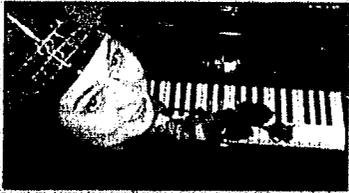


Girl's & Boy's District Basketball tournaments underway in Hamilton



Pianist Katherine Moon will entertain at annual Wine & Chocolate Social Saturday



Art Auction at Wine & Chocolate Social Saturday

13

Vol XVII, No. 41

"Voices from the Valley"

Thursday, February 6, 2003

Seeley
Swan

PA

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HELENA, MT 59601-4514

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<http://www.seeleyswanpathfinder.com>



Lincoln musher leading Race to Sky

Racers take to snow in Seeley Lake

Snowmobiles flew around a course off Boy Scout Road in Seeley Lake last Saturday and Sunday in the annual Rocky Mountain Cross Country sanctioned snowmobile races. Watch next week for more photos.



Deborah Stack photo

email: pathfinder@montana.com

Chips . . . bits & pieces

Winter sports have suddenly swung into full force in the past couple of weeks when some fresh snow and cooler temperatures. Snowmobile cross country races, postponed in January, were held last weekend on a good track west of town. The Race to the Sky started Sunday and winner is expected Tuesday evening. The Nordic OSCR ski races, cancelled in late January, are re-scheduled for this weekend at the Nordic ski course at the Morrell Creek Trailhead north and east of town. And, coming up fast is the Snow Joke Half Marathon Feb. 22. This is no joke, folks, but they don't even need snow, so the lack of it won't slow this race down. And, expect to see a lot of runners competing in the 13.1 mile footrace around Seeley's streets and country roads. Last year 188 runners completed the course! It's no joke!

We have two pretty fine basketball teams and you can catch both in action in the next few days at the Hamilton District 5-B tournament which combines the boy's and girl's divisions at the same time, alternating boy's and girl's games. The boys' division offers running thrills, maybe more than you might want, as the apparent top teams, Seeley-Swan, Florence, Frenchtown and Loyola, start their seasons fresh. Anything goes at tournament time. We're just hoping it goes our way. The Ladyhawks are a young squad with some emerging talent that could really stir things up at tournament time. Here's wishing you Ladyhawks and Blackhawks our best.

It seems like only yesterday I watched a little neighbor girl in her first piano recital. Well, time flies, and little girls grow up, and some become accomplished pianists. There will be some really fine art to bid on at the Wine & Chocolate Social Saturday night, and the entertainment will be of the same quality with Katherine Moon at the piano.

—Gary Noland

Report from the Capitol Steps

By Rep. Doug Mood



Montana's Constitution, in Article IX, Section 1 states that, "The state and each person shall maintain and improve a clean and healthful environment in Montana." The same section goes on to say that, "The legislature shall provide for the administration and enforcement of this duty."

Article II is the clause of the constitution that contains the "Declaration of Rights" that are granted to all citizens of the state. It reads, in part, as follows, "All persons are born free and have certain inalienable rights. They include the right to a clean and healthful environment and the rights of pursuing life's basic necessities".

Environmentalists have used these provisions of the Montana Constitution as the legal hammer by which they bring lawsuits that then stop the development of the state's natural resources. However Article IX clearly give the legislature the authority and responsibility to set forth what "clean and healthful" means. Also, Article II clearly intends to balance the right to a clean and healthful environment with the rights of pursuing life's basic necessities." In recent decisions our Montana Supreme Court has chosen to emphasize the former and to ignore the later.

HB 437, which will be coming up shortly on the floor of the house, will bring back the balance that is contained within the Constitution. This bill, sponsored by Alan Olson of Roundup, makes it clear that if a project complies with all of the existing legislatively en-

acted environmental laws, the project does in fact comply with the constitutional requirements regarding "clean and healthful." This means that the court will not be able to give broader meaning to "clean and healthful" than what the legislature has determined.

The environmental interests will no doubt raise a hue and cry over this bill. Two years ago when we made changes to the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA), we were accused of raping and pillaging Montana's environment and environmental laws. Yet Montana's air is as clean as ever and our streams and rivers flow as pure and sweet as they were before those changes were made. We can expect the same kind of rhetorical baloney when this bill comes up.

HB 437 makes no substantive changes to any of Montana's water or air quality laws. Nor does the bill do anything to our environmental standards or regulations. What the bill does do is to give consistency and predictability to the application of those laws and regulations. It also takes away one of the tools that is used by obstructionist who thwart any development of Montana's natural environmental wealth.

Montana has a treasure of natural resource wealth. I personally find it distressing that the people of this state have so few opportunities to find high paying jobs. Rep. Olson's bill will help take another giant step forward to change that for all the people of the state.

I can be reached over here in Helena at the following:
Telephone number: 444-4815
Address:
Capitol Station # 7
Helena, MT 59860-0400

SSHS graduate writes of experiences in Sweden

by Autumn Biggins
From Sweden

5:21 pm - Five Months in Sverige

I've been in Sweden now for about five months. It seems like just the other day when I stepped off the airplane in the Arlanda terminal not knowing the language, the culture, a soul, and having the worst case of jet lag ever.

And now I've gotten a taste of living as an outsider and it's been quite an experience. The question is, what's the most important thing I've learned so far? That not everybody thinks democracy is a good thing? That universal healthcare isn't all it's cracked up to be? There isn't one damn hot water bottle in the whole country?

Healthcare for one thing has been an eye opener. You always hear what a wonderful thing universal healthcare is, and Sweden is generally used as the example. It's a great theory that everyone will have blanket coverage, but the practice doesn't live up.

For starters clinics or other facilities will have specific office hours that you can call in to make an appointment. For example, Tuesdays from 7-9 and Thursdays from 1-3. There is no consistency. And those are the only times that people can call in, and in a populated area that's just not going to work. It took me three days calling just to get a hold of a person and where I live there are only about 100,000 people.

Secondly, there are waiting lists of at least two weeks most of the time for an office visit. So, the system is sick.

As to the hot water bottle question, I have no idea what that's all about. But it's silly. Six pharmacies, in 4 cities, no hot water bottles. I believe this will become a quest, to find a Swedish-sold water bottle before I return home.

An American abroad, I've run into quite a few interesting confrontation/discussions because of my nationality. A girl from Poland gave a speech in one of my classes (Speech and Rhetoric, makes sense eh?) about Democracy. How it coddles the weak, embraces a 80-20 scale where only 20% of the population is productive, and basically spoils the citizens.

While democracy is imperfect, as any human organized organization innately is, I don't believe that 80% of the country is full

of useless dunderheads, and I certainly don't believe that we should adopt an elitist attitude and only allow the most academically gifted to attend college. That's what we have elite schools for, damn.

