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ON THE COVER:

A bull elk rests along the banks of the Madison River in Yellowstone National Park. March marks the start of elk antler shed season. Learn more about this fascinating subject on pages 20-21. NPS PHOTO

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MSU Professor helps find ISIS narrator

MSU NEWS SERVICE

BOZEMAN — A Montana State University researcher was included in a front-page New York Times story on Monday for using audio forensics to help the newspaper confirm the identity of a prominent Islamic State militant.

According to the article, The Times turned to Rob Maher, a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering in MSU's Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering, and two other well-known audio-forensic experts to confirm that Mohammed Khalifa, a 35-year-old Canadian citizen, was indeed the man who narrated videos for IS. Later, The Times reported, a U.S. official confirmed Khalifa's identity.

Maher uses sophisticated software and other tools to analyze recorded soundwaves and has published more than 20 papers on the subject. Most of his audio forensics research at MSU has been funded by the National Institute of Justice, and he has testified on audio evidence in courtrooms around the country. Maher recently authored a book, titled "Principles of Forensic Audio Analysis," intended chiefly for law enforcement officials and forensic investigators.

Yellowstone roads closing for spring plows

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Roads in Yellowstone National Park will begin closing to oversnow travel on March 1 for spring plowing. All oversnow travel will end for the season on March 15 at 9 p.m. Weather permitting, some park roads will reopen to automobile travel on April 19 at 8 a.m.

The East Entrance to Lake Butte Overlook (Sylvan Pass) closes on March 1, Mammoth Hot Springs to Norris closes on March 3, Norris to Madison and Norris to Canyon Village close on March 5, and all remaining groomed roads close on March 15.

For the most current information on road conditions and closures, visit nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/parkroads.htm or call (307) 344-2117 for recorded information. In addition, sign up to receive Yellowstone road alerts on your mobile phone by texting "82190" to 888-777 (an automatic text reply will confirm receipt and provide instructions).

LPHS junior raising money for all-weather track, cost of teacher housing project on horizon

EBS STAFF

For her Creativity Action Service project—IB's version of a capstone—Lone Peak High School junior Madison Rager seeks to raise between \$350,000 and \$400,000 for a 400-meter, basic, all-weather track around the athletic field at Big Sky School District. At the Feb. 21 school board meeting, Rager presented her project to the school board and asked for approval of her CAS project.

"I'm really interested in getting our school a track," Rager said, explaining that she was willing to work on the project even after she graduated from the school.

The improved surface would help reduce shin splints among runners, better prepare the track team for meets elsewhere and inspire increased track and field participation among the younger grades, Rager told the board. It could also lead to LPHS hosting track meets in the future, BSSD Athletic Direct John Hannahs said.

With help from Anna Shipley and Barbara Rowley, Rager plans to apply to the Yellowstone Club Community Foundation, Moonlight Basin Community Foundation and Big Sky Resort Area District tax board for funding.

Stakeholders to discuss Gallatin Canyon water priorities

EBS STAFF

The Big Sky Water and Sewer District is inviting the community to attend a second meeting to discuss priorities for Gallatin Canyon's water resources and infrastructure on March 6 from 1-3 p.m. in the BSWSD meeting room.

Agenda topics include forming a water and sewer district in the canyon, forming a septic maintenance district, options for community water systems, and water rights considerations for the canyon. Points of discussion will include potential next steps, and canyon volunteers forming a steering committee.

The final presenter list had not been released as of EBS press time on Feb. 27.

U.S. House of Representatives passes Land and Water Conservation Fund

EBS STAFF

On Feb. 26, the U.S. House passed the Natural Resources Management Act in a 363-52 vote. The bill is a public lands package that includes the Land and Water Conservation Fund and previously passed the Senate on Feb. 13. The bill will now sit on President Trump's desk and he is expected to sign it.

The Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act falls under the NRMA. If signed by Trump, the act would permanently ban mining on 30,000 acres of public land just outside Yellowstone National Park.

"As we celebrate this important milestone, we celebrate the program's original intent," said Jonathan Asher, Government Relations Manager at The Wilderness Society and a spokesman for the LWCF Coalition, "...that proceeds from public resource extraction will be dedicated to the protection of our greatest natural parks and outdoor places."

9-year-old found deceased at Big Sky Resort

EBS STAFF

On Tuesday, Feb. 19, a 9-year-old boy from Carlisle, Massachusetts died while skiing at Big Sky Resort, according to a Feb. 22 statement from the Gallatin County Sheriff's Office.

The boy's father reported his son missing near the junction of Middle Road and Lobo Ski Run. He was found deceased in a tree well shortly after and was reported to have died due to blunt force and injuries caused by hitting a tree on a steep slope, the statement said.

Resort officials declined to comment out of respect for the family's wishes for privacy.



On Feb. 8, a Montana House panel rejected Rep. David Fern's, D-Whitefish, House Bill 185 which called for an extension of state brewery operation hours, replacing the current 8 p.m. mandated closure with a 10 p.m. one. The grounds for said rejection? Breweries are considered manufacturers, not retailers. What are your thoughts on the decision?



Alan Kline Big Sky

If people have the option to choose to work there, they basically choose those hours. I don't see what the issue is.



Sarah Maloney Big Sky

I think it's a little ridiculous that breweries don't enjoy the same laws as bars to be able to serve later into the evening, and later hours would be good for small businesses in those areas.



Will Ligon *Big Sky*

It seems like breweries are a completely different entity from a manufacturer. I mean, it's not like they're making something like a chair, they're making something you consume. I don't get it, you can go to a bar or a casino late, and this decision doesn't help nearby businesses.



Peter Carroll
Bozeman

I don't go to breweries too much, but when I do go I always feel like 8 p.m. is too early, especially on the weekend. I think extending until 10 would be great.





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OUTLAW

News from our publisher, Outlaw Partners

EBS "In Your Element" contest launches March 1

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

Beginning this March, the Explore Big Sky newspaper is holding a monthly contest where winners will receive \$250 for submitting the most compelling photo or video submission. The contest is just one of several upcoming digital initiatives aimed at increasing audience engagement.

Where are you "In Your Element?" Your task is to capture that moment. You don't need to be in the content itself, it just has to be a captivating video or photo that successfully demonstrates your "element." Whether you're ripping down a narrow chute, climbing a sheet of ice, hauling in a fat brown trout, running cattle, or simply taking an incredible landscape image, we want to know what makes you tick this March.

The rules and regulations are simple:

First, follow @explorebigsky and @outlawpartners on Instagram.

Next, submit your content to submissions@theoutlawpartners.com. The subject line for each email submission must read, "EBS In Your Element Contest," for contest consideration.



The Explore Big Sky "In Your Element" contest is an opportunity for our audience to showcase their passions in video or a photograph—with the chance to win \$250 in the process. EBS contributor skins his way through Hyalite Canyon, a perfect example of an "In Your Element" contendor. PHOTO BY KEVIN MCAVEY

The period for submissions begins March 1, and ends Wednesday, March 27. Any video submissions must be trimmed to 30 seconds or less, and each contestant is permitted to submit a maximum of three videos over the course of the submission period.

Each submission must include a general location of where the photo or video was taken (for example, Big Sky Resort, Hyalite Canyon or Yellowstone National Park), and an Instagram handle for tagging purposes. Other than trimming videos for appropriate timing, we ask that all submissions be "raw" and otherwise unedited.

On Friday, March 29 we will alert the winner via email and Instagram private message, and on Sunday, March 31 we will repost the winning photo or video with a write-up on the contestant and what about

their submission spoke to the EBS editorial team. At that stage, it is entirely appropriate to collect some bragging rights from friends and family, along with the coveted prize money.

Our hope is the champion will use their winnings to fund their next outing, to further propel them into the beauty and awesomeness of their "element."

Get out and send it!



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Community visioning process "Our Big Sky" kicks off

Planning consultants from Logan Simpson, the firm hired by the Big Sky Resort Area District tax board to carry out a community visioning process, met with community members for one-on-one interviews at Compass Café Feb. 26 and Caliber Coffee Feb. 27. In this photo, from left to right, Logan Simpson planning consultant Megan Moore met with community member Caitlin Lundin while her colleague, Bruce Meighen, interviewed community member Gary Hermann at Caliber Coffee on Feb. 27. As part of the visioning process, "Polaroids and Pints" events were also held at Gallatin Riverhouse Grill and Beehive Basin Brewery on Feb. 27 and 28, respectively, to engage local voices in a communitybased dialogue focused on capturing what is already successful in Big Sky, as well as what initiatives and projects might further improve the town.

This first phase, which entails informing the community about the Visioning Strategy and gathering input, will stretch into March while the entire five-phase process is expect to wrap up in November.

PHOTO BY BAY STEPHENS





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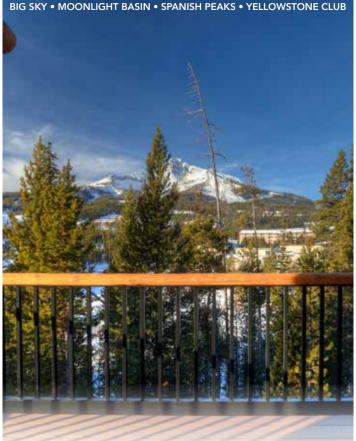
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Bozeman airport to begin work on large-scale expansion

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY

BOZEMAN – Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport plans to add approximately 70,000 square feet to the existing concourse by the summer of 2020. This increase seeks to accommodate a steady growth in annual passengers, reflecting a rise in tourism and residency in the Gallatin Valley and surrounding areas.

The last expansion occurred 10 years ago when the Gallatin Airport Authority approved developments to accommodate up to 1.5 million passengers annually, more than double the levels seen at that point time, according to a Feb. 25 GAA statement. The airport expects to meet that 1.5 million threshold in 2019.

Brian Sprenger has worked at the Bozeman airport for 36 years, originally on the airline side of the industry, and then for airport itself. Looking back now, as airport director for the last 10 years, he never thought the scope of these expansions would be possible.

"It's way, way beyond what we imagined, what this place would become," Sprenger told EBS in a Feb. 26 interview. "Many of us knew Bozeman [Yellowstone International Airport] was a strong growth airport, but no one expected the amount of growth and this rate of growth."

GAA selected the Bozeman-based engineering consultant Morrison-Maierle, Comma-Q Architecture and general contractor Martel Construction, Inc., along with the nationally recognized Reynolds, Smith & Hills architecture, engineering and consulting firm to undertake the scheduled concourse additions.

Neither local nor state taxes will fund the \$27 million project, a principal the airport has operated on and used to expand for more than 30 years. Instead, a combination of financing from GAA's capital improvement fund and Airport Improvement Program grants will pay for the expansion.

According to Sprenger, construction will begin almost immediately with Martel Construction breaking ground by the end of March.

Tony Martel, president of the eponymous company, suggests the project will have a positive impact on the Bozeman and Gallatin Valley job market, creating an estimated 500 direct and indirect jobs over the course of the construction.



Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport has been approved for a 70,000-square-foot concourse expansion, with plans to break ground in March. RENDERING COURTESY OF BOZEMAN YELLOWSTONE INTERNATIONAL

"This expansion, much like the previous ones, will maintain the style and décor of previous expansions welcoming friends, family, and visitors to our amazing community," said Carl Lehrkind IV, board chairman of the Gallatin Airport Authority, in the statement

Sprenger echoed Lehrkind's sentiment, noting that all new food vendors and shops in the concourse will feature Montana products and Montana ownership, a continuation of the status quo at the Bozeman airport.

"We feel that people travel to Montana because there are things here that can't be found elsewhere," Sprenger said. "The same is true for goods purchased in Montana. They don't come here to buy things that aren't from Montana, things they could buy anywhere else."

This expansion, and the spatial demands driving it, is emblematic of the explosive growth seen in countless sectors and communities around Gallatin County. In Sprenger's opinion, there is plenty of growth yet unseen.

"If this is any indication of where it's headed, it's bound to get even crazier."



The Skinny

Additional 1 percent resort tax: Where from? Where to?

On Wednesday, Feb. 20, the Senate Taxation Committee met in Helena for the Senate Bill 241 hearing. Sponsored by Sen. Jeffrey Welborn, R-Virginia City, SB 241 would allow voters in 10 resort tax areas and communities around the state to approve an additional and incremental 1 percent tax, used exclusively for infrastructural projects, on top of the existing 3 percent resort tax levied on luxury goods sold in these resort communities.

As of EBS press time on Feb. 27, the bill was still awaiting a vote in the Senate Taxation Committee, after which it goes to the Senate floor, according to BSRAD vice chair Steve Johnson. If it passes, Johnson added, the bill must undergo a similar process in the state House of Representatives and then be signed by Gov. Steve Bullock before becoming law. From there, the tax would only be implemented in the communities and areas that locally vote for it. The ballot would need to explain what projects the monies would fund, the timelines for these, and any associated bonds. Once the outlined projects are completed, the tax would expire.

What could be taxed?



"Luxuries"

any gift item, luxury item, or other item normally sold to the public or to transient visitors or tourists.

What couldn't be taxed?

The term does not include:

- Unprepared or unserved food
- Medicine
- Medical supplies
- Medical services
- Appliances
- Hardware supplies
- Tools
- Any necessities of life

Where could the money go?



"Infrastructure"

tangible facilities and assets related to:

- Water
- Sewer
- Wastewater treatment
- Storm water
- Solid waste
- Utilities systems
- Fire protection
- Ambulance
- Law enforcement
- Roads
- Bridges

Does not include:

❷ Housing*

*The standing 3 percent can be applied to housing and already has been for the Meadowview condominiums, which were subsidized in part by resort tax.

The additional 1 percent would not be available to apply to housing.

Visit resorttax.org to see a full list of what are classified as luxury items and services in the Big Sky Resort Area District.









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Transportation district, BSCO align to leverage community center funds

BY BAY STEPHENS EBS LOCAL EDITOR

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Transportation District has partnered with the Big Sky Community Organization to seek funds from the state to make a portion of the planned community center in Big Sky Town Center a transit hub with indoor space for passengers awaiting buses.

The transportation district board, which has access to annual funding from Montana Department of Transportation for capital projects like buses and bus facilities, agreed in a Feb. 20 meeting to apply for approximately \$225,000 to contribute to the community center for which BSCO is currently raising funds. If granted, the funds would allow a warm place and public restrooms for bus users as well as partially relieve fundraising pressure for BSCO and the community.

"From BSCO's perspective, we're just trying to leverage outside funds to get whatever we can [for the community center]," BSCO Executive Director Ciara Wolfe said at the meeting. She added that the funds would not make or break the project but would help keep money in the pockets of Big Sky community members as BSCO prepares to launch a community campaign for the project.

The bus stop along Ousel Falls Road in Town Center serves as a transfer point for many bus users traveling from Big Sky Resort to Meadow Village Center or Bozeman. However, late-night riders don't have warm places to wait for buses except in nearby bars and restaurants. The transit hub stands to remedy that by giving these passengers access to a 1,900-square-foot lobby with couches and chairs open to the public, as well as restrooms.

The transit hub would have vehicle pullouts to accommodate Skyline's large 35-passenger buses and shift the bus routes to allow those heading up the mountain to make safer left-hand turns.

Envisioned as a future hub for Big Sky's trail system, Wolfe said she hopes the community center will facilitate local use of public transportation instead of personal vehicles.

Transportation district looks to expand boundary

The transportation district is also seeking to add a boundary expansion onto the next ballot.

The expanded boundary would match that of the Big Sky Resort Area District and better reflect the service area of the public transit services, transportation district coordinator David Kack wrote in an email to EBS. The current transportation district boundary was established in 1991 when Big Sky was far smaller, he added.

