

Owned and published in Big Sky, Montana

PUBLISHER

Eric Ladd | eric@theoutlawpartners.com

EDITORIAL

MANAGING EDITOR

Tyler Allen | tyler@theoutlawpartners.com

STAFF WRITER

Bay Stephens | bay@theoutlawpartners.com

EDITOR-AT-LARGE Joseph T. O'Connor joe@theoutlawpartners.com

CREATIVE

LEAD DESIGNER - MEDIA

Carie Birkmeier | carie@theoutlawpartners.com

LEAD DESIGNER - MARKETING

Marisa Specht | marisa@theoutlawpartners.com

SENIOR VIDEO EDITOR

Ryan Weaver | ryan@theoutlawpartners.com

LEAD VIDEOGRAPHER

Jennings Barmore | jennings@theoutlawpartners.com

SALES AND OPERATIONS

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Megan Paulson | megan@theoutlawpartners.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SALES AND MARKETING

EJ Daws | ej@theoutlawpartners.com

MEDIA AND EVENTS DIRECTOR
Ersin Ozer | ersin@theoutlawpartners.com

MEDIA SALES ASSOCIATE
Sam Brooks | sam@theoutlawpartners.com

DIGTRIBLITION DIRECTOR

DISTRIBUTION DIRECTOR

Doug Hare | doug@theoutlawpartners.com

MARKETING MANAGER

Blythe Beaubien | blythe@theoutlawpartners.com

CONTROLLER

Becca Burkenpas | becca@theoutlawpartners.com

CONTRIBUTORS

Travis Andersen, Daniel Bullock, Bella Butler, Anne Cantrell, Jessianne Castle, Dan Egan, Jacob W. Frank, Nancy Miller Gomez, Kelly Gorham, Anna Husted, Kris Inman, Luke Kirchmayr, Ted Kooser, Kristin Laidre, Stephanie Lynn, Sara Marino, Scott Mechura, Dave Pecunies, Christine Gianas Weinheimer, Cody Whitmer, Andrea Wick, Todd Wilkinson

EDITORIAL POLICY

Outlaw Partners, LLC is the sole owner of Explore Big Sky. EBS reserves the right to edit all submitted material. Printed material reflects the opinion of the author and is not necessarily the opinion of Outlaw Partners or its editors. EBS will not publish anything discriminatory or in bad taste.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor allow EBS readers to express views and share how they would like to effect change. These are not Thank You notes. Letters should be 250 words or less, respectful, ethical, accurate, and proofread for grammar and content. We reserve the right to edit letters and will not publish individual grievances about specific businesses or letters that are abusive, malicious or potentially libelous. Include: full name, address, phone number and title. Submit to media@outlaw.partners.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE For the January 18, 2019 issue: January 9, 2018

CORRECTIONS

Please report errors to media@outlaw.partners.

OUTLAW PARTNERS & EXPLORE BIG SKY

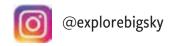
P.O. Box 160250, Big Sky, MT 59716 (406) 995-2055 • media@outlaw.partners

#explorebigsky

Section 1: News







ON THE COVER: The first sunrise of 2019 bathes 11,166-foot Lone Mountain in coral light. PHOTO BY DAVE PECUNIES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Opinion	5
OP News	6
Local	3
Montana	15
Section 2: Environment, Sports, (Outdoors & Health
Environment	17
Sports	20
Outdoors	23
Health	30
Section 3: Outdoors, Business & Health	
Business	33
Dining	35
Arts & Entertainment	28

11

Holiday crowds descend on our abundant snow

13

Ice skating into the new year, on new rink

Resort tax district seeks 1-percent for voter approval

Plus:

Top Stories of 2018



Unicorns spotted at Lone Mountain Ranch. Jenny Ladd and her daughter Riley approach the unicorn that Riley had wished for her 3rd birthday. Lone Mountain Ranch made for a dream come true. PHOTO BY ERIC LADD

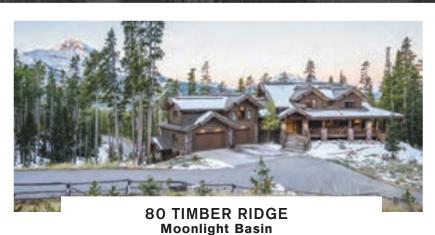


MARTHA JOHNSON Vice President of Sales | Founding Broker THE BIG SKY REAL ESTATE CO.

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



8 Tracks with outstanding views of Lone Peak and Gallatin Range SPMC Golf Membership comes with the purchase of property, but not required. Homesites 160 +/-Acres From \$4,300,000

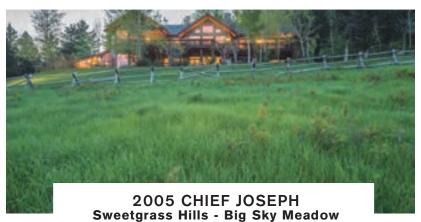


Custom log home + guest cabin, pistol range & trout pond.

4 Bedrooms | 4.5 Baths

20+ Acres

\$4,600,000



Wine cellar, indoor lap pool & gorgeous trout filled pond.
5 Bedrooms | 5.5 Baths
7,690 SF | 22 +/- Acres
\$4,800,000



Ski-in/Ski-out, Adjacent to Yellowstone Club.

5 Bedrooms | 6 Baths
New Construction
\$5,750,000



Mountain setting with spectacular views of Lone Peak and the Spanish Peaks.

Homesite
27.77 Acres
\$1,900,000



Ultimate Montana home with resident elk and wildlife.
Golf Membership to Spanish Peaks available.
4 Bedrooms | 5 Baths
5,209 SF | 20 +/- Acres
\$3,995,000



in the mix of Yellowstone National Park, Gallatin National Forest, and America's largest combined ski resorts with spectacular views and ubundant wildlife.

37.1 Acres
\$599,000



New Construction. Amazing views of Lone Peak. 2 Bed/Flex Rm to 4 Beds | 3-4 Baths 1918-2417 SF From \$794,300

THE BIG SKY REAL ESTATE CO.

MARTHA JOHNSON

Vice President of Sales | Founding Broker (406) 580-5891 | MARTHA@BIGSKY.COM

4 January 4-17, 2019 Explore Big Sky



Former Auditor named executive director of Montana Democrats

HELENA, Mont. (AP) – Former state auditor and legislator Monica Lindeen has been named the executive director of the Montana Democratic Party.

Party chairwoman Mary Sexton announced the appointment Dec. 31. Lindeen succeeds Nancy Keenan, who is retiring.

Lindeen served four terms in the House of Representatives, representing the rural eastern district between Billings and Miles City, starting in 1998. She was elected to two terms as state auditor and insurance commissioner, serving from 2009 to 2016. She has served as executive director of YWCA Helena for the past year.

Lindeen says she's excited to get to work electing candidates who protect health care rights, defend public lands and help create jobs that pay well.

Moonlight, Spanish Peaks overall development plans moving forward

EBS STAFF

At the Madison County Commission meeting Dec. 11, the commissioners approved Moonlight Basin's overall development plan with conditions negotiated between Lone Mountain Land Company and the Madison County Planning Board. The commission also extended Spanish Peaks Mountain Club's request to extend the deadline until March 31 for finalizing changes to its ODP.

According to Madison County Planning Director Charity Fechter, the Spanish Peaks ODP is likely to be ready for public review in early February. The ODP was set to expire at the end of December and will set the boundaries and regulations for development in the private club.

Fechter said that Moonlight Basin has not yet submitted any preliminary plat applications yet, but that will be the next step of the process in developing additional land in the private club north of Lone Mountain.

The long-term plan for Moonlight includes the addition of 1,651 residential units, 270,000 square feet of commercial space, an 80-room five-star hotel, dorm-style employee housing, and two new chairlifts for residential access.

January is National Blood Donor Month

AMERICAN RED CROSS

The American Red Cross encourages people to help meet the urgent need for blood and platelets by resolving to give blood this January during National Blood Donor Month.

Donating blood or platelets is a way to make a lifesaving impact in the new year for patients like Judy Janssen, who was diagnosed with end-stage autoimmune liver disease in 2016. Janssen received frequent blood transfusions, sometimes multiple times a week, until she underwent a liver transplant last January.

"Blood donors make a really big difference with very little effort," said Janssen, who received dozens of transfusions before and during her transplant surgery. "I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for blood donations."

The critical role of blood and platelet donors has been celebrated each January for nearly 50 years during National Blood Donor Month, which coincides with one of the most difficult times to maintain a sufficient blood supply for patients. Busy holiday schedules, extreme winter weather and seasonal illnesses often impact donor turnout this time of year.

The Big Sky Chapel will host a blood drive Jan. 10 from noon to 5 p.m., and the Gateway Community Center in Gallatin Gateway will host another opportunity Jan. 14 from 1 to 6 p.m.

To make an appointment to donate blood or platelets, download the free American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call (800) RED CROSS (800-733-2767).

Yellowstone guides handling some duties with govt shutdown

BOZEMAN (AP) – While there's no one working at Yellowstone National Park's entrance stations or visitor centers due to the partial government shutdown, snowmobile and snow coach guides are still taking tourists in to the park's interior.

And they're packing in toilet paper and packing out trash.

Travis Watt, general manager of Three Bear Lodge and See Yellowstone Alpen Guides in West Yellowstone, tells the Bozeman Daily Chronicle his guides and those at other companies are pitching in to handle some of the basic duties.

Guides are also reminding visitors to clean up after themselves. The park's concessionaire, Xanterra, is keeping the road open and grooming ski trails.

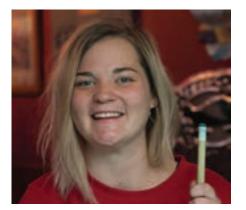


How do you hope to make your community or the world a better place in 2019?



Hugh Lasauskas Big Sky, Montana

"Making food, because who doesn't love sugar? How many unhappy people do you see with a brownie or pie in their hands?"



Colleen Matlock Big Sky, Montana

"Not littering and being a good citizen."



Ryleigh Copland Big Sky, Montana

"Definitely being less wasteful and be more renewable, resource and energy wise. Also, try and give back more than I take community wise."



Joseph Harris Big Sky, Montana

"I think to give more to charity."



4 SILVER PEAKS DRIVE | \$1,995,000

- 3 bdrm | 3 bath | 1,900 SF | 1 car garage
- Gorgeous Mountain Contemporary style, sold fully furnished
 Easy Ski/in-Ski-out

 SANDY REVISKY | 406.539.6316



SUMMIT CONDOMINIUM 10806 | \$542,000

- 2 bdrm | 3 bath | 1,298 +/- SF
- Immediate proximity to 2 chairlifts; Ramcharger 8 and Swift Current
 Mountain Village location with easy access to dining, shopping, spa services and more MARY WHEELER | 406.539.1745



SUMMIT CONDOMINIUM 10905 | \$369,900

- 1 bdrm | 2 bath | 1,127 +/- SF
- 9th floor location in the base area of Big Sky Resort with expansive mountain views
 Can be locked off into 2 separate units for ease of use and rental flexibility
 LYNN MILLIGAN | 406.581.2848





Visit us at either of our locations: Town Center | Mountain Mall

406.995.4009

www.BigSkyPureWest.com

All information contained herein is derived from sources deemed reliable, however, is not guaranteed by Pure Real Estate, LLC., Managing Broker, Agents or Sellers. Offering is subject to error, omissions, prior sales, price change or withdrawal without notice and approval of purchase by Seller. We urge independent verification of each and every item submitted, to the satisfaction of any prospective purchaser.





THE LODGES AT ELKHORN CREEK | \$1,275,000+

- 4-6 bdrms | 3-5 baths | 2,050 3,150 +/- SF
- Choice of 3 floors and 6 available floor plans and heated, underground parking
 Ideal Mountain Lifestyle location with immediate proximity to Big Sky Resort
 MICHAEL THOMAS | 406.581.2400



47 BLUE FLAX PLACE | \$460,000

- 3 bdrm | 2.5 bath | 1,902 +/- SF | 1 car garage
- Great location close to Town Center and its many amenities
 Offered fully finished and turn-key with a short list of exceptions
- BRENNA KELLEHER | 406.581.3361



TBD OUTLOOK TRAIL, LOT 1 | \$359,900

- 2.962 +/- acres
- Old growth trees, abundant wildlife, and small stream
 Close to all Meadow amenities and adjacent to x-country and mountain biking trails

 JACKIE MILLER | 406.539.5003

OUTLAW

News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

Some resolve for the New Year

As one year ends and another begins, the season for resolutions commences. To help inspire reaching your own goals in 2019, our team at Outlaw Partners would like to share some of our personal resolutions for the new year.



Eric Ladd

Founder, Owner, and Chief Executive Officer

"Help rid plastic from the planet!"



Megan Paulson

Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer

"Do an outdoor activity with my family every Friday afternoon and approach each workday with a plan to accomplish five things before noon, not letting email direct my mornings!"



EJ Daws

Executive Director, Sales and Marketing

"I'm going to take guitar lessons!"



Joseph T. O'Connor

Editor-at-Large

"Slow down, take 30 minutes each morning to write and reflect."



Ersin Ozer

Media and Events Director

"Spend as much time outdoors as possible."



Tyler Allen

Managing Editor

"My New Year's resolution is to start writing my first book."



Blythe Beaubien

Marketing Manager

"Catch more fish!"



Sam Brooks

Media Sales Associate

"Ski hard enough so that next winter I'm good enough to go do backcountry stuff with you guys."



Jennings Barmore

Lead Videographer

"Simplify. Simplify. Simplify."



Ryan Weaver

Senior Video Editor

"When hungry, eat. When tired, sleep."



Carie Birkmeier

Lead Designer

"This year I resolve to significantly reduce the amount of single use plastics and waste that I use and produce on a daily basis."



Becca Burkenpas

Controller

"I will limit the number of times I eat out to no more than twice a week."



Marisa Specht

Lead Designer

"My resolution is to be a more confident skier!"



Doug Hare

Distribution Director

"I resolve to publish a short story in the 'Whitefish Review' and improve my personal hygiene."



Bay Stephens

Staff Writer

"I'm going to get my avalanche one certification."

b2Cares.com

Need aliftie?

We're here to pick you up and get you back on your feet at our slope-side location.



Find your on-mountain resource for everything from sniffles to sutures at b2Cares.com

UrgentCare

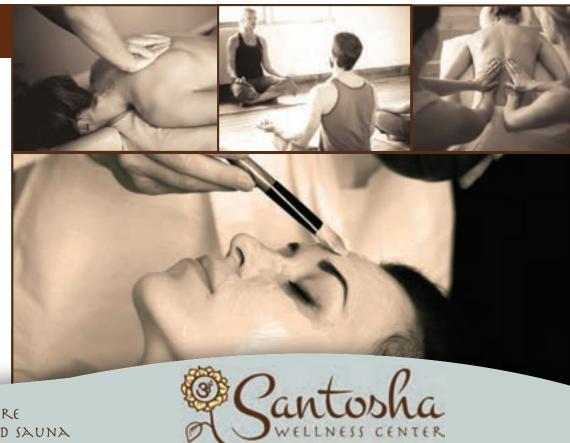
Convenient care for injuries and ailments.

CHECK OUT OUR SPECIAL EVENTS!

Sound Bath Chakra Meditation
January 7th at 7:00pm

Technology Enhanced Mindfulness January 27th 1:00-2:30

Space is limited-register today!



YOGA MASSAGE SPRING & FALL CLEANSES AYURVEDA SKIN CARE
FAR-INFRARED SAUNA
THAI MASSAGE
CRANIOSACRAL THERAPY

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

SUNDAY

10:00-11:30am 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

THURSDAY

7:30-8:30am Core Focused Yoga

9:00-10:00am All Levels Yoga

5:45-6:45pm Heated Flow

FRIDAY

9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga

12:00-1:00pm Heated Flow

SATURDAY

9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga

5:00-6:15pm All Levels Yoga

7:30-8:30pm Yoga Jam

Sam Brooks brings a fresh face to the Outlaw sales team

BY BELLA BUTLER EBS CONTRIBUTOR

When Sam Brooks was a little boy, he knew one thing: He wanted to be either a pirate or a cowboy. As he grew up, he realized the pirate pursuit wasn't very realistic, so he sought the latter.

Although he grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, Brooks' family spent a good deal of time on the rugged Wyoming landscape, experiencing the Western lifestyle. Brooks enjoyed the double life he grew into, where he could toggle back and forth between prep school and lacrosse sticks and horses and mountains.

Eventually, he began to spend more time in the West. Intrigued by the idea of "climbing [the] hierarchy of positions in the cowboy world," Brooks worked on a dude ranch, as a wrangler, for the U.S. Forest Service and as a pack guide in Jackson Hole.

Brooks graduated from the University of Delaware with a degree in organizational and community leadership and business administration and began to chase different types of jobs. After a brief stint pursuing careers in Phoenix and Los Angeles, Brooks knew something wasn't right. "I knew in my heart I wanted to get back to the Rocky Mountains," he said.

The renowned allure of wild Western landscape that brings so many to Big Sky led Brooks to Outlaw Partners, where he charmed his way into the position of media sales associate. "I think that I am very charismatic," Brooks said, noting the trait he believes earned him his job. Brooks also thinks it is his people skills that especially qualify him for his role in the Outlaw Partners team.

Brooks serves as a public face for the company around town, and a big part of his job is fostering strong relationships with clients that go beyond work. Since his recent start at the company in September, Brooks said he finds himself having already built many connections with members of the community through his job.



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

In addition to his specific position, he thoroughly enjoys the Outlaw Partners environment. He said he loves the autonomy he is given and how inspired he feels. "The capacity for creativity at Outlaw is never ending," Brooks said.

In addition to fishing the rivers and skiing the slopes, Brooks enjoys partaking in open gym basketball at the high school and looks forward to participating in sports on the ice rink in Town Center. He is also a new member of the Rotary Club of Big Sky.

Brooks is excited about Big Sky events like PBR and TEDxBigSky. He also looks forward to continuing the growth of his position and relationships at Outlaw and chasing his co-workers on skis this winter.





BIGSKYBUILD.COM

Resort tax district moves forward on 2019 Legislature lobbying effort

Bill would allow voters to decide on 1-percent tax increase for infrastructure

BY TYLER ALLEN EBS MANAGING EDITOR

BIG SKY – At the Dec. 21 meeting of the Big Sky Resort Area District, the board of directors heard from lobbyist Mark Taylor of Taylor Luther Group about the effort to introduce a bill in the 2019 Montana Legislature that would give resort communities and areas the ability to ask voters to approve a 1-percent resort tax increase, in order to pay for infrastructure needs.

