

*Blackhawks, Ladyhawks break
for holidays after fine showing*



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PATHFINDER

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Vol XVII, No. 35

"Voices from the Valley"

Thursday, December 26, 2002

<http://www.seeleyswanpathfinder.com>

I'm

Dreaming...

of a White Christmas...just like the ones I used to know. The song goes something like that, but we usually don't think about it much as we always have a White Christmas...well, maybe not always. This year if you want to play in the snow, you might have to hike up to the 7,000-foot level to find very much. This photo was taken last year...when we had snow in the valley.

Think Snow!

G. Noland photo

email: pathfinder@montana.com

Chips . . . bits & pieces

We kind of re-capped several weeks of weather reports from Richard Taylor at the Forest Service. Mostly it's been dry, and we all know that. The most snowfall reported at one time was two inches, and I don't think there is that much left on the valley floor as warm temperatures and rain washed most of it away. It's the least amount of snow we've seen at Christmas time in the past 14 years and the outlook isn't good with another El Nino influence making for a dry winter. This, of course, is on top of several recent years of drought conditions and portends a possible worse fire season next summer, as if we haven't had enough of those already. So, collectively, we all must "think snow," while having a "Merry Christmas to all of you."

We said this last week, and have to repeat it again. We'll be printing a day early next week and distributing in the afternoon on New Year's Eve since New Year's Day will fall on Wednesday.

—Gary Noland

Ladyhawks take holiday break in second place

Frenchtown turned in another come-from-behind fourth quarter win over Seeley-Swan last Thursday, but this time it was the Ladyhawks who watched the game slip away when Paige Lebsoc scored 10 of her 19 points in the final period, nailing a 3-pointer with a minute left, to put Frenchtown up for good 54-49.

The Ladyhawks, after a stumbling first quarter start where they were outscored 15-6, roared back in the second quarter behind the hot hand of junior Haley Blackburn who pumped in four 3-pointers to lead the Ladyhawks in a 27-10 scoring margin over Frenchtown and a 33-25 halftime lead.

The Ladyhawks held on to a 43-37 lead at the end of the third period before Frenchtown rallied back in the final period.

Hayley Blackburn, with all her points coming in the second period, led the Ladyhawks with 14 points. Tatum Hoen added 10, Sarah Madinger 7, Nicole Bostwick 5, Jessie Diamond 4, Kaylee Will-

iams 4, Sadie Linford 4, and Blair Barthelme 1.

The Ladyhawks retired for the holiday season with a 54-45 win over Deer Lodge here last Friday, putting the Ladyhawks in second place so far in 5-B conference play.

Sarah Madinger led the Ladyhawk win with 15 points. Tatum Hoen also found double figures at 14 as did Jessie Diamond with 12. Hayley Blackburn added 6, Kaylee Williams 4, and Nicole Bostwick 1.

The Ladyhawks are 4-2 overall, the same as first place Florence, but are 2-1 in 5-B conference play, while Florence is 3-0 in conference.

But the 5-B conference will be tough this season. The top four teams — Florence, Seeley-Swan, Loyola, and Frenchtown — have all posted 4 or more wins to date.

The Ladyhawks resume play after the holidays when they meet Flathead Christian in a home game Jan. 2, and then travel to Florence Jan. 4.

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Please support the Seeley Lake Fire Department and the SSTEP program

Summary of town meeting with infrastructure groups: Part 1

Seeley Lake Town Meeting Large and Lively

by Ron Cox,
Community Council

Approximately 65 people attended the fall Seeley Lake Community Council meeting of infrastructure providers, making it our biggest meeting ever. Chairman, Sam Bolton, welcomed over 20 organizations who were represented at the meeting. Keynote presentations were given about housing, national forest management, county roads and wildland/community interface fire prevention. Stan Nicholson moderated a rapid-fire session, while several other institutions gave bullet updates and announcements about their services.

In fact, so much valuable information was presented that it's not possible to fit it all in one news report. Consequently, we've decided to parcel out the report in an on-going series of smaller bytes in the Pathfinder. First, we'll share what the keynote speakers had to say.

Housing - For the past 10-12 years our valley has been growing at the rate of about 40 new houses per year. Nevertheless, a number of people employed in our community commute from Missoula because they cannot find affordable housing here. The lack of suitable housing for wage earners has been identified as a negative factor for our community. According to one estimate, it represents an economic loss of \$750,000.

Brendan Moles, of the Human Resource Council (HRC), explained that HRC is a private, non-profit organization serving

Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties with assistance for food, health, heating, housing, day care, support groups and other areas of concern. Moles handles the Homeowner Repairs Program as well as the Rehab Loans and the Homebuyer Assistance Program. The latter program, aimed at first-time homebuyers offers a 0% loan with deferred payments, designed to bridge the gap between the cost of a home and what the buyer can afford. Interested people are invited to call him for more information at 406-728-3710 or visit the HRC office at 1801 South Higgins, Missoula.

National Forest Management - The Seeley Lake community depends on the surrounding forest area both for economic and social well being. Almost half of the valley is public land managed by the USDA Forest Service. Lee Kramer, Planning Staff Officer for the Lolo National Forest, spoke of the 1986 Forest Plan which provided the strategic vision, broad land use allocations, and management constraints for our surrounding national forest lands. It is now time to revise that plan, and the Forest Service intends to depend heavily on public input as it formulates an updated plan. Kramer is specifically looking for ways to involve local people. The first step is to look closely at the existing plan to evaluate what is working well and what needs revised. Kramer will then return next spring to discuss what issues need to be addressed. Citizens wanting to become more informed about or involved in the process should contact District Ranger Tim Love at 677-2233 or visit him at the Ranger Station 3 miles north of town.

