

PATHFINDER



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"VOICE OF THE VALLEY"

754-2365

March 12, 1987



The Seeley Swan Blackhawk volleyball team (and their fans!) won the Western Division Championship at Charlo last weekend. The team (currently ranked number one in the state) will head for Havre next week to compete in the State Tournament. Photo courtesy Sharon Pohlman and Matt Cooper.

Seeley Lake Post Office celebrates 75 years this week

As of March 7, the U.S. Postal Service has been serving the Seeley Lake area for 75 years, according to Dennis Nemmers, postmaster.

Nemmers recently received a letter from an Iowa collector requesting that a letter be postmarked March 7 in honor of the 75th birthday, and when Nemmers checked the records, he confirmed that, indeed, the postal service has been serving this area since March 7, 1912.

The Post Office was originally established as Corlett, near where Morrell Creek now crosses Highway 83 south of Seeley Lake.

According to Bertha M. "Bert" Sullivan, postmaster at Seeley Lake from

1949 to 1970, the site of the Post Office serving the Seeley Swan area moved around over the years. First, it was established at Corlett. By 1918, according to records, the Post Office was renamed Seeley Lake for J.B. Seely, the first white man to live in this area (after whom the town was named).

From Corlett, the Seeley Lake Post Office was moved north on the Clearwater River, where Oscar "Pop" Miller was postmaster for a number of years. Later, what is now known as Wapiti Lodge housed the area Postal Service, then known as Otter's Resort. Mr. Otter was postmaster then, according to Mrs. Sullivan.

Finally, the Post Office moved to what is now the townsite of Seeley Lake. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Sullivan operated Sullivan's Store, which was the next site of the Seeley Lake Post Office.

Mrs. Sullivan recalls that first Post Office. "It was a little square in a back corner of the old store. . . about four feet by six feet, I think. There was a

window there, and orange crates to put mail in. Everybody up the Swan had their own "mail sack" and they hung them out on posts for the route driver."

The Seeley Lake Post Office has served the 40-mile long Seeley Swan "route" for nearly all of its 75 years. Jesse Perro Dombey was the route driver for many of those years. The following is an excerpt from her booklet, *Star Route*.

"When days were hot, rainy or windy, doors were opened to me and a friendly hand extended. When the temperature dropped to 50 degrees below zero, cups of steaming hot coffee greeted me at many stops. Hot lunches, roaring fires and, best of all, the window's warmth of friendliness was unstintingly extended by these fine STAR ROUTE patrons."

By 1950, when the Sullivans finished the new construction of what is now the Seeley Lake Mercantile, Mrs. Sullivan got her start as Seeley Lake's postmaster. She could not recall the ex-

Drawing determines "winners"

Nonresident big game licenses "sold out" in one day

All 17,000 nonresident big game combination hunting licenses offered this year were sold out in one day.

In fact, a total of 20,307 applications were received for the 17,000 licenses by February 24, the day the licenses went on sale. As of that date, 13,607 applications for licenses in the "non-outfitted" block and 6,700 for those licenses in the "outfitted" block had been received by the Department. (Total licenses consist of two categories — the "outfitted" block: 5,600 reserved for nonresident hunters who had already booked hunts for next fall with licensed Montana outfitters; and the "non-outfitted" block: 11,400 available for those nonresidents who had not booked hunts.)

Since the Department received more applications for licenses in each block than the number of licenses available, a drawing was conducted March 4 to determine which of the applicants will receive licenses. Unsuccessful applicants will have their money returned within the next week. Successful applicants will have their licenses by the end of March.

act date that the Post Office was moved to its present location. A large horse corral used to occupy the space where the Post Office now is located.

"There was nothing across the street but that corral," she recalls. Dude ranches were popular in the Swan Valley in those days, and cowboys and wranglers would leave their horses (as many as 60 or 70) overnight in Seeley Lake as a "stop-over" between the Swan Valley ranches and the summer/winter ranges on the other side of the Jocko Divide.

Mrs. Sullivan retired in 1970. Margaret Anders, also of Seeley Lake, followed Mrs. Sullivan as postmaster. Mrs. Anders retired in 1981.

Dennis Nemmers, current Seeley Lake postmaster, was appointed to his present job in 1981. The Postal Service now delivers mail to nearly 700 addresses (boxes and general delivery) in Seeley Lake and an additional 155 boxes along the original Star Route from Seeley Lake to Condon.

Natty Bumpo

Bad Weather

One of the more interesting developments in the current legislative session has been the awesome display of lobbying power by Montana's higher education establishment. As a result of various well-organized parades, demonstrations, and imported busloads of militant students and professors, most of the legislators are cowering in their bunkers. The watchword of the day seems to be that we must preserve every atom of this educational empire for "our future."

The irony is that a very substantial number of future graduates from Montana's university system will likely play no part in "our future" — because the current difficulty which our graduates face in finding suitable jobs here is likely to persist. Unless, of course, our legislators miraculously get their act together in the waning days of this session. (Ha.)

The underlying cause is akin to the weather: everybody knows about it, but nobody does anything about it. Perhaps that's why the term "business climate" is used. Ours is terrible — the legacy of many years of government bungling. There has been a lot of lip service in Helena about repairing the problems, which include: a confiscatory worker's comp program, a medieval unitary tax, a repressive personal property tax, wildly uncompetitive severance taxes, inadequate tax incentives for new business, government spending grossly out of line with income, and a regulatory bureaucracy which has run amok. All of these

spell "the kiss of death" when it comes to attracting new business to Montana. (Readers who doubt this are urged to compile a list of Fortune 500 companies which have elected to come to Montana within the last ten years. Hint: this exercise does not require much time.)