A similar bill exploring a 1-percent resort tax increase, which would have been earmarked for funding affordable housing, died in a 25-25 vote tie in the Senate during the 2017 Legislature. Taylor Luther Group's lobbying fee would be \$50,000 total if the new bill becomes law; West Yellowstone Town Manager Dan Sabolski, who attended the Dec. 21 meeting, told the board that West Yellowstone would be willing to split the lobbying cost and has already budgeted the money.

Taylor said the timing of drafting the bill is crucial and the sooner that the process gets underway, the better chance it has of becoming law. He stressed the process of review and approval by each community should be done by the last week of January, when the bill ought to be ready to be introduced to the legislature.

"I would initiate the process in good faith over the holidays and get it ready for the respective entities," Taylor said. He added that the November election results bode well for the bill passing this legislative session, as three of the senators who voted against the "Penny for Housing" bill in 2017 were replaced by people he thinks will be supportive. "The senate looks more favorable than it did last session," he said.

And the House of Representatives in 2017 overwhelmingly approved the version of the bill with Gov. Steve Bullock's amendments. While the bill doesn't yet have a sponsor, Taylor said freshman Sen. Pat Flowers, a Democrat from Montana District 32, would likely be supportive and Rep. Kerry White, a Republican from House District 64, has historically supported the effort.

Board Treasurer Sarah Blechta voiced concern about the district being able to withdraw from the process if they don't want to continue at any point. "I feel a little uncomfortable going forward without seeing a draft," she said.

Director Mike Scholz responded that the entire board would need to sign off on the draft language of the bill before letting the subcommittee proceed with the process. The subcommittee consists of Vice Chair Steve Johnson and Secretary Paul "Buz" Davis.

"We should be able to come up with something that looks like a winner, based on the history of last legislative session," Johnson said.

Board chairperson Kevin Germain described some of the infrastructure projects that would benefit from the additional resort tax revenue if this initiative is signed into law and approved by voters, including nearly \$22 million for the planned Big Sky Water and Sewer District wastewater treatment plant upgrade; community housing that is 400 to 600 units short of the current need; and social services and environmental stewardship that would indirectly benefit from the additional revenue.

Davis and Johnson were planning to attend the West Yellowstone Town Council meeting Thursday, Jan. 3, the day after EBS went to press, where the proposed resort tax increase effort was on the agenda. The next Big Sky Resort Area District tax board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 9 at 8 a.m.



BIG SKY MARKET HOTSPOT: LAND



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

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



Lot 119 Old Barn Road* | Spanish Peaks Mountain Club | \$490K 3.13 ACRES

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



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



Lot 4 Beaver Creek West | Big EZ | \$539K 20 ACRES

Private lot with incredible mountain views



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



LKRealEstate.com | 406.995.2404





Holiday visitation appears to top last winter's record crowds

BY BAY STEPHENS EBS STAFF WRITER

BIG SKY – Many consider last winter an inflection point for Big Sky, the year it was "discovered" thanks to a combination of record-setting snowfall in Montana and scant precipitation for swaths of resorts in Colorado, Utah and California. Although exact numbers are difficult to nail down, this holiday season may even outstrip last year.

"Anecdotally, winter [2018-2019] is shaping up to be one of Big Sky's best," said Candace Carr Strauss, CEO of Visit Big Sky and executive director of the chamber of commerce. "Demand from Big Sky Resort [adding] the Ikon and Mountain Collective pass products, its installation of the first D-line 8-seater Doppelmayr chair lift in North America, early season snowfall, and the myriad of new and classic product offerings such as the Spanish Peaks Mountain Club Snowcat Dinner and world-class cross-country skiing at Lone Mountain Ranch continue to draw visitors to Big Sky."

Taylor Middleton, general manager of Big Sky Resort, agreed with Strauss: "Great snow, two new lifts, 25 [percent] more air seats into Bozeman, and a growing community. Everything is coming together to make a wonderful holiday."

Beyond the increase in available seats, Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport expects holiday traveler traffic to be up 15 to 20 percent over last year, according to airport director Brian Sprenger.

"The holiday period to some degree is probably reflective of last year's strong numbers in the airline scene, a strong ski market as well," Sprenger said. "I don't think you can point to a single factor, but all of the factors seem to be increasing significantly."

Now offering nonstop flights to 15 major cities throughout the winter, the airport has outperformed its projected 8.5-percent passenger growth, likely landing between 10.5 and 11 percent for the year, Sprenger said. He attributed some the growth to the substantial population of Bozeman, creating an anchor for airlines to have consistent flights, which directly benefits Big Sky and its ski market.

Sprenger said each passenger coming through the airport equates to approximately \$1,000 of economic impact to the community. Considering the final counts for 2018 will be close to 665,000 passengers, he estimated \$665 million dollars of economic impact in southwest Montana via the airport.

The increase in available seats also bodes well for bringing tourists once the holidays are over.

"The first battle we have in getting people here is making sure we have seats," Sprenger said. "Well, this year we will absolutely have the seats."

Local businesses felt the holiday crush as well. Roxy's Market had its biggest day in terms of overall sales to date on Dec. 24, according to grocery department manager TJ Toponce. And the very next day, Christmas Eve, they beat that record by approximately 9 percent.

"This year for us has been our busiest year that we've seen," Toponce said. "It's been great. We've been loving the steady traffic."

Although he's seen a lot of familiar faces, Toponce said he's fielded questions about points of interest or favorite ski runs from quite a few newcomers. He met visitors from the southeastern states, California, Texas and international tourists as well.

The traffic is an obvious indicator of the number of people here, especially when the resort closes at the end of the day.

"We have a pretty good view of the road and you just see this line, bumper to bumper, going down the mountain," Toponce said.

The Country Market, Big Sky's longest-serving grocery store, hasn't seen a huge spike this holiday season, but had a markedly busier November thanks to the early season snow, store owner Lynne Anderson said.

"Frankly, our Christmas doesn't really change year to year," Lynne said. "It's the surrounding months that change." The first three months of the year are really what count for her business, she added.



The holiday season brought large crowds to town and to Big Sky Resort where visitors were treated to mountains of deep new snow. Here, skiers wait in lift lines at the resort on Dec. 30. OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

Area restaurants were busy to the point that locals and visitors alike found it challenging to eat out unless they'd booked far in advance.

The Stanier family, visiting from Asheville, North Carolina, faced a two-hour wait at one restaurant on New Year's Eve and inquired at another restaurant, which was booked through the evening.

"We came here five years ago, and at that time we didn't worry at all about reservations," Ashly Stanier said. "We just kind of played it by ear, but it's been a little trickier this time." They had enjoyed a dinner at Everett's 8800 at the top of Big Sky Resort's Andesite Mountain and were looking forward to dining at the Cabin Bar and Grill.

On the slopes of Big Sky Resort, however, they found plenty of room and terrain to go around.

"This mountain offers something for everyone," Ashly Stanier said. She and her daughter, Sydney, were skiing together while her two sons and husband skied elsewhere, and the kids' 79-year-old grandfather took a rest day.

The lack of crowds stood in contrast to Vail Ski Resort in Colorado, where they had visited the past several years.

"You feel it on the mountain as you ski down," Sydney Stanier said. "I don't feel people are in my way and sometimes at Vail I would feel like I was about to hit people."

The family stayed in Moonlight Basin at a vacation rental, a popular lodging option in the area.

Natural Retreat's general manager Tim Drain said the holidays were as busy, if not busier, than last year for the vacation rental company, as they had added properties to their portfolio.

"With us, just the nature of what lodging is in Big Sky now, there's not a lot of hotels, so vacation rentals are always full," Drain said. "So, it's always been 100-percent occupancy every year."

Despite the stronger business and extra properties, he said guests have been arriving and departing in staggered waves thanks to Christmas and New Year's falling on Tuesdays instead of weekends, making for a more manageable year for the property management company.

Drain mentioned how this year was interesting because it bucked the trend of shortening booking windows he'd observed over the years. The number of advanced bookings Natural Retreats saw spiked significantly compared to past years, Drain said, indicating that visitors might be planning further ahead for their stays in Big Sky instead of deciding to come last minute.

For Drain, the reason why is obvious: After hitting the map last season, Big Sky is a place vacationers are choosing to give a try over their typical ski destinations.

As Candace Carr Strauss put it, "The best kept secret in the Rocky Mountain West is getting discovered."

Big Sky Fire Department starts building upgrades

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE EBS CONTRIBUTOR

BIG SKY – Construction has begun at the Big Sky Fire Department with two major remodels that will allow both fire stations to accommodate additional on-call firefighters.

According to Fire Chief William Farhat, Fire Station One, located near Big Sky Town Center, is overdue for an upgrade. He said the siding needs attention, a roof leak is in need of repair, and while seven firefighters are on duty for 48-hour shifts, they must share a single shower. In addition to maintenance repairs and adding additional bathrooms, the department will renovate the bedrooms and create an ADA-accessible entrance.

Fire Station Two, located near the Big Sky Mountain Village, will be upgraded to allow for 24-hour occupancy. This will include construction of five bedrooms, a kitchen and bathrooms. "The station was never designed for how we're using it," Farhat said. "It was a volunteer fire station ... with no sleeping quarters."

Farhat said the improvements should be complete by April, at a cost of approximately \$2.1 million. Funding for this project is coming from a mill levy request taxpayers passed in 2017.

"It's been wonderful. It's been a great support," Farhat said of the voter's decision.

The mill levy, amounting to a sum of \$1.5 million annually, is also being used to create 11 additional positions in phases over the next few years.

So far, the department has hired two additional firefighters and a deputy chief of community risk management.

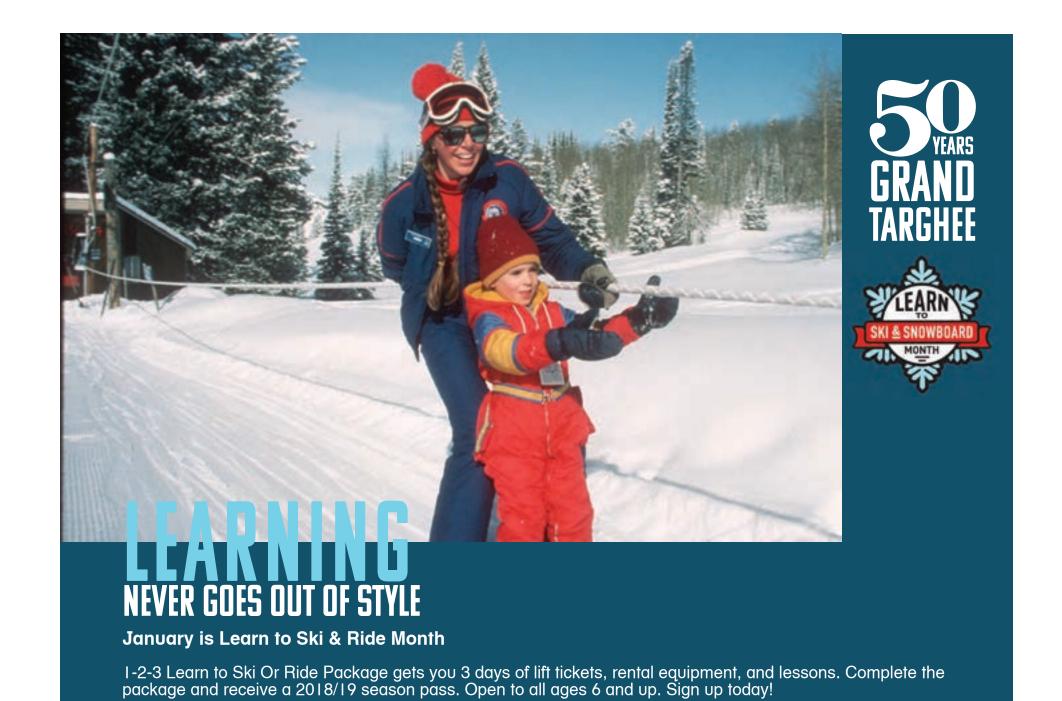
These expansions within the department are a reflection of the growth happening in Big Sky. Tasked with providing both medical and emergency services in a remote and growing mountain area, the fire department conducted a study in 2015 in order to develop a plan in response to the growth.

The 2015 study projected that by 2025, the department would be receiving 878 calls annually. However, speaking on the last day of December, Farhat said the department exceeded this number in 2018, seven years early. "This year was another big year in growth for us."

Since Farhat joined the department in 2011, the call volume has jumped 77 percent, with an average increase of 11 percent each year. The majority of the calls are for medical services, though Farhat said they aren't necessarily all calls for help up at the ski hill.

"There's not one thing that stands out, it's just more of it," Farhat said, adding that perhaps the biggest strain has been receiving multiple calls at once. In an hour and a half period during the day on Dec. 31, 2018, for example, the department responded to three medical calls.

Over the coming months, the Big Sky Fire Department Board of Trustees will consider the timeline and pace of hiring additional positions, while the department also conducts a second study on growth and emergency response.



GRANDTARGHEE.COM | 800.TARGHEE

New ice rink finds its niche in Town Center

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

BIG SKY – As Ryan Blechta, president of the Big Sky Skating and Hockey Association, recounts it, things came together more quickly than he could have imagined seeing all the improvements to the Town Center ice rink this winter. While BSSHA had long-term improvements planned, everything seemed to fall into place for the ice rink to have such a successful makeover in such a short amount of time.

Last June, with the approval of a \$195,000 matching grant proposal from the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board, a grassroots fundraising effort took off that demonstrated strong support from the local community. "\$5,000 and \$10,000 donations came pouring in faster than I expected," Blechta said. "We were able to reach our \$115,000 goal by early August."

With the bolstered funding, Blechta's first move was to find an upgraded chiller for the rink to improve the consistency of ice conditions and temperature. "I was really fortunate to connect with Bob Bishop from Serv-Ice Refrigeration out of Michigan," Blechta said. "He's been an essential consultant through the whole process, and he even came out here for a week to help with the installation, the flooding process, and showing us the ropes of the coolant system."

Bishop advised BSSHA that a rink needed to have less than 2-percent gradation from end to end in order to function properly. After taking a survey in the old location, the ground has closer to a 5-percent grade. In coordination with Ciara Wolfe, executive director of the Big Sky Community Organization, Blechta was able to pull together the resources to excavate, level and move lights to the new area that will

serve as the permanent winter location for the ice rink, an unexpected, fortuitous development.

Another unforeseen donation from the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation allowed BSSHA to upgrade from a late '70s model Zamboni machine to a much newer model that cuts the ice with a precision that dramatically improves the quality of curling matches on Friday nights.

Blechta is glad that the improved amenities were attracting bigger crowds this winter, noting the two junior hockey leagues are seeing increased numbers, and there is a new three-on-three adult hockey league that is gaining in popularity. Open skates, broomball, hockey clinics and adult drop-in hockey have also seen more activity than in years past.

Now in his third year as president of BSSHA, Blechta was quick to point out the improvements to the rink couldn't have been accomplished without the volunteer efforts and hard work of Gary Hermann, Scott Leuzinger, Steve Rapp, Jeff Trulen, Natalie Osborne and Steve DiTullio, among others.

Blectha hopes that with the new and improved cooling system the rink will be able to stay open until the resort closes in April. "That's a big step. We used to lose the quality of our ice in February or March." On Jan. 12, BSSHA will host the ninth annual Pavelich Invitational Hockey Game, and for the first time ever, a Big Sky youth hockey team will take on an opponent from Bozeman at noon as a prelude to the match, in honor of Big Sky local and former Detroit Red Wing star Marty Pavelich.

For the full rink schedule, visit bssha.org/rink-schedule/.

ARCHITECT'S WIFE

furniture | home decor | gifts



GET INSPIRED. FIND TREASURES. SHOP AW.

23 W. BABCOCK STREET, BOZEMAN, MT \mid 406.577.2000 \mid ARCHITECTSWIFE.COM \mid @ARCHITECTS_WIFE



New project co-led by MSU brings Montana's ecosystems to life through use of sound

BY ANNE CANTRELL MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN – A new collaboration brings to life Montana's four major ecosystems with sounds, images, maps and words—all accessed from the convenience of a computer or mobile device.

"Sounds of the Wild West" celebrates the Crown of the Continent, Upper Missouri, High Plains and Greater Yellowstone ecosystems through 25 sound recordings, five maps and nearly 30 images. The project is the result of a collaboration between Montana State University's Acoustic Atlas and the story maps editorial team at Esri, a company that created software to help people to tell stories with maps.

"In some ways, natural sound is an undiscovered country," notes the introduction to the project. "Every time you hear the wilderness, you are hearing it for the first time. One day you might hear a red-winged black bird singing as the wind rustles the reeds around it. That night, the call of a coyote may ring out against a backdrop of chirping crickets as you fall asleep in your tent. These soundscapes are as rich and diverse as the natural spaces in which you'll find them."

Audio recordings used in "Sounds of the Wild West" range from gurgling geysers in Yellowstone National Park to birdsongs to the whistle of a train to roaring grizzly bears. The sounds come from the Acoustic Atlas, a collection of more than 2,700 natural sound recordings from throughout Montana and the West. Launched in 2013, the archive is based at the MSU Library and focuses on the sounds of the western United States. It has become one of country's premier online collections of natural sounds.

For the "Sounds of the Wild West" project, collaborators pondered how to best present the sounds.

"Ultimately, Montana's natural environment is defined by its ecosystems," said Jeff Rice, Acoustic Atlas program director and co-founder. "We decided to find sounds recorded in different ecosystems and represent ecosystems spatially and then tell a little bit of a story about the recordings we've been making." The team then consulted with the Montana Institute on Ecosystems, a Montana University System research institute focused on environmental sciences, to determine the proper boundaries for Montana's ecosystems.

Rice noted that one strength of "Sounds of the Wild West" is the context it gives to the sounds. Throughout the story map, text and images help visitors understand the sounds.

"People will have fun and learn about the sounds of different species and places but they'll also learn about Montana's ecosystems and some of the way the natural environment is structured," he said. "There are lots of different



Visitors to the Montana State University Library explore the Acoustic Atlas, a collection of more than 2,700 natural sound recordings from throughout Montana and the West. PHOTO BY KELLY GORHAM

layers [to this project]. It's educational about sound but also educational about Montana's natural environment."

Allen Carroll, leader of the Esri story maps team, said that working with the Acoustic Atlas gave the Esri team an opportunity to experiment with sound as "a powerful and evocative addition to the storytelling toolkit."