County Roads - Mike Mahoney, of the County Roads

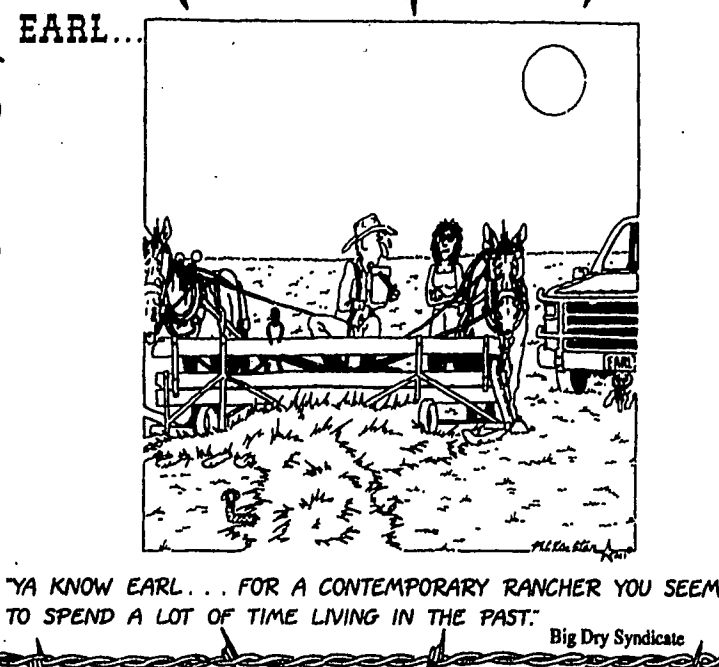
Department, announced that the county intends to pave some local roads next year, though engineers and staff have not yet decided which roads. Their main priority, however, will be maintenance, rather than construction or reconstruction. He explained the the department is still in a state of transition from the County Surveyor to the Department of Public Works. Equipment has been upgraded and the local crew consists of 5 people and covers about 200 miles of roads from the Sunset Hill area north to the county line. Responding to a question about how residents can get roads dust-oiled, Mahoney said that, while the county does not apply dust oil, it will prep the road for treatment by private contractors. The cost of the oiling is the responsibility of adjacent property owners. Neighbor-

hoods wanting their roads paved need to form a Rural Special Improvement District (RSID) to finance the project to county specifications. Although the county is not anxious to form a local advisory group, they are receptive to suggestions and problems from individuals. The local number is 677-2222.

Interface Fire Prevention - The Seeley Lake Rural Fire Department, having received grant money earmarked for education, hazard reduction and planning, is currently working on 3 projects relating to the threat of fire at the wildland-community interface. The RFD intends to produce an educational video describing "firescaping" of property. The logging operation on the 50-acre Seeley Swan High School property

is a demonstration of hazard reduction to decrease the likelihood of a wildfire in the forest adjacent to the school. In the near future, a contract will be advertised to draft a fire plan for the Seeley-Swan area. The plan will cover about 500,000 acres and have three main parts: 1) inventory (e.g., roads, structures, ownership, utilities, water sources, fuels), 2) risk assessment, 3) value assessment. Important byproducts of this project will be the production of an accurate map and better agency coordination and effectiveness for dealing with fire (and other) emergencies.

More To Come - Keep your eye out for the additional meeting reports in subsequent issues of the Pathfinder, under the "Seeley Lake Town Meeting" heading.



GARY NOLAND, EDITOR

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

MILLIE NOLAND, ADVERTISING

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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, 5 p.m.; call 677-2022

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Quiltmakers of the Tamaraacks, 4th Thur, 9am, S.L. Comm. Hall

WEEKLY EVENTS

Alcoholics Anonymous: (help for those with a suspected drinking problem)

-Condon: Faith Lutheran Church, every Sunday, 3pm
-Seeley Lake: Every Wed, 7pm, Living Water Catholic Church, on SOS Rd. For info: 677-3271 or 677-2892.

*Potomac: 406-244-5204

Alateen: (help for teenagers of alcoholic families) Hotline 677-2753

Overeaters Anonymous: every Thursday, 7pm, Faith Lutheran Church, Condon, 754-2371

Missoula County Commissioners Public Mtg, every Wed, Courthouse Annex, Room 201, Missoula, 1:30 pm.

T.O.P.S. Mtg, every Thurs, Mission Bible Fellowship bldg., Seeley Lake, 10am.

Ladies Double Arrow

Golf League, Tuesdays, 10 am, \$10 dues

MONTHLY EVENTS

FAIM Outreach Specialist, 1st & 3rd Thur, 9:30-3, Seeley-Swan Med. Ctr.
Pinochle, every 1st & 3rd Sat., Senior Citizens Center, 7 pm

DUMPSTER TRANSFERSITE:

Winter hours (Oct-Apr) - Wed & Sat, 10am-4pm, 677-3809

SSTEP Crisis Help Line:

677-3177. Domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, community outreach & education

Food Bank:

Tues, 12-4 pm, next to Multi-purpose Room, S.L. Elementary, 677-5025

Loving Hearts Thrift Store:

Open Wed, 11:00-4:00, Sat, 11-3, 677-5683 (emergency 677-2110)

Seeley Lake Community Hall:

For hall rental, call Cheri Thompson, 677-2454

LIBRARIES:

Seeley Lake Public Library (Seeley-Swan High School) Mon-Fri, 8am-3pm (closed 11am-noon); Wed, 3-8 pm; Sat, 10am-3pm; Story Time-Sat, 11 am, 677-2224 ext. 5741

Swan Valley Library (Condon) Tues, 11am-4pm; Wed, 11am-7pm; Fri, 11am-4pm

Family History Ctr.-LDS Church: Open Wed, 11am-3pm. Call 677-2642 or 677-2575.

EMERGENCY: Dial 911

if you live in Seeley Lake, Condon, Greenough or Ovando.
Swan Lake Residents: 886-2324 (Fire, QRU or Search & Rescue) or 1-406-752-6161 for Sheriff, Highway Patrol.

Chicken Coop & Lounge

Closed Christmas

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7 AM 7 days a week

Merry Christmas

Gene Kelly & Staff



Happy Holidays from Grizzly Claw

We'd like to thank the community for shopping locally. We appreciate your support.

Thank You!

Also a special thanks to everyone who helped with Juanita while she was in Seeley Lake. Now she's at Edgewood Vista in Missoula and loves to get visitors.

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The Greatest Gifts are Never Forgotten

by Mike Thompson

When I think about it, I realize there are precious few Christmases that I can still associate with a particular year, though some have been eventful.

Like the week before one Christmas when a friend and I conducted a search of my parents' premises while they were away shopping. Under their bed was one of those electric football games that moved the Cowboys and Packers action figures, mostly in silly little circles, using the force of rapid vibrations on a simulated playing field.

It was the only item missing

beneath the tree on Christmas morning. I remember the dilemma well. Cry out for the football game and admit that I had found it earlier. Or, play poker with my parents whom, as far as I could tell, had nothing to lose.

In the end, I received the game, wrapped in a stern reprimand. But, I couldn't tell you what year it was.

Another year I went home from college, and then spent most of the Christmas break on a backpacking trip in Ontario's Algonquin Provincial Park. Fortunately, it was milder weather than the time my car froze up at 40-below in Wawa, near Lake Superior.