I've also encountered hostility because of the war on terrorism that Bush is bent on fighting, since he doesn't want to be left out of the last 4 or 5 administrations having their own conflict or war. Point it, I didn't start the war, I don't even condone it. It's hypocritical and stupid, and as long as we fund the School of the Americas, we have absolutely no foot to stand on against terrorism. Take it out of Georgia, and then move onto the Middle East I say.

That's enough rambling for now. I'm sure there will be much more later.

Can I Buy You a Drink? Things aren't always what they seem. A simple truth that we tend to forget when faced with something that has been ingrained in our culture and lifestyle. Its no surprise that it comes as a shock when you encounter what you thought was a normal practice, in a completely different light.

A few weeks ago, I was walking back to my dorm room from the local ICA (a chain of grocery stores that has a monopoly in Sweden.) when I ran into a man on his way home. For whatever reason we started talking and he asked me if I wanted to come in for a beer. Obviously I thought that was strange, so I said no. and he was like oh well we could have milk or juice, do you like juice?

I declined and changed the subject. Again he brought up the subject of drinks, but this time asked if he could buy me one. I told him I had leprosy and it was contagious and he finally just went home. I thought it was strange and the next day a group of us were waiting for our professor to arrive and Mark, an exchange student from Australia told us about an experience he had a few nights before.

From: "Rosie Smith" <chloezen@hotmail.com>
To: pathfinder@montana.com
Subject: Question
Date: Thu, 06 Feb 2003 21:48:42 +0000

Information wanted on Faucet Band

Hi...I have a question. I am trying to find a website for the band Faucet that comes from Seeley Lake. All I can find online about them is your article from the early 90s. I'm not quite sure that they are even still together, but I had purchased their first two albums, and unfortunately they were stolen. I was wondering if you knew of any way to contact the band or anything of that nature. I would appreciate any help I can get. I'm a big fan of their music.

Thank you,
Rosie Smith
chloezen@hotmail.com

He was at P2 (a local night-club) and chatting to a Swedish girl. He offered to buy her a drink and ended up offending the girl. Confused, he asked one of the girls she came in with what he'd done wrong. She let him into a rather local phenomenon, specific to Swedish guys. In Sweden people don't buy one another drinks. If one's offered it means he's saying

"wanna hop on the good foot and do the bad thing?". Mark later apologized to the girl and all was well.

So if you ever go to Sweden, don't offer to buy anyone a drink, it's considered bold and rude. And ladies, in such a scenario, just say no. It ain't the friendly gesture it appears to be, it's an over friendly one.

Autumn

To Our Sweethearts!

The Seeley Swan Food Bank thanks all of our volunteers and Board members for their generous help in the past year.



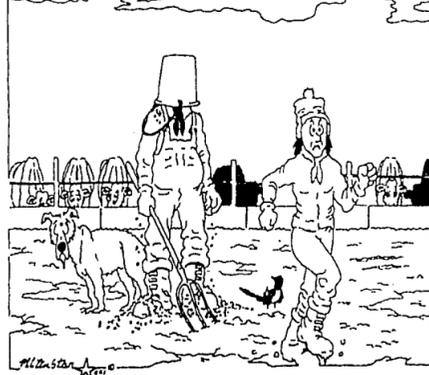
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Monty Montgomery
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Barb Polus
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Elke Scholl
Mary Stuart
Charlotte West



Gene Andrews
Marie Bergan
Bill Bogardus
Marion Brechbill
Patti Collins
Elva Cox
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Patty Griffes
Pat Hartman
Marty Kux
Judy Lehman
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Georgia Shane
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EARL SAYS ONE WAY TO KEEP A CONVERSATION FROM GETTING BORING IS TO SAY THE WRONG THING...

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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
DARLOA, 2nd Wed, 4pm, Sr. Cit. Ctr.
Swan Lands Comm., 2nd Wed, 7pm, Swan Eco. Ctr.
S.L. Chamber, 2nd Thur, 7am, Deer Country Quilts
S.L. QRU, 2nd Thur, 7pm, fire hall
American Legion, 2nd Fri, 7pm, Swan Valley Comm. Hall
Arthritis Support Group, 3rd Tues, 1:30pm, Senior Ctr.
Drifters, 3rd Wed, 7pm, S.L. Comm. Hall

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 TRANSFER SITE: 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.

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

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One of the finest lots on the back nine holes of the golf course in Seeley Lake! Lot 29 of the Meadows. Creek frontage, beautiful Trail Creek borders the entire back of the lot. Build your dream home with Swan Range views! \$116,500

Local Lion Study on Same Track as Amur Tiger Study

by Mike Thompson

It must sometimes seem as though I go to extremes in my attempts to attach importance to the work of the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP). In my nearly 12 years of writing this column, you have been very patient with my tendencies in this direction.

But, what if I claimed a connection between FWP's lion research in the Garnet Range and the conservation of Amur tigers in eastern Russia?

It's not as far flung as you might imagine. There is quite an exchange of international expertise going on. I know FWP wildlife and fisheries biologists who have consulted on resource management issues in South America, Mongolia, and Italy, as well as Russia. We even lost one of our brightest biologists to the Norwegians.

With the Montana Legislature in session, I hasten to add that these forays overseas are not funded by the public. But, they do benefit the public when our biologists come home with new perspectives and fresh ideas.

And, the planes fly both ways. Last spring we hosted a contingent from China on the Blackfoot-Clearwater Game Range. Unfortunately, I couldn't

attend on the day they had scheduled. It would have been as close to China as I will probably ever get.

Now, to my knowledge, Rich DeSimone has never visited Amur tiger habitat in Russia, nor have Amur tiger researchers ever visited the Garnets.

The link between the two is found in a recent article in the scientific literature.

Whatever one's opinion of pointy headed academics, their scientific literature is of unquestioned value. There are many amateur naturalists with a greater wealth of outdoor experience than many professional biologists, and biologists are fools if they don't seek out and use such wisdom. However, the difference is that much of that wealth is usually lost to the world when people die, or is passed on in part to only a very few close friends in the form of oral history or diaries.

The findings of science are written in excruciating detail, scrutinized, challenged, and preserved in journals that are circulated worldwide. That way, when someone like me wants to study elk, I can readily find out what Olaus Murie learned in the 1950s and I don't need to duplicate it. Right now, Ross Baty and I are spending some of our spare time writing up what we learned about elk on the



Game Range Ramblings
by Mike Thompson, Wildlife Biologist
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks



Game Range in the 1990s so that others can benefit in the same way.

Which is a long way around to Amur tigers. Well, I was skimming titles in the Winter 2002 issue of the Wildlife Society Bulletin the other day. The one that caught my eye was entitled, "Monitoring Amur tiger populations: characteristics of track surveys in snow."