"Sounds of the Wild West' amply demonstrates how audio—in this case beautiful natural sounds from the Acoustic Atlas—can add a whole new dimension to multimedia storytelling," Carroll said.

Rice agreed that sounds are powerful.

"Sounds are a great door into understanding the natural world," he said.

"Sometimes we take it for granted, but sound is something that's really hard to ignore. There's something really special about hearing the voice of an animal, partly because you don't hear it that often. ... It's dramatic. I find that every sound tells a story so that's what really draws me to the sounds."

In addition, sounds are spatial, he said.

"Sound enters your room and swirls around the room, and it starts to become part of the space you're in," Rice said. "It's four-dimensional in that respect." To explore the full MSU Acoustic Atlas, visit acousticatlas.org/.



OUTLAW PARTNERS AND BIG SKY RESORT PRESENTS AMIE MCLEAN AND REN AND THE WEY FRIDAY JANUARY 25TH AT BIG SKY RESORT'S MONTANA JACK

TICKET PRICE: \$20, \$30 AT DOOR TICKETS AT EXPLOREBIGSKY.COM

Only 400 tickets available!

THIS CONCERT IS PART OF THE:







SECTION 2: ENVIRONMENT, SPORTS, OUTDOORS & HEAITH







The New West:

With another new year upon us, are you willing to save this place?



BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

Perhaps you read the guest editorial penned by Hansjörg Wyss last autumn in The New York Times. Wyss, a Swiss-born businessman, makes his home in Wilson, Wyoming, one of the many small towns in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. In part owed to the time he

has spent there, he proudly calls himself both a philanthropist and conservationist.

The title of Wyss' piece, published Oct. 31, 2018, was "We Have to Save the Planet. So I'm Donating \$1 Billion." It was subtitled "I will give this sum over the next decade to help accelerate land and ocean conservation around the world."

So why I am making note of it now?

Because we are once again at the start of another new uncertain year and it is up to you dear reader who has the power to decide whether you wish to make a positive difference in the world or choose to ignore the serious problems. If you are reading this column, most likely you are somewhere inside the Greater Yellowstone region or you have a strong affinity for it.

Greater Yellowstone isn't just any place. It is the most iconic collection of public wildlands in America and most of it belongs to you. Besides a number of major converging threats—climate change being the most pervasive, followed closely behind by development pressure and rising levels of human use—there's a menace even more problematic: ecological illiteracy.

It's fair to say that while millions of people are inspired by the outdoor allure of Greater Yellowstone, very few, relatively speaking, have any understanding of what makes the ecosystem tick. If you doubt this assertion, engage fellow skiers in conversation as you ride together with them up a chairlift and ask them how much they know about these facts:

- Greater Yellowstone is home to some of the longest and last remaining major terrestrial wildlife migrations on earth, involving elk, mule deer and pronghorn. In most of the rest of the world, those ancient pathways and the large mammals traversing them have vanished.
- Greater Yellowstone is home to all of its major wildlife species that were here when Europeans arrived on the continent five centuries ago. This ecosystem is considered "ecologically intact" which is something else that most other bioregions cannot claim.
- Greater Yellowstone has figured prominently in the restoration and recovery of gray wolves, grizzly bears, wolves, bison, elk, trumpeter swans, and black-footed ferrets.
- Greater Yellowstone is in imminent danger of losing its wild character unless all of us try to make a positive difference to save it. You don't need to be a plutocrat.

As Wyss noted in his essay for The New York Times, "Every one of us—citizens, philanthropists, business and government leaders—should be troubled by the enormous gap between how little of our natural world is currently protected and how much should be protected. It is a gap that we must urgently narrow, before our human footprint consumes the earth's remaining wild places."

Wyss has dire concerns about the deepening impacts of climate change and he has little patience for those self-interests at work trying to stall action. His decision to step up to the plate by making a major commitment to support groups and individuals willing to be courageous is not unlike the \$1 billion gift that Ted Turner, another Greater Yellowstone resident, gave in support of the United Nations and its humanitarian mission two decades ago.

Like Turner, Wyss is optimistic that by rallying together and consuming fewer resources, by exercising restraint instead of feeding our voracious appetite for more, progress can be made but the window of opportunity is rapidly narrowing.

"For me, these efforts underscore the power we each have, as individuals, to join together to save the places and wildlife that matter most to us," he writes. "Every conservation gain I have witnessed in my two decades of philanthropy ... was set in motion by local communities that wanted to safeguard these places for their children and grandchildren."

Every year, people blessed with having enormous means—money, power and influence—pour into the Greater Yellowstone on skiing vacations, fly-fishing trips, and family outings to be together at their personal retreats or private ranches.

One poignant question they ought to ask is: how much do they give back? Are they only users or are they really concerned about helping to ensure that the wildness of Greater Yellowstone that they know today will still be around for their loved ones?

The first step in making a difference is to become educated and informed about the wonders of Greater Yellowstone. The second step is vowing to be part of solutions in confronting serious problems. The third step is to give your money and time—just a little bit of it—to the cause of making a difference.

Is that really asking too much? One guarantee: it will make you feel better.

Todd Wilkinson is founder of Bozeman-based Mountain Journal (mountainjournal.org) devoted to protecting the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and a correspondent for National Geographic. He also is author of "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek" about famous Jackson Hole grizzly bear 399 available only at mangelsen.com/grizzly.

Stacy Ossorio Broker I 406.539.8553 stacy.ossorio@gmail.com https://bigsky.evusa.com

ENGEL&VÖLKERS STACY OSSORIO

Local Expertise, Global Reach



10 Rose Bud Loop, Powder Ridge 4 brm | 3 bth | \$1,299,000 | MLS# 328666

Beautifully furnished and remodeled Powder Ridge Cabin with direct Ski-In / Ski-Out access can accommodate a large family or two smaller groups, with privacy. On the uphill side of Rose Bud Loop backing a private wooded forest, with stunning views east and north.



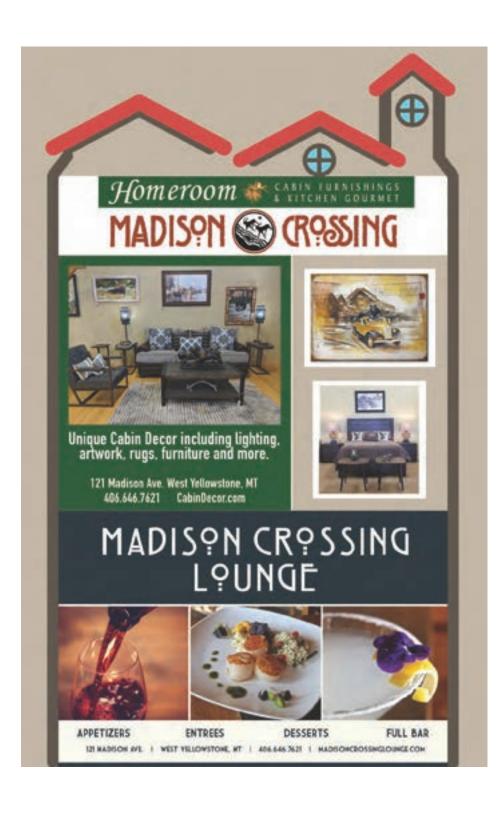
2 Lower Mtn Rd, Mountain Home 20 | 4 brm | 4.5 bth | \$1,825,000 | MLS# 328729

Ski-In / Ski-Out to both Moonlight and Big Sky from this gorgeous, furnished 4 BR/ 4.5 BA Mountain Home. Private setting with expansive views over the Jack Creek Drainage.

Never been rented and ready to go!

Celebrating 20+ years of brokerage in Big Sky.

Let me be your community connection.



18 January 4-17, 2019 **Explore** Big Sky

WATER WISDOM

Presented by the Gallatin River Task Force and its partners, this recurring series highlights the conservation work done and environmental concerns found in our local watersheds.

Like clockwork

Wastewater entering the sewer treatment plant peaks on New Year's Day

BY STEPHANIE LYNN GALLATIN RIVER TASK FORCE

Skiers, snowboarders, and party-goers surge during the holiday season in Big Sky. Whether they ride one plank or two, holiday revelers all have one thing in common: they all flush.

"Inflows into the plant go up whenever Big Sky has a lot of visitors, especially over New Year's and over the spring break season," said Grant Burroughs, wastewater superintendent for the Big Sky Water and Sewer District, the system that provides water and wastewater treatment to the meadow and mountain areas. "This winter's plant flows are down from last year's and are more in line with previous low [to average] snow years."

The hectic holiday season brings crowds of visitors to Big Sky, who generate additional wastewater by flushing the toilet, but also through everyday activities such as cooking, cleaning and showering. Although the separate wastewater facility at the Yellowstone Club is several times smaller than the Big Sky Water and Sewer District, Mike DuCuennois, vice president of development at the private club, noted that their busiest week also occurs between Christmas and early January.

According to Josh French, the operations foreman at the Bozeman Water Reclamation Facility, wastewater flows there also fluctuate throughout the year; however, variation in wastewater coming into the system is primarily driven by spring snowmelt infiltrating the system and the Montana State University calendar.

Steady growth in Big Sky, and the surrounding area, overlies these seasonal patterns, driven by visitation and snowmelt. In fact, the total annual wastewater volume flowing into the Big Sky Water and Sewer District treatment plant has nearly doubled in the past 15 years, approaching the limits of the system. The district recently completed a draft study exploring options to expand their plant and plan for development in the area where they provide water and sewer service.

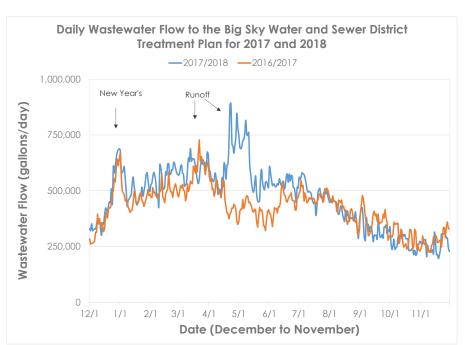
Upgrades to the treatment plant are necessary, but expensive, especially for a small community like Big Sky. However, each resident and visitor can help to maximize the capacity of the plant and protect the Gallatin River by reducing their wastewater footprint through water conservation.

"Toilets are responsible for about 27 percent of our daily household water use. On average, we flush anywhere from 7 to 35 gallons a day, depending on how water-efficient the toilet is," said Emily Casey, the water conservation program coordinator at the Gallatin River Task Force.

"Two of the best ways you can make an impact to conserve water at home are to upgrade to 'WaterSense'-labeled toilets and check for leaks regularly. Find toilet leak tabs at the Task Force office and [Big Sky Water and] Sewer District lobby."

Water saved in homes and businesses remains in the river and out of the wastewater treatment plant, which benefits both the community and the ecosystem.

Every flush counts.



Bear Basics with Bernadette:

The conflicts have changed, but bears can coexist here

BY KRIS INMAN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

Looking back at holiday seasons past, my Christmas list often included wool pants to keep me warm and dry as I ventured into the woods to fulfill my job as a wildlife biologist. Deerskin gloves rounded off my list and they would help me to hold onto the scruff of the neck of black bear cubs who were snug in their mother's den; the quiet signal of the radiotelemetry collar fitted around her neck guided us to their winter home. By climbing into the dens, and fitting them with new radio collars, we were able to learn if the cubs of the previous year survived to be yearlings.

This information helped us to track the population health, understand threats, and guide decisions to safeguard bear populations. At that time, the most significant cause of mortality we were concerned about was sustainable hunting. Two decades later, at this past holiday season, I found myself looking at new water bottles, to keep me hydrated as I work at a desk to bring science to on-the-ground-action.

The water bottle will be sporting a Bernadette Bear sticker—the newest member of the Bear Smart Big Sky team is meant to raise the profile of one of the leading threats to bears today: conflicts with people. There is a relatively easy way to reduce these conflicts: using bear-resistant trash cans. As I think to Christmas of the future, I envision a Big Sky community that is engaged in bear smart actions, like using bear-resistant trashcans community wide, so that bears are living in harmony alongside us.



Kris Inman holds two bear cubs during her early days as a wildlife biologist. PHOTO COURTESY OF KRIS INMAN

As a community that thrives in being outside, it's not hard to believe we can be inspired to change our behaviors and protect our wild neighbors.

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





YOUR FUTURE HOME, OUR BANK.

Urban, country, small, and tall: Homes are like the families they shelter — they come in all styles and sizes. That's why at First Security Bank we have a variety of home loan options to suit your unique needs. Let us help you secure the space that fits your lifestyle.

Success. Together.

406.995.2321 | 55 Lone Peak Dr | Big Sky

THE LONE PEAK PLAYBOOK

Biographics |

Q&A with LPHS Athletic Director John C. Hannahs

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

Montana State University graduate John Hannahs took the reins as the athletic director for Lone Peak High School last year, in addition to his responsibilities as a second-grade teacher. Explore Big Sky caught up with Hannahs to discuss his vision for the Lone Peak athletic program and how sports have influenced his own upbringing, career path and outlook toward life.

Explore Big Sky: How did athletics impact you when you were in high school?

John Hannahs: Athletics were very valuable to me in high school. I was lucky to be a part of a well-run program and our coaches taught us the importance of putting the team before yourself and playing with heart and hustle. They also instilled a sense of mental toughness that helped make me a more balanced person later in life.

EBS: You still find time to help coach the varsity boys basketball team. How is the team doing this season and what are the goals for the rest of season?

J.H.: I am thrilled to still be able to be involved with this team. We are not off to the start we were expecting, and we are going to have to work very hard to make the improvements we want to make. Luckily, we have a driven head coach [Brian Van Eps] as well as motivated leaders on the team who are willing to do what it takes to get over this hump.

EBS: Who is the best coach that you ever had and why?

J.H.: I still remember my middle school basketball coach as the person who provided the fundamental base to allow me to be successful on the court in high school. He was knowledgeable, organized and very passionate about the game. We could tell how much fun he was having so we all bought in as well.

EBS: Do you have any plans on the horizon for the LPHS athletics department?

J.H.: We are constantly working to find new ways to improve our programs. We have set the bar high for ourselves to develop a stronger culture for athletics, community and school spirit.

EBS: What facilities or resources are the Big Horns' sports teams most in need of?

J.H.: We are luckier than most with facilities and resources that we have access to. What these kids need most is the community to come down each weekend and show as much support as they can. We are very grateful for our fans, and nothing gets us going like a good home crowd!

EBS: How would you describe your own philosophy of coaching?

J.H.: I try to focus on the big picture, I want every kid who leaves our program to be a productive, successful, and above all, decent member of society. I want to give them the skills to succeed in everything they touch as well as how to overcome failure. There are so many opportunities to relate a game like basketball to life and if I can coach integrity and work ethic on top of basketball skills—maybe win a few games, possibly a district championship in the process—then I've done my job.

EBS: What has been your favorite Big Horn athletic event this year and why?

J.H.: Hands down the Spike for the Cure volleyball game to raise breast cancer awareness. It is one of my favorite traditions, you get to see our community as well as the visiting school fans come together and lend their attention and donate to a cause that is bigger than sports.



Big Sky ski racing season underway

BY LUKE KIRCHMAYR EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The Big Sky Ski Education Foundation season has begun in earnest and the athletes have been training for months to get ready for the competition circuit this winter. Here you'll find an update on the alpine, Nordic and freeride teams that will compete around the region this season.

Alpine

The alpine team has been hard at work since July, when the team spent 10 days at Mount Hood in Oregon to work on technique. Dryland training started in October and the team spent six days on snow in Panorama, British Columbia, just before Thanksgiving. The athletes have been training five days a week on snow since opening day at Big Sky Resort to get ready for the season.

There are more than 20 races scheduled this season, and Big Sky athletes will represent the team from U8 to FIS races. Big Sky will also host two races during the first two weekends in January. The first will be a U16 regional qualifier held Jan. 4-6. The following weekend, Big Sky will host a FIS race which is a national race for U18 and older. Watch for Big Sky athletes flying down Tippy's Tumble both of those weekends.

On Dec. 17, the first race of the 2018-2019 season was held in Red Lodge, Montana. The Big Sky Ski Team had a strong showing by winning three out of four age classes and the race was held in ideal conditions with firm snow and clear skies.

Prior to the Dec. 17 race, Red Lodge Mountain hosted a two-day slalom camp for the U14/U16/U19 age groups, and the BSSEF alpine team had 25 racers participating in the mini camp.

Freeride

The Big Sky Freeride team has also been training over the past few weeks and is getting ready for their upcoming season. Over the last few years, the freeride team has more than doubled in size and continues to become a prominent team in the West.

Head coach Wallace Casper is expecting a fun and strong season from his athletes and is excited to welcome new members to the team. "The freeride team is all about learning how to ski hard through technical big mountain terrain," he said.

"We hike the headwaters [and] ski the tram on a daily basis, learn about avalanche safety and work on the IFSA judging criteria: line, control, technique, fluidity and style," Casper added. "We love ripping around in the mountains with friends and improving our skills! Anyone

who can ski all the terrain on the mountain and wants to compete is welcome to join us."

Nordic

The BSSEF Nordic team is off to a very strong start to the season. With Big Sky's abundant early snowfall and grooming of the trails in Town Center and Big Sky Community Park by Big Sky Community Organization, along with the Lone Mountain Ranch groomed trails, the athletes have been accumulating the kilometers too. The team mission is to provide an opportunity for kids to become great skiers and pursue personal goals while promoting good sportsmanship, healthy competitiveness, sound technical skills, and an appreciation for the spirit of skiing in the mountains.

Nearly 25 athletes from Ophir schools and Lone Peak High School compete on the Nordic team. Each practice focuses on skill development, often disguised as playing a game such as sharks and minnows on one ski, obstacle courses, no pole relay races and more, while increasing distances too.

The first competition of 2019 will be a biathlon race in West Yellowstone on Jan. 5. Biathlon combines the aerobic challenge of skate skiing with the non-aerobic skill of marksmanship shooting with a 22-caliber rifle. The athletes will be skiing three 1.5-km laps with a shooting station between the first two laps. The format starts with a 1.5-km ski into the shooting range and where racers attempt to hit five out of five targets. Then they ski a second lap and shoot another round, finishing with the final 1.5-km lap.

A penalty lap of 100 meters is assessed for each missed target. The ability to ski hard, and then calm one's self to shoot accurately is the challenge. Look for results from our athletes in this continuing coverage throughout the winter.

