

Merry  
Christmas!

Seeley  
Swan



Ryan Richards selected  
to visit Japan with 31  
scouts from across  
the nation

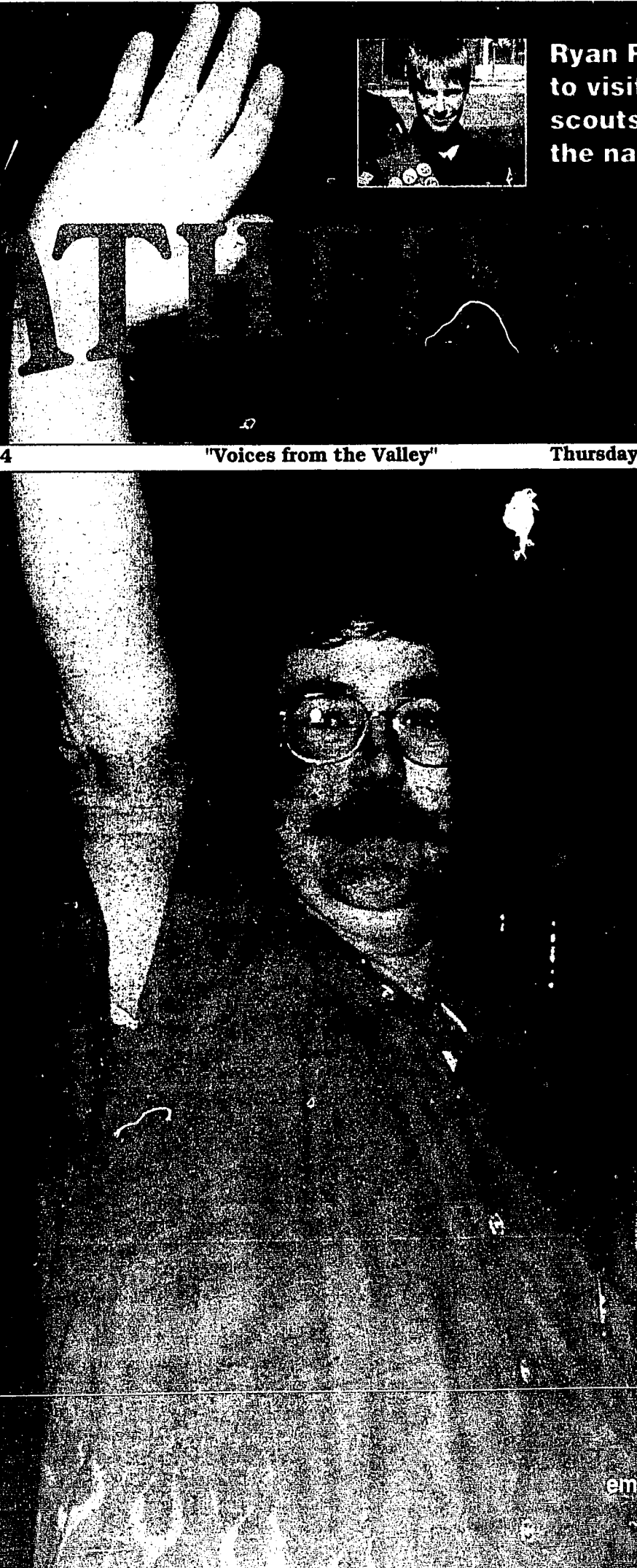
Vol XVIII, No. 34

"Voices from the Valley"

Thursday, December 25, 2003

# Colin Moon retires

— says farewell  
after 22 years  
with fire department



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GARY NOLAND, EDITOR      PUBLISHER'S NOTICE      MILLIE NOLAND, ADVERTISING

Seeley Swan Pathfinder (ISSN 0894-2994, USPS 000-919) is published weekly by Pathfinder Press, Inc., Box 702, Seeley Lake, MT 59868 (ph. 406/677-2022). Area served is Seeley Lake, Swan Valley and neighboring communities. Distribution is by mail subscription (\$25 per year in Missoula, Lake or Powell County; \$35 per year elsewhere in U.S.) and by newsstand sales. Periodicals postage paid at Seeley Lake, MT. Postmaster: Send address changes to: Seeley Swan Pathfinder, P.O. Box 702, Seeley Lake, MT 59868-0702.

## Editorial Comment

# Chips . . . bits & pieces

**Colin Moon retires...**

We're a far cry from Time magazine, but if we were to have a Pathfinder "Person of the Year," it would have to be the man on the front page of this issue, who is retiring from the Seeley Lake Fire Department and the DNRC Clearwater Unit after many years of distinguished service.

I know he'll frown when he sees that word "distinguished," because Colin is a down-home sort of guy who will say he was just doing his job.

The thing is, he happened to do it really well, was liked and respected by fellow firemen and residents for his capabilities, sense of humor, and fair treatment of people. In short he's a man for all seasons — just more suited for the fire season!

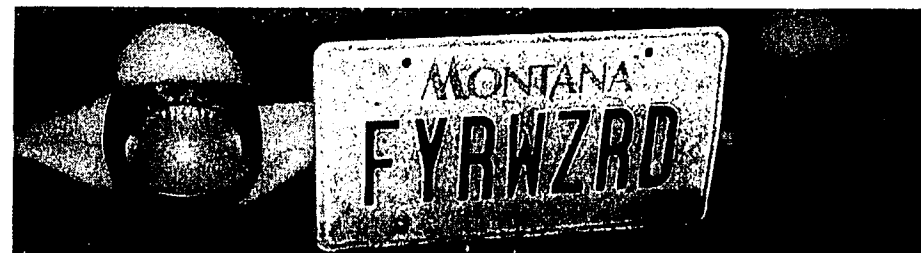
The Seeley Lake Fire Department honored him at the recent Christmas party, and this spring he'll retire from the DNRC Clearwater Unit.

Pat Swan Smith does a good job this week of revealing a little about the man and his character. With his years of residence here, many already are quite familiar with Colin Moon. I doubt there are few other individuals that have earned the respect he has from all quarters.

For myself, I happened to move in across the street from Colin and Jeanne some 15 years ago. Their daughter, Katherine, and our daughter, Michelle, grew up together. For years I borrowed Colin's notorious pickup and his chain saw to go get my own firewood. He helped with numerous oil changes and tuneups on my rig. We were guests at their family reunions and shared many laughs. He probably saved my life on one occasion. Who could ask for more from a neighbor.

Thanks, Colin, and Good Luck.

—Gary Noland



The "Fire Wizard" Retires!

## 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**  
Lions Club, 4th Wed, 6:30pm, 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  
**Al-Anon:** 677-0016  
**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.

**MONTHLY EVENTS**  
**FAIM Outreach Special:** 1st & 3rd Thur, 9:30-3, Seeley-Swan Med. Ctr.  
**WIC Clinic,** 1st Tues., 9:20-3:30, Faith Chapel  
**Pinochle,** every 1st & 3rd Sat., Senior Citizens Center, 7 pm  
**DUMPSTER TRANSFERS 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

**Seeley Swan Stage:** Local trips Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri. Missoula trip Tues. Please call 677-2018 Monday morning to schedule rides.  
**LIBRARIES:**  
**Seeley Lake Public Library** (Seeley-Swan High School) Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (closed 11 a.m.-noon), Wed, 3-8 p.m., Sat, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 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.

## \$1,000 Reward offered for puppy stolen in Seeley Lake

On December 10th, Kelsey Brewer's puppy was stolen out of his father's unlocked white 1999 Ford Crew Cab diesel pickup while it was parked at Rovero's. His father, Eddy Brewer, said that \$25 was also taken along with the puppy.

Kelsey, a 14-year-old kid suffered a serious brain injury two years ago when he fell from the back of a pickup truck. Over the past two years, he went through five surgeries and had to learn how to walk, talk and write.

