

PATHFINDER



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677-2022

"VOICE OF THE VALLEY"

754-2365

January 8, 1987



Little girl, BIG dog! Carrie Bellavance and her 92-pound pal, "Bear," were intent on the weight pull competition held in Seeley Lake last weekend. Bear placed third in his weight division. Carrie and her family drove here from Hamilton Saturday to enter their malamute in Barney's Big Load Weight Pull. (See story page 8.)

Outfitting boosts local economy by nearly \$3 million

The impact of the outfitting industry in the Seeley Swan area is nearly \$3 million annually, an amount derived from revenue and expense figures included in a recent study of the guided hunters and fishermen in Montana. Researchers Shannon Taylor and Michael Reilly of Montana State University, Bozeman, conducted the study for the Montana Outfitters and Guides Association (MOGA).

Information contained in the study was released at the MOGA convention held last month in Great Falls.

Fishermen, hunters and other guided recreationists contributed more than \$34 million to the state's economy in 1985. Specifically, fishermen spent more than \$15 million in Montana during 1985, while hunters spent between \$14 and \$15 million. Considering the 2.5 multiplier or "rollover" effect of revenue, the economic impact of guided fishermen and hunters in Montana amounts to \$86 million annually.

MOGA members intend to use these findings to show lawmakers the impact of the industry on Montana's economy. MOGA has drafted proposed changes for hunting license procedures, including raising non-resident license fees, and using that revenue to improve big game habitat on private and public lands in Montana.

The fish and game committee of the current legislature will be considering proposals submitted by MOGA, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the Montana Wildlife Federation.

YAMAFEST begins next week

More than five hundred snow-mobilers are expected in Seeley Lake next Friday, Saturday and Sunday to participate in the YAMAFEST winter snowmobile festival.

The festival begins at the Seeley Lake Community Hall the evening of January 16, with registration for various events such as poker runs and trail rides.

The Liar's Contest, a nationwide event sponsored by Yamaha, will begin Friday night at 8 p.m. Entrants' tales will be recorded and the winning story will advance to the national contest. Winner of the local event will win a new jacket; winner at the national level wins a 1987 Yamaha "Phazer" snow-mobile.

Eagle Company sponsors Seeley 200

A national dog food company recently signed on as the major sponsor of the Seeley Lake 200 Sled Dog race by contributing \$1,500 to the race purse.

"Eagle just bought the race," according to Ron Ogden, president of the Wilderness Sportsman's Club in Seeley Lake, which is organizing and promoting the four-day event that begins January 29.

Eagle is also sponsoring Ron Ogden as a musher in the race and has contributed \$325 to help cover some of his training expenses.

Eagle is a well-known dog food company in the Midwest, and is now promoting their dog food in Montana and the Northwest. The president of the company plans on being in Seeley Lake for the race.

By contributing \$1500 to the Seeley 200 race purse, Eagle has boosted the total purse to \$5,800, leaving organizers only \$200 short of their purse goal.

"We are really pleased with the interest and support we have seen for this race," Ogden said.

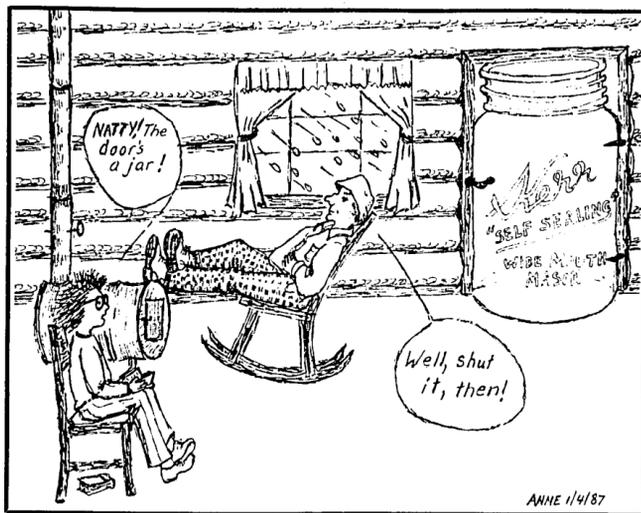
The Seeley Lake 200 race requires mushers to run 50 miles a day on each of four days. The musher with the fastest times wins. The race will begin Thursday, January 29 and continue through the weekend. Other winter recreation activities are scheduled in conjunction with the race.

Ogden said that the Wilderness Sportsman's Club is expecting about 20 mushers for the four-day event. Many of those mushers will remain in Seeley Lake to train for the 500-mile Governor's Cup Race which begins in Helena the following week. Mushers competing in the Governor's Cup will follow a course from Helena to Lincoln, the Whitetail Ranch, Seeley Lake, Holland Lake and return.

WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday-Saturday: Dry, with areas of valley fog and low clouds. Highs 20-35. Lows 5-20.

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Business of the Week
SEELEY LAKE LIQUOR STORE



The Seeley Lake Liquor Store has been in its present location (next to the Gas Haus) for about four years. Sandi Doucett has lived in Seeley Lake for about forty years and says the store has been in Seeley Lake for quite some time. She remembers when it was housed in the back of Rovero's and, more recently, next to the Seeley Lake Mercantile.

Edna Herbert (Sandi's mother) operated the business for about ten years; Sandi took over when Edna retired 2-1/2 years ago. Sandi owns the building and operates the business on a commission basis; the State owns the inventory. "I can order whatever my customers want on special order," she said.