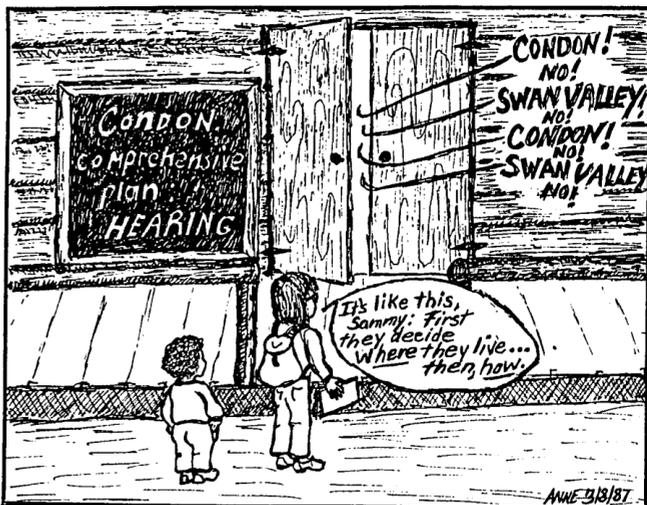
New business is synonymous with an expanding economy, and the creation of new jobs. Unless our business climate gets turned around — real soon now — graduates of our educational emporia will continue to be one of our major export crops.

— Dick Potter

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

Seeley Swan Pathfinder is published every Thursday by Pathfinder Press, Inc., 1701 Hwy 83 N, Seeley Lake, MT 59868 (telephone 406/677-2022 or 754-2365). Area served is Seeley Lake and neighboring communities. Distribution is by mail subscription (\$10.50 per year in Missoula, Lake, or Powell County; \$13.00 per year elsewhere in U.S.) and by newsstand sales. Ad deadline is 4 p.m. on Friday prior to publication. News deadline is noon Monday prior to publication.

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Fly the Friendly Skies of Seeley Lake

To the Editor:

Concerning the skiing interest in the Seeley Swan area and injecting the economy of the town of Seeley Lake, I would like to make a proposal: Construct an Aerial Tram from the Double Arrow Lookout to the Morrell Lookout.

Many times I have flown an airplane from the Double Arrow Lookout to the Morrell Lookout in a nice shallow glide — what an exhilarating experience. Just imagine the thrill of skiing down Morrell Lookout Road, with no obstructions and very little maintenance. Visualize the ego of Seeley Lake by having the first Aerial Tram in the state, or elsewhere — it could not possibly fail in its economic marketing potential.

The erection of the towers and the tier-stop stations could be built in the areas where the timber has already been scalped and raped. The scenic views and vistas can be enjoyed, seen and photographed by everyone, not just skiers, the year 'round (assuming the Tram has round-trip capabilities). This facility can be enjoyed year-round by having a nice parking area, a curio shop, and a taco stand with pizzas and hamburgers, etc. at the Double Arrow Lookout. During the non-snow season, a shuttle can be run from the Morrell Lookout end of the line, if so desired.

Why start a mom-and-pop operation out of the Seeley Lake area, when Seeley Lake can go big time? Seeley Lake has enough mom-and-pop businesses that can't or won't pay a livable wage to their employees. By the way, the national average is \$8.27 per hour, and that is on the borderline of straight poverty. Pyramid is the only employer in the private sector that shows absolute compassion and consideration for their employees.

As a concerned resident of Seeley Lake, please, let your comments be heard.

I will render my moral support for the economic development of this project. As a concerned resident of Poverty Flats, I thank you.

Melvin J. Ketland
Seeley Lake

Pro Bed Tax

To the Editor:

There are many issues being considered by the current legislature that will have impact on the Seeley Swan area. With no organization yet in existence that attempts to sample local opinion on these issues, we can only hope that individuals are contacting their legislators to express their opinions.

One of the bills that would do our local economy the most good with the least cost to local residents is House Bill 84, a 4% accommodations tax to better promote tourism. The enclosed editorial from the *Missoulian* provides an accurate description of this bill and its benefits.

The *Pathfinder* has published both news and opinion on other issues before the legislature this session. I would be interested in reading your comments about House Bill 84.

Jeff Macon
Seeley Lake

(Editor's Note: Jeff Macon followed up the above letter with a note explaining that he had belatedly become aware of the comments which appeared on this subject last week. The Missoulian editorial points out that there are less worthy, competing bills which provide for a higher tax and which divert a substantial portion of the revenues to causes other than tourism. We urge readers to carefully reflect upon Jeff's first paragraph. Now is the time to make your voice heard — on bed taxes, sales taxes, and any other matter of consequence.)

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Donaldson proposes major spending cuts

by Gordon Gregory
Helena Correspondent

A general sales tax will help erase the burgeoning budget deficit, but it won't provide nearly enough money to balance the books, according to the head of the House Appropriations Committee.

Rep. Gene Donaldson said that even a 4 percent sales tax would generate less than \$50 million for state government. State officials currently put the deficit for the next biennium at up to \$130 million.

Donaldson spent much of his week rallying lawmakers to find more budget cuts.

"We simply are not going to make this thing balance. We'll have to cut further," Donaldson said. "We're talking about major cuts, major philosophical changes as far as services in the state of Montana."

Donaldson has drawn up a list of possible budget cuts that could chop state spending at least \$17 million. On the list are such things as cutting the university system 4 percent below what is currently recommended by another committee, eliminating state support for the vocational-technical centers as well as the community colleges, and dropping one of the state's six agricultural experiment stations.

Donaldson said he's also working on a bill to cut the school foundation program one percent next year and three percent the following year.