Now he's torn apart over the theft of his buddy that he slept with every night. Regardless of the reason the thief took the puppy, the family is pleading for its return.

"It's been awful," Shannon Brewer said. "I went to Seeley on Saturday and put up signs. The sign my husband had posted on Wednesday was gone. The poster I put up at the Valley Market was taken down not long after I put it up. Because of the signs disappearing, I'm just sure the puppy is in Seeley Lake. We aren't going to press charges, we just want our son's puppy back."

"I'd be so happy if we could get her back before Christmas. That would be the best



Christmas present ever."

Jessie Belle is a tiny puppy, white with large brown spots; a brown face with brown folded ears and a white streak on her nose. She has a cropped tail and a chubby belly.

If you have information about Jessie Belle, please call Shannon Brewer at either (406) 244-5797 or (406) 544-4793. If you have the puppy, you may drop her off at Paws Up Safe House here in Seeley and no questions will be asked. You may also call Elinor Williamson here in Seeley at 677-2174.

That puppy was a positive part of a struggling boy's life; please help this family get Jessie Belle back.

## Ryan Richards selected for trip to Japan with scouts

Ryan Richards, Venture Crew 2982, Seeley Lake, Montana quickly opened the letter from the Special Selections Committee, International Division, National Office, Boy Scouts of America when he arrived home from school on December 10th and then exploded with excitement.

The letter notified Ryan that he had been selected as one of 32 scouts and 8 adult leaders selected from throughout the nation to travel to Japan in 2004 to participate in the Scouting Association of Japan - Boy Scouts of America Exchange Program.

The friendship mission begins in Dallas, Texas on March 3rd with a dinner hosted by the National Office of the Boy Scouts of America.

The contingent will then fly to Japan on March 4th and while in Japan will:

- Participate in a youth forum with Scouts from the Asia-Pacific Region of the World Organization of the Scout Movement;
- Tour historic cities and ancient sites in Japan;
- Enjoy two days of hospitality with a Japanese Scouting family;
- Enjoy fellowship with Scouts and leaders from Japan in friendship events.

The selection process for this

once in a lifetime opportunity is thorough and rigorous as these carefully selected Scouts and leaders serve as ambassadors from their communities, states, and nation.

When they return home from Tokyo on March 14th they will bring with them friendships and insights of the global community in which we all live that will last a lifetime.

But that is not all - while December 10th will be a date Ryan will remember, so will he also remember December 11th, the night he completed his Eagle Scout Board of Review.

The Eagle Court of Honor will be held in February 2004, and Ryan will go to Japan not only as a Scouting ambassador, but also as an Eagle Scout, the highest rank

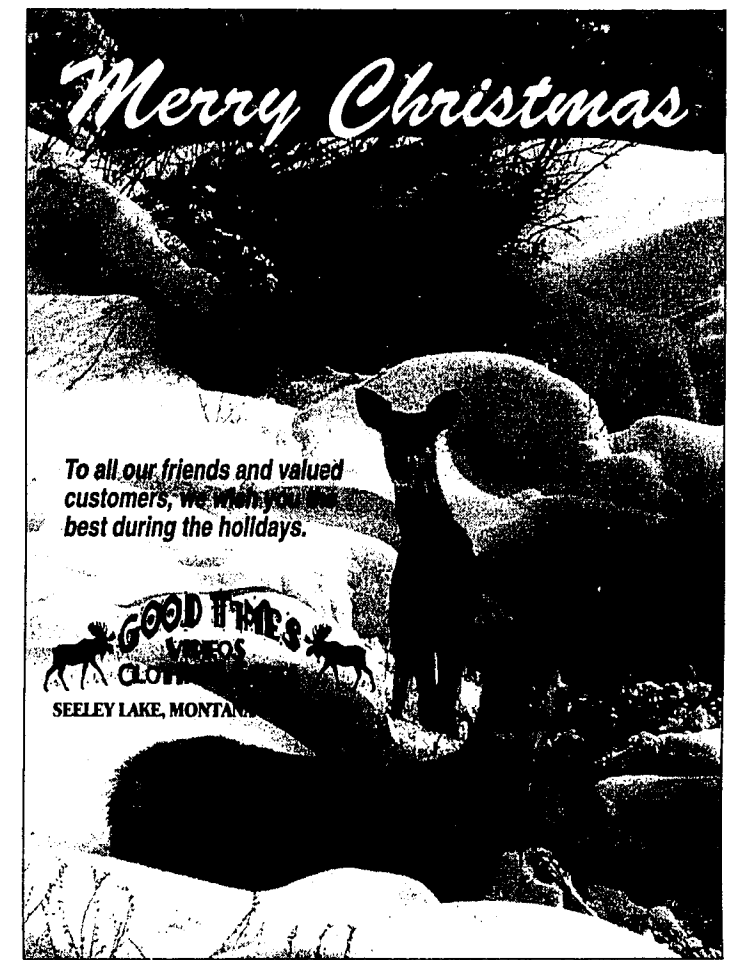
awarded to a youth member by the Boy Scouts of America.

Ryan, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Richards of Seeley Lake, is an honor student, a 3-sport student athlete, and a member of the 5 Valleys honor band.

His accomplishments in Scouting to date include earning the Arrow of Light, God and Me religious award, and the World Conservation award as a Cub Scout, completion of the Montana Council Junior Leader Training Course, service on the staff of the Junior Leader Training Course, responsible leadership positions in his Boy Scout Troop and Venture Crew, and the Montana Council Certificate of Merit for using the skills he has learned in Scouting to save a life.

		WEATHER		
DATE	HIGH	LOW	CONDITIONS	
Dec 1	35	23	Trace precip., trace snow, mostly cloudy.	
Dec 2	37	30	0.05" precip., overcast with light rain.	
Dec 3	41	32	0.03" precip., overcast with intermittent showers.	
Dec 4	38	9	Foggy early then clear, partly cloudy & breezy in p.m.	
Dec 5	36	22	Mostly cloudy.	
Dec 6	37	31	0.19" precip., overcast with light rain.	
Dec 7	38	26	0.01" precip., 0.2" snow, freezing rain turned to snow last p.m., clear today.	

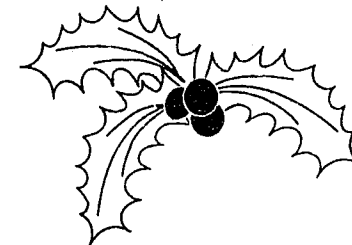
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# Montana's Reindeer and Reindeer Surrogates

By Mike Thompson

This is the time of year when reindeer fly overhead and land on rooftops. Then they're gone until next Christmas.

But, did you know that reindeer, or caribou as they are known in North America, may have lived year-round in Montana? Yes, there were enough sightings in the Yaak and along the North Fork of the Flathead River in the late 1880s and early 1900s to suggest that a small population might have been resident.

It would make a handy stop for Santa Claus, where he could have traded tired stock for fresh ones on his annual trip around the world.

But, nowadays the closest wild caribou live about 25 miles north of the Montana border, in British Columbia, according to Dr. Kerry Foresman in his recently published guide to The Wild Mammals of Montana.

Moose, elk, mule deer, and white-tailed deer are the next closest relatives to reindeer that live in Montana, but I'm afraid it would be like running diesel fuel in a gasoline engine if Saint Nick tried to hitch them up in place of the real

thing. You might not know exactly what would happen, but you would know better than to try it.

If I were Santa and needed to replace a flying reindeer in a pinch, I'd try a mountain goat. They're not afraid of heights, they already live as close to the jet stream as you can get while still on the ground in Montana, and they are durable.

As a matter of fact, back in the 1940s and 1950s Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) tested the airworthiness and endurance of mountain goats in our part of the world. You'll find no reference to Santa Claus in FWP's report on the project, authored by James McLucas. The purpose of FWP's work supposedly was to restore mountain goats to native and other suitable habitats across Montana by capturing and relocating goats from areas of abundance.

