

PATHFINDER



Vol. I, No. 30

677-2022

"VOICE OF THE VALLEY"

754-2365

December 11, 1986



Linwood Fiedler, winner of the 1986 Governor's Cup 500 Sled Dog Race, gives a little encouragement to lead dogs Chipper and Spunk. Fiedler was training his team near Seeley Lake last weekend. See story page 11.

YAMAFEST sponsors are ready for snow

Yamaha snowmobile dealers from around Western Montana have banded together and decided to hold their Second Annual Yamafest here in Seeley Lake January 17 and 18.

Area snowmobile fans are excited about the enthusiasm displayed for winter recreation in the Seeley Swan.

"All of these dealers are looking to Seeley Lake as a snowmobile resort area. This is prime country for it," according to Larry Marx, chairman of the YAMAFEST committee of the Seeley Lake Area Chamber of Commerce.

Mike and Betty Tingley of Mike Tingley's Yamaha, Missoula, have been instrumental in organizing this event, Marx said. Other dealers participating in this year's promotional event are Fun Unlimited of Columbia Falls; Ronan Sports Cycle, Ronan; The Cycle Center, Missoula; and Al's Cycle, Hamilton.

These dealers were joined by the Seeley Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and contributed \$4,000 for promotion of the event. Last week, Don Baldwin, Yamaha Dealer Representative from Bigfork, contributed an additional \$4,000 in matching funds toward the promotion of the event. As a Yamaha Motor Corporation representative, Baldwin was impressed with the community of Seeley Lake.

According to Larry Marx, Seeley Lake has earned the reputation of hosting the most well-organized snowmobile events, having the most miles

of groomed trails and of having the most enthusiastic community and snowmobile club in the state.

About 500 snowmobiles participated in organized events in the Seeley Lake area during the 1986 Yamafest. This year, organizers are expecting 700 snowmobiles and at least 1,000 people for the event.

Organized activities this year will include a moonlight poker run and the popular Liar's Contest for adults. (The winner of last year's competition had so much fun, he's coming back this year!)

Scheduled events for youth include the Snodeo obstacle courses and radar runs held at the old heliport site west of Seeley Lake. Trophies will be awarded in all youth events.

Evening activities include a hot dog and chili feed, and a dance. Door prizes will be awarded during evening events, "with lots of gifts for the kids," Marx said. Local businesses are donating items for the drawings.

Roger Wade to do slide show

Norman Maclean wins literary award

The Montana Arts Council last week announced the Governor's Awards for the Arts for 1987. Norman Maclean, Seeley Lake homeowner and summer resident, was nominated by the Council and chosen by Governor Schwinden to receive the Governor's Award for Literary Art.

Maclean is locally famous for his wry sense of humor, and is known internationally for his earthy book, *A River Runs Through It, And Other Stories*, which is a collection of his work, including the title story about fly fishing (and memories from Maclean's youth) along the Blackfoot River. Maclean has called Seeley Lake "home" for sixty-three of his eighty-three years. He is currently spending the winter in Chicago with his family.

Governor Schwinden will present the awards in Helena on January 30. Roger Wade, professional photographer from the Swan Valley, is currently working on a two-projector slide show about highlights of the lives of Maclean and five other award recipients from Montana. The slide show is planned as part of the January awards ceremony.

Maclean joins past literary award winners A.B. Guthrie (distinguished achievement in literature); William Kit-tredge, Dorothy Johnson and James Welch. This tradition of honoring outstanding Montana artists began in 1981.

WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday-Saturday - Continued dry, with areas of valley clouds and fog. Highs 20-30. Lows 5-20.

OPINION

The Sahara Desert

comes to mind when reflecting upon recent Letters to the Editor or, more precisely, the lack thereof. Have we suddenly become bereft of opinion in this Valley? Not likely. In fact, it would be difficult to locate a greater concentration of strong-willed, highly opinionated people anywhere on the entire planet.

If you have something on your mind and it's worth telling your neighbor about, there's a good chance the rest of us would be interested, too. *Pathfinder* provides a weekly "bulletin board" for just such an enterprise, in the guise of this page. Where else can you: a) get it off your chest; b) become famous; and c), achieve a) and b) at no cost (other than by committing high crimes or misdemeanors - which will land you on page 1 instead of page 2).

We welcome and value your letters. They are truly the "heartbeat" of the community.

And now for a word. . . .

to our out-of-town subscribers. Thank you for your patience. A number of you have been concerned about the slow delivery of *Pathfinder*. Unfortunately, any new newspaper is initially constrained to mailing with a third class permit. Not to put too fine a point on it, this is the status reserved for "junk mail." (The wits among you are probably having a field day with that statement). Third class mail moves at a stately pace, to say the least.

Happily, we have now completed our apprenticeship and met the requirements of the Postal Service for applying for second class mailing privileges. While our application is pending, we are allowed to mail in second class fashion. (Restrain yourselves, wits.) It can now be said that *Pathfinder* is literally in the same class as *The Wall Street Journal*.