BSSEF is currently working to establish a biathlon range in Big Sky using laser equipment. With help from the Moonlight Foundation, they're working on funding for the necessary equipment to set up this winter. Stay tuned for updates on community events to learn more about it.

Local Big Sky cross-country races open to all will be happening again this winter with a combined effort from the Discovery Academy and BSSEF, supporting grooming efforts by BSCO. The 5@5 Town Series will be Jan. 22, Feb. 26 and March 26 if snow conditions allow. The races start at 5 p.m. and are held on a 5-km course. There will also be a 1-km race for skiers 8 and younger, and a 3-km race for skiers 12 and under. Sameday registration starts at 4 p.m.

For more information about the Big Sky Ski Education Foundation teams, visit bssef.com.

Race results for the Big Sky alpine team on Dec. 17:

U16 Boys

- 2. Unger, Caleb (1:31.76)
- 4. Beatty, Ryan (1:36.36)
- 5. Kirchmayr, Luke (1:38.42)
- 6. Hassman, Kjetil (1:39.68)
- 7. Hoover, Miles (1:45.73)

U14 Boys

- 1. Ueland, Cameron (1:46.16)
- 2. Pecunies, Cameron (1:50.93)

U19 Girls

- 1. St. Cyr, Maci (1:36.91)
- 5. Winters, Madison (1:44.57)
- 6. Winters, Mackenzie (1:45.95)

U16 Girls

- 1. Davis, Hillary (1:42.72)
- 2. St. Cyr, Franci (1:43.75)
- 5. Carish, Gracie (2:18.71)

U14 Girls

- 1. Brown, Brooke (1:44.21)
- 3. Klug, Carson (1:54.15)
- 5. Manka, Skylar (1:56.60)
- 6. Unger, Cloe (1:56.65)
- 7. Davis, Margaret (1:57.77)
- 9. Ditullio, Drew (1:58.05)
- 10. Vap, Morgan (2:00.05)
- 11. Hoover, Myla (2:02.90)
- 12. Johnson, Allene (2:03.29)

2018-2019 freeride competitions:

Snowbird National – Jan. 18-21 Jackson Regional – Jan. 25-27 Targhee Regional – Feb. 9-10 Crystal National – Feb. 21-24 Targhee National – Feb. 28 to March 3 Big Sky Regional – March 8-10



Caleb Unger training on the giant slalom course at Panorama, British Columbia, during November. PHOTO BY ROSS WENGER



Members of the Big Sky Ski Education Foundation team during a training day at Big Sky Resort. PHOTO BY ARON HAFFEY

Ski tips: Rise up

BY DAN EGAN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Skiers looking to control their speed should rise up between turns. This will move your hips over your feet and your feet under your hips, which will result in applying pressure on the front of the ski at the start of the new turn. By pressuring the front of the ski, while placing it on edge, the ski will flex and absorb energy, and this will control speed as you enter the next turn.

In photo one, professional freeskier Clara Greb completes a turn and initiates the next one by reaching with her downhill pole. By initiating with the pole she has a created a timing and rhythm for the next turn. Notice the edge pressure illustrated by the plum of snow caused by the edged ski as well as the hip angle.

It's important to notice the shovel of both skis digging into the snow. The spray of snow is initiated by both skis in the shovel or tip of the ski in front of the binding. This tip pressure is crucial for speed control. She moves into the transition prior to any over edging or chatter of the downhill ski.

In photo two, with her eyes looking ahead and her shoulders square to the hill, she starts to rise up moving her hips toward her hands while the skis move into the transition—they start to flatten with less pressure on the edges of the skis and there is no skid or spray of snow.

In the transition of the turn it is important to roll onto the new edge as one fluid motion from releasing the old edge. Short transitions equal more control. By rising the hips up the shovels of the skis will dig into the snow on the new turn, which initiates the bending of the ski in the new arcing turn.

A smooth, quick transition with high hips moving towards the tips of the skis is important and the crux of control. If skiers delay movement in the transition, there is both an increase in speed and a lack of control in the next turn.

In photo three, Greb is standing taller, her skis are in the fall line and her hips are starting to move to the inside of the new arc. Notice that the skis are starting to roll onto the new edge, her eyes have shifted to the right to look towards the inside of the new turn and her heels are under her hips.

As the skis roll onto the new edge, deceleration will start to happen as the skis bend and arc into the new turn. Notice how close the hips are to the hand—her hips moved toward the pole-planted downhill hand and as she moves up and out of the old turn, and into the new turn, the left hand pole will start to extend down the hill to initiate the new turn.

In photo four, the plume of snow equals energy loss caused by an arcing edged ski. The new downhill pole is swung out and down the hill in anticipation of the next turn, continuing the timing and the rhythm set up in the pervious turn.

Rising your hips up will allow you to remain in balance, especially in big mountain skiing. It will allow you to gain control, regulate your speed and feel more comfortable in the transitions of your turns.

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.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DEGAN MEDIA





INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



A winter visit to Old Faithful

BY CHRISTINE GIANAS WEINHEIMER YELLOWSTONE FOREVER

Yellowstone National Park's winter wonderland is legendary. Peaceful ski trails, excellent wildlife-viewing and epic mountain views throughout the park attract adventurous visitors. There's something especially magical about leaving your automobile behind and traversing the snow to reach the historic Old Faithful village, which becomes a car-free zone during winter months.

The only way to visit Old Faithful and other popular destinations in the park's interior from mid-December to mid-March is by oversnow vehicle. Options include guided snowmobile tours, concession-operated snowcoaches, or applying for a permit through the park's non-commercially guided snowmobile access program. Visit nps.gov/yell for details and a list of companies that are authorized to provide winter tours in Yellowstone.

Several outfitters offer day tours to Old Faithful from West Yellowstone or other park entrances. If you'd like to spend more time at Old Faithful, the charming Old Faithful Snow Lodge and Cabins offers the only lodging option. Visit ynplodges.com for hotel reservations, to arrange snowcoach transportation, or to learn about winter packages such as Lodging and Learning programs cohosted with the Yellowstone Forever Institute.

Once you arrive, you'll find cross-country ski trails for all experience levels. Two beginner-friendly favorites are the Black Sand Basin Ski Trail (4.4 miles, round trip) that connects the Upper Geyser Basin to Black Sand Basin, and the Lone Star Geyser Ski Trail (9.9 miles, round trip), a mostly flat, machine-groomed trail that follows the Firehole River to Lone Star Geyser.

Visitors on snowshoes can enjoy any of the area ski trails, plus the 2-mile Observation Point Loop Snowshoe Trail—a snowshoe-only trail that affords amazing views of Old Faithful and the surrounding area. The boardwalks throughout the Upper Geyser Basin also lend themselves well to snowshoeing.

Visit the Bear Den Ski Shop at the Old Faithful Snow Lodge to inquire about equipment rentals, lessons, tours, trail conditions and ski shuttles. When heading out, stay on boardwalks and designated ski trails, as the



PHOTO BY JACOB W. FRANK/NPS

ground is unstable in hydrothermal areas. Also, be aware that bison frequent all trails in the Old Faithful area.

When you're ready to warm up, explore the interactive exhibits at the state-of-the-art Old Faithful Visitor Education Center. The center also features films, travel information, geyser eruption predictions, and a Yellowstone Forever Park Store. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the park's winter season.

At the visitor center, check the schedule of free ranger programs offered at Old Faithful. If you're traveling with children, also ask about how they can earn their Winter Junior Ranger patch.

The fun doesn't end when the sun goes down. Watch a steamy, moonlit eruption of Old Faithful or go stargazing aboard a snowcoach evening tour. Bundle up for ice skating at the rink outside the Old Faithful Snow Lodge. Skate rentals are free and available through the hotel's front desk. Those who prefer to stay cozy indoors can relax by the fire in the Snow Lodge's lobby or Firehole Lounge, or attend an evening ranger program at the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center.

Visit Yellowstone.org/winter-guide for more tips for visiting Yellowstone in the winter.



Seeking a Capable Executive to Lead the Big Sky Resort Area District

Ideal Candidate: A collaborator with infrastructure, economic and tourism planning, funding and development experience. Local government or similar relevant experience in a mountain ski resort community. Position will provide expertise and leadership using the tools available, and pursuing the tools needed, to achieve the District's governing purpose and appropriate authority to serve the community.

The District: The largest entity describing Big Sky, Montana. An unincorporated area spanning two counties that administers a 3% sales tax and budget up to \$9 million annually.

Applicants will remain confidential from application to hire.

Deadline for submitting resumes: January 11, 2019 to whitney@resorttax.org.

Benefits and complete job description at www.resorttax.org. Salary up to \$135K.





RESORT ROUNDUP

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

Shedhorn 4 rounds out this season's on-mountain improvements

EBS STAFF

On Christmas Day, a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new base terminal celebrated the opening of Shedhorn 4, a high-speed quad on the south face of Lone Mountain that was relocated over the summer and repurposed from its role as the former Ramcharger lift.

Shedhorn 4 doubles the uphill capacity and cuts ride time in half compared to its predecessor, now reaching the top terminal in under five minutes instead of 12. Kevin Daily, owner of the recently expanded Shedhorn Grill, reports that business has been brisk since the new high-speed quad started spinning.

As of Jan. 1, all of the resort's 36 lifts were in service and 268 of 294 trails were open. According to onthesnow.com, Big Sky Resort received 43 inches of snowfall in December, with a foot of snow falling on the last day of the month. Snowfall was reported on 14 days of the month.

According to resort statistics, November set a snowfall record with 76 inches, totaling 190 percent average snowfall for the month, and besting the 1988 record of 74 inches. For the season to date as of Jan. 2, Lone Mountain has received 190 inches of total snowfall at the summit and 140 inches of total snowfall mid-mountain.

"Great snow, two new lifts, 25 percent more air seats into Bozeman and a growing community," said Taylor Middleton, general manager of Big Sky Resort, in response to increased visitation numbers. "Everything is coming together to make a wonderful holiday."

While news of Ramcharger 8, the first eight-person chairlift in North America, continues to ripple throughout the ski and snowboard industry, the holiday season saw full parking lots and crowds at the base area of the mountain.

However, with Ramcharger 8's capability of whisking more than 3,000 snowsports enthusiasts per hour to the top of Andesite Mountain, the wait times in lift lines at the base area were minimal even during the busiest times of the heaviest skier visit days of the season so far.

Now in its 14th consecutive year, Big Sky Resort's annual Snobar has evolved from a one-night party into two-nights of EDM and dazzling visual displays. This year, Snobar returns to the slopes on back-to-back Saturdays, Jan. 19 and 26, next to the Swift Current lift and sporting an outside bar and music venue created entirely out of snow and ice by Big Sky Resort's terrain park team.

Featuring a premier lineup of DJs, lasers, glow sticks and colored lights will illuminate the frozen dance floor while gogo dancers in shimmering onesies dance and demonstrate their acrobatic ability hanging from hula-hoops suspended above the stage.



ABOVE: On Christmas Day, while his reindeer rested from the long night, Santa found the energy to fly all by himself around Big Sky Resort spreading good cheer heading into the new year. PHOTO COURTESY OF SKYLAB MEDIA HOUSE

BELOW: Shedhorn 4, relocated from its position as the Ramcharger lift on Andesite Mountain, found new life as a high-speed quad on the south face of Lone Mountain that doubles uphill capacity and shortens ride time by more than half compared to its predecessor. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BIG SKY RESORT





EVENTS WANTED

Did you know you can submit your business or organization's event to be displayed in the Explore Big Sky events calendar, for free?

SUBMISSIONS: MEDIA@THEOUTLAWPARTNERS.COM





SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB INVITES YOU TO EXPERIENCE A SNOWCAT DINNER AT SACA JAWEA CAMP.

This one-of-a-kind dining opportunity is available exclusively on Friday and Saturday evenings, from **January 4 through March 30, 2019** (blackout dates apply). Dinner includes a delectable three-course meal and live music in a cozy setting.

ADULTS \$125++ | CHILDREN \$50++

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK YOUR RESERVATION, CONTACT SPANISH PEAKS MEMBER SERVICES AT (406) 999-0040 OR EMAIL MEMBERSERVICES@SPANISHPEAKS.COM

SPANISH PEAKS

MOUNTAIN CLUB



THE BEST WAY TO SEE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK!







ACCOMODATIONS

Explorer Cabins at Yellowstone
Gray Wolf Inn & Suites | Holiday Inn West Yellowstone

TOURS & RENTALS

Snowcoach Tours
Snowmobile Tours | Snowmobile Rentals

800-426-7669 YellowstoneVacations.com



On the Trail: Winter Walks

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

BY SARA MARINO BSCO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

When you don't feel like getting your skis out, there are some great options for exercise with a simple winter walk that are in town, but let you feel like you're miles away.

Where to go:

The Hummocks and Uplands trailheads are located less than 1 mile east from Town Center on Aspen Leaf Drive, and the parking lot is plowed all winter for easy access.

These trails are ungroomed but get packed down enough by users to provide a great surface for a walking trail. Fat biking and cross-country skiing are also fun options. And just like the other Big Sky Community Organization trails, they are dog friendly, with dog waste stations for your convenience.

The Hummocks trail is a 3-mile rolling loop with a shortcut option if you need to head back early. Or if you're looking for more of a challenge, add an additional 2 miles of winter exploration by including the Uplands trail. Both provide beautiful and peaceful scenery, and travel through a variety of terrain including open meadows and forest canopies.

What to bring:

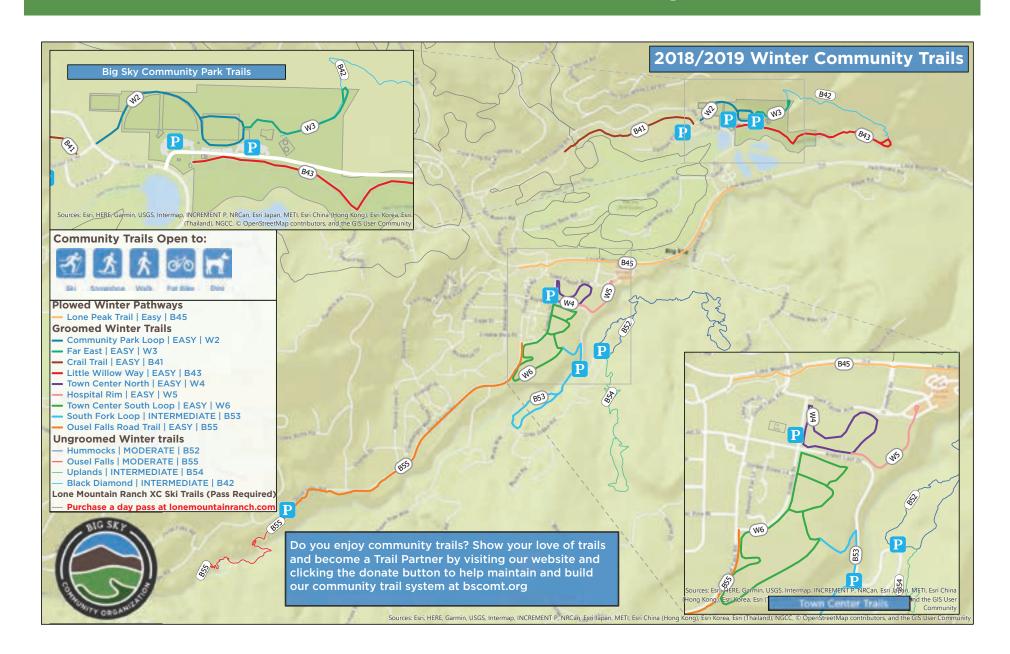
Make sure you're prepared for your walk with clothing layers that you can add or subtract to make sure you stay warm without overheating. Bring a hat and gloves, sunblock, sunglasses to protect from snow glare, and weather-proof boots to keep your feet dry. Yak Tracks or a trekking pole can also be useful for the icy spots.

And don't forget a snack and hydration. Consider wrapping your water bottle in a sock to keep it from freezing, or better yet, pack a thermos with your favorite hot beverage. Bring snacks that are easy to eat, and have a low moisture content like dried fruit, jerky, string cheese and chocolate.

Most importantly, bring your sense of adventure and positive attitude. Discover how fun a winter walk can be, stop and look for animal tracks in the snow, build a snowman, and breathe the crisp, fresh air.

For more information about Big Sky's parks, trails and recreation programs, visit bscomt.org. The Big Sky Community Organization engages and leads people to recreational and enrichment opportunities through thoughtful development of partnerships, programs and places.

BSCO Winter Trail Map







It's Good Clean Fun!





Authorized Concessioner

* Inside Yellowstone

Daily Guided Park Tours ... Environmentally friendly 4-stroke snowmobiles with professional, friendly & knowledgeable guides (required). Frequent stops for photos & sightseeing, Group size up to 9 snowmobiles. Private tours available.

* Outside Yellowstone

Ride National Forest Trails ... Explore hundreds of miles of groomed snowmobile trails in the National Forests of Montana and Idaho, trail-heads right across the street! Free trail maps! Guides are not required.





No Bad Seats or Fogged Windows -



406.646.7802 • 645 Gibbon Ave. West Yellowstone, Montana • www.twotopsnowmobile.com Family owned and operated since 1966 • Authorized Yellowstone Concessionaire

Photo Credit: Silver Cloud Photography @ ... Photo Credit: Christopher D. Daniel @

NONSTOP HEALTHCARE



OZssage Therapeutic Spa

Massage & Skin Care
18 years taking care of Big Sky





Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center to open new exhibit in spring

By Jessianne Castle EBS Contributor

LIVINGSTON – Five captive-born gray wolves and seven grizzly bears captured from the wild roam several large outdoor enclosures at the Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center in West Yellowstone. Unable to be reintroduced into the wild, the bears and wolves provide visitors with an opportunity to closely observe their behavior and learn about their role in the ecosystem.

Beginning this spring, visitors will get a glimpse of a more complete story of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem with the completion of a new riparian exhibit that explores the interconnected relationships of animals and plants.

Currently under development, the North American River Otter Riparian Exhibit will be a complex system of ponds, streams and terrain, complete with river-bed vegetation and an underwater viewing area for river otters, cutthroat trout and Arctic grayling. Accompanied by the wolves and bears, visible just outside, this exhibit will demonstrate the diverse relationships between predators, prey and habitats.

"We're trying to show how everything is inter-related," said Director John Heine.