Game Range Ramblings

by Mike Thompson, Wildlife Biologist
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks



So, the trip wasn't seasoned with uncommon suffering as we snowshoed the frozen lakes, night after night, howling for wolves.

On the sixth night, we were howled out and discouraged. One guy and I huddled silently around the fire, while our companion stole some early shut-eye in his tent.

"Owoooooooh," came the low, lone call from the other side of the lake. My spine shivered like the playing field of that old electric football game. Then, "Owooo—" and before the lone wulf could finish the woods erupted with the full chorus of its pack.

(I've re-enacted this very moment to young children around a campfire at night. It can be very effective, depending upon how much psychological scarring your conscience will allow you to inflict, and how good an echo you can make in the mountains around you.)

Anyhow, we spent the night howling back and forth, and the wolves finished it with one final chorus within about 30 yards of our tents—barely beyond the moonshine. We never saw the animals, only their tracks, and the passage of time has proven that I will al-

ways remember it all. Except the year.

But, I will never forget the Christmas of 1969. That year, there had been no shenanigans about finding hidden presents before the big day. And, I had no particular expectation.

Which is why I was so overwhelmed to unwrap the brand new, Ithaca Model 37 Featherlight, 12-gauge, pump-action, shotgun. From my Dad.

Now, you have to understand that it never occurred to me that someone might buy a gun for me. Only a very few years earlier, my Dad had helped me pick out my first .22 rifle, which I proudly purchased with savings from my paper route. (I guess it was my way of starting in the "mail room" before eventually advancing to the position of *Pathfinder* columnist.) Later, another infusion of newspaper delivery earnings led me to buy a Mossburg 12-gauge bolt-action.

I was fully satisfied with what I had. I even got so I could occasionally hit something. So, I hadn't hinted, hadn't dreamed aloud, hadn't even wanted. Which is probably how I earned the gift.

During boring periods in a day of hunting—in between longer pe-

riods of not getting anything—I'll sometimes amuse myself by trying to remember long-past dates and events. On one such occasion this year, I couldn't even decide for sure whether I bought my .30-06 in 1978 or 1979, even though I could bring plenty of potentially useful clues to mind.

But, I had made a silent vow on Christmas Day of 1969 that I would always remember that day, and it is one of the very few events in my life that I periodically review in my mind to make sure it doesn't leave me. So far, so good.

I really do like the gun. But, I'm now quite certain that it wouldn't have made the same impression on me if I had bought it myself, or if someone else had bought it for me. It was the time—the years—that my Dad had spent with me, learning about my interests, encouraging me to do things for myself, teaching me what I needed to know, that allowed him to give a gift that meant far more than the product itself.

By the time you read this, it'll be too late to run to a sporting goods store for a big-ticket purchase in time for Christmas. But, it won't be too late to give the best gift of all to the ones who matter the most to you.

Give them your time. And, good cheer!

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Swan Valley School Citizenship for November 2002

Kindergarten/First Grade - KeAnna Conley
Second Grade - Jacob Casebolt, Sam Yates
Third Grade - Justine Janssen
Fourth Grade - Jessy Stevenson
Fifth Grade - Megan Christensen
Sixth Grade - Brian Thompson
Seventh Grade - Nathan Stone
Eighth Grade - Justin Thompson

Condon Area Senior Lunch

The Hungry Bear Steak House is serving lunch to Condon area seniors (60 and older) on Mondays and Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. Please call the Hungry Bear at 754-2240 for reservations prior to 5:00 p.m. the day before. This program is sponsored by Swan Valley Senior Services.

Thursday, December 26

Cranberry Juice, Sweet & Sour Pork, Rice, Green Salad, Cake, Peaches

Monday, December 30

Cranberry Juice, Baked Ham, Baked Potato, Peas, Chocolate Pudding.

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**Week of
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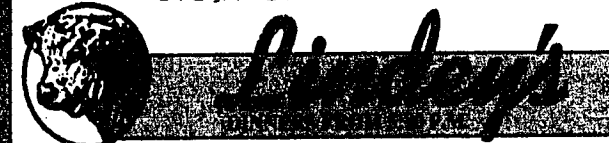
| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Monday, December 30 | No School |
| Tuesday, December 31 | No School |
| Wednesday, January 1 | No School |
| Thursday, January 2 | Corn Dogs |
| Friday, January 3 | Fish Nuggets |

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Local Phone Service
There will be no school from Monday, Dec. 23 through Wednesday, Jan. 1, for winter break. School will resume on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2003

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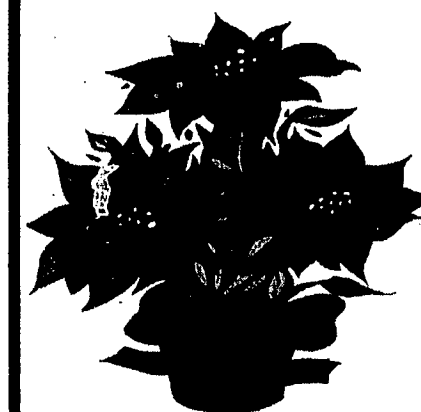
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Christmas in the Community
celebrated at

Faith Lutheran Church at Condon
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
7:00 P.M.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church at Seeley Lake
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

11:00 P.M.

Christmas Day Festival Service
11:00 A.M.

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Please Pause For Pets and Paws

Paws Up and Blessings this Christmas and throughout the New Year to all of you out there who help the little ones at Paws Up Safe Home. Because of you and the wonderful work Renee does, we have saved and helped so many little animals and have also helped many people. Because of all, another neglected dog found the perfect home. McKinsey had been at Paws Up Safe Home for some time under another name.

McKinsey's Story - A Christmas Story of Hope and Love

When I was a puppy, I was taken to a home where I thought I would be loved forever. I was played with when I was a puppy, but then I was tied out on the porch and there I stayed. I did not know why they did not come and take me for walks or pet me. I did not know what I had done wrong. I grew very lonely and after a while I did not even get up when they walked past me. I languished and grew so sad. Why did they take me, if they did not have time for me? My rope is so short and tight. Is this going to be my life? Surely, this is not the way it should be, but now I have lost hope. Oh boy, they are taking me for a ride. Maybe they do like me! Oh no, what is this place? Oh no, they are going to leave me here. I see pens and a big yard and there are many of my kind. Oh no, is this a place where dogs go and then they kill them? I am so afraid! My owners leave. They never loved me. I must be a bad dog. I am so scared and sad.

