

Seeley Swan

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PATHFINDER



Vol. I, No. 39

677-2022

"VOICE OF THE VALLEY"

754-2365

February 12, 1987

Governor's Cup finish moved to Seeley Lake

Mushers from around the country have been singing praise for Seeley Lake during the past ten days, and the reason is clear.

We've got snow.

Late Tuesday morning, officials for the Governor's Cup 500 Sled Dog Race voted to move the finish line for that grueling competition from Helena to downtown Seeley Lake.

"There's just not enough snow (near Helena). . . Rather than shorten the race, we're running it the way we agreed--a full 500 miles," Ron Ogden, race marshal, said on Tuesday.

"We lost the trail between-Camp Child and Lincoln," Ogden said. Mushers suffered worn out runners and broken sleds on that stretch of trail.

The change in the course means lots of snow for the remainder of the race.

After the mandatory 8-hour layover

that many mushers began in Seeley Lake late Tuesday, mushers will head to the White Tail Ranch north of Ovando, make a 50-mile loop over Huckleberry Pass and back to the Lincoln Check Point. From there they will head to the White Tail Ranch again, then on to Seeley Lake for the finish.

As of late Tuesday afternoon, Linwood Fiedler, Helena, (winner of last year's 500) and Brad Pozarnsky from North Dakota were running neck and neck as the fastest mushers so far in the race.

Lead mushers are expected now to finish the race sometime Thursday in Seeley Lake, depending on weather conditions. Downtown businesses in Seeley Lake may be contacted for up-to-date race information. The Check Point camp is set up on Barney's Green.

Refuse Board has new members

Sam Moore, Roger Selner, and Merle Loman are now full members of the Seeley Lake Refuse Disposal District board, after the county commissioners approved their applications last month.

There is still some question about Dan Mizner's position on the board. He was formerly a summer-seasonal resident of the Seeley Lake area, but recently made it clear at a board meeting that he is now a year-round resident. Regulations require that one member of the Refuse Board be a summer-seasonal resident of the District.

In other business at the board's meeting last month, members discussed the upcoming hearings on the new fee schedule.

Snowmobilavous starts Friday

One of Montana's biggest snowmobile events will begin this Friday night, February 13, in Seeley Lake. Snowmobile fans from around the Northwest are expected to come and enjoy more than 300 miles of groomed trails, guided rides and poker runs over the long holiday weekend, February 14, 15, and 16.

The first Poker Run will begin Friday night at Woody's 4 Bars. From there snowmobilers will travel to the old heliport site for a bonfire, hot drinks and a social gathering.

On Saturday, the Lions Club will host breakfast at the Seeley Lake Community Hall, and guided trail rides, snowmobile games and a poker run highlight the day's events. There will be a spaghetti feed, taped music and dancing in the evening at the Community Hall.

Sunday's events will also include trail rides, games and a poker run, and will feature a chili feed at the heliport in the evening.

On Monday, snowmobilers are invited to ride from Seeley Lake to Kozy Komer for lunch.

The Snowmobilavous is sponsored each February by the Seeley Lake Drifters Snowmobile Club. For more information call 677-2481, 677-2041 or 677-2880.

Finish Feed

Because of the large number of people expected in town this week for winter sports events, (see related stories) the Seeley Lake Area Chamber of Commerce is organizing a "Finish Feed" on Thursday as Governor's Cup 500 mushers arrive in town.

The dinner, which begins at 5 p.m. at the Community Hall, will feature steak sandwiches, potato salad, and dessert. For more information call 677-2880.

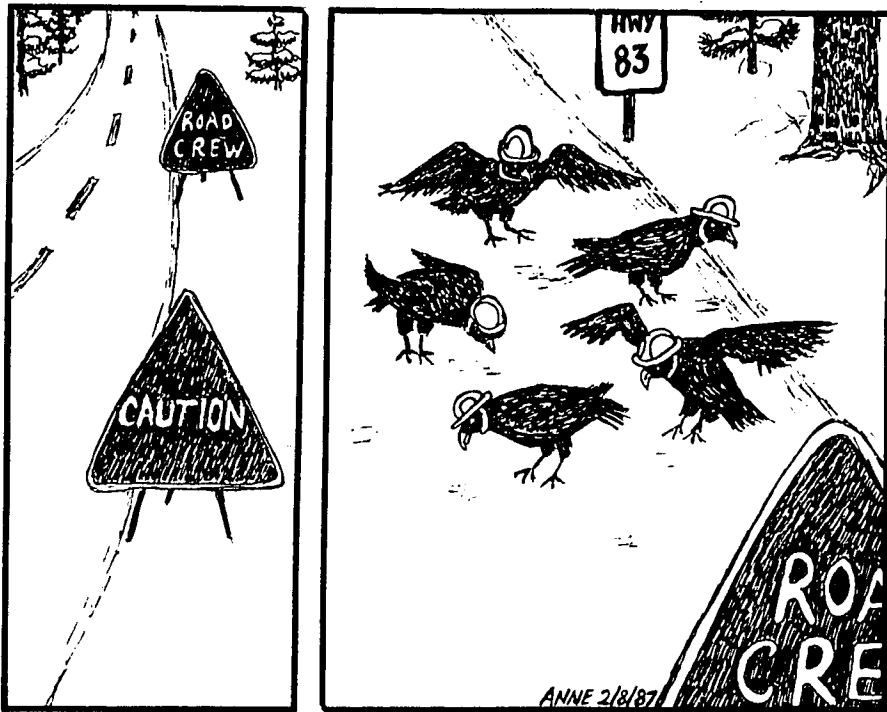
WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday-Saturday: A little rain or snow at times in the valleys. Scattered snow over the mountains. Highs 35-45. Lows 20's.



A few of the 71 cross-country skiers who participated in the fifth annual OSCR race last weekend warmed up on the groomed track early Saturday morning. Race day saw plenty of sunshine, and lots of good skiing. This year's race course was reportedly "the best ever," including a "great skating course," according to one of the first racers to cross the finish line.

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Business of the Week
JEAN'S PERMANENT SOLUTION



Jean Gulden owns and operates Jean's Permanent Solution, a family hair care salon, in Condon. Located in the same building complex with Seeley Swan Realty and Snow Country Construction, Jean celebrated her first year in business in December.

Although Jean has been in Montana for 15 years, she remarked: "Of all the places in Montana, the Swan Valley is the most beautiful." She wanted to do something constructive when she first came to the area in 1977 and she believed there was a need for a beauty salon. When Jean finally decided to open her business in December of 1985, it didn't take long before people knew there was a beauty salon in Condon. She says she's been "very pleased" with the business in the past year.

"Almost anything goes," she said about the hairstyles of today, "though the majority of people here either go with really short or really long hairstyles." Jean says her work "is fun and I want to please my customers." She especially enjoys watching how her customers react when she has helped them get the look they want. "There's a total personality change!" she exclaimed.

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OPINION

"I like to spend money."

That's what our county commissioner, Ann Mary Dussault, told the legislators in Helena last week. Ann Mary wants to have plenty of tax dollars to spend and, so, she uttered her memorable statement as part of a plea for adoption of a sales tax. No doubt the remark was made partly in jest. The part that wasn't in jest bears comment.

Many politicians in Montana seem to think we're immune to the laws of economics. Free-wheeling government spending, which sucks prodigious quantities of greenbacks out of the productive sector of the economy and stifles new investment, has contributed mightily to the economic malaise of the state. And not once do we hear these politicians remark upon the economic implications of increasing the tax burden upon an already weakened economy.

Be aware, Sports Fans, that the state will reap a tax windfall even if the legislators don't enact a single new tax. At our expense, naturally — the explanation being that the recent revisions in the federal tax code act to substantially increase state income tax revenues (under current state law). But, this apparently won't suffice: we need a sales tax — or we run the risk of cramping the style of those who "like to spend money."

Seeley Lake "Doggerel"

(with apologies to Robert Service)

A bunch of the boys were whooping it up in the Seeley Lake Saloon;
The kid that handles the music-box was hitting a jag-time tune.

