and avoidance of drugs and alcohol. The community-based program features children matched with adult mentors, while the school-based model features elementary students matched with high school mentors.

Although BBBS of Gallatin County's office is in Bozeman, a dedicated staff person (also a Big Sky resident) coordinates and supports matches specifically in Big Sky, both in the community and within Ophir and Lone Peak schools.

Sure, this nonprofit believes in every child's potential, but what about the details? Here are common questions and answers about Big Brothers Big Sisters:

Who are the "Littles"?

"Littles" are children from various backgrounds, needs, income levels and family structures who enroll in the free program and are matched with a mentor after an interview process and pending acceptance. In short, they're creative, bright and full of potential.

Can I volunteer as a mentor with my spouse?

In the community-based program, mentors can volunteer on their own as a "Big Brother" or a "Big Sister," or as "Big Couples" or "Big Families."

How does BBBS guarantee compatibility between Bigs and Littles?

Guarantees are hard to come by, but BBBS's matching process relies on thorough interviews, safety checks and reference calls, pre-match trainings, and regular coaching along the way. Our evidence-based model works.

Can you tell me more about Big Sister Tanya and Little Brother F?

Yes. They went to lunch together recently and F drew a picture for his mentor while they waited for their food. It was of the two of them at the park holding hands.

Each child under the Big Sky has potential and Big Brothers Big Sisters defends it. Want to become a mentor, enroll a child, or otherwise support BBBS? Visit bbbs-gc.org or call (406) 587-1216.



Big Sky Youth Empowerment

The Bozeman-based nonprofit Big Sky Youth Empowerment has raised more than \$1.8 million in expansion funding from a small group of generous donors to address the growing demand for its compelling programs. Targeting Gallatin Valley's most vulnerable teenagers, BYEP creates opportunities for young adults to experience success through compelling life-skills curricula and outdoor adventures. From financial literacy to rock climbing, BYEP exposes at-risk teens to life-changing experiences in a fun, group-oriented environment, guided by a team of amazing volunteer mentors.

Now 17 years old, BYEP currently serves 128 youth, and routinely has a waitlist for its 100 percent scholarship-based program. The expansion funding will allow the organization to increase the total number of youth served to 200 by the year 2021. Through this expansion, youth will be able to engage in programs up to five times per week with annual program hours growing from 46,000 to a projected 83,000 hours. The organization, with support from Montana State University, will expand tutoring to four nights per week during the school year and will also provide ongoing elective workshops, which will include book discussions and art workshops, along with mindfulness and wellness training. BYEP will also expand on its job-skills training, placement, and independent living workshops for older participants and alumni. This is an incredible commitment to the community's adolescent population, and the realization of a long-held dream of BYEP Founder and Executive Director Pete MacFadyen.

In order to realize this expansion, the organization will be increasing its approximate 3,000-square-foot footprint in its existing location at 225 East Mendenhall Street to 9,000 square feet by occupying adjacent space to the north and west via a long-term lease. BYEP's operating budget is expected to grow to an annual run-rate of \$1.5 million, which places it in the top tier of nonprofits based in Bozeman, and establishes the nonprofit at a long-term, sustainable size.

With a solid plan in place to expand programming and impact, Pete MacFadyen has decided to pass the leadership torch and will be stepping down as BYEP's executive director in July of 2019. Pete will continue to pursue his personal mission of "making the world a better place" and will remain an integral part of BYEP by taking a seat on its board of directors.

BYEP would like to thank this incredibly supportive community, from the bottom of our hearts, for believing in today's youth and their ability to grow and contribute. The



difference made in the lives of our participants is an opportunity numerous teens in our community deserve, and Big Sky Youth Empowerment depends upon the local community to make this possible. It is truly life-saving work, and we are only able to do it with your support. Please consider making a donation this holiday season by visiting byep.org.

If you would like more information about the organization and its expansion, volunteering, or the impact of your gift, please visit byep.org or call (406) 551-9660.



Khumbu Climbing Center

In 2003, Jenni Lowe-Anker and Conrad Anker established the Khumbu Climbing Center in Nepal as a project of the Alex Lowe Charitable Foundation in memory of Alex Lowe.