Donaldson's advice was rejected by the joint education subcommittee preparing university system funding, which declined to consider his list of spending cuts.

In a short, if lively debate, Sen. Judy Jacobson said the university budget recommended by the subcommittee is inadequate as it stands, and that she won't consider cutting it further.

"If someone here wants to cut it more, I'm going to walk out that door," said Jacobson, D-Butte.

But Rep. Dennis Iverson argued that more cuts will come regardless of what the committee decides, and that the committee is in the best position to make them.

The Whitlash Republican said it's a mistake to assume that tax increases will spare the university system further cuts.

"We might as well quit dreaming about that," he said. "We're no longer talking about quality or mediocrity. We don't have the damned money."

Much of the other legislative news of the week centered around taxes. Most significant was the House's sound endorsement of a bill cutting the coal severance tax in half.

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Legislature '87

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, March 16 — Spaghetti

Tuesday, March 17 — Corned Beef and Cabbage

Wednesday, March 18 — Pork and Noodles

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Business of the Week

TAMARACKS RESORT

Barry and Bernice Buehler and their 3 young children, Sarah, Rebecca and Joshua own and operate the Tamaracks Resort. Located on the secluded north end of Seeley Lake, the year 'round resort has been here since 1929, though the Buehlers purchased it in 1984.

"It has a personality about itself — it's a grand old place," Bernice says. All of the rustic lakefront cabins have their own names — Duke, Sam, Lewis and Clark. And, the towering tamaracks located on this 16-acre piece of land (leased from the Lolo National Forest) represent one of the oldest stands of trees in the area.

The resort is close to snowmobile and cross-country ski trails. Ice fishing is only a few steps from the cabins. During the warmer weather, with a swimming beach, boat launch and moorage, water sports are popular. Rowboats (with or without motors), a canoe and a sailboat are available for their guests, and Barry offers sailboat lessons.

Water and electric hook-ups and a shower house are available for campers and RV's.



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Congratulations Blackhawks! On to State!

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

Bingo, 2nd & 4th Thurs every month, open to public, 7pm, Comm Hall, Seeley Lake.

Public Meetings

Mar 25, Missoula County Commissioners - Refuse Disposal District Assessments Hearing, 1:30pm, County Courthouse Annex, Missoula.

QRU (Condon), 1st & 3rd Mon every month.
 QRU (Seeley Lake), 1st and 3rd Fri every month, 7:30pm, Fire Hall, 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.
 Swan Valley Volunteer Fire Department, Six-Week Training Sessions, every Mon (Mar 9 - Apr 13) at Swan Valley Comm Hall, Condon; and every Weds (Mar 11 - Apr 15) at Seeley Lake Fire Hall, Seeley Lake.

Water District, 2nd Tues every month, 8pm, REA bldg, Seeley Lake.

Clubs & Organizations
 Mar 16, PTA (Seeley Lake), mtg, 7pm, Elem School.

Mar 19, Wilderness Sportsmans Club, gen mtg, 7:30pm, Leisure Lodge Resort, Seeley Lake.

Mar 19, Condon Comm Club, 7:30pm, Comm Hall, Condon.

Mar 25, Lions Club mtg, 6:30pm, Comm Hall, Seeley Lake.

AARP, 1st Mon every month, Swan Valley Comm Hall, Condon.

Alanon, Mon, 7pm, Lutheran Church, Seeley Lake.

Conifers: Trees and shrubs in seven families and some 500 or more species. Montana representatives include: Douglas firs, firs, Hemlocks, Junipers, Larches, Pines, Spruces and Yews.

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COMMUNITY

New car wash planned for Seeley Lake

Residents of the Seeley Swan Valley will enjoy a new self-service, three bay auto/truck wash by the end of May, if developers' plans go according to schedule.

The Grime Buster Car Wash will be constructed beginning late this month on Highway 83 at the intersection of School Lane, near the Seeley Lake Elementary School, according to developers Doug Hadnot and Don Larson.

"We are building a state-of-the-art car wash with every feature available in the most modern car wash in Missoula," Larson said. "We hope to make heavy trucks a large part of our user market."

Larson said the developers are burying power lines, are planning to use a cement block that simulates old stone, and are purchasing an attractive lighting package for the facility to make it aesthetically pleasing to the community. He said they also plan to landscape the property and seed the highway right-of-way into grass.

Also, plans to incorporate solar heat and wastewater retrieval systems are under consideration, he said. The floors will be heated to permit year-round use, and Larson noted the developers are attempting to use local contractors wherever possible in the construction. The facility is scheduled for operation by no later than May 1.

Auxiliary revived in Seeley Lake

Carla Boulé was recently elected as the president of the Seeley Lake Volunteer Fire Company Auxiliary, a group established to provide support to volunteer firemen and other emergency personnel in Seeley Lake.

Cindy Miller was elected vice president at the recent meeting of the group; Toni Hale was elected secretary-treasurer.

The group agreed to provide the following services in the Seeley Lake area:

- supply food and beverages to firefighters during fires or training sessions of long duration.

- babysitting for children of emergency personnel during the spouse's absence, so the volunteer would be free to assist in handling an emergency call.

- establish an "Emergency Closet" consisting of household items, clothing and canned goods to be given to victims of fire or other disasters which destroy their belongings. In addition, many Auxiliary members volunteered to provide temporary lodging to families who lose their homes to fire or other disaster.

The group has planned a rummage sale for May 2 at Cindy Miller's home (next to the Community Hall) and, also, to have a craft booth at the Antique Car Show scheduled for July in Seeley Lake.