According to Heine, research in Yellowstone has revealed an important trophic cascade between wolves and riparian vegetation. Prior to wolf reintroduction in 1995, plants like willow and aspen were over-grazed, he said. However, once on the landscape, wolves began to reduce the burgeoning elk population. This in turn allowed riparian areas to grow back and flourish.

"Most ecosystems are best when they're balanced," said Yellowstone National Park biologist Doug Smith in an undated National Park Service broadcast. Smith is the project leader for the Wolf Restoration Project. "Ecologists refer to this as biodiversity but emphasize the word diverse. Having a lot of different kinds of things at moderate numbers is better than having a lot of any one thing.

"Prior to wolf recovery, we had a lot of elk, we had a lot of coyotes, and we had very little things like willow and aspen, and songbirds and beaver," Smith added. "And so, [with] the entry of wolves and other carnivores—because bears have increased and cougars have come back too—so now we're a carnivore-rich system and we've restored that top layer of the system."

In addition to viewing otters and fish, visitors to the new exhibit will see invertebrates and amphibians, and learn how the introduction of lake trout has affected cutthroat populations.



The Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center in West Yellowstone is currently developing a new exhibit hall that will feature ponds, streams and riparian vegetation. A viewing area for river otters, cutthroat trout and grayling will round out the exhibit. RENDERINGS COURTESY OF THE GRIZZLY AND WOLF DISCOVERY CENTER

Funds for this new development came from a variety of grants and donations, as well as admission fees, and while the riparian exhibit is nearing completion, Heine said the center is still raising funds for a new outdoor bear habitat and bear dens.

Currently, the center houses seven grizzly bears that were captured in the wild after becoming nuisance bears or orphaned cubs. However, with the development of additional bear habitat, the center would be able to house at least eight additional bears, though Heine said he wouldn't expect to fill those spaces with resident bears. Instead, he said they might be able to take in a couple black bears and then use the remaining space to temporarily house bears that are awaiting placement at other facilities.

A completion date has not been set for this new bear structure, but Heine said by the end of this summer, the utilities, plumbing, concrete and structural steel should be in place.

The Grizzly and Wolf Discovery Center is open 365 days a year and because bears are offered food regularly, Heine said they don't hibernate, though their metabolism does slow down. During the winter, the center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and admission is good for two days.

Visit grizzlydiscoveryctr.org to learn more.





Yours in health

BY DR. ANDREA WICK

EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The holidays can be rough, especially on the gut. The usual talk about weight gain has begun. Then come the New Year's resolutions about hitting the gym and eating a healthier diet. What the heck does eating healthier even mean?

The phrases "you are what you eat" and "food is thy medicine" are some of my favorites and are very true. The healthier you eat, the less health issues you will have on many different levels. The happier you will be because you feel better and so on. It's a win-win situation.

Eating too many carbohydrates, sugar, caffeine and alcohol over the holidays can set you up for feeling fat, bloated, depressed, constipated and just plain awful. So, what's the best way to bounce back after a stressful holiday season?

Try drinking hot lemon water first thing every morning. Warm water is great for waking up the digestive system first thing. Lemon juice is an effective way to reduce weight and increase the body's metabolism naturally. It's a gentle detox for the liver and a way to alkalize the body. Sugar, coffee and alcohol all make the body more acidic. Lemons help protect the body's immune system, and act as a rich source of electrolytes, helping regulate bowel movement.

During the holidays you are eating more sugar causing an imbalance of the bacteria in your gut, so consider taking probiotics to help restore the balance. Especially if previous sickness has led to taking antibiotics, you are even more prone to digestive issues. The microbiome of your gut needs to have good bacteria and if there are too many bad bacteria due to poor diet, antibiotics, or illness this can lead to digestive issues, nutritional imbalances

New year, new you from the inside out

and skin problems. Lactobacillus rhamnosus, Lactobacillus casei and the Saccharomyces boulardii are the most helpful with diarrhea and loose stools.

According to a study in the journal Current Opinion in Gastroentrology, probiotics decreased the therapeutic potential for diseases, including several immune response-related diseases, such as allergy, eczema and viral infection.

Decrease your sugar intake, and if you're a soft drink or sugary-drink person, consider cutting back now. Decreasing the intake of sugary drinks can aid in weight loss rapidly.

Avoiding high fructose corn syrup, white sugar, and cane sugar is important. These types of sugars can cause fatty liver, heart disease and added body weight. If you're focused on reducing sugar intake, try to drink more water, sparkling water, or add cucumber, lemon and lime to your water to make it more palatable.

You would be surprised by how much sugar is in the sauces we add to our food, such as ketchup, barbecue sauce and chili sauce. Instead, try dried herbs and spices, homemade dressings and sauces, vinegars, mustards and pestos. Artificial sweeteners and "sugar free," is a big red flag. According to the Harvard Medical Blog, in the Multiethnic Study of Atherosclerosis, daily consumption of diet drinks was associated with a 36-percent greater risk for metabolic syndrome and a 67-percent increased risk for type 2 diabetes.

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.





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







TED BigSky

x = independently organized TED event

TED×BIGSKY EVENT IS PART OF THE:





JANUARY 26TH 2019 DOORS OPEN AT 4, SHOW STARTS PROMPTLY AT 5 WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



TICKETS ON SALE AT TEDXBIGSKY.COM

































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









Making it in Big Sky: Lone Peak Brewery

EBS STAFF

Steve and Vicky Nordahl opened Lone Peak Brewery and Taphouse in October 2007 after moving to Big Sky in 2003 to start a family and open a business. Steve is a formally educated brewer who opened his first brewery in Maryland in 1992. The Nordahls opened their brewpub in Big Sky because it was the largest ski town in the U.S. without a brewery and Montana was their favorite state in the country.

Between the brewery and taphouse, they have 10 full time, year-round employees, although that number more than triples during the peak tourist seasons. The taphouse has a full bar to complement the house-made beers and the restaurant has an extensive menu of classic pub fare and they host special food events such as crab and lobster feasts.

As part of this ongoing series, Steve Nordahl shared his thoughts 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?

Steve Nordahl: Sacrifice, hard work and long hours!

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

S.N.: Yes, still have the \$1 bill from my first sale and it's signed and framed.

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

S.N.: In 2019, finding and retaining employees with the affordable housing crisis here.

EBS: What are challenges of running a brewery of which most people aren't aware?

S.N.: It's a very labor-intensive process to brew beer.

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

S.N.: There are three times as many restaurants and bars in Big Sky then when we started out in 2007.

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

S.N.: It's our home and we're raising our two daughters here.

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



Steve and Vicky Nordahl moved to Big Sky in 2003 with the express purpose of starting a family and to explore the option of opening a brewery. Established in 2007, Lone Peak Brewery and Taphouse is renowned for its jambalaya and burgers. OUTLAW PARTNERS

S.N.: It isn't just one moment that's memorable, but rather all of the community support we've had since opening 11 years ago.

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

S.N.: We've tried Christmas and New Year's Eve dinner buffets that were not very successful.

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

S.N.: It's not twice as hard to do twice as good of a job.

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

S.N.: Own your business's property, don't rent it.

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

S.N.: [Laughs out loud] I'm never sure where I see our business next year, let alone 10 years from now. Ten years into the future is not in my vision.

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

S.N.: Hmm, I really hope it doesn't look like Aspen does now, 20 years from now.

MAKING IT IN BIG SKY IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE BIG SKY CHAMBER



Our Mission: Serving as the VOICE of Business, the Big Sky Chamber CHAMPIONS a healthy economy and works collaboratively with community stakeholders (CONVENES) as a CATALYST to improve the overall quality of life in the region.

Not a member? Contact us today to find out more.

BIGSKYCHAMBER.COM | 406.995.3000 | RJ@BIGSKYCHAMBER.COM

The Big Sky Chamber of Commerce is a 501(c) 6 Nonprofit Membership Organization

Local entrepreneur launches RV rental business

EBS STAFF

BOZEMAN – Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport, Winnebago and Bozeman-based RV rental company Blacksford recently announced an operating agreement to provide recreational vehicle rentals at the airport beginning in spring 2019.

Blacksford plans to bring a fleet of brand new Winnebago recreational vehicles with Mercedes-Benz Sprinter platforms to the Bozeman hub and employ between 15 and 20 staff members, according to Dec. 28 statement. Blacksford will offer superior vacation experiences to the growing number of adventure travelers from the U.S. and abroad.

"Winnebago is proud to partner with Blacksford on this exciting RV vacation rental program. Winnebago's Mercedes-based Sprinter products are the No. 1 selling line in North America and lead the industry in quality, innovation and service," said Brian Hazelton, vice president and general manager of Motorhomes at Winnebago.

With an estimated \$22 million spent on RVs and campgrounds and \$42 million spent on auto rentals in the Yellowstone and southwest regions, according to the Montana Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research, Blacksford is looking to elevate the quality and experience all of visitors to the area, according to Big Sky resident and founder of Blacksford, Jonathan Distad.

"We have spent a great deal of time exploring available data as well as ethnographic trends in this space," Distad said. "The future of this sector is increasingly young adults who value simplicity, transparency and value-driven experiences. Blacksford has all-inclusive pricing

that includes everything from unlimited miles, a National Parks pass, donation to Yellowstone Forever, [and] free Wi-Fi with Verizon Connect."

Blacksford will offer a diverse fleet including the all-wheel-drive 2020 Winnebago Revel, the family-focused 2020 Winnebago View, and the luxurious 2020 Winnebago Era, according to the statement. The company plans to offer complimentary rental options from traditional weekly rentals to the exclusive SeasonaLease, which allows renters to choose any unit for a six-month lease.

"Our goal is to provide the best vehicles with the best service, from prime locations. We believe the Gallatin Valley, and the Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport specifically, is the perfect location to headquarter Montana operations," Distad said. "Our focus on the highest quality RV's and a simple but high-touch guest experience makes us markedly different."

With so many choices for family and adventure travel, Distad says his company is aiming to lead the pack at a fair cost. And officials at the Bozeman airport are on board, says Brian Sprenger, director of the Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport.

"We are excited to welcome Blacksford to the airport," Sprenger said. "With our focus on developing southwest Montana as a tourism hub, Blacksford is an exciting new link in supporting Montana vacations."



PASSHOLDERS FROM ANY OTHER RESORT RECEIVE 40% OFF JACKSON HOLE LIFT TICKETS JANUARY 7-31, 2019.*

*MUST SHOW VALID WINTER 2018/19 SEASON PASS AND PHOTO IDENTIFICATION. SKI AS MANY DAYS AS YOU WOULD LIKE AT 40% OFF THE DAILY TICKET RATE AT JACKSON HOLE MOUNTAIN RESORT DURING THIS TIME. NOT VALID WITH OTHER OFFERS. JACKSONHOLE.COM

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 new way to feed



BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

In my Dec. 7 column, I shared a wonderful experience I had spending two days on the McCaffertey ranch with the entire family. We literally broke bread together as Eric Stenberg and I cooked dinner for all of us, showcasing some of their wonderful cuts as we conversed over wine around the family heirloom dinner table.

By trade, the McCaffertey business is a stock-growing ranch. That is to say, they raise the cattle that are sold at auction to the ranchers that raise the cattle we eat.

But Joel McCaffertey is also raising about 100 head of cattle specifically for beef.

The next morning after breakfast, we bundled up and set out for one of the outbuildings 100 yards or so away from the house. It was a beautiful bluebird morning as we trudged through the fresh snowfall.

When we stepped inside my glasses instantly fogged, as did my camera lens and my phone. It was a balmy 70 F in the building with equal humidity and we threw off our jackets.

Lining both interior walls were large white metal racks about 10 feet tall. Each one had four layers of shelving with misters suspended under the bottom of each shelf.

What was on all these shelves? Beautiful green grass. Or more specifically, sprouted barley.

What the McCafferteys have been working on for more than five years now is hydroponic barley grass that grows in a week, is full of nutrition and is available year round.

They supplement the normal hay and alfalfa grasses with the barley grass as needed, and as winter arrives and the outdoor grass goes dormant and is blanketed with snow, they can supply their beef cattle with as much as 80 percent barley grass. This means they have grass-fed beef from start to finish, 12 months of the year.

When Joel divulged how much they have spent on this project over the last five years, Eric and I looked at each other. We knew right then how passionate they were about the project to have spent that kind of money with no return on investment to date.

"We don't know if there is a market for this, it just seems like the right thing to do," Joel said.

Many of the shelves had large sections of this "barley sod" in various stages of growth. The new shelves contained wet barley that has not yet sprouted. Down the row, there were rows of grass that were as tall as 8 inches, yet only seven days old. A 10-12 foot roll of this grass weighs about 200 pounds.

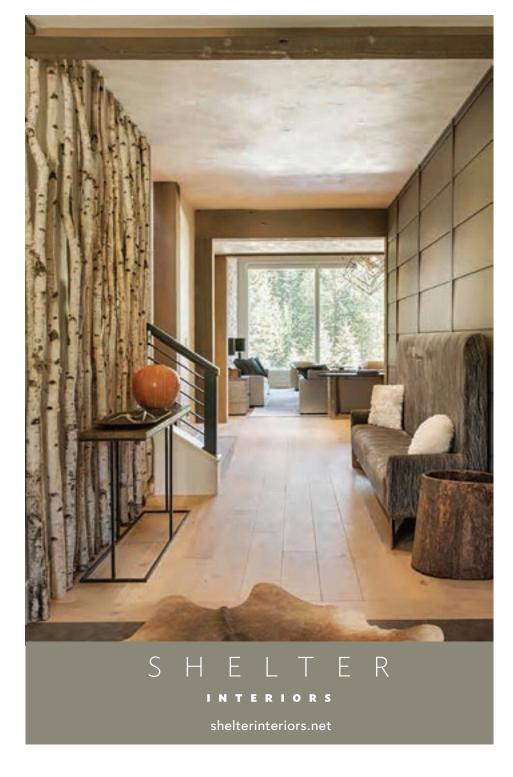
We pulled a few blades to taste for ourselves. It was sweet and tasted like cucumber; not a flavor we were expecting.

Megan, Joel's daughter, explained that the nutritional testing takes several weeks if not months. But even though they do not possess all the information yet, early indications are that the healthy fats, Omega 3s, Omega 6s, and a host of other nutritional data suggest that this is some of the healthiest beef that exists.

We finished our morning back at the dining room table where we discussed the marketability and logistics of the grass and how we could get this grass-fed beef to as many chefs as possible. Joel, Megan and Joel's wife Cindy were extremely excited at the prospect of getting their beef out there to more of us.

Men and women can accomplish great things wearing suits and ties and seated around conference tables. However, some of the best relationships are built around a dinner table, with ranchers and farmers in worn jeans, muddied boots and hats hung accordingly on the rack close by. After all, you just don't wear a hat to the dinner table.

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.







INTO THE ARCTIC

Two seasonal exhibitions on display Now through January 27

Included with admission

Into the Arctic and Polar Obsession present spectacular scenes of a fragile environment and the unique balance of life within the Arctic and Antarctic habitats. You will experience the breathtaking landscape and wildlife of the northernmost regions of our world, as seen through the creative lenses of two renowned artists.

Presenting Sponsor:



museumoftherockies.org 406.994.2251 I 600 W. Kagy Blvd.









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.



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!



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.



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 on the northern side of this lot.



SUMMIT HOTEL CONDO | \$540,000 #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 Mtn. and the surrounding area.



LOT 149 FOURPOINT ROAD | \$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.

DON PILOTTE BROKER, GRI, RRS, SFR 406.580.0155 | TONI DELZER SALES ASSOCIATE 406.570.3195 | KATIE ERBES SALES ASSOCIATE 406.579.3639
PETER MACKENZIE SALES ASSOCIATE 406.223.1195 | BRUCE WINTER SALES ASSOCIATE, GRI 406.581.4658

Soup for the soul: No recipe required

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CARIE BIRKMEIER EBS STAFF

There is nothing better than cozying up with a bowl of soup after a day out in the cold. Don't settle for a mediocre, store-bought option though—make it yourself! Making soup from scratch might seem like a bear of a task, but with a few ingredients you can whip up something delectable right in your own kitchen.

Each step in the process presents an opportunity to add a layer of flavor, resulting in a deep, rich-tasting soup. The following guide breaks the process down for you. Use it as a guide of soup building blocks to create your next meal. Be sure to taste your mixture every step of the way and add salt with each step as you see fit.

Aromatics

Start with a foundation of flavor. A classic French combination known as "mirepoix" consists of onion, carrot and celery. You might add garlic to this for an Italian soup; ginger if you're going for Asian flavors; or eliminate carrot in lieu of bell pepper, known as the trinity in Cajun cooking. Regardless of specific ingredients, this base is crucial to establish the initial foundation of the soup.

You will want to cook these vegetables in fat. Butter, olive oil, or even bacon fat all work. Choose something that mirrors the flavors of the cuisine you're going for.

For a lighter soup, cook these vegetables until they're translucent. For a roasted flavor, cook them until they're brown, but not burnt. Longer cooking releases sugar, which allows for browning and caramelization, aka flavor. This process would work well for something like French onion soup or mushroom bisque, but not for chicken noodle, for example.

Now is the time to add herbs and spices. For a Mexican soup, you might add chili powder and cumin. For a classic soup such as vegetable beef, add a bundle of stems of herbs like parsley and thyme tied together with butcher's twine, referred to as a "bouquet garni."



Mirepoix is a mixture of two parts onion, one part celery and one part carrot that provides a base of flavor for your soup.



Finishing your soup with a garnish, like a dollop of sour cream, provides an opportunity to add a final layer of flavor to your dish.

The liquid

Next, decide which liquid will make up the bulk of your soup. Ideally, you would use stock made from scratch, but this might not be realistic. It's rare, but some local grocery stores and butchers sell stock made from scratch, so check these places first.

When choosing a packaged stock or broth, look for options that are low in sodium so you can control the salt content of the dish. Look at the ingredient list. Is turmeric high on the list? Many brands use this ingredient to create a golden color that gives the illusion of a rich broth, but it actually tastes quite bland.

If you're going for a creamy soup, you'll want to include some sort of dairy. Use milk or half and half, depending on how rich you want the end result to be. Always add dairy last in the cooking process to avoid curdling.

Think about the flavors of your dish and consider adding another liquid. Crushed tomatoes provide a great consistency to a beef chili. If you used dried mushrooms preparing a wild mushroom bisque, save the liquid that you rehydrated the mushrooms in to add to the broth.

The main ingredients

For the star of the show, you probably already know what protein and veggies you'll use. Add these ingredients to the soup raw, so that they infuse their flavors into the mixture. An exception is when you are seeking certain flavors that cannot be achieved in wet cooking—roasted or charred vegetables, for example.