Back of the bar, in a solo game, sat Dangerous Ron McGrew,

And watching his luck was his light-o'-love, the lady that's known as Deb, too.

When out of the night, which was fifty below, and into the din and the glare,

There stumbled a musher fresh from the race, dog dirty, with signs of wear.

He looked like a man with a foot in the grave, yet his eyes opened wide

when Dangerous Ron McGrew he spied.

"How in hell did you get here first!" he exclaimed.

And Dangerous Ron explained:
"My sled's a '58 Packard that thinks it's a Skidoo —

105 dogpower — or my name ain't Dangerous Ron McGrew!"

The 200 was great fun, Sports Fans. As Elinor says in her letter today, we've got a lot to be proud of — and a lot to look forward to. Mush on!

— Dick Potter

Foul play?

To the Editor:

As Hawkeye Pierce of M.A.S.H. fame once said, "The three main characteristics of human nature are greed, jealousy and greed." This little observation was blatantly exhibited once again last Sunday at the drawing downtown. It seems that the person whose name was called was not present at the drawing. Well, fine, rules are rules. . . but, why wasn't this person present?

Not because of sleeping late on a Sunday morning. Not because of trying to recuperate from a Saturday night

hangover. This person was not present because of having given birth not twenty-four hours previously. (Something not all of us are capable of doing.)

So, not only are they losing their job because of the unforgivable sin of having a child, they have also lost out on \$100 which should rightfully be theirs, and which they could have found a very good use for at the moment.

Ain't nothin' fair in this world. But—it seems in this community we could see that a little more justice and fair play is done between us and our neighbors.

Mark Aamot
Seeley Lake

Candidate

To the Editor:

I would like to publicly place my name in nomination for the "Citizen of the Year" award as sponsored by the Seeley Chamber. Although my many good deeds are too numerous to mention here, I will give you four of my major contributions:

1) I have not hit any wild or human animals while driving the treacherous and rapidly deteriorating Highway 83.

2) I stuck up for Seeley Lake in a conversation where the near-unanimous opinion was that Seeley Lake was the worst-planned town in Montana. I countered that perhaps "Two Dot" or "Beckville" were just as bad.

3) I did not attend or give money to any church, nor did I read any of their awful articles as printed in the *Pathfinder*.

4) I did not vote for Janet Moore. Please consider these positive contributions in making your award.

Percy Johnson
Condon



Good show, folks

To the Editor:

When the Wilderness Sportsman's Club decided to host the Seeley Lake 200 Sled Dog Race, we knew we'd need lots of help. We knew we would need help and support from sponsors as well as the merchants and people of Seeley Lake and area. Well, our race was a great success because of you — our merchants, our people.

We had support and enthusiasm like we never dreamed of. It was all of you who made this race a huge success. It is you the mushers spoke of with such kind words. Musher Jerry Scdloris said to KPAX-TV, "I cannot believe the people of Seeley Lake. We've traveled to races for twelve years and never seen such support and enthusiasm. We'll be back."

The community-effort; the banners, window paintings and signs; the working together of our Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the Drifters (thanks Dan, Vera & Ray); the people who filmed all the events for our Club (which will be shared later); and the great *Pathfinder* coverage, which helped boost it all.

We are a community that has much to be proud of. Working together feels good and makes great things happen. It is this unity that will keep our community strong in the hard times. Seeley Lake people and area people, our race was a great success — but you are the biggest success.

Elinor Williamson,
for the Race Committee
Wilderness Sportsman's Club

New tax on Carbonated Soda Pop (HB 547)

To the Editor:

Old taxes like sales tax, income surcharge tax and a 3-cent-per gallon increase on gas and diesel tax are popular this session. We're dead center on that idea, with sales tax the dominant option.

I came to Helena to cut government bureaucracy and spending. If the state needs new revenue, I favor new select "sales" taxes on luxuries first, fundamentals last. For this reason, I have introduced HB 547 to tax "carbonated" soda pop at 1/4 of one cent-per-ounce to raise nearly \$13 million new annual revenue rather than support HB 136, the 3-cent-per-gallon

increased tax on the modern essentials of gas and diesel.

Ultimately, to keep Montana out of the federal pit of deficit spending, as mandated by our constitution, we must consider some of these new luxury taxes like the 3-cent-tax per can of soda pop for \$12,752,630 per year — or surrender to a 3-cent-per-gallon increase on essential gas and diesel (already over-taxed) for \$14.9 million in 1988 and \$15 million in 1989.

Revenue from the gas and diesel tax and the "luxury" soda pop tax are a close match. Hard people choices. Yet when we first taxed gas in Montana in 1927 at 3-cents-per gallon, the people must have considered that a hard choice, too.

Rep. Janet Moore
House District 65
Condon

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Wilderness Sportsmans Club

Annual
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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**
- Feb 8, Governor's Cup 500 Sled Dog Race (Open End Race), Helena-Seeley Lake-Holland Lake-Helena.
 - Feb 13, 14, 15 & 16, Eleventh Annual Seeley Lake Snowmobiles, Seeley Lake.
 - Feb 28, Old Time Dance, 9pm, Swan Valley Comm Hall, Condon.
 - Bingo, 2nd & 4th Thurs every month, open to public, 7pm, Comm Hall, Seeley Lake.
- Public Meetings**
- Feb 18, "Elk Management in Swan Valley" Mtg - Condon Comm Club, 7pm, Swan Valley Comm Hall, Condon.
 - Feb 18, Seeley Lake Elem School Board mtg, 7:30pm, Elem School Library, 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, Meetings at Fire Hall, Seeley Lake. 1st Tues, Regular Firefighters bus mtg, 7pm; 2nd Tues, training mtg, 7pm; 3rd Tues, Trustees mtg, 7:30pm.
 - SOS Trustees mtg, 2nd Mon every month.
 - Water District, 2nd Tues every month, 8pm, REA bldg, Seeley Lake.
- Clubs & Organizations**
- Feb 17, Seeley Lake PTA mtg, 7pm, Seeley Lake Elem School (8th grade room).
 - Feb 19, Wilderness Sportsman's Club, gen mtg, 7pm, Leisure Lodge, Seeley Lake.
 - Feb 25, Lions Club mtg, 6:30pm, Comm Hall, Seeley Lake.
 - AARP, 1st Mon every month, Swan Valley Comm Hall, Condon.
 - AJanon, 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.
 - 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**
- Feb 18 (Weds), Bookmobile, Potomac School, 10am-12pm; Sunset School, 12:30-1:30pm; Clearwater Junction, 2-3pm; Seeley Lake town, 3:30-5:30pm.
 - Feb 19 (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).

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Legislature '87

Sales tax measure introduced

by Gordon Gregory
Helena correspondent

Sales Tax

Sharp debate was generated on the first major sales tax issue to reach committee during the legislative session last week.

Supporters of House Bill 377, which calls for a 4 percent general sales tax, repeatedly stated that times have changed, that Montana now needs — and the public will support a retail sales tax.

The bill's chief sponsor Jack Ramirez, R-Billings, said a sales tax is the only logical answer to the crushing state budget deficit that will also provide property tax relief.

Ramirez's sales tax, cosponsored by representatives from both parties, would generate about \$165 million a year with three-fourths of that money used to cut property taxes about 20 percent. The rest of the money, about \$40 million, would flow into the state's general fund.

A spectrum of interests argued for and against the tax. Missoula county commissioner Ann Mary Dussault said a sales tax may be a political inexcusable, but that property tax relief is impossible without it.

"I acknowledge before you, and I acknowledge before the public that there have been political careers wasted on this issue," she said. "But you cannot solve the state's budget problem and give property tax relief without a sales tax."

Carrol Krause, commissioner of higher education, said a sales tax is the most reasonable way to increase funding to the state's university system.

Even the Washington, D.C.-based Tobacco Institute, through its lobbyist Jerome Anderson, argued for the tax.

He said tobacco products are unfairly targeted with a selective sales tax now, and that a statewide retail tax could be used to reduce the tax on tobacco.

Opponents hammered on the theme that a sales tax benefits the rich at the expense of everyone else.