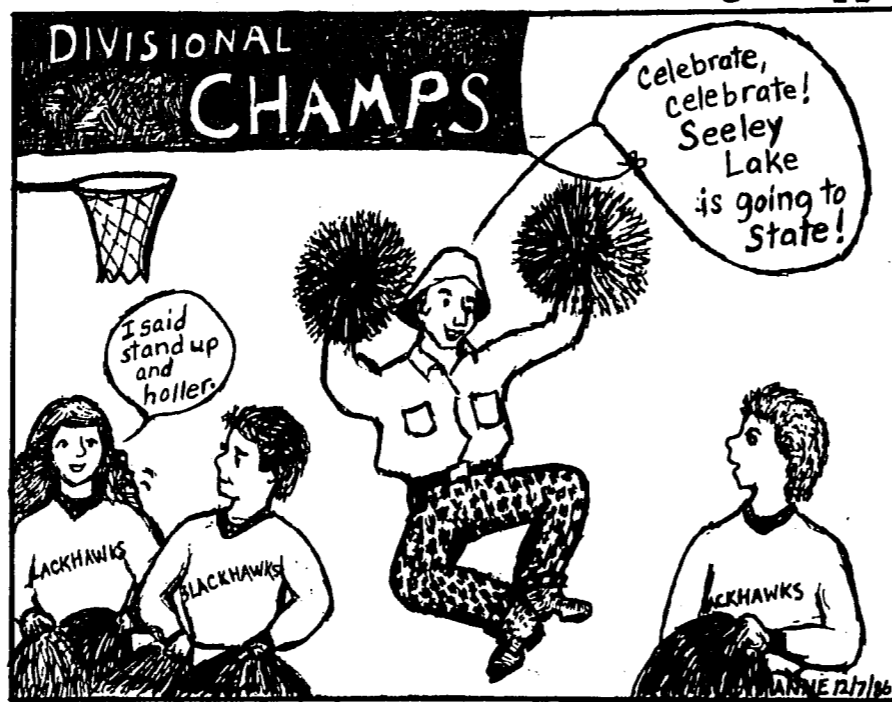
This issue marks our first foray into the world of second class mail. For our subscribers in California, Florida, and other far-flung and exotic places, don't be surprised if you receive this week's issue before last week's issue. (Local subscribers probably won't notice much of a difference in delivery time.) We are told that second class mail moves even faster than first class mail - something only a bureaucrat could say and keep a straight face.

Incidentally, the regulations governing second class mailers rival the complexity of the tax code. In fact, the subject would provide an excellent illustration for an editorial dealing with bureaucratic excesses. The red tape almost constitutes an assault on freedom of the press - Benjamin Franklin definitely would not approve.

- Dick Potter



Natty Bumpo



CPR classes Dec. 12,13

Members of the Seeley Lake Quick Response Unit have organized a CPR class to be held December 12 and 13. On Friday (the 12th), the class will run from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. On Saturday, the class will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information contact Chris Anders or Cheri Thompson, Seeley Lake.

Seeley Lake DENTAL CLINIC COMPLETE DENTAL CARE
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Business of the Week

BARNEY'S - THE FAMILY PLACE



Bruce and Victoria Burns have been the owner/operators of Barney's - The Family Place, in Seeley Lake for three-and-a-half years. Doing business in Seeley Lake has been a rewarding experience for them, and their main business goal now is to complement the downtown business sector through various activities, such as organizing events on Barney's "Green."

Earlier this year, Barney's introduced "The Crow's Nest," an outdoor dining facility. The facility will also be utilized during special winter events. Another new service: Barney's can now accommodate banquets and private parties, and can cater meals either on- or off-premise.

The restaurant offers family-style dining featuring seafood and home-baked pastries. Between eight and twenty people are employed at Barney's, depending on the season.

Bruce and Victoria are active in the Chamber of Commerce and the Wilderness Sportsman's Club. They have one daughter, Laura, who attends Seeley Lake Elementary School.

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COMMUNITY

Goals and bylaws to be defined

Missoula County Commissioners need to know whether the community of Seeley Lake really believes that the creation of a community council is a good idea, and what residents expect from the council if it is approved.

About a dozen concerned citizens turned out for Saturday's "town meeting" to discuss the creation of a community council with County Commissioner Ann Mary Dussault.

"We don't really have a mechanism to work with your community to find out what the community's priorities are," Commissioner Dussault said. The idea of a community council was originally suggested by commissioners when the Missoula County Comprehensive Plan was being reviewed several years ago.

Dussault believes that rural communities, such as Seeley Lake, should attempt to draw up a plan for the future and address such issues as land use, water quality, septic systems and economic development.

Planning for the future is the most important subject the council could tackle during the first year, Dussault said.

Dussault was asked whether a community council, acting as an advisory group for the Seeley Lake community, would help the area receive a larger share of any available county or federal funding.

"Probably," Dussault answered. "Seeley Lake would probably get a larger part of whatever pie is there... if you were organized... That's how politics works." She explained that a community council of perhaps five members could help commissioners decide which projects should or shouldn't be funded during the county budgeting process.

Seeley Lake residents may prefer to see money spent on road repair, rather than on a new bridge, for example.

Bud Johnson, moderator for the meeting, pointed out that, "This is not going to be city government... because (a community council) doesn't have any authority for that." Dussault also said that a community council would receive little, if any, county funding for administrative purposes due to budget cutbacks.

Basic organization of a community council was discussed. Several people volunteered to draft bylaws for the council, and to better define the council's role. Council boundaries, it was suggested, should be the same as the Seeley Lake Elementary school district (#34). The council should consist of five to seven members, three or four of whom could be appointed from existing boards (fire, water, SOS, and the elementary school), with the remainder being elected or appointed from the community at large.

After bylaws are drawn up, it was suggested that a public hearing, with the commissioners present, could be held where residents would be able to discuss specific proposals.

The council could be created after two public hearings, with the approval of the county commissioners.

Chamber to change name

Members attending last week's meeting of the Seeley Condon Chamber of Commerce decided to change their name. Henceforth, the organization will be known as the Seeley Lake Area Chamber of Commerce. However, membership will remain open to any interested party, regardless of where they live, according to Chamber president Roger Johnson. The new name becomes official when the Chamber's board of directors ratifies the change.

It was also announced that a tourism advertising conference will be held in Seeley Lake in January. Representatives of various travel-oriented publications will be on hand to describe advertising opportunities to local businessmen. Details will be announced later.