That last part—"characteristics of track surveys in snow"—should catch your attention, too. As you might remember, FWP is devoting a lot of effort to test whether winter track counts can be used to monitor mountain lion populations in the Garnets, just south of Highway 200. Would the study of Russian cats lend encouragement or cast doubts?

The tiger researchers went about their task differently than our lion researchers. They didn't attempt to mark tigers and estimate the size of the tiger population. Instead, they measured the effects of other variables on changes in tiger track counts. What kind of variables? Length of the survey

route, number of survey routes, survey design, and persistence of tiger tracks after fresh snow were the primary variables they examined.

After 427 surveys from 1995-1999, and some fancy analysis, the tiger people concluded that, "[A] monitoring system employing 10 to 20 routes 12 to 15 kilometers long, sampled twice each year, could provide over 80% power to detect a 10% annual decline in tiger tracks with a 20% chance of false alarms." Translation—Rich DeSimone and FWP are on a promising "track" with their local lion research.

Interestingly, the tiger people found that it is very difficult to detect a change in tiger tracks from a single, long, route. Instead, they found best results with at least 10 routes in a study area, which just happens to be very close to the design of our lion study. Under conditions found in eastern Russia, they recommended that surveys be conducted 6-8 days after snow in January or February for best results.

One difference between their work and ours is the means of travel. In Russia, they did the track surveys on foot. In the Garnets, Rich and crew are on snowmobiles. So, we can cover more ground, which is good, but I don't know if it's easier or harder to detect tracks on snowmobile. It might be harder if the operator drives too fast and has to pay too much attention to keeping it between the trees. On the other hand, after about 10 miles on skis or snowshoes, I can imagine the mind wandering to hamburgers and away from the task at hand.

Certainly, the tiger people will be very interested to read Rich's results when they are ready to be published in the future. Because unlike the study in Russia, FWP's study design does include a reliable annual estimate of the lion population, based on radio telemetry. Hopefully, this will allow a more definitive test of whether increasing or decreasing numbers of tracks really mean increasing or decreasing numbers of lions.

Or tigers!



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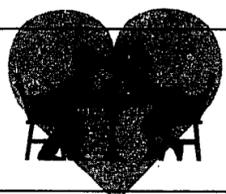
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Friday, Feb. 14

Dinner Specials in lieu of prime rib starting at 5 p.m.

Kozy Korner Steakhouse

Take Woodworth Road at MM7 off Hwy 83, then four miles 406 677-5699

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, February 13**
Cranberry Juice, Chicken Cacciatore, Spaghetti w/butter, Carrots, Cherry Cake.
- Monday, February 17**
Grapefruit Juice, Turkey, Dressing & Gravy, Green Beans, Cranberries, Pumpkin Pie.
- Thursday, February 20**
Cranberry Juice, Sweet & Sour Pork, Rice, Peas, Cake, Peaches.

LEGAL NOTICE

CLEARWATER MINI STORAGE, LLC (FORMERLY DRY DOCK STORAGE) HEREBY GIVES 30 DAY NOTICE to the following that it will sell the goods held in abandoned storage units due to non-payment of rent.
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66 \$720.00
If all charges are not paid by March 11, 2003, the contents will be sold to the highest bidder at 12 p.m., Monday, March 18, 2003 at Clearwater Mini Storage, LLC, Hwy. 83 and Locust Lane, Seeley Lake MT. This dated February 5, 2003.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice to Water Right Users
(Pursuant to Section 85-2-307 MCA)

The following application has been submitted to appropriate water in the State of Montana.

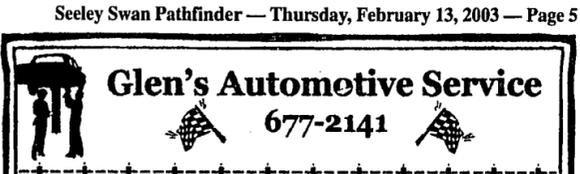
Application Number: 76K 30004043
Owners: Smoking Rock Ranch, 2313 Devonshire, Ann Arbor MI 48104
Priority Date: October 9, 2002 at 10:30 A.M.
Purpose (use): Irrigation
Maximum Flow Rate: 200.00 gpm
Maximum Volume: 35.60 ac-ft
Maximum Acres: 20.00
Source Name: Swan River
Point of Diversion and Means of Diversion:

ID Govt Lot Qtr Sec Sec Twp Rge County
1 14.00 SENE 6 22N 17W Lake
2 6.00 N2NESE 6 22N 17W Lake

Diversion Means: Pump
Pump Size: 10.00 hp
Period of Diversion: May 1 to September 30
Purpose (Use): Irrigation
Irrigation Type: Sprinkler
Climatic Area: 5 - Low
Volume: 35.60 ac-ft
Period of Use: May 1 to September 30
Place of Use:

If issued, the right will be subject to prior existing water rights. Objections to this application must be filed on an Objection to Application, Form No. 611. Mail the completed objection form and \$25.00 filing fee to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, PO Box 201601, Helena MT 59620-1601. Objections must be post-marked on or before **March 14, 2003**. The Objection to Application form, Form No. 611 is available from this Department or on the DNRC website at <http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/wrd/home.htm>. Direct any questions regarding this application to the Water Resources Regional Office, 109 Cooperative Way, Suite 110, Kalispell MT 59901, Phone: 406-752-3267, Fax: 406-752-2843. An Environmental Assessment has been completed and is available for viewing at the Regional Office or on the DNRC website at <http://www.dnrc.state.mt.us/wrd/home.htm>.
Published in: Seeley Swan Pathfinder, February 13, 2003.

Seeley Swan Pathfinder — Thursday, February 13, 2003 — Page 5



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The Two Rivers Bank is located at the intersection of Highway 200 and Interstate 90 at Bonner/Milltown. Two Rivers Bank is the third branch of the Bitterroot Valley Bank and the Family of Banks. The Bank is named for its close proximity where the Clark Fork River and Blackfoot Rivers merge.

FAMILY OF BANKS
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Mullan Trail Bank (Superior & St. Regis) • Two Rivers Bank



BLACKFOOT
Proud Sponsor of this Week's School Lunch Menu

There will be no school on Friday, February 14 and Monday, February 17, to celebrate Presidents' Weekend.

Week of February 17, 2003

Monday, February 17 No School
Tuesday, February 18 Manwiches
Wednesday, February 19 Stromboli
Thursday, February 20 Spaghetti
Friday, February 21 Pancakes & Links

Girls' Basketball Features
Thur., Feb. 13, 5 p.m. — Seeley at Potomac
Tues., Feb. 18, 4 p.m. — Seeley at Lincoln

1-800-649-4108 www.blackfoot.net

Please Pause For Pets and Paws

ATTENTION

We will be sending out letters asking for raffle prizes for our upcoming spay and neuter program. We desperately need nice prizes to encourage the buying of our raffle tickets. Our medical bills have been very high. We need help!