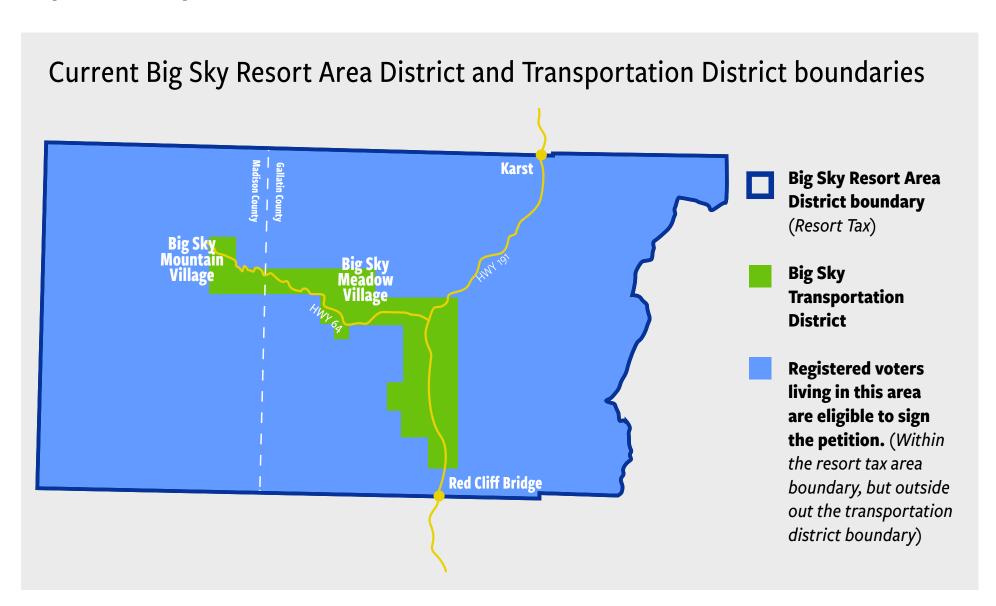
Kack said aligning the two boundaries makes sense because the resort tax board is the largest source of local matching funds for the transportation district and, as was discussed at the Dec. 5 Eggs and Issues hosted by the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, the more that the unincorporated area's slew of special districts share boundaries, the better.

A copy of the petition states: "There is no cost to expanding the boundaries of the District, as there are currently no property taxes levied to support the Big Sky Transportation District."

To be on the next ballot, 20 percent of the registered voters living in the area to be added must sign the petition: 150 people from the Gallatin County side and 75 from the Madison side who don't reside in the transportation district but are part of the resort tax district.

"Signing the petition isn't saying you are for or against expanding district boundaries, only that you want to have the vote," Kack said.

Petitions can be found at BSCO, Big Sky Owners Association, Big Sky Chamber of Commerce, and Lone Mountain Land Company, along with a list of registered voters who live outside the current transportation district boundaries, but inside the resort tax district boundary.



Water and sewer examines wastewater reuse option

BY BAY STEPHENS

BIG SKY – The Big Sky Water and Sewer District board agreed in their Feb. 19 meeting to have a hydrogeologic study of the meadow aquifer conducted, an initial step toward an innovative and sustainable effluent disposal option commonly practiced in the southwest states.

The board agreed to draft a request for proposal for a firm to conduct the comprehensive study on the aquifer, which lies beneath Big Sky Town Center, the Big Sky Golf Course and Meadow Village Center, and supplies part of Big Sky's drinking water.

The study, according to engineer Scott Buecker of Bozeman-based Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, would reveal more about the anatomy of the aquifer, and how water and nutrients move through it. It would also be a key step for the district to determine whether recycling highly treated effluent via the meadow aquifer, a method called indirect potable reuse, is possible in the future.

Implementing such an effluent disposal option would only be possible after phases one and two of the BSWSD wastewater treatment plant upgrade were completed, raising the district's effluent to an extremely high quality. Phase one is now under design by AE2S while phase two is not currently necessary for the district to meet its effluent-disposal needs, according Buecker.

Indirect potable reuse involves injecting this treated effluent back into the groundwater, recharging the aquifer so wells in that aquifer draw the same water for treatment and drinking. The method enables water to be used multiple times and has become more common practice in arid southwest states, Buecker said.

Although it's common elsewhere, direct potable reuse has never been done in Montana and requires an aquifer that supports the process.

The hydrogeologic study would reveal whether the meadow aquifer could support indirect potable reuse. If so, the district would then have to work with the state's Department of Environmental Quality to develop regulations for the unprecedented effluent reuse option.

"It's not a slam dunk," Buecker said, explaining that the meadow aquifer is already known to be complex, potentially presenting challenges to effluent injection and reuse.

Despite the uncertainty, other stakeholders are excited about the process, including Upper Missouri Waterkeeper Executive Director Guy Alszentser.

"This is probably the happiest I've been," Alszentser told the board on Feb. 19. "I'm really glad to see the board taking the initiative to investigate thoroughly another means of disposal that is in line with what [the conservation community] thinks is the highest and best use of water. I think it speaks to the integrity of the process here."

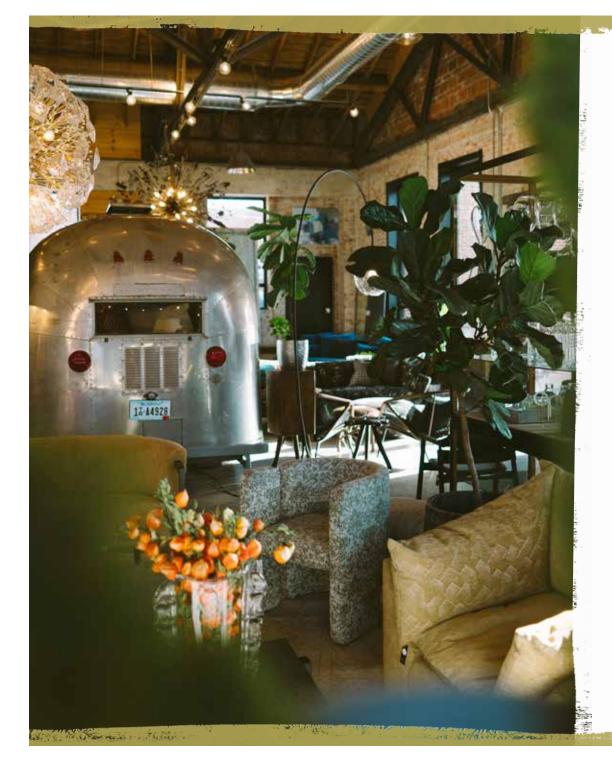
Performing a comprehensive study of the aquifer that allows the district to know definitively how water moves could cost \$300,000, Buecker estimated. In a phone interview after the meeting, Buecker added that such a study could take around two years.

Although the need to supply more water to Mountain Village presses as Big Sky grows, the board also voted to wait to develop treatment options for two wells at the base of Lone Mountain until further well exploration takes place this spring.

The two wells were drilled in the 1990s by Lone Mountain Springs, the Boyne Resorts-owned-and-operated utility for Mountain Village before the district took over. Although initially promising sufficient outputs, recent tests revealed the wells could produce only paltry amounts over sustained periods compared to what was expected, and could require expensive treatment and filtration.

"We need to find more water one way or the other," BSWSD Water Superintendent Jim Muscat told the board. "We can't expand on the mountain without more water because we thought we had [enough]. We don't. We have a water deficit on the mountain, and we have to ... find greater [water] supplies."

It's a very real possibility the well exploration unearths no better alternatives, Muscat added in an email to EBS, but said it's worth a shot.



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Housing trust reviews resort tax, Meadowview project, water use

BY MICHAEL SOMERBY EBS DIGITAL EDITOR

BIG SKY - On Feb. 21, the Big Sky Community Housing Trust advisory council met in the Human Resource and Development Council offices in Meadow Village Center to review the Feb. 20 Senate Bill 241 hearing in Helena, discuss the appropriate vernacular for defining affordable housing projects in Big Sky, and assess the state water usage in the community, among other items.

SB 241 seeks to provide 10 resort areas and communities around Montana the option to levy a supplementary 1-percent tax in addition to the existing 3-percent resort tax on luxury goods and services sold in these communities.

Funds collected by this incremental 1 percent in resort tax would be used solely for infrastructural projects. "Infrastructure," as defined by SB 241, means, "tangible facilities and assets related to water, sewer, wastewater treatment, storm water, solid waste and utilities systems, fire protection, ambulance and law enforcement, and roads and bridges."

If SB 241 is passed, appropriations from funds gathered by the existing 3 percent tax have the potential to increase if the local community voted to implement the tax, benefitting organizations like the housing trust. Last June, the Big Sky Resort Area District board approved \$1.945 million in funding to the housing trust, a number that could increase as less of the funds derived from the standing 3 percent resort tax are diverted for infrastructural needs.

"It's obvious housing is a huge need in this community, so we want [BSRAD] to know they have our support," housing trust member and Big Sky Chamber of Commerce CEO Candace Carr-Strauss said.

A major component of the trust's role in garnering funds from the resort tax board is clearly defining projects in advance of application for funding, in addition to documenting and communicating measurable successes from previously funded projects.

"I think that the resort tax board sees the Meadowview developments as a success," said Brian Wheeler, vice president of real estate development for Big Sky Resort and housing trust member. "They trust our team to make good use of funds."

The Meadowview property northwest of the Big Sky Community Park is comprised of 52 units for which 60 qualified applicants have their fingers crossed, according to Wheeler, underlining the high demand for subsidized housing in the area.

The current construction timeline for Meadowview has the earliest units available on June 1, with the last units completed by the close of the calendar year.

When describing projects like Meadowview, the trust noted the importance in distinguishing deed-restricted housing projects from those termed "affordable" or "attainable" by a developer or property manager.

When a future owner of a deed-restricted Meadowview unit decides to sell, the subsidy will remain tied to the unit rather than the seller, maintaining the unit's affordability in perpetuity.

Conversely, the first owner of a property or unit that is not deed restricted may gather the windfall of a subsidized unit by selling at market value, rendering the property potentially unaffordable for successive buyers.

"We've seen 'workforce housing,' 'affordable housing,' and 'attainable housing," Laura Seyfang, program director of the Big Sky Community Housing Trust, said. "I prefer 'deed-restricted community housing."

The Meadowview units are meant to house permanent community members, not seasonal employs, Yellowstone Club General Manager and housing trust member Hans Williamson said.

"Seasonal workforce housing should be the employers' responsibility," Williamson said.

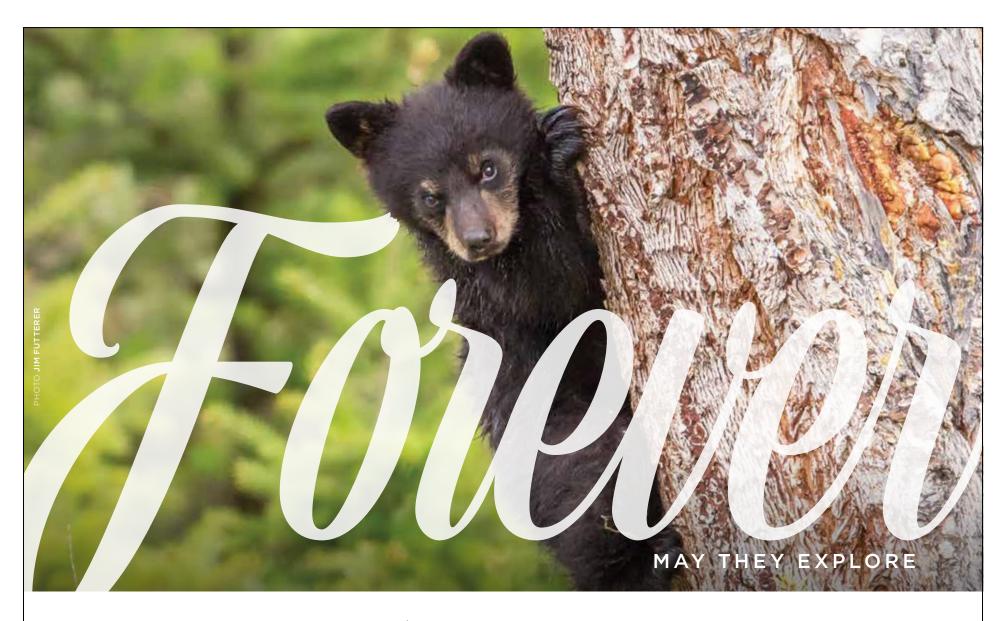
All Meadowview applicants were required to prove a minimum of 24 months of employment in Big Sky to ensure their long-term commitment to the area.

"We're looking for people that are actively demonstrating a desire to make Big Sky their permanent home," Seyfang said. "People that will become part of the permanent fabric of this community."

One of the principal roadblocks in securing housing developments in a community like Big Sky is water and sewer infrastructure.

"The land may not be the issue when acquiring property for attainable community housing, the challenge is water and sewer," Wheeler said. "But the cooperative irrigation plan last summer helped the BSWSD increase pond storage capacity to extraordinary levels. The improvement allows all parties to plan for future needs and opportunities while implementing plant upgrades."







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> 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

5:00-6:00pm All Levels Yoga

SATURDAY

9:00-10:15am All Levels Yoga

5:00-6:15pm All Levels Yoga

7:30-8:30pm Yoga Jam

Legislative Roundup

Lawmakers debate fire suppression, local gun ordinances and affordable housing

BY SHAYLEE RAGAR AND TIM PIERCE UM LEGISLATIVE NEWS SERVICE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

HELENA – The Montana House of Representatives last week advanced legislation that would require a two-thirds vote majority for the Legislature to transfer funds out the state's fire suppression account. The governor would still hold the authority to pull from the fund, as well.

Speaker of the House Greg Hertz, R-Polson, is carrying House Bill 276 and said on the House floor during the bill's second hearing that it was proposed in response to the historic 2017 fire season that drained government funds.

"We were sitting here in 2017 with a winter much like today," Hertz said.

According to Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the state doled out an estimated \$74.4 million in 2017 to pay for fires. Gov. Steve Bullock declared a state of emergency that summer.

The pricey fire season, in conjunction with worry over state revenue estimates, led Bullock to call a special legislative session. It resulted in major cuts to funding for government agencies like the Department of Health and Humans Services and the Department of Corrections.

Hertz said a two-thirds vote is needed for withdrawals from other trust funds, like the coal severance tax trust fund, and said it's reasonable to add it the requirement to the fire fund.

However, Rep. Zach Brown, D-Bozeman, spoke during the floor session to say that had this requirement would be in place before 2017, it wouldn't have made a difference.

"It wouldn't have changed the 2017 fire season or prevented this body from raiding the fire fund," Brown said.

The bill passed third reading 59-40 and will move to the Senate for debate.

Lawmakers hope bills will build state's hemp industry

The 2018 Federal Farm Bill legalized industrial hemp production and Montana lawmakers are considering the best ways to integrate it into the state's agriculture economy.

Sen. Tom Jacobson, D-Great Falls, is sponsoring two hemp-related bills. Senate Bill 176 would allow the Montana Department of Agriculture to create a hemp certification program plan. Senate Bill 177 would eliminate the criminal background check requirement to grow hemp. The Montana Senate passed both bills this week and they now head to the House of Representatives.

SB 176 passed third reading in the Senate 50-0 and SB 177 passed 48-2.

Jacobson said the more opportunities and diversification farmers have, the better.

"When our ag producers are successful, then our small, rural communities are successful," Jacobson said.

Jacobson introduced a third bill that would exempt hemp processing facilities from property taxes, but that bill—Senate Bill 178—was tabled in committee. Jacobson said he plans to work on amendments to move the bill forward.

Hemp was classified as an illegal drug under the Controlled Substances Act of 1970. Under the new farm bill, legal industrial hemp cannot contain more than .03 THC, which is a psychoactive chemical that makes people feel "high." Hemp, therefore, cannot get a person high. According to a Montana Department of Agriculture fact sheet, marijuana contains between 10 to 20 percent THC.

The federal Congressional Research Service agency reports that in 2016 U.S. hemp products, including food products and consumer textiles, produced \$688 million in retail sales.

The Montana Farmers Union supports the legislation and the group's president, Alan Merrill, says hemp is the crop of the future. He says under a pilot program, the state had about 2,500 acres of hemp growing, and that it's expanding to more than 22,000 acres with legalization.

"It's growing like wildfire," Merrill said.

Jacobson said the sustainability of the crop is appealing, and that one acre of hemp can produce three times the amount of paper as an acre of trees.

House endorses legislation to prohibit local gun ordinances

The Montana House of Representatives last week passed a bill that would prohibit local governments from implementing gun ordinances.

About 50 volunteers for the Moms Demand Action group gathered in the Montana Capitol Monday to lobby against the bill, House Bill 325.

The national Moms Demand Action group aims to fight for stricter gun laws and was formed after the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Head of the Montana chapter, Kiely Lammers of Billings, said the bill is a step backward.

"Our number one priority is always stopping dangerous bills," Lammers said. "We don't want to dismantle gun safety bills that we already have in place."

The bill passed the House 57-42 on Thursday and will move on to the Senate.

Lammer said she understands both sides of the argument.

"I get that people enjoy guns, that they want to have them around for protection. I understand all the reasons people want them," Lammers said. "I just want to be a proponent of helping people understand it's not an 'either, or.' You can have both."