Jerry Ding, partner in the Wilderness Gateway Inn, Seeley Lake, agreed to chair a committee to develop "lodging packages" for various winter sporting events, including the OSCR cross-country ski race, the major sled dog races (Seeley Lake 200 and Governor's Cup 500), and Snow Joke. Ding will contact other lodging operators in the area to attempt to develop attractively priced lodging and dining programs for weekend visitors.

A motion was unanimously passed providing for the establishment of an economic development task force. The group would be charged primarily with the task of long-range planning for

economic development in the local area. A chairman will be named at a later date.

Candidates for director's positions were also announced: Dick Duncan, Cheri Thompson, Frank Netherton, Grace LeFebvre, Bud Johnson, Jerry Ding, and Rod Kvamme, all of Seeley Lake. Kvamme agreed to accept the nomination for vice president, with the stipulation that there be no commitment for accepting the presidency the following year. Elections will be held at the January meeting.

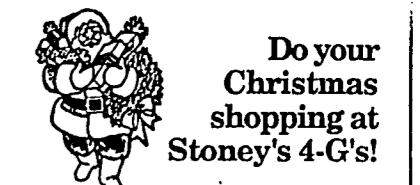
Jonkel to speak at tourism conference

Charles Jonkel, well-known grizzly bear researcher, is tentatively scheduled to speak at the 5th Annual Holland Lake Summit Conference on Tourism regarding a newly proposed "Trail of the Great Bear."

Other speakers tentatively scheduled for the event, set for April 14 at Holland Lake Lodge, include Alan O'Neil, Superintendent, Glacier National Park; C. B. Rich, Seeley Lake outfitter and guide and current president of North American Outfitters; and Joe Flood, Mission Mountains Wilderness Ranger.

Postal Service extends hours

Postmaster Nemmers noted today that the Seeley Lake Post Office is beginning to experience the crunch of Christmas packages and letters. While the total volume of mail has increased over previous years, deliveries and processing are running smoothly. For your convenience, Seeley Lake Post Office windows will be open on Saturday mornings from 9 to 12, December 13 and December 20.



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Benefit Auction

Saturday, December 13, 3:00 pm at The Saloon

Benefit Auction donations can be dropped off at The Saloon before 3:00 pm, Saturday, December 13.

This Benefit Auction is being held to raise money to buy candies, oranges, peanuts, toys and other items for a "Children's Christmas Party" to be held Saturday, December 20 at The Saloon.

THE SALOON WILL HAVE LIVE MUSIC SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 9 PM - 1:45 AM



MOVING? Don't forget to tell us your new address!

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Please use this coupon and mail to:

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Unlike 1st class mail, publications with 2nd class permits are now charged a fee for undeliverable issues or a subscriber's failure to notify the publication of address change. Should we have to pay such a fee, it will be subtracted from the subscriber's subscription.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

Seeley Swan *Pathfinder* is published every Thursday by Pathfinder Press, Inc., P. O. Box 702, Seeley Lake, MT 59868 (telephone 406/677-2022 or 754-2365). Area served is Seeley Lake and neighboring communities. Distribution is by mail subscription and newsstand sales. Ad deadline is 4 p.m. on Friday prior to publication. News deadline is noon Monday prior to publication.

Suzanne M. Vernon.....News Editor
Richard C. Potter.....Business Manager
Michele S. Potter.....Advertising Editor
Sheldon J. Vernon.....Technical Editor

News items, classified ads, and subscription orders may be dropped off at 1-STOP, Monday-Sunday, next to 1st Valley Bank in Seeley Lake.

Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending at Seeley Lake, MT. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Pathfinder, P.O. Box 702, Seeley Lake, MT 59868.

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Subscribe... Today!

**SCENIC 83
ANNUAL DINNER MEETING**
 Wednesday, December 17, 7:00 pm
 Holland Lake Lodge
 (No host dinner - Please make reservations in advance - 754-2282)
GUEST SPEAKER: KEITH HAMMER
 Chairman, Swan View Coalition



The Swan Valley Christian Singers will perform "An Old Fashioned Christmas" along with the Seeley Swan High School Mixed Choir on December 16. Larry Pagett is pictured here helping with the musical direction, although Marge Smith is the music director for the adult choir. (Marge was out of town when this picture was taken.)

**The Christmas Choirs
A Program's Progress**

by Claudia Thompson Kux
Swan Valley Christian Singers

Ever think about what's involved in putting together a Christmas program? I didn't when I joined the Swan Valley Christian Singers. Demands were few - once-a-week rehearsals, bringing refreshments now and then, writing an article here and there. But Christmas programs don't just happen, and I decided to look into what's going on behind the scenes as we get ready to present "An Old-Fashioned Christmas" and "Home for the Holidays." Not surprisingly, I found there's a lot more to this than meets the eye!

First of all, somebody's got to make some decisions: What will we sing? When and where will we sing it? Who will take charge of what? Enter: the Board of Directors.

Marjorie Smith, Seeley Lake, is the music director who inspires and lifts the choir from their weekly rehearsals through to the performance. Larry Pagett, Seeley Lake, is chairman and program director. Ella Goodbread and Cheri Thompson, Seeley Lake, and Carole Schaeffer, Holland Lake, are also on the Board. With the assistance of program co-director Robin Williams, Seeley Lake, they make sure that every base is covered and everyone is doing their job.

And there are plenty of jobs to do. First, there is the music itself. Marge Smith directs the Swan Valley Christian Singers and Larry Pagett directs both the Seeley Swan High School Mixed Choir and the Black Tie Affair. Marge and Larry play a large part in selecting the music, and then have the responsibility of interpreting and "fine tuning" that music as they strive to bring out the best in their singers (and those with speaking parts as well).