Paws Up

to the Sommerdyke family, who brought us a cat which either left his home or had been deserted. Of course, Jennifer fell in love with him, but knew it was best we find him a home. Well, we had him neutered and tried to keep him, but he was so unhappy and not becoming social enough to adopt out. When Jennifer heard this, she went to Paws Up to see the cat. The cat was overjoyed and so loving. Guess what! The cat went back to the Sommerdyke home and is a happy and social camper. That cat knew what he wanted! Bless the Sommerdykes for all their caring. I think this is cat #12 or so they have saved!

Paws Up To Conor and Max

Once upon a time there was a fine young man who loved animals. His name is Conor. Conor and his family adopted two kittens from me and gave them a loving home. Then Conor felt in his heart that his family and he needed a dog. Well, Max was at Paws Up Safe Home and he so wanted a loving family. One day the Marlatt family visited Max and it was love at first sight. So Max went home to live with Conor and his family. Conor is a very good pet owner and takes good care of Max. Conor has been taught since being a very little boy that pets are to be loved and cared for. Conor, we at Paws Up Safe Home are so proud of you and Max. Max is so smart isn't he?

Paws Up

to Linda in Arizona. Thanks for the letter and encouraging words. Yes I agree with what you wrote in your letter. I would have loved to have been able to voice myself more clearly, but I am sometimes edited out, possibly for good reason. I hate that when it happens!

Please Consider Us!

Bonnie, a beautiful Lab/Retriever, is still waiting for the perfect home and love. Take a look at our two spayed Rott cross puppies. They are so sweet and loving and very smart! We still have the big Collie, but he has been spoken for as soon as the people get into their home.

Taken from the Missoulian, ADOPT A FRIEND, from Animal Control

"Although it's not unusual for Animal Control to come in contact with neglected dogs, cats, or horses, we don't see a lot of actual animal abuse. That's what has made two cases we've come across lately all the more disturbing. One involved two small kittens; one had a broken leg, and the other had either suffered head trauma or been strangled. These aren't things that happen by accident! The other concerned a young puppy that had been put inside a toilet at the Pattee Canyon public area rest room. She was saved by a passerby who heard her crying and fished her out. All three of these animals were rescued and are now recovering, but none of them should ever have suffered such terrible treatment. Here's our advice: If you can't treat a pet with love and respect, then just leave it alone. If you can't teach your children the proper way to handle animals, then make sure they leave them alone too."

Please read and please people, teach your children how to love, care and respect animals. Seeing abuse at home carries over to your children, who in turn abuse animals and go on to abuse humans. Stop the abuse!

Paws Up

to Bill and Jackie Buitenhuis, MaGee and Molly for the great donation and help with our medical needs.

Minimum fee for dogs recovered at Paws Up Safe Home - \$25.00

<i>Elinor Williamson,</i> 406 677-2174 PO Box 522 Seeley Lake, MT 59868 Fax #368168	<i>Paws Up Safe Home</i> Renee Stawc 406 677-3435 PO Box 323 Seeley Lake, MT 59868
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Open at 8:00 a.m.
Saturdays & Sundays

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Breakfast to noon!

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Lunch Specials
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Darts, &
Pool Tables.

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Family Restaurant
& Lounge

To-Go Orders
Call 677-2422

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Valentine Celebration
Prime Rib & Shrimp Scampi
\$14.95
Sweetheart Dance
Karaoke Duet Contest

Drawings Throughout the Night • Drink Specials

Pop's Place
All dinner specials - \$7.95
served with choice of soup or salad

Fri., Feb. 14 - Seafood Platter
Sat., Feb. 15 - Beef Kabobs
Sun., Feb. 16 - Granny's Pot Roast
Mon., Feb. 17 - Sweet & Sour Chicken
Tues., Feb. 18 - Spaghetti
Wed., Feb. 19 - Chicken Enchiladas
Thur., Feb. 20 - Steak & Veggies
Fri., Feb. 21 - Big Bob's Belly Buster

Check Out Our Pizza Menu
Highway 83, Seeley Lake • 677-2970

MOM & DAD
Send your High school student
A home-made valentine
With a message from you
and a chocolate!
SSHS Cheerleaders...
Call Terry! for order.
677-2119
\$2.00

24th Annual Snow Joke Half Marathon February 22

by Pat Caffrey,
Race Director

The 24th Annual Snow Joke Half Marathon will take place on February 22nd at Seeley Lake. The 13.1 mile footrace is sponsored by the Cheetah Herders Athletic Club. Complete details are posted at www.cheetahherders.com.

Last year 188 entrants completed the event. Brandon Fuller of Missoula was the overall winner in a time of 77 minutes 51 seconds (course record 68:10). Mariann Foster of Lodgegrass was the first woman in a time of 89:38 (women's course record 85:25).

Division winners will be inducted into the Royal Order of Cheetah Rangers. If the fastest man or woman breaks their respective course record, the registration fee to a future race will be awarded.

**Cheetah
Herders**
presents
24th Annual
SNOW JOKE
13.1 Mile Foot Race

RUN

Watch the Winners finish at
the Grade School.
Race starts Saturday,
Feb. 22, at 11 a.m.
Registration at 9:30 a.m.

Drivers - Please watch for
runners 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Another Seeley Lake Winter
Sports Spectacular

Ladyhawks, Blackhawks run into tough Loyola teams at Sister Rita Activity Center in last of regular season games

Everyone knows it's tough to go up against Loyola at the Sister Rita Activity Center in Missoula—hometown turf for the Loyola's girls' basketball team, The Breakers, and the boys' basketball team, The Rams.

That point was driven home again this past weekend when on Friday night the Breakers held off the Seeley-Swan Ladyhawks, 59-51, after the Ladyhawks had battled to within one point, 52-51, with under four minutes left to play.

The home court advantage proved insurmountable the following night when the Blackhawks struggled against a tough Loyola defense and couldn't turn the momentum their way even though a steal and a layup by Abe Madinger put the Hawks within four points in the final minute of play. Loyola made free throws when the Hawks were forced to foul and socked away a 63-57 win, leaving the Hawks in a tie with Frenchtown for second place in regular season District 5-B play. Florence claimed the district championship.

Ladyhawk Kaylee Williams scorched the nets though at Sister Rita Activity Center, connecting on five of six 3-point attempts and finishing the night with 17 points. Tatum Hoehn and Sarah Madinger added 9 apiece, Jessie Diamond had 7, Hayley Blackburn 6, Nicole Bostwick 2, and Sadie Linford 1.

Loyola's Jordan Noblitt scored 38 points in a losing effort (91-85) in Seeley earlier this year, but his 26 points Saturday night, along with a Loyola defense that held the league's leading scorer, Abe Madinger, to only 12 points, was enough this time.