The lady sits down and talks to me. I cower, and then I see how the others respond and then there is a thing called a treat. Oh, what's going on? I am allowed to stay in the house and then she feeds us all in our own bowls and my name is on mine. Is this lady going to keep me? I go outside and play in a big yard. I never had a rope on. I can't believe how much fun I had. I ran and played. It felt so good. Then I got to sleep inside where it was warm and the lady talks to me and pets me. In my heart, I start to feel hope. I start to feel I am a good dog. Days go by, and I feel better and better, but I am a quiet dog. I don't want to do anything so I am tied up outside again on a rope. I see dogs and cats coming and going and I see loving people come and take their dogs and cats. Now I realize I am in a shelter, and wonder if someone will ever come for me and this time keep and love me.

Then the news circulated a beautiful lady was coming to look at us and maybe choose one. The beautiful lady came. Oh glory, she petted me. She touched me. I was so good. Then the lady came again and she took me home. It was so wonderful. Wait, wait, you only had me for two days. Now you are taking me back to the shelter. The shelter is nice, but it is you I want to be with. It is you I love. My lady leaves, and I, who never makes a noise, sit by the door and cry and whine, and yes, I barked as my heart broke. But wait, two days later a phone call. It was my lady. She could not forget me. Joy, joy, she's coming back to get me. She was only on a trip. My heart overflowed with love when my lady and her husband came for me. They took me to their loving home and I stayed a week. Renee's rule. Then we all went to Paws Up Safe Home again and papers were signed. I WAS ADOPTED. I AM LOVED. I AM A GOOD DOG.

Once again I am filled with love and hope. Because of Paws Up Safe Home I found love and hope. I even have a Christmas stocking! Oh what a great Christmas, and I wish all the little dogs in all the shelters could be so lucky! Blessings to Deanna and Gary Palm of Cygnet Lake on their adoption of McKinsey. Thank you so much for your donation and for opening you loving hearts.

Paws Up

to Allen Twedt for the wonderful memorial in Helen's name. Helen, who died of brain cancer, never forgot. Although fighting for her life, she made sure the little animals were cared for.

Paws Up

Ginger and Rich Puntenney for your generous donation. Because of people like you, I can write the true and happy story of a dog like McKinsey.

Paws Up

to certain people who wish to remain anonymous, but I know who you are. Thank you for all you do!

Note

Puppies are not stocking stuffers. Puppies are a lifetime commitment and too many end of like McKinsey, tied outside and neglected. Too many do not end up at a loving shelter as McKinsey did, to get a second chance with a loving family. Because of Paws Up Safe Home and the work of Renee, so many of God's creatures have been saved. Your help makes it possible. Bonnie and Mikey are waiting for a loving home - great loving dogs! Blessings to all and to our little animals.

Found

at Valley Market, young Shepherd Collie cross?? No tags! Duh! Found at Clearwater Junction, purebred Chocolate Lab. No tags! Duh. Can't write your name inside collar. Duh! Please love your pet enough to put ID on it. Be responsible.

Elinor Williamson,
406 677-2174
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Seeley Lake, MT 59868

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Paws Up Safe Home
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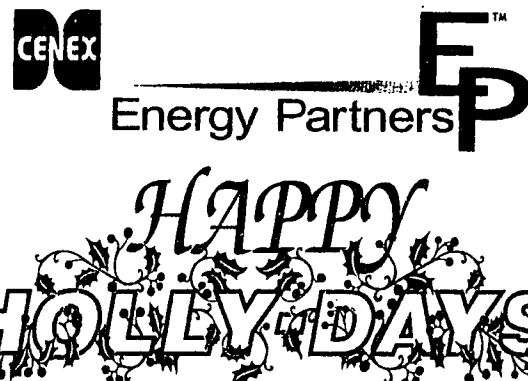
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GED classes start in January

GED classes will be offered at Seeley-Swan High School from January 6 through March 13, 2003 from. Les Gordon will instruct English on Tuesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., and Mary Johnson will instruct Math on Thursdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Call the high school office, 677-2224, to sign up for the class. There is no cost for this class.

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Blackhawks pause for holidays after good start

The Seeley-Swan Blackhawks posted five wins in seven starts as the holiday break began, and threw a scare into pre-season favorite Frenchtown who salvaged a win over the Blackhawks after trailing throughout the game and late into the fourth quarter.

The Hawks, a first-place 5-B pick by biased local fans, were picked third in a pre-season coaches' poll, but the polls don't mean much when you have a team that, on a given night, can play with just about anyone.

Both losses so far came without normal support from offensive threat Zach Nelson, who missed the first game of the season in the Townsend Tournament where the Hawks were tripped up by Sheridan 58-54, and the Hawk's second loss last week to Frenchtown last week, 76-65, where Nelson sat out much of the game in foul trouble.

The Frenchtown Broncos with

only one loss so far this season had their hands full, even with Nelson on the bench, when senior Abe Madinger shook up the number one team with 33 points, the second time he's scored that high this season.

Madinger pumped in 13 field goals, including three 3-pointers, and 4 free throws to keep the Broncos at bay until late in the fourth period when the Hawks tired and their momentum gave way to the depth of the Bronc bench.

Frenchtown, trailing by 10 in the first period, 15 in the second, and five in the third, rallied for a 23-7 fourth quarter and went ahead for good in the final three minutes of play, breaking the Hawk's full court press and chalking up easy layups inside as the Hawks, in foul trouble, watched the game slip away.

Madinger was the only Hawk in double figures, but Nelson added eight before fouling out. Cody Hard, Riley Devins and Spencer Balcom had six each, and Brian Matthew, Ralph Cahoon, and Tanner Marlatt added two apiece.