The mission of the Khumbu Climbing Center is to provide the Nepali climbing community with technical climbing, mountain safety, medicine and rescue skills that are needed to make a living through their dangerous but lucrative jobs of climbing the world's highest mountains. In 15 years, the KCC program has educated more than 1,200 Sherpa and indigenous Nepalis. By extension, KCC technical training is safeguarding all Himalayan climbers who employ Nepali guides and high-altitude workers.

Each winter, Nepali climbers come from villages near and far to gather in Phortse, Nepal for the KCC training. The classes fill quickly each season and are sought after by aspiring young climbers. The initial students have now become instructors and advanced instructors, and KCC-trained students and



PHOTO BY AMRIT ALE

instructors provide the safest teams working on Everest. Their knowledge is shared with fellow teammates inducing a multiplier effect.

The KCC has also focused on increasing women's participation and equal opportunity. Many KCC graduates go on to become community leaders and, in some cases, national heroes like Pasang Lhamu Sherpa Akita and Ang Tshering Lama. Pasang became one of the first Nepali women to summit Everest, K2 and countless other peaks but also launched her own nonprofit to help fellow Nepalis in the aftermath of the 2015 earthquakes. Ang launched his own successful guide company, leaped into first-responder action after the earthquakes, and gained national attention for rescuing and saving the life of a young Sherpa climber from high on the slopes of Everest in 2017.

After years of successful instructional courses, the Nepali Board of Directors expressed the desire for an independent building in Phortse village to house the Khumbu Climbing Center. The community building will house and sustain the Khumbu Climbing Center program in perpetuity. Serving as the headquarters for KCC, the passive solar building will also serve as an earthquake-safe community center, library and medical clinic for the village and surrounding area. All aspects of the KCC building will provide the capacity to generate income for KCC programs to continue to thrive and expand. The foundation is excited to announce completion of the KCC building this coming spring.

Donations to the Alex Lowe Charitable Foundation this year will support the completion of the KCC building and help secure an endowment for the KCC program to continue.

To donate and learn more, visit alexlowe.org or @ khumbuclimbingcenter on Instagram. The Alex Lowe Charitable Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are tax deductible.



Montana Land Reliance

The Montana Land Reliance partners with private landowners to permanently protect agricultural lands, fish and wildlife habitat, and open space.

The immediate accomplishments of MLR's work are measured in miles of streambank and acres of land and habitat protected. The lasting benefits of MLR's efforts are the perpetuation of a lifestyle and an economy that rely on responsibly managed private land and increasingly valuable Montana open spaces that will continue to nourish the spirit of future generations.

MLR serves the Big Sky community by working with landowners to complete land protection projects. MLR's conservation easement ventures protect valuable open space and wildlife habitat, buffer public land and enhance landscapes for tourism, all factors that contribute to protecting the character of our community and the integrity of the ecosystem in which we live.

Such conservation work is particularly important because the region's private lands contain disproportionately significant habitat, and are not only crucial for Montana's wildlife, but also for Big Sky's commercial and residential environment. The protected acreage provides ecosystem services, such as air and water filtration, that benefit Big Sky's residents and mitigate the effects of its growing infrastructure.

MLR has conserved more than 1.05 million acres statewide, including more than 300,000 acres in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Within the Resort Tax boundary of Big Sky, MLR has protected 9,581 acres of land, 29 miles of streams and riverfront, and 9,000 acres of elk habitat. Recently, MLR worked with the Yellowstone Club, Boyne, and the U.S. Forest Service to transfer a 1,443-acre conservation easement on a portion of the Yellowstone Club into MLR's care in perpetuity.

MLR has a perpetual presence in the Big Sky area since conservation easements protect lands in perpetuity. MLR stewards its nearly 10,000 protected acres in Big Sky on an annual basis, and its work to protect water quality and quantity, scenic beauty and wildlife habitat and corridors in Big Sky's beautiful community makes it an organization worthy of community support.