Noblitt, who scored 30 of his 38 points in the second half against Seeley earlier this year, again found the range in the second half, scoring 20 of his 26 points in that period. As a team, the Hawks matched Loyola point for point in the second half, 37 each, but were unable to overcome a six-point half-time deficit.

Zach Nelson, hitting on three 3-pointers, paced the Hawks with

17 points. Spencer Balcom matched Madinger at 12 points. Rion Nash had 6, Cody Hard 5, Riley Devins 3, and Tanner Marlatt 2.

Superior Holds Off Hawks
The Superior Bobcats held off the Hawks in the final period to post a 64-60 win over the Hawks in the last home game here Friday.

The Hawks spotted Superior 12 points in the first period, 21-9, and 6-foot 7-inch Colin Donovan

used his superior height to rack up 22 points and a lot of rebounds.

Abe Madinger scored 19 points for the Hawks. Cody Hard found the range at 17 points. Zach Nelson added 17, Tanner Marlatt 4, Spencer Balcom 3, and Riley Devins 2.

District 5-B tournament play gets underway Wednesday (Feb. 12) for both boys and girls at Hamilton. See bracket elsewhere in this issue.



Tanner Marlatt gets by 6'-7" Colin Donovan for two in the losing effort against Superior last Friday. —G. Noland photo

February Love Without Fear Month

The following poem was written by a student at the Seeley Swan High School from her personal experience with domestic violence in her home. She agreed to have this published in hopes that mothers will think about how not only they are being destroyed, but also how domestic violence effects the children.

A Teen Fight For Sanity

He strangles and hits her without guilt;
Releases the anger that alcohol has built.

Since he has come, life has been hell.
Why couldn't he have just stayed in jail?

He got out, and mom let him back in.
All was fine, until he hit her again.

My brother Billy came to her defense;
But Ben was beyond common sense.

Billy began to cry, he couldn't stop the beast.
He felt he hadn't helped—not even in the least.

Billy's anger soon turned to shame;
His friend was watching as if it were a bad game.

Another brother, John, scared and didn't know what to do.
He hid under the blankets, it was like DE JAVU.

He remembered the time Ben put his hands around his throat.
Told him to watch out or he'd no longer be afloat.

Again a day came when Ben drank too much;
He was past sober—completely out of touch

I dialed the necessary number—911.
My mom's eyes rolled back—her world spun.

The operator told me to "Stay on the line."
She said "Calm down, it will all be fine."

Although I'm just a teen, I already knew
That this would not end until they were through.
Anonymous Teen

Love shouldn't hurt physically or mentally.
If someone is hurting you; make the call for help.
SSTEP

Seeley Swan Talk, Education and Protection
677-3177

All Calls Are Confidential

The World's Gateway to Seeley Lake

Wine & Chocolate Social, Art Auction this Saturday



Pianist Katherine Moon will entertain.

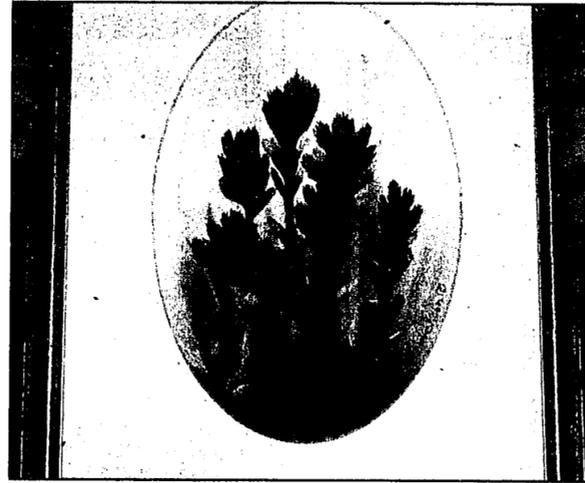
ART AUCTION AND SOCIAL IN SEELEY LAKE, FEBRUARY 15

Pianist Katherine Moon, winner of last year's Alpine Artisans scholarship, will entertain at this year's Wine and Chocolate Social and art auction. Alpine Artisans will start "puttin' on the Ritz" at the Seeley Lake Community Hall at 7:00 p.m. Saturday, February 15th.

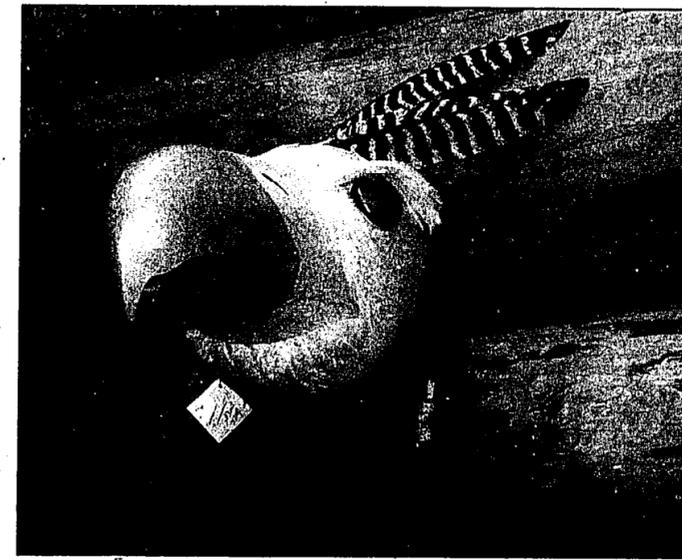
Wine and Chocolate festivities will include live and silent auctions of original Montana art, juried by Great Falls artist Ron Ukrainetz. There will be tasting of wines from the Pacific Northwest, chocolate delicacies, and hot and cold hors d'oeuvres.

The admission price of \$10.00 may be applied toward any live auction item costing over \$40.00. The Wine and Chocolate Social is a fundraiser for the Alpine Artisans scholarship fund for a graduating high school senior continuing in any phase of the arts, as well as other activities of the organization. Contact: Peggy Meinholtz, (406) 677-3171