Rep. Nancy Keenan, who sits on the House Taxation Committee which heard the bill, said simple greed is the motive behind a sales tax.

"A dark cloud looms over Montana. . . Be wary, you folks that have supported the bill," said Keenan, D-Anaconda.

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Seeley Lake

"This tax hits middle and low income. It hits the poor. It hits the unemployed."

Keenan said that while the owner of a \$55,000 home would see his property tax bill drop \$101 a year, the Decker Coal Company's tax bill would plunge \$3,765,290.

Middle School Funding

School funding issues have already indirectly affected the Seeley Lake elementary school and could affect Swan Valley Elementary if funding structures are changed.

House Bill 340, sponsored by Rep. Gene Donaldson, R-Helena, would eliminate a loophole in state law that provides more state funding to some schools that house their seventh and eighth grade students in separate buildings. It would save the state about \$1.1 million annually.

Current law basically treats middle school-aged students in separate buildings as if they belonged to a different school. Because state funding is determined on a sliding scale, based largely on enrollment—with the smaller schools receiving more money per student—lumping students together reduces state funding.

According to Seeley Lake Superintendent John Hebnes, that school board anticipated the legislation and decided not to endorse a bond issue last fall to build a separate school building for the seventh and eighth-grade students.

Asked if the board might reconsider if the measure fails, Hebnes said: "No. You would always have this double-edged sword hanging over your head." He added that there are probably cheaper ways to increase classroom space.

Swan Valley Elementary School principal Dan White said earlier this month that enactment of this legislation would cost Swan Valley school about \$45,000 annually, since they already house the seventh and eighth grade classes in a separate building.

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COMMUNITY



The local Brownie Troop (members of the Big Sky Girl Scout Council) recently toured Valley Market in Seeley Lake as part of their Food Fun Badge program. Here, Roger Bogar demonstrates how he prepares cans of food for display on store shelves.

Traffic count up for YAMAFEST

A traffic counter located on Highway 83 (south of the entrance to Double Arrow near Seeley Lake) throughout YAMAFEST weekend tallied 3,429 vehicles between noon Friday, January 16, and noon Monday, January 19.

No traffic counter was placed at the north end of Seeley Lake, according to Seeley Lake Area Chamber of Commerce Publicity and Promotion committee members.

There were 345 more vehicles counted during the Friday and Saturday of YAMAFEST weekend than during the following Friday and Saturday, when a control count was taken in the same area. Chamber members pointed out though, that the control counter used January 23 and 24, malfunctioned at 7 p.m. on Saturday, creating less than ideal comparisons.

Brownie troop tours Valley Market

As part of the requirements for earning their Food Fun badges this year, Brownie Troop #253 toured Valley Market last week. The girls have been learning all about food and have made their own apple pies, snacks for meetings, and breakfast, lunch and dinner at home. Troop #253 is part of the Big Sky Girl Scout Council.

Seeley Lake girls who participated in the recent field trip are Casie Landsberger, Shilo Anders, Christina DeFalco, Erin Cassidy, Kasie Jo Culver, Tomanic Hebnes, Robyn Kopke, Marci Niles, Amber Peña, Burma Ryan, Sonya Zebarth.

Seeley Lake Honor Roll

Eighth grade: Cindy Baker, Sherri Bowers, Damon Healy, Tom Leonard, Brian Morin, Janet Williams.

Seventh grade: Renn Anders, Jeremy Aumaugher, Sarah Cooper, Nick Miller, Kimberly Musick.

Sixth grade: High Honors—Theresa Cahoon, Kelly Christian; Honors—Laurie Leonard, Shari Morin, Jason Zebarth.

Fifth grade: High honors—Ty Anders; Honors—Leann Taylor, Rose Manos, Matt Aamot.

Fourth grade: High honors—Katie Aumaugher, Angelie Healy, Paul Johnson, Heather Richards. Honors—Cody Anderson, Peter Blair, Erin Carr, Nicole Frederick, Leon Jaimes, Renata Marshall, Chris Morin, Sallie Phipps.

CORNUCOPIA by Michele Potter

For those of you with the time and inclination to enter cooking contests, you might be interested to know about the monthly *Cooking Contest Chronicle* newsletter. Karen Martis, Editor, sent the most recent newsletter. She says, "My goal is to keep subscribers abreast of upcoming cooking contests, trends and prize-winning recipes. I offer assistance on approaching the rudimentary aspects of deciphering rules, recipe development and judging techniques. In a nutshell, I am trying to put my subscribers in the winner's circle." Karen's a real pro when it comes to entering cooking contests — she's won a lot of them!

Here are just a few of the upcoming contests: 1987 National Beef Cook-Off; *Family Circle's* "No Small Potatoes!"; *Family Circle's* Tomato Recipe Contest. I have all of the contest details and more information about the *Cooking Contest Chronicle*; I even have an entry form for the National Beef Cook-Off (you could win big money in this contest — \$5,000 for the indoor category or \$2,500 for the barbecue category). Call me at 677-2022.

Talking about beef, the Blackfoot Valley Cattlewomen/Cowbellees is a pretty active organization. Ruby Coughlin, Promotion Chairman, has been very generous and has submitted to *Cornucopia* numerous recipes and the most recent *National Beef Cook-Off* Recipes Cookbook. She also indicated that the group will be holding a Student Beef Cook-Off, February 14 at Hellgate High School in Missoula. Ruby promises to send the winning recipes.

There's only room for one recipe this week. This special recipe is from a Beef Industry Council pamphlet, *Beef is...for One or Two*, sent in by Ruby.

Greek-Style Beef in Pita

1 boneless beef chuck top blade steak, cut 1-inch thick (about 4 to 6 ounces)	1/4 teaspoon dried oregano leaves
3 teaspoons olive oil, divided	1/4 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons lemon juice	1/2 cup green pepper strips
1 clove garlic, minced	1/2 cup onion slices
	1 to 2 halves pita bread, warmed
	Plain yogurt

Partially freeze steak to firm, about 15 minutes. Slice steak across grain into 1/4-inch strips. Combine 1 teaspoon olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, oregano and salt; add beef, turning to coat. Heat large frying pan over medium-high heat; add steak strips and stir-fry until browned. (Do not overcook.) Remove; keep warm. Add remaining oil and green pepper to frying pan; cook and stir 3 minutes. Stir in onion and cook 2 minutes. Add steak strips and just heat through. Serve in pita bread. Top with yogurt. 1 to 2 servings.

Thanks, Ruby. Readers, if you're interested in the *National Beef Cook-Off* Recipes Cookbook, Ruby says they're for sale. Write to Ruby Coughlin, c/o *Pathfinder*, P. O. Box 702, Seeley Lake, Montana 59868.

VALLEY MARKET
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SEELEY LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MENU - WEEK OF FEBRUARY 16

Monday, February 16	No School
Tuesday, February 17	Weiner Wraps
Wednesday, February 18	Scalloped Potatoes with Ham
Thursday, February 19	Tacos
Friday, February 20	Chili

Blackfoot Tel-Com, Inc.
721-4417

NO SCHOOL
Friday, February 13 and Monday, February 16

National PTA 90th Anniversary Celebration and Seeley Lake Elementary PTA Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 7:00 p.m.
Seeley Lake Elementary School, 8th Grade Room

J&L FOOD MARKET
Seeley Lake 677-9249

Sun: 9 am - 7 pm
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Swan Valley

Swan Valley - Condon
Comprehensive Plan

PUBLIC HEARINGS

On Tuesday, February 17, 1987, the Missoula Planning Board will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Swan Valley - Condon Comprehensive Plan Amendment to the Missoula County Comprehensive Plan. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 201 West Spruce in Missoula. The Planning Board will take public testimony and make a recommendation to the Missoula County Commissioners on the proposed document.

On Friday, March 6, 1987, the County Commissioners will conduct a public hearing on the proposed amendment in the Swan Valley Community Center at 1:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Tom Parker in the Swan Valley (754-2471) or Pat O'Herren in Missoula (721-5700, ext. 484). Copies of the proposed document are available in the Rural Planning Office in the Missoula County Courthouse or the Mission Mountain Mercantile in Condon.