The Montana lifestyle relies on and revolves around protected open space and public lands. Employers, entrepreneurs and visitors choose Montana, and Big Sky in particular,



PHOTO BY ALEXIS BONOGOFSKY

because of the quality of life it provides, its scenery and readily available outdoor recreation opportunities. Big Sky has one of the strongest economies in the state. The views, habitat, access to outdoors and open lands are fueling that success.

To learn more, stop by the 35 Marketplace building in the Big Sky Meadow Village, or email or call Jessie Wiese at jessie@mtlandreliance.org; (406) 594-1570.



Western Sustainability Exchange

Did you know that you are in the last intact temperate-zone ecosystem remaining on the planet—the last one that is virtually whole, essentially complete? Did you know that the diversity of wildlife in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is second only to that of the Serengeti?

Montana is exceptional, indeed. But that very exceptionalism is drawing more and more people. Bozeman is the fastest growing micro-city in the nation, projected to become the size of Salt Lake City by 2041. Kalispell is close behind. That's going to put a lot of pressure on our incomparable landscape.

Here at Western Sustainability Exchange, we believe Big Sky Country is still healthy primarily because of the stewardship of farmers and ranchers. Their lands provide much of the wide-open spaces and habitat that fish and wildlife depend on for survival. We must help our agricultural neighbors stay on their land. The choices they make about land management and development will determine the future of the region. They are our firewall—our first line of defense—if we are to protect the environmental integrity and cultural character of Montana.

For 25 years, WSE has helped farmers and ranchers use practices that protect the environment, produce nutritious food and increase their profitability. Over 1.45 million acres are already being sustainably managed by over 1,000 producers who are connected to our network of 50 restaurants, serving local cuisine and generating millions of dollars in annual sales for producers in WSE's programs. Think how we could magnify this impact with your support.

WSE is launching a groundbreaking new program that protects Montana while mitigating the impacts of climate change: our Montana Grasslands Carbon Initiative

The science is becoming increasingly compelling that healthy grasslands are more effective than rainforests for extracting dangerous carbon dioxide from the atmosphere—through photosynthesis—and sequestering the carbon deep underground. Unfortunately, over 80 percent of the earth's grasslands are in poor to marginal condition.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WESTERN SUSTAINABILITY EXCHANGE

What if grasslands were brought back to health? A growing number of scientists believe improving even half of the world's grasslands could begin to mitigate climate change. WSE is providing information, technical assistance and upfront funding ranchers need to create healthy soil and grasslands in Montana by using regenerative grazing techniques designed to sequester carbon. We will offer carbon offset credits to companies dedicated to reducing their carbon footprint, then use the funds to pay ranchers for the carbon their land sequesters each year. The program is the first of its kind and scale, and could become the model for grassland management around the world.

Please join us in our quest to ensure our wide-open spaces, iconic wildlife, and agricultural heritage are preserved for future generations—and do our part to mitigate climate change. Please visit westernsustainability exchange.org to learn more.



Big Sky Community Food Bank

Since opening its doors in 2012, the Big Sky Community Food Bank has served 2,087 unique individuals - including 78 children and 67 senior citizens. In a town as small as Big Sky, chances are you know someone who has used the food bank.

BSCFB is unlike most other food banks: 97.5 percent of our clientele are employed. In Big Sky, many struggle to make ends meet as the cost of living increases and wages are stagnant. Our clients include both year-round essential and seasonal workers, families who have lived here for years and new young professionals hoping to make Big Sky their home. In such a tight economy, many of our neighbors are just one fender bender or trip to the emergency room away from losing everything. BSCFB exists to bridge the gap when clients are in a food emergency, and to help Big Sky become a stable and livable place for all.

Clients can use the food bank only once each month and can choose enough food for a week's supply. In this way, we ensure that clients are only using our services during emergencies, when they are out of other options. Our other services include a crockpot and cookware exchange for those who do not have full kitchens, warm winter clothing for children and adults, as well as help enrolling in Medicaid/healthcare insurance, tax assistance, referrals for mental and legal help, and a collaborative relationship with the Big Sky Community Housing Trust.