For more information about joining the Auxiliary, or donating items to the rummage sale, contact Carla Boulé at 677-2562

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Schwinden urges better water/sewer facilities in Seeley Lake

Governor Ted Schwinden visited with two Seeley Lake residents last week and suggested that people in the Seeley Lake community should prepare for progress by developing adequate water and sewer facilities.

Charlie and Elinor Williamson, Seeley Lake, spent about half an hour with Gov. Schwinden last Tuesday in Helena. They were the invited guests of the governor, who quoted Elinor in his State of the State address in January.

"It is really neat to have a governor right there at the people's disposal," Elinor said after their mid-day meeting. "He is so gracious—he can talk at any level."

Originally, Gov. Schwinden had invited the Williamsons to Helena in January, but due to conflicting schedules, the meeting was put off until last week.

Schwinden is apparently well-aware of the recreation potential in the Seeley Lake area and what he sees as inevitable growth. According to Elinor, "The governor knows about the water problems here, and he is concerned about protecting the natural resources and beauty of the area." Schwinden suggested to the Williamsons that the people of Seeley Lake begin to make their own plans for the future, before government or corporate interests do it for them.

"He believes that Seeley is one of the most unique places in Montana, and he sees that big development is headed our way."

But, Elinor believes, the governor is genuinely concerned about the people here, and the economic burdens they will likely bear to pay for the installation of modern sewer and water facilities. He also indicated that he would be available to help with any problems that might arise as the community addresses future development.

The Williamsons presented Gov. Schwinden with a Seeley Lake 200 Sled Dog Race T-Shirt and Hat, on behalf of the people of Seeley Lake and the Wilderness Sportsman's Club. In December, Schwinden wrote a letter to the Wilderness Sportsman's Club supporting the Seeley Lake 200, and praising the people of Seeley Lake for their hard work in promoting the race.

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 52
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Cheryl Copenhaver and Jeff Schatz.

Engagement Announced

Larry and Ann Copenhaver of Seeley Lake announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter Cheryl Ann to Jeffery L. Schatz, son of Robert and Patsy Schatz, 1211 Pineview Drive, Missoula.

Cheryl is a graduate of Seeley Swan High School and Vo-Technical School in Missoula. She is employed by Prudential Financial Services in Missoula.

Jeff is graduate of Hellgate High School and Vo-Technical School in Helena. He is a journeyman machinist employed by Mill-Service of Missoula. A May 9 wedding is planned.



Ella Goodbread keeps a close eye on the official timer, Bruce Burns, and her maggot, "Gravel Gerty," during last weekend's Maggot Races in Seeley Lake.

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Artistic Expressions

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Commissioners hold brief Refuse Board hearing

Only two people (besides Refuse Board members) attended a public hearing in Seeley Lake last Friday afternoon, where county commissioners were present to hear comments about the proposed new fee schedule for the Seeley Lake Refuse Disposal District.

Jeff Macon, Seeley Lake, questioned the fairness of the fee schedule, which assesses the same charge for two people working in a real estate office as for 50 children at the grade school.

Macon said he didn't believe that two people in a service business could generate as much garbage as 50 school children.

Monty Cassidy, Seeley Lake trailer court owner and, also, construction worker, objected to his assessment. He indicated that his trailer court should not be charged full rate for the units that are not occupied. He also questioned the need for the Refuse Disposal District and Refuse Board, and asked officials present to explain why the garbage dump is not run privately "like everywhere else in Montana."

Commissioner Janet Stevens reminded Cassidy that Friday's meeting was a public hearing, and that he should, perhaps, bring his questions before the Refuse Board at one of their regular meetings.

Volunteer labor helps maintain Community Hall

All labor for maintenance and repairs on the Seeley Lake Community Hall continues to be donated, as a recent financial statement shows.

The Community Hall took in a total of \$5705 in rental fees during 1986. After subtracting electricity bills (\$2146); water (\$175); insurance & license (\$1,016); refrigerator (\$572); and fire extinguisher (\$50), the profit shown by the community corporation was \$1746. No money was paid out for labor or materials to maintain the Hall, according to the statement.

Crochet Classes

Artistic Expressions will offer a course in Beginning Crochet, starting March 24. Class will meet Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for six consecutive weeks. Anyone interested in information on this class should call Artistic Expressions at 677-2188. Space is limited and pre-registration is required.

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CORNUCOPIA by Michele Potter

The Irish are famous for their potatoes. But according to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, the potato is considered to be a native of the Peruvian-Bolivian Andes. Potatoes were only introduced into Europe in the 16th century. By the end of the 17th century, potatoes were a major crop in Ireland and the Irish economy became dependent on their potato crops. We associate potatoes with the Irish primarily because history reminds us of the potato crop failures in Ireland (1845-1846) which led to famine over the land. The Irish became very cautious about potatoes after that....

And more about potatoes — remember that it's not the potato that's fattening, it's what you put on it. The Idaho Potato Commission tells us that a medium potato, for only about 110 calories, can deliver one-half of your daily need for Vitamin C, 15% of your Vitamin B6, and 10% of your need for niacin. It is virtually fat-free, rich in potassium, and an excellent source of dietary fiber.

Speaking of the Irish, I finally discovered the secret of making good corned beef for a St. Patrick's day celebration. My corned beef always came out tough, stringy and tasteless. I was using too much water, too few seasonings, and boiling the meat for an inadequate amount of time — and I didn't cover the kettle. The stovetop secret is to season, cover and simmer the meat until it's tender. That's the secret? Quite simply — yes. Plan on a full afternoon to simmer the meat to the tender state. You just can't rush corned beef. Anyway, we've had corned beef quite a few times over the past couples of years (and we'll have it again on March 17) — have to make up for lost time, you know. Sometimes the corned beef will come already prepared with the seasonings and even have package directions — just follow the directions. Need a recipe? This one is easy. Carrots add color and are so tasty. Of course, potatoes and cabbage are a must.