But, you can't help suspecting the heavy hand of Claus when you read between the lines of the historic McLucas report. And, the exercises that the goats went through bear close resemblance to basic training for NASA astronauts. Consider the following quoted passages from McLucas:

During the South Fork of the



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

Flathead trapping operation, a four-place Stinson plane was used. The back seat and right front seat were removed and three goats were placed on the floor. They were blindfolded and had their feet tied; a safety strap was run through their horns to hold them down. This method was fairly successful, but it is believed that if they are given a sedative, it will improve the safety factor by keeping them quieted, especially during takeoffs.

I can attest to McLucas' wisdom. Jerry Gallagher and I once rode on the smooth floor in the back of a Hughes 500 helicopter—with the doors removed—each holding a struggling bighorn sheep in our arms. Jerry and I would have benefited tremendously from sedatives as our precious bundles pushed with their hooves against the front seats, inching our butts ever closer to the open air.

McLucas goes on to describe a really unusual goat trap in the Bob Marshall:

This unique trap is located on the South Fork of the Flathead River in the Bob Marshall Wilderness Area in Montana. Where all of the other goat traps are located on ridges and mountains above 7,500 feet, this one is located on the very river edge and in high water. The lick is under water. The elevation of this trap is approximately 4,000 feet, and mountain goats have used it a great number of years.

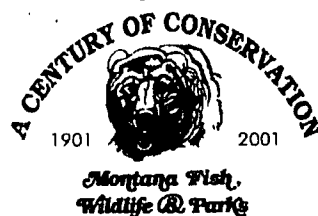
The photograph of the trap in the McLucas report makes it look like a floating platform on the edge of the river. So, now we know that mountain goats can fly, and they can splash down in water after re-entry into the atmosphere. McLucas continues:

Shooting rapids on trip to Black Bear Ranger Station and airfield. Goats are put in crates of airplane tubing and four goats are taken per trip. About 9-1/2 miles are covered in approximately 45 minutes compared to 2 hours or

more by trail on-pack horses. The trip is much cooler and smoother than it would be by pack horse. All sizes of goats can be taken by boat whereas they would have to be selected and the smaller animals taken by pack horses.

A grand total of 305 mountain goats were put through this or other "training" programs, and were ultimately transplanted to new habitats between 1941 and 1956. Mountain goats in the Swan Range and Bob Marshall were source populations for transplants to other areas. Island mountain ranges such as the Crazy Mountains and Gates of the Mountains were destinations.

So, rest assured that there are unpublicized options at the disposal of the Claus staff that could be implemented to deliver toys to Seeley Lake and Condon in the event of an emergency. And, don't be surprised if someday Santa's reindeer appear distinctly white, short-horned, and grumpy.



# Celebrating Birthday of Jesus Christ

The Christmas of the Church will be celebrated in Seeley Lake and Condon both on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at Faith Lutheran Church in Condon on December 24 at 7:00 p.m., and at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Seeley Lake on December 24 at 9:00 p.m. Christmas Day Festival Service will also be held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church on Christmas Day, December 25, at 10:00 a.m.

Unlike the ancient pagan celebrations, Christmas in the Church is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ: "And they will call His name Jesus, because He will save the people from their sins." Christmas, which means "Christ-Mass" celebrates the eternal God coming in the flesh, born of a Virgin, and given to us in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, instituted by Christ Himself. Pastor Benson stated that this is one of the "high" festivals of the Church Year, in which the faithful come in spirit and in truth to rejoice in the good news that the promised Messiah, foretold throughout the Old Testament, now comes "in the flesh." The angels of the Lord appeared to faithful shepherds, because all faithful pastors are hearers of the angelic voice of God. But they were greatly afraid, for who can stand when He appears? Yet the angel spoke the Gospel to them: *Do not be afraid! Why not? For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord.* For this is the day which the Lord hath made; therefore we will not fear, but rejoice and be glad in it. And the selfsame Lord, Who has made the day, and

whose glory *shone around them*, He it is, and not another, who is found *wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.*

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will include many of the familiar and loved Christmas carols, including Silent Night, Holy Night and Joy To The World. The Christmas story from Luke 2

will be the center of the Service, climaxed by the Sermon on this familiar text. The community is cordially welcome to attend and join in the celebration of God coming in the flesh as foretold by the Prophets long ago to be the Savior of the world. For further information, please call 677-7677.

## Plans being made for seminar for infrastructure board members

Dear Seeley Lake Board Members & Officers, Plans are being made by the Community Council and Seeley Swan Hospital Board to cosponsor a "Board Development Seminar." The program is intended to raise awareness of roles and responsibilities of elected and volunteer board members. Legal and financial issues are among those that will be discussed.

The free seminar will be conducted by Dave Forbes and Martin Burke. Mr. Forbes is the Dean, School of Pharmacy and Allied Health Services, and also chairs the St. Patrick Hospital and Health Science Center board of directors. Mr. Burke is a professor of law at the Law School. Both are at the University of Montana.

The seminar will be held Saturday, January 10, 2004 at the Double Arrow Lodge Conference Center, from 10 a.m. until noon.

The seminar is intended for board members and officers of the various infrastructure organizations in Seeley Lake. If board members are not available, appointed representative would be welcome.

To help us plan for the event, please reply telling us how many people from your organization would you expect to attend. If you have questions about the seminar content, please call Tim Love at 677-3905. RON COX, Secretary

**Christmas Mass**  
at the  
**Living Water Catholic Church** will be held on  
**Christmas Day at 9:00 a.m.**

**Mountain Lakes Presbyterian Church**  
**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**  
7:00 pm  
Candles, Christmas carols, an ornament per family, & the celebration of Holy Communion. Come & celebrate the birth of our Savior.  
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CHRISTMAS EVE (at The Sycamore Tree)	11:00 P.M.
CHRISTMAS DAY	10:30 A.M.