The Seeley Lake Liquor Store carries a variety of some of the most popular items. In addition to her regular stock, Sandi carries special mixes, wines, liqueurs and gift items during the holidays. The current trend, according to Sandi: "People are buying more liqueurs...schnapps has become real popular - probably because of the lower alcohol content."

A large percentage of Sandi's business comes from within the community, primarily from the bars and restaurants.



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FDIC

OPINION

Who's Minding the Store?

How would you feel about investing in a company whose board of directors meets only once every two years? Do you suppose that IBM or Exxon would have attained their success and prominence if their boards convened only once every two years? Clearly, they probably wouldn't have survived long enough to have a second board meeting - as events and competitors rapidly outpaced them.

Unfortunately, this is pretty much the situation which prevails at Montana, Inc. Biennial legislative sessions are an idea whose time has gone. In today's world - characterized by instant communication, volatile markets, constantly changing federal regulations and, in general, a host of dynamism - we can no longer afford to let our "board of directors" meet infrequently. Events and competitors are outpacing us. And, we do have competitors - in the form of other states outdoing us in terms of attracting new business, new investment and more tourists.

Some of the electorate seem to feel that biennial sessions are good because there is less potential for the lawmakers to make mischief. Admittedly, this thought has some merit. On the other hand, you either trust your legislators or you don't. If you don't, you don't elect them. This sort of "check-and-balance" is a fundamental aspect of free, democratic government. The legislature, in turn, is supposed to exercise various other checks, including keeping a vigilant eye on the state bureaucracy.

- Dick Potter

New Rules?

To the Editor:

Optimism, encouragement, and hope were all experienced by this writer when I received the good news that the Seeley-Condon Chamber of Commerce membership had recently been formally exposed to the A-B-C's of Parliamentary Procedure.

Almost immediately after I received that great news, the December 11, 1986 *Pathfinder* reported that the membership, I assume upon motion duly made, seconded, discussed, and voted upon, elected to change its name. Exuberant is the only word to describe my reaction when I read your reported example of this democratic Parliamentary Procedure. As I read on, however, my exuberance was dashed by the following:

"The new name becomes official when the Chamber's Board of Directors ratifies the change."

(Could this be an error?) In *Robert's Parliamentary Procedure Newly Revised*, the action of the membership is the final authority to all questions or motions and is subject to review only by the membership itself.

It will take time to learn Robert's Procedures and to understand the benefits derived through its use. This writer, however, continues to remain encouraged, optimistic, and supportive of the direction I believe the Chamber is now moving.

L. W. "Lindey" Lindemer
Lindey's Prime Steak House
Seeley Lake

Not an easy job, when the horse has been out of the barn for two years. It is not uncommon for the legislature to enact a new program, and return two years later to encounter the same program in a fully institutionalized and fiscally insatiable form - regardless of its merits. There is truth in the observation that the biggest growth industry in Montana in recent times has been state government.

It is no accident that, as the state government has blossomed, the state economy has withered. There is a bedrock economic principle underlying this: increased taxes always impair an economy. (We encourage our legislators to consult any textbook on introductory economics to verify this. Perhaps this would quell prognostications of tax increases, which are already being bandied about by certain legislators.) More frequent legislative oversight of the bureaucracy's spending habits cannot help but be beneficial. Budgets could be fashioned accordingly.

Legislation providing for annual sessions will be introduced this year. Let's hope it passes. The current biennial "marathon," in which a two-year backlog is hastily whittled down, does not lead to well-considered legislative decisions, does not provide for adequate oversight of the bureaucracy, does not keep us competitive with other states, and does not permit timely response to rapidly changing events. It may cost a little more in the short run to administer annual sessions (although this would be offset somewhat by a reduced need for special sessions) - but, in the long run, the payoff should dwarf these extra costs. Minding the store always pays off.

OPINION

Thanks

To the Editor:

My biggest objection to your editorial "Valley of Lost Opportunities", and some other articles in the *Pathfinder*, is the negative or pessimistic overtones they present. I feel it is important to remember that much of the time people devote to make this a better community is volunteered.

Consider some of the following:

-People that serve on Chamber committees, the Community Survey committee, and local organized boards for fire, health, schools, water and garbage.

-Volunteer firemen and QRU members that respond to save or protect our lives and possessions.

-All those people that spice up our lives with everything from sporting events such as races, to fireworks, fishing derbies, and Santa Claus.

-All the other people that donate time, talents and materials.

Many people give hours, days and weeks of time to keep Seeley Lake moving in the mainstream of life. It is important to recognize and show some appreciation for these efforts. It's a wonder that people do volunteer when all they get for it are moans and groans.

I for one would like to say **Thank You** to these concerned and giving

people. I appreciate your efforts, and I'm sure most citizens of this community do. Keep up the good work. Without you to care and work free for the rest of us, Seeley Lake would be going nowhere.
Best Wishes for a Happy New Year.

Roger Marshall
Seeley Lake

(Editor's Note: No doubt the "lost opportunities" piece can be viewed as having a negative cast. The intent, of course, was to produce a positive result. Last week's letters on the matter suggest that, indeed, a salubrious effect has been achieved. "Negative" editorials are a time-honored journalistic tradition. From time to time, readers can expect to see more of them in *Pathfinder*.)

Since Mr. Marshall has not provided any specifics, we are understandably baffled by the innuendo about "other articles" carrying negative overtones. We are genuinely interested in readers' perceptions and, should he care to enlighten us with some details, we will be pleased to engage in further dialog on this matter.