The Hawks ran up a 32-15 halftime lead against Philipsburg

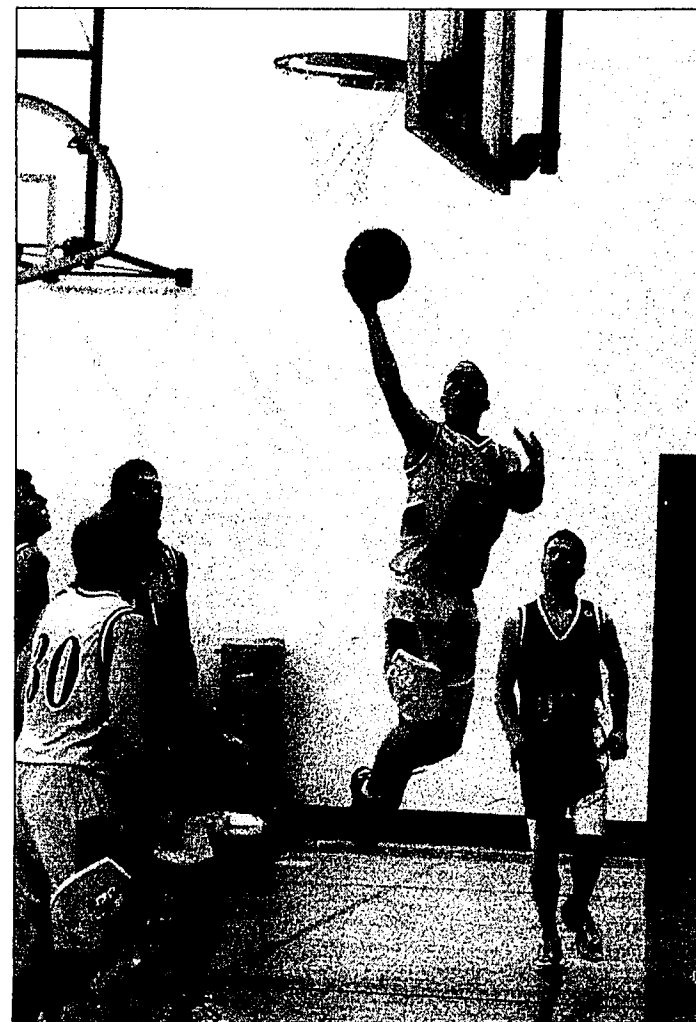
last Friday and coasted to a 57-47 win in a nonconference game. Zach Nelson paced the Hawks with 17 points, followed by Madinger with 16, Cody Hard 10, Spencer Balcom 6, and Riley Devins 4.

The Hawks retired Saturday night for the holiday season with a stunning 89-65 win over Deer Lodge.

The Hawks, with 75 points going into the final period, were on their way to a 100-point game possibly, posting 26 points in the first period, 25 in the second, and 24 in the third, but then coach Shawn Holmes eased off, giving his backup players more experience in the fourth period.

The Hawk's showed an offensive balance that could spell more trouble for 5-B leaders when play resumes after the holidays. Four Hawks marked double figures: Zach Nelson 21, Abe Madinger 20, Tanner Marlatt 16, and Spencer Balcom 13. Brian Matthew, Cody Hard, and Bano Contreras added five apiece, and Riley Delvins had two.

Play resumes January 2 at Flathead Christian followed by two home games with Valley Christian on Jan. 3 and Florence on Jan. 4.



Zach Nelson catches the defense sleeping in this drive for a layup. The Hawks offense ran up 75 points in three periods against Deer Lodge.

—G. Noland photo

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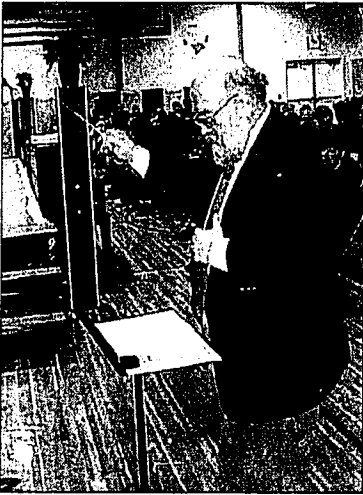
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Mike Richey, Nicole Everson, Cassie Moors



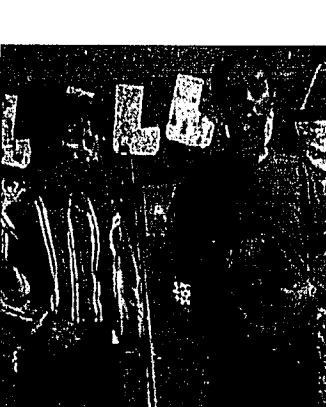
Justin Hood and Bobby Russell



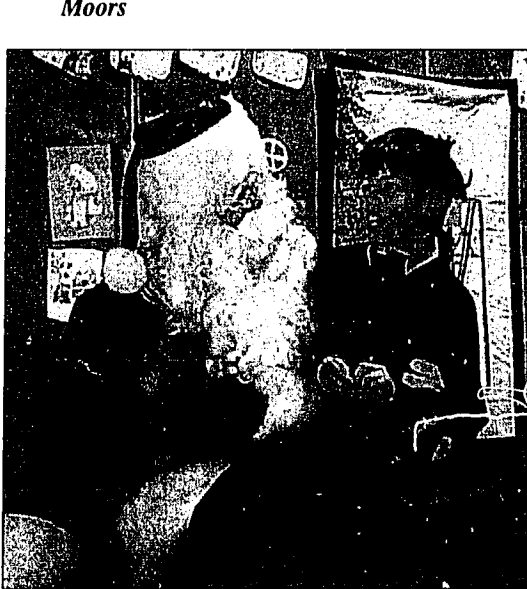
Megan Christensen, Jonah Rosen, Damion Bartell and Brian Thompson



Kindergarten, first and second graders



Bobby Russell and Jacob Smith



Santa and Chase Hulett



KeAnna Conley, Sam Yates, Katie Hood, Jake Janssen, Anna Stevenson, and Jacob Casebolt



Santa and Jessy Hood

Notice of Availability MA 11 Snowmobile Use Areas Draft Environmental Impact Statement Legal Notice

Bruce Higgins, IDT Leader, Bldg. 24, Fort Missoula, Missoula, MT, 59804, (406) 329-3814.

The Seeley Lake Ranger District, Lolo National Forest, Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the MA 11 Snowmobile Use Areas is available for review and comment.

The proposed action is amend the Lolo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan Management Area 11 standard to allow the use of snowmobiles in certain specific areas on the Seeley Lake Ranger District. The Agency's preferred alternative is Alternative 3, which would allow snowmobile use in the Lake Elsin/Lake Dinah and the Morrell Mountain areas from December 1 through March 31. In addition, Alternative 3 would implement a Forest Closure order to restrict snowmobile access in the West Fork of the Clearwater drainage, and the North Fork Cottonwood Creek drainage to provide displacement areas for wildlife.

The DEIS analyzed three alternatives, the no action, which would continue to prohibit snowmobile use in all of the identified areas, the proposed action which would allow for snowmobile use in all proposed areas without a restriction on timing, and the Agency's preferred alternative, which allows snowmobile use in some of the proposed areas, subject to a timing restriction.