Bozeman Mayor Tells Lawmakers Affordable Housing Crisis is Becoming Epidemic

Bozeman Mayor Cyndy Andrus told the Senate Taxation Committee last week that there's a statewide affordable housing crisis that is quickly becoming an epidemic.

Andrus supports House Bill 16, which would offer \$15 million from the state's coal trust fund as a loan to develop low- and moderate-income housing across the state. She, along with 19 other mayors in the National League of Cities, has looked at solutions to offer low-income housing, she said.

"We look at how we can improve and evaluate regulations, we look at new programs and opportunity zones. But this is not enough," she said. "(HB 16) is another tool in our toolbox to solve our affordable housing problem."

Bozeman City Commissioner Terry Cunningham said only 1 percent of Bozeman's housing rentals are vacant, and the lack of home options is negatively impacting businesses.

"Local businesses would like to expand, but their ability to attract qualified employees is being hindered by housing affordability," he told the committee as one of 14 supporters of the bill.

HB 16, sponsored by Rep. Dave Fern, D-Whitefish, would only fund developing urban and rural multi-family housing, like apartment complexes.

The bill passed the House with a vote of 71-29. There, some lawmakers opposed the bill because of its use of coal trust funding. But Fern said housing developers will pay the money back with a 7 percent interest rate, and the Legislature, in part, is responsible for creating affordable housing.

If the Legislature wants to use the coal trust fund, which currently holds about \$1 billion, it would usually require a three-fourths vote in each body. But since the money is being paid back into it, only a simple majority is needed to pass the legislation.

The bill drew no opponents during the Senate Taxation Committee hearing.

Shaylee Ragar and Tim Pierce are reporters with the UM Legislative News Service, a partnership of the University of Montana School of Journalism, the Montana Newspaper Association, the Montana Broadcasters Association and the Greater Montana Foundation. Shaylee can be reached at shaylee.ragar@umontana.edu. Tim can be reached at tim.pierce@umontana.edu.

EBS Editors' note: See page 9 for an infographic breaking down Senate Bill 241, the proposed legislation that would give Big Sky and nine other Montana resort areas and communities the opportunity to vote on increasing resort tax from 3 percent to as much as 4 percent. As of press time on Feb. 27, SB 241 remained in committee.

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SECTION 2: ENVIRONMENT, OUTDOORS, & HEALTH







New West:

'Legacy images' speak to lifetime shooting the wild



BY TODD WILKINSON EBS ENVIRONMENTAL COLUMNIST

Last autumn, only a few months after he had been profiled by Anderson Cooper on CBS's "60 Minutes," photographer Tom Mangelsen was standing in a wall tent outside his home near Moose, Wyoming. He regaled guests—people from across the country who had collected his fine art images—with the tale of a picnic.

With stars in the cosmos hovering over the Tetons, as if sparkling on high beam, Mangelsen shared the details of how his close friendship with Dr. Jane Goodall—the renowned primatologist and globetrotting promoter of conservation—came to be. It started, he noted, with an outing to Yellowstone National Park in search of grizzly bears.

That night in September 2018, with Goodall sitting nearby listening to Mangelsen recount details of their foray in America's first national park, she quibbled, much to the delight of those in the tent, with Mangelsen's storytelling.

However, the gist of their mutual recollection was the same: grizzlies possess the same kind of sentience, intelligence, emotions, charisma and personalities as the chimpanzees Goodall studied in Tanzania's Gombe National Park, she said.

The whole idea that a population of bears would be brought back from the brink of extirpation, only to have some targeted for sport hunting—"killing for fun and having their hides turned into floor rugs"— Goodall noted, was not only repulsive to consider but also beneath the dignity of their human stewards.

As most people in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem know, Mangelsen has been an outspoken advocate of grizzlies, especially that of Jackson Hole grizzly 399 and her family, which Mangelsen and I made the subject of our 2015 book, "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek."

Mangelsen praises the campaign started by five women from Jackson Hole called "Shoot'Em With A Camera (Not a Bullet)" that last year attracted worldwide public attention.

The campaign was punctuated by the fact that both Mangelsen and Goodall submitted their names into the lottery to win one of 21 Wyoming grizzly hunting tags. Goodall's name wasn't drawn, but Mangelsen's was, and he noted that he would go hunting bears with his lens, not a rifle.

In September 2018, a U.S. District Court judge ordered that Greater Yellowstone grizzlies be placed back on the federal protected list, effectively halting the first sport hunt of the bruins in 44 years.

Across more than four decades, Mangelsen has become one of the most recognized names in the world for wildlife photography. The Nebraska native, who grew up as a trapper, waterfowl hunter and, notably, a world-champion goose caller, has undergone a profound metamorphosis with his conservation values. For most of his adult life, he's used beautiful wildlife and landscape shots to call public attention to the rapid ongoing loss of species and the wild places they inhabit.

Right now, the retrospective exhibition, "Thomas D. Mangelsen: A Life in the Wild," is on display at the National Museum of Wildlife Art in Jackson Hole through May 5, as a part of a 15-venue national tour that will also reach Bozeman's Museum of the Rockies in autumn 2021 and the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody in the summer of 2022.

From the redwood forests to the High Arctic, where he took award-winning photographs of polar bears—touted as historically important visions drawing attention to climate

change—to African megafauna, tigers in India, the sandhill crane migration along the Platte River and, of course, to numerous nature portraits made in Greater Yellowstone, Mangelsen's series of "Legacy Images," displayed large, are serious wake-up calls that do not dampen our spirit but inspire.

Joel Sartore, the vaunted nature photographer who was also profiled not long ago on "60 Minutes," is on his own mission to document the large toll of species living on the very edge of extinction. An exhibition of Sartore's work also appeared at the National Museum of Wildlife Art.

Sartore told me that Mangelsen, as much as any person on earth, helped pioneer respect for color wildlife photography as being a legitimate fine-art form, paving the way for others and building upon the mystique of collectible nature photography most notably associated with Ansel Adams, famous for his black and white portrayals of Yosemite and the Snake River in Grand Teton National Park.

Mangelsen says things can be unpopular or controversial among those who see the value of wild places measured only in the profit margin of natural resources that can be extracted from them. But Sartore points out that Mangelsen's voice as a defender has been important.

He credits Mangelsen with helping to ignite a willingness among other nature photographers to take a stand and, by so doing, is helping millions of people realize that they are stakeholders in deciding the future of wildlife.

As part of "A Life in the Wild," Mangelsen's most acclaimed and coveted image is featured. "Catch of the Day" captures the exact moment that a spawning salmon in Alaska, leaping through the air to navigate a rapid, flew straight into the open jaws of a brown bear. Mangelsen got the shot, not using a high-tech digital camera, but an old-school Nikon.

It's an illusion that photos are made with the camera, French photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson once said. They are made with the eye, heart and head. By being there, Mangelsen allows us to be there too, joining him in a love for the natural world ineffably more powerful than any word.

Visit mangelsen.com/legacy to see all of Mangelsen's "Legacy Images."

Todd Wilkinson, founder of Mountain Journal (mountainjournal.org), is author of "Grizzlies of Pilgrim Creek" about famous Greater Yellowstone grizzly bear 399 featuring 150 photographs by Tom Mangelsen, available only at mangelsen.com/grizzly.



"Catch of the Day" is Thomas D. Mangelsen's most famous wildlife photograph. It appears in a nationally-touring museum exhibition called "A Life in the Wild" featuring 40 of the Jackson Hole artist's "legacy images" amassed over the last 40 years. PHOTO BY THOMAS D. MANGELSEN

FWP reports good news for Montana waters

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BOZEMAN - In February, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks released reports detailing the 2018 effort to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, announcing that 16 out-of-state boats were found to be transporting nonnative mussels.

Last year saw the highest number of boat inspections since inception of the program in 2004, as state efforts steadily increase following the declaration of a statewide natural resource emergency when invasive mussel larvae were found at the Tiber and Canyon Ferry reservoirs in 2016.

In addition to more reliance on technology as a way of providing timely reports and access to information, the agency is furthering the reach of the "Clean. Drain. Dry." campaign through information sharing with partners like Glacier National Park,

Bighorn National Recreation Area, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and the Blackfeet Nation.

In Big Sky, the Gallatin Invasive Species Alliance and Gallatin River Task Force are also extending the Clean. Drain. Dry. campaign and are working together on an education and outreach program to keep the Gallatin River free of invasive species. The effort that has been funded in part by the Yellowstone Club Community Foundations, Moonlight Community Foundation and Spanish Peaks Community Foundation.

"We're so lucky in the Gallatin that it remains so clean," said GISA Executive Director Jennifer Mohler. "If we let our guard down, the risk to the Gallatin is increased. It's that prevention approach: If we can get these things stopped before they reach our waterbodies, it will save us."

Visit cleandraindry.mt.gov or gallatinisa.org/clean-drain-dry for more information.

2018 MONTANA AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES REPORT

INSPECTION STATIONS

- 109,789 watercraft inspections conducted by FWP and partners in Montana
- **74 percent** of inspections were Montana boats
- 10,690 inspections in Glacier National Park; 55 conducted by the FWP regional office in Bozeman; 8,135 around Canyon Ferry Reservoir
- 16 vessels found transporting zebra and quagga
- Over **170** vessels found transporting aquatic weeds
- Inspection season was from March to October
- July 4 holiday saw the most boater movement

MONITORING

- New FWP AIS lab opened in Helena in August to processes samples for New Mexico and the Missouri River Basin (Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, Wyoming and Montana)
- 238 waterbodies sampled, with new detections of New Zealand mudsnails in the Missouri River at Riverside campground (Hauser Lake); faucet snails at Lake Frances; curlyleaf pondweed in the Kootenai River; and fragrant waterlily in Holland Lake
- No quagga or zebra mussel larvae found in monitoring samples, including from Tiber and Canyon Ferry reservoirs
- Detection efforts included plankton tow sampling, underwater inspections, mussel detecting dogs and environmental DNA sampling
- Within Yellowstone, New Zealand mudsnail, red-rimmed melania, five nonnative fish and whirling disease have been confirmed

WATER BODY WHERE HISTORICALLY FOUND	RESULTS OF 2018 SAMPLING
Madison River	New Zealand mudsnails remain
Quake Lake	New Zealand mudsnails no longer found
Yellowstone River	New Zealand mudsnails remain
East Gallatin River	Curlyleaf pondweed no longer found
Gallatin River	Curlyleaf pondweed no longer found
Ennis Lake	Curlyleaf pondweed remains
Hebgen Lake	Curlyleaf pondweed remains
Madison River	Curlyleaf pondweed remains
Quake Lake	Curlyleaf pondweed remains
Smith River	Curlyleaf pondweed remains

Voluntary reporting is available by calling (406) 444-2440 or online at fwp.mt.gov/doingBusiness/contactUs/aisSighting.html

Information compiled from Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks 2018 Watercraft Inspection Station Annual Report and 2018 AIS Early Detection and Monitoring Report, as well as nps.gov/yell/planyourvisit/cleandraindry.htm



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VATER 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.

Water Wisdom: What's in your water?

Celebrate groundwater awareness week with an annual well test

BY STEPHANIE LYNN **EBS CONTRIBUTOR**

Groundwater is the most extracted natural resource according to the National Groundwater Association, the organization responsible for designating March 10-16 as National Groundwater Awareness Week.

All Big Sky residents and visitors utilize groundwater for their water supply, while 44 percent of people nationwide depend on water stored beneath their feet, reported the NGA. Both public water systems and private wells pump water from underground aquifers and deliver it to the Big Sky community.

"Any water system that has more than 15 full-time water connections or serves more than 25 people for more than 60 days per year constitutes a 'public water system' and is required by the EPA to test for contaminants on an ongoing basis," said Jim Muscat, water superintendent for the Big Sky Water and Sewer District. These public water systems serve developments throughout Big Sky, including the Mountain Village, Town Center, Meadow Village and Ramshorn View Estates.

By contrast, households outside of those areas connected to a public system are hooked up to private wells. Private well owners don't pay quarterly utility bills, but do take on all responsibilities to test, maintain and possibly treat their water to ensure it's safe to drink.

"Well contaminants fall under two major categories," said Peter Manka, principal water resource engineer for Alpine Water in Big Sky. "Functional or aesthetic contaminants create unsightly staining and impair the function, efficiency and longevity of appliances and fixtures, while the other category can have potentially detrimental health effects at elevated levels."

In Big Sky, the quality of water in two nearby wells may differ drastically due to underlying geology or polluted surface water infiltrating the ground. Contaminants such as arsenic and salts have been measured in local wells, but the only way to ensure safe drinking water is to regularly test well water by picking up a kit at the Gallatin River Task Force or Gallatin Local Water Quality District offices.

"Well owners should test their water quality for nitrate and total coliform bacteria annually, at the very minimum," said Christine Miller, water quality specialist at GLWQD. Miller also recommended that Big Sky residents test for arsenic and aesthetic contaminants every five years.

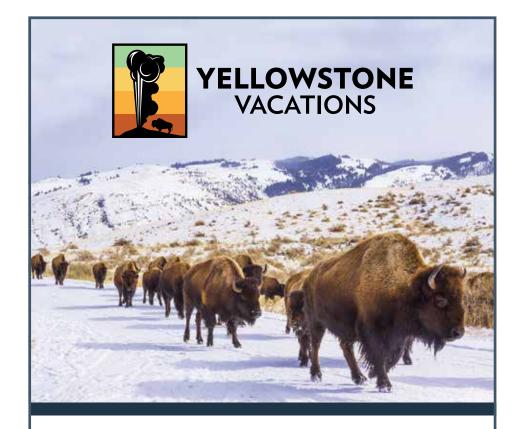
In addition, homeowners can protect their well water by inspecting their wellhead for cracks, holes, settling and debris every year. Small adjustments such as installing a sanitary well cap, safely storing hazardous materials and ensuring that runoff doesn't flow toward the wellhead will prevent pollution from entering the well.

Test your well water this March in honor of National Groundwater Awareness Week. For more information on how to test well water and interpret the results, visit glwqd.org.

Stephanie Lynn is the education and communications coordinator for the Gallatin River Task Force.

Well Educated

The Gallatin Local Water Quality District is hosting various short courses in April about homeowner best practices for protecting the quality of drinking water. Check out glwqd.org for more information and to register.



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THESHED

As spring approaches, elk shed their antlers. If you're lucky, you may stumble across these beautiful—and valuable—treasures.

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BOZEMAN – Forty pounds. That's the weight of a large six- or seven-point set of antlers carried by mature bull elk throughout the fall and winter months. Antlers are critical both for securing a mate and genuine self-defense. As a renewable resource, they are sought-after by outdoorsmen both for the pretty penny they bring and their own aesthetic quality.

The growth cycle

A variety of ungulates in the deer family sports antlers, which are shed and regrown annually. Antlers are made of true bone and are an extension of the skull. They begin to grow in male elk, moose and deer in the spring when the animal is about 1 year old and will continue a cycle of growth throughout the animal's life.

As antlers grow, they're covered by a soft coat of skin and hair known as velvet. This blood-rich layer deposits calcium that forms the antler itself. In elk, they continue to grow at a peak rate of two-thirds of an inch every day while the bull munches on summer grasses, according to the National Park Service's 2018 Yellowstone Resources and Issues Handbook. Growth occurs in yearling bulls for about 90 days, and for healthy, mature bulls, the antlers could develop for upward of 140 days, reaching about 55 to 60 inches in length, the handbook states.

A hormonal change signals growth to stop sometime around August in preparation for breeding season, called the rut. As the rut approaches in fall, bull elk rub their antlers on trees and shrubs scraping off the velvet to reveal the brown- and ivory-colored antler beneath. These racks are then used for posturing and sparring in order to secure breeding rights over groups of cow elk.

Bulls retain their antlers through winter as a tool for self-defense and the lengthening daylight of spring, accompanied by a drop in testosterone levels, triggers the existing antlers to shed in March or April.

New growth begins quickly after. Small bumps on the forehead begin to swell, enlarging into knobby buds and extending out into a branching formation that often reaches magnificent size. Generally, genetics determine the actual form of the antler, while nutrition and age influence the length and size.



Beating the odds

Sometimes described as an Easter-egg hunt for adults, the sport of looking for antlers, often known as shed or horn hunting—though a shed antler isn't a horn—has gained traction as a springtime activity both for its lucrative nature and for the opportunity to test the odds.

"It's fun to get out and wander around the woods and the mountains and you have a chance to stumble across an antler or two," said Clark Dodd, a musher for Yellowstone Dog Sled Adventures south of Big Sky. A longtime resident of Paradise Valley who now spends a portion of his winters in Gallatin Canyon for work, Dodd has been collecting antlers for years. "I think my wife would say that I keep too many of them," he said through a chuckle.