We wholeheartedly agree that volunteerism is to be applauded. *Pathfinder* has attempted to provide wider recognition of these groups by such efforts as the "Ties That Bind Us" series and, more recently, our series of photo "thank you's."

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community members are invited to submit dates, times and locations of events, meetings and other happenings. Submission deadline: Friday, 4 pm; call 677-2022 or 754-2365.

Events

Jan 9, Vietnam Night, 8pm, Swan Valley Comm Hall, Condon.
 Jan 16, 17, 18, YAMAFEST, Seeley Lake.
 Bingo, 2nd & 4th Thurs every month, open to public, 7pm, Comm Hall, Seeley Lake.

Public Meetings

Jan 9, Missoula County Commissioners Meeting with Condon Community, 1 pm, Swan Valley Comm Hall, Condon.
 Jan 13, Missoula County High School Board mtg, 7:30pm, Big Sky High School, Missoula.
 Jan 20, Seeley Lake Refuse Disposal District Board mtg, 7:30pm, Double Arrow Ranch Landowners office, Seeley Lake.
 QRU (Condon), 1st & 3rd Mon every month.
 QRU (Seeley Lake), 1st and 3rd Fri every month, 7:30pm, REA bldg, Seeley Lake.
 Rural Fire District, 1st Tues, Regular Firefighters bus mtg, Plum Creek, 7pm; 2nd Tues, training mtg, Plum Creek, 7pm; 3rd Tues, Trustees mtg, 7:30pm, Seeley Lake.
 SOS Trustees mtg, 2nd Mon every month.
 Water District, 2nd Tues every month, 8pm, REA bldg, Seeley Lake.

Clubs & Organizations

Jan 8, Seeley Lake Area Chamber of Commerce gen mtg, 7pm, Seeley Swan High School cafeteria, Seeley Lake.
 Jan 8, Wilderness Sportsmans Club gen mtg, 7:30pm, Leisure Lodge, Seeley Lake.
 Jan 15, Condon Comm Club mtg, 8 pm, Swan Valley Comm Hall, Condon.
 Jan 18, Blackfoot Bandits 4-H Club record book mtg, McNally's residence, Ovando.
 AARP, 1st Mon every month, Swan Valley Comm Hall, Condon.

Alanon, Mon, 7pm, Lutheran Church, Seeley Lake.
 Alcoholics Anonymous (Condon), Thurs, 7:30pm, Swan Valley Elem School, Condon.
 Alcoholics Anonymous (Seeley Lake), Sun, 7pm, Mill basement, Seeley Lake; Weds, 7pm, REA Bldg, Seeley Lake.
 Booster Club, 4th Tues every month, 8 pm, Seeley Swan High School Gym, Seeley Lake.
 Driftriders Snowmobile Club mtg, 2nd Mon every month, 7:30pm, Comm Hall, Seeley Lake.
 Seeley Lake Women's Club, Tues, 1pm, Comm Hall, Seeley Lake.
 SeLa SenCi mtg and potluck, 3rd Wed every month, Comm Hall, Seeley Lake.
 Senior Nutrition Program, Mon-Tues-Weds, noon. Open to public, Comm Hall, Seeley Lake.
 Swan Valley Post No. 63 mtg, 2nd Fri every month, 7pm, Comm Hall, Condon.
 TOPS, Thurs, 10am, REA bldg, Seeley Lake.
 Veteran's Coffee Group, Sat, 11am, Swan Valley Centre, Condon.

Other

Jan 8 (Thurs), Bookmobile, Seeley Lake Elem School, 9am-12pm; Seeley Lake town, 12:30-2:30pm.
 Adult Volleyball, Weds, 7-9:15pm, Elem School Gym, Seeley Lake.
 Men's Basketball League, Mon, 7-9pm, Elem School Gym, Seeley Lake.
 Refuse Disposal Site, Winter Hours (October 1 thru April 30): Wed & Sat, 10am-4pm.
 Swan Valley Community Library, Weds, 10am-6pm; Sat, 10am-3pm, Condon.
 EMERGENCY: 911 (Seeley Lake or Condon); 1-728-0911 (Greenough or Ovando).

"Heartwood" is actually deadwood which forms inside the trunk of a living tree. Typically dense and low in moisture, it adds considerable structural strength to a tree.

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Legislature '87

Keeping in touch

by Suzanne Vernon

Pathfinder has subscribed to a legislative news service operated out of Helena by former Missoulian correspondent, Gordon Gregory. Beginning next week, Pathfinder will feature, on this page, stories about issues being addressed by our lawmakers in Helena.

Also, the Legislative Public Information Office has a toll-free phone, 1-800-237-5079, which will enable any Montana resident to keep in touch with daily updates of committee hearings and bills introduced in the House and Senate.

To leave a message with any lawmaker, call 444-4800. Pages will deliver messages immediately to legislators if necessary.

Representative Janet Moore, Condon, is a member of the Fish and Game committee and the House State Administration committee.

Senator Jack Halfey, Anaconda, is chairman of the Senate State Administration committee, and is also a member of the Finance and Claims and Labor and Employment committees.

Bills being heard in the Fish and Game committee this week, which may be of interest to Seeley Swan residents include a proposal to increase non-resident big game licenses for bowhunters by 4,000, and a proposal to establish quotas for black bear and mountain lion seasons.