The MA 11 Snowmobile Use Areas Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is available on the Lolo National Forest website <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/lolo/planning-d6/fmproj-d6.html>. To obtain copies of this document or to request further information, contact

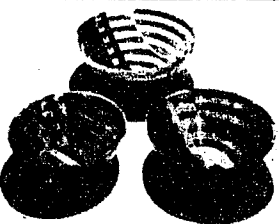
Comments are invited on this analysis. To ensure consideration in the decision making process, comments must be postmarked or received within 45 days after publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. The comment period will continue until February 11, 2003. Please address your comments to Deborah L. R. Austin, Forest Supervisor, Building 24, Fort Missoula, Missoula, MT, 59804.

Respondents should include: (1) name, address, telephone number, organization represented, if any; (2) title of the document on which the comment is being submitted (in this MA 11 Snowmobile Use Areas DEIS); and (3) specific facts and supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets.

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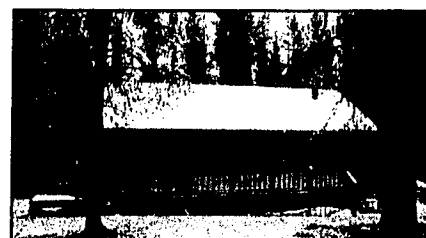
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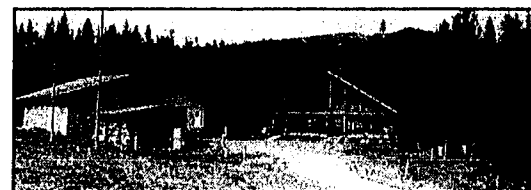
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 Flathead Christian at Seeley
 5:00 BC
 Friday, Jan. 3
 Seeley at V. Christian
 4:15 ABC

SEELEY-SWAN
 BLACKHAWKS
 Basketball

Thursday, Jan. 2
 Seeley at Flathead Christian
 5:00 BC
 Friday, Jan. 3
 Valley Christian at Seeley
 4:14 p.m ABC

The World's Gateway to the Seeley Swan

\$10,000
REWARD

For information leading to the arrest and conviction of the party or parties responsible for the murder of Cliff Nelson in 1996.



You may call the Missoula County Sheriff's Office
406-523-4810
 extension 3330 for Lt. Rich Maricelli

**The Living Water
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in Seeley Lake
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 Christmas Day,
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There will be no Christmas Eve Mass.

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Tom Dellwo's State Record Whitetail will be in Stevensville

By Patricia Swan Smith
 For the Pathfinder

Several years ago for Christmas, I received a small, odd-shaped package. Inside was the last insult of the hunting season—my mom had battered and fried my deer and elk tags, then gave them to me as a gift.

And, according to Fish, Wildlife & Parks, moms like mine will have lots of tags to cook this year for that special someone because of another mild-weathered hunting season. This makes the third mild fall in the past four years, and that decreases hunter success in the field.

While harvest was down for both elk and deer, elk hunters were the least successful.

While there are no check stations in the immediate area, the reports from the two closest are as follows:

Swan: 2,749 Hunters, down 77 from last year; 7 elk, 1 fewer than last year; 8 mule deer, down 2; and 280 whitetail deer, down 68 from last year. Only 10.7 percent of the hunters had game compared to 13 percent last year.

Bonner: 7,436 Hunters, down 431 from last year; 100 elk, down 32; 100 mule deer, down 36; and 470 whitetail deer, down 47. Only 9.1 percent of the hunters had game compared to 10 percent last year.

According to the Missoulian, taxidermists are stating that while numbers are down, the size of the mounts are up, which brings us to the Montana State Record Whitetail.

In 1974, Tom Dellwo was up Deer Creek hunting. Meat was the purpose of the hunt, but the buck he got was more than just good meat.

"I thought it was a nice buck, but I found out it was a really nice buck," Dellwo said. "My wife's cousin thought it was a great buck, and he wanted to take it to the University and have it scored. It turned out to be a record."

It's Montana's State Record for Typical with a rifle. It ranked 8th in North America, but is now 14th. The outside spread is 24 3/8 inches, and the official score in the record book is 199 3/8, with six points on the right, and seven on the left.

Twenty-eight years later, Roger Selner, owner of Trophy Show Productions out of Livingston, and Bass Pro, out of Springfield, Missouri, presented Dellwo with a replica of his whitetail at the Filling Station in Seeley this fall.

"We wanted to return to the Dellwo family and the hunters in the state a part of Montana's hunting heritage," they said.

Bass Pro's "King of Bucks Collection" has 250 of the top whitetails in America.

Dellwo's whitetail will be in the "King of Bucks Collection" show, which will be displaying 14 mounts in the Eastman's Journal Trophy Deer Display in Stevensville on April 4th and 5th. For more information about that show, you may call Dale Burke at (406) 777-2729.

The show will also be in Great Falls January 3rd, 4th and 5th, and Livingston on March 15th.

"It was a really great gift," Dellwo said. "It made Tom Dellwo a real nice Christmas! If I get no other presents, that's okay. I can't thank Roger and Bass Pro enough."

Photos by
 P. Swan Smith

Dellwo's whitetail is Montana's State Record for Typical with a rifle. It ranked 8th in North America, but is now 14th. The outside spread is 24 3/8 inches, and the official score in the record book is 199 3/8, with six points on the right, and seven on the left.



Tom Dellwo (left) and Roger Selner stand next to Dellwo's Montana State Record Whitetail taken in 1974. Selner, owner of Trophy Show Productions out of Livingston, and Bass Pro, out of Springfield, Missouri, presented Dellwo with a replica of his whitetail at the Filling Station in Seeley this fall.



SSHS Students of the Week



Christie Sullivan - Christie is energetic and friendly. Her cheery "good morning" is always appreciated. Christie is also willing to help out when asked.



Jesse Siloti - Jesse is happy, friendly and courteous. Jesse is also willing to help out when needed.

Students of the Week submitted by staff at SSHS

The World's Gateway to the Seeley Swan
seele

Attend the Church of Your Choice!