Swan Valley pioneer dies in plane crash

Horace "Shorty" Koessler, well-known Swan Valley rancher and seasonal resident, was killed Sunday, February 1 when the small plane he was piloting went down in the rugged mountains outside of Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Koessler was en route to Jackson Hole from Missoula.

Memorial services were held Tuesday, February 10, at the Church of the Holy Spirit Episcopal in Missoula.

Koessler was 78 years old at the time of his death. His family first acquired the Gordon Ranch in the heart of the Swan Valley more than 60 years ago. Mike and Sue Holmes live on that ranch today and manage it for the family. The Koessler's also own the Heart Bar Heart Ranch near Ovando. Denny Dryer and his family manage that operation now.

*Sheri's
Stained Glass*
754-2426

Shorty Koessler lived here as a teenager in the late 1920's, and later returned to work here as a licensed outfitter and guide in the South Fork of the Bob Marshall. He operated a guest ranch here before World War II.

He and his family spent a great deal of time in the Swan Valley each summer. Shorty would fly his plane over and land in the ranch meadows. He loved flying and spent many hours in his plane every year, including regular trips to Alaska since the 1940's.

Koessler was born in Chicago on January 28, 1909, to Karl K. and Jessie M. Koessler. He was educated in Chicago elementary and secondary schools and the Loomis School in Windsor, Connecticut. He received a bachelor of science degree in 1930 from the University of Chicago, then attended medical school at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, graduating from there in 1938 with a degree in medicine.

He served as a flight surgeon in the U.S. Air Force during World War II, from 1942 - 1945.

He first came to Montana in 1924 and made his home in Missoula since 1936.

In addition to a lifetime involvement in ranching in the Swan Valley, Ovando and eastern Montana, he was one of the founders of the Intermountain Lumber Co. in 1947. He served as its president until 1969, when he became chairman of the board. He retired from the company in 1974, following the company's merger with Hoerner-Waldorf.

From 1952-1956, he was chairman of the Missoula County Republican Committee and the State Republican Executive Committee.

He received his pilot's license in 1932 and flew his plane on float trips to northern Canada and Alaska for 25 years, with the most recent trip in August 1986.

He was a member of the OX5 Club, the American Society of Foresters, the Economic Council of the National Forest Products Association, the National Lumber Manufacturers' Association, the Montana Wood Products Association, the Western Montana Retrievers Club and the Rotary Club.

He was a director of the Mountain States Legal Foundation and a former director of the First National Bank of Missoula. He also was a director of Missoula Community Hospital and chaired the Advance Gifts Committee in its campaign to raise \$1 million to build a new hospital.

He was an avid duck hunter and was a "life master" bridge player.

He married Barbara Streit in Missoula in 1954. She survives him, as do two sons, Horton B. "Tony" Koessler and James B. Koessler, both of Billings; three stepsons: Mathewson B. Green, London, England, Dr. Frederic N. Green, Eugene, Oregon, and Norman W. Green, Oslo, Norway; and 10 grandchildren.

Cremation has taken place in Missoula under the direction of Livingston-Maletta & Geraghty Funeral Home.

Elk management on agenda

Fish and Game officials for the Swan Valley will attend the next meeting of the Condon Community Club on February 18, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Swan Valley Community Hall, Condon.

Biologists will discuss tentative hunting regulations for this district, and also listen to ideas from local residents concerning the elk management practices in the Swan Valley.

Shawn Riley, wildlife biologist, and Guy Shank, game warden, are scheduled to attend.

Swan Valley weather

Nearly fifteen inches of snow fell in the Swan Valley during the month of January, according to records kept by weather observer Marty Kux at Lindbergh Lake.

The twenty-year average for snowfall in January is 40 inches, making 1987 seem considerably below average. The lowest snowfall recorded in January was 11 inches in 1985. The highest recorded was 79.3 inches in 1982.

As of January 31 there was 20 inches of snow on the ground at Lindbergh Lake. As a comparison, in 1982 there was 38 inches of snow on the ground on January 31; in 1983, 19 inches and in 1984, 17 inches; in 1986, 20 inches.

A total of 67.3 inches of snow has fallen here since November 1986. That's the lowest recorded cumulative snowfall of any winter season since 1980.

Precipitation for January was .99 inches. The twenty-year average has been about 3.5 inches in January. The lowest recorded precipitation in January was .59 in 1985. The highest was 7.9 inches in 1971.

Low temperature for the month occurred on January 16, with minus 12 degrees Fahrenheit. The high was recorded on the 12th, with 44 degrees. The average maximum temperature for the month is 29.3 degrees. The average minimum temperature for January is 12.8. The average January temperature for the past five years is 21.1 degrees.

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52

PLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY

Old Time Dance on February 28

An Old Time Dance, sponsored by the Swan Valley Post No. 63 of the American Legion, will be held Saturday, February 28 at the Swan Valley Community Hall. Valley native, Roy Wilhelm will provide live music, and refreshments will be served all night.

"This is a family event," according to Ken Wolff, Post Commander. "Kids and families are welcome."

Wolff stressed that this is a social event, "like the dances we used to have years ago."

In years past, 4-H groups and other service organizations often sponsored community dances as a means to raise money for other projects. It was not uncommon to see kids learning to dance with their parents and plenty of socializing at those events, Wolff recalls.

Net proceeds from this dance will be used to sponsor "Boys and Girls State" candidates this spring. Door prizes will be given away, coffee will be free and sandwiches and cake will be served at midnight. The dance begins at 9 p.m.

American Legion to begin "white cross" program

Remember the small white crosses, memorials along the highway for people killed in car accidents? The Swan Valley Post No. 63 of the American Legion is working to continue that project in the Seeley Swan area from Clearwater Junction to Bigfork.

The only group in the state actively continuing the white cross program is in the Libby-Troy area.

"On some of those bad corners there's nearly a dozen crosses," according to Ken Wolff, Swan Valley Post Commander. "You see them and you slow right down."

In order for members of the local Legion to begin erecting crosses, they must obtain permission from family members to place the memorials. For more information, contact Ken Wolff, Star Route, Condon, Montana 59826.

In other Legion news, Maurice Brakeman is in charge of a project to place a large flagpole near the Community Hall at Condon and, also, to build an activities/bulletin board for the Hall.

Bud Moore is working on a project to locate the historic cabins, school sites and other areas in the Valley in order to apply for Historic Site Preservation status.

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In Our Churches

PASSAGES

Rev. James Patterson, Pastor
Swan Valley Baptist Church

I've just been reading the "Prisoner Bulletin" published by the representative of the Evangelical Baptist Churches of the Soviet Union. This is the unregistered Church, sometimes called the underground Church. In 1985, 170 of its Pastors and members were in prison or labor camps. Their only crimes were preaching the gospel, teaching children, distributing or printing Christian literature. The present USSR leadership has imprisoned many, many more — so, that number is much higher today.

Prayer means much to these people - prisoners and families left behind. One Pastor, imprisoned for over eleven years, wrote "I cannot understand how the little prayers of man can influence

Almighty God! And yet I rejoice because I believe the Word of God and have experienced many answers to prayer. For this reason I thank my God today for your prayers."

Hebrews 13:3 challenges us, "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body." Would you join us in prayer for these our Brothers in Christ, in prison for the testimony of Jesus Christ? When you are discouraged or maybe struck with cabin fever, feeling sorry for yourself, uphold them before the throne of grace. We'd be glad to give you more information about these prisoners.

One of our favorite challenges at Swan Valley Baptist is found in James 4:2,3. "Ye have not because ye ask not; Ye ask and receive not because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." Try praying for someone else! Prayer does change things!

Swan Valley Library to offer talk on S.A.D.

by Claudia Kux

(Editor's Note: Ms. Kux has done extensive research over the past three years on the subject of Seasonal Affective Disorder—S.A.D.)

Does winter make you SAD? If so, don't feel alone. Many people are affected by the short, cold days of this season.

