BGSKY

CITY DESK: 587-4491 | CITYDESK@DAILYCHRONICLE.COM

BEAR-LY THERE

A deputy responded to a report that every car door on Rose Hip Circle had been opened and trash was all over. It was found that a bear had opened the car doors. | POLICE REPORTS, PAGE A7

Companies, innovators honored at annual business awards

By LEWIS KENDALL Chronicle Staff Writer

Several local companies and entrepreneurs were honored Thursday night as part of economic development organization Prospera Business Network's annual Business Excellence Awards.

Out of a pool of 31 nominees, winners were chosen in five separate categories from economic leadership to business of the year. "It's amazing what we

do here in the Gallatin Valley," said Prospera Executive Director Paul Reichert. "That's why we're here, to celebrate the people and businesses that make this community

Around 300 people attended the event, held at the Bozeman Best Western and styled as a celebrity awards show, complete with red carpet and instrumental introduction music. The Chronicle was a sponsor for the ceremony.

"I'd like to thank the academy," Serena Rundberg joked upon receiving her award for Entrepreneur of the Year.

Rundberg and her busi-

ness partner Sean Lehmann own the Nova Cafe, Feed Cafe and the newly resurrected Tart boutique.

"I'm really honored to be up here," she said. "Without (my team), anything we do would not be possible. I'd like to thank my community as a whole. I absolutely love you, Bozeman." The event also included

a bit of housekeeping for Prospera, the economic advisory nonprofit for Gallatin and Park counties, with outgoing board president Dennis O'Brien handing the reins to local lawyer Lilia Tyrrell.

"The vibrancy of this community is difficult to state," O'Brien said, noting several business ventures that Prospera has helped fund, including Heeb's grocery and Simms Fishing Products. The organization facilitated \$1 million in loan activity in 2016, according to Reichert.

Many of the winners hailed Prospera in their acceptance speeches.

"Six years ago I walked into (Prospera) and said 'I think I should start a physical therapy clinic.' And since then, they've held my hand the whole way,"

said Darcy Cook, owner of Granite Sports Medicine, who won the Montana Women's Business Center Startup of the Year. Others pointed to the

strength and support of the local business com-

"It's a cauldron of excitement and things happening," said Larry Johnson, president of the Montana Photonics Industry Alliance, who won an award for economic leadership.

Product development company Salient Technologies received the award for Innovator of the Year, while the night's highest

honor, Business of the Year, went to pet product manufacturer West Paw Design.

Founded in 1996, West Paw employs around 70 people at its Bozeman facility, where it produces a variety of toys and beds. The company was recently certified as a B Corporation as a testament to its focus on employees, the community and the environment.

A full list of nominees and winners can be found on Prospera's website.

Kendall can be reached at lkendall@dailychronicle. com. Kendall is on Twitter at @lewdak

Annual Bridger Ski Foundation fundraiser today



RACHEL LEATHE/CHRONICLE

Dawn Hamilton helps organize skis on Friday at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds for the Bridger Ski Foundation's annual Ski Swap. Hamilton has been volunteering for the swap, which starts today, with her dad since she was a young girl.

By TROY CARTER

Chronicle Staff Writer

The 49th annual Bridger Ski Foundation Ski Swap will be held this weekend at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds. Thousands upon thousands of lightly used skis, boots, coats and snowboards will be on sale.

Dylan McKenna, 23, was dropping off a pair of ski boots Friday, entering the bustling exhibition hall where he paid a \$1 check-in fee and tied them together with orange bailing twine

before handing them over to volunteers.

"They're my girlfriend's. She wanted new ones. These don't fit her anymore," he said. The boots were in pretty good shape. He hopes to get \$50 for them.

The boots went into the next room with thousands of other pairs and dozens of barrels full of ski poles. If McKenna gets his price, 20 percent will go to the foundation.

The Bridger Ski Foundation is a nonprofit community ski organization. It offers recreational, educational and competitive programs for all

IF YOU GO

General admission for the Bridger Ski Foundation Ski Swap starts at 10 a.m. Saturday and costs \$2; it is free on Sunday. Members of BSF get in free both days and also get early entry into the Ski Swap on Saturday morning.

ages, year round, in Nordic, alpine, freeskiing and freestyle skiing.

The organization also grooms a network of crosscountry ski trails throughout Bozeman — including Lindley Park, Highland Glen, Sourdough Canyon and Bridger Creek Golf Course and assists the Forest Service's grooming efforts in Hyalite. The programs and trails are open to everyone, and they strive to keep skiing affordable through fundraising, scholarships, financial aid and equipment assistance.