If your soup includes meat, always choose a bone-in option when you can. Marrow running through the bones will provide the liquid with a rich flavor that can't be achieved with other ingredients. Remove the bone and shred or cut the meat into bite sized pieces before serving.

The garnish

Whether it's a dollop of sour cream to impart a tangy creaminess, or a scattering of toasted nuts to deliver texture, use the garnish as an opportunity to bring in a final element to round out your dish. Did your Thai coconut soup turn out great, but seem a tad heavy? Garnish with chopped cilantro and a squeeze of lime. Since we eat with our eyes, the garnish also makes your soup enjoyable to look at.

Never be afraid to experiment with flavors in your soup, but be mindful of what flavors do and don't go together. Taste as you go and ask yourself if the flavors are balanced. If not, decide what's missing. Does it need something acidic? Add a splash of vinegar. Too spicy? Add some honey to mellow the heat.

Anyone can make a soup, but these steps will ensure that yours will turn out incredible.

Carie Birkmeier graduated from Michigan's Les Cheneaux Culinary School, and now keeps her knife sharp by teaching culinary classes and experimenting in her home kitchen

BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4 - THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

If your event falls between Jan. 18 - 4, please submit it by Jan. 23 by emailing media@outlaw.partners.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

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

Brian Stumpf, live music

Choppers Grub and Pub, 5 p.m.

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

Community Fitness Class Headwaters Fitness, 8 a.m.

Curling League Town Center Ice Rink, 5 p.m.

Take 6 a capella performance Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 7:30 p.m.

This Mountain Life, movie Lone Peak Cinema, 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

Adult Drop-in Hockey Town Center Ice Rink, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 7

Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

Youth Hockey Clinic Town Center Ice Rink, 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8

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

3 on 3 Hockey League Town Center Ice Rink, 6 p.m.

Adult Broomball
Town Center Ice Rink, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

Bridge

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

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

Youth Hockey Clinic Town Center Ice Rink, 5:30 p.m.

Adult Drop-in Hockey Town Center Ice Rink, 7:30 p.m. A.A. Meeting Big Sky Chapel, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11

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

Hannah and Zander, live music

Choppers Grub and Pub, 10 p.m.

Trivia Night Lone Peak Cinema, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

Community Fitness Class Headwaters Fitness, 8 a.m.

9th Annual Pavelich Invitational Hockey Game

Town Center Ice Rink, 12 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

Live Music Compass Café, 11 a.m.

Adult Drop-in Hockey Town Center Ice Rink, 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14

Industry Night Lotus Pad, all evening

Youth Hockey Clinic Town Center Ice Rink, 5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15

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

3 on 3 Hockey League Town Center Ice Rink, 6 p.m.

Adult Broomball
Town Center Ice Rink, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17

Bridge

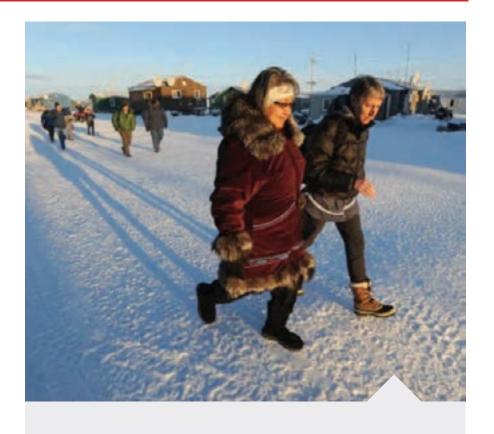
Big Sky Water and Sewer District, 10:30 a.m.

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

Youth Hockey Clinic Town Center Ice Rink, 5:30 p.m.

Adult Drop-in Hockey
Town Center Ice Rink, 7:30 p.m.

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



BOZEMAN

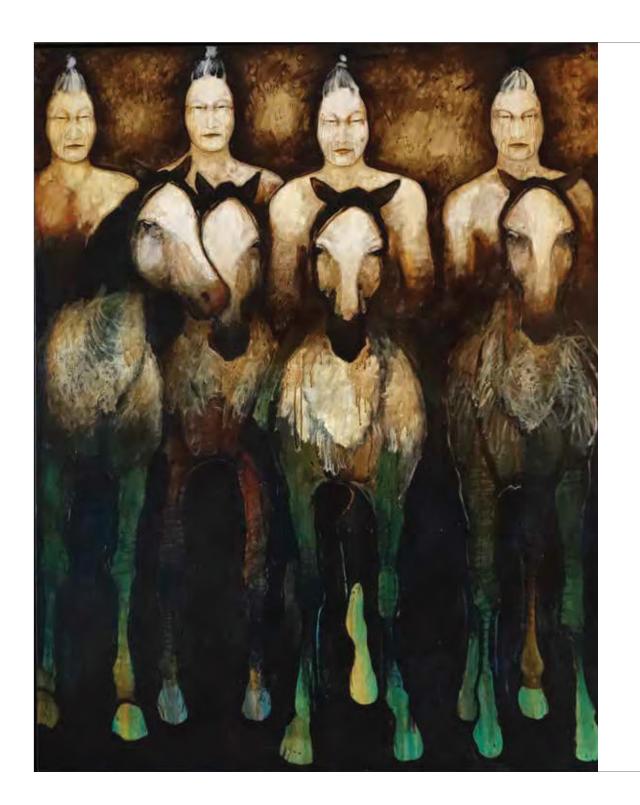
Humans and Change in the Arctic lecture

Museum of the Rockies | January 22

Explore how the changing Artic brings challenges to indigenous people through the expertise of Montana-raised filmmaker and professional planner Christopher Carter and Inupiaq Esua Sinnok. The latter comes from an Alaskan indigenous community that recently made the difficult decision to relocate inland. The speakers will also touch on the hope displayed through practical action and leadership at work in the region. The lecture is free and open to the public and will be followed by light appetizers. Two changing exhibitions, "Polar Obsession" and "Into the Arctic," will be open for exploration as well.

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

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



KEVIN RED STAR

"PROTECTORS" - CRAZY DOGS 60 X 48 ACRYLIC ON CANVAS



Town Center, Big Sky, Montana creightonblockgallery.com | 406.993.9400





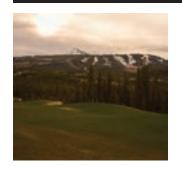
Offer for new and existing customers

With any **donation** made to the Big Sky Food Bank,

Northern Energy Propane will double that as an **account credit.**Up to \$400.

(Copy of donation receipt required)

SPANISH PEAKS MOUNTAIN CLUB*



Lot 38 Bitterbrush Trail 1.27 ACRES / \$800K



Lot 64 Goshawk 1.04 ACRES / \$775K

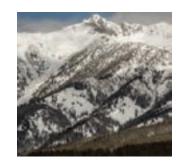


Lot 119 Old Barn Rd. 3.13 Acres / \$490K



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

MOONLIGHT BASIN*



Lot 44 Diamond Hitch 1.25 ACRE / \$685K

BIG SKY



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

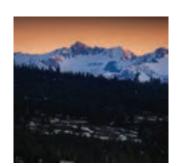


Cottonwood Crossing 1,854 SQ FT / \$539K



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

BIG SKY



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

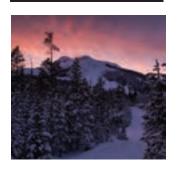


Marketplace Unit 202 *Big Sky, MT* 966 SQ FT / \$389K



Airport Garages
Bozeman, MT
\$24.9K per unit
Taking reservations for
building G

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



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

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



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



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



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



LKRealEstate.com | 406.995.2404



In the Spotlight: Beth Gregory

Finding meaning in process

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE EBS CONTRIBUTOR

LIVINGSTON – Inside a home on a quiet street in Livingston, a rolling mill stands mounted on a wooden table made bright from a sunny window. Adjacent to the mill, which presses textures into and helps shape strands and sheets of metal, is a kiln used to melt powdered glass onto copper in the process of enameling. A torch and anvil rest nearby and dozens of hand tools neatly decorate yet another tabletop.

Beth Gregory's studio speaks the story of process. An artisan jeweler, she is well versed in the steps it takes to transform sheets of metals like copper and strands of sterling silver into simple, yet intrinsically beautiful designs. Her necklaces are often made of chains forged by hand, while earrings boast rectangular and oval shapes that wear the mark of the hammer. Sparkling gemstones might be hand-set, or the natural glow of the metal shines through.

Gregory's enameled pieces are delicate yet bold for their bright glassy colors and design. Layers of powdered glass are added in phases, interrupted by time baked in the kiln. The heat fuses the glass, creating unique pieces every time.

"It adds something special or beautiful to everyday life," Gregory said of her jewelry. She added that her favorite material to work with is sterling silver. "I just like the way it looks so much. I love the warmth it gets when you add a patina."

Gregory says she's inspired by her surroundings—the mountains, places she hikes or walks with her dog—and shapes all around her. "I think, well, how would I do that with silver," she said. "It's almost like one idea leads to another. I just always have a backlog of ideas."

Raised in Tennessee, the artist originally studied at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, where she received a bachelor's in art design, though the call of the hammer and forge wouldn't attract her for some years later.

After moving to the Shields Valley north of Livingston to her husband's family's ranch, Gregory received her teacher's certificate from Montana State University. She taught for a time at a small school in McLeod south of Big Timber before settling in Livingston and taking up work at the Livingston Center for Art and Culture.



Beth Gregory, an artisan jeweler in Livingston, saws a shape out of a sheet of copper as one of the first steps in creating her enameled copper earrings.



A pair of earrings featuring hand-forged sterling silver hoops with amazonite gemstones made by Gregory. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BETH GREGORY

Four and a half years ago, she tried a jewelry-making kit on loan from a friend. "I was just hooked," she said. "I quit my job and dove in. I had done lots of other art, but I think jewelry is a good fit for me because I like that it is functional. People can use it and wear it daily."

She added that she also enjoys that jewelry is a craft, rooted in history and extensive enough she can continue to learn and explore for the rest of her life.

"It's a process. It's an even balance between creating, expression and science," she said. "I enjoy thinking through the process of something."

Gregory's skill is indicative of hours spent learning by doing, though she's also taken metalsmithing courses at MSU and has attended a number of workshops that cover topics like stone setting and forging.

Later this winter, Gregory will attend a workshop on wax carving, where she'll learn how to build wax molds that can be used for casting. Currently, all of her jewelry is fabricated, or built in pieces; however, by pouring molten metals into wax molds, she will be able to make more complicated pieces that take on a more refined look. "It opens up a lot of possibilities," she said. It would also allow her to recycle her metal scraps in-house, she added.

Gregory sources her metals locally whenever possible, purchasing recycled copper from Pacific Steel in Bozeman, and also using recycled silver. In the future, she hopes to explore with gold as well.

While Gregory has many pieces currently available both online and in local galleries, she also enjoys creating custom pieces for her customers. Her work is available at The Trove West in Big Sky and Cello in Bozeman, as well as online at her website or on Etsy.

Visit bgregoryjewelry.com to learn more.

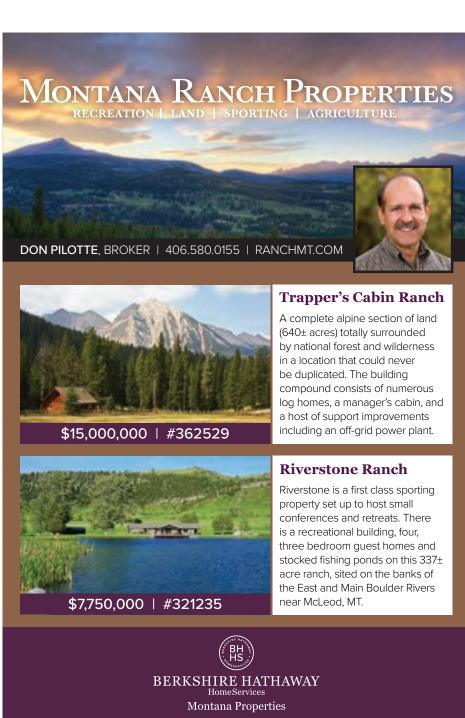


ANTIQUES-ARTWORK-SPORTING GOODS-COLLECTIBLES-MONTANA GIFTS AND MUCH MORE!

CALL KERRI AND KEVIN FABOZZI 406-993-9333

OPEN 6 DAYS/WEEK

LOCATED IN BIG SKY, MT IN THE BIG HORN SHOPPING CENTER

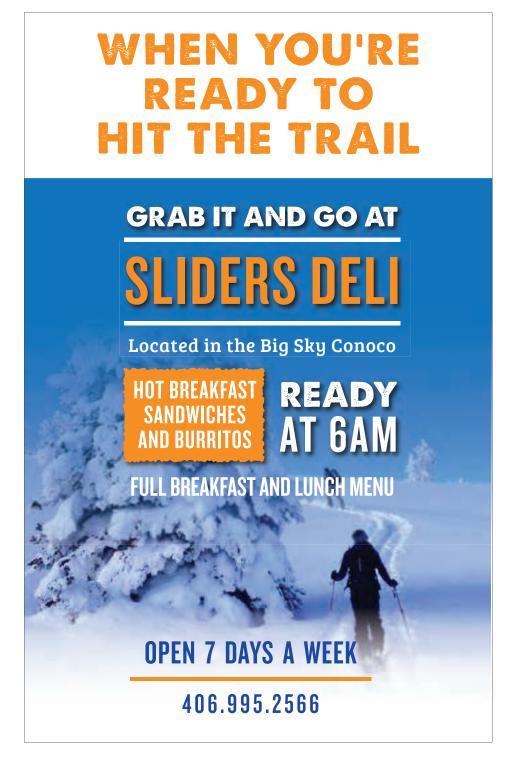






44 January 4-17, 2019 **Explore** Big Sky





REEL REVIEW

'Happy as Lazzaro'

BY ANNA HUSTED EBS FILM CRITIC

As much as I love streaming movies at home, streaming services are negatively impacting theaters worldwide. I am reluctant to write about a film that only had a limited theatrical release. At the same time, streaming services make foreign films available without having to wait a year for them to be distributed to the U.S. One such release is Alice Rohrwacher's Italian fable "Happy as Lazzaro."

"Happy as Lazzaro" is not what you'd expect. Based in modern times, but what feels like the 1930s, this offbeat dark comedy opens with an Italian peasant family sharing a lightbulb as they move from room to room. Protagonist Lazzaro (an Andy Kaufman-esque Adriano Tardiolo) is a dimwitted but kind worker for a tobacco heiress, who is running the farm illegally with indentured servants that don't know they're supposed to be paid.

Lazzaro happily does whatever is requested of him because he genuinely wants to help. He plays the holy fool to the point of being exploited by rich and poor alike.

When Tancredi, the son of the tobacco heiress, runs away from home, he and Lazzaro form a strong albeit one-sided friendship that takes them both away from the farm and into the big city. The film then appears to transcend time and space. Some characters age while Lazzaro stays the same age, and his character represents hope and light existing among the darkness of evil and human depravity.

"Happy as Lazzaro" is director Rohrwacher's third feature film, and her best by far. She creates a world that exists yesterday, today and in the future, where troubled times cannot defeat the power of the human heart to care and love all those around them—no matter their social status.

One of my favorite moments comes after city peasants exploit Lazzaro as he helps them sell goods because he has a "kind face." They return to the peasants' downtrodden block where Lazzaro points out all the edible food growing right out of the sidewalks. The peasants are the happiest you've seen them showing pure excitement at the ability to have fresh food. In return the peasants continue to use Lazzaro for his kindness (or aloofness).

Lazzaro shows love and mercy when there is none in return because he is a true sacrificial character who will stop at nothing to help others. He appears in nearly every scene of the film, transforming others' selfish acts into blessings even when the people around him do not deserve it.

Documentary filmmaker Michael Moore says seeing a film in theaters is like seeing artwork in a gallery. No Mona Lisa replica will ever beat witnessing the real Da Vinci painting at the Louvre. Sadly, because we don't live in one of the major cities where "Happy as Lazzaro" was released we can only see it on our small screens at home. Take time to appreciate the films you get to watch on the big screen because there will always be the one film that you wish you didn't have to watch at home. "Happy as Lazzaro" is one of those. And it deserves more time on the big screen.

"Happy as Lazzaro" 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 up on the hill or at the movies at Lone Peak Cinema. When not gazing at the silver screen or watching her new favorite TV show, she's skiing, fishing or roughhousing with her cat, Indiana Jones.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AMKA FILMS

The art of science communication

Local glaciologist shares power of collaboration

BY BAY STEPHENS **EBS STAFF WRITER**

BIG SKY – Science is traditionally not the setting of rich storytelling or moving artwork, yet a growing number of scientists are realizing that effectively communicating their work requires more than cold, hard facts. Cross-disciplinary collaboration and art are playing increasingly key roles in science communication.

Twila Moon, a glaciologist and Big Sky resident, has given significant focus to effectively relaying scientific findings. She has always had an interest in communication, but beyond mere interest, she has been deliberate about learning from communication experts how to better reach audiences, to speak their language. Her efforts will be on display at TEDxBigSky on Jan. 26 when she shares her story of witnessing dramatic changes in the cryosphere—the world of ice—as the climate

"I think science communication as a broader field has also had a lot of important advances and people realizing more and more that it's not about tossing facts at people or tossing numbers at people but it's really about helping people understand how things connect to elements of their values and their day-to-day interests," Moon said.

Relating the interconnectedness of our earth system is a common challenge the science community faces as people don't realize how changes in the Arctic affect their lives. Moon said the science community has been learning to tell stories and be more personal, but it's not exactly second nature.

"As scientists we're not trained to bring ourselves into conversations," she said. "We're trained to do exactly the opposite and ... effective science communication really requires that you discuss yourself as an individual and as a person too, which can be kind of uncomfortable for scientists."

Art, and specifically a friendship with artist-activist Nina Elder of New Mexico, has benefitted Moon's communication, she said, equipping her with new forms of storytelling and illustration that are often more powerful than graphs or statistics.

"They tend to be more effective for connecting with people's values, which is so important," Moon said.

Elder and Moon, who have known each other since childhood, founded the Wheelhouse Institute, which weds science, communication and art by bringing together women from these various disciplines for an annual cohort. The program provides collaborative and relational professional development for women, equipping them for increasingly available leadership opportunities.

This past year saw Wheelhouse Institute's first group of women—a test run of sorts and in 2019 a new "class" of eight women will be chosen, meeting twice in Big Sky for long weekend workshops and through long-distance mediums between individual members during the rest of the year.