Seeley Lake Church Directory

Faith Chapel (Pentecostal Church of God)
Worship—10:30 a.m. Sunday School—9:30 a.m.
Hwy 83 North Phone—677-2220
Pastor—Gary Wayne

Seeley Lake Baptist Church
Worship—11:00 a.m. ~Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
~Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m. ~Wed. Bible Study & Prayer 6:30 p.m.
3116 Hwy 83 South Phone—677-2268 (Founded 1953)
Pastor—Bill Bogardus

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Sunday Worship—9:00 a.m.
Pastor—Rev. Robert Benson ~1655 Airport Rd.
Phone—677-2281 or 677-7677

Living Water Catholic Church
Worship Mass: Sunday—2:00 p.m.
152 SOS Road
Ph: 677-2688 or 793-5697
Pastor—Father Jozef Perekubka

Mountain Lakes Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Worship—10:00 a.m.
3292 Hwy 83 North Phone—677-3575
Pastor—Scott Anthony

Spirit of Christ Episcopal Fellowship
Worship—2nd Saturday of each month
at the Senior Center—5:00 p.m.
Phone—677-2905

Mission Bible Fellowship (Non-Denominational)
Sunday School—9:15 Worship—10:30 a.m.
Hwy. 83 & School Lane
Phone 677-2110
Pastor Ken Wutzke

Candlelight Service at Lutheran churches in Condon & Seeley

Christmas in the Community
by Rev. Dr. Robert Lee Benson

The community is cordially welcome to the celebration of the

birth of Christ at Holy Cross Lutheran Church (Seeley Lake) and Faith Lutheran Church (Condon) this Christmas week. Faith will hold a Christmas

Eve Candlelight Service beginning at 7:00 p.m. on December 24.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church will hold a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service beginning at 11:00 p.m. on December 24.

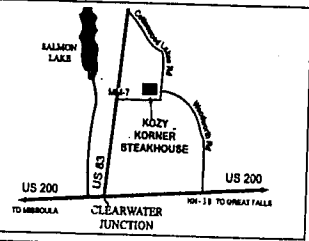
Holy Cross will also hold a Christmas Day festival service beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Benson stated that "We greatly look forward to sharing this great festival of the church year through the proclamation of the Word under the theme 'Joy to the World,' and, with carols and candles we rejoice in the words of the angel who proclaimed those unchanging words, 'Unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord.' It is a grand celebration indeed!" For further information, please call 677-7677.

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The following meals will be served next week promptly at noon at the Seeley Lake Senior Citizens Center. Reservations please - 677-2008. Call before 10:00 a.m.

Monday, December 30
Chicken Enchiladas
Tuesday, December 31
Closed
Wednesday, January 1
Closed
Thursday, January 2
Salmon Loaf
Friday, January 3
Pork Pot Pies

Double Arrow Landowners

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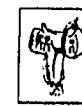
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Email: SeeleyElectric@TheElectriciansGuild.
P.O. Box 306 Seeley Lake, MT 59868

Resort Lodging

The Lodges
on Seeley Lake
Brian & Kerry
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www.lodgesonseeleylake.com

Contractor • Builder

**Will Kats
CONSTRUCTION LLC**
Residential Carpentry
Established 1980
Montana Registration Number: 20064
6380 Woodworth Road • Greenough, MT 59836
(406) 677-3068

Contractor • Builder

ADAMS CONSTRUCTION INC.
Custom Homes Log or Frame
Additions & Remodels
PH: 406 677-3029 P.O. Box 10
Fax: 406 677-0033 280 Eagle Drive
Mobile: 406 239-3125 Seeley Lake, MT

Excavating

**GARY LEWIS
OWNER**
406-677-2823
406-677-4072
Fax
406-677-3018
DEER CREEK EXCAVATING, LLC
P.O. Box 523 • Seeley Lake, MT 59868

Chimney Cleaning

**BUCK CREEK
CHIMNEY SWEEPS**
LONNIE CASEBOLT 754-2726
email: buckcreent@blackfoot.net

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Seeley Lake, MT 59868
Cell Ph 1-406-210-1344

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Randy Reinltz 677-5010

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Help Wanted

Missoula County Public School District #1 is accepting applications for the following position:
Special Education Teacher, Resource Room, Seeley-Swan High School, .50 FTE One Year Only for the remainder of 2002-2003 school year.

Application Deadline: Until filled
Application Procedures: Pick up a MCPS District certified application and Substitute Teaching Packet at Missoula County Public Schools Personnel Office, 215 S. 6th St. W., Missoula MT 59801, (406) 728-2400, FAX (406) 329-5991. District website: www.mcps.k12.mt.us. Instructions for filing a complete application are included in the application packet.

Applicants who have completed all application materials and returned them to the Administration Building in the Personnel Office will be contacted by phone for an interview time.
An Equal Opportunity Employer

For Sale

Firewood, solid Doug fir, split & delivered, \$95/cord, 677-3142

Land for Sale: 2 lots, side by side, in the heart of Seeley Lake. 5.18 ac. \$51,500 & 2.72 ac. with city water-\$50,500. Amazing privacy and beautiful views, 677-0203

Firewood, split & delivered, \$85/cord, 677-3564

'89 Ford F250 flatbed with 1 yd. bin sander, cab controlled, \$5,000, 677-2823 or 677-4027

STATEWIDE Classified Ad Network

The Pathfinder now offers you a one-stop, inexpensive way to place advertising messages in 55 participating weekly and semi-weekly and 7 daily newspapers in Montana. The service offers you a circulation of 206,000 households (494,400 readers) for a low price of \$119 for a 25-word ad. Call 677-2022 for details.

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TRUCK DRIVER TRAINING. Complete programs and refresher courses, rent equipment for CDL, Job Placement Assistance. Financial assistance for qualified students. SAGE Technical Services, Billings, 1-800-545-4546. #858

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DRIVERS...SWIFT TRANSPORTATION is hiring experienced and inexperienced drivers and o/o. CDL Training available. We pay for experience, great benefits, tuition reimbursement, 1-866-222-6646 (toll-free) #860
PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS! 1-888-245-5977. Call us today! *You get miles. *You get paid. *You get HOME. Experienced Owner Opera-

'98 500 Skidoo Summit, '95 440 SKS 2-up, both w/extras, brand new drive off trailer w/spare, 2 helmets, Walls coverall snowmobile suit-sz. 38-40 included, \$6000 for all, 677-3064

'99 550 Trail RMK w/electric start & widening kit, 1300 mi., \$3000, 677-3190

For Rent

Mini storage units available. 98 units to serve your needs. Clearwater Mini Storage, LLC, 677-3000

Lone Larch Mini-Storage-located on Spruce Drive. Easy access in Seeley Lake, 677-2889 or 677-4133

2 BR, 1 BA home, 10 acres, mountain views, privacy, in Condon, \$600/mo + utilities. Outside pets only. 707-481-9397, leave message

3 BR, 1 bath home on 3 acres, views, very clean, 2 car garage, \$800/mo + utilities, references, 677-3773 or 604-463-7750

Services

Will pawn, buy or auction most anything. Give me a call, Riley, 677-2997.

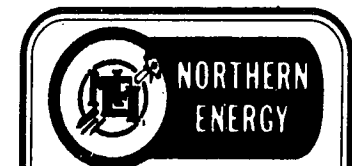
Auto Body & Paint & Glass
Approved by insurance companies. Call Sam Bolton, 677-2969 for estimates & information.