Corned Beef & Cabbage
 4 lbs. corned beef round
 2-3 cloves garlic, minced
 3 bay leaves
 4 medium potatoes, peeled and quartered
 4-5 large carrots, peeled and cut (1-inch pieces)
 1 large head cabbage, cut in wedges

In large kettle or Dutch oven, place corned beef, garlic and bay leaves; add water to cover. Heat water to boiling; skim surface. Cover and simmer over low heat about 4 hours or until meat is almost tender. Remove cover and skim off all surface fat. Add potatoes and carrots; cover and cook 20 to 30 minutes. Add cabbage and simmer until meat and vegetables are tender, about 15 minutes.

I'd like to hear from the potato groups here in Montana. Can anybody help out with names/contacts? I know of two groups in the Bitterroot and the Flathead areas, but I don't have telephone numbers/addresses.

VALLEY MARKET FOOD FARM
 677-2121 or 677-2122
 Congratulations Blackhawk Girls Volleyball Team — Divisional Title Winner

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SEELEY LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MENU - WEEK OF MARCH 16

Monday, March 16	Fish 'n Cheese Patties
Tuesday, March 17	Tater Tot Beef Hot Dish
Wednesday, March 18	Oven-Fried Chicken
Thursday, March 19	Peanut Butter & Honey or Egg Salad Sandwiches with Cheese Soup
Friday, March 20	Hot Pork Sandwiches

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Seeley Lake Elementary School
 March 16, 7:00 p.m. PTA Meeting
 March 30 Group Pictures

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Community Club to discuss new Condon Post Office

The U.S. Postal Service recently sent a letter to Condon residents requesting public comments on the location of a new Condon Post Office. The Condon Community Club will discuss the letter and possible responses at the group's next meeting, set for Thursday, March 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Swan Valley Community Hall in Condon.

Community Club members forwarded the Postal Service letter to the Missoula County Commissioners, since the letter also asked for a response from the "governing authority" in the area.

Stork Report

Congratulations to Doug and Kathy Kochenderfer, Swan Valley, on the birth of a baby boy, Jason Douglas, on March 6, 1987. Jason weighed in at 8 pounds, 7 ounces and measured 19 and 3/4 inches long.

Congratulations also to Chris and Cindy Goodman, Condon, parents of Allison Ann, baby girl born March 9, 1987. Allison weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces when she was born.



Missoula County Commissioners (left to right) Ann Mary Dussault, Barbara Evans and Janet Stevens were in the Seeley Swan area last Friday for two public hearings.

Residents at public hearing support Condon plan

Nearly forty Swan Valley-Condon residents attended an afternoon public hearing held in Condon to discuss the proposed Condon Community Plan which, if approved, will be incorporated into the Missoula County Comprehensive Plan later this year.

Of significance at the meeting was the apparent confusion over the intent of the plan. Missoula County planning department official, Pat O'Herren, pointed out that the Condon plan gives only guidelines for future development in the Valley. "This is voluntary. . . This is not a zoning document. This is not going to stop anyone from putting

up a sign (or from subdividing property)."

County Commissioner Ann Mary Dussault further clarified the role of the Condon Community Plan following Friday's public hearing. In areas, such as East Missoula, where building permits are required, developers and residents must comply with the Missoula County Comprehensive Plan. Otherwise, Dussault explained, compliance with, say the Condon Community Plan, is not required (because building permits are not required in the Seeley Swan area).

Essentially, residents who wrote the Condon Community Plan have outlined a process through which local residents can "do some local planning" for their area.

Bud Moore, Swan Valley resident who actually gathered information and wrote the plan, pointed out that rural residents just were not able to attend meetings in Missoula, where decisions about rural projects are often made.

PASSAGES

Pastor Rod Kvamme
Seeley Lake

About ten days ago, I spent the weekend behind the walls at the State Prison at Deer Lodge. I was privileged to come "off the street," go inside the walls as Retreat Pastor of a men's spiritual retreat, and then go freely "out on the street" again after three days. Thirteen men from the "outside" composed the staff that worked with 58 inmates who attended the retreat. One staff member this year had been an inmate at last year's retreat.

Some inmates are looking forward to parole or completing their sentence this year. One young man told me that he has nine more years to go. Some will be in prison as long as they live.

There is a saying used by men who have become Christians since their imprisonment. They say, "We are not serving time. We are serving the Lord." That represents quite a change of perspective, doesn't it?

You don't have to be in prison in order to just serve time. If you only plod through one day after another without enthusiasm or goals, you are just serving time. If you find so little

satisfaction in your work that you dread Monday and wait for Friday, then you are just serving time. If the future is your only hope and the present is a drag, then you are only serving time.

Serving the Lord certainly beats serving time. A Person replaces things as motivation for life and work. Days and minutes become opportunity rather than a bore. Even difficult experiences are bearable because they are passing, while the Lord and His promises are enduring.

Take a tip from some fellows "inside the walls." Don't serve time. Serve the Lord! The Psalmist made this decision long ago when he said, "This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24)

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Alleged "Bob burglar" survives wilderness trek, pleads not guilty to Federal charges

Larry Courtois, 37, Seeley Lake, pled not guilty before Federal Magistrate Judge H. James Oleson in Kalispell last week to twelve misdemeanor and petty counts of entering Forest Service facilities, theft and taking food and firewood for personal use. Courtois waived his right to trial before U.S. District Judge. Subsequent trial before the Federal Magistrate has been set for March 31 at the Flathead County Courthouse, Kalispell, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Courtois did not have an attorney present during his initial appearance, and no public defender was provided because the charges were only misdemeanor and petty, according to the secretary for Judge Oleson.