Dodd couldn't point to a single reason why he looks for antlers. He described it as a kind of mysterious attraction, perhaps ancestral or an innate desire to collect. "For some people, it's a chance to make a few bucks or find something for decorating the house," he said.

A large part of it, according to Dodd, is the excuse to go do something with his dogs. Bella and Nugget, his Labrador retrievers, are

accomplished shed dogs, meaning they will find and retrieve antlers. Bella, now 10, was capable of carrying a large six-point when she was in her prime about four years ago, and while Dodd likely covers 10-12 miles during a day of shed hunting, he expects his dogs put on three or four times the distance.

"They find things I would never, ever find without them," he said, describing the yellow and chocolate labs digging up antlers from beneath pine needles and leaves or from beneath snow.

Many of the antlers Dodd finds, he keeps; some he's turned into cabinet and drawer knobs and pulls for the house, some he has strewn about inside and out as decoration. However, Dodd also portions antlers into dog chews and bottle openers and sells them periodically online.



 $A \ mature \ bull \ elk, sporting \ six-point \ antlers, in \ Yellowstone \ National \ Park \ bugles \ during \ the \ rut. \ NPS \ PHOTO$



Fish Fisher and his son Riley Fisher use antler sheds for art, creating fine carvings and a variety of home fixtures and furnishings. PHOTO COURTESY OF FISH'S ANTLER ART

Natural forms become art

Fish Fisher, the owner of Fish's Antler Art at Four Corners, is also drawn to the allure of antler. First transfixed as a hunter, one day he put a use to his collection and started making small household items. Now, 30 years later, Fisher is proud to build intricate chandeliers, tables and lamps, some of which sell on the high side of \$25,000, though he says he creates items for every price point.

"It's fun to sell something that you built with your own hands," Fisher said, adding that antlers' unique and natural shapes become a sort of puzzle. He selects antlers that fit together naturally rather than cut them to make it work. His 25-year-old son, Riley Fisher, also works in the antler studio creating fine carvings and helping to design and build the fixtures and furnishings.

While some clients bring in their own antler collection to use for a piece, Fisher makes most of his items from antlers he's bought off an expansive antler market. New ones pass through his shop on a weekly basis, and include moose paddles from Alaska and Maine, elk antlers from Montana, and fallow deer racks from Texas.

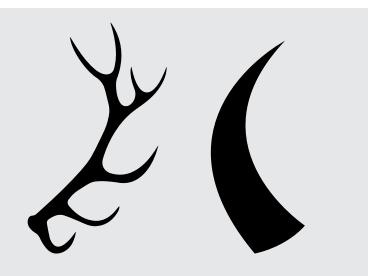
For a quality elk antler—those that are dark brown and without cracks and blemishes—the going rate could be as high as \$15 per pound, and Fisher works with dealers selling antler bundles to the tune of \$50,000. Often, he attends the annual antler auction at the Flying D Ranch owned by billionaire Ted Turner, where the operation sells antlers found on the property for what Fisher estimates is close to \$300,000 to \$400,000.

What's the big deal? Fisher said it simply: "Folks like the Western look."

Whether horn hunter or homeowner, the trace of a wild animal is sacred. Antlers, which are beautiful in their own right, give us a glimpse into the natural world and are relics of those animals that call our mountains and forests home.



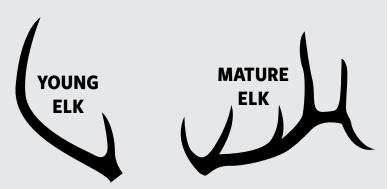
A large chandelier designed and built by Fish's Antler Art. It includes antlers from elk, moose and deer, as well as the horn sheaths from bighorn sheep. PHOTO COURTESY OF FISH'S ANTLER ART



Is it an antler or a horn?

Antlers are shed and regrown annually. They are true bone and are an extension of the skull. Antlers are generally found on just the males of the deer family, such as elk, deer and moose.

Horns are made up of an interior bone that is an extension of the skull, which is covered by a sheath made of hair follicles similar to human fingernails. They continue to grow for the lifetime of the animal, though pronghorn are an exception, shedding their horn sheath every year. Horns are often found on males and females, such as in pronghorn, bighorn sheep and bison.



Elk age by antler size

- One-year-old bulls grow 10- to 20-inch spikes that sometimes fork
- Two-year-old bulls usually have slender antlers with 4 to 5 tines, or points, on each antler
- Three-year-old bulls begin to have thicker antlers
- Four-year-old and older bulls typically have 6 points and antlers that are thicker and longer each year
- Eleven- or twelve-year old bulls often grow the heaviest antlers. After this age, antler size generally diminishes

WHEN DO THEY SHED?

Elk: March-April

Moose: November-December **Whitetail Deer:** Mid-December **Mule Deer:** January-February



FWP launches study to map pronghorn pathways

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BOZEMAN – While pronghorn are well known for their blazing speed—they're second only to the cheetah as the fastest land animal—they are increasingly gaining repute in the West for one particular shortcoming: they don't jump fences.

Pronghorn are a migratory animal evolved to elude predators by sheer speed and their struggle to pass through fences, as well as through subdivisions and across roads, has gained the attention of conservation groups like the Wildlife Conservation Society, Greater Yellowstone Coalition and National Parks Conservation Association, to name a few, which often work to remove or modify fencing.

However, efforts to protect migration corridors require an understanding of the migration pathways themselves. It is to this end that the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks recently captured and collared 40 female pronghorn in the Madison Valley as the beginning of a two-year study into the habits of the local herd.

The Madison Valley is home to approximately 2,500 pronghorn in winter, but beyond that wildlife managers admit knowledge is lacking.

"It's unclear who goes where, what proportion of the herd is migratory, and how they're using the landscape and if there are places where their movement has been impeded by fences [or] roads," said FWP research wildlife biologist Kelly Proffitt. "We don't have any pronghorn movement information, really, for this part of the state."

Bozeman area wildlife biologist Julie Cunningham said she's curious to learn about herd structure from north to south or east to west across the Madison Valley.

"These pronghorn can show up in unusual places, from high elevation in the Gravelly Mountains, to small meadows in the Hebgen Basin," Cunningham wrote in an email received by EBS.

The pronghorn will wear collars for two years and throughout that time the devices will collect fine-scale movement data during migratory periods and then slow their update rate to provide general location information in summer and winter. Utilizing this benefit of the advancing wildlife research technology, biologists will be able to begin mapping in near real time this spring.

Once movement corridors are identified on the map, Proffitt said the department will work with landowners to identify places that can be improved, potentially with fence modification. She also hopes to integrate a monitoring aspect to the study, through which managers can follow up with cameras to see if fence modification worked

A project of local interest that has been discussed for years, the Madison Valley pronghorn migration study was finally initiated this year after funding was secured through former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's Secretarial Order 3362.

This order, signed in February 2018, prioritizes the conservation of migration pathways and winter ranges for mule deer, elk and pronghorn in the western U.S. As a part of the order, Zinke awarded the Montana department with a \$300,000 grant, from which \$96,000 will be used for the two-year pronghorn study in the Madison Valley.



Pronghorn in the Madison Valley travel through a livestock fence. Generally, they prefer to crawl under or through fences rather than jump over them. PHOTO BY KIT FISCHER

INSIDE YELLOWSTONE



Happy birthday to our backyard park

BY CHRISTINE GIANAS WEINHEIMER EBS CONTRIBUTOR

Guess who's celebrating a birthday? It's our famous neighbor, Yellowstone National Park, which turns 147 years old in March. Yellowstone was established as the world's first national park by an act of Congress, and President Ulysses S. Grant signed it into law on March 1, 1872. In honor of this special day, here's a brief look back at Yellowstone's beginning.

In the early 1800s, European-American trappers brought back stories from the West of a place where the earth hissed and bubbled, where multi-colored hot springs and spouting geysers filled the landscape. These reports were largely dismissed as delusions or tall tales until formal expeditions commenced in 1869. Resulting descriptions of the hydrothermal

features, along with huge waterfalls, canyons and herds of wildlife, fueled curiosity in Washington D.C. $\,$

Further proof in the form of Thomas Moran's artwork and William H. Jackson's photographs from the Hayden Expedition of 1871 are said to have helped convince Congress that the Yellowstone landscape was exceptionally beautiful and valuable.

Yellowstone National Park was named for one of its most prominent features: the Yellowstone River, reportedly called "Mi tse a-da-zi" by the Minnetaree tribe, which literally translates to "Rock Yellow River." Canadian trappers translated the name into French as "Roche Jaune," which eventually appeared on maps in English as "Yellow Stone," and explorers began referring to the entire region as Yellowstone.



Castle Geyser in the Upper Geyser Basin of Yellowstone National Park, as painted by Thomas Moran. NPS PHOTO

The park's early promoters envisioned Yellowstone National Park would exist at no expense to the government. This didn't work out so well when the first, unpaid superintendent didn't have funds to protect park wildlife and other resources from poachers, vandals and squatters. Congress appropriated funds to protect it in 1878, but efforts to safeguard the park were largely unsuccessful until the U.S. Army took charge in 1886. The National Park Service was later formed in 1916.

The Yellowstone boundaries we're familiar with today differ from the straight, rectangular-shaped boundaries in place when the park was established. In 1929, President Herbert Hoover signed a bill changing the borders to better conform to natural land and water features. Three years later, Hoover issued an executive order adding around 7,000 acres above the original north boundary near Gardiner to provide winter range for ungulates.

Today, Yellowstone is one of the largest nearly intact temperate-zone ecosystems on Earth and preserves a collection of more than 10,000 hydrothermal features—more than the rest of the world combined. It's home to the largest concentration of wildlife in the lower 48 states and is the only place in the U.S. where bison have lived continuously since prehistoric times.

Countless individuals have contributed to the preservation of Yellowstone over the years and thousands continue to play a role in its stewardship. For instance, Yellowstone Forever, the park's official education and fundraising nonprofit partner, provides opportunities for educational programming and volunteerism, and is building a network of supporters dedicated to preserving the park.

Bear Basics with Bernadette: As days grow longer bears awake from winter slumber

BY KRIS INMAN EBS CONTRIBUTOR

With all the new snow and temperatures dipping below zero, it's still very much winter in Big Sky and a great time to hit the slopes. However, the time for bears to be tucked in their dens is coming to a close.

At this point in late winter, pregnant females have given birth to their cubs while those with cubs the winter before share their dens with their young. The cubs remain with their mothers until summer, when the female kicks them off to survive the world on their own—for grizzlies at the age of 2, and for black bears, 1. The next winter, the female will raise her next litter of cubs.

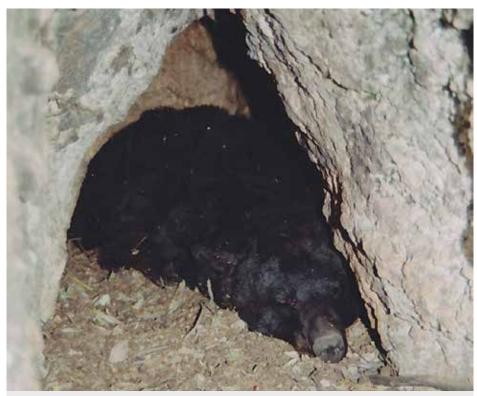
The places bears choose to den must be big enough for the bear and any young. Commonly, bears excavate the base of a hollow tree, large rocks, slopes and the root systems of blown-down trees. Where available, they might utilize natural rock cavities or ground nests that are protected by dense plant growth. The chances of someone stumbling upon a den is quite rare, but happens from time to time.

Hibernation provides bears with a safe place to give birth and is also a critical physiological adaptation for winter survival. Their metabolic system slows down, helping them to make it through the winter when food is scarce.

Not surprisingly, den entrance and emergence are influenced by snow conditions and natural food availability. Bears begin denning as early as mid-October and as late as December, and emerge from their winter slumber sometime in March. In milder winters, male bears can begin moving around as early as February.

Denning season is a time for people and bears to have a brief hiatus from sharing the landscape with each other. However, as the snow melts and the days grow longer, bears will begin to emerge from their dens, and will once again opportunistically search for food.

Now is an excellent time to get a bear-resistant trash can for your home; for construction workers to get back in the habitat of keeping lunches in locked vehicles or use bear-resistant coolers; and for businesses to be sure their dumpsters



A black bear dens within a rock cavity during winter hibernation. PHOTO COURTESY OF KRS INMAN

aren't overfull and are properly closed. It's a time for all of us to "Do Our Part and Be Bear Smart" for the safety of bears, our property and ourselves.

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.

Kris Inman is the community partnerships coordinator for the Wildlife Conservation Society and oversees the Bear Smart Big Sky campaign.

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Lot 64 Goshawk 1.04 ACRES / \$775K



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



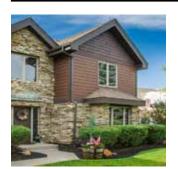
Lot 113 Crow Point Rd. 2.59 Acres / \$335K

MOONLIGHT BASIN*



Lot 44 Diamond Hitch 1.25 ACRE / \$685K

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Cottonwood Crossing #15 1,854 SQ FT / \$539K



Cottonwood Crossing #9 1,854 SQ FT / \$525K



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BIG SKY



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



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



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Crail Ranch Unit 68 List Price: \$850K

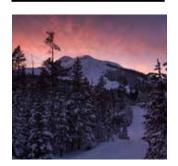


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Lot 39 Diamond Hitch 1 ACRE / \$595K



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



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



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



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

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115 Teita Drive 1,909 SQFT/\$420K



78 Meadow Village Dr. Big Sky, MT 4,769 SQ FT / \$2.1M



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



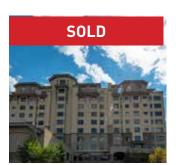
Marketplace Unit 202 Big Sky, MT 966 SQ FT / \$389K



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



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YNP wolf biologist finds balance

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BOZEMAN – Senior wildlife biologist Doug Smith has handled more than 600 wolves since he started studying the canines at the age of 18. Having worked on the Yellowstone Wolf Project in Yellowstone National Park for 25 years, he's dedicated his life to understanding these creatures.

"You look at his magnificence and his beauty and what he means to that forest and what that means to us spiritually and symbolically. Those woods are empty and vacant without that guy and his pack, but that's my opinion," Smith, now 58, told a crowded lecture hall at Bozeman's Museum of the Rockies on Feb. 13.

His presentation was a part of the Science Inquiry Series put on by the Gallatin Valley Friends of the Sciences and was so popular that at the 7 p.m. start time at least 20 people milled around outside the museum after being turned away, the 220-seat Hager Auditorium reportedly full.

Smith is the first to admit the debate over wolves is a tricky one. "It is so hard to do science with wolves," he said. "They are so value laden, opinion laden. ... This is an animal of myth, legend, fable, presence."



Doug Smith, the project leader for the Yellowstone Wolf Project, fits a radio collar on a Sawtooth wolf pup in the Lamar barn during the park's reintroduction efforts in 1997. NPS PHOTO

Charged with presenting on his research team's scientific findings over the years, Smith found himself discussing the social challenges associated with such a high-profile species, even when dealing with the science, whether elk and wolf interaction, wolf behavior, or his own his stories of work in the field.

At one point, Smith paused to describe the capture of a wolf that tipped the scale as the largest caught in Yellowstone. The male weighed in at 148 pounds.

"I looked at that wolf and I looked at the forest behind and I thought, what is the big deal? And what would that forest be like without him and why, why has this critter done what it's done to people for so long?"

Since the '95 and '97 reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone National Park along with a sister reintroduction in central Idaho, the number of wolves has expanded from approximately 50-60 wolves living in Montana in 1994, to an estimated 2,000 today across Idaho, Wyoming and Montana, which was further augmented by the natural recolonization of wolves into northern Montana. This came after early 19th-century mentalities saw to the near elimination of predators like wolves.



The first wolf arrives in Yellowstone at the Crystal Bench Pen. The crate is carried by Wolf Project Leader Mike Phillips, Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Mike Finley, and Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, among others, on Jan. 12, 1995. NPS PHOTO

"The world exists at our leisure, and I'm not sure that's a good thing but that's the fact," Smith told the packed auditorium. "Wolves resist that and that's one reason why we killed them for so long. They represent wildness in the truest form. We can't have just things that are convenient to us. We have to have the hard things, like wolves."

Smith cited social science studies looking at our perspectives on wolves, saying he's worried that human attitudes still haven't completely changed. What Smith called "wolf hatred" might still trump wolf tolerance.