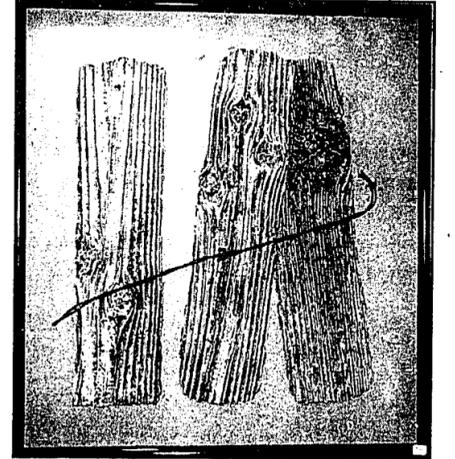
Photo by Pat Swan Smith



Watercolor by Bev Erickson



Gourd mixed media by Patricia Robinson-Grant



Cast Paper by Alan Taylor



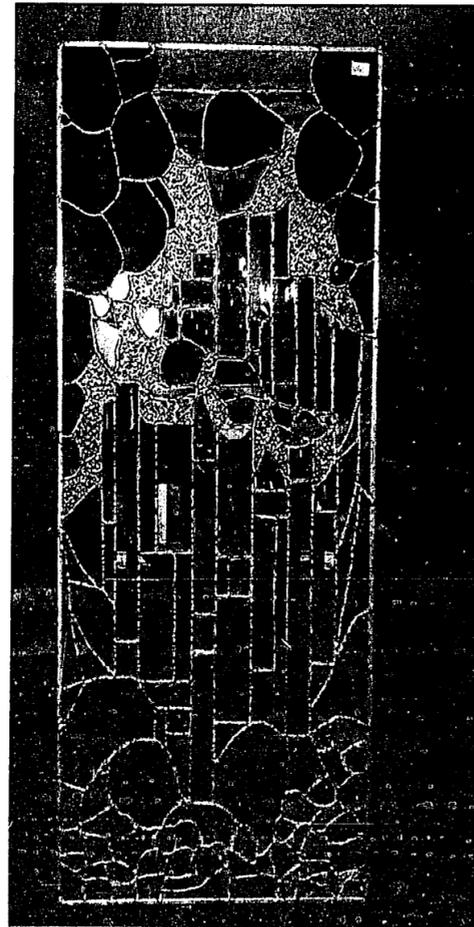
Watercolor by Sandi Antonich



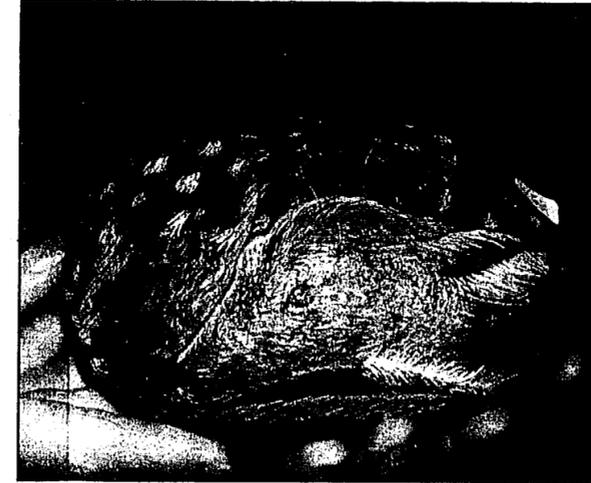
Oil Painting by Ed Wolff



Iron work table by Trent Toms



Stained Glass by Linda Weaver



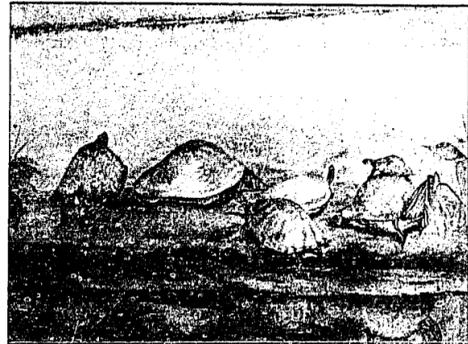
Rock Art Fawn by Lynn Johnson



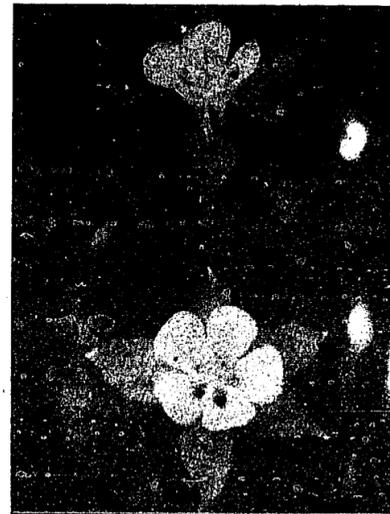
Batik by Donna Love



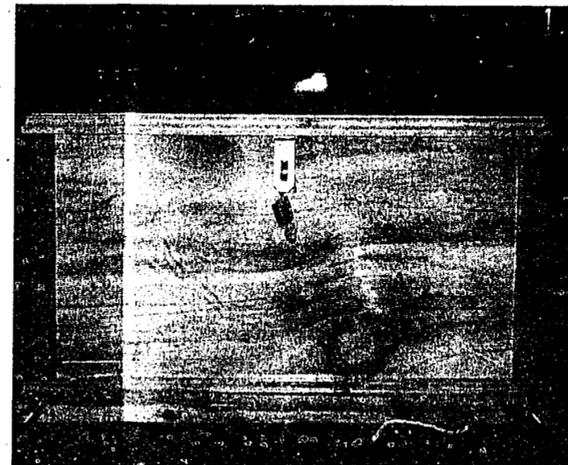
Photography by Steve Ellis



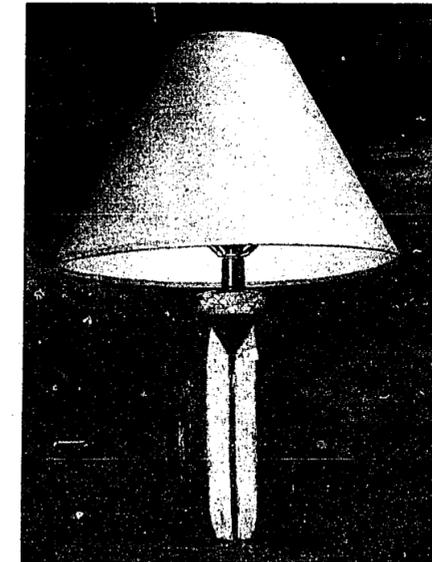
Watercolor by Marilyn Wolff



Photography Colleen Nicholson



Wooden chest by Tom Maberry and Arny Brown



Pottery Lamp by Marion Burmeister



Horsehair Pottery by Bob Korn

Photos by
Jackie Fassett

OSCR Nordic races re-scheduled for this weekend

Lynn Carey, who cancelled the Nordic OSCR ski races during the recent Winterfest, has decided there's just enough snow to go ahead. The races, 10K, 25K, and 50K cross country distances in both men's and women's divisions, will get underway Saturday, Feb. 15, at the Nordic ski trails at 8 a.m.

The attachment is a photo of the first ever OSCR race start. Photo was taken by Dan Cainan, official starter. Description below written by Dan Cainan

Location is at Two Creek Ranch north of Ovando. Originally, OSCR stood for Ovando-Seeley Crosscountry Race. It was the first USSA sanctioned (maybe even THE first) 50 km race west of the Mississippi; and likely the first point-to-point 50 km ski race in the USA. The course started at the ranch house, went thru the ranch across Monture Creek to the Cottonwood Lakes Road, Looped up the Blind Canyon-East Morrell Road, and finished at the Community Hall. Participants were treated to skiing through a herd of elk. I started out about one hour before race time to set the track and remember being surprised by the lead skier wanting me to go faster as I was putzing along near Swamp Creek.