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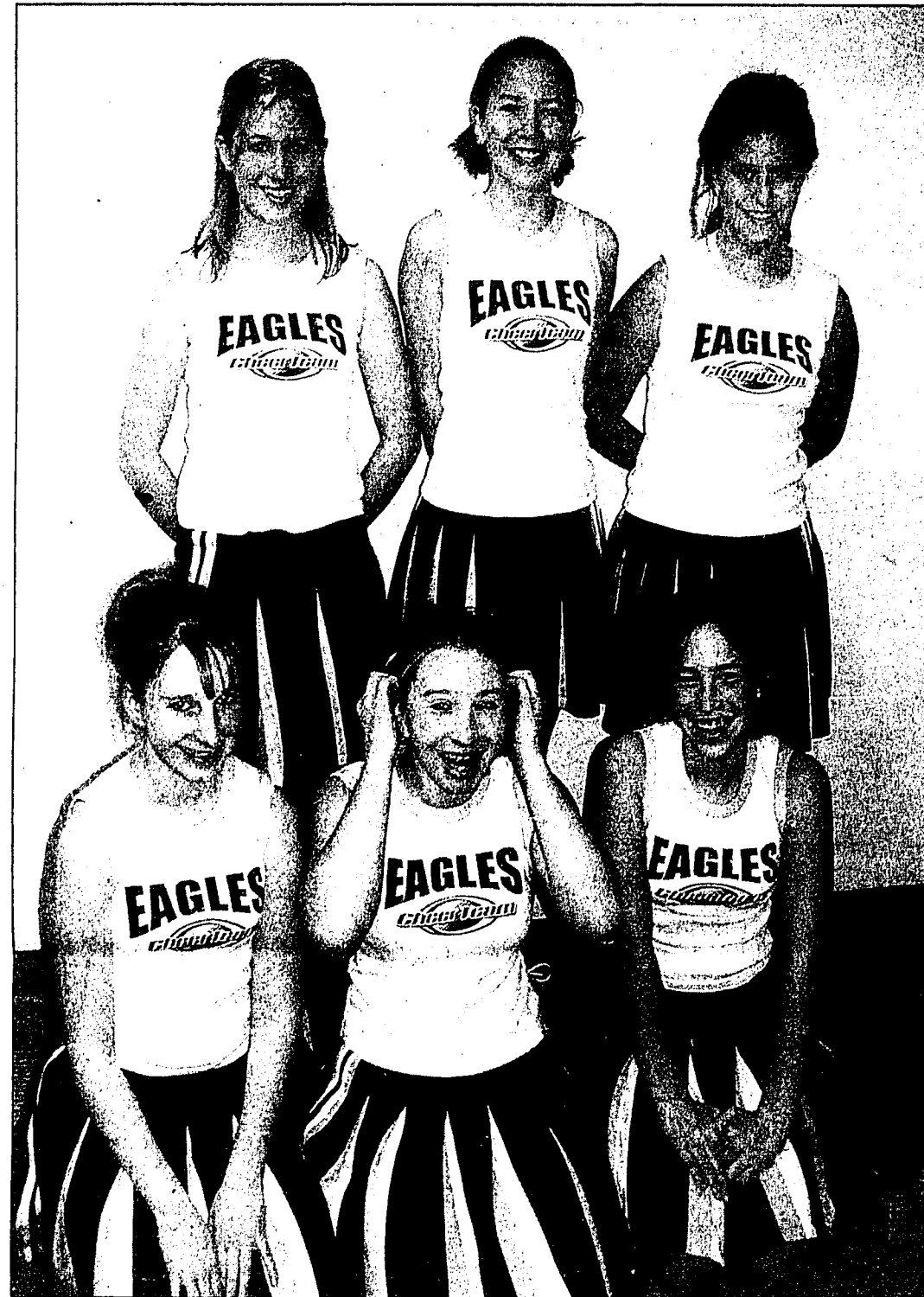
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**ELINOR'S FEATURED LISTING**  
• MLS# EXCLUSIVE  
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\* Taxes: 2003/Approx: \$667.64 • Homeowners Dues: \$175.00 • Schools: Seeley Lake • Heat: Wood/Electric • Water: Well • Septic: Private Septic System • Square Feet: 648 sq. ft. • Large Deck with Great Views • Legal: Lot 44 Phase 3 • Partially Furnished

**Willow Drive Seeley Lake \$139,000**  
Darling 2 bedroom, 1 bath home on almost one landscaped acre of land. New carpet and vinyl throughout. House includes large windows and deck off master bedroom. Additional lot may be purchased for \$29,000. Features: gas fireplace, community water, private septic, slab foundation, two-plus carport, legal Lot 6, Block 2, SL Homesites #4.

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The Seeley Lake Elementary Cheerleaders coached by Kristy Pohlman. Left to right: Front Row: Jessica Baier, Alyssa Teafoe and Paige Neubauer. Back Row: Brittany Bohler, Gina Clark and Katie Cook. —P. Swan Smith photo

### SSHS Students of the Week



**Laura Love:** Laura is working hard at developing these same qualities. She's always willing to meet a challenge and doesn't mind the extra effort it requires of her. Her pleasant demeanor and the respectful way she treats herself and others makes her a very enjoyable student.



**Jason Gamet:** Jason is the kind of young man we hope all of our young people will become. He is genuinely kind and respectful to everyone. He's responsible and hardworking. And he approaches life with a ready smile. Those are incredible tools for success.

Students of the Week submitted by staff at SSSH



Eagles scramble for a rebound. P. Swan Smith photo

## Eagles "A" squad finishes with revenge win over Drummond

**Eagles Finish Season 13-1**  
The Eagles "A" squad finished their season this past week with two more impressive wins. The Drummond Trojans came into Seeley Lake Monday night with a perfect 10-0 record. The Eagles' only loss came early in the year to this Trojan team. This time around, the boys were ready. The Eagles pushed the ball up the court and stayed out of the tough Trojan zone trapping. Seeley was led by Ryan Nelson's 24 points, with Zach Evans chipping in 16. Zach Balcom had a team high 19 rebounds to go with his

12 points. The Eagles shot 92% from the foul line and held a double digit lead for most of the game en route to a 63-35 victory.  
The next night, Philipsburg came to the Eagles home court. They were no match, as Seeley led the whole way for a 61-41 win. Nine players scored, four in double digits for the Eagles, led by Eric Ferdinand's 13 points. Evans chipped in 12, Nelson 11 and Balcom 10. Good job boys!  
Season totals include the Eagles winning by an average of 20.6 points per game, while giving up only 35 on

defense. Three players averaged double figures for the year for balanced scoring: Zach Evans with 14.6 points per game, Ryan Nelson with 14.5, and Zach Balcom with 11.5 points per game. The Eagles shot over 70% from the foul line on the season. The core of this team has played summer 3 on 3 tournaments for 3 years together.

	1	2	3	4	Final
Seeley	18	16	11	18	63
Drummond	10	9	12	4	35


Ryan Nelson - 24 pts, 7 rebs, 4 assists, 2 steals  
Zach Evans - 16 pts, 10 rebs, 1 assist,

2 steals  
Zach Balcom - 12 pts, 19 rebs, 6 assists, 2 steals  
Steve Maciag - 3 pts, 2 rebs, 2 steals  
Eric Ferdinand - 2 pts, 3 rebs  
Leland Bartlett - 2 pts, 2 rebs, 2 steals  
Tom Crowell - 2 pts, 4 rebs  
Chance Twedt - 2 pts, 2 rebs  
Ty Heaton - 1 reb  
Matt Pitman - 1 reb

	1	2	3	4	Final
Seeley	17	18	13	13	61
P-burg	5	8	14	14	41

Eric Ferdinand - 13 pts, 1 reb, 2 assists

Zach Evans - 12 pts, 6 rebs, 2 blocks  
Ryan Nelson - 11 pts, 6 rebs, 4 assists, 4 steals  
Zach Balcom - 10 pts, 8 rebs, 1 steal  
Steve Bergeson - 4 pts, 4 rebs, 1 steal  
Tom Crowell - 5 pts, 6 rebs, 2 steals  
Steve Maciag - 4 pts, 3 rebs, 1 steal  
Ryan Richards - 4 pts, 3 rebs, 2 steals  
Jesse Swigert - 1 pts, 1 reb  
Matt Pitman - 1 reb  
Chance Twedt - 3 rebs  
Ty Heaton - 3 rebs  
An awards banquet/pizza party will be held Wednesday, January 7 at 6:00 p.m. at the grade school.

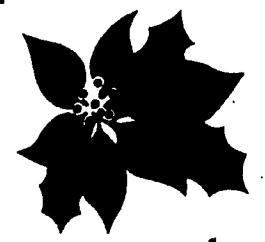


The gift of love, the gift of happiness, the gift of peace...  
May these be yours at Christmas and throughout the coming year.

*Marcia*  
*Pequi*  
*Wendy*  
*Carolyn*  
*Wayne*  
*Becky*

*John*  
*John*  
*Beno*  
*Sharon*

*Tracy*  
*Robin*  
*Scott*  
*Angela*



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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


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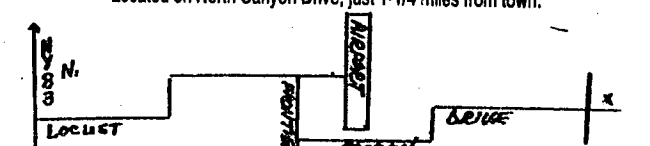
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**Pathfinder Classifieds**

677-2022



# Colin Moon will be missed!

One of our best retires:  
Colin Moon says  
farewell after 22 years

by Patricia Swan Smith  
For the Pathfinder

Colin Moon—Fair, genuine, trustworthy, honest, incredible and funny. Those are a few of the things mentioned when people are asked about what they think of Colin.