Pam Sikkink, Artistic Expressions, won this award in the Downtown Christmas Decorating Contest sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. The Elk Horn Café placed second, and the Seeley Lake Pre-School and Day Care placed third.

Girls Volleyball

Seeley spikes Philipsburg

by Pamela Pohlman

The Blackhawks varsity volleyball team competed against the Philipsburg Golds on Saturday, January 3.

It was a match of excitement when Tammy Pohlman and Teresa Mahaffey put away four aces each. Sandy Prazak and Tammy Pohlman clobbered the Golds' defense with one spike kill each, while Teresa Mahaffey and Sandy DeLeo each stuff-blocked a good Gold spike.

The scores of the two games were 15-5 and 15-12, with Seeley winning both of them, thereby resulting in a smashing Saturday victory for the Hawks. Their conference status is now 2-0.

Seeley defeats Drummond

by Terry Bartlett

The Hawks varsity volleyball team started out with a good season Saturday night by defeating the Drummond Trojans.

Although the Trojans won the toss for the serve, Seeley Swan pulled through with a score of 15-9. In the second match, the Blackhawks had the first serve, but Drummond played hard and stayed close behind the Hawks' score. Still, the Seeley Swan Blackhawks won 15-13. Sandy Prazak had three kills and Tommie Dreyer had one ace in her overall serving.

Kindergarten registration this month

All Seeley Lake area parents are asked to inform the Seeley Lake Elementary School if they have a youngster who will be enrolling in kindergarten next fall. Montana law requires that a child be five years old before September 10 to enroll in kindergarten.

Principal John Hebnes is concerned about the large kindergarten class this year (31 students) and hopes to obtain preliminary information about the size of next year's class, in case that class turns out to be extremely large, also.

In the past, kindergartners have attended 1/2-day classes five days a week at Seeley Lake Elementary. This year the kindergarten was split into two classes, morning and afternoon, five days a week.

For more information contact John Hebnes, Seeley Lake Elementary, 677-2265.

Senior Nutrition Program

The following noon meals, which are open to the public, will be served next week promptly at noon on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the Seeley Lake Community Hall:
 Monday, January 12--Salmon Loaf
 Tuesday, January 13--Ham and Beans
 Wednesday, January 14--Meat Loaf

Menus are subject to change. Local residents are invited to come and enjoy the home-cooked meals.

4-H News

Blackfoot Bandits

Vicki Smith
 Reporter

The third meeting of the Blackfoot Bandits 4-H Club was called to order by the president, Tracy Smith, at 3:00 p.m. on December 21, at Jacobsen's.

We discussed the letter about the Fat Stock Sale at Tri-County Fair in Deer Lodge. White ribbon market animals will no longer be put on the trucks for delivery to Ranchland for the carcass judging. If the owner wants the animal judged, he must take it to Ranchland.

A sleigh ride was discussed for Sunday, December 28. The winners of our raffle are Gary Jacobsen, Ovando, and Dennis Kraft, Missoula, for half a pig, and Tommy Murphy of Deer Lodge for 25 pounds of hamburger. We will open an account with the money we made. A big "thank you" to Terry Wold of Ranchland Packing in Butte for donating the processing of the pork.

Double Front Chicken

543-6264
 When going to Missoula, call ahead. Tell us what time you want your dinner ready.

Business Briefs

Service Management Associates (SMA), celebrated its two-year anniversary earlier this week. Toni Hale and Grace LeFebvre are partners in the Seeley Lake business which provides office management skills and secretarial services.

Bill and Patsy Brunner of Ovando have begun offering their Pitch Blend harness oil at local businesses, in addition to their Pitch Blend leather dressing. Pitch Blend products are manufactured near Ovando.

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CORNUCOPIA by Michele Potter

Tofu (pronounced TOE-fu) is an inexpensive and versatile food made from soybeans; it resembles a soft or semisoft white cheese. Thanks to Sheila Devins from Seeley Lake, who has quite a collection of tofu recipes, for the following tofu information and recipes. According to Sheila:

"I'm sure a lot of shoppers have seen tofu in the grocery store and wondered what it is. It's a product made from soymilk, much the same way cheese is made from milk. Tofu is low in fat and sodium and, at the same time, cholesterol-free and high in protein.

"I often use tofu as a substitute for such fatty foods as sour cream, mayonnaise, or cream cheese in recipes. You might try adding it to your diet in one of the following ways (these would be some simple changes no one would probably ever notice): finely mashed for half the sour cream in a dip recipe; mashed and added for half the mayonnaise in a dressing recipe (whirl dressing in a blender until creamy); mash and add for half the cream cheese in a cheese cake recipe; use instead of sour cream in enchiladas; substitute half-cup mashed tofu for an egg in quiche."

The following are two recipes from Sheila's collection:

Broccoli/Tofu-Stuffed Chicken Breasts
 2 whole chicken breasts 1/2 cup finely chopped broccoli
 1/2 cup tofu 1 tablespoon minced onion
 1/2 cup freshly grated parmesan cheese Dash each basil and garlic powder

Skin and bone chicken breasts, removing each half-breast in one complete piece; set aside. Drain water from tofu. Mash tofu and pack to measure 1/2 cup. Combine remaining ingredients; add tofu. Place one quarter of tofu mixture into center of each chicken piece. Fold edges over neatly and roll up tightly. Arrange chicken rolls on a lightly oiled baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees F. for approximately 50 minutes.