For some, it is a relatively simple case of the blahs brought on by a post-holiday letdown or the endless gray and white landscape. But there are people who have a physical basis for their

winter malaise. For them, the short, dark days trigger an over-production of the hormone melatonin, a substance normally produced during sleep. And this imbalance wreaks havoc on both mind and body.

Researchers have tagged this reaction, appropriately, S.A.D. — Seasonal Affective Disorder. Typical symptoms may include extreme lethargy, depression, poor sleep patterns, increased craving for carbohydrates, and a lack of enthusiasm for just about everything!

On Tuesday, February 24, there will be a presentation about S.A.D. at the Swan Valley Community Library in Condon, beginning at 1:30 p.m. For more information call 754-2529.

Youth choir to perform this month

The Mission Mountain Messengers, in preparation for their mini-tours which begin in March, will perform at two local churches in February.

On February 15, the choir will sing three or four songs during Sunday Service at Faith Lutheran Church in Condon. On February 22, they will perform at the Seeley Lake Presbyterian Church beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Members and guests will enjoy a potluck after the worship service at Faith Lutheran this Sunday.

The Mission Mountain Messengers is a non-denominational singing group for young, single adults.

Lindbergh Lake zoning approved

New zoning regulations for the Lindbergh Lake area were approved by county commissioners at a short meeting last week. The new regulations specifically prohibit commercial development and related activities in the residential area.

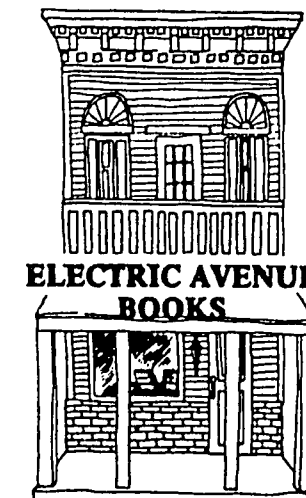
Commissioners incorporated several suggested changes reviewed at a public meeting in Missoula on January 14.

Citizenship Awards

Citizenship awards at Swan Valley Elementary for the month of January were given to Wade Christianson, kindergarten; Davy Good, first grade; Kenny Crippen, second grade; Wendi White, third grade; Justin Shoup, fourth grade; Holly Mahaffey, sixth grade; Amy Gourde, seventh grade; and Kaylee Mahaffey, eighth grade.

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OUTDOORS



Sue Meng and baby Graham, Missoula, enjoyed skiing in the 10K race during the OSCAR activities last weekend.

Seventy-one racers compete in OSCAR

The fifth annual OSCAR 50 kilometer cross-country ski race got off to a great start on Saturday as racers from around the Northwest competed in Seeley Lake.

One of the final turns in the course was not well-marked, though, and six of the fastest racers ended up downtown rather than at the high school football field. They had to run, skis in hand, up to the school and across the finish line.

Other than that, comments on the race ranged from "fantastic" to "the best cross-country ski course ever." The sunny day helped cheer everyone, although the snow softened by mid-afternoon and slowed many of the racers.

Seventy-one hardy skiers participated in the race, including 78 year-old Ed Domer, Seeley Lake, who ran the race for the first time this year, finishing the 32-mile course in 7 hours, 7 minutes and 31 seconds. But he wasn't the last racer in. Pat Caffrey, Seeley Lake, finished in 7 hours, 57 minutes and 46 seconds.

Winners, some of the local skiers, and their times follow:

50 Kilometer Overall.

1st place mens: Jim Buckley, Missoula, 2:50:58

1st place women: Kathy Faryniarz, Missoula, 3:49:37.

16-29 age class.

Men's: 1st place: Mark Hollinger, Missoula, 3:18:51; 2nd place: Peter Keller, Missoula, 3:18:54; 3rd place: Cris Brown, Missoula, 3:19:31.

Women's: 1st place: Kathy Faryniarz, Missoula, 3:49:37; 2nd: Karen Longhart, Kalispell, 3:58:56; 3rd: Mette Hausken, Sweden, 4:24:35.

30-39 age class.

Men's: 1st place: Jim Buckley, Missoula, 2:50:58; 2nd: Bruce Usey, Spokane 3:02:29; 3rd: Eric Kress, Spokane, 3:14:46.

Women's 1st place: Margaret Smith, Missoula, 3:55:33; 2nd: Margaret Hillhouse, Missoula, 4:57:07; 3rd: Margaret Gardner, Lincoln, 5:24:22.

40 and over age class.

Men's 1st place: Rene Fuglestad, Missoula, 3:04:43; 2nd: Glen Goverton, Missoula, 3:22:09; 3rd: Tom Ulik, Kalispell, 3:35:38.

Seeley Swan racers.

Mike McGrew, 4:18:47; Joel Gulbranson, 4:18:51; Ernie Lundberg, 4:29:32; Ron Johnson, 5:11:36; Jim James, 5:17:03; Kent Hane, 5:27:32; Gary Macon, 5:53:27; Gwen Schreier, 6:16:11; Renee Lundberg, 6:45:01; Dennis Schreier, 6:54:27; Geanette Cebulski, 6:55:23; Edward Domer, 7:07:55; Susan Stone, 7:48:24; Pat Caffrey, 7:57:46.

10 Kilometer race.

Milo James, Seeley Lake, 48:27; Lynda Cebulski, 53:35; Marilyn Kuch, 54:8; Cyd Kats, 1:05:05; Brandon Seaman, Swan Valley, competed in the 10K but broke a binding early in the race.

2 Kilometer race.

Paul Johnson, first; Rod Kvamme, second; Leon James, third place.

Seeley Lake Weather

January's warmest day was the 27th, when the temperature rose to 36 degrees Fahrenheit at the Seeley Lake Ranger Station. That compares with the low for the month of minus 26 on the 13th.

Total precipitation for last month was 1.15 inches, most of which came in the form of snow on January 26 and 27.

The highest precipitation recorded since 1967 was 6.39 inches in 1969 and the lowest was .56 recorded in 1981.

Total cumulative snowfall for the winter (since Nov. 1, 1986) is 52 inches. There was 15 inches of snow on the ground last Monday at the Seeley Lake Ranger Station.

Country Journal

by Suzanne Vernon

The honeybees are out! At least they were last week when temperatures here in the Swan climbed to 50 degrees. Ken Wolff mentioned the warm weather was bringing the insects back to life.

Pete the Pigeon has taken up residence at Ken's place on Kraft Creek Road. Pete was first found last fall "lost" in a chicken coop at the David and Nanci Marx residence outside of Seeley Lake. Nanci called upon Ken, a licensed bird caretaker, to nurse the pigeon back to health. Now Pete has decided the Swan is a pretty nice place to live. He roosts on the roof and dines on the balcony.

Saw a pileated woodpecker hammering away at a stump in the woods near a friend's house last weekend. He didn't appear to be concerned about us at all.

My three-year-old son, Justin, caught a 14-inch brook trout while ice fishing last week! (Now, that's journal-worthy news!) It was the second time in his life that he had caught a large fish through the ice. When we cleaned the brookie, we saw that he had been feeding on small bluegills and snails. Odd combination, we thought.

With all of this sunshine and warm weather, I half expect to see the daffodils start popping out of the ground. We haven't had snow beneath the fir trees here all winter, although there is still nearly two feet of snow in the yard.

4-H News—Mount Ovando

DeAnna Dreyer Reporter

The fourth meeting of the Mount Ovando 4-H Club was called to order by president Jody Hicks on January 5, 1987. Roll call was an idea for a money-making project. It was decided people would check on quilt prices for the clothing project.

Thankyous were received from Patsy Wilson and Delia Dreyer.

DeAnna moved to go sledding January 18 and to invite the Clover Club.

Reports were given on the Helena judging. Les received Top Junior Individual and DeAnna received Reserve. Jody, DeAnna, Les and Melissa took Top Junior Team.

Snowpack below average

BOZEMAN—With only one exception, the snowpack over Montana's mountains continued to be below average through January, according to measurements made by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

"The only exception," says Phil Farnes, SCS snow survey supervisor, "is the northeast face of the Beartooth Mountains near Red Lodge." The snowpack there is between 90 to 110 percent of average.