Courtois turned himself in to federal authorities last week, just a few days after he crawled 27 miles out of the Bob Marshall Wilderness, over Pyramid Pass.

According to Courtois, who was interviewed by telephone recently, he believes Forest Service personnel were

the ones responsible for landing a helicopter in the Wilderness, taking his snowshoes and other items from his camp and leaving him stranded in the Otter Creek area of the Bob Marshall Wilderness in mid-February. A Forest Service news release, mailed to *Pathfinder* about 10 days ago, confirms that Federal officials landed a helicopter in the Wilderness on February 15, and again on February 17. The news release states that "Due to the large quantity of contraband existing at the campsite, it was decided the entire camp should be seized for evidence. . . the camp was secured and removed by helicopter."

"Other items confiscated near Hahn Cabin were: a double barrel 12 gauge shot gun with sawed off barrel and stock, snowshoes, ski poles and an aluminum frame pack with numerous food items."

The Forest Service filed a complaint against Courtois on February 25 and issued a warrant for his arrest, nine days after they had confiscated the wilderness camp.

Courtois said he believes somebody was trying to kill him by taking his snowshoes, leaving him stranded in the backcountry, 27 miles from his snowmobile.

Biologists to collect data on Upper Blackfoot

Biologists have studied the Blackfoot River fishery for years, but most of their efforts have been concentrated in the area below Greenough. That area receives heavy fishing and recreational use throughout the year. Future studies may be concentrated on the Upper Blackfoot, according to information released at a recent meeting of the Wilderness Sportsman's Club in Seeley Lake.

Biologists Don Peters and Dennis Workman, Missoula, have recorded an increase in the population of pan-sized rainbow trout in the Lower Blackfoot, along with a decrease in the number of trout over 14 inches long. Workman and Peters presented some of their findings to Seeley Lake residents last week.

"Maybe people would rather have fish for the pan," Workman chuckled during the meeting. However, their recent request for public comment about the quality of fishing along the Blackfoot River indicates otherwise. Most of the people who responded to the survey said they would like to see more big fish.

Managing a river like the Blackfoot for bigger fish would mean closing some sections entirely, and opening others to catch-and-release only. Sportsmen present at last week's meeting all agreed that they would like to see more data on the Upper Blackfoot before the department attempts to limit fishing opportunities on the river.

The biologists indicated they will begin collecting fish population data in sections of the the Upper Blackfoot River, from The Roundup Bar as far north as the Scotty Brown Bridge. They believe they will not find the problems in the upper portions of the river that they have found in the Lower Blackfoot, mostly because the waters of the Upper Blackfoot are not easily accessible, and are generally harder to fish.

In discussing the responses to the survey, Workman pointed out that most fishermen seem to favor doing something to improve the fishing. However, he pointed out that management options have not yet been clearly defined.

"The essence of the necessary changes is not really clear at this time. We don't want to get any more restrictive than what the people want."

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"It was almost like they wanted to see if I lived through it (before they issued the warrant)," Courtois said last week.

Courtois was charged specifically with entering Forest Service cabins and buildings in the Bob Marshall Wilderness (Hahn Cabin and buildings at Big Prairie), and with taking food and firewood from those facilities for his own use.

According to Tom King, law enforcement specialist with the Regional Office of the Forest Service, Missoula, Courtois is charged specifically with "stealing firewood and food stockpiled for emergency and administrative use at Hahn Cabin."

Other counts included theft of a tent and aluminum backpack from Big Prairie ranger station.

Courtois indicated that he had been camping in the Bob Marshall Wilderness off and on throughout the winter.

"I planned this all year—to go back there and live," he said, adding that the Forest Service "or whoever" took everything he owned when they confiscated his camp.

Courtois reportedly suffered severe dehydration, hypothermia and disorientation after his six-day journey through snow and ice out of the Bob Marshall Wilderness two weeks ago.

Country Journal

by Suzanne Vernon

Signs of spring are all around us this week: pussywillows are out; crocuses are up; the red-winged blackbirds have been on the Clearwater River for a week; and one neighbor even saw a flock of cedar waxwings! But no robins yet—has anybody out there seen a robin in the Seeley-Swan?

I only know of two lilac bushes in the Swan Valley. I'm sure there are more, but one that we checked has already begun to form buds this year. Lilacs are one of the few climate indicators that are reliable enough for weather observers to monitor. I believe chokecherries are another reliable species. The Forest Service will soon be asked to submit a "lilac bud and bloom date," which is then used by the national weather service in their climate records.

It looks like it's time to prune the apple trees—the buds have not yet begun to swell, but soon will. We have learned to hold off on pruning as, in this country, horticulturists warn that pruning encourages the trees to break dormancy. Where we have winter into May and even June, that's not what we want to encourage!

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OUTDOORS

A sled dog vacation

Winter in "the Bob"

by Suzanne Vernon

When most people hear about backpacking in the Bob Marshall Wilderness, they conjure up pictures of warm summer breezes, picking huckleberries and enjoying wildflowers in high alpine meadows.

When folks choose to roam the wild country in January, however, the trip takes on a whole new meaning.

"It takes a special kind of person to call it fun," Bill Hooker remarked recently about his three-week trip into the Wilderness this January.

Hooker, son of Jack and Karen Hooker of the White Tail Ranch near Ovando, teamed up with Greg Schumacher from Kalispell, and together they packed up their belongings and headed for the high country. One of their goals was to trap beaver, muskrat and lynx in the Danaher Valley at the southern end of the Bob.