Tofu Salad Sandwich Spread
 1/2 pound tofu, mashed 1/4 teaspoon turmeric
 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder 1/2 tablespoon finely chopped onion
 1/4 teaspoon dill 1/4 cup chopped celery
 1/2 tablespoon tamari or soy sauce 1/4 cup mayonnaise
 Dash of cayenne pepper

Drain water from tofu. Combine all ingredients; mix well. Spread on bread or crackers. Note: You can omit the mayonnaise and save on the fat, as this recipe is spreadable without it. Another option is to add a little prepared yellow mustard for color and extra flavor.

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SEELEY LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MENU - WEEK OF JANUARY 12

Monday, January 12	Hot Dogs
Tuesday, January 13	Chicken Drumsticks, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
Wednesday, January 14	Pizza Burgers
Thursday, January 15	Tuna Casserole
Friday, January 16	Chili

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PASSAGES

Pastor Rod Kvamme
Seeley Lake

A Flippin' New Year

It is amazing! Tear off or flip over a single page of the calendar and the old year is gone. 1986 is history and 1987 has begun. Cross off a particular date in a certain month and "Poo!" - you are one year older.

So many cards and letters we received this Christmas mentioned how swiftly the year 1986 had gone. Parents just shake their heads when they think of how rapidly their children have grown up and away. The younger generation shares similar thoughts. Our oldest son said he cannot believe he is nearing thirty, and that his kid brothers are 22 and 24!

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We can become awestruck, even depressed, by the passage of time...or we can find new motivation in it. One man impressed others with his radiant attitude toward everything. When asked to explain his secret, he said, "I accept every moment as though it were my last. That makes the rainstorm as spectacular as the sunshine. Every activity glistens. Each handshake is precious. Contacts with friends and family are priceless."

That's what I mean when I wish you a flippin' New Year. What we have done with that page of December 1986 becomes a clue for our day by day and moment by moment living throughout the year. Time is precious and elusive. Once past, it is irretrievable. There is no replay of the scenes of our lives. If we have let them go by in boredom or bitterness, we have lost their treasure. We must be alert to the immediate blessing the Lord packs into them. Savoring each moment as though it was your last is not macabre; it is marvelous! That's why it is encouraged in God's Word: "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and get gain'; whereas you do not know about tomorrow. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and we shall do this or that.'" (James 4:13-14)

So, have a flippin' new year...a flippin' day...a flippin' moment. Your life, and the lives of those around you, will be enriched by it.

Hebrew classes offered

A course in reading and writing the Fundamentals of Contemporary Hebrew will be offered winter quarter by the University of Montana's Center for Continuing Education. The course will be held from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, January 7 through March 11, in Room 207 of UM's Liberal Arts Building.

Students will learn to read and write elementary Hebrew, as well as learn basic vocabulary for speaking the language. Topics include making logical transitions from English to Hebrew and learning literal and poetic links to biblical Hebrew.

The course instructor will be Philip M. Alex, who taught at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and has taught Hebrew on a private basis.

The cost of the course, which qualifies for three undergraduate credits, is \$105. Checks should be made payable to the University of Montana and sent to the Center for Continuing Education, 125 Main Hall, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812. For further information call 243-2900.

Lion season closes in the Swan, Flathead

Mountain lion hunting season closed in the Swan Valley one half hour after sunset on Sunday, January 4. The harvest quota of six lions set by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks was reached last week.

The entire combined areas 130 and 170 were closed after six lions had been taken. A total of four males and two females were legally killed. The subquota for females was three.

Of the seven lion hunting subdistricts in Region 1, three are now closed: Swan Valley-Flathead (130 & 170); North Fork and east side of Whitefish Range (110); and the western portion of the Whitefish Range (101). The units which remain open each have at least four cats left in their quotas.

Chase-only seasons for mountain lions will remain open in most hunting districts through April 30. With a free "chase-only" permit, houndsmen may chase lions but not kill them. The chase-only season enables houndsmen to train their dogs, according to fish and game officials.

Swan Valley

December Snowfall was 16.5"

Cumulative snowfall at the Lindbergh Lake weather station in the Swan Valley totaled 16.5 inches during December. That compares to a low of 10 inches in 1965 and a high of 84.8 inches in 1977. There were 14 inches of snow on the ground on December 31. That compares to a recent high of 27 inches on the ground at year-end in 1984.

Total precipitation for the month was 1.25 inches. Total precipitation for the year was 27.68.

"That's a little higher than the past three years, but slightly lower than the 19-year average," according to weather observer, Marty Kux.

December temperatures averaged 20.7 degrees Fahrenheit. The average maximum was 27.7 degrees; the average minimum was 13.7 degrees. High temperature for the month occurred on December 1, with 39 degrees; the low was recorded on the 11th and the 19th, with -3 degrees Fahrenheit.

A year-end review shows that 1986 was the warmest year out of the last five. Average maximum temperature for the year was 52.3 degrees; average minimum temperature for the year was 32 degrees.

As of Sunday, January 4, there were 18 inches of snow on the ground at Lindbergh Lake.

Community plan to be discussed

Ann Mary Dussault and Janet Stevens, two of the Missoula County Commissioners, will be in Condon on Friday afternoon to discuss the Condon Community Plan which Condon residents submitted to the county nearly a year ago.

Condon is the first rural community in the county to submit such a plan for the future, and commissioners will be discussing implementation of

the plan with Swan Valley residents beginning at 1 p.m. at the Swan Valley Community Hall.