"We've got to find a middle ground," he said. "To have wolves probably means you're going to have to hunt them, at least moderately, and for sure controlling problem wolves.

"Wolves can take a harvest," Smith added toward the end of his presentation. "In some cases it affects their social structure, in other cases it doesn't so this is a big debate. [But] wolf hatred is not a good way to manage anything."

Visit kgvm.org/show/yellowstone-wolves-science-and-discovery-in-the-worlds-first-national-park to listen to Doug Smith's full lecture.



Wolf tracks on Yellowstone's Fountain Freight Road. NPS PHOTO



On the Trail: Ambassador Spotlight

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

ERIK MORRISON EBS CONTRIBUTOR

The Big Sky Community Organization's mission is to connect people with recreational and enrichment opportunities. On any given day this season, that's exactly what you'll find our Winter Trails Ambassadors doing.

Whether it be Nordic skiing, fat biking, snowshoeing or hiking, these volunteers are out there enjoying the trails, watching over and assisting friends and guests, providing them with information about area trails and events, and gathering valuable user feedback that will help inform and direct the future of Big Sky's parks and trails. Our ambassadors are the eyes, ears and helping hands of BSCO. In this installment of "On The Trail" we caught up with one of our newest trail ambassadors, Alison Adams.

Big Sky Community Organization: What's your favorite way to play on the trails, Nordic skiing, fat biking, snowshoeing or hiking?

A.A.: While I have been renting Nordic skis and learning the trail system for a few years, this is my second full winter with my own Nordic set up.

BSCO: How long have you been working with BSCO?

Alison Adams: This is my first year as a trail ambassador, but I have been volunteering for and participating in BSCO activities since I moved to Big Sky in 2009.

BSCO: What are you most looking forward to in volunteering with the BSCO Winter Trail Ambassador program?

A.A.: I am looking forward to getting acquainted with the newly groomed BSCO trails and helping others discover them as well.



Alison Adams is a volunteer for the Big Sky Community Organization Winter Trails Ambassador Program, where she volunteers her time out on the community trails. PHOTO COURTESY OF LOVE STREET MEDIA

BSCO: What is your favorite memory from your time on the trails?

A.A.: Spending time with friends and laughing when we succumb to gravity and fall down, because it happens to everyone.

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.

Erik Morrison is the outreach coordinator for the Big Sky Community Organization.





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Bozeman climber receives inaugural Inge Perkins award

BY JESSIANNE CASTLE

BOZEMAN – According to Bozeman High School senior Aubrey Johnson, rock climbing has done more than just strengthen her body. It's helped create a balanced young woman.

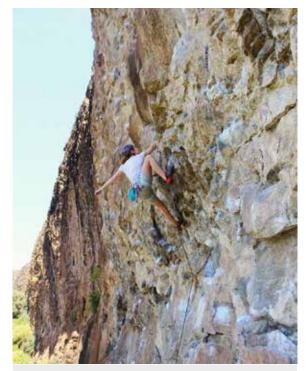
"When I'm climbing, I'm in my happy place," said Johnson, 18. "It's given me some of my closest friends and it's pushed me into the person I am today."

She says the sport satisfies both mental and physical drives, and is particularly gratifying for the ability to have individualized challenges but still develop a strong community of climbing partners, mentors and friends.

Johnson, who is on the youth-focused Bozeman Climbing Team, is the inaugural recipient of the Inge Perkins Scholarship, a memorial award that celebrates the life of Inge Perkins of Bozeman, who was tragically killed by an avalanche on Oct. 7, 2017, at the age of 23. Perkins was skinning up Imp Peak in the southern Madison Range with her boyfriend, 27-year-old alpinist Hayden Kennedy, when the slide took her life and partially buried Kennedy. Though he survived the avalanche, Kennedy returned home and took his own life.

This loss sent tremors through the climbing community and out of this grief, loved ones developed the scholarship fund for Gallatin Valley female climbers in middle or high school in order to promote strong climbers and community-minded volunteers—two elements embedded in Perkins' own life.

"We were all beyond grief stricken after the tragic loss of Inge and Hayden," wrote Mike Harrelson in an email to EBS. "I think working on the [Inge Perkins Scholarship]—figuring it out and doing our best as we go—has helped us all cope with our respective loss of Inge.



Aubrey Johnson, the inaugural recipient of the Inge Perkins Scholarship, climbs at the Gold Wall near Sonora, California. PHOTO COURTESY OF AUBREY JOHNSON

"Inge was much more than a talented climber; she was a giver and a role model in many ways," added Harrelson, who knew Perkins since she was a child and helped establish the scholarship. "Since she was a little girl, Inge spoke more with her actions than with words. Humble, unassuming, smart, diligent, independent, witty—as well as a super talented outdoor athlete—Inge was a quiet crusher. Whether in the mountains or the classroom, Inge was a beacon of excellence and an inspiration to many."

Johnson, who received the award in November, was selected unanimously by the selection committee for her thoughtful nature.

"Aubrey, first and foremost, expressed care and compassion for the larger community," said Kelsey Sather, who was a close friend of Perkins' and sits on the scholarship selection committee. "She was really passionate about being an active community member and expressed passion to learn more. Aubrey was caring, passionate about the outdoors and a motivated climber."

In its first year, the fundraising effort surpassed \$25,000, with donations from Spire, Scarpa and the Power Company, as well as Mystery Ranch's pledge of \$3,000 annually. Friends and family established an endowment fund for the award and the total amount of this first year's scholarship exceeds \$5,000 in the form of financial support for climbing team fees, competitions and an outdoor trip

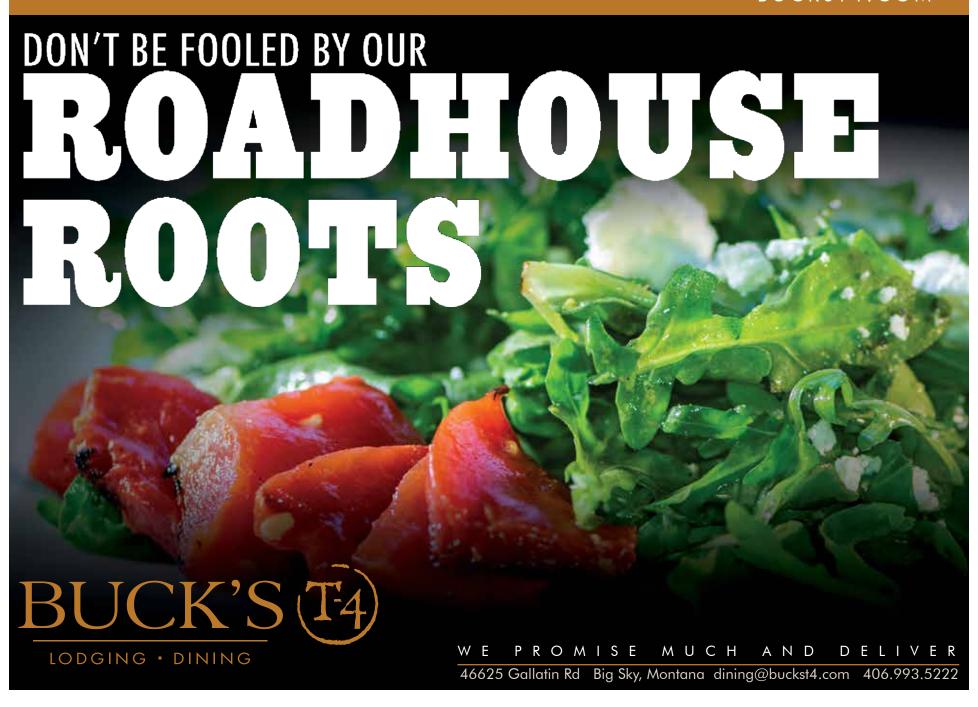
with the youth climbing group Touch the Sky, as well as an assortment of climbing gear and a health-food stipend.

Harrelson said he hopes the scholarship will grow its capacity in order to support two recipients in the future, and ongoing fundraising will help develop this.

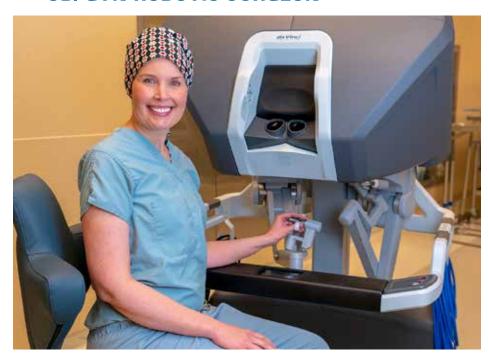
"It's a really big honor," Johnson said of her selection for the award. "I didn't know Inge very well ... but she was one of the first climbers that I looked up to."

Visit ingeperkinsscholarship.com to learn more.





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—Dr. Linda Waring, OB/GYN

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Four words to stop any argument



BY LINDA ARNOLD **EBS CONTRIBUTOR**

"You may be right."

On their own, these four words don't seem to be that powerful. However, when used in the heat of an argument, they can work wonders.

Case in point: You're engaged in a heated argument, and your opponent's attacking. As with martial arts, you can

take the strength of the attack and deflect it.

I've seen this technique be successful over and over because it works immediately. And you don't have to cave in, give up your principles or "roll over." The statement doesn't call for concessions. It merely interrupts the pattern of the attacker and proposes the theory that he or she may be right.

When a discussion reaches the argumentative stage, rationale goes out the window. It becomes more about winning the point. When the attacker hears he or she may be right, it takes the heat out of the moment.

You don't even need to think about whether you're winning or losing. These four words neutralize the situation. Just think of the countless conversations you hear every day, like the bickering couple in a restaurant. "It was Tuesday." "No, it was Monday." "No, it was Tuesday."

By the time they get around to the story, it's already lost its impact.

If you go out in public, it's hard to get away from the mindless back-and-forth sparring. We hear it in lift lines, coffee shops and grocery checkouts.

And, to what end? Often, being right trumps everything. Winner takes all. What have you really won, though? A momentary victory, maybe, but at what cost? Any positive energy that existed earlier has been taken out of the equation, not to mention the toll this can take on a relationship over time.

Whenever you're being attacked in a discussion, don't attack back. This can be hard because our internal defense mechanisms automatically kick into gear. If you take the bait, you'll only escalate the situation, and then it becomes a competition.

Practice listening and resist the urge to feed the fire. Over time—and with practice this will come more naturally.

Stay focused on the other person and their feelings, not your own. Just don't take ownership of anything they say. Here's an example:

Your significant other comes home in a bad mood. He's had a fight with his boss. He slams things around. You get upset. He gets upset that you're upset. And the evening goes downhill from there.

The key is to remain calm. Sometimes the best thing to do is give the other person some space. After invoking the four words, you could go into another area of the house and give the situation time to cool down.

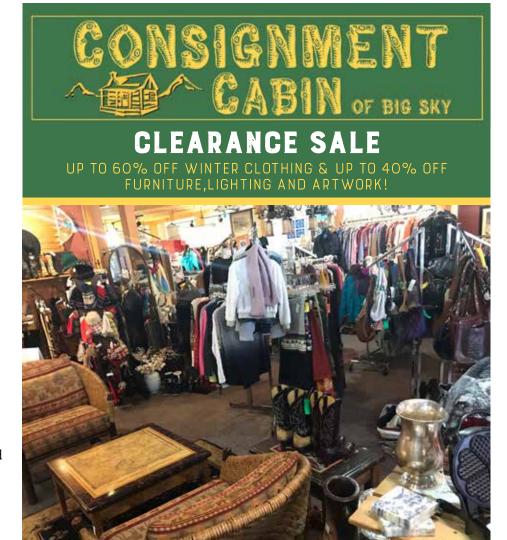
No doubt about it, this method takes a lot of practice and patience. While it may not seem fair, just keep your end goal and your sense of self-esteem intact. Don't take it personally. It's not about you; it's about them.

Fortunately, in this living laboratory of life, we're given lots of opportunities to practice.

The object is to defuse an argument so that a respectful discussion can take place at a later time. A calm discussion is the time to consider another person's views, not when they're red in the face and shouting at you.

Just carry your personal fire extinguisher with you and remember those four magic words: "You may be right."

Linda Arnold, M.A., M.B.A., is a psychological counselor, wellness instructor and Founder of a multistate marketing company. For more information, visit lindaarnold.org. reader comments can be sent to linda@lindaarnold.org.



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Big Sky Ski Education Foundation race updates

BY LUKE KIRCHMAYR **EBS CONTRIBUTOR**

Alpine Update:

The Big Sky alpine ski team had another busy race week. The U16 and U19 team travelled to Missoula over the President's Day weekend, with the girls team competing in 3 slaloms while the boys had 4 slaloms—one being a makeup race from a cancelled Red Lodge competition. The Big Sky ski team won the overall weekend with many individual wins and plenty of medals. The conditions were difficult with soft snow which is not ideal for slalom events. Older racers tend to prefer hard and icy conditions.

The U8 and U12 teams went to the Great Divide Ski Area for two slalom races Feb. 23-24, and BSSEF boys and girls won most of the races and secured many podium spots. Sunday was frigid and there was only one slalom run to keep the athletes from freezing. The Great Divide competition is always a fun race, and luckily for the parents, spectators are able to watch from the comfort of the lodge.

While the younger racers battled the cold at the Great Divide Ski Area, Maci St. Cyr travelled to Park City, Colorado to compete in a national FIS race. St. Cyr did exceptionally well by placing in the middle of the pack while competing against some of the best talent in the nation.

Congratulations are in order to Maci St. Cyr, Madison Winters, Mackenzie Winters, Mazie Schreiner and Sam Johnson for qualifying for the Western Region FIS Junior Championship in Alpine Meadows, California, March 11-17.



After competing in multiple slalom events over President's Day weekend in Missoula, five members of BBSEF alpine race team qualified for the Western Region FIS Junior Championship in Alpine Meadows, California, March 11-17. PHOTO COURTESY OF LUKE KIRCHMAYR

Race Results—Missoula

Saturday, Feb. 16

U16 Girls

3. St. Cyr, Franci (1.26.52)

4. Carisch, Gracie (1.31.11)

U19 Women

2. Winters, Madison (1.25.81)

3. Winters, Mackenzie (1.25.98)

U16 Boys

3. Miles, Hoover (1.34.24)

8. Kjetil, Hassman (1.40.83)

14. Beatty, Ryan (1.50.65)

U19 Men

6. Johnson, Sam (2.02.04)

Sunday, Feb. 17

U16 Girls

3. St. Cyr, Franci (1.29.30) 5. Johnson, Winter (1.34.51)

U19 Women

1. St. Cyr, Maci (1.24.18)

3. Winters, Mackenzie (1.27.24) 5. Winters, Madison (1.29.22)

U16 Boys Race 1

1. Beatty, Ryan (1.22.61)

4. Kirchmayr, Luke (1.25.18)

U19 Men Race 1

4. Johnson, Sam (1.33.69)

U16 Boys Race 2

3. Beatty, Ryan (1.29.30)

4. Kirchmayr, Luke (1.34.05)

5. Hoover, Miles (1.35.77)

Monday, Feb. 18

U16 Boys

2. St. Cyr, Franci (1.29.42)

3. Davis, Hillary (1.30.13) 4. Johnson, Winter (1.33.80)

U19 Women

1. St. Cyr, Maci (1.24.23)

2. Winters, Madison (1.26.23)

5. Winters, Mackenzie (1.27.37)

U16 Boys

3. Kirchmayr, Luke (1.23.48)

4. Hoover, Miles (1.24.48)

6. Hassman, Kjetil (1.25.23)

U19 Men

3. Johnson, Sam (1.27.43)

Race Results—Great Divide Saturday, Feb. 23

U10 Girls

1. McRae, Maeve (1.31.17)

5. Wenter, Peyton (1.42.42)

8. Wolfe, Olive (1.47.74)

13. Olsson, Violet (1.58.64)

15. Schreiner, Paige (1.59.26)

U12 Girls

2. Davis, Sophia (1.22.92)

7. Skogen, Cecelia (1.35.09)

13. Hardan, Cate (1.51.32)

U8 Boys

3. Schreiner, Michael (2.15.75)

U10 Boys

1. Harder, Elijah (1.45.83)

4. Barker, Liam (1.54.30)

5. Emerson, Frank (1.55.86)

7. Scheil, Cullen (1.57.06)

8. Mittelstaedt, Ty (1.58.14)

17. Foster, Chase (2.25.99)

U12 Boys

2. Ditullio, Anthony (1.34.87)

4. Bourret, Cooper (1.38.81)

5. Glae, Eli (1.42.26)

7. Roney, Miles (1.47.80)

8. Clak, Jed (1.52.31)

11. Efferson, Dylan (1.58.85)

12. McRae, Finnegan (2.01.01)

15. Winters, Michael (2,23.80)

Sunday, February 24

U10 Girls

1. McRea, Maeve (48.06) 5. Wolfe, Olive (54.86)

10. Priest, Alexa (57.95)

11. Schreiner, Paige (58.31)

15. Olsson, Violet (1.03.71)

U12 Girls

6. Olsson, Piper (51.01)

13. Hardan, Cate (57.38)

U8 Boys

2. Klug, Gus (55.56)

4. Schreiner, Michael (59.98)

5. Hardan, Ethan (1:10.78)

U10 Boys

2. Bertelson, Mac (45.78)

3. Harder, Elijah (45.79)

4. Bartoszek, Owen (45.82)

5. Ditullio, Dominic (46.01)

6. Mittelstaedt, Ty (50.42) 7. Sheil, Cullen (50.47)

9. Frank, Emerson (50.70)

10. Barker, Liam (51.43)

U12 Boys

1. Pecunies, Ian (42.26)

2. Ditullio, Anthony (42.69)

3. Klug, Finn (43.02) 5. Bourret, Cooper (44.56)

7. Wenger, Ryan (45.98)

8. Gale, Eli (46.66) 9. McRae, Finnegan (46.98)

10. Romney, Miles (47.09)

15. Winters, Michael (1:01.77) 16. Clack, Jed (1:07.03)

Nordic update:

The BSSEF Nordic team skied to podium finishes in the Bridger Biathlon Club race Feb. 23-24. Lucy Stratford placed 1st in women's novice U13 division and hit 6 out of 10 targets. Jonah Adams placed 2nd in the novice U13 division, hitting 7 out of 10 targets, and Tobin Ide placed 3rd by firing off 2 clean rounds where he hit all 10 targets. It's tradition in biathlon to receive chocolate for a shooting a clean round.