Second, there is "staging." Cheri Thompson takes care of that. Cliff Nelson, Seeley Lake Elementary instructor, is in charge of lighting. LeRoi Smith will coordinate sound. And, publicity? That's me, folks!

Karen Pagett, Loretta Cooper and Carolyn Jette are in charge of preparing refreshments for the fellowship after the performance Tuesday night. For every "visible" job, there are two "invisible" ones. All these people pull together to create a successful program.

We hope you will come and see the Christmas performance - our Christmas gift to you! Join us December 16, 7:30 p.m. in the Seeley Swan High School gym. Commemorative Christmas ornaments are now being sold through local businesses (Country Things and Artistic Expressions, Seeley Lake; Swan Centre near Condon).

(Editor's Note: The concert will be broadcast over KALS-FM radio, 98.3, on December 21st at 6 p.m.)

Applications available for county boards

County residents interested in serving on government boards such as the Missoula Area Agency on Aging, the Health Board, the Library Board, the Weed Control Board of Supervisors, and the Tax Appeal Board are encouraged to apply for vacancies that will be open January 1.

Applications for these positions are available at the Seeley Condon Chamber of Commerce, or at the Missoula County Courthouse (Commissioners' office). For more information contact the Missoula County Commissioners' office, 721-5700, ext. 200.

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COMMUNITY

**Children's benefit auction
A Children's Christmas Party**

Children's Christmas fantasies nearly always include visions of sitting on Santa's lap and talking about all the things they want for Christmas. Well, Santa's lap will be welcoming children, and Santa's ears will be listening, on Saturday, December 20, beginning at 3 p.m. at The Saloon in Seeley Lake.

A benefit auction, designed to raise money to support the Children's Christmas Party, will be held December 13, at 3 p.m. at The Saloon. People interested in supporting the Christmas party may bring donated items to the Saloon before the auction. "The more we raise at the auction, the more we can give to the kids," Rocky Zavarelli, proprietor of The Saloon, explained.

Rocky has organized children's Christmas parties through the American Legion in Missoula for several years. They traditionally hold a benefit auction, selling items ranging from

homemade pastries to snowmobiles, and then use the money to buy toys, fruit and candy for the children's party. Any extra goodies have been distributed to children in area hospitals.

Rocky enjoys the Christmas parties, the laughter of the kids and especially the unique questions that some of the children ask. However, Christmas has not always been merry. He remembers one Christmas, in a Missoula hospital, where a little girl was in intensive care after accidentally swallowing mercury. He vividly remembers her smile, as she recognized him as Santa, and how he placed her new doll inside the oxygen tent where nurses were treating her. The little girl died two days after Christmas. "I'll never forget that Christmas. It was the saddest one I ever spent. But I'm glad we had the chance to make her happy, if only for a little while," Rocky said.

The Children's Christmas Party will be held in the dance floor area of The Saloon, away from the bar. The area will be specially decorated for the event, sound effects included. (Reindeer on the roof!) Parents are welcome to bring cameras and take pictures of their little ones with Santa after the toys and candy are distributed.

Livestock Report

Cows were fully \$1 higher. Bulls were steady. Feeder cattle and calves were \$2 to \$3 higher on a very active market. Last Thursday's livestock report from Robbins Livestock Auction Co., Missoula, is as follows:

Cattle: Heiferettes, 43.00 to 50.00; Utility & Commercial Cows, 34.00 to 37.00; Canner & Cutter Cows, 30.00 to 33.00; Bulls 40.00 to 43.00.

Feeders & Stockers: Good to choice steers, 56.00 to 61.00; Medium to Good Steers, 53.00 to 57.00; Good to Choice Heifers, 53.00 to 57.00; Medium to Good Heifers, 50.00 to 53.00; Good to Choice Steer Cfs, 65.00 to 69.00; Common & Med. Steer Cfs, 60.00 to 69.00; Good to Choice Heifer Calves, 58.00 to 61.00; Common to Med. Heifer Cfs, 52400 to 58.00; Holstein Steers, 44.00 to 49.00.

Hogs: Tops on butchers, 49.25.

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Senior Nutrition Program

The following noon meals, which are open to the public, will be served next week promptly at noon on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at the Seeley Lake Community Hall:
 Monday, December 15--Chicken pot pie
 Tuesday, December 16--Goulash
 Wednesday, December 17--Chef's choice

Menus are subject to change. Local residents are invited to come and enjoy the home-cooked meals. Donations toward the cost of the meals, which are sponsored in part through the Area Council on Aging, are appreciated. For more information call Hazel Ford, 677-2008.

Aerobics classes to start

Aerobics classes will be offered at Seeley Swan High School beginning in January as part of the Missoula County High Schools' adult education program. The class will be held on Monday and Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30, January 5 through March 11, at the Seeley Swan High School old gym. The class will cost \$17 for the ten-week course. For more information or to register, call the high school at 677-2224, or Becky Gehrke at 677-2825.

CORNUCOPIA

by Michele Potter



Everywhere I go friends and acquaintances have holiday goodies to offer. I usually reciprocate with homemade candy. If your Christmas presents are from your kitchen this year, why not try making some non-edibles, too, like spiced orange pomander balls, bouquet garni mix or simple herb mixtures for seasoning (recipes can be found in most general cookbooks - if you can't find one, call me). Dieters especially welcome these.

When I stopped in to see JoLynn Mahaffey (Condon) on a chilly day this fall, she gave me a cup of her Russian Tea - it was delicious and it warmed me up. In a decorative canning jar, wrapped with a colorful ribbon with the recipe attached, Russian Tea makes a tasty and easy-to-make present.