Snowpack in the Flathead River drainage (includes Swan Valley) is 76 percent of average. In the Upper Clark Fork (Seeley Lake) snowpack is 65 percent of average.

Most of the rest of the state has mountain snowpacks that are less than 70 percent of average—some areas in the central and southern mountain ranges are showing only 50 to 60 percent of average snowpack.

"The next three months are critical," Farnes says. "The snowfall from now on must be near or above average, or next spring and summer's water supply for the state is going to be very short." The melting snow provides up to 75 percent of the state's spring and summer streamflow.

The positive factors in the situation are the rains last fall that recharged moisture in the mountain soils, and the fall and early winter runoff that helped increase storage in many irrigation reservoirs.

Usually, by February 1 sixty percent of the season's snowpack is on the ground.

Fishing Report

Ice fishing has been excellent this past week. Several reports of folks catching brown trout (out of the river and near the Seeley Lake outlet), bull trout (Seeley Lake) and cutthroat in the higher mountain lakes.

Maggots, marshmallows, and medium-sized fluorescent lures seem to work right now.



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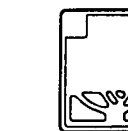
677-2424 Monday-Friday 9:00-5:30 Saturday 9:00-5:00 Sunday Closed

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Seeley Lake



Local ski buffs Kent Hane, left, and Gary Macon, right, skied in the 50K OSCAR cross-country ski race last weekend.

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OUTDOORS

VALLEY LODGING

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Mt. Henry has potential as small ski resort

A vision of the future of winter recreation in Seeley Lake was presented at last week's meeting of the Ad Hoc Group. The sixty-five persons in attendance generally seemed interested in making that vision a reality.

As reported in *Pathfinder* two weeks ago, skiing consultants Michael Wolfe and John Porterfield have been studying the potential of nearby Mt. Henry as a ski resort. Both men were on hand to present their preliminary findings to the group. They have concluded that Mt. Henry would be ideally suited for the development of a small, family-oriented ski facility, with the aim of attracting primarily Montanans.

According to Porterfield, the strongest attribute of the mountain's topography is its northeasterly aspect, which translates into a long skiing season and dependable snow conditions. "Good-quality snow is not easy to come by in this state," he said. The vertical drop between the summit and base area is a relatively modest 2200 feet, but this is still well within the top twenty ski areas in the U.S. Perhaps the greatest attraction of Mt. Henry is that the skiing site lies entirely on private land. Private ownership would allow much of the cumbersome licensing process, which would otherwise be required by the Forest Service, to be bypassed.

Porterfield believes a modestly sized facility, accommodating a maximum of 400 skiers per weekend, would be ideal. Development would include advanced through beginner alpine runs, a network of Nordic trails, a warming hut at the summit, and a small lodge at the base. Relatively low capital investment would be required, partly as a result of buying used ski lifts. He pointed out that Big Sky purchased a six million dollar lift from Steamboat for only \$80,000.

Porterfield said that the depressed ski lift market is indicative of a generally "sick" ski industry. He points to a major cause of this: resorts have grossly overbuilt their facilities. This leads to very high operating costs and prohibitive insurance costs. Moreover, he said that most resorts have been seduced by "high-tech," while overlooking the importance of quality of service.

His recommendation for a Mt. Henry resort is to stress quality of service, keep investment costs low, and avoid any temptation to try and become a national destination ski resort: "Look for a small niche in the Montana ski market." He said that the strategy should be to appeal to Montana families and tie in the ski resort with all the other winter recreation activities in the area. "You can have an awful lot of fun. Cross-country ski one day, snowmobile the next day. Have a ball in this town."

Porterfield indicated that the next steps toward developing Mt. Henry would be detailed terrain and environmental studies. The major question now becomes: Who will conduct and finance such studies?

Locals suggest split in Hunting District 285

Hunting District 285 should be split in half, according to many local residents who attended a meeting last week in Seeley Lake to discuss 1987 tentative big game hunting regulations with fish and game officials.

Last year, the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks sold 300 cow elk tags for the entire 285 district. That was an increase over the previous year, when 150 permits were sold. Biologists at last week's meeting justified the increase based on agricultural damage being done by elk in the eastern portion of the district north of Ovando.

Members of the Wilderness Sportsman's Club who were present at the meeting spoke out against the district-wide increase in cow permits, and asked fish and game officials if they could split the district, and offer a larger percentage of the cow permits in the damage areas and less in the portion of the district close to and north of Seeley Lake.

Officials agreed that the district could be split, but asked the club to put their suggestions in writing and mail them to the Missoula fish and game office prior to the public hearing in Helena on February 28.

Jay Haveman, game warden for the Seeley Lake area, expressed concern that splitting the hunting district would adversely affect elk populations. He will be meeting with members of the Wilderness Sportsman's Club on February 19 to further explain his concerns.

In a vote on elk hunting proposals, most of those present said they would like to see regulations here remain the same as they have in the past. Six people of the 50 who attended the meeting said they would support a change in District 285 to branch-antlered bull only regulations, such as those in effect last year in districts 280 (Bob Marshall) and 281 (near Lincoln).

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SEELEY LAKE 11th ANNUAL

SNOWMOBILAVOUS

FEBRUARY 13, 14, 15 & 16

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

(Note: All events to be held at Heliport)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

7:00 p.m. **POKER RUN** - starting at Woody's 4 Bars to Heliport. Bonfire & social gathering, w/coffee & hot chocolate.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

8:00 to 11:00 a.m. **BREAKFAST** - Community Hall served by the Lions Club
 * **GUIDED TRAIL RIDES** *
 * **SNOWMOBILE GAMES** *
 3:00 p.m. **POKER RUN** - starting at Heliport to Community Hall
 6:00 p.m. **SPAGHETTI FEED** - Community Hall Social evening with taped music, dancing & many door prizes.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

8:00 to 11:00 a.m. **BREAKFAST** - Community Hall served by the Lions Club
 * **GUIDED TRAIL RIDES** *
 * **SNOWMOBILE GAMES** *
 1:00 p.m. **POKER RUN** - from Heliport to Heliport
 3:00 p.m. **CHILI FEED & BIG BONFIRE** Heliport

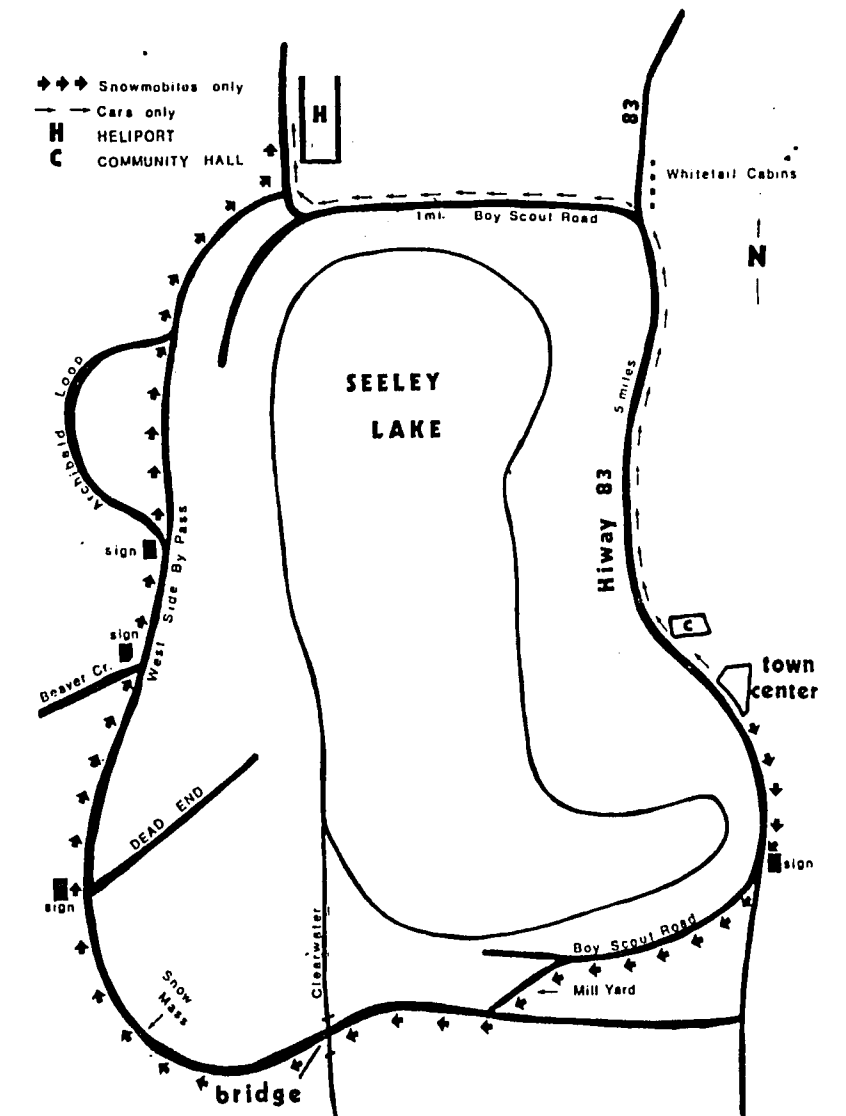
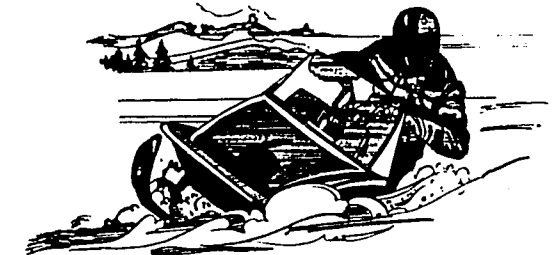
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