In May, he'll retire from Seeley Lake Volunteer Fire Department and the Clearwater DNRC (Department of Natural Resources and Conservation).

The Seeley Lake Volunteer Fire Department and QRU Christmas party focused on Colin's retirement and all he has done for the district and the department.

"Obviously it's going to be sad, because look at everything he's done for us," Seeley Lake Fire Chief Frank Maradeo said. "It's really going to be hard to recover from this for quite a while. We've still got some great people at Clearwater DNRC—Steve Wallace, Neil Carlson and Howie Kent, but we'll really miss Colin. I hope he'll wean us, and go out slowly."

District Manager Carol Wetzsteon said, "I love him; he's always there for you. I can't even imagine a fire season without him. He gives everybody a real security factor. It just



Colin Moon

won't be the same."

He served on the Seeley Lake Volunteer Fire Department for 21 years, and served as Fire Chief twice from 1985 to 1987 and 1993 to 1995.

He served on the Seeley Lake Fire District Board for nine years.

Colin has been with DNRC for 22 years; presently he's the Clearwater Unit Fire Supervisor. When you ask him what his title is at Clearwater, he puffs up his chest, catches his underarms with his thumbs and announces "Superior Fire Wizard."

Webster's Dictionary—Wizard: Magician; skillful, clever person. Yep. It fits.

Clearwater Unit Manger Steve Wallace said, "Most of the Clearwater Unit's success can be credited to Colin's dedication and hard work. People like working for him, so they'll go the extra mile. It won't be the same without Colin."

His first fire was in 1969, while working for the Blackfoot Forest Protective Association (BFFPA). The BFFPA worked as the fire suppression agency in this area until the costs and liabilities outweighed its ability to continue at which point fire suppression was turned over to the state.

Colin was selected for the 2000 Southwest Land Office Employee of the Year for Fire Management Award. This award goes to an employee who excels in his or her job, which includes fire suppression, detection, prevention, coordination, readiness and follow-up.

He's responsible for the SLICK office (Seeley Lake Incident Command Center), located in the Seeley Lake Fire Hall. SLICK allows the fire agencies in the area to coordinate who will respond to fires to keep three different agencies from showing up at one incident. As many of us know, during a lightning storm, 20 calls can come in within a few minutes.

He's an expert with both structure and wildland fires. Firefighting is dangerous, and Colin always put his crew's physical safety and mental health first; and when things got tight, he could always break the tension with

humor or simple common sense.

It was not uncommon for him to break into song, strike a daring pose or tell a joke that would melt tension and invite harmony. And of course anything he wrote was worth reading.

When a position came open at the fire department, he filled out an application.

Date: "Nope, I'm married."

Present address: "Under the tree is where presents go."

Permanent Address: "My wife gets permanents from the hair lady." Education: "At home threw the 4th grade."

Graduated: "Don't know"

Major Subjects: "Scissors."

Subjects or Special Study or Research Work: "I watch my fishin' pole real hard and study them fish."

Special Training: "I've been potty trained. I look both ways when I cross the road."

Activities: "Sometimes I whistle. Momma says I'm a good whistler."

In Case of Emergency, Notify: "911."

Comments: "I like strawberry Pie."

When people would ask him what the fire season was going to bring, he'd answer "Only fools and newcomers predict a fire season. I'll tell you in December."

Besides a great sense of humor, his ability to train others is beyond first-class. He is an inspiration to so many people because of the way he supports them. He showed people how to do things over and over until they get it without degrading them.

He would take as much time as was needed to take a firefighter from insecure beginner to confident—and he had the same dedication to male and female, young and old.

One of the biggest lessons he would teach those he worked with started out when he'd stand in front of

the beginning firefighting classes. He'd take a dollar from his pocket and say, "Who would like this dollar?" The class would sit quietly for a minute or so, some would look around, and finally a few would giggle.

"No really, who wants a dollar?" Still no takers.

Then he'd say "There's no trick. I'm giving this dollar away."

Sometimes someone would raise their hand and take the dollar; in other classes he'd end up putting the dollar back in his pocket. Regardless of giving the dollar away or not, the lesson would stick with us forever.

"It's about trust," he'd finally say. "This wasn't a trick. I offered you a dollar and you thought there had to be a catch. There was no catch. If you're going to be a firefighter, you have to learn to trust those you work with."

One of his icebreakers he'd use in class (which would usually occur within the first half-hour of any class) was when someone would raise their hand and say, "Can I ask a stupid question?" Colin would puff up his chest (he does this often), strut toward that person, grin and gently say, "Let me tell you something right now. There's no such thing as a stupid question; only stupid people." The class would roar, and then he'd answer the question. The rest of the classroom time would be spent at ease.

Firefighting runs in the family. His daughter Katherine Moon spent last summer as a first-year wildland firefighter at the Swan DNRC Unit. His father, Gareth Moon, spent 30 years as the State Forester, and also served as the Forestry Commissioner of State Lands until he retired due to health reasons.

Colin says his father started with fire before there were any trees. He then boasts that he has been with the DNRC since 1953. "Yep, my dad was appointed State Forester the year I



All the firefighters gathered to give Colin Moon a beautiful plaque celebrating his 21 years of service. Bob Stine, who has also put in many years with the department presented the plaque. Also at center here is DNRC employee Howie Kent

was born, so I feel I've been there since the beginning."

Colin has good reasons for retiring, "Well you know, I'm not getting any younger, the mountains have gotten steeper in the last twenty years, and I'm ready for new challenges."

Neil Carlson, another co-worker, was asked how he felt about Colin retiring (Colin was sitting in the same room). He replied, "Woopdeedoo!", and then of course he said "Not really.

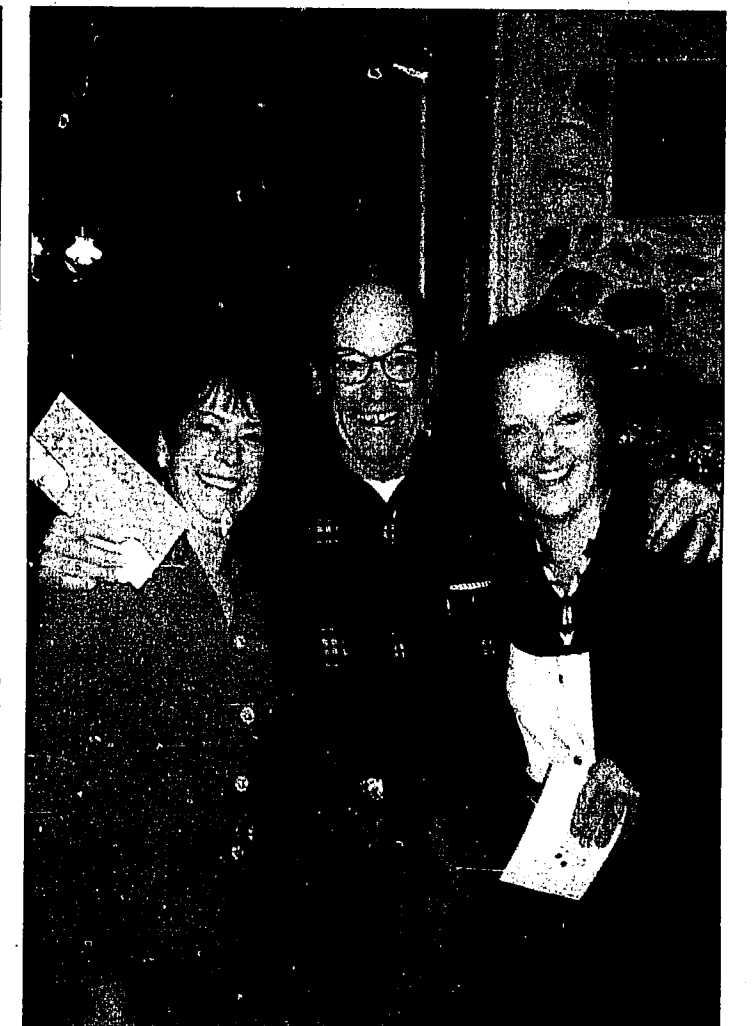
I have followed in his footsteps since I joined the Seeley Lake Volunteer Fire Department in 1983, and then again in 1989, when I started with Clearwater DNRC. Colin will be missed very much."