District 5-B Girls, Boys Tournaments at Same Time in Hamilton

This year has been different with boys and girls basketball taking place at the same time, and tournament time also will be different as both divisions will be playing simultaneously in Hamilton this week.

The Seeley-Swan Ladyhawks finished in third place in regular 5-B District play and the Blackhawks then play later that same day, meeting day, Feb. 12. The Blackhawks then play later that same day, meeting day, Feb. 12. The Blackhawks then play later that same day, meeting day, Feb. 12.

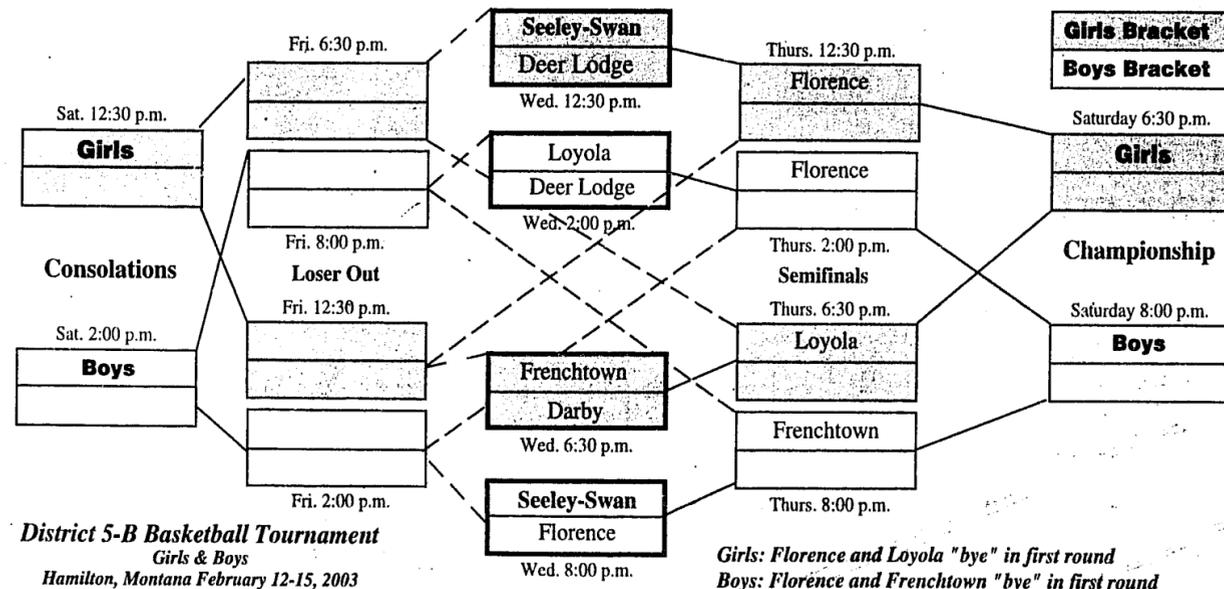
The Ladyhawks play Deer Lodge in the opening game of the tournament at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12. The Blackhawks then play later that same day, meeting day, Feb. 12.

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Florence and Loyola received byes in the girls' bracket. Florence and Frenchtown received byes in the boys' bracket. In case of ties, as with Seeley-Swan and Frenchtown in the boy's regular season play, bracket byes are determined by a drawing held at the beginning of the season. The Hawks drew number 6 so were out of the running for a bye, even though tied for second in the league.

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Lincoln musher expected to win Race to Sky

by Pam Beckstrom
First Place Race to the Sky Finish Expected Tonight (Tuesday, Feb. 18)

Despite warm weather conditions, Race to the Sky organizers announced that Jason Barron left the last checkpoint having completed all his mandatory lay-overs. He left at 5:18 p.m. on Tuesday. The finish line is only about 50 miles away and he is expected to cross that line around 9:30 this evening at the West Side Trailhead about 4 miles north of Seeley Lake.

Jason is 31 years old and operates the Team KanaBear Kennel in the mountains surrounding Lincoln. He and wife Harmony are both mushers and kennel operators. Harmony won the Race to the Sky 350 last year. This is Jason's first Race to the Sky. Both raced the Iditarod last year and Jason has run it other times in the past. He crossed the finish line with his team of Alaskan huskies with 11 dogs.

Jason was followed closely by his father, John Barron, for most

of the race. They came into the first checkpoint one minute apart and John Barron will leave the last checkpoint only 20 minutes behind son Jason. Still, this is a dog race and anything could happen. We will have to wait to see who crosses the finish line first.

John Barron left 20 minutes behind his son at 5:38 p.m. He has

been racing most of his life and has won the John Beargrease marathon in Minnesota twice, has raced the Iditarod and finished a close second in last year's Race to the Sky behind his daughter-in-law.

The trail was challenging this year as race organizers had to rearrange the normal 350 mile trail due to lack of snow in Lincoln and

Ovando. It consisted of steep climbs and dramatic switchbacks. Organizers also shortened this race to just over 300 miles. It continues to be an Iditarod qualifier.

Race officials said the mushers were in good spirits and the dogs looked good and were resting well both on the trail and in the checkpoints.



The inevitable dog clash as mushers get their teams ready for the start of the Race to the Sky here last Sunday. —Deborah Stack photo

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The Corner Deli

Like people and food? Then this is the place for you! The Corner Deli is in the busy heart of Seeley Lake right on Hwy. 83. Keep this viable business up and running or let your imagination go and start something new. Great corner location. Included in the price of \$135,000 are all fixtures, furniture, and equipment.

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 email: Seeley@SeeleySwanBrokers.com

6124 Hwy 83 N
 Swan Valley, MT 59826
 406-754-3300 / 1-888-577-3321
 email: Swan@SeeleySwanBrokers.com

Thank You - Thank You

We would like to thank all who helped during Paul's recent illness with cards, calls, flowers and support. However, we cannot forget to thank you for the many, many prayers that were offered and answered. People like you make the world a brighter and happier place. Thanks.

Paul & Bonnie Miller

SNOW PLOWING & SANDING

Special rates for driveways on The Double Arrow Ranch.

John Richards
406-677-2600

If no answer, leave message or Call 677-2344

Partners Hospice Volunteer Training

March 4 - April 3, 2003

The training, held Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., offers its participants a thorough explanation of hospice services and the dying and death process from spiritual, physical, and psycho-social perspectives.

Contact Volunteer Coordinator Heather Harrington, 406-327-3657, to obtain an application.

Partners Hospice & Palliative Care Services

A program of Partners in Home Care, Inc.