BSCFB was created as a local effort between the Human Resource Development Council and Big Sky community members, led by Lynne Anderson of the Country Market. The food bank is open two days a week year round, is managed by a local Sarah Gaither Bivins, along with a group of dedicated volunteers including Advisory Council President Pam Rempt. The food bank rescues unsold produce, dairy and bread products from the grocery stores and bakeries in Big Sky, as well as canned goods from the donation bins around town. We are aided by canned food drives initiated by the Big Sky schools and community groups, but often have to purchase food from the Montana Food Bank Network.

As Big Sky grows, so will our food bank. We currently receive funding from all of the community foundations and Big Sky Resort Tax, but those grant monies



PHOTO BY KYLE REED

are not necessarily sustainable. We are looking to partner with local community members and businesses that will commit to support the food bank on a yearly basis. In order to meet the growing demand, we need community members to sustain our efforts into the future. Together, we can make Big Sky a stable and livable community for all who desire to make Big Sky their home.

The Big Sky Community Food Bank Advisory Council, staff and volunteers would like to thank the community of Big Sky for your generosity in helping us realize our mission. Our clients have expressed their heartfelt gratitude time and again as we meet their needs in times of emergency.

For more information please email sarah@bigskyfoodbank.org or call (406) 995-3088.



A PROGRAM OF WHRDC

Greater Yellowstone Coalition

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is a land of firsts: Home to Yellowstone, the world's first national park, the ecosystem also includes America's first national forest; the concept of Wilderness was conceived here, and it's the birthplace of an ecosystem-wide management approach. Greater Yellowstone is one of the world's only remaining intact ecosystems – it still holds all its wildlife species and natural processes from floods to fires – and Big Sky is nestled within it.

The Greater Yellowstone Coalition was founded more than 35 years ago with a mission to protect the lands, waters and wildlife of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem now and for future generations. Our offices, strategically placed in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho, allow us to engage in a wide variety of efforts locally, regionally and nationally to ensure this wild heart of North America remains as magical as it is today.

We've had a historic year protecting Greater Yellowstone. Our supporters helped convince Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to withdraw mineral rights on



PHOTO BY GERRIT SU

30,000 acres north of Yellowstone for the next 20 years. We placed bear-proof food-storage containers on 164 campgrounds in Greater Yellowstone, helping keep bears wild and people safe. And we passed the first Wild and Scenic bill in Montana in more than 40 years, one that protects 20 miles of East Rosebud Creek that was signed into law in August.

GYC is committed to doing so much more. We are working to protect migration routes for wildlife, placing highway crossings in key places where elk, deer, moose and pronghorn typically cross roads; we are engaging with people in Big Sky and beyond to make the Gallatin River 200 percent cleaner by 2027; we are ensuring bison are restored to appropriate habitat outside the park; and we are committed to permanent protection of more than 200,000 acres on the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

All of our work requires support from readers like you. Help us achieve what we do best:

Protecting critical habitat and migration paths, ensuring forests remain healthy and wild, and restoring and reclaiming lands that need rehabilitation.

Keeping streams and lakes free flowing; ensuring clear and cold water; limiting energy development, dams and diversions, and protecting important watersheds.

Ensuring a thriving population of all iconic species, reducing on-the-ground conflicts with humans, and adding wildlife-friendly fencing and wildlife crossings.

Join us for our annual holiday party on Dec. 12 at our Bozeman office at 215 South Wallace Avenue, and learn more about what we do at greateryellowstone. org. Together, we all can make a difference for Greater Yellowstone.



Arts Council of Big Sky

Many Big Sky residents and visitors know the Arts Council of Big Sky from the Music in the Mountains free concert series, one of the most popular community events in Big Sky. But did you know that this is only a small part of what we do?

From educational outreach to public art, ACBS is the leading community arts organization in Big Sky. We want to make sure that as our community grows, the arts play a central role in community development. Big Sky is lucky in that our town is still being created and we have the rare chance to define what is important as we move forward. We've been around for 30 years and we're not resting on our laurels—we want to be out in front, leading by example.