The Moons moved to Missoula last summer, and Colin will pursue other interests. His wife Jeanne works in Missoula, and his daughter Katherine is attending the University of Montana.

Whitetail Drive, the Seeley Lake Volunteer Fire Department and Clearwater DNRC have lost a truly wonderful employee, volunteer, friend and family.

He warned his co-worker Steve Wallace that since he was retiring, there would be a MOON-less fire season." For many, a lot of sunshine will also be missing.

Photos by  
P. Swan Smith



Firefighter Don Bissell told Carol Wetzsteon, Fire District Manager, and Victoria Adams, that the place wouldn't run without them.



The Moon Family—Katherine, Colin and Jeanne. The Moons moved to Missoula this summer. He warned his co-worker Steve Wallace that since he was retiring, there would be a MOON-less fire season." For many, a lot of sunshine will also be missing.



Hank Sommerdyke and Sandy Sommerdyke both received plaques for their dedication to both the Fire and QRU during their many years of service. Left to right: Hank Sommerdyke, Sandy Sommerdyke, Fire Chief Frank Maradeo, QRU Chief Bonnie Connell and Tim Downey.

Merry Christmas



and a happy new year

...from all of us at

Glen's Automotive

Seeley Lake, Montana



Linda Niles, Mary Ann Morin, Glen Morin, Angie Wisner, Dean Peasley, Karen Mitchell, Mike Lenz, Bob Mitchell, and John Mitchell.

## Foundation awards grants

Four grants totaling \$4,702 were awarded to local not-for-profit organizations by the Seeley Lake Community Foundation.

The Lions Club received \$500 towards the purchase of eye screening machines that will be used in the Seeley Lake Elementary School and other neighboring schools.

The Boy Scout Troop # 19 received \$250 toward the purchase of tents for winter camping activities.

The Seeley Lake Senior Citizens received \$1,500 to help finance a garage for their bus and Seeley Swan High School was granted \$2,452 to acquire structural support for lighting, sound and decorative materials for high school, grade school, and 2 Valleys Stage productions.

A second round of small grants will be awarded in May. The Foundation is also planning to announce a \$1,000 scholarship beginning with the SSSS class of 2004.

Since the Seeley Lake Community Foundation was founded four years ago, it has raised over \$200,000 in grants and donations.

Loren Rose, President of the Foundation said, "the successful fundraising dinner/auction in September has allowed us to launch the small grants program and begin to plan for a scholarship for high school seniors."

The SLCF is associated with the Montanan Community Foundation, which invests the endowment funds, earnings from which finance part of the local Small Grants Program.

In addition to these four new grants, the SLCF has helped to fund \$42,000 in community assistance grants, in the areas of education, arts & culture, economic development, natural resources & conservation and basic human needs.

Information on how citizens or corporations can support the work of the SLCF, for example on tax incentives for planned gifts to the Foundation, is available at P.O. Box 25.



Loren Rose presents a Community Foundation grant check to scout leaders Bruce Wold, left, and Mike Biggins, at right.

## 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.

Homemade soup & salad served daily.

Monday, December 29

BBQ Pork Ribs

Tuesday, December 30

Pizza Casserole

Wednesday, December 31

Baked Fish

Thursday, January 1

Closed

Friday, January 2

Closed

Free blood pressure testing every Wednesday.

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## Please Pause For Pets and Paws

FROM RENEE AND ALL THE DOGS AND CATS AT PAWS UP SAFE HOME COMES A GREETING FOR A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND THE BEST OF NEW YEAR'S! WE CANNOT THANK ALL OF OUR WONDERFUL SUPPORTERS ENOUGH! WE ALSO THANK ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE ADOPTED FROM US AND FROM THE OTHER SHELTERS. FOR YOU HAVE SAVED A LIFE THAT WILL GIVE YOU YEARS OF LOVE. WE THANK ALL OF YOU FOR SPAYING AND NEUTERING, FOR YOU HAVE SAVED MANY LITTLE PUPPIES AND KITTENS FROM BEING BORN, ONLY TO DIE UNWANTED AND UNLOVED. ONCE AGAIN, EVERYONE IS INVITED TO VISIT OUR FACILITIES ANYTIME. PLEASE CALL AHEAD OR KNOCK BEFORE OPENING THE DOOR, AS ALL THE DOGS ARE RUNNING LOOSE IN THE HOME AND YOU CAN BE STAMPEDED. THE DOGS ARE NOT KEPT IN CAGES. THEY ARE PART OF THE FAMILY!

### Paws Up

to the lady who I believe was from Missoula who called about the little Jack Russell puppy that was stolen a week ago. No, we do not have her back yet, but we are not giving up. Thank you for your concern and call. PLEASE, IF YOU HAVE THIS LITTLE DOG, BRING HER BACK. NO QUESTIONS ASKED! IF YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHERE SHE IS, CALL! JESSIE BELLE'S FAMILY IS GRIEVING! \$1000 WILL BE YOURS.

### Paws Up

to Dave and Darlene Tanning for the dog food and treats. Thanks for calling me and giving me the correct name! Darlene and Dave have the two little hero spaniels. Come on Dave, just a little ice cream cone, eh?

### Paws Up

to Karen Lincoln for her nice donation. Karen adopted a little dog from us. What a lucky dog! To Vera Nelson and Beth Taylor for becoming sponsors. to Nancy Braun from Missoula for the wonderful donation and very kind words.

### Paws Up

to Jester Kimble for saving all his change throughout the year and delivering it to me at Paws Up Safe Home. As some may remember, Jester was the guard dog of Annie's Emporium. Jester is a pretty important member of the Kimble family. In fact John, I was surprised he let you drive the pickup. Thanks much!

### Paws Up

to Leone Oxford of Ovando for the nice donation and warm words. Leone is now about 99 years old and is up and at 'em every day, keeping everyone on the ball. We so appreciated your kind words and help! To John and Irene Weaver we send our thanks also. Ovando people are special! Your donation is so appreciated! We had a great time at Santa Clause day. I won the jar of M&M's at the Stray Bullet cafe.

### Paws Up

to Missoula Electric Cooperative and Ray Cebulski, director of District #5, for the wonderful donation. It is so needed and appreciated!

### Paws Up

We have three wonderful dogs and five cats who are still waiting for a loving home. Loving people need only apply for these special pets!

### Found

A small unspayed yellow dog with no ID, brought to Paws Up. If this is your dog, please claim. Sweet dog, appears to be about 2 years old and has had puppies already??? Please spay and neuter your pets. Be a good pet owner.

### Paws Down

to the person who called the Brewers about the little Jack Russell. Your call was anonymous and caused an already grieving family more hurt and grief. You, in my opinion, have an empty life to cause such hurt. If you have anything else to offer, please call me. I would love to meet you, visit and give you a tour of Paws Up Safe Home. That way you would know what you are talking about before you make another anonymous phone call. People who do not have the nerve to speak out and use their name have something to hide. Besides knowledge of the whole picture, what else is your problem? Call me. I will help you, I promise! You have my name, I would like yours! Since my time in Seeley Lake and with Paws Up, we have saved 300+ animals. What have you done? Sleep well.