The team has been training hard for the biggest race in the region on March 2 in West Yellowstone. The 40th anniversary of Yellowstone Rendezvous will likely have more than 600 competitors racing on Saturday. There will be elite racers from around the country and world skating for top honors in the 50 km, along with competitors in divisions with distances of 25 km, 10 km, 5 km, and 2 km. Look for BSSEF racers to finish in top positions in the 5 km division.

For more information, visit: www.bssef.com.



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

Dawn 'til dusk: Big Sky Resort launches two new exclusive ski experiences

BY DOUG HARE **EBS STAFF**

Big Sky Resort has recently announced the addition of two new unique ski experiences this winter: First Tracks & Everett's Breakfast and Headlamp Night Skiing. The new programs will extend access to Big Sky Resort and Andesite Mountain, offering the opportunity to hit the slopes before lifts open to the public and then later after they close for the day.

The First Tracks program is a memorable way to ski Big Sky Resort terrain before anyone else, with a professional guide to lead the way to the best, most appropriate terrain depending on conditions and skier ability. Guests will load onto Ramcharger 8 at 8 a.m., guaranteeing that participants will have the opportunity to carve lines through fresh corduroy or untracked powder with only friends and family.

This experience will be capped off with a gourmet breakfast at Everett's 8800. Breakfast can be ordered off menu, including traditional offerings such as Eggs Benedict, French toast, fresh-baked scones, cinnamon rolls, coffee, and other hot items to warm up after an early morning on the slopes and provide sustenance for the rest of an extended ski day.

First Tracks & Everett's Breakfast will be offered Wednesday through Friday. Skiers should be able to ski intermediate-level terrain to enjoy the First Tracks experience. A maximum of seven people per guide are permitted.

Not a morning person? If solitude, moonlight and endless stars are more your style, Headlamp Night Skiing, Big Sky Resort's new night skiing experience offers private, guided tours of Andesite Mountain beginning at 6 p.m. with a ride up Ramcharger 8.

Under the starlight with distant snowcats methodically preparing the slopes for the following day, skiers and snowboarders are equipped with headlamps as powerful as car headlights, illuminating the way for guests to carve down freshly-groomed runs long after the sun has gone down.

Headlamp Night Skiing is available Wednesday through Saturday evenings. Participants are required to be a level six skier or rider and above, and there is also a maximum seven people per guide.



Forget first chair. Big Sky Resort's new program First Tracks & Everett's Breakfast allows groups of up to seven to have a guided tour starting at the top of Andesite Mountain an hour before the lifts open to the public.



Night Skiing has finally arrived in Big Sky. Available Wednesday through Saturday evenings beginning at 6 p.m., participants can ride up Ramcharger 8 with a guide and powerful headlamps that will illuminate their way down for a truly unique skiing experience. PHOTOS BY DAVE PECUNIES

Upcoming Events Lineup

March 2: The Snowshoe Shuffle is a fundraiser for the Heart of the Valley Animal Shelter held at the Madison Base area that includes a torch-lit hike, chili dinner and raffle. Break out your snowshoes and bring your four-legged friends to support a good cause.

March 8-10: A BSSEF freeride competition will be held on the Headwaters terrain, featuring Big Sky Resort's steepest in-bounds ski runs, for both junior and adult competitors. Sign up soon as space is limited and filling up fast.

March 16: The 5th annual Shedhorn Skimo returns to the resort with two races: Shedhorn, an approximately 17 mile and 9,000' elevation gain course, and Pronghorn, a 7.5 mile course with over 4,000' elevation gain. This is a technical mountaineering race that will test multiple skill sets of winter athletes.

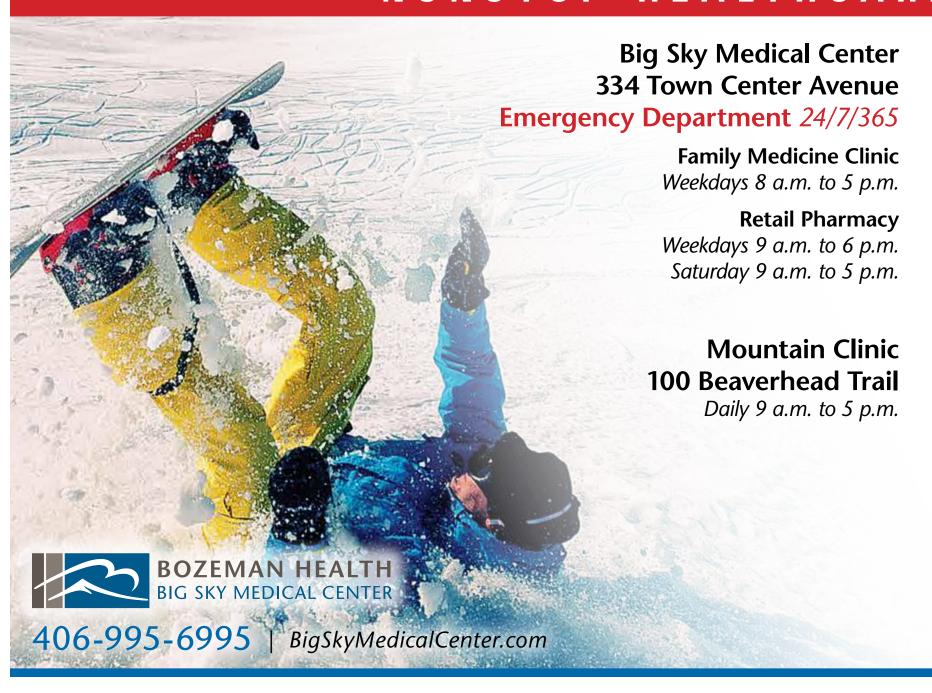
March 22: The Smokin' Aces Rail Jam returns to the slopes of Big Sky Resort for sunset slopestyle competition that promises some big airs from some of the best 'big air' skiers and snowboarders in the country. This event is free to spectate.

April 6: Big Sky Resort announced that they will be hosting a free concert to show appreciation for passholders and guests on Saturday, April 6. After a day of skiing and riding, Mountain Village Plaza will come alive with the New Orleans funk grooves of Galactic featuring Erica Falls. Galactic will take the stage at 4:30 p.m., rain, snow or shine.

April 11-14: Big Sky Big Grass, a Big Sky tradition, returns for its 13th year featuring intimate shows in the evening, including Sam Bush Band, Nashville's The Travelin' McCourys, Jacob Jolliff Band, Drew Emmitt Band featuring the dynamic lead singer and mandolin player from Leftover Salmon, and Jeff Austin, formerly of Yonder Mountain String Band.

April 20: The world-famous Pond Skim at Big Sky Resort returns to celebrate the end of the ski season. Spectate on the slopes of Ambush or participate in the event itself.

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THE LONE PEAK PLAYBOOK



Big Horns varsity basketball stumble in districts, Lady Miners finish 27-0

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF

The basketball season came to a close for the Big Horns varsity basketball teams in the district tournament held Feb. 14-16. The Lady Big Horns (6-12 in the regular season) were ranked fifth in District 11C and finished fourth place in districts after Brooke Botha, Solae Swenson, Emma Flach, Ivy Hicks and Sara Wilson led the charge garnering two wins in the end-of-season, double elimination tournament. Coach Ausha Cole singled out Sara Wilson for an amazing defensive performance as well.

Feb. 14

Lone Peak: 33 Gardiner: 28

Leading scorers: Ivy Hicks 8, Solae Swenson, Carly Wilson, Brooke Botha 6

Feb. 15

Lone Peak: 16 Shields Valley: 27

Leading scorers: Brooke Botha 6, Solae Swenson and Emma Flach 3, Ivy Hicks 2

Feb. 16

Lone Peak: 39

White Sulphur Springs: 25

Leading scorers: Solae Swenson 10, Emma Flach 9, Ivy Hicks 8, Sara Wilson 6

Feb. 16

Lone Peak: 26

West Yellowstone: 35

Leading scorers: Ivy Hicks 8, Emma Flach 7, Solae Swenson and Brooke Botha 4



Point guard and leading scorer Jessica Bough drives for a left-handed layup. Bough put up thirty points in the final three games of the season.



Jump for joy! The Ophir Lady Miners had plenty to celebrate after finishing their season with an impressive, undefeated 27-0 record. PHOTOS BY RICH ADDICKS

The Big Horns boys team lost their first postseason matchup in a close matchup against Shields Valley, even with Cole March putting up a Steph Curry-like performance with 5 three-pointers. Athletic Director John Hannahs noted that Shields Valley strategy to double team Kolya Bough made it tough for the Big Horns to get their regular offense going.

Despite strong offensive play by Cole March, Kolya Bough, Frankie Starz, Kegan Babick, Nick Brester and Nolan Schumacher in their next game against West Yellowstone, the Big Horns came up short in a hard fought, high-scoring game against their longtime rivals.

Feb. 14

Lone Peak: 46

Shields Valley: 54

Leading scorers: Cole March 23, Frankie Starz 13, Austin Samuels and Nick Brester 4, Nolan Schumacher 2

Feb. 16

Lone Peak: 57

West Yellowstone: 65

Leading scorers: Cole March 17, Kolya Bough 13, Frankie Starz 12, Kegan Babick 7, Nick Brester 5, Nolan Schumacher 3

On Monday, Feb. 25, the Ophir Lady Miners completed an epic season—defeating Monforton Middle School (which has over 600 students) 32-20 to win their end-of-season tournament and finish a perfect 27-0, all in under a 50-day period. No easy task.

Jessica Bough led the offense that weekend, putting up thirty points in three games. In the championship game, outstanding defensive performances by Vera Grabow (14 rebounds) and Maddie Cone (6 steals) as well as Maddie Cone's 7-8 shooting from the free throw line helped the Lady Miners close out their undefeated season in style.

"There was a lot that went into our success this year. First, the girls made a commitment together to improve ever since the end of last season. And then they put the work in," Kirsten King, mother of Kate King, said. "Loren's coaching was outstanding too."

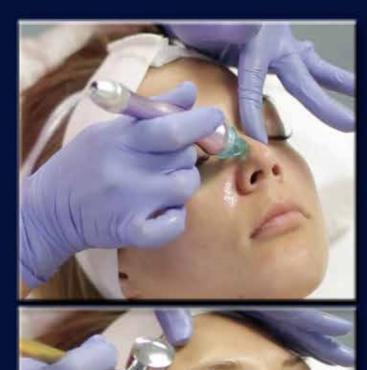
King noted that the starters this year: Jessica Bough, Maddie Cone, Vera Grabow, Katrina Lang and Kate King, were instrumental to their undefeated season. "Early on in the season, these girls were able to get out to big leads early on. That allowed Coach Bough to get some of the more inexperienced players playing time and invaluable experience on the court," King said. "It was amazing how all the girls supported each other throughout the season, and their teamwork just seemed to get better throughout the season."

Athletic Director John Hannahs was also impressed with the Lady Miners unblemished record this year as well. "We are so proud of the team for their perfect season and for the hard work they have put in," Hannahs said. "Hopefully their success will rub off on other programs and we will look forward to watching these girls continue to excel in the coming years."

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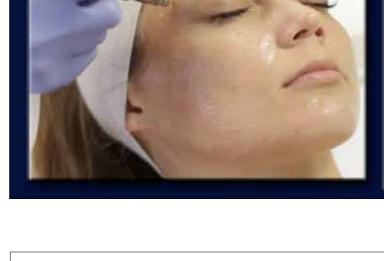


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MOUNTAIN CLUB

Ski tips: The perfect powder day

BY DAN EGAN EXPLORE BIG SKY CONTRIBUTOR

We all want to wake up to the perfect powder day – the "Holy Grail" of skiing – and if you're at a resort on that day, here are a few skills that will help you find powder paradise.

Early bird. It's a cliché, but if you think it's going to snow all night, wake up and head to the mountain to be there two hours prior to the chairlifts opening.

Be prepared. Call the resort, find out if there's a "first tracks" program that provides early access to lift opening. It's worth every dime to be on the first chair of the day.

Have a plan. Most decent powder days will see delays in lifts and trails opening. You'll have to move across the grain and be willing to risk being caught up in the herd. Think hard about where you'll go. It might be worth letting the first pack go and pouncing on a delayed trail opening.

Keep a sharp eye on ski patrol. Ask the patrollers lots of questions, watch their movements and listen to any radio chatter that might give you the edge on conditions and locations. If possible, grab a chairlift ride with a patroller and pepper them with questions, and most importantly, respect.

Set expectations. Discuss your plan with your ski pals and be clear about the "keep up and meet up" policy. Discuss your plans and be honest about what your goals are. If you're showing people around the mountain, be patient. If you're a selfish powder hound, state the obvious and buy the first round of drinks at happy hour to make up for any hurt feelings.

Breathe. Most skiers burn out on powder days because they hold their breath while skiing. Make breathing a priority as you "shred the pow" to ensure you'll have some gas in the tank to ski buzzer to buzzer.

Mind over matter. On deep days the powder can often be wind blown, crusty or inconsistent. Don't get caught up in the quality of the snow, focus instead on the experience and go for quality of runs.

Island hop. On certain days cut-up powder snow is better than fresh tracks. You can find lots of joy in skiing the islands of snow between the tracks. "Island hop" your way from powder turn to powder turn.

One good powder day will drive many skiers' addiction to deep snow for years. Ask other skiers about their best day ever and settle in for a good story that happened one glorious day in the past.



OUTLAW PARTNERS PHOTO

During my skiing career I've seen all types of snow, all over the world. In the past 30 years I've had my share of perfect powder days and I allow that definition of "perfect" to be wide open. Some days it's the people I'm with, other days it's the texture of the snow or a beautiful location. Keep an open mind, be prepared, be patient, and stay focused on the weather patterns at your favorite ski area.

Extreme skiing pioneer Dan Egan has appeared in 12 Warren Miller Ski films and countless others. Today he teaches clinics and guides trips at locations around the world including Big Sky, where he'll be teaching Feb. 26–28, March 5–7 and March 12–14. Find more ski tips from Dan Egan at skiclinics.com/education/skitips.

This installment of "Ski Tips" was repurposed from an earlier version published in the Jan. 2, 2015 edition of EBS.