This year was a defining one for our public art program. We recently installed the first outdoor, public sculpture in the state by renowned Montana artist Deborah Butterfield. A signature piece that will draw visitors from all over, "Winter" anchors the newly constructed Town Center Plaza in front of the Wilson Hotel. We also installed a beautiful reclaimed bison sculpture from Bozeman artist Kirsten Kainz, titled "Waldoza," in Town Center's Fire Pit Park. Finally, we are finishing up wrapping six utility boxes with local artwork as part of our annual Community Wrap Project. This is all part of our Public Art Master Plan, which is a multiyear project that identifies key locations around the community where public art can play a role.

Our education and outreach efforts continue to expand throughout the community. This past year, we offered three different painting workshops featuring well-known Western artists. Our ARTventure program offers Lone Peak High School students in grades 9-11 a chance to participate in engaging arts field trips, and creates a safe, artistic activity zone at our summer concerts that in 2018 alone served more than 1,000 younger kids. In conjunction with Humanities Montana, we brought our state Poet Laureate, Lowell Jaeger, to Big Sky where he spent two days with local students, taught a poetry workshop and hosted a poetry reading.

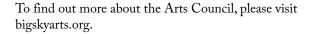
In addition to Music in the Mountains, we also produce the annual Big Sky Classical Music Festival, host a free performance of Montana Shakespeare in the Parks, offer a weekend of documentaries as part of Mountainfilm in Big Sky, and create one of the most exciting arts events in the region at our annual Auction for the Arts fundraiser gala. Finally, we offer selected classical programs through our Schwer-Toepffer



PHOTO BY RICH ADDICKS

Memorial Fund, the annual Madrigal Dinner holiday event, and occasional programs at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center like International Guitar Night, coming in March of 2019.

The Arts Council could not do any of this without the support of individuals, businesses, local community foundations and the Big Sky Resort Area District. We also receive funding from state and national agencies, helping validate that what we do is important not only in Big Sky, but in Montana and beyond.





Friends of Big Sky Education

We are the local nonprofit with the funky name, FOBSE. We are Friends of Big Sky Education and we promote the concept that "A better school builds a better community." The organization recently entered its $15^{\rm th}$ year of high-impact service to the Big Sky community and its public schools.

LPHS

The first initiative we undertook involved the lack of a local high school. Families with children attending or planning to attend Lone Peak High School can thank FOBSE for leading the initiative to open a high school here in Big Sky. FOBSE facilitated community conversation, prompted a required state statute change, and supported the school board's local ballots concerning a high school. FOBSE also raised funds when the district's bonding capacity would not cover all construction costs of the new high school.

Since 2009, LPHS educates our teenagers in their own community through exemplary programming and helps families remain in the local work force. Ninety percent of LPHS graduates pursue post-secondary study. Producing the top ACT scores in the state for the last two years, LPHS students are often accepted into highly competitive colleges.

WMPAC

Patrons at the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center enjoy world-class professional performances and visual arts exhibits in a public arts venue designed and funded through FOBSE's efforts.

Since 2013, WMPAC, which operates under the guidance of FOBSE, connects high-caliber professional artists with our community and in our classrooms, as seen in the photo with Broadway actress Stephanie DiMaggio. The cultural center provides space and opportunity for our community's youth to experience quality training in the arts without driving through the canyon.

Football Field

Fans cheer our Miner and Big Horn teams under "Friday night lights" at a complex refurbished through FOBSE.

But FOBSE is not just about infrastructure. We support the community in other ways.

Community Scholarship Program

Our Community Scholarship Program is a conduit for local businesses, organizations and individuals to support LPHS grads that attend college or study trades. This project helps the community promote a culture of scholarship and provides an opportunity to tell students we are proud of them.



PHOTO BY MEGHAN BUECKING

The first scholarships were awarded to the Class of 2015. Over the past four years, 58 students have received \$182,000 in scholarships.

Superintendent's Fund

FOBSE provides grant-writing services to the school board and acts as a fiscal entity for donations to the Superintendent's Fund. These funding streams augment tax dollars to support exemplary programs that educate our students at the peak of excellence.

Donations to the Superintendent's Fund help the school board and superintendent toward sustainability of long-term strategic visions and plans including, for example, professional development for the International Baccalaureate Program. Recently, an anonymous \$20,000 contribution to the Superintendent's Fund covering an after-school tutoring program open to all students.