The Condon plan was formulated by local residents about two years ago in response to the commissioners' attempt to draft a comprehensive plan for Missoula County. That comprehensive plan received considerable opposition from rural communities because of its "urban" slant for future planning. Commissioners have, since that time, recommended that each rural community draft its own plan for the future and incorporate that into the Missoula County comprehensive plan.

Lindbergh zoning hearing next week

Proposed changes in the zoning regulations for the Lindbergh Lake area (zoning district 25A) will be discussed at a public hearing before the Missoula County Planning and Zoning Commission on January 14 at 1:30 p.m., Room 201, Missoula County Court-house.

The proposed changes have been presented to the county by Lindbergh Lake homeowners in response to a suggestion made by county commissioners in January 1986.

Commissioners denied a zoning variance requested by James Busch, Lindbergh Lake homeowner. Commissioners suggested that homeowners should update the zoning regulations, which were originally written in the 1960s.

Proposed changes include prohibiting some "commercial" recreational uses of the property, such as timeshare condominiums and townhouses.

"We have updated it to take into account... modern types of lakeshore development," according to Lindbergh Lake Homeowners president, Duane Wright, Helena. Three Lindbergh Lake area homeowners groups have been involved with writing the new zoning regulations.

Avalanche reminder

Avalanche is a deadly word among backcountry skiers and snowmobilers. During the 1984-85 winter season, a skier was killed near Lolo Pass. Last winter in Montana, two backcountry skiers were killed in an avalanche near Bozeman.

In an attempt to prevent avalanche accidents, the Northwestern Montana Avalanche Warning System produces a weekend advisory on snow stability

conditions for use by travelers and recreationists in avalanche country.

The advisory is released on Friday mornings by the Flathead County Office of Disaster and Emergency Services, and is carried by various Flathead Valley news media and the weather net radio channel on 165.55 megahertz.

Avalanche, as well as general winter recreation information, can also be obtained by calling the Flathead National Forest Recreation Hotline, 257-8606; Stan Bones at the Swan Lake Ranger Station, 837-5081; or the Seeley Lake Ranger Station, 677-2233.

Vietnam Night set for Friday

Philip Burgess, from the Missoula Vet Center, will be the guest speaker at Vietnam Night, Friday night at 8 p.m. in the Swan Valley Community Hall near Condon. The program is sponsored by the Swan Valley Post No. 63 of the American Legion.

Several topics will be addressed, including veterans' outreach programs and effects of delayed stress syndrome. Ken Wolff, current Post Commander, will also discuss the history of the Vietnam War, and biological effects of some of the defoliants used during that time.

All veterans, the public and students are invited to attend the program.

Stork Report

Congratulations to Tim and Mozelle Hulet, Swan Valley. They are the proud parents of a new baby girl, Maryann Lynn, born in Kalispell on December 27. Maryann Lynn weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 19 inches long.

PTA offers concessions

Swan Valley PTA members have been selling popcorn, hot dogs, candy, pop and coffee at recent elementary basketball games and related events. According to PTA member Dar Kearney, help with the concessions would be appreciated. For more information about becoming involved in the service organization contact Barb Seaman, 754-2312.

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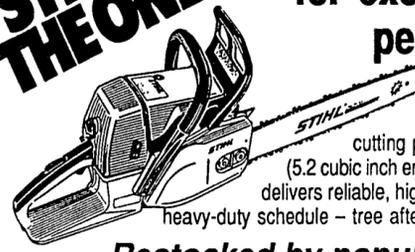
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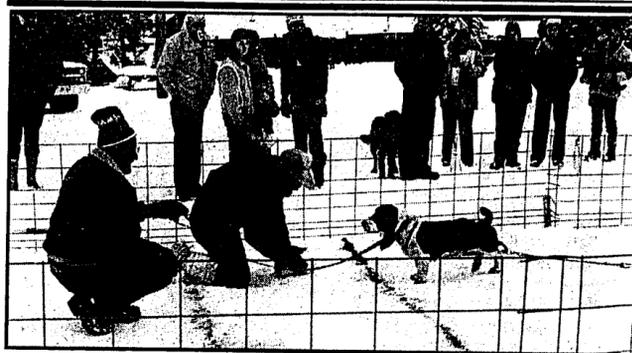
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OUTDOORS



"Gus" the Bassett hound just couldn't be inspired to pull much weight at Saturday's "fun pull" in Seeley Lake. Here, Ron Ogden and Bruce Burns attempt to provide some encouragement. Burns believes Gus used up all his energy preparing for the competition.

Big Load weight pull sparks big interest

Nearly 200 spectators turned out Saturday afternoon in Seeley Lake to watch the Barney's Big Load weight pull competition, sponsored by IAMS dog food company and Barney's.

About two dozen dogs and their owners participated in the event. Standout performers in the non-sanctioned pull were "Bummer" owned by Frank Wolfram, Seeley Lake, and "Ginger" owned by Dirk Currey, Missoula.

Bummer, a 17-pound mixed breed dog, pulled 142 pounds in 9.5 seconds and won his weight class.

Ginger, a 50-pound dog, pulled 590 pounds (over ten times her weight) in 9.8 seconds, winning her weight class.

Mark Johnson, marketing and sales manager for High Mountain Distributors Ltd. (distributors of IAMS dog food), Missoula, was impressed with the turnout and enthusiasm shown for the event. Johnson, dog trainer and long-time member of the International Weight Pullers Association, organized the event along with Bruce Burns of Barney's in Seeley Lake.