B & B Construction: New construction, remodeling & repairs, 677-3564

CLASSIFIEDS

Need help with holiday cleaning or other preparations? Give me a call-Brenda, 677-4196 or 677-2926.

The Pathfinder office is located in the Lazy Pine Mall, Highway 83, Suite E-2. Open Monday & Friday, 12-5, Tuesday, 12-3. NOTE: We will print a day early for the New Year's Holiday.



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Weather Update

| DATE | HIGH | LOW | CONDITIONS |
|--------|------|-----|---|
| Nov 3 | 43 | 7 | Clear with light haze. |
| Nov 4 | 47 | 7 | Clear. |
| Nov 5 | 47 | 8 | Lake fog early, partly cloudy. |
| Nov 6 | 58 | 23 | Clear a.m., few high clouds p.m. |
| Nov 7 | 60 | 20 | Overcast. |
| Nov 8 | 55 | 26 | 0.16" precip., overcast with rain all a.m. |
| Nov 9 | 41 | 29 | 0.04" precip., Skiff of snow a.m., light rain p.m., overcast. |
| Nov 10 | 42 | 27 | 0.06" precip., 0.3" snow, Skiff snow early, rain to snow in p.m. |
| Nov 11 | 41 | 32 | 0.20" precip., 2.0" snow, Snow last night, mostly cloudy & smokey. |
| Nov 12 | 40 | 29 | 0.14" precip., 0.3" snow, Snow in a.m., rain in p.m. |
| Nov 13 | 42 | 33 | 0.12" precip., trace snow, Rain/snow a.m., rain p.m. |
| Nov 14 | 41 | 30 | 0.14" precip., 0.3" snow, Snow a.m., rain/snow p.m. |
| Nov 15 | 43 | 30 | 0.11" precip., trace snow, Foggy & overcast all a.m., partly cloudy p.m. |
| Nov 16 | 43 | 25 | Mostly cloudy. |
| Nov 17 | 43 | 32 | Trace precip., trace snow, partly to mostly cloudy with occasional flakes. |
| Nov 18 | 41 | 32 | 0.05" precip., trace snow, light snow then rain, mostly cloudy. |
| Nov 19 | 43 | 31 | 0.01" precip., light rain in a.m., mostly cloudy. |
| Nov 20 | 46 | 37 | Mostly cloudy. |
| Nov 21 | 46 | 33 | 0.01" precip., fog in valley all day, sprinkle last p.m. |
| Nov 22 | 49 | 33 | 0.04" precip., rain & fog early a.m., partly cloudy p.m., rain late p.m. |
| Nov 23 | 49 | 29 | 0.61" precip., 2.2" snow, heavy rain last p.m., turned to snow overnight, light snow in a.m., overcast. |
| Nov 24 | 31 | 12 | Clear, cool. |
| Nov 25 | 33 | 9 | Clear, cool. |
| Nov 26 | 33 | 16 | Partly cloudy a.m., overcast p.m. |
| Nov 27 | 34 | 20 | Partly cloudy. |
| Nov 28 | 39 | 17 | Partly to mostly cloudy. |
| Nov 29 | 40 | 24 | Some fog & overcast a.m., partly cloudy p.m. |
| Nov 30 | 41 | 21 | Some fog & partly cloudy a.m., mostly clear p.m. |

Total precipitation received in November = 1.69"

Total snow received in November = 5.10"

| | | | |
|--------|----|----|---|
| Dec 1 | 41 | 19 | Foggy a.m., mostly clear p.m. |
| Dec 2 | 40 | 17 | Mostly cloudy a.m., partly cloudy p.m. |
| Dec 3 | 40 | 26 | 0.05" precip., 1.1" snow, foggy a.m., flurries & overcast. |
| Dec 4 | 35 | 23 | Mostly cloudy. |
| Dec 5 | 35 | 27 | Overcast. |
| Dec 6 | 44 | 24 | Partly cloudy. |
| Dec 7 | 43 | 15 | Mostly to partly cloudy. |
| Dec 8 | 30 | 24 | Overcast. |
| Dec 9 | 30 | 21 | Overcast early then mostly clear. |
| Dec 10 | 31 | 11 | Trace precip., 0.2" snow, mostly cloudy with flurries in p.m. |
| Dec 11 | 34 | 26 | 0.10" precip., 2.0" snow, mostly cloudy, snow last night. |
| Dec 12 | 36 | 26 | 0.05" precip., 1.2" snow, flurries overnight & early a.m., mostly cloudy. |
| Dec 13 | 37 | 26 | 0.06" precip., overcast, light rain. |
| Dec 14 | 36 | 31 | 0.01" precip., overcast, light rain in p.m. |
| Dec 15 | 39 | 31 | 0.02" rain last p.m., foggy a.m., overcast p.m. |
| Dec 16 | 40 | 25 | Trace precip., partly to mostly cloudy. |
| Dec 17 | 38 | 26 | 0.02" precip., rain & flurries last p.m., partly cloudy. |
| Dec 18 | 38 | 10 | Trace precip., mostly cloudy to overcast. |
| Dec 19 | 33 | 12 | Mostly cloudy a.m., p.m. partly cloudy. |
| Dec 20 | 27 | 11 | Overcast. |
| Dec 21 | 30 | 16 | Clear early then mostly cloudy. |

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during Christmas and New Year's weeks



Special of the Week "Egg Nog Latte"

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Save .25 cents on any size this week!

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Espresso Booth Gift Certificates are available in the booth. Think of us for stocking stuffers or just a great gift for the coffee lover in your life!

Lunch is Ready ...

*No soup will be served
both Christmas and
New Year's weeks.*

YMCA News Update on Activities

Adult Fitness Class: Walk Fit classes have begun. Terryl Bartlett is instructing morning walk fit classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. Classes are held in the Multipurpose Room at Seeley Lake Elementary School. The registration fee is \$15.00 per month.

Evening Step Class has begun. Classes are held Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. in the Multipurpose room at Seeley Lake Elementary School. The registration fee is \$25.00 per month.

If you have any questions please call the Seeley-Swan YMCA Outreach office at 677-3330.

~ Don't forget! The store will be closing early, 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve & will be closed on Christmas, so our employees may enjoy the holiday with their families.

Joy to You & Yours

From all of us at Wold's Valley Market — We would like to wish you a happy & safe holiday season. We sincerely appreciate your business & look forward to serving you in the New Year...