FOBSE initiatives are undertaken mainly through volunteer work and community donations. We are proud of our results.

We invite you to pitch in to build a better school and a better community by volunteering for or contributing to a FOBSE initiative. Contact Loren Bough at lorenbough@me.com or Anne Marie Mistretta at annemariemist@gmail.com. Or send an email to info@friendsofbigskyeducation.org.



Yellowstone Forever

We all know that Yellowstone National Park is an extraordinary place in every sense of the word: unbelievable views, magical geysers and hot springs, incredible wildlife and treasure-filled trails. But did you know that behind the scenes there are thousands of stewards helping to safeguard these wonders forever?

Yellowstone Forever is Yellowstone National Park's official education and fundraising nonprofit partner. Yellowstone Forever partners with the park to create opportunities for all people to experience, enhance and preserve Yellowstone, forever. Operations include the Yellowstone Forever Institute, 11 educational park stores and a community of Yellowstone enthusiasts who have committed to fund visitor education and park preservation.

The Institute's in-depth learning programs—available year round for visitors of all ages—together with Yellowstone Forever's educational products and services help people enjoy, understand and appreciate the wildlife, geology and cultural history of the park. These positive park experiences often translate to the desire to become stewards of the park, and Yellowstone Forever is building a broad network of supporters dedicated to preserving Yellowstone for future generations.



Through this private support, Yellowstone Forever helps fund a variety of priority projects in the park. In 2018 alone, Yellowstone Forever provided \$5.9 million to support 53 projects such as native trout conservation, youth education and wildlife and visitor safety. Yellowstone Forever is also partnering with the National Park Service to build a new Yellowstone Youth Campus in the park. This environmentally advanced facility will be designed for the next generation of park stewards to have immersive educational experiences in Yellowstone.

There are many ways to become involved with Yellowstone Forever and support the world's first national park. You can participate in an Institute program, purchase a gift from a Yellowstone Forever Park Store, or volunteer your time or become a supporter. Individual donations are critical to funding priority projects, and Yellowstone's neighbors can play a direct role in supporting their "backyard park" with contributions of any size.

Much of the Greater Yellowstone region's economic vitality is attributed to the park and its healthy, thriving ecosystem. Visits to Yellowstone National Park begin in gateway communities, and most of the park's millions of annual visitors do more than simply pass through. They depend on the restaurants, lodging and other services provided in communities surrounding the park. In fact, last year visitors spent nearly \$500 million in these communities, such as Big Sky and West Yellowstone, and supported more than 7,000 jobs.

Many individuals, families and businesses have chosen to make their home in the Big Sky area because of its unparalleled access to public lands. Yellowstone, especially, is a favorite place to recreate and explore, or relax and renew. Becoming a supporter of Yellowstone Forever is a wonderful way to give back to the park that has given us all so much by helping to preserve it, now and

Please visit yellowstone.org to give today and learn more about educational programs, volunteering, current projects and how to become a Yellowstone Forever supporter.



Eagle Mount

Since 1982, Eagle Mount has been transforming the lives of people with disabilities and children with cancer through a mission to provide therapeutic recreation for people in our community and beyond, so that "... they may mount up with wings as Eagles." Eagle Mount opens up a world of adventures—skiing, horseback riding, swimming, camping, rock climbing, kayaking, cycling, fishing and more—that foster freedom, joy, strength, focus, confidence and connection. For people living with a disability or cancer, recreation means a lot more than "play time"; recreational activities offer healing and life-affirming experiences. Our staff and volunteers focus on people's abilities, while gently supporting their disabilities. At Eagle Mount, every challenge inspires a new adventure.

Eagle Mount was the lifelong dream of General Robert C. Mathis, USAF (ret.) and his wife, Greta Gay Mathis, who envisioned a place where people with disabilities could enjoy all the amazing recreational opportunities Montana has to offer. Inspired by the courage, patience and determination of the people they served, the Mathises created not only recreational programs, but also a spirit of service that encourages able-bodied, skilled volunteers to assist those with special needs. Last year almost 2,000 individuals volunteered their time, spending 33,000 hours providing adventures for more than 2,000 individuals with disabilities.