Troy Carter can be reached at 582-2630 or tcarter@dailychronicle.com. He's on Twitter at @cartertroy.

Mother accused of felony tampering to protect her son

By WHITNEY BERMES

Chronicle Staff Writer

Police say a mother deleted Facebook posts about two designer watches her son gave her because she later found out the gifts were reportedly stolen from the Bozeman Macy's and she didn't want to get her son in trouble.

Stacy Lynn Allen, 44, was arrested Thursday and charged with felony tampering with evidence. She will appear in Gallatin County Justice Court on Friday morning to have her bail set.

According to charging documents: In August, Bozeman police investigated a burglary at the Macy's department store at the Gallatin Valley Mall where a suspect stole 66 watches that included Michael Kors, Bulova, Anne Klein and Fossil brands, with a total value of about \$7,600.

Allen's son, 18-year-old Matthew Noorlander, was later arrested and charged for numerous burglaries to local businesses, including Macy's.

During the investigation, police learned that Noorlander had given some watches to family members, including Allen, who had posted about the gift on Facebook. A detective contacted Allen, who

denied making the Facebook post. She said Noorlander had given her a watch, but that it wasn't one of the stolen ones. Allen said she gave the watch to a friend, but did not provide the friend's name or

contact information. She was warned by a detective that if she hindered the investigation, she could be charged with a crime. This week, a forensic investigation on Noorlander's computer was completed and

showed a Facebook post from Allen written on the day Macy's was broken into. "My sweet boy got me not one but 2,

yeah 2, Michael Kors watches!!! For NO REASON, like just because," the post read. "I really don't have words. No matter what, my boy has a good heart and loves his mama?

When confronted Thursday by police about the post, Allen admitted to lying. "I also have to protect myself and my

child," Allen reportedly told police. She said she deleted the post after learning the watches had been stolen.

Allen was arrested and held on no bond. Noorlander is also currently in the Gallatin County jail and is facing six felony burglary charges and one felony theft charge.

Whitney Bermes can be reached at wbermes@dailychronicle.com or 582-2648. Follow her on Twitter at @wabermes.

Death-row inmates question expert witness' testimony

By MATT VOLZ

Associated Press

HELENA — Attorneys for two Montana deathrow inmates are questioning whether state Department of Justice officials told a witness to change his testimony to bolster their failed argument that a substitute drug met the legal requirements for use in executions.

District Judge Deann Cooney has scheduled a Nov. 18 hearing on the issue raised by ACLU of Montana Legal Director Jim Taylor, one of the lawyers representing inmates

Ronald Allen Smith and William Gollehon.

"Had the expert not changed his testimony, we would not have gotten to trial," Taylor said. "We want to know what happened. We just want a hearing and we've been trying to get a

hearing for a year." Department of Justice spokesman John Barnes did not immediately return a telephone message

seeking comment.

 Jim Taylor, Legal Director of ACLU of Montana In court documents filed in response to the inmates' request to

"Had the expert not changed his testimony, we would not have

gotten to trial. We want to know what happened. We just want a

hearing and we've been trying to get a hearing for a year."

preserve evidence and reopen the case, Assistant Attorney General Ben Reed said the accusation is groundless and Auburn University pharmacy school dean Roswell Lee Evans' testimony was

consistent. At the trial last year, District Judge Jeffrey Sherlock effectively

blocked executions in Montana after ruling that one of the two drugs to be used in lethal injections did not meet a requirement under state law to be an "ultra-fast-acting barbiturate." The state does not have an alternative barbiturate to use in lethal injections. Montana originally

used sodium pentothal as

the barbiturate, but that

drug is no longer available

State officials named pentobarbital as a substitute.

in the U.S. for executions.

State attorneys argued unsuccessfully at trial that pentobarbital, which has never been used in a Montana execution, meets the requirement. Their expert, Evans, wrote an expert declaration in March 2015 that did not address the "ultra-fast acting" question. In April 2015, he supplemented that declaration by adding pentobarbital could be considered "ultra-fast acting" but that it is classified differently.

Taylor wrote in his

request to re-open the

it's classified."

mony, Taylor wrote, it appears state attorneys persuaded Evans to change his original declaration.

case in March that Evans

testified in a separate case

testimony in the Montana

case. According to a transcript, Evans was asked

in Tennessee in which

he was asked about his

whether the Montana

attorney general needed

him to say pentobarbital

was ultra-fast acting and

he wrote that it could be.

answered. "That's not how

"Could be," Evans

Based on that testi-

More TESTIMONY | A7