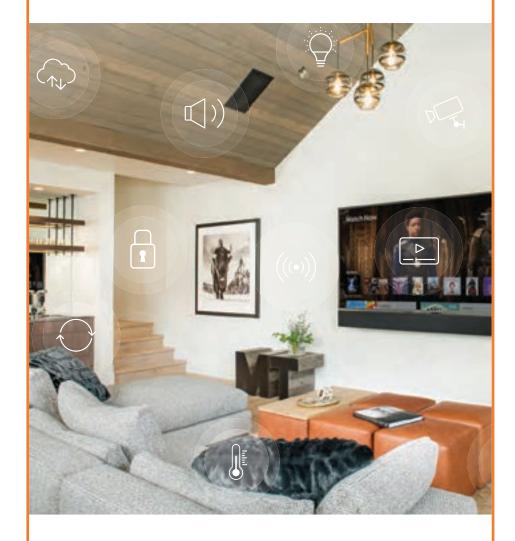
The program forges greater understandings between fields, and furnishes a community that empowers women to lead, both of which are important in the current environmental and political moment to mobilize positive change.

Twila Moon will speak at the third annual TEDxBigSky as part of the Big Sky Ideas Festival from Jan. 24-27. Visit tedxbigsky.com for ticket information. Visit wheelhouseinstitute.com or changingice.com to learn more about Moon's work.



Glaciologist Twila Moon has spent much of her career studying ice in Greenland. This photo was taken in the country's northwestern region while studying narwhals and the glacial environment with colleagues. PHOTO BY KRISTIN LAIDRE





SAV Digital Environments designs, manages, and installs innovative home and business automation solutions: Audio-Video Systems, Home Theater & Entertainment, Lighting Control, Automated Shades & Blinds, Security & Surveillance, Life Safety, Networking & IT, Wireless Systems, Climate Control & Energy Management, and more, all backed by 24/7 reliable customer service.



Audio-Video Systems

Theater & Entertainment



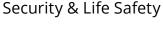
Automated Shades & Blinds

Lighting Control

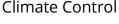




Surveillance & Alarm



Energy Management





Automation



Wireless Systems

406.586.5593 | info@savinc.net | www.savinc.net

46 January 4-17, 2019 **Explore** Big Sky

American Life in Poetry: Column 718

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

Nancy Miller Gomez lives in California and directs writing workshops for incarcerated men and women. This poem gives us a glimpse of innocent delight inside those walls. It's from her chapbook, "Punishment," from Rattle.

Growing Apples

By Nancy Miller Gomez

There is big excitement in C block today. On the window sill, in a plastic ice cream cup a little plant is growing. This is all the men want to talk about: how an apple seed germinated in a crack of damp concrete; how they tore open tea bags to collect the leaves, leached them in water, then laid the sprout onto the bed made of Lipton. How this finger of spring dug one delicate root down into the dark fannings and now two small sleeves of green are pushing out from the emerging tip. The men are tipsy with this miracle. Each morning, one by one, they go to the window and check the progress of the struggling plant. All through the day they return to stand over the seedling and whisper.

We do not accept unsolicited submissions. American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2018 by Nancy Miller Gomez, «Growing Apples,» from "Punishment" (Rattle, 2018). Poem reprinted by permission of Nancy Miller Gomez and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2018 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.

CROSSWORD PUZZ ACROSS aw 35 Sister of Ares Laccorar clar 37 Stille group Snow (Scot) 38 Hr. month 40 Prohabil Arner Cancer 42 To Be Society (abbril announced 10 Adh (atbri 11 Comparative 45 "Blus Slop" ending 12 Mayan year 14 Sprinstrument playwrigh; 47 Delph n bal 49 Prayer beads 16 Lens-shaped appropale 17 Cobic leel per 50 (Yeanged Industary 31 Airgle secondivable (18 Savory 32 (Senesis rabbi) 33 New (pref) Youngeter 21 Black octoniati cuckeo 54 (18d x Gen) E[D]E[N] 22 Egypt cueers of the gods 24 Heproach Turnig (Scot.) Cransman 20/30mi 15 Anglo-Saxon DOWN. 27 Cair age Viking Lecturation 3-609 Musical 30 Air s 19 Daughters of the American Wary Legend 31 Cicking nine nstrument 32 Marker (géleng) 10 All, Cuast Revolution Superlasore 33 Daydream (abbr.) Pacify IS 35 tolervening, in 190011 jabou ; 25 -River of Home Cardiopidmonary resuscitation. (966) 25 Herry 26 lund 27 Gerved letter 167 59 "00% 9, "styp.") 29 "00% 9, 34 Siege /2 words) 34 Cleas 35 Ֆոկ chajկոր people 37 Restant horning 39 Spesia За 38 Aliabic letter 39 Amagram (abb)) 41 ∃sic 12 =010 m 45 Verylee of India 46 44 S.A. slights 16 Beinnama le 'n, Sud a Madter of Business Apmenistration

(apple)

Jill Zeidler Ceramic Art

STUDIO + SHOP

FINE ART CERAMICS + HOME DÉCOR HANDMADE DINNERWARE HANDCRAFTED POTTERY GIFTS

Located in the Big Horn Shopping Center in Big Sky 406.599.1390 • jillzeidler.com



2201A Satur Publishing





CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL

NOTICE TO THE BIG SKY FIRE DEPARTMENT FIRE DISTRICT MEMBERS

An Election of two trustees for the Big Sky Fire District Board of Trustees will be held on May 7, 2019.

Declaration of Candidacy forms for the election are available at the Big Sky Fire Department, Station #1 - Westfork Meadows, 650 Rainbow Trout Run, Big Sky, Montana and the Gallatin County Election Department, Gallatin County Courthouse, 311 W. Main Street Room 210, Bozeman, Montana.

Original Declaration of Candidacy forms must be filed with the Gallatin County Election Department no later than 5:00 p.m. on February 11, 2019.





Lone Peak Performance + Fitness
is a full-service gym that offers gym memberships,
physical therapy, personal training, and nutrition
consultation dedicated to helping you reach
your personal summit. Drop in and join us.

MOVE BETTER • FEEL BETTER • LIVE BETTER

LOCATED IN BIG SKY MEADOW VILLAGE 32 MARKET PLACE • BIG SKY, MONTANA



OPEN DAILY 5AM-11PM





____JOIN US FOR ____

PRIME RIB SATURDAYS

AT LONE PEAK BREWERY AND TAPHOUSE INCLUDES ALL THE FIXIN'S

#PRIMERIBSATURDAYS

#BAROLYMPICSFRIDAY

#PASTAFRIDAYS

KITCHEN HOURS: 11:30AM - 11PM.

BAR OPEN LATER

48 MARKET PLACE BIG SKY, MT 59716

406.995.3939







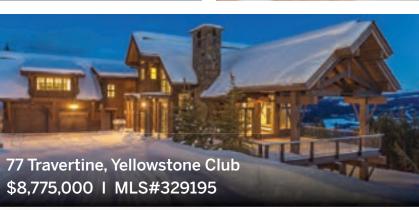












Agents

Highly-qualified real estate professionals with global reach and local Southwest Montana expertise





Big Sky STORIES WARREN MILLER

Top Stories of 2018

Last year was ushered in with record snow and visitors to Big Sky, Montana. We saw thousands of new skiers coming here from all parts of the U.S., as Montana had some of the best snow conditions in the country, and Colorado and California endured paltry snowfall. The first month of 2018 also brought sad news to the ski industry, when Warren Miller died on Jan. 24 at the age of 93.

The legendary filmmaker inspired so many of us to follow our dreams of spending a lifetime in the mountains. He also had an outsized impact on the Big Sky community—the Yellowstone Club named its main lodge after Miller, since he was so instrumental in the early growth of the club. Our outstanding performing arts center also bears his moniker, and his legacy is stamped on the programming presented on its stage each winter.

While the year began with the ending of Miller's era, 2018 finished with a new era beginning. Ramcharger 8 opened at Big Sky Resort on Dec. 15 to massive fanfare and anticipation. Taylor Middleton, the resort's general manager, and Boyne Resorts President Stephen Kircher hosted a press conference at the base of the mountain in front of hundreds of skiers and snowboarders eagerly waiting to ride North America's first eight-seat D-line chairlift.

In the intervening months we experienced a smoldering wildfire just south of Big Sky, a \$10 million-plus federal grant to improve the area's transportation infrastructure and numerous other transformative events in this resort hamlet. In the following pages you'll find Explore Big Sky's top news stories of 2018. I encourage you to read and reminisce about the year that was. – *Tyler Allen*

Big Sky transportation projects awarded \$10M federal grant

In March, U.S. Sen. Steve Daines announced that Gallatin County had been awarded a \$10.3 million grant for ambitious improvements along Big Sky's Lone Mountain Trail, also known as Highway 64, and to fund the expansion of the Big Sky Transportation District's public transit services.

The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant will be used for the construction of approximately seven left-turn lanes, a pedestrian tunnel beneath the highway, and nearly \$2.5 million for the Skyline bus system, which will include adding four buses and six vans to the existing public transport between Big Sky and the greater Bozeman area.

"Gallatin County is leading the state in economic growth," Daines said in a statement. "This grant will help the county meet the infrastructure demands of this rapid growth and continue creating good-paying jobs in the community."

The grant might also help the advancement of certain affordable housing projects in Big Sky, such as the Powder Light subdivision, which was stalled by a vote of Gallatin County commissioners who cited the lack of a turn lane on Lone Mountain Trail as a potential safety hazard.

Protected turn lanes are slated for the intersections at Ace Hardware-where the Powder Light housing entrance would be located-the Big Sky Medical Center, Roxy's Market, and the entrance to Big Sky Resort, among others that have seen numerous vehicle collisions in recent years.

"There are so many needs to address with the growth [in Big Sky]," said David Kack, coordinator for the Big Sky Transportation District and program manager for the Western Transportation Institute. "This is a great way to address many of the community's critical needs without finding a local funding source."

A 2017 transportation study commissioned by the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, and written by the Western Transportation Institute, identified numerous hazards on the state highway, including high traffic volumes and unprotected turning lanes.

WTI wrote the proposal for the TIGER grant in conjunction with Bozeman engineering firm Sanderson Stewart, and it was submitted by Gallatin County on behalf of Big Sky in October 2017. Kack said the design process for roadwork could begin as early as this summer, with construction likely happening in two phases during the 2019 and 2020 construction seasons.



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

The money for the transportation district is intended to address the issues of over-capacity in the area's transit system.

Big Sky Chamber of Commerce CEO Candace Carr Straus stressed the importance of the partnership among the various stakeholders in receiving the grant, entities that include WTI, Sanderson Stewart, the transportation district, the Big Sky Community Organization, the chamber of commerce, and both Gallatin and Madison counties for adopting the transportation study in their growth plans. She also pointed to the funding from the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board in making the initial study possible.

"We're honored that the Big Sky community trusts us to be the catalyst for tackling some of the major infrastructure-related challenges that we're facing with our growth here," she said.

The funding is available to Gallatin County until 2025, but Kack said they anticipate that the project will be completed as quickly as possible.

"This proposal was a big focus on rural economic development," Kack said. "We really played up that Lone Mountain Trail was the only public access to Big Sky, which is a big economic driver for Montana."

Big Sky Resort opens 2018-2019 season with epic conditions

Thanksgiving weekend is traditionally a time to spend with family and friends, eat too much and watch football. If you were in Big Sky, Montana for the 2018-2019 opening weekend, however, you had the chance to ski powder until your legs ached. The resort set a new record for snow in November: 76 inches, eclipsing the previous record of 74 inches set in 1988.

Big Sky Resort opened Nov. 22, Thanksgiving Day, with 780 acres of open terrain and coverage that looked more like January than November. By the time the long weekend was over, the resort's mountain operations teams had opened 1,152 acres and 60 trails. The ability to ski this much terrain on opening weekend is nearly unprecedented, and included much of the Challenger terrain, The Bowl from Powder Seeker, and Liberty Bowl off the Lone Peak Tram.

According to Taylor Middleton, general manager and president of Big Sky Resort, the mountain saw "the best opening day conditions in many years."

The auspicious start to the season was only eclipsed by a snowstorm that began Friday night, Nov. 23, and dropped more than 12 inches of snow on the peak, according to Big Sky Ski Patrol. All told, as of press day on Jan. 2, Big Sky Resort has seen 140 inches of snow this season at midmountain.

Patrollers were also able to open Liberty Bowl for a couple of hours on Thanksgiving Day despite advertising scenic-only tram rides for the day. By Sunday, bluebird skies and deep powder on Liberty Bowl awaited skiers and snowboarders willing to tempt the early season conditions.

The following week, ski patrol worked hard to open as much terrain as



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

they safely could, and more acreage opened daily, according to Stacie Mesuda, Big Sky Resort's public relations manager. This is Mesuda's first winter at Big Sky Resort after a stint working at Colorado's Beaver Creek Resort, and she was floored by the conditions.

"The snow was amazing, and it was probably the best opening day of my four years in the ski industry," she said. "We've just had so much snow and the coverage is great. The mountain operations teams have done a great job getting the mountain open."

While the resort did not release skier-day numbers for the weekend, Mesuda said visitation numbers were record breaking over the holidays.



CREATING **CONNECTIONS**.
INSPIRING **ACTION**.
BRINGING TOGETHER **BIG IDEAS**IN BIG SKY.



THURSDAY JAN. 24

Fireside Presentation about Bear 399 by Todd Wilkinson Horn and Cantle Saloon at Lone Mountain Ranch | 4-6pm

FRIDAY JAN. 25

Jamie McLean Band concert featuring Dammit Lauren and The Well

Big Sky Resort's Montana Jack

Tickets: \$20 at explorebigsky.com, \$30 at door



SATURDAY JAN. 26

Warren Miller Performing Arts Center | Doors open at 4pm Tickets and info at tedxbigsky.com

SUNDAY JAN. 27

Jay Sanguinetti — Stimulating the brain with light and sound to boost your meditation practice

Limited to 15 people! | Santosha Wellness Center | 1-3pm Tickets: \$45 at santoshabigsky.com

The Flute of the Infinite — An Evening with Ulla Suokko Warren Miller Performing Arts Center | 5-7pm
Tickets: start at \$22 at warrenmillerpac.org



FROM OUR WALK-IN HUMIDOR







Sholly appointed new YNP superintendent

In mid-June, Cameron "Cam" Sholly was appointed the new superintendent of Yellowstone National Park. He visited Big Sky on Nov. 15 and spoke at the Big Sky Real Estate Discovery Center in Town Center, sharing his perspective on budget issues and wildlife management and park visitation.

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

"This place is near and dear to my heart," Sholly told the audience, adding that he first skied Big Sky Resort in 1985 as a junior at Gardiner High School.

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

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

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

"At this point, the answer to that is no," he said. "Does that mean that at some point that couldn't happen?"

If visitation rose significantly, he added, conversations about ways to reduce numbers would likely ensue, but that they would include Yellowstone's gateway communities.

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

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

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

In 2018, the park hosted 4,078,770 visits, according to a Nov. 14 press release, which is down 0.15 percent from the same period last year and down 3 percent from the park's record visitation year in 2016, the year Yellowstone celebrated its 100th anniversary.

BSCO swaps land, purchases 3 acres in Town Center

According to the results of a 2017 community needs survey that informed Big Sky Community Organization's Parks and Open Spaces Plan, an indoor recreation facility was high on the wish list of local residents. BSCO now hopes to give the community what it wants.

The vision was put into action first in October, when BSCO announced plans to purchase 3.3 acres in Big Sky. The parcel, located in Town Center along Aspen Leaf Drive and between Ousel Falls Road and Simkins Drive, includes the current Town Center Park that houses the Music in the Mountains concert series and Big Sky Skating and Hockey Association's ice rink, along with the currently vacant gravel parking area to the east. By purchasing this property, according to an October statement from BSCO, the community is ensured a permanent place to gather outside and enjoy recreational and enrichment opportunities.

The purchase was made possible through a \$1.5 million grant from the Len Hill Charitable Trust, and in-kind support of the Simkins family and 15 additional donors, the statement said.

"To be able to anchor 3.3 acres of valuable real estate in the heart of our community for parkland and community facilities is a dream come true," said BSCO Executive Director Ciara Wolfe.

On the heels of the purchase, BSCO proposed swapping a parcel of land east of the Big Sky Community Park. In return, BSCO requested 40 SFEs—single-family equivalents—20 of which would be used for a recreation facility and park bathrooms on Town Center parcel. The Big Sky Community Organization requested the other 20 SFEs be set aside for an aquatic center, for which funds and land will eventually be procured.



RENDERING COURTESY OF BSCO

Aside from the school and the water and sewer district meeting room where the meeting was held, "there is not a single other location that is publicly available for use—owned by a public entity—in our community that has indoor space," Wolfe said. "And we have well over six months of winter."

Wolfe said the area's many nonprofits would use the facility, and that through sustainable building practices such as LEED, the center would be good way to showcase Big Sky's environmental ethics, sometimes overshadowed by the area's growth.

BSCO closed on the property in Town Center on Dec. 21. A groundbreaking date and construction schedule have not been set as the organization continues raising funds for the project.



WANT TO BE A

river guide.

Boundary Expeditions has limited spots available for the 2019 guide school. Learn to guide on one of the "Top 3 rivers" in the world -

MIDDLE FORK OF THE SALMON







Dates: June 7th to 13th

\$2500 - price includes swift water rescue training and fully inclusive 5 day river trip

For information or to book contact Boundary at 1-888-948-4337 or info@boundaryexpeditions.com



Warren Miller: A legend passes

It is impossible to overstate the impact that Warren Miller had on the ski industry, or on the millions of fans he encouraged to carve out an existence in the mountains and spend their lives chasing the perfect powder day.

Miller died Jan. 24 of natural causes at his home on Orcas Island, Washington, sending a wave of mourning around the world that swelled especially high in his winter home of Big Sky.

Born in 1924, in Hollywood, California, during the height of the Great Depression, Miller emerged from a hardscrabble youth to become the most important figure in action sports filmmaking. He purchased his first camera at age 12 for 39 cents, and a pair of skis and bamboo poles for \$2 when he was 15.

"When you come down the mountain from your first time on skis, you are a different person," Miller wrote in his 2016 autobiography, "Freedom Found." "I had just now experienced that feeling, if only for half a minute; it was step one in the direction I would follow the rest of my life."

What he didn't know at the time was there were countless others who would follow that very first step of his.