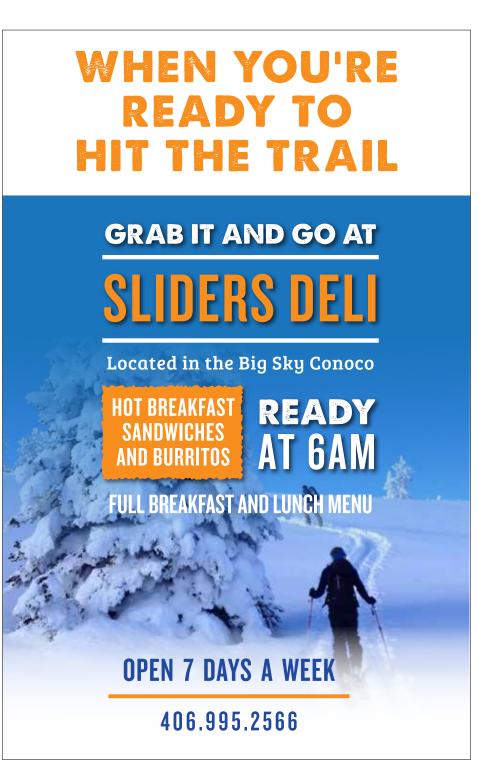
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Making it in Big Sky: Big Sky Build

BY DOUG HARE EBS STAFF WRITER

John Seelye started working for a family friend who owned a contracting business when he was in college. It did not take him long to realize that this was the path that his career would take. Seelye moved out to Colorado from the east coast after college, but when he heard that Big Sky Resort was building a tram, he knew he had to make the move to southwest Montana.

Seelye started Big Sky Woodwork & Design in Big Sky in 1997. He soon realized that his company would need to dive into all aspects of building and construction. Since he had already registered the web address *bigskybuild.com*, the natural rebranding as Big Sky Build made sense. A little over two decades later, Seelye's company, with an office located adjacent to Chopper's Grub and Pub, employs an average of 25 employees on a year-round basis.

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

John Seelye: I really must say that the key to the success of Big Sky Build is the quality of the men and women who make up this company. Also, the support of the Big Sky community over the years has been [an essential] component as well. I couldn't do it without all of you!

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

J.S.: Well, of course. I worked on a yurt for Dan and Sue Delzer.

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

J.S.: I would say that there are challenges such as affordable housing for sure, but honestly for the construction trade, it's making sure we hire people who did not just move here for the boom. I'm lucky to work with coworkers who live here for the quality of life and the powder, of course.

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

J.S.: Big Sky is a much different town than when I moved here, just matter-of-factly. There certainly is a lot more competition in the construction world, but I take that as a challenge to be better and to always progress. It keeps me motivated.

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

J.S.: Great people, a sick mountain, and it's a great place to raise a family.

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

J.S.: I would say that the economic downturn that started in 2008 was very memorable for all of us. It is because of this community and the hardworking men and women of Big Sky Build that we sustained [our business] and stayed employed—and this current storm cycle might be right up there too!



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

J.S.: Hire the right people.

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

J.S.: You better be in this long term and be ready to work your ass off. And take care of people.

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

J.S.: Really, I plan on being in a similar spot—doing rewarding jobs for quality clients with the best coworkers you could ever ask for.

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

J.S.: Deep in powder.

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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 respectable profession



BY SCOTT MECHURA EBS FOOD COLUMNIST

Not too long ago, I was listening to a podcast by Mike Rowe. His interview really got my attention. He spoke at length about his childhood, upbringing, and how being a television host is but one of several occupations he has held.

It was his delve into the "blue collar" world that particularly interested me. In this podcast, he spoke with some fairly heavy opinions and viewpoints as to the fate and future of today's youth—what jobs aren't getting done, what industries are failing at an alarming rate, as well as the workforce in general.

As I listened, I was reminded of a conversation I had with friend and Montana Ale Works owner Roth Jordan. We were conversing not too long ago about how the profession of line cook is a very respectable job and profession as a whole.

I thought of this conversation again the other day as I watched our cooks show up for their shift, don their whites, open their tool kit just as a carpenter might, look at their prep list they wrote the night before in preparation for the next day as they sigh at the sight of said list that has seemingly grown overnight, and put their head down and work. I can't help but find a little bit of respect for them each and every day.

Buck's is a delicate animal. That is to say that our volume, history, quality (hopefully), atmosphere, culture, and dependability may seem, on the outside, to be bestowed on us as though we were gifted these things. I am here to tell you that every day is a grind for us. There are no easy days. And there certainly aren't any "down days."

And one of the foundations of our success is a position that is ordinarily referred to as the line cook.

For decades, I have either been a line cook, or overseen them in droves. And I can tell you this: it is a challenging profession that requires a certain set of physical and mental skills, the likes of which few of us—when the rubber meets the road—have the skills to perform, even for one day.

A line cook must first have the mental and physical stamina to withstand the most arduous of job descriptions. To be able to perform day-in and day-out, without complaint or waiver, no matter the challenge thrown at them.

A line cook must possess math skills as they scale recipes up or down, according to business predictions.

They need incredible hand-eye coordination as they wield as many tools on a given day as a surgeon.

A line cook knows that they are the last line of defense. By that I mean—to put it in military terms—they are the front line, both figuratively and literally. Successful plans and ideas begin with days of planning, but much of that success or failure ends with them.

What is most impressive to me as I watch them perform regularly is the dual challenge of mental and physical effort for hours on end. Working with hot oil, flames, searing hot sauté pans, ambient heat, on their feet, clanging metal, multiple shouting voices, and machinery, they just find a way to push forward day-in and day-out.

If you do not believe that these men and women aren't the backbone and soul of any quality restaurant, remember the words of John Bernet, one of America's best railroad men: "People are more important than tools. If you don't believe so, put a good tool in the hands of a poor workman."

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.

American Life in Poetry:

Column 726

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE

John Stanizzi is a poet living in Connecticut, whose work we've published before. His most recent collection of poems is Chants, from Cervena Barva Press. Our column has published a number of poems about facing the loss of family members, and others about the rush of time. This poem addresses both subjects.

Ascension

By John Stanizzi

First day of February, and in the far corner of the yard the Adirondack chair, blown over by the wind at Christmas, is still on its back, the snow too deep for me to traipse out and right it, the ice too sheer to risk slamming these old bones to the ground. In a hospital bed in her room where her bed used to be, and her husband,

my Aunt Millie keeps reaching up for the far corner of the room, whispering That is so interesting. I will go now. In April I will walk out across the warming grass, and right the chair as if there had never been anything to stop me in the first place, listening for the buzz of hummingbirds which reminds me of how fast things are capable of moving.

We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts. 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 John Stanizzi, "Ascension." Poem reprinted by permission of John Stanizzi. Introduction copyright ©2019 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

- Subject (abbr.) Killer of Castor
- 9 Agent (abbr.) 12 Eight (Lat.) 13 Informer: slang
- 14 Canon 15 Green Bay tribe
- 17 Master of Business
- Administration (abbr.) 18 Corrode 20 Equilibrium
- 22 Metal refuse 25 Outer (pref.) 26 Illumination unit
- 27 Recombinant letters 29 Murderer of
- Siegfried 33 Old Gr. coin 35 Youngster 37 Venetian
- traveler 38 Birthplace of Columbus

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Commission (abbr.) 42 Suitcase 43 Florida (abbr.) 45 Eric

40 Atomic Energy

- 47 Rom. shield 50 Adverb (abbr.) 51 Tablet
- 54 Bedouin headband cord 58 Amer. Bar Assn. (abbr.) 59 Son of Isaac
- 60 Achy 61 Arabic letter 62 Narrow street 63 Plunder
 - DOWN Distress signal Fiddler crab
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HEAT

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19 Succor 21 Nipa palm

23 Geometric solid

28 Amer. Automobile

Assn. (abbr.) 30 Asian desert 31 Dash

39 Chemist's pot

32 Strong ale 34 Warehouse

area 36 Reduce

41 Sp. hero 44 David's

22 Trudge

24 Oxford

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

- 4 Wag 5 Wink 6 Burm Burmese knife
- Appear Outline Charity
- 10 Taro 11 Poetic
- contraction commander 46 Weak Russ. beer 47 Fr. plane

60

- 48 Woman's work basket 49 Hereditary property 53 John, Gaelic 55 Tibetan gazelle
- 56 Amer. Red Cross (abbr.)

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SECTION 4: ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT







In the Spotlight

Life through Stiffler's lens: Colton Stiffler

BY TIMOTHY BEHUNIAK

BOZEMAN – Many of us have ample experience with impulse purchasing. Some of us even regret spending our hard-earned cash after walking out of the store. But Montana native Colton Stiffler hasn't looked back since spontaneously buying his first camera in 2005.

However, Stiffler's creative interests can be traced back to his earlier years growing up in Butte. His mother was a painter and potter with an eye for detail that trickled down to her son. In high school, he was drawn to videography and media by making ski videos with his friends. "We made rambunctious films and caused some ruckus in town," said Stiffler, a wry grin on his face.

The photographer's love for the outdoors and outdoor recreation began at an early age and now, at 37, that love has yet to dissipate. Growing up in southwest Montana means spending countless hours of free time outside. While his mom ingrained a creative energy in Stiffler, his dad instilled an adoration for the great wide open.

"We spent most of our free time in local rivers and in the mountains fishing, hiking, skiing and mountain biking," Stiffler said.

After composing and capturing his first simple image of a tree in 2005, Stiffler immediately gravitated toward photography. "I couldn't believe the amount of detail, resolution and colors," he said. "I really enjoyed the technical aspects of trying to take a photo while learning about light. It captivated me."

While Stiffler attended DeVry University in Seattle for electrical engineering and now works full-time researching photonics, he's constantly juggling the stimulation of his left and right brain. After working 40-hour workweeks at the S2 Corporation in Bozeman, Stiffler unwinds at home by scheduling photoshoots, editing photographs and pursuing creative opportunities.

"Both pursuits are full-time jobs," he said. "But I always feel fortunate to be able to make both things happen."

On weekends and during off-work hours, Stiffler expels his restlessness by skiing in winter and mountain biking when the snow abates, always with camera in hand. "I like subjects with a lot of color and contrast, and of course beautiful landscapes." he said. "I use a combination of getting settings right in the camera as well as manipulating images in the digital darkroom. I enjoy post-processing and bringing flat, bland images to life."



Mike Mannelin slashing the Gullies at Big Sky Resort. PHOTO BY COLTON STIFFLER $\,$



Mt. Everest sunrise selfie for Stiffler's 34th birthday. PHOTO BY COLTON STIFFLER

In his early 30s, Stiffler was bitten by the international travel bug. He purchased a plane ticket to Nepal in 2015 and departed on his first solo trip. Feeling out of his comfort zone at first in the bustling capital city of Kathamandu, Stiffler eventually embraced language barriers, new sights and smells and headed toward the mountains.

"I've always dreamed of seeing with my own eyes the world's tallest peaks," he said. On the morning of his 34th birthday, Stiffler watched the sun rise over Mt. Everest – a present to himself, he said.

Stiffler has since traveled the entire length of the Nile River in Egypt and toured various countries in South America. Recently, he returned from Japan where he again experienced a new culture, food and language barrier while capturing images of his friends in world-famous snow, dubbed JaPow.

"I love to shoot action," Stiffler said. "I love seeing people challenging themselves in precarious situations and I'm always trying to capture and share that with the world."

Although Stiffler's action and travel images have appeared in Teton Gravity Research media as well as Outside, Powder and Ski and Mountain Outlaw magazines, among others, he also dabbles in weddings and architecture photography.

"I like to challenge myself to shoot a little bit of everything and not just confine myself to a particular subject or theme," he said. "Shooting a static subject in a studio with the right lighting is very challenging, but it all translates to being a more well-rounded photographer."

Long days working two full-time jobs continues to pay off: Stiffler has recently been collaborating with the national outdoor-orientated eyewear brand Zeal Optics, and also traveled to Patagonia as a hired photographer for the tour company Traveling Jackie. All the while, his list of places and subjects to shoot gets longer and longer.

"Right now the biggest challenge is finding the time and energy to go on new trips," he said. "But I'm always chasing elusive moments with my camera."

Visit coltonstifflerphotography.com or to view more of Stiffler's work.

Auction for the Arts: Donor matching donations for Arts Council community space

ARTS COUNCIL OF BIG SKY

The Arts Council of Big Sky has an exciting fundraising opportunity in connection with the upcoming Auction for the Arts on March 30 at Moonlight Lodge. An anonymous donor is matching gifts made in support of the Arts Council's classroom space in the future community center facility in Big Sky Town Center. For every dollar contributed, the donor will match it, up to \$100,000. ACBS will kick off this fundraising opportunity during the "paddle raise" portion of the art auction.

For several years, ACBS has had a vision of securing a building that will include flexible spaces for exhibitions and classroom space while serving as a place for the community to gather for art-related activities. The future community center building, spearheaded by the Big Sky Community Organization, will accomplish just that.

"We're fortunate to be part of the BSCO's proposed community center, which will include office space for our staff and classroom space where the Arts Council can host children's art activities, adult art workshops and other art events," said ACBS Executive Director Brian Hurlbut. "We're already making lists of how to equip the art classroom in the community center. An art classroom requires things like sealed flooring, special sinks, display space, direct lighting options, drying racks, ventilation to remove fumes and lots of storage."

ACBS board member Linda Goldinger, who chairs both the Auction for the Arts and the Arts Council's adult workshop series, is aware of the advantages a dedicated art classroom will provide.

"Though ground has not yet broken on the new community center, we're already planning for the future to make sure we create a facility that will best serve Big Sky," Goldinger said. "We're earmarking the funds from this year's paddle raise at the art auction for this purpose, [and] hope the community will take advantage of the opportunity to give."

"This is a great opportunity for everyone to get involved in whatever way they can to support arts and culture in our community, because gifts of every amount make a difference," said Goldinger.



Oregon artist David Mensing leads a sold-out palette knife painting workshop at Buck's T4 on Feb. 2. With the new community center, the Arts Council hopes to have a more proper and dedicated space for classes like these in the future. PHOTO COURTESY OF ACBS.

The seventh annual Auction for the Arts includes a quick finish of well-known Western and contemporary artists, live and silent auctions, a jazz trio, heavy hors d'ouevres and a "Montana-sized" gala. Tickets are available online at bigskyarts.org.

For those not attending the art auction but wish to donate, call the Arts Council office at (406) 995-2742 or visit bigskyarts.org.





Explore Big Sky March 1-14, 2019 **47**

WMPAC welcomes iconic radio host Ira Glass

WARREN MILLER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

BIG SKY – On March 9, the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center will welcome perhaps the biggest name of any performer in the center's six-year history. Ira Glass, the NPR radio personality and host of the massively popular podcast "This American Life," is coming to Big Sky for two back-to-back shows.

According to executive director of WMPAC John Zirkle, it's the most popular show the center has ever hosted, illustrated by the fact that tickets sold out nearly two months ahead of the performance.

"It's a testament to this performance space that we're bringing such a big name and that people are coming from as far away as Billings to experience a WMPAC show," Zirkle said. "We've built considerable momentum over the past five years and people from surrounding communities are starting to take note of what we've got going on in Big Sky."

Fans of "This American Life" know to expect Glass' incisive storytelling and trademark blend of humor and empathy for the vast range of human experience he probes in the radio show and podcast.

However, attendees might not expect this type of show. Glass will perform a series of stories with two professional dancers, Monica Bill Barnes and Anna Bass, who will illustrate the stories he tells with choreography. As Glass put it, the three of them set out to combine two art forms that "have no business being together: dance and radio."

"What makes it work is a shared sensibility," Glass said. "As dancers, Monica and Anna are these amazingly relatable and funny storytellers without words."

WMPAC is no stranger to uncommon artistic collaborations, and Zirkle knows that Big Sky is an ideal venue for this type of experimental performance.

"The Big Sky community prides itself on pushing boundaries," he said. "People don't live here because they prefer their comfort zone. They choose to live here because they want to learn and explore. We're fortunate to be rooted in a community that encourages us to bring in new work like this."

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BIG SKY EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, MARCH 1 - THURSDAY, MARCH 14

If your event falls between March 15 and March 28, please submit it by March 6 by emailing media@outlaw.partners

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

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

John Craigie Filling Station, 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

Snowshoe Shuffle Big Sky Resort, 5:30 p.m.

Open Skate
Town Center Ice Rink, noon

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

International Guitar Night Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 6:30 p.m.

Kristin Korb The Ellen Theatre, 7:00 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 4

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

Vera Bradley Talk: Basement to Boardroom Montana State University, 5:30 p.m.

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

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

Music & Mussels with Bridger Creek Boys Bridger Brewing, 5:30 p.m.

Dancing Night Buck's T-4, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

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

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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.

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

BSSEF Freeride Competition Big Sky Resort, all day

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

BSSEF Freeride Competition Big Sky Resort, all day

Ira Glass and Monica Bill Barnes Warren Miller Performing Arts Center, 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

BSSEF Freeride Competition Big Sky Resort, all day

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

MONDAY, MARCH 11

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

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

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

Dancing Night Buck's T-4, 7 p.m.