Russian Tea
 by JoLynn Mahaffey

1 cup instant tea	1 cup sugar
2 cups Tang	1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
12 ounces powdered lemonade mix	1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Mix dry ingredients. Use 2-1/2 teaspoons per cup of hot water.

Someone asked me if I had a recipe for homemade Irish Cream Liqueur. This one, from the makers of Eagle® Brand Sweetened Condensed Milk, is an excellent homemade recipe. Sandy Doucett (Seeley Lake) tells me she has a really good one, too. Anyone have a homemade Kahlua recipe?

Homemade Irish Cream Liqueur
 (Makes about 5 cups)

1-1/4 to 1-3/4 cups liquor	4 eggs*
(Irish whiskey, brandy, rum, bourbon, scotch or rye whiskey)	2 tablespoons chocolate flavor ¹ syrup
1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk (NOT evaporated milk)	2 teaspoons instant coffee
1 cup (1/2 pint) whipping cream	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
	1/2 teaspoon almond extract

In blender container, combine all ingredients; blend until smooth. Chill thoroughly. Store tightly covered in refrigerator up to 1 month. Stir before serving.

*Use only Grade A clean, uncracked eggs.

Bread dough baskets. Alas, I've lost my recipe and someone recently asked for it. If you have a bread dough basket recipe, please call me at 677-2022. I'd like to have it for the December 18 Pathfinder.

VALLEY MARKET **FOOD** **FARM**
 677-2121 or 677-2122

Congratulations Blackhawk Girls
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December Hours
 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Daily

New: Carved Moose Antler Clocks, Carved Desk Sets

MOOSE FEATHERS STUDIO

SEELEY LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

MENU - WEEK OF DECEMBER 15

Monday, December 15	Fish 'n Cheese Patties
Tuesday, December 16	Scalloped Potatoes with Ham
Wednesday, December 17	Hot Turkey Sandwiches
Thursday, December 18	Pizza
Friday, December 19	Peanut Butter Sandwiches, Egg Salad Sandwiches & Vegetable Beef Soup

December 19
 School will be out at 1:15 pm
 for the holidays.
 January 5, 1987
 School back in session.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Blackfoot Tel-Com, Inc.
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community members are invited to submit dates, times and locations of events, meetings and other happenings. Submission deadline: Friday, 4 pm; call 677-2022 or 754-2365.

Events

Dec 12, Puppet Show, 3:30pm, Comm Hall, Seeley Lake.	Alcoholics Anonymous (Condon), Thurs, 7:30pm, Swan Valley Elem School, Condon.
Dec 13, Benefit Auction for Children's Christmas Party, 3pm, The Saloon, Seeley Lake.	Alcoholics Anonymous (Seeley Lake), Sun, 7pm, Mill basement, Seeley Lake; Weds, 7pm, REA Bldg, Seeley Lake.
Dec 14, Arkansas Gems vs Seeley Lake All-Stars basketball game, 2pm, Seeley Swan High School Gym, Seeley Lake.	Driftriders Snowmobile Club mtg, 2nd Mon every month, Dec 16, An Old-Fashioned Christmas and Home for the Holidays musical Christmas program, 7:30pm, Seeley Swan High School, Seeley Lake.
Dec 17, Santa Claus in Seeley Lake, evening.	SeLa SenCi mtg and potluck, 3rd Wed every month, Comm Hall, Seeley Lake.
Dec 20, Children's Christmas Party, The Saloon, Seeley Lake.	Senior Nutrition Program, Mon-Tues-Weds, noon. Open to public. Comm Hall, Seeley Lake.
Dec 25, Christmas Potluck, 4pm, Holland Lake Lodge, Condon.	Swan Valley Post No. 63 mtg, 2nd Fri every month, 7pm, Comm Hall, Condon.

Public Meetings

QRU (Condon), 1st & 3rd Mon every month.	TOPS, Thurs, 10am, REA bldg, Seeley Lake.
QRU (Seeley Lake), 1st and 3rd Fri every month, 7:30pm, REA bldg, Seeley Lake.	Veteran's Coffee Group, Sat, 11am, Swan Valley Centre, Condon.
Rural Fire District, 1st Tues, Regular Firefighters bus mtg, Plum Creek, 7pm; 2nd Tues, training mtg, Plum Creek, 7pm; 3rd Tues, Trustees mtg, 7:30pm, Seeley Lake.	Other
SOS Trustees mtg, 2nd Mon every month.	Dec 11 (Thurs), Bookmobile, Seeley Lake Elem School, 9am-12pm; Seeley Lake town, 12:30-2:30pm.
Water District, 2nd Tues every month, 8pm, REA bldg, Seeley Lake.	Adult Volleyball, Weds, 7-9:15pm, Elem School Gym, Seeley Lake.

Clubs & Organizations

Dec 12, Swan Valley Post No. 63 Buffet/Potluck Christmas Dinner, 6pm, Comm Hall, Condon.	Men's Basketball League, Mon, 7-9pm, Elem School Gym, Seeley Lake.
Dec 18, Wilderness Sportsman's Club, gen mtg, 8pm, Barney's, Seeley Lake.	Refuse Disposal Site, Winter Hours (October 1 thru April 30): Wed & Sat, 10am-4pm.
AARP, 1st Mon every month, Swan Valley Comm Hall, Condon.	Swan Valley Community Library, Weds, 10am-6pm; Sat, 10am-3pm, Condon.
Alanon, Mon, 7pm, Lutheran Church, Seeley Lake.	EMERGENCY: 911 (Seeley Lake or Condon); 1-728-0911 (Greenough or Ovando).

The second tallest tree species (after the Redwood) is the Australian Mountain Ash. These trees grow to 300 feet, which is the greatest height of any non-conifer.