Johnson said that a sanctioned weight pull will be held in Seeley Lake on February 8. Local residents are encouraged to participate in that event.

Burns indicated that a large purse will be offered to the winners of that sanctioned weight pull, which will be sponsored by Barney's, IAMS, and local businesses. He believes that, judging from the large turnout Saturday, weight pulls will generate a lot of interest and support in Seeley Lake.

Participants in Saturday's weight pull each received an 8-pound bag of Eukanuba dog food. Winners in each category also received ribbons.

35# dog class
First place: *Bummer*, a 17-pound mixed breed, pulled 142 pounds in 9.5 seconds. Owner: Frank Wolfram, Seeley Lake.

Second Place: *Jingles*, a 24-pound blue heeler, pulled 142 pounds in 26 seconds. Owner: Leslie Hane, Seeley Lake.

60# dog class
First place: *Ginger*, a 50-pound Siberian Husky, pulled 590 pounds in 9.8 seconds. Owner: Dirk Currey, Missoula.

Second place: *Shep*, a 60-pound Belgian Tervuren, pulled 390 pounds in 4.5 seconds. Owner: Ella Goodbread, Seeley Lake.

Third place: *Blackie*, a 48-pound mixed breed, pulled 350 pounds in 2.6 seconds. Owner: Tom Scolliek, Seeley Lake.

80# dog class
First place: *Gandalf*, a 73-pound Golden Retriever, pulled 318 pounds in 40 seconds. Owner: Jenni Todd, Seeley Lake.

Second place: *Desti*, a mixed breed, pulled 278 pounds in 3.2 seconds. Owner: Trudy Chaffee, Missoula.

Third place: *Tippie*, a mixed breed, pulled 238 pounds in 3.2 seconds. Owner: Tom Scolliek, Seeley Lake.

100# dog class
First place: *Rufus*, an 87-pound Golden Retriever, pulled 918 pounds in 11.8 seconds. Owner: Tom Howard, Missoula.

Second place: *Cluso*, an 88-pound mixed breed, pulled 718 pounds in 5.4 seconds. Owner: Trudy Chaffee, Missoula.

Third place: *Bear*, a 92-pound Malamute, pulled 718 pounds in 21 seconds. Owner: Carole Bellavance, Hamilton.

Recreation Report

So you think there's nothing to do in Seeley Swan in the winter? Wrong! Snow conditions are nearly ideal for snowmobiling - the Driftriders snow-mobile club recently began grooming trails west of Seeley Lake and will continue to groom popular trails on the Lolo National Forest.

Nordic skiing is popular and conditions are improving weekly. There's plenty of snow now to cover bushes and small trees at the higher elevations. The Seeley Creek Ski Trail System north of Seeley Lake is being maintained by Forest Service employees and volunteers, and skiers report good to excellent conditions there. Ski loop trails near Holland Lake Lodge are also being groomed this week.

Ice skating is also popular on Holland Lake, including lighted "night skating."

Rice Ridge tree sale proposed

The Seeley Lake Ranger District is preparing to analyze the 1.3 million board feet Rice Ridge Seed Tree Sale, tentatively scheduled for sale in Fiscal Year 1988. District Ranger Dennis Johnson has indicated that public comments about the proposed timber sale are now being considered in the planning process.

This sale, which is being handled with District authority because it is less than 2 million board feet, consists of two previous sales, the Rice-Auggie Timber Sale and the Seeley Trail Timber Sale.

Anyone having an interest or special concern about this proposed sale may obtain further information by contacting Dennis Johnson, District Ranger, Seeley Lake Ranger District, 677-2233 on or before January 15, 1987.

The project file will be initiated in January or February of 1987.



Bud Moore, Swan Valley trapper, was preparing to bundle pelts for shipment to Canada last week.

Fur prices up from last year

Trappers are seeing a little more revenue for their efforts this season, compared to 1985. Most fur prices, with the exception of red fox, are up slightly, according to Bitterroot Valley fur buyer, Darwin Peterson.

In the Swan Valley, trappers are having a fair-to-good season. Bud Moore recently bundled his furs for shipment to the Edmonton Fur Exchange, Canada, for the next fur auction February 1.

"I like to sell in Montana if possible, but I'm a little uncertain... about what a fair price really is," he said last week. Other area trappers agree that

buyers around the U.S. seem to vary considerably on the prices they are offering for pelts.

Based on average pelt prices quoted by the Edmonton Fur Exchange and Pacific Hide and Fur in Great Falls, Montana, Moore expects the following prices (U.S. funds) for locally caught furs:

- Martin — \$45 to \$50
- Coyote — \$55 to \$60
- Beaver — \$30 and up
- Lynx — \$500 to \$600
- Mink — up to \$40
- Ermine — \$1.50 to \$3
- Muskrat — \$3.00

Historically, the December sale in Edmonton consists of early furs or furs carried over from the previous year. "The February sale generally brings a little higher prices," Moore said.

Election & elk management discussion slated

New officers for the Condon Community Club will be elected Thursday, January 15 at the Club meeting, which begins at 8 p.m.

Also, tentatively scheduled for discussion at the meeting is elk management in the Swan Valley. Biologists will be on hand to answer questions and address any proposals local residents may have.