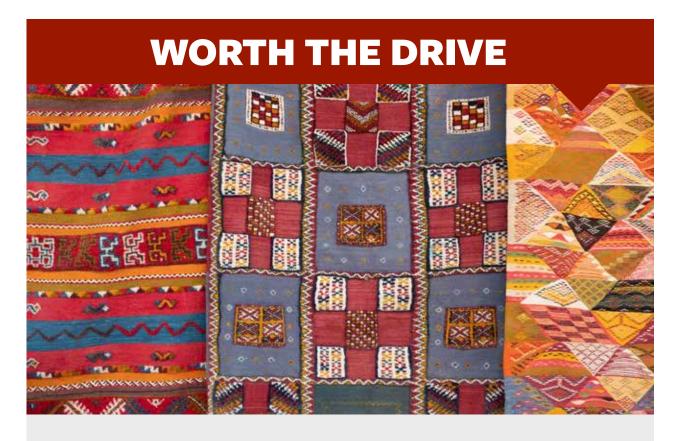
THURSDAY, MARCH 14

Open Skate Town Center Ice Rink, 12:00 p.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.



BILLINGS, MONTANA

Big Sky Quilt Show and Classes

Al Bedoo Shrine Auditorium | March 14 - 16, all day

Join Big Sky Quilt Association at the Big Sky Quilt Show in Billings for the largest quilt event in the state. Two national quilt and art educators – host of Quilting Arts TV, Susan Brubaker-Knapp, and author and educator Gudrun Erla - and many regional educators will teach over 18 classes of all types. Special exhibits will be available as well as over 150 quilts to view and a vendor mall. The featured artist will be Cynthia St. Charles. Visit bigskyquiltassociation.com to register for the event.





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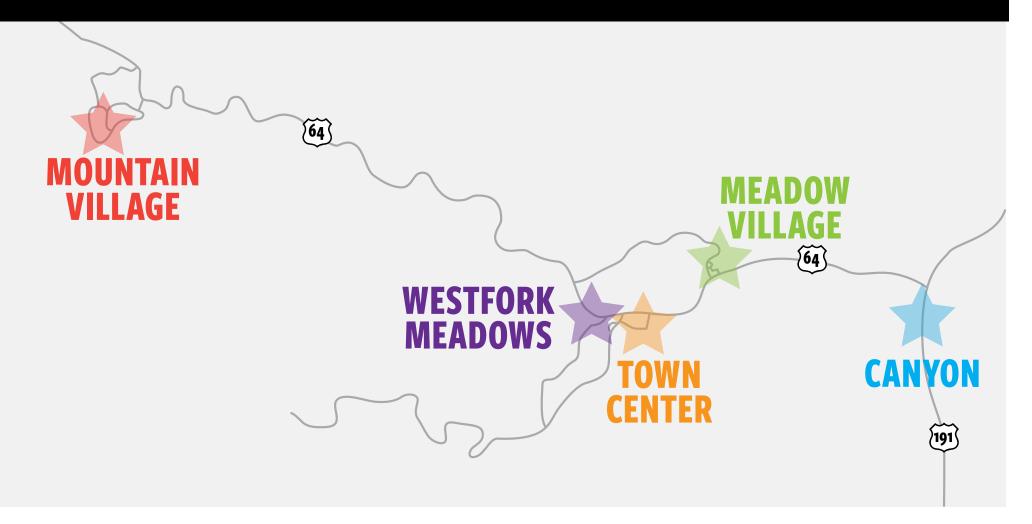
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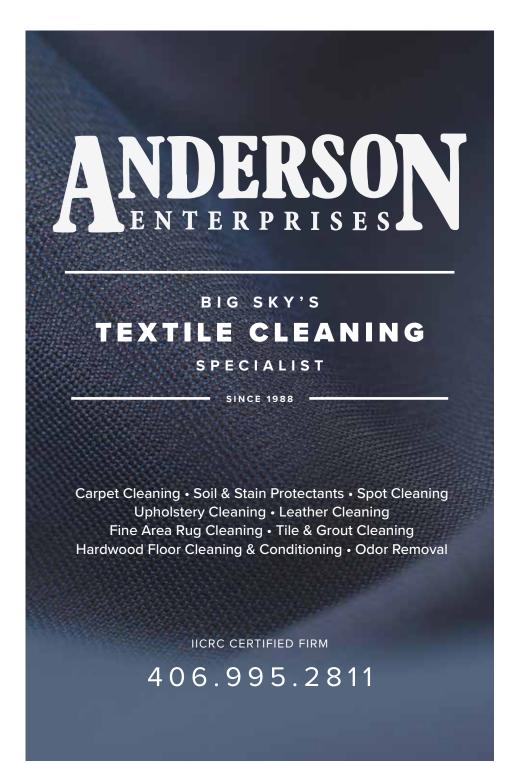
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"Juliet, Naked"

BY ANNA HUSTED

Critics Adam Kempenaar and Josh Larsen of the Filmspotting podcast have deemed this decade the "Hawkaissance" because of Ethan Hawke's resurgence in cinema. I'm not sure if Hawke makes these movies great or if he's just working with great filmmakers, but his movies over the past few years are all must-watches, featuring, but not limited to, "Predestination," "Born to be Blue," "First Reformed" and "Boyhood."

Hawke released four films in 2018, but the hidden gem among his criticallyacclaimed efforts is "Juliet, Naked," based on the Nick Hornby novel of the same name. Hawke and Hornby together in one movie seems too good to be true, and it really is. "Juliet, Naked" is mesmerizing with its simple direction yet complex characters.

Adapted for the screen by three women including Tamara Jenkins, director of 2018's "Private Life," "Juliet, Naked" is about a domestic partnership gone sour. Annie (Rose Byrne) and Duncan (Chris O'Dowd) have been together for more than a decade and decided early on that they would not have kids. Duncan's No. $1\ passion\ in\ life\ is\ running\ a\ forum\ about\ a\ washed-up\ singer/songwriter\ Tucker$ Crowe (Hawke). His second passion in life is TV, specifically "The Wire," and his third passion is someone not named Annie.

On the other side of the relationship is Annie. She's not sure what her passions are except that she now wants to have kids. She moves back to her small seaside English town when her dad gets sick, leaving her to run his museum.

When a package arrives for Duncan with no return address, all hell breaks loose. Where once was indifference and complacency now is titillation and outspokenness. This package, and all that is tied to it, delivers the much-needed punch to Duncan and Annie's relationship and individual lives. It instigates actions that they thought were better left undone and words they have long stifled.

Hawke, Hornby and O'Dowd were the three initial reasons I watched this film, but Byrne was surprisingly magnetic. Her body language speaks volumes in this character-driven movie and her line delivery is perfect whether the hope was for us to laugh or cry.

"Juliet, Naked" now takes its place among my top 20 films of the year. It plays on a level of realism only Hornby knows how to convey. It is hysterical, calm and powerful in its presentation of relationships and inner strife. Hornby will always be a master of writing about relationships, but to see something fresh and new from him on screen was satisfying.

I cannot recommend this movie enough. Don't let films with paltry budgets and small casts get away from your regular viewing. They can be the ones that surprise you most and they are always the ones that remind you of how simple, yet powerful, filmmaking can be.

"Juliet, Naked" is available to rent on Amazon Prime, Google Play and YouTube.

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.



Rose Byrne and Ethan Hawke star in "Juliet, Naked." PHOTO COURTESY ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

"A Moon for the Misbegotten" shines at Emerson

BOZEMAN ACTORS THEATRE

The work of Eugene O'Neill, arguably the greatest American playwright of all time, is lighting up the stage in Bozeman. But the performance history of "A Moon for the Misbegotten," O'Neill's last play, was anything but straightforward on its way here.

O'Neill completed the play in 1943, seven years after he won the Nobel Prize in Literature and before illness forced him to stop writing. The original production in 1947, staged in Columbus, Ohio, was poorly done and a commercial flop, and O'Neill never saw it produced on Broadway before his death in 1953.

Attempts in New York during the next 20 years never gained traction, and it wasn't until a revival on Broadway in 1973, starring Colleen Dewhurst and Jason Robards, that the play finally achieved its reputation as a masterpiece of the American theater. The New York Times proclaimed it to be "one of the great plays of the 20th century."

Now in its 10th season, Bozeman Actors Theatre thinks the time is right—and "Moon" the ideal play—to present O'Neill to its audience for the first time, according to director Mark Kuntz.

"Eugene O'Neill is as big as it gets in the American theater," Kuntz said. "We really wanted



Mike Hesford and Kari Doll in Eugene O' Neill's "A Moon for the Misbegotten." PHOTO COURTESY BOZEMAN ACTORS THEATRE

to accept the challenge of staging one of his monumental plays and it's a work with so many rewards for the artists and the audience, too. In rehearsal we've really explored the great depths of this play and figured out all this can be."

Kuntz assembled what he calls "the ideal cast" of BAT veterans Kari Doll, Daniel Erickson, Colton Swibold and Colter Langan, along with newcomer Mike Hesford from Boulder, Montana. One pleasant surprise for the actors has been the play's humor, which complements its serious and tragic sides.

"This Irish-American father and daughter are a force to be reckoned with," Kuntz said. "Audiences are going to love those lighthearted moments."

"A Moon for the Misbegotten" is the third play in Bozeman Actors Theatre's 2018-2019 season, dedicated to its late cofounder Dee Dee Van Zyl, who passed away last year. Shows in the Crawford Theater at the Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture will run March 1 and 2 beginning promptly at 7 p.m. All ages are welcome, but parental guidance is suggested due to some adult situations.

Tickets can be bought at the door, but visit bozemanactorstheatre.org for more information and to purchase tickets in advance.



Traditional and Contemporary Western Art



Touring through Montana

Q-and-A with singer-songwriter John Craigie

BY TIMOTHY BEHUNIAK

Thirty-nine-year-old John Craigie is an American musician known for his soulful and comedic tunes reminiscent of John Prine and Arlo Guthrie. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Craigie discovered guitar patterns and chords through a friend when he was in high school. The musician left home at 18 to study mathematics at UC Santa Cruz, but also dabbled in music classes. Although the academic side of music turned him away, he found musical inspiration in Santa Cruz's freespirited, laid-back community.

Since taking to the stage, Craigie has performed with or opened for Jack Johnson, Trampled by Turtles and Sean Hayes, and sold out shows in New York City, Boston and San Francisco, among others. His songs "I am California" and "Highway Blood" both erupted past 1 million Spotify streams shortly after being released in 2017. Currently on tour through the Mountain West, Craigie

spoke with EBS before his March 1 show at Bozeman's Filling Station to discuss process, his feelings about Montana and why he loves Adam Sandler.

Explore Big Sky: What started your pursuit of creating and playing music?

John Craigie: We had no musicians in my family. I think I became obsessed with music because it was kind of a foreign thing, and playing music almost seemed like a fantasy.

EBS: Besides the guitar, what other instruments do you play?

JC: Harmonica and anything similar to the guitar like the banjo, ukulele or bass. But the guitar is really just a vessel for storytelling - it gives me legitimacy. If I started telling stories without the guitar I'd just be like Garrison Keillor.

EBS: From which artists or bands do you draw inspiration and influence?

JC: John Prine, Todd Snyder, Greg Brown, Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Paul Simon ... all of the storytellers and risk-takers. I like artists with diversity. When I found the Beatles, Led Zeppelin and David Bowie as a kid, I liked that I could track their careers with different sounds.

EBS: How would you describe your style?

JC: Humorous, storytelling folk music. I always want to have some humor but also have some sadness or some truth. I think the best songs are like the best movies or books – ones that can tap into emotions.

EBS: How do you decide on a setlist for each new location on tour?

JC: I'm very anal about my setlists. I carry a book with me in which I write down my setlists so I can refer to what I played each time I'm in a new city. I try not to tell the same story twice or place the same song at the same location every year. Songs will vary based on many things: what



John Craigie backstage at Soho in Santa Barbara, CA in Dec. 2018. PHOTO BY BOBBY COCHRAN

I feel is working for me at that time, new material or things I think the crowd will be happy to hear.

EBS: You're known for humorous storytelling on stage while many musicians take different approaches to songwriting and performing. What inspires this direction?

JC: I was always the class clown in school, but was nervous when I was younger that I would never be taken seriously. When I discovered artists like [John] Prine or Arlo [Guthrie], I was able to see how it was done. But it's always something I struggle with because I never want to lose credibility as a caring person when sometimes I just want to sing an Adam Sandler-esque song.

EBS: How has living in the American West influenced your singing and songwriting?

JC: Nowadays you can soak up so much influence, and there is plenty of angst and calm on both coasts. But I think the West is a little more laidback and it's obvious when thinking of something like the Eagles versus The Velvet Underground.

EBS: Why did you choose to tour through Montana?

JC: I mostly fly when on tour now but when I was first starting out I used to drive around the country in my Astro van. I always enjoyed driving through Montana and the crowds are great. The type of music I do doesn't work everywhere, but I think Montanans really connect with the style.

EBS: Do you have a particular song that reminds you of Big Sky Country?

JC: I don't have a particular song, but I put out a record in '09 called Montana Tale. I wrote a lot of those songs while driving through Montana and I always think of the state when I put on the album.

Tapping into local history

Museum of the Rockies pairs brews and history

BY TIMOTHY BEHUNIAK

BOZEMAN – On Feb. 26, the Museum of the Rockies hosted a soldout crowd for its annual Brews & the Big Sky event featuring Montana history paired with unique Montana brews.

Brews & the Big Sky is the winter extension of the museum's summer program, Hops & History, which started in 2014 with the goal of bringing more people to the MOR's Living History Farm, according to Angie Weikert, the museum's director of operations, education and public programs.

"The pairing of local history and Montana brewing was such a winning combination that those summer events kept selling out, so we brought it inside for the winter of 2015-2016," Weikert said. Hops & History benefits the Living History Farm and winter events benefit the museum's history program.

Michael Fox, MOR's curator of history, pulls an interesting historical topic from Montana each month and the collections manager pulls items from the museum's history collection that the public normally does not see. Fox gives a 30-minute presentation about the topic while the artifacts are in view.

This month's theme, "Big Teams in the Big Sky," explores and celebrates Montana's history intertwined with animals and technology to cultivate the land and harvest crops. According to Fox, farmers extensively relied on big horse teams through the early 1920s and even into the 1940s, enduring the era of automobiles.

Fox's idea for this month's theme stemmed from researching the transition from a horse-based economy to an internal combustion economy in Montana. Through his research, the historian came across a



A table of various artifacts from Montana's Big Teams Era was viewable throughout the evening. PHOTO BY TIMOTHY BEHUNIAK



Curator of History Michael Fox presents to a sold-out crowd in the museum's history hall. PHOTO BY TIMOTHY BEHUNIAK

Montana State College Extension Service document titled "Big Teams in Montana," which was published in 1925 and advocated for animal-powered farming over tractor farming due to the heavy costs and upkeep of the machinery.

"Montana is usually the No. 1 or No. 2 barley producer in the country," Fox said. "Horse power was the basis of Montana industry, which didn't really change until the early 1900s." According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Montana produced 33.6 million bushels of barley in 2018 alone.

Montana utilizes its abundance in crop production; there are currently 83 breweries open in the state with four more currently in planning. This month's adults-only event featured the Great Northern Brewing Company from Whitefish.

Although the brewery's flagship beer is the Wild Huckleberry Lager, it showcased a few of its more obscure and lesser-known brews. "We have more snow than we can handle right now, so it was an obvious choice to share our Snow Ghost Winter Lager," said Chad Jacobson, GNBC's regional sales manager. Other featured beers include Good Med Montana Red Ale, Wheatfish Wheat Lager and Big Mountain Tea Pale Ale.

"While the outdoor events feature local Gallatin Valley brewers, the winter events feature regional breweries," said Alicia Thompson, MOR's director of marketing.

The last two winter Brews & the Big Sky events will take place on March 26 and April 30. In March, the boom-and-bust story of Butte will be shared along with beers from the city's own Muddy Creek Brewery. In April, the origins of the Crow Fair celebration in southeast Montana will be discovered as glasses from the Billings Thirsty Street Brewing Company are poured and passed. Hops & History takes place during warmer months, beginning in May.

"I've been coming to these events for a few years, starting in the summer," said Bozeman resident Kristin Harbuck. "It's fun to try local beers from around the state and learn various bits of history while supporting the museum. It's always a good time."





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