PYRAMID MOUNTAIN LUMBER INC. Seeley Lake, Montana

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Swan Valley

A Special Thanks



A special thanks to the Swan Valley Quick Response Unit: front row, left to right: Maynard Freyholtz, Dan Maloughney, Joyce Himes, Ellie Greenough. Back row: Ronnie Matthew, Kathy Koors, Sue Holmes, Jo Atkins, Bill Shoup, Lynn Shoup, and Barbara Seaman. Not pictured, Rosebud Miller.



Kathy Burkhart, Swan Valley jeweler, displayed her work at the Art Show near Condon last weekend.

Condon art show goes well

The First Annual Arts and Crafts Show held at the Swan Valley Community Hall near Condon last Saturday was a success, according to Carielee Parker, secretary for the Condon Community Club.

"A lot of people asked if we were going to have it again next year," Parker said, indicating that there was a lot of enthusiasm for the show.

Local artists Ken Wolff, Roger Thomas, Linda Ensign and Eleanor Emerson donated items toward a silent auction. Other craftspeople donated door prizes throughout the day.

About 17 artists and craftspeople displayed their jewelry, paintings, carvings, needlework and Christmas decorations at the Community Hall.



Linda Ensign, Swan Valley silversmith, participated in the Art Show Saturday near Condon.



Jay and Leona Lapka, Swan Valley, displayed a nice assortment of their artwork at the Arts and Crafts Show near Condon Saturday.

Legion to install new officers

Swan Valley Post No. 63 of the American Legion will install incoming officers for 1987 on December 12 at the Swan Valley Community Hall near Condon. A potluck buffet will begin at 6 p.m., followed by installation ceremonies at 7:30 p.m.

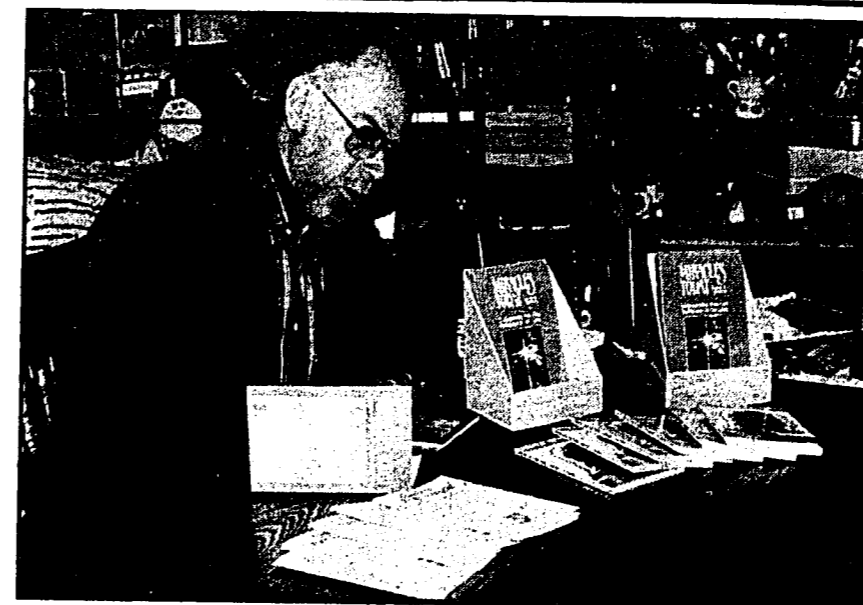
Incoming officers are: Commander, Ken Wolff; Vice Commander, Walt Styler; Adjutant, Dave Nebel; Service Officer, Maurice Brakeman; Chaplain, Barney Melton; Sgt. At Arms, Robert Reed; Treasurer, Curt Nebel.

All area veterans and spouses are encouraged to attend. All members—past, present, and future—are urged to become involved. According to Ken Wolff, the Legion Post is going to assume a

higher profile in the Swan Valley. Goals for 1987 include distributing food baskets to less fortunate neighbors and friends; working with the local AARP Chapter to insure that senior friends have an adequate supply of firewood; continued support of area schools; continued support of the Boys State program; marking highway fatality sites with white crosses; actively pursuing a local cemetery; and, possibly, sponsoring a "big fish" or "big buck" contest.

Area residents wanting to help in any capacity may contact Post officers or attend a meeting. Regular meetings are held the second Friday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Community Hall. An informal veterans coffee group meets each Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Swan Valley Centre.

In Our Churches



Pastor Rod Kvamme autographed dozens of books at an Open House in Seeley Lake last weekend. Pastor Kvamme's latest book is titled *Miracles Today: Understanding How God Participates in Our Lives*.

PASSAGES

SWAN SONG

Pastor Jim Patterson
Swan Valley Baptist Church

Daniel "Duff" Diener

CHRISTMAS! The most wonderful time of the year, as we remember the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. But do we remember His birth at this time and the reason He came to earth? Would an outsider recognize our observance as a memorial to Him?

Any explanation of the birth of Christ that does not take into account the miraculous is doomed to failure. We have heard many attempts to make the Christmas account more palatable to unbelievers. The more man tries to inject his logic, the more illogical it becomes.

Some have tried to give a logical explanation of the Virgin birth of Christ. That is about like coming up with a formula for the resurrection. Both are impossible without a miracle. *Matthew 1:23* says, "Behold a virgin shall be with child and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call His Name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is God with us."

Others have focused upon some bright star that, in their opinion, was the one which guided the wise men to Bethlehem. Any such conclusion disregards the Bible account. Try to get any known star to meet the requirements of *Matthew 2:9* - "and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was." That was a miracle!

We should not be surprised that the incarnation boggles the mind of man. Even Mary struggled with the Angelic announcement that she would bear the Christ Child. She questioned: "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" Gabriel gave her the only answer that makes sense - "For, with God, nothing shall be impossible." *Luke 1:37*

So, it is a miracle that we celebrate in this season. The incarnation of the Son of God! Let that thought capture your mind, and warm your heart. Those are not just lovely lyrics that tell us: "Joy to the World, the Lord is come" - He has come! And He is coming again!