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by Suzanne Vernon

The new snow melted and dripped off the lodgepole, fir and spruce trees, pelting the old snow like rain here last weekend. Most of that new powder came to stay for awhile, though the trees are still shedding the slippery white stuff in the warm afternoon hours.

Ski conditions are nearly perfect in the early morning and, again, just as the sun loses its heat at dusk. Old snowmobile tracks provided a nice trail for enjoying the four new inches of white fluff on Sunday. I followed a deer

track for several hundred yards. You could see where he wandered first to one side, then the other, to munch on the black moss hanging low on lodgepole branches.

The red squirrels were out, busy finding lost cones, I suppose. They rarely sit still, except to listen for a moment, then chatter. I didn't see any rabbit tracks or signs of grouse, which seemed unusual considering the mild weather. We now have nearly 20 inches of snow on the ground, and have been blessed with blue skies and warm breezes lately. Best enjoy it before cloudy days and "cabin fever" set in.

Fishing Report

Ice fishermen are reporting good to excellent conditions around the lake-shores of Seeley Lake. Jigs and maggots seem to be the appropriate combination. Although the ice is thick near the edges of Seeley Lake, remember this has been a warm winter so far. Use extreme caution near inlets and outlets, and in areas where springs may "bubble" up. The ice there is still thin.



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Boys Basketball

Blackhawks win

by Les Meyer

On January 2, the Valley Christian Eagles traveled to Seeley Lake to take on the Seeley Swan Blackhawks. The Blackhawks were tough on their home court and soundly defeated the Eagles 63-47.

The Eagles were 5-0 coming into the game, leading the conference in nonconference games along with Alberton. The Blackhawks, who were 1-5 in nonconference, raised their record to 2-5 overall and 1-0 in conference play.

Les Meyer and Richard Klebenow led the Blackhawks with 17 and 16 points. Craig Hargis had 12 for the Eagles. The Blackhawks are beginning to play as a unit - and are winning because of it.

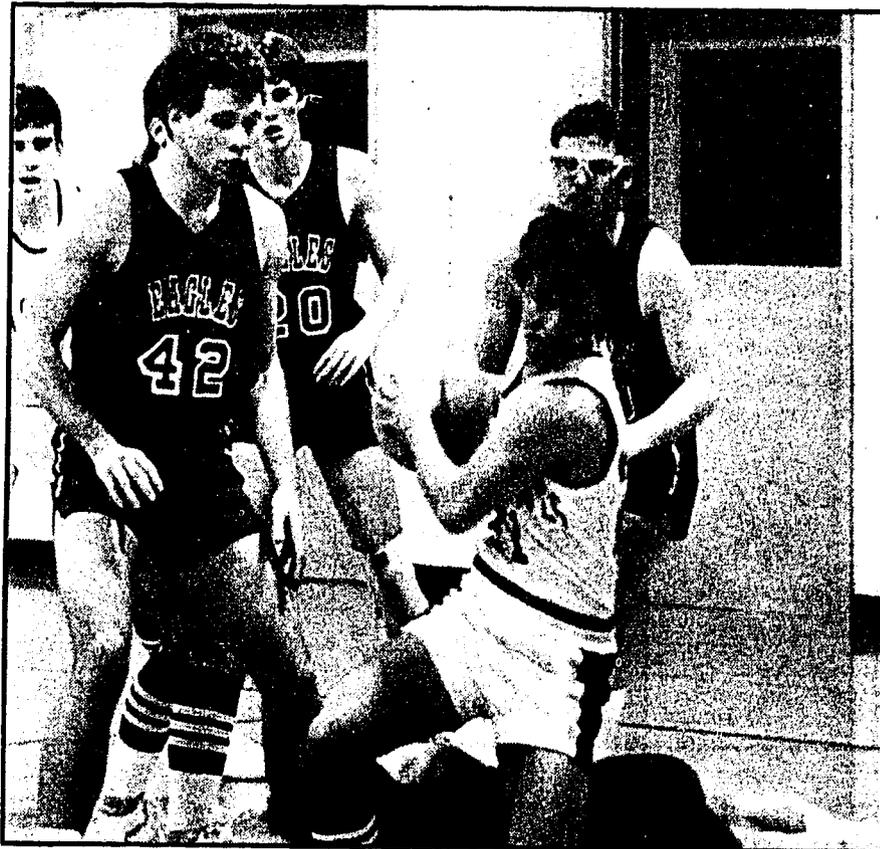
Seeley Swan wins again

by Darren Baretta

Strong defense and rebounds championed the Blackhawks to a 60-52 victory over the Lincoln Lynx in their home gym Saturday night.

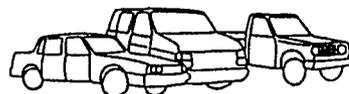
After a two-point deficit in the first half, the Hawks came back and forced the Lynx to play a losing game of catch-up in the second half.

Les Meyer led the Hawks with 21 points, while Craig Tanner contributed 17 and Frank DeLeo, 14. Richard Klebenow crashed the boards at both ends to get 14 rebounds.



Les Meyer fights for the ball in Friday night's game.

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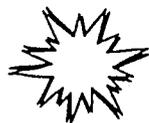
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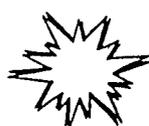


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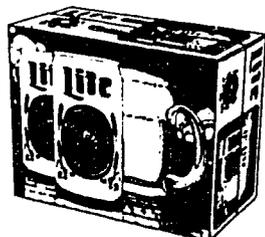
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