Big Sky has hosted Eagle Mount's Big Sky Kids Adventure Camp, a camp for children eleven to eighteen living with cancer, for the last 33 years. There is a reason it is called Big Sky Kids; it wouldn't exist without this community.

More than 12 years ago, Eagle Mount hired their first full-time Big Sky staff member and now has a staff of three and over 100 volunteers working with the community to make sure anyone at any age and any ability has the opportunity to recreate in Big Sky. Last year we provided 515 lessons. Our Big Sky program also offers mono-ski camps as well as summer and winter camps for Montana's wounded veterans.

Funded exclusively through private donations, no one is ever turned away if they cannot pay for services and Eagle Mount offers scholarships to all who cannot afford the modest fees. About 60 percent of families are able to pay for our programs. In addition, honoring the wishes of the founders, the organization does not accept government funds. Eagle Mount would not be able to fulfill its mission without the kindness of private individuals, foundations and corporations.

None of Eagle Mount's programs would exist without the support of an extraordinary community, one that embraces people with disabilities and supports everyone's abilities. Eagle Mount is extremely fortunate to be a part of a community that supports its services through monetary donations, in-kind donations and volunteering.



If you would like more information regarding Eagle Mount's programs, events or volunteer opportunities, or would like to support us through a donation, please visit our website at eaglemount.org or call at (406) 586-1781. And you can always stop by for a tour.

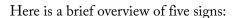


Alzheimer's Association

It isn't surprising that family members often recognize the first signs of developing Alzheimer's disease or dementia in a loved one during the holiday season. Family members and friends who have not seen one another for months or longer gather together, and the signs of memory loss or behavioral change become obvious.

The Alzheimer's Association's free and confidential 24/7 helpline sees its highest volume of calls at the end of each year. Changes in memory or behavior that seem gradual to those in daily contact can appear as abrupt declines in cognition to out-of-town visitors.

The Alzheimer's Association of Montana has developed a helpful checklist of five warning signs to aid in the early detection of Alzheimer's. Why is early detection important? Without it, the ones we love may wait too long to make necessary lifestyle changes that are important to ensure that all medical care options are explored, ranging from medications to research. Other considerations include personal safety as well as quality of care, and to make necessary financial and estate planning adjustments.



Memory loss that disrupts daily life. A typical age-related memory change is occasionally forgetting names or appointments, but remembering them later. A common sign of Alzheimer's disease, especially in the early stages, is forgetting recently learned information like forgetting times or places, or forgetting where they are and how they got there.

Challenges in planning or solving problems. Making occasional errors, such as checkbook balancing, is not uncommon. If a person experiences changes in the ability to follow a plan or work with numbers, or has difficulty concentrating and completing a task, that may be a concern.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Difficulty completing familiar tasks or misplacing things. People with Alzheimer's may have trouble driving to a familiar location, managing a budget, remembering the rules of a familiar game or misplacing items.

Withdrawal from work or social activities. Some individuals may avoid being social because of changes they're experiencing, removing themselves from work projects, hobbies and sports.

Changes in mood and personality. Increased incidences of confusion, suspicion, depression, fear or anxiety can be a sign. Individuals can become more easily upset at home, work, with friends or in places where they are out of their comfort zone.

If you or someone you care about is experiencing any of the five warning signs of Alzheimer's disease, please contact the Alzheimer's Association of Montana's 24/7 Helpline at (800) 272-3900 for more information or visit alz.org. The helpline is staffed by trained professionals, even over the holidays, and offered at no charge.

The Alzheimer's Association of Montana is the leading source of information and support for the more than 20,000 Montanans living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, their families and caregivers. Contributions help fund advancements in research to prevent, treat and eventually conquer this disease. The Alzheimer's Association advocates for those living with Alzheimer's and their families on related legislative issues, and with health and long-term care providers.

alzheimer's \bigcap association

800.272.3900 | alz.org°

Thank you to the following organizations for their generosity & making this section possible

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