"And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

At this "miracle season," remember: "For, with God, nothing shall be impossible."

Daniel "Duff" Diener, 63, died last Monday night of a heart attack in the Fort Harrison Veterans Hospital near Helena. Diener had been in the hospital for eleven days following a serious heart attack.

Diener and his wife, Joy, moved to the Swan Valley from Michigan about three years ago, and two of their daughters purchased the Duck Inn Motel in Seeley Lake in 1985.

Diener retired from the masonry business when he moved to Montana. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, and "just walking in the woods" according to his good friend, Orin Brown, who manages the Duck Inn in Seeley Lake.

Dan is survived by his wife, Joy, and ten children including sons Chuck, Butch, Ron and Vern; and daughters Tammy, Diane, Marsha, Donna, Linda and Debbie. He is also survived by several grandchildren.

Memorial services were held Saturday near Diener's hometown of Millington, Michigan.



Ken Wolff, Moose Feathers Studio, had several nice cribbage boards on display at the Swan Valley Art and Craft Show held Saturday near Condon. Wolff's intricately carved elk horn jewelry and knives were popular at the show.

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UPCOMING GAMES

(School Sports)

Seeley Swan High School
Girls' Basketball
Dec 11-13 State

Seeley Swan High School
Boys' Basketball
Dec 12 Seeley Swan at Arlee
Dec 13 Hot Springs at Seeley Swan
Dec 19 Seeley Swan at Charlo
Dec 20 Noxon at Seeley Swan

Swan Elementary School
Basketball
Dec 11 Seeley #2 at Swan
Dec 17 Swan Valley at Lincoln

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Blackhawks travel to Billings

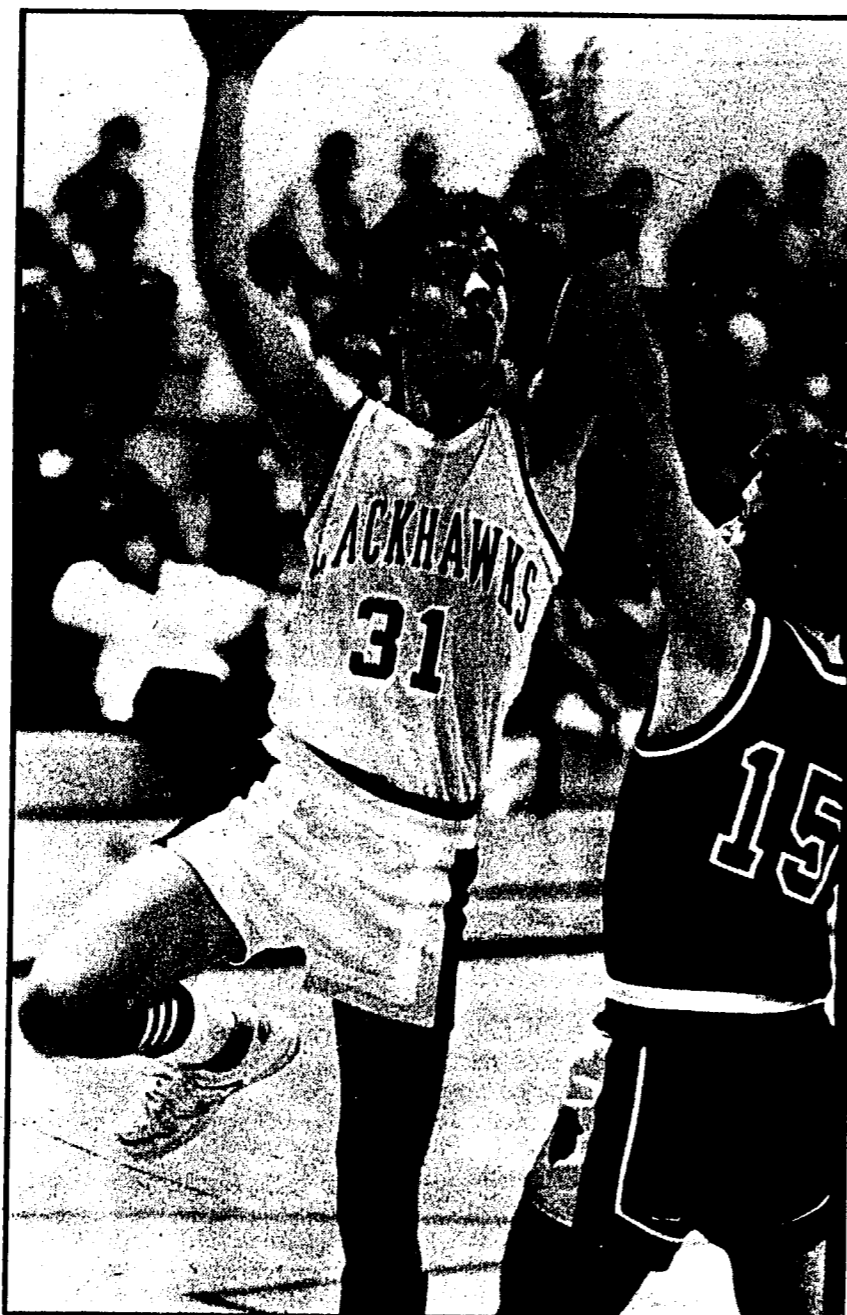
The Seeley Swan Blackhawks' girls basketball team will travel to Billings this week to compete for the State Class C Basketball Championship title. The Blackhawks are now ranked number two in the state, next to Big Sandy.