### NOTE

It is not the season to have to leave such a message as in the last paragraph. However, it is my belief one needs to correct a wrong, a personal wrong at the time it happens. I prefer not to do it in this column, however I am dealing with someone who does not have the courage to call me directly or meet me one on one. I reserve the right to respond as best I can. Please accept my apologies if this offends anyone other than the intended!

\*Minimum\* fee for dogs recovered at Paws Up Safe Home - \$35.00

Elinor Williamson, 406 677-2174 PO Box 522 Seeley Lake, MT 59868  
Paws Up Safe Home Renee Stowe 406 677-3435 PO Box 323 Seeley Lake, MT 59868  
Max-probit #368168 Federal ID number 11016 • www.pawsupsafehome.org

## Ladyhawks break 90 points again, Blackhawks split two close games

The Seeley-Swan Ladyhawks chalked up a second game with 90 points or better when they thumped Superior by 70 points, 93-23.

It was a no contest game after the Ladyhawks jumped to a 24-6 first quarter lead. Kaylee Williams led the Ladyhawks with 22 points, followed by Tatum Hoehn with 11, Jessa Linford 10, Sarah Madinger 8, Karen Gehrke 7, Sadie Linford 6, Ashley Pena 6, Nicole Bostwick 6, Hayley Blackburn 6, and Basia Kobylenski 4.

The Ladyhawks coasted to another easy win over Deer Lodge Friday night, taking a 28-15 half-time lead and winning at 71-47.

Kaylee Williams and Sarah Madinger led the Ladyhawks with 20 points apiece. Sadie Linford added 7, Jessa Linford 6, Nicole Bostwick 4, Hayley Blackburn 3,

and Karen Gehrke 2.

The Ladyhawks remain undefeated at the holiday break.

Blackhawks Split Games

The Blackhawks lost an overtime match with Superior last Friday and then redeemed themselves, pulling out a last-second win over Deer Lodge at home Saturday night.

Superior, District 5-B favorite, trailed most of the game, despite 55 points from 6'-7", 255-pound Colin Donovan, but tied the game at 61-61 in the final quarter when they held the Blackhawks to only five points.

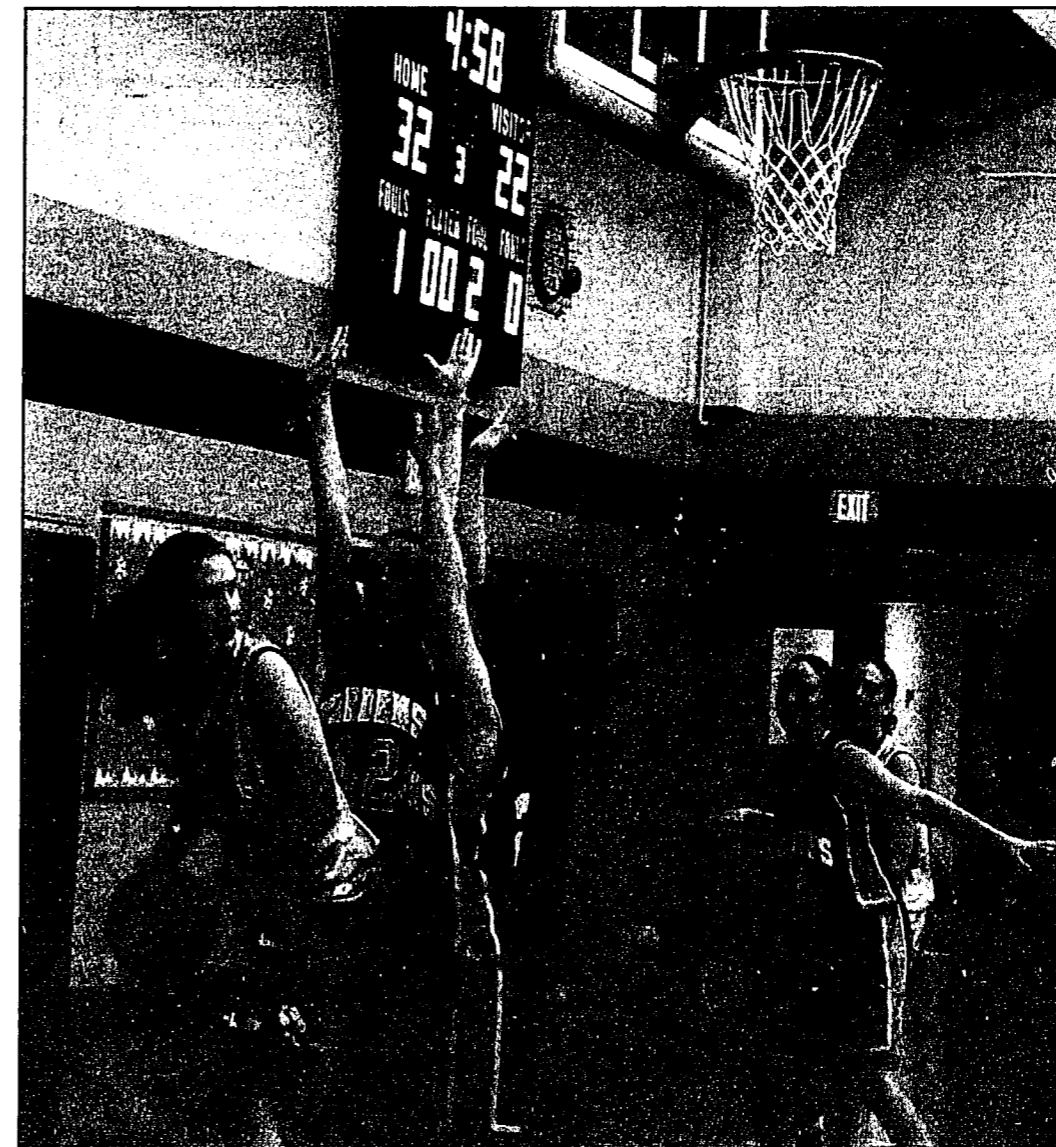
Superior pulled away in the overtime to win it 71-66, with Donovan scoring all ten points for his team.

Rion Nash and Tanner Marlatt had 16 apiece to lead the

Blackhawks with Cody Hard finding double figures at 13. Bryce Freyholtz finished with 8, Ben Slaght 6, Riley Devins 5, and Derek Hard 2.

On the home court Saturday night, fans were thrilled with a last second win when Riley Devins stole the ball and made a layup just before the buzzer. Only 18 seconds before, Zach Nelson, playing his first game this season, tied the game at 52-52. Nelson, a leading scorer from last year, has been out with a dislocated elbow, and only played the second half Saturday. He finished with 12 points.

Freshman Derek Hard led the scoring with 13 points, and his senior brother, Cody, finished with 12 points. Tanner Marlatt had 6, Bryce Freyholtz 4, Riley Devins 4, and Rion Nash 3.



Ladyhawk Tatum Hoehn is pressured as she tries to find somewhere to go in action against Deer Lodge last weekend.

—P. Swan Smith photo

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*Merry Christmas*

*Gene Kelly & Staff*





# Seniors raise \$4,700 for outdoor basketball court

December Seeley Swan High School Advisory Meeting  
By Donna Love

The Seeley-Swan High School seniors in Heather Davis'

government class have raised \$4700 for an outdoor basketball court Principal Tony Gallegos announced at the December SSSHS Advisory Meeting. \$1500 has been earned from concessions at games,

and the Seeley Lake Lion's Club and High School Booster Club have each donated \$100.

A \$3000 matching grant has been received from Missoula Parks and Recreation. That money can be matched with donations or volunteer time, but it has to be used by June 4, 2004 so construction must begin in spring.