"It's an excuse to be there," Hooker said about the trapping, admitting that it is more of a hobby than a means to make a living.

"All I want to do is break even and have the experience of being back there," Hooker said, adding, "I am very thankful that somebody had the foresight to protect this country. . . So many people say (the wilderness) is limited to a select few people. Still, it's there. It should be special to everybody to know the wilderness is there."

So, what's it like to travel over 25 miles by dog sled, up and down and over the backcountry trails covered with several feet of snow?

According to Greg Schumacher, it wasn't that bad. There were lots of things to appreciate once the two men made camp in the Danaher Valley.

"It was pretty comfortable—we were always surprised to look and see that the temperature was five or ten below," he chuckled. The thermometer dipped to minus 30 Fahrenheit a couple times, but the cold weather worked in their favor.

"Skiing was better on the colder days," Shumacher pointed out, adding that one of their trap lines was about 10 miles long, and skis were faster than snowshoes in many areas.

Both men liked the quiet of the wilderness in winter, except for the occasional howling of their huskies. "We could hear the dogs barking in camp three miles away," Greg laughed.

They both enjoy watching wildlife, and saw plenty of elk "and lots of sign of everything else," Greg said, including river otters, coyotes and lynx.

The trapping, however, was wet, messy, cold business, wildlife or not. Trapping beaver in the wilderness requires hours of chopping through nearly a foot of river ice. But the men were successful, and managed to trap enough beaver and muskrat to pay for food and supplies for their winter "vacation." Dog food alone, for the seven sled dogs, cost several hundred dollars.

Bill Hooker has made this trip many times before, and he carefully planned this year's adventure. He grew up in Montana and has spent much of his life roaming the backcountry, first with his folks (who are licensed outfitters and guides) and, later, on his own.

"It's my home," he said about the Bob Marshall.

Two years ago, Bill stayed all winter in the Bob Marshall. He has, at times, been accompanied by partners, but during his second year of winter camping, he spent four months alone in the wilderness.

"You don't really have much time to think. . . you keep yourself busy enjoying the country, and you've got a lot to do."

Hooker acknowledges that there is getting to be a big interest in winter camping in the Bob Marshall (see related article) and, in a way, he is jealous of the country he calls home. "You see so many people abuse the privilege of being back there," he said, referring to people who don't abide by Pack It In—Pack It Out ethics.

Twenty-six year old Hooker is married, and is thankful that his wife, Dee Dee, tolerates his love affair with the wilderness. Without her understanding, he adds, living and working in the wilderness wouldn't be possible. When Hooker isn't in the backcountry, he is busy shoeing horses, repairing tack and helping with the outfitting operation at the White Tail Ranch.

Greg Schumacher remains a bachelor. He plans to work for the White Tail Ranch next summer.



Orrie Brown and Sam Moore, Seeley Lake, compare their racing maggots during the Seniors Division of the Third Annual Maggot Races held last week in Seeley Lake.

Swan Valley woman breaks records

Maggot Races go international this year

The Third Annual Maggot Races held last weekend in Seeley Lake were a huge success, according to Victoria Burns, one of the organizers of the event.

"We even went international this year," she said, pointing out that one contestant hailed from Denmark. "He's living in Montana to learn how to fly planes," Burns explained.

Annette Cleary, Swan Valley, was this year's Champion in the Magathon, and was obviously thrilled about this year's event, saying that she would be back to defend her title next year.

"I wouldn't miss it for the world!" Cleary, member of a four-man racing team sponsored by Liquid Louie's of Condon, broke two records with her maggot, *Banner Blue 50*. The W.O.R.M. (World Organization of Racing Maggots) World Record was 44 seconds. *Banner Blue 50* had times of 41 and 40 seconds in two of the heats held last weekend. Cleary, a veteran maggot trainer and racer, placed second in last year's competition.

Rick Stone, Clearwater, placed second in this year's competition with his maggot, "Maggoo." Stone won last year's Magathon.

The 1987 Magathon, sponsored by Barney's Bar and Café, Seeley Lake, and Zip Beverage, Missoula, raised \$50.50 for the Easter Seals Foundation. Commenting on a discussion with a representative from the Great Falls office of Easter Seals, Victoria Burns said, "They were thrilled with the donation. . . next year we hope to donate much more."

Other participants and winners in last week's event follow:

Magathon: First place, \$156, Annette Cleary, Swan Valley, with "Banner Blue 50"; Second place, \$93.60, Rick Stone, Clearwater, with "Maggoo"; Third place, \$62.40, Rick Stone, Clearwater, with "Slick." Other finalists were Annie Haddock, Seeley Lake, with "Blue-Eyed Maggie," who narrowly missed third place honors; Jan Jacobson, Missoula, with "Bert"; and Jim Homison, Bigfork, with "Silver Bullet."

Senior Division: First Place, Bob Coverdell, Seeley Lake, with "Judy K"; Orrie Brown, Seeley Lake, with "Sue"; and Warren Cork, Seeley Lake, with "Dan Patch." Other seniors who participated were Ella Goodbread with "Gravel Gery"; Sam Moore with "Sam"; Don Goodbread with "Silver"; Emil Whitman with "The Devil"; and Goldie Spence with "Rip & Daisy."

Children's Division (Sunday) Division #1: Matthew Castonguay, first place with "Hooker," received an Olympic gold medal ribbon; Laura Burns, second place with "Sarah," received the silver award; Clayton Cleary, third place with "Montana," received the bronze award.