Inventing the quintessential ski bum lifestyle, Miller and his buddy Ward Baker lived in a teardrop trailer in the parking lots of ski areas around the West, shooting ducks and rabbits for dinner and filming their mountainside escapades on Miller's 8-millimeter Bell and Howell motion camera. Those exploits appeared in his first feature film, "Deep and Light," which premiered in the fall of 1950.

The decades that followed weren't always the stuff of fairy tales professionally or personally, but his persistence, artistry and love for gravity made Miller a household name—drilling his distinctive voice and notorious wit into the memory of nearly everyone who has clicked into ski bindings or strapped on a snowboard.

When he and his wife, Laurie, took a chance on an upstart private ski community in Big Sky, the Yellowstone Club, Miller became the director of skiing and the club's biggest advocate. The pair would spend the next two decades splitting their time between Montana and Orcas Island.

"I met Warren in 2005 and skied with him and my kids in March at the [Yellowstone] Club," said Sam Byrne, co-founder of CrossHarbor Capital Partners, the principle owner of the Yellowstone Club. "I was just in awe. Being a kid that grew up in the '70s and '80s, I idolized his movies. They defined skiing for me."

Byrne grew up skiing at the now-defunct Boston Hill in Andover, Massachusetts, as well as Maine's Sugarloaf Mountain Resort, and said he always attends

the annual Warren Miller film tour—including 2017's "Line of Descent" in November at the Cabot Theater in Beverly, Massachusetts.

"Warren was an icon in the industry and lent tremendous credibility to the club in its early days," Byrne said. "It would not have materialized without his stalwart support."

Warren and Laurie had a slope-side home above the eponymous, 140,000-square-foot Warren Miller Lodge at the ski area, and by all accounts Miller was humbled by the gesture. The Yellowstone Club also honored his name with the Warren Miller Cup, a giant-slalom relay race held annually in February, which now includes more than 100 participants of all abilities—just the way Miller liked it.

But his impact on this southwest Montana community stretched beyond the gated ski and golf resort, as he also lent his name to Big Sky's Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, located in Lone Peak High School.

The capital campaign to build the theater began with the 2011 Strings Under the Big Sky annual fundraiser, sponsored by the nonprofit Friends of Big Sky Education. When Miller was asked to lend his name to the venue, he was thrilled—and, again, humbled.

It opened in March 2013, with Miller on the stage, and he subsequently performed at the MOTH event in February 2014. He told two stories instead of one, but no one dared cut him off, according to WMPAC Artistic Director John Zirkle

"It's really Warren's name that enables us to take big risks, and big leaps into the unknown, knowing there's greater beauty on the other side," Zirkle said. "I think it's like Warren is there, especially when we're getting nervous about something that is scary, to think about him whispering, 'Hey, if you don't do it this year, you'll be one year older when you do."

Schmidt was an extreme skiing pioneer, Warren Miller Entertainment film star and Montana native. He grew up racing at Bridger Bowl Ski Area, and when he was 18, his coach told him he had a shot to make it big, and should leave Montana for an elite program. Schmidt moved to Squaw Valley, California, in 1979 and competed for three seasons before the financial challenges of racing forced him to quit.

"I started freeskiing with a bunch of long-haired speed skiers, going big and fast on the 220s off of cliffs," he said, referring to the 220-centimeter skis of the day.

In 1983, Miller sent a cameraman to Squaw named Gary Nate, who called Schmidt up to go ski Squaw's biggest, gnarliest lines. The footage from that session would appear in Miller's feature "Ski Time," and a few weeks after the shoot, Schmidt received a personal letter from Miller that he still has to this day.

"Dear Scot," it reads, "the footage of you leaping through space at Squaw Valley is probably the most spectacular footage to come into my office. Next time my crews go to a foreign country to film a segment for a feature film would you be interested?"

Schmidt agreed and ended up appearing in more than a dozen Warren Miller titles, including 1992's "Extreme Skiing 3: The Scot Schmidt Story." He managed to turn freeskiing into a profession and has been a North Face-sponsored athlete for 35 years.

"I'd never skied with him back in the '80s. It wasn't until I got to Big Sky [that] I started to get to know the man," Schmidt said. "It was such a pleasure working with him. He lived a very full life and should be proud of what he did and all the people's lives, including mine, that he changed."

Schmidt is now part of the team working on a feature-length documentary of the filmmaking legend's life, narrated entirely by Miller himself. They hope to release it next fall and enter it into the 2019 Sundance Film Festival.

"A lot of us owe him a huge debt of gratitude for changing our lives, inspiring and encouraging us to find our freedom in the mountains," Schmidt said. "Warren is the most successful ski bum in history. He basically created the lifestyle and culture."



PHOTO COURTESY OF WARREN MILLER ENTERTAINMENT

Schmidt's professional career came full circle when he started working at the Yellowstone Club in 2003, and then became the official ski ambassador in 2006. As Schmidt experienced through that first correspondence from Miller, he wasn't just a brilliant artist, but a master salesman. Eric Ladd, the publisher of EBS, worked at the Yellowstone Club in its early days with Miller and founder Tim Blixseth, doing everything from ski guiding to real estate sales.

"Warren once told me that 90 percent of real estate sales are made on the hood of a car, 15 minutes before someone's plane departs. Warren was the finest salesman I have ever met," Ladd said. In 2002, Miller bought the hood of a car, had it turned into a desk and installed in Ladd's office at the club.

Charlie Callander has worked at the Yellowstone Club since 2001 in a number of different roles, including vice president of sales and his current positions as a liaison for members and a board member of the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation.



PHOTO BY TRAVIS ANDERSEN

He fondly remembers his days skiing with Miller, who would schuss down the private slopes in his red one-piece until he was 86, when his health no longer allowed him to ski.

"A lot of people at the club would use that 86 [year old] benchmark as, 'I want to ski at least as long as Warren did," Callander said, adding that Miller wasn't just an inspiration to members and guests, but the entire mountain staff. "He'd attend the ski instructors' morning meetings three times a year, telling them how important it was to bring people the freedom of skiing," he said. "You could hear a pin drop."

Passionate about the sport of skiing perhaps beyond compare, Miller will not be forgotten.

"We loved him and he'll be deeply missed by everybody in our community," Byrne said. "But that voice will live on."

If you're one of the lucky ones to spend a season, decade, or a lifetime pursuing your perfect turn, take a moment to thank Warren Miller. His first step made the dream a reality for so many of us.



PHOTO BY TRAVIS ANDERSEN



Wildfires in southwest Montana

In a year when wildfires burned north of the Arctic Circle and one in which California saw its largest and most destructive wildfire on record, southwest Montana saw its share of blazes although the costs were significantly lower than the yearly average for the state.

In Madison County last August, the Wigwam Fire tore through more than 4,000 acres, while to the south the Monument Fire burned nearly 7,000 acres.

The Bacon Rind fire, 20 miles south of Big Sky, began on July 20 in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness and moved into the west end of Yellowstone National Park, according to Big Sky Fire Chief William Farhat. Although suppression efforts were limited on the Bacon Rind fire, crews were given permission to battle the blaze before it reached Highway 191, Farhat said.

While the fire burned in an area untouched by wildfire in 150 years, the area was relatively light in fuel load, according to Inciweb, the national all-risk incident information network that the U.S. Forest Service utilizes to keep the public aware of wildfires, among other emergency incidents.

Fire crews closely monitored the fires and undertook preparatory measures—building firewalls, clearing brush, trees and other potential fuels—to stop or slow the fires were they to have come out of the mountains and into the valleys.

"This time of year, our goal is to get out there and keep fires from growing," Farhat told EBS in mid-August. "So, if the fire does advance in this direction we are prepared."

After rain and snow slowed the fire in early October, crews were demobilized from the incident and it was contained at approximately 5,200 acres.

The Bacon Rind Fire helped clean out dead and downed trees in the area, while restoring a healthy ecosystem that will be conducive to new growth and create great habitat for wildlife, according to Inciweb. The fire also helped reduce the potential for a future large fire in the location, the website said.

Wildfire suppression efforts cost Montana approximately \$6.7 million in 2018, far less than the annual average of \$20 million.

Addressing Big Sky's growth:

Water and sewer district unveils \$21M plant upgrade

The Big Sky Water and Sewer District unveiled an estimated \$21.7 million wastewater treatment plant upgrade on Nov. 27 that would 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 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.

Once irrigation season began, the district disposed of roughly 200 million gallons of effluent through irrigation, pumping more than half that volume up 2,000 feet in elevation through a 7.2-mile pipeline to the Yellowstone Club and Spanish Peaks, according to Grant Burroughs, the district's wastewater superintendent.



PHOTO COURTESY OF YELLOWSTONE CLUB



ALL MUSIC
COMMERCIAL-FREE
COMMUNITY RADIO
BOZEMAN 91.9 FM
MSU 97.1
HELENA 89.1
LIVINGSTON 89.5
GARDINER/
MAMMOTH 107.1
BIG TIMBER 90.5
www.KGLT.net



Two new hotels coming to Big Sky

Construction was cranking in Big Sky in 2018, and two hotels are among the buildings taking form: the Wilson Hotel in Town Center and Montage Big Sky in Spanish Peaks Mountain Club.

The Wilson is slated to finish at the end of May, according to Bayard Dominick, vice president of planning and development for Lone Mountain Land Company, while construction of the Montage is expected to be complete in 2021.

Co-branded as a Marriot Residence Inn, each of the Wilson's 129 rooms will have its own kitchenette, accommodating guests who don't want to eat out every night, such as skiers staying for extended visits.

The hotel will offer rooms ranging from standard kings and double queens, to one- and two-bedroom suites, some with lock-off options. Six units will overlook the pool toward Lone Mountain and another six, down the plaza.

The Wilson's retail and restaurant space will border the plaza with a second entrance providing public restrooms to support plaza events like farmers markets, and the hotel will house a 5,800 square-foot restaurant space, which will have outdoor seating on the plaza.

LMLC is developing the Wilson in collaboration with the Simkins family, Town Center's master developer.

"We believe that the Wilson Hotel will be a game-changer for the Town Center, the Meadow, and by extension the entire community," said Ryan Hamilton, Town Center's project manager.

The \$400 million Montage Big Sky will be constructed next to the Spanish Peaks Mountain Club clubhouse. At 520,000 square feet, the hotel will have 150 rooms, 39 branded residences and Big Sky's first bowling alley. Four distinct



RENDERING COURTESY OF BECHTLE ARCHITECTS AND JIM COLLINS

restaurants and spa services will be available to the public, while hotel guests will have limited access to the Spanish Peaks golf course. Montage Big Sky at Spanish Peaks will be the first luxury hotel of this caliber in the state, said CrossHarbor managing director Matt Kidd at a Sept. 14 groundbreaking ceremony.

"It's a huge benefit for this Gallatin and Madison county-based economy," Kidd said, adding that the project will create 300 construction jobs a day for the next three years and provide more than 400 operational jobs once open.

Sam Byrne, managing partner and co-founder of CrossHarbor Capital Partners, said that between the three CrossHarbor-owned clubs—the Yellowstone Club, Spanish Peaks Mountain Club, and Moonlight Basin—it employs more than 1,500 people and "close to 3,000 people a day in high-paying construction jobs.

"Just this project alone will generate \$1.2 million dollars in resort taxes," Byrne said, adding that projections for future projects they plan to implement are forecast to increase resort tax collections by approximately \$5 million over the next six years.





GET IN & GO







GCOT GEAR?



WE DO!



SHOP NOW: THEOUTLAWPARTNERS.COM/GEAR



PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

Big Sky Resort introduces state-of-the-art chairlift

A prototypical bluebird morning at Big Sky Resort found hundreds gathered on Dec. 15 to witness shockwaves ripple into the North American ski industry. A roar erupted from the crowd as Stephen Kircher, president of Boyne Resorts, and his son Everett, employed a giant pair of scissors to cut the ribbon on the most technologically advanced lift in the world.

The legions of skiers, snowboarders and journalists were on hand to see the Doppelmayr-built Ramcharger 8 spin with passengers for the first time, and to celebrate the much-anticipated season opening of Andesite Mountain. The eight-seat chairs are replete with heated seats, a massive Big Sky-blue wind bubble and padded back rests.

After the historic first chair loaded with Stephen and Everett Kircher, Big Sky Resort General Manager Taylor Middleton and Doppelmayr President Mark Bee, smiles flashed throughout the crowd as skiers were whisked up Andesite.

Stephen Kircher told EBS about the past, present and future of Boyne's investment into Big Sky Resort and spoke first about the significance of this lift to this continent's ski industry.

"This transforms technology in North America. No one else made the leap to the eight-place in North America," Kircher said. "This is that step, and others are going to have to think about it."

He put Ramcharger 8 in context of "Big Sky 2025," the planned \$150-million investment that will be rolled out over a decade, transforming Big Sky Resort into "America's Alp." It began in earnest during the summer of 2016, when the resort installed the six-seat Doppelmayr Powder Seeker—a lift with heated seats and a wind bubble that cut the ride time to the top of The Bowl from 10 minutes to three—and a fixed-grip triple chairlift accessing the Challenger terrain, after the previous lift experienced mortal mechanical failure.

"Our plans are to execute a series of new lifts, with Powder Seeker, this [Ramcharger 8] lift and others in a sequence," Kircher said. "So, we're going to be able to, we think, leapfrog everyone else for a number of years. The comfort, the safety, the reliability—this new technology is pretty amazing."

He also touched on the near future of the "America's Alp" execution, which includes a complete remodel of the Mountain Mall next summer, and a new gondola to be built in two stages. That project, he said, should begin construction next summer or the following.

"We've been in this for the long-term, since 1976, and this is just another chapter in that long-term commitment to this community and southwest Montana," he said. "Momentum is picking up, not slowing down. [We're] building on that heritage and transforming it into something that's really going to be truly international in flavor."

Meadowview subdivision to help address workforce housing

Over the course of 2018, a group of individuals vested in identifying more affordable housing options in Big Sky made monumental strides in making it easier for workers to live in the area, an issue that has plagued this resort community for decades.

On April 24, Gallatin County commissioners unanimously approved a preliminary plat for the Meadowview Condominiums subdivision, a 52-unit affordable housing project north of the Big Sky Community Park off Little Coyote Drive.

The planned units include 14 duplexes and 12 freestanding units with a smaller garage apartment unit, and have studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom options.

On Aug. 22, the Human Resource and Development Council signed a purchase agreement for the Meadowview property.

In November, Laura Seyfang, the newly appointed program director of the HRDC's Big Sky Community Housing Trust said the first units will be completed by April, despite construction delays. Phase one of the project will include three studios and 15 two-bedroom units, each with its own single-car garage.

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

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

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

Last February, findings were released from a housing survey distributed in 2017 with 1,112 responses from Big Sky residents and others who commute here for work from elsewhere. A housing action plan drawing on these findings was released in June, which outlines steps to provide approximately 300 community housing units within five years, target a range of housing needs the market doesn't currently meet, and to provide community housing in step with job growth.



PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS

The Meadowview property is meant to address year-round Big Sky workers looking to buy homes but can't afford the inflated prices of a resort market. The Big Sky Resort Area District tax board bankrolled a \$1.75 million sum to subsidize the project, stipulating that the units be deed-restricted to ensure the housing stays affordable through multiple owners.

"If you only subsidize the first family then they'd get a big windfall when they sold and then we wouldn't have anything more for future families," said Britt Ide, a housing trust council member and executive director of the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation.

"This is a huge investment in our community, and it makes sense because the resort tax is paid a lot by tourists, and the people that are housed here are supporting the tourist economy," Ide said, referring to BSRAD's \$1.75 million of funding. "We can't have a town without people living here."



Traditional and Contemporary Western Art

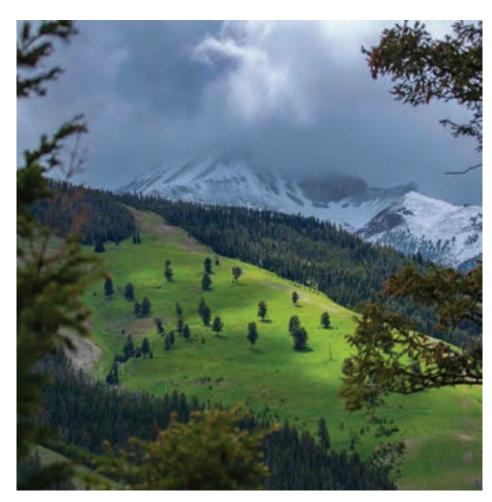


Top Social Media Posts of 2018

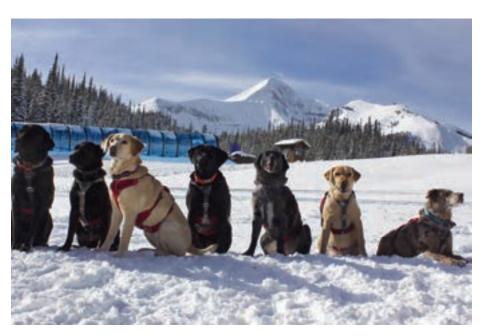
EBS has been publishing a "Top Stories of the Year" section for nearly a decade. Over that span the media world has shifted in dramatic ways and many of our stories are increasingly sourced through social media. Here are the Top Social Media posts for 2018 based on analytics and user engagement. And they include some amazing photography.



July 27: Five minutes to showtime!! The first round of wool riders will be riding tonight. Always a crowd favorite, don't miss mutton bustin'! PHOTO BY CARIE BIRKMEIER



June 11: Seasonal confusion? Green grass blankets Andesite Mountain today, while 4 inches of snow was recorded midway up the peak and more fell up high. #Junuary PHOTO BY JENNINGS BARMORE



Nov. 20: @Big Sky Resort Ski Patrol's avalanche dogs posed Nov. 10 for their team photo in between trainings for the upcoming winter season. These obedient and highly specialized canines are trained to find humans that have been buried beneath the snow, aiding in avalanche rescue. PHOTO BY CODY WHITMER



April 28: Fifth-grader Grady Towle has ridden his fat bike to Ophir Elementary School every day that he has attended school this year. "The coldest days were not that bad. It's the days with fresh snow when it is hard to get traction that are tough." The school board recognized Grady as the "toughest kid at Ophir" and awarded him a gift certificate for a free tune-up at Gallatin Alpine Sports. PHOTO BY DOUG HARE



April 29: Some kayakers enjoying the higher river flows and warm weather today at Ousel Falls. PHOTO BY DANIEL BULLOCK