11:00 a.m. **RIDE TO KOZY KORNER** for lunch - leaves at Woody's.

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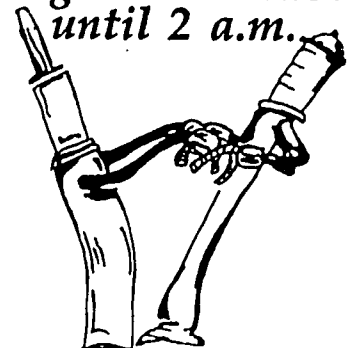
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SPORTS

UPCOMING GAMES

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Boy's Basketball

Feb 14 Victor at Seeley Swan
Feb 18-21 District Tournament
Feb 26-28 Divisional Tournament
Mar 12-14 State Tournament

Seeley Swan High School
Volleyball

Feb 13 Arlee at Seeley Swan
Feb 14 Charlo at Seeley Swan
Feb 14 Sentinel at Seeley Swan
Feb 21 Seeley Swan at Frenchtown
Mar 6-7 Div. Volleyball Tour
Mar 20-21 State Volleyball Tour



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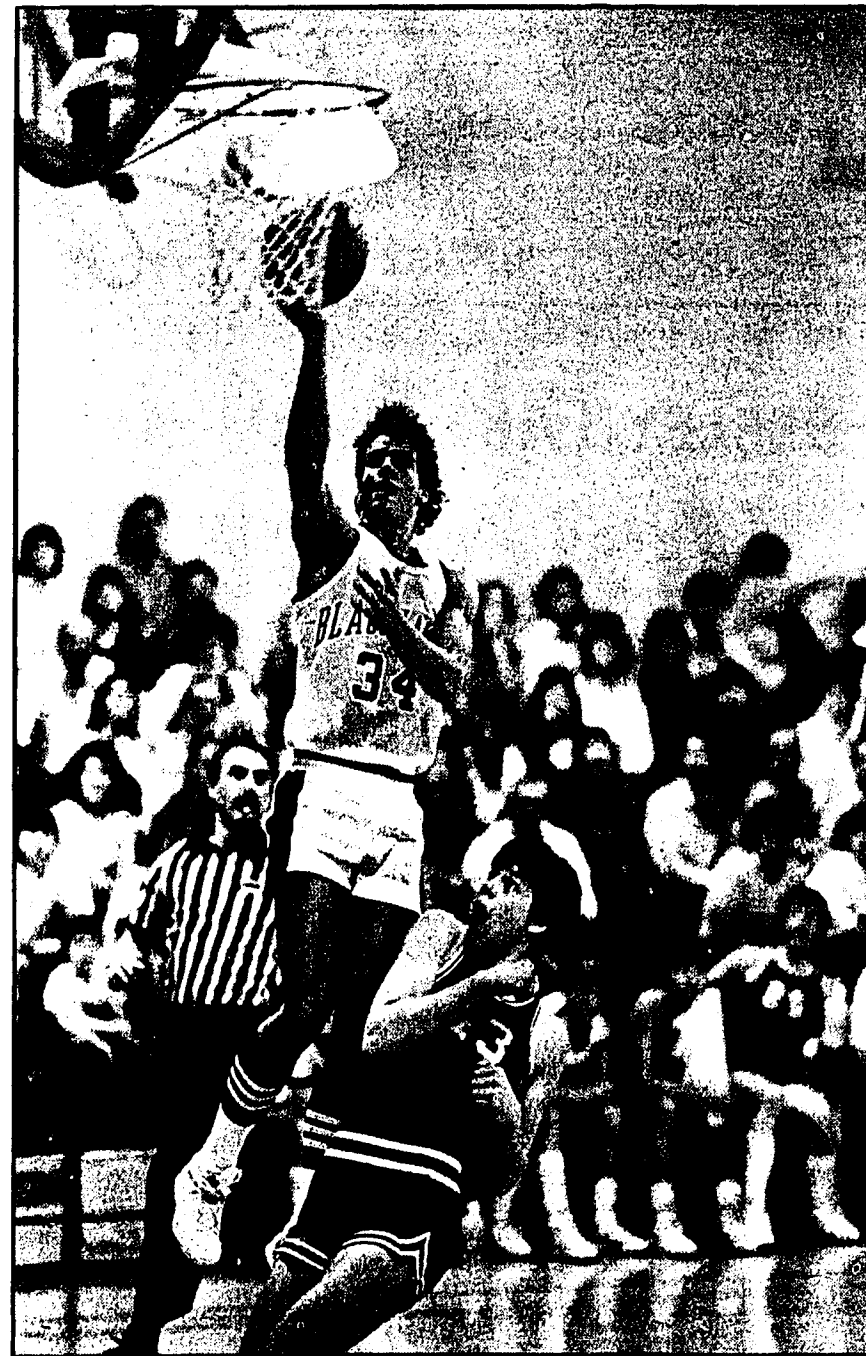
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Hawks nearly win

by Jackie Gossard

Saturday, February 7, the Philipsburg Prospectors hosted the Seeley Swan Blackhawks on the Prospectors' temporary home court in Anaconda. The Prospectors defeated the Blackhawks, 57-55. Philipsburg outscored Seeley in 3 of the 4 quarters, but the game remained relatively close all night. The Prospectors' lead scorers were Ken Beatty with 27 points and Charles Gonsioroski with 12 points. The Hawks were led by seniors Craig Tanner with 30 points and Randy Johnson with 11 points.

This game leaves the Prospectors with a record of 7-2 in the Conference and 11-4, overall. The Hawks are now 10-1 in Conference play and 11-6, overall. The Blackhawks will host the Victor Pirates on Saturday, February 14, in Seeley. That game will be the Blackhawks' last home game and, also, the Senior night for both the basketball players and the volleyball players.



Craig Tanner goes for an easy "two" at last Friday night's home game against Alberton.

PTA members gather for Founder's Day

February 17 is the 90th birthday of the national PTA organization and local groups are planning special activities to commemorate the occasion.

The Seeley Lake PTA is holding a birthday party at 7 p.m. at the elementary school. Guest speaker will be Anita Richards. Non-members are invited to come and learn about activities of the Seeley Lake PTA (which began three years ago). PTA is a "child advocacy association" with programs for kids, parents, community members, and teachers. Child care will be provided and refreshments will be served at Tuesday's meeting.

Past PTA projects in Seeley Lake include hosting cultural arts programs, carnivals, reading programs and volunteering time in the schools.