Division #2: Carl Haddock, first place with "Smarty," received the gold medal; Trip Holka, second place with "Grizzly," received the silver award; and Vicki Castonguay, third place with "Meatball," received the bronze award. Other participants were Michele Weaver with "Johnny"; Chris Paxton with "Rock 'n Roller, Rickie and Johnny Boy"; Anna Weaver with "Skippy"; Casey Landsburger with "Sparky."

Fishing

The ice is unstable in area lakes now, but if you are the courageous type, the fishing is probably pretty good! Otherwise, there'll be open water soon in the outlet and inlet areas of the lakes.

Remember: the new license year began March 1. Fishing season opens in area streams the third week in May. It is open all year in area lakes, and in the Blackfoot River downstream from the Scotty Brown Bridge and the Clearwater River downstream from the Lake Inez fishing barrier.

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Bill Hooker, White Tail Ranch, Ovando, recently spent three weeks in the Bob Marshall. Here, he is pictured caring for one of the sled dogs from Mark Nordman's winning team in the Governor's Cup 500 Race that finished in Seeley Lake in January.

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The official W.O.R.M. Magathon Trophy, created by Wayne Herron, Seeley Lake, was won by Annette Cleary, Swan Valley.

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Volleyball team takes Division Championship at Charlo

The Blackhawk Girls' Volleyball team won three matches at the Divisional Tournament last weekend in Charlo to win the championship trophy and travel to the State Tournament next week.

According to coach Susan Stone, "The team is playing as a team and that will really help our efforts at State."

Stone would not make predictions for the State Tournament, set for March 19-21 in Havre, although she is optimistic that the Seeley Swan team will do well. Seeley Swan is ranked first in the state — and has been for the past seven weeks. They could easily face number-two ranked Twin Bridges in the State Championship next weekend. Their first game, however, is against

Fromberg at 12:30 p.m. on March 20. Stone did comment, however, on her appreciation for support from fans. "The loud cheering and positive attitudes of the fans — both parents and students — really helped the team."

Blackhawks win Championship against Philipsburg

It was the Lady Hawks' third game at Divisionals on March 7, when they defeated the Philipsburg volleyball team, earning the right to the championship trophy.

Teresa Mahaffey led the Hawks with 4 aces, with Sandy DeLeo adding 3 and Tammy Pohlman adding 2. Each of the team members worked hard and played together as a team.

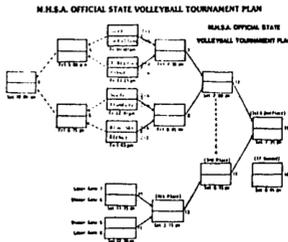
The final score was 15-8, 15-12, leaving Philipsburg in 2nd place.

Seeley Ousts Tigers

by Ron Gossard

The Seeley Swan girls volleyball team defeated the St. Regis Tigers 15-12, 15-10 to advance into the Divisional Tournament in Charlo.

Teresa Mahaffey led the Hawks with eight kills. The Hawks dominated the Tigers with many tough serves, and looked good in their opening game in the tournament.



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Snowpack low in Seeley Swan

The Montana Soil Conservation Service reported dangerously low snowpack as of March 1, 1987. The Swan drainage has 76% of the 1986 snowpack; and only 66% of average. The Blackfoot drainage has only 72% of the 1986 snowpack and 62% of average.

"It's bad up north, but it gets worse as you go south," Phil Farnes, SCS snow survey specialist said on Monday. Specific February weather data in our area follows.

Swan Valley Weather

So far this winter, 76.1 inches of snow has fallen in the Swan Valley. That is the lowest cumulative snowfall for any winter season since 1959, except for the winter of 1972-73, when only 59.5 inches of snow was recorded by February 28. Average cumulative snowfall over the past 20 years is 126.2 inches during the September through February season. 1986-87 snowfall is far below average.

According to weather observer Marty Kux at Lindbergh Lake in the Swan Valley, 8.8 inches of snow fell in February. That compares with 4 inches in February 1968 and a high of 47 inches recorded in 1966.

Snow on the ground on February 28 was 19 inches, compared to 28 inches on the ground in 1986.

The Swan Valley received 1.01 inches of precipitation in February. That compares to a low of .48 in 1973 and a high in 1982 of 4.61 inches.

Seeley Lake

Seeley Lake had 14 inches of snow on the ground as of February 28, according to data collected at the Seeley Lake Ranger Station.

High for the month of February occurred on the 8th and 11th, when 48 degrees Fahrenheit was recorded. Low for the month occurred on February 25, when the temperature dropped to minus 4. Total precipitation for the month was .49 inches. That compares with a high of 6.10 inches in 1970 and .18 in February of 1973. Cumulative snowfall for the month of February was 5 inches.

PTA Elections March 16

All Seeley Lake Elementary PTA members are urged to attend the March 16 meeting, according to Jeanne Moon, publicity director.

Elections for the 1987-88 officers will be held at this meeting, which begins at the Seeley Lake Elementary School at 7 p.m. Refreshments and child care will be provided.

SEELEY LAKE PHARMACY

St. Patrick's Day American Greeting Cards



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

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VALLEY MARKET

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 Phone 406/677-2121

FOOD FARM

Weekly Specials
 March 11 - March 17



St. Patrick's Day




Corned Beef \$1.29 lb

Cabbage 19¢ lb



1/2 Gal (Assorted Flavors)
 MEADOW GOLD
ICE CREAM \$1.55

16 piece box
 FLAVOR CRISP
CHICKEN \$6.99



15 pack, 12 oz. cans
 STROH'S
BEER \$5.49

U.S.D.A. BEEF

Half Beef. \$.19 lb • Front Quarter. \$.13 lb • Hind Quarter. \$.129 lb
 Cut, Wrapped & Frozen to Your Specifications • Ask for Don, our "Meat Head"