The project may cost \$9200 if asphalt is used or \$13,000 if concrete is poured. JD Parker from JD Construction has donated his services. After the meeting, Davis said, "We are up in the air about how much we need. Currently, we are looking for backboards, hoops and poles at the right quality for the right price."

Anyone who would like to

donate to this project can call the school at 677-2224, extension 5735.

Chips from the timber-thinning project are available. If anyone has ideas for chip removal they may call the school.

Doug Waldron has filled the night custodial position. "He [Waldron] takes great pride in his work, which is greatly appreciated," Principal Gallegos said.

Six students are taking an Online Psychology Class, under the direction of Jessica Saxton. In other program news, Flagship and Project Success have been canceled.

December activities of note include midterm grades being out on December 5; the school play,

Arsenic and Old Lace, on December 9; and the Holiday Concert on December 16, including the new "Feast-ival" a holiday dinner sponsored by the Student Government, at 5:00, prior to the concert to raise money for families in need.

The meeting ended with a historically difficult issue, the afternoon bus schedule. Currently, sports practice begins at 1:45 at the start of seventh period, and on non-game days, the bus leaves at 3:45. Head Boys' Basketball Coach Shawn Holmes has asked for a 15-minute extension, saying, "Fifteen minutes of practice a day amounts to eight full practices [by the end of the season]."

Principal Gallegos made two points for the bus leaving at 3:45. Only 19 of the 63 students on the bus rosters to Condon and Ovando participate in basketball or cheerleading. This leaves up to 44 students waiting at the school for the bus. In addition, teachers, by law, can leave the school at 3:40 so other teachers can't be expected to stay longer to supervise the students not in sports or cheerleading.

Another compromise was made between the administration and coach, and the bus will leave at 3:50. Freshman girls' basketball coach, Jennifer Beall, and cheerleading supervisor, Terry Bartlett offered to supervise the waiting students.

The next Advisory Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, January 5.

*Christmas Eve  
Candle Light  
Service*

6:30 p.m.  
Mission Bible Fellowship  
3168 Hwy 83 • Seeley Lake

Everyone is Welcome!



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.; Sunday School 10:15 a.m.  
Mon. 5 p.m. Jr-Sr High Confirmation-Bible Class; Tues 7:30 pm, Adult Bible Study Wed. 7 pm Adult Bible Study  
Pastor - Rev. Robert Benson -1655 Airport Rd.  
Phone - 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 a.m. Worship-10:30 a.m.  
Summer Hours from Memorial Day to Labor Day  
Hwy. 83 & School Lane  
Phone 677-2110  
Pastor Ken Wutzke

*Merry Christmas!*

*May the message of peace and love be heard around the world.*

**Peace On Earth**

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## 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, Dec. 18**  
DECEMBER BIRTHDAY and CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION! Cranberry Juice, Turkey and Dressing, Cranberries, Green Beans, Cake

**Thursday, December 25**  
Closed for Christmas

**Monday, December 29**  
Cranberry Juice, Shepherd's Pie, Green Salad, Roll, Chocolate Pudding

# Merry Christmas to All!

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

<p><b>Building Contractor</b></p> <p><b>Seeley Lake Enterprises</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Licensed Electrical Contractor</li> <li>New homes, remodel, and repair</li> <li>24 hour emergency service</li> <li>Consulting and planning</li> <li>General contracting with 15 yrs. experience in all phases</li> </ul> <p>Home: (406) 677-3159 Cell: (406) 210-1338 Chris Neibauer - Owner</p>	<p><b>Landscaping</b></p> <p><b>Mission Creek Land Services</b></p> <p>String Grinding • Brush Chipping • Thinning Tree Planting • Tree Trimming • Trail Building Fire Line Construction • Burning, Pump Truck Fire Hazard Reduction • Landscaping Fence Building • Post &amp; Rail, Privacy Barbed Wire • Corals • Sidewalks, Patios Stone &amp; Concrete Work • Exotic Walkways Custom Iron Work General Construction</p> <p>Terry 677-8871 • Tripp 677-0081 • Ward 677-8668</p>	<p><b>Plumbing, Heating Service</b></p> <p><b>HERITAGE PLUMBING &amp; HEATING L.L.C.</b></p> <p>COMMERCIAL &amp; RESIDENTIAL HOT WATER HEATING (406) 677-3838 • P.O. Box 1356</p> <p>Ken Schmitz 677-3838 Seeley Lake, MT 59868</p>	<p><b>Contractor • Builder</b></p> <p><b>LAKE COUNTRY BUILDERS INC.</b></p> <p>Custom • Residential • Commercial Mark Williams Tim Tanberg 677 2848 677 2841</p>
<p><b>Pharmacy • Floral • Gifts</b></p> <p><b>Seeley Lake PHARMACY &amp; FLORAL</b></p> <p>Bob Sulezjak RPH P.O. Box 575 • SEELEY LAKE, MT 59868 Phone 677-2424 FAX 406-677-3333 CARDS • GIFTS • FLOWERS • PRESCRIPTIONS • FILM DRUGS • TOYS • COSMETICS</p>	<p><b>Complete Electrical Service</b></p> <p><b>Creekside Electric Inc.</b></p> <p>Complete Residential &amp; Commercial Wiring Services P.O. Box 287 • Seeley Lake, MT 59868 Phone &amp; Fax: 406 677-0050 Toll Free: 1-866-531-1091 Cell Phone: 406 210-1759 Email: Creekelectric@yahoo.com</p>	<p><b>Woodworking / Wood Floors</b></p> <p><b>Marty's Woodworking</b> 360-7866</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My Specialty Wood Floors</li> <li>Installed, Sanded, Refinished and Repaired</li> <li>Trim, Finish, Rough Carpentry, Decks &amp; Docks</li> <li>Come visit My Showroom in the Heritage Bldg.</li> <li>25 years experience Contractors Reg # 12135</li> </ul>	<p><b>Veterinarian Services</b></p> <p><b>Swan Valley Equine Service</b></p> <p>Lealie L. Strupe, DVM 24-hour Mobile Veterinary Care Reproductive Ultrasound, Lameness, Dental, X-ray. 406 677-4130 406 837-1168</p>
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Ovando, Montana. Job description available by request: 406-443-6724. Send resume and cover letter to The Nature Conservancy of Montana, 32 South Ewing Street, Helena MT 59601. Application deadline: 1/16/04. Salary commensurate with experience.

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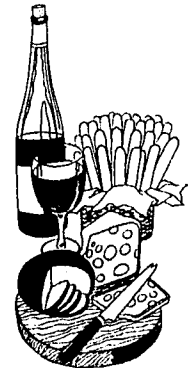


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## YMCA News Update on Activities

### Adult Aerobics

Adult aerobics classes have begun. Join aerobics instructor Terryl Bartlett for morning walk fit and step classes. Participants have the option of walk fit or step class, warm up and stretch together, walk or step class followed by weights and stretch together. The walk fit can be outdoors walking the bike path, as long as weather permits.

Σ Session: September - May

Σ When: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 8:15 - 9:15 a.m.

Σ Fee: \$25.00 per month Step Class; \$15.00 per month Walk Fit Class

### Evening Aerobics

Please join us beginning January 6, 2004. Classes will be on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Seeley Lake Elementary School Multipurpose room. The fee is \$16.00 per month. You can add a morning class if you wish. The fee for 3 classes a week would be \$25.00 per month. Nancy Miller, Cindy Lewis and Kathy Harlock will take turns leading the class. They have been trained by Terryl Bartlett, certified instructor, and will lead classes in step and cardio toning exercises. Start the new year with a new you!

Please contact the YMCA Outreach office for information: Phone 677-3330 and/or e-mail: [ssymca@blackfoot.net](mailto:ssymca@blackfoot.net). The Seeley-Swan YMCA Outreach Office is located in the Lazy Pine Mall. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to noon, and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.