SSHS Students of the Week



Aleta Farra - Aleta is the most independent, inspirational, energetic individual I can think of. She has amazing abilities beyond her years and is a trendsetter in the best way. I admire her determination.

Students of the Week submitted by staff of SSHS



Ramsy Hoehn - Ramsy rates right up there in the independence category. He sets goals and has the work ethic to attain them. He is a quiet leader who cares about those near him. I have never heard Ramsy complain.

The World's Gateway to the Seeley Swan

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

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Medical Center sponsoring lecture series on health issues

Seeley-Swan Medical Center Lecture Series & Health Fair
The Seeley-Swan Medical Center, in cooperation with St. Patrick Hospital, Tamarack Management Inc., and Western Montana Clinic, is sponsoring a lecture series to educate citizens throughout the Seeley-Swan and Ovando communities regarding a number of health care issues. In addition to the lecture series, these groups will also be sponsoring a Health Fair on Saturday, March 22nd.

The lecture series will be held once a month at Seeley Lake Elementary School in the multi-purpose room, beginning Tuesday, February 18. The first one-hour lecture will be given by Jeanne Koester from Public Health about "bio-terrorism," specifically addressing the recent concern over smallpox as well as other infectious disease. The lecture will begin at 7:00 p.m.

The series will continue through May and cover a variety of subjects. The Medical Center will be soliciting other ideas for future lectures from participants and the community. There will be a questionnaire at the first lecture with suggested topics to choose from and a space for write-ins.

The Health Fair will be held in Seeley Lake at the Community Center. There will be many booths with useful health information for adults and children alike, so bring the whole family. Blood draws at a reduced rate will be available through the Seeley-Swan Medical

Center several weeks prior to the Health Fair, and results can be picked up at the Fair. Screening appointments will also include scans for osteoporosis, a condition which results in weakened bones and increase fracture risk in both men and women.

"We are very excited to be able to bring these services to the region, and hope that everyone from Helmsville to Condon will benefit from the information made available at these events," states Dr. Christine Barstad, physician at the Medical Center. "If we don't get to a topic this year, we'll try again next year. Hope to see you there!"

First Youth Snow Rodeo

The First Annual Youth Snow Rodeo will be held on Sunday, February 16 at the old Seeley Lake Heliport from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Included will be mechanical inspections, cold weather survival, snowmobile laws and ethics, riding instruction, avalanche awareness and much more. All riders ages 8 to 17 are welcome, with an accompanying adult. Adult riders are also welcome.

Come have a professional mechanic take a look at your sled, improve your riding skills, learn some good to know winter survival skills, and learn how to ride your sled safely, ethically and legally. Come out and have some fun!!!

Sponsored by the Seeley Lake Drifters, Kurt's Polaris, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the U.S. Forest Service.

New Members on SVSS Board

Swan Valley Senior Services Board welcomed two new members, Russ Abolt and John Yajko, at their regular meeting on February 6th.

Out-going board member Don Erickson was thanked for his years of service as well being instrumental in helping to start the senior meals program in the Condon area.

Plans are underway for a Volunteer Appreciation event that will be March 9th. The Board will hold their Annual Meeting on March 6th, at which time the new officers will be elected.

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"THE PLACE FOR STEAK"
"OPEN 5 DAYS A WEEK"
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Come in and see Beth @ Morrell Stoves & Spas in the Bison & Bear Trading Center or call 677-2920

Chicken Coop & Lounge

Open For Breakfast At 7:00 A.M. 7 days a week

The "Working Man's" Breakfast & Supper Club

Cafe Phone 677-2980
Lounge Phone 677-9214

Senior Nutrition Program Menu

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, February 17
Closed for Presidents' Day

Tuesday, February 18
Shepherd's Pic

Wednesday, February 19
Birthday Dinner - BBQ Country Ribs

Thursday, February 20
Chef's Choice

Friday, February 21
Baked Meat Loaf

Double Arrow Landowners Why Haul, When We Haul?

Larson Disposal now serves all the Double Arrow Ranch with **Year-Round Garbage Service.**

Carts will be furnished with the service. Weekly or bi-weekly schedules available.

CALL FOR RATES & SCHEDULES 677-2252

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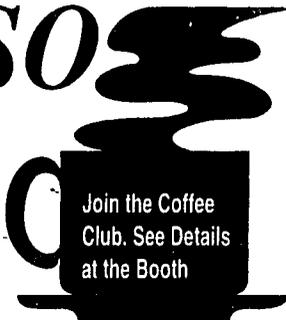
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Lunch Menu for this week...2/13 - 2/19

Thursday: Bagelwiches ordered in the booth today, made while you wait - .25 OFF

Friday: "Lynn Dee's Luscious" Lasagna Soup: zesty & filling

Saturday & Sunday: No soup but we have sandwiches

Monday: "Texas Lone Star" Chicken Tortilla Soup: zippy & delicious

Tuesday: "Terrific Tato Day" — Baked Potato with your choice of yummy toppings

Wednesday: "Cousin Polly's" Cream of Broccoli & Cheese Soup: cheesy & creamy!

~ 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., 12 oz. bowl with roll - \$2.50

Baked Potatoes \$2.00

YMCA News Update on Activities

Come and Join the FUN!

Adult Fitness Classes: Walk Fit and Step are being offered through the YMCA. Morning programs consist of the walking program or step class, you choose! We are also offering an evening step class.

Classes are held Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the Multi-Purpose Room at Seeley Lake Elementary School. Morning class is from 8:15 to 9:15 AM. Evening class is 5:15 to 6:15 PM.

Walk-Fit is \$15.00 per month and Step is \$25.00 per month for morning or evening classes. COME AND JOIN US! PAY FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY AND COME IN MARCH FOR 1/2 PRICE!!!

YMCA Basketball Programs Have Started

Bitty Ball (1st & 2nd grade boys and girls) started Saturday, February 8 and will continue through March 29 in the Seeley Lake Elementary School Gym from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. The registration fee is \$20.00. Scholarships and family discounts are available.

3rd & 4th Grade Basketball began Wednesday, February 5 and will continue through March 26 in the Seeley-Swan High School Gym from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. The registration fee is \$20.00. Family discounts and scholarships are available.

Any questions please call the Seeley-Swan YMCA Outreach office at 677-3330.

Special of the Week

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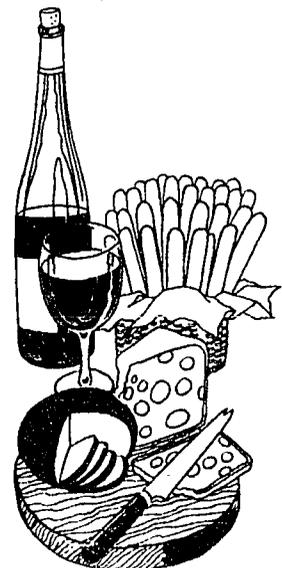
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