The Swan Valley PTA (which was organized in 1981) is also holding a birthday party to commemorate Founder's Day, beginning at 1 p.m. on February 17 at the Swan Valley Elementary library. Ellen Anderson, school psychologist, will discuss Building Self-Esteem in Your Children. Child care will be provided and refreshments will be served.

The Swan Valley group has actively supported the construction of the new multi-purpose building at Swan Valley school, and has contributed thousands of dollars toward the construction and furnishing of that building.

In the past, Seeley Swan PTA members and local residents have banded together on major projects. PTA members literally moved buildings to accommodate growing classes in Seeley Lake in the late 1950s. In the 1960s, they went to the legislature and challenged state laws, finally winning the battle that resulted in the construction of Seeley Swan High School (1960s).

Homeschool workshop planned

Dr. Gary Elfner, internationally-known speaker on education in schools and homeschools, will be in Missoula for an all-day seminar February 21 at the Bethel Baptist Church. Elfner will be speaking on the history and value of the *Classic Curriculum*, how to use it, individualized study, study on text-books, field trips, book reports, and oral reports.

This workshop offers parents and teachers a chance to see and ask questions about Mott Media books, *McGuffey's Readers*, *Ray's Arithmetics*, *Harvey's Grammar and Spencian Penmanship*. Phonics and other support materials will also be explained.

Double Front Chicken

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Spelling Bees

Local public schools have recently held spelling bees and winners will soon travel to Missoula (February 27) to compete in the county-wide contest.

At Seeley Lake Elementary, Janet Williams won top honors, while Nick Miller placed second, becoming the alternate.

At Swan Valley Elementary, Tracy Kearney won the school spelling

bee, and Amy Gourde placed second.

The Missoula Homeschoolers Association (a private school organization) reports that area students in home schools are also polishing their spelling skills. During their January 30 meet, Samuel Redfern, Missoula, was the winner. Other participants were Serena Redfern, Mandy and Gennifer Hane, Swan Valley; Deborah Pratt and Jeannie McDougall, Missoula.

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Simple instructions on how to spend this weekend.

Come to Missoula for the Montana State Expo Winter Star this weekend. There's plenty of fun and excitement for the entire family. Activities begin this Friday and run through Monday. Events are scheduled throughout Missoula all weekend long. Check the schedule below for activities going on at the fairgrounds during the Montana State Expo Winter Star. Hope to see you there!

Fairgrounds Schedule

Friday, February 13th		Sunday, February 15th	
10:00am-6:00pm	State Finals Exhibits on Display	10:00am-6:00pm	Gate Admission—\$1 for 18 years and older, free for 17 years and younger
5:45pm	Parade route: Begins at Dornblaser Field down South Ave. and concludes at fairgrounds.		All commercial booths open to the public
6:15pm	Bon Fire Rendezvous, open to the public		Montana State Highway Patrol Antique Car and Historic Displays
Saturday, February 14th			State Open Class Final Exhibits on Display
10:00am-6:00pm	Gate Admission—\$1 for 18 years and older, free for 17 years and younger	10:00am	Montana Professional Horseshoeing Competition
	All commercial booths open to the public	10:00am	Rabbit seminar
	Food, Beer, and Beverage booths open	10:00am	Tug-of-War competition
	Montana State Highway Patrol Antique Car and Historic Displays	10:00am	Amateur Dog Pull \$1 Adults, Free for Children
	State Open Class Final Exhibits on Display	1:00pm	Hereford Top-Cut Show
	Livestock on Display	1:00pm & 3:00pm	BMX Bike Demo
9:00am	Great Dog of the North Dog Sled Pull		
10:00am-5:00pm	Missoula "Snow goes" rides		
10:00am-noon	Horse and Mule Hitching class		
10:00am	4-H State Dog Show Competition		
1:00pm & 3:00pm	BMX Bike Demo		
1:00pm	Diaper Derby—kiddie races		
1:00pm-4:00pm	Draft Horse Pull and Mule Show		
2:00pm	4-H Rabbit Show		
3:30pm	Mule Hitching Class		
4:00pm	Snow Sculpture Awards		



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Prime Rib - Friday Night
7 pm - Closing

Barbecued Ribs - Saturday Night
5 pm - Closing

Champagne Brunch - Sunday
10 am - 2 pm

Volleyball

Blackhawks lose to Loyola

by Matt Cooper

On Wednesday, February 4, the Seeley Swan volleyball junior varsity team played two away games. The first was played in Victor, where the Blackhawks won. The second game, that evening, was played against Loyola. The Blackhawks lost a close first match, 16-14. They regrouped, but lost the second match, 15-9.

The Blackhawks had 13 kills, four of which belonged to Teresa Mahaffey. Tammy Pohlman led in blocks with 2 and 7 of Seeley's 9 set assists. Sandy DeLeo had four of the Blackhawks' 9 service aces.

According to Tammy Pohlman, "We were tired after playing the first game against Victor and didn't play as a team against Loyola." Sandy Prazak said, "We played at 9 p.m. which is later than usual and we were already tired from the Victor game."

The Blackhawks had beaten Loyola in their first meeting. They now have a 13-4 overall record and an 11-0 Conference record.



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PERSONALS

HAPPY VALENTINE to Pat and Jim. Love, Cavera kids. Mom & Dad

THANK YOU, ROGER, for the tour of the Valley Market. We had a great time! Troop #253

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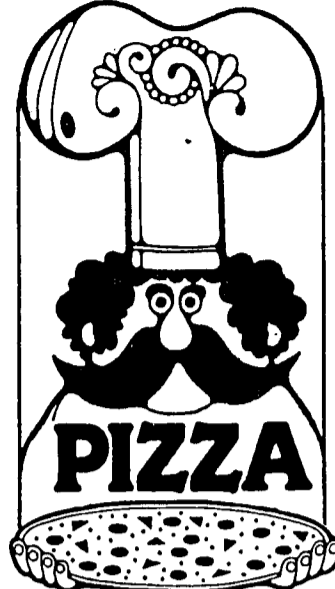
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THANK YOU!

The Wilderness Sportsmans Club wishes to thank all those who took part in the 1987 Seeley Lake 200 Sled Dog Race. As the main sponsor of the event it would have been utterly impossible for the Wilderness Sportsmans Club to have had as successful a race without the participating mushers, the major sponsors and the constant support of the community. We especially want to thank the major sponsors for their donations:

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Wilderness Sportsmans Club

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Chamber members approve budget

For the first time in the history of the Seeley Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, the annual budget was approved last week by Chamber members who attended the general meeting, rather than by the board of directors.

That's a positive step, according to Addrien Marx, president. "This came directly from the Ad Hoc meetings," Marx said last week. "It puts the responsibility back on the Chamber members, rather than on the Board."

The total budget for 1987 is \$18,000, which is \$2,000 more than the 1986 budget. Projects to be organized include the Fourth of July parade and related activities; the Triathlon race, YAMAFEST, Barney Bowles Memorial Scholarship, Citizen of the Year, Santa Claus, Community Clean-up, JayCee Convention and fundraising activities.

Most of the Chamber's revenue comes from membership dues.

In other business last Tuesday night, Jeff Macon reported on the recent tourism conference held in Helena.

"Your Chamber of Commerce is up to date on this," he said, discussing some of the new ideas in the tourism industry.

Members also approved a motion to implement a business improvement program in Seeley Lake.

Business Briefs

Debbie Laabs, Salmon Prairie, recently joined Seeley Swan Realty, Seeley Lake office. Laabs has acquired her sales license and is now working with owner/broker Jeff Macon.

Debbie says she really enjoys working in real estate and looks forward to meeting new people in the Seeley Lake area. She will be working in the Seeley Lake office Monday through Friday, or people may call her at home for listings at 754-2702.

Laabs has lived in the Swan Valley for about seven years. She and her husband, Mike, have three children—elementary students Kelly and Tanner, and four-year-old Joseph.

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Lions Club Breakfast



Saturday, February 14 & Sunday February 15 - 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., Community Hall, Seeley Lake

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