The Blackhawks will face Fromberg in their first game Thursday night. The winner of that game will face the winner of the Big Sandy-Froid game. It is possible that the Blackhawks will face Big Sandy on Friday night, with the winner advancing to the championship game Saturday.

According to Seeley Swan coach Les Gordon, "There's really no difference... we probably will play them sometime to win (the title)." Gordon indicated that, at the state level, competition is pretty even, and the Blackhawks intend to "win one game at a time."

The Blackhawks earned their berth at the State tournament by defeating Manhattan-Christian last week in Western Class C Divisional play.

Last year, the Blackhawks placed second in the divisional tournament, traveled to State and placed fourth there.



Darren Baretta, Seeley-Swan Blackhawks, goes for two at the Saturday night game against Darby.

Boys Basketball begins

Darby takes Hawks in season opener

by Craig Tanner

On Friday, December 5, the Seeley Swan boys basketball team traveled to Darby to take on the Tigers. Seeley Swan, starting an inexperienced squad, turned the ball over several times and literally self-destructed.

Craig Tanner had 22 points to lead the Hawks in scoring. Les Meyer added 11 points. Joe Bender took aim at the first-year three-point shot and managed to hit one for three of his 9 points. Darren Baretta also proved to be a strong rebounder.

The Tigers won the game, 58-46.

Seeley stumbles against Darby

by Frank DeLeo

The Seeley Swan Blackhawk boys basketball team lost its second non-conference game to the Darby Tigers Saturday night. The Blackhawks got off to a fairly good start and were ahead at the half by 4 points. But, in the second half, mistakes and turnovers by the Hawks, combined with some lucky outside shooting by the Tigers, put the game away for Darby. The Tigers won 69-48. Craig Tanner led in scoring for the Blackhawks. The Hawks are now 0-2 on the year.

Lady Hawks wrap up Divisional title

by Darren Baretta

Seeley Swan gained a 23-0 record by defeating Manhattan-Christian 57-46. Colleen McNally led the Hawks with 22 points and many assists. Teresa Frye and Heidi Olson each contributed 12 points and Teresa Frye crashed the boards for 16 rebounds.

"The Blackhawks," according to Coach Gordon, "played very good defense. Alvina Vannoy and the other Blackhawk players held the Eagles' scoring duo of Alberta and Baker to just 22 points."

PORTRAIT OF EXCELLENCE The 1986 Lady Blackhawks



Front Row, Cheerleaders left to right: Teresa Mahaffey, Annie Klebenow, Brittney Pederson, Pam Styler, Jenéce Jacobs, Assistant Coach Art Sikkink, Coach Les Gordon. Middle Row, left to right: Brittne Hebnes, Alvina Vannoy, Shauna Haines, Teresa Frye, Colleen McNally, Heidi Olson. Back Row, left to right: Sandy DeLeo, Debbie Johnson, Jackie Gossard, Stephanie Owens, Mistie Dillree, Billie Copenhaver.

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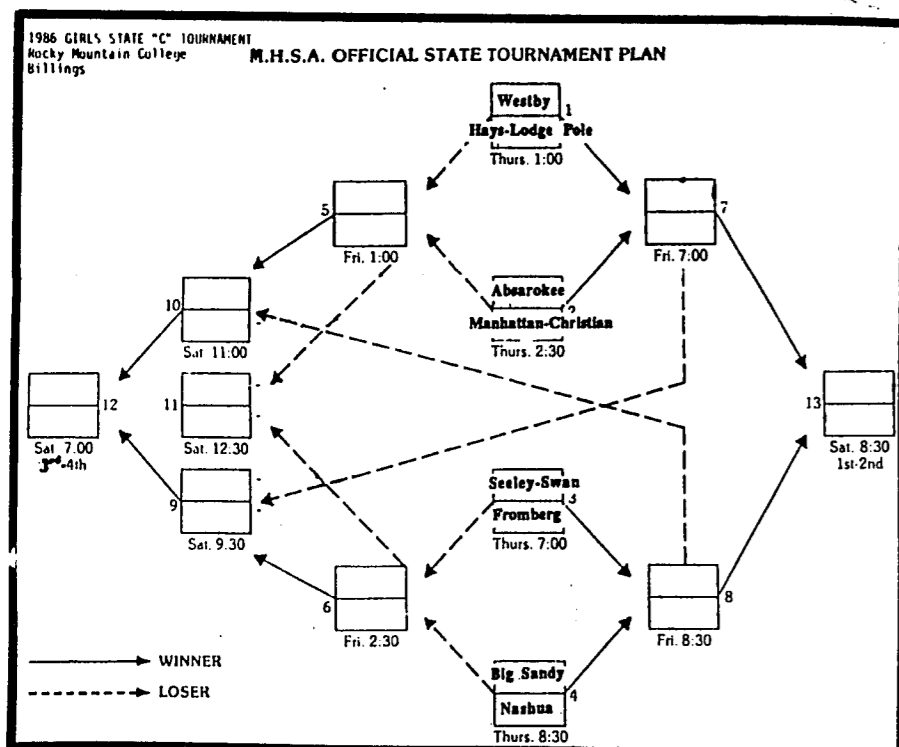
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OUTDOORS

Big Game Season

More hunters; average success rate

About 1,000 more hunters checked through the Bonner check station this past season, compared to 1985. However, compared to 1982, the number of hunter trips recorded at Bonner has nearly doubled.

"The numbers don't tell it all," according to Bill Thomas, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Missoula. "Season success and hunter satisfaction are really measured in the number of opportunities provided."

Thomas explained that check station numbers may only indicate trends. The hunter harvest survey conducted by telephone in January should provide more accurate information, he said.

Game counts at Bonner for the five-week 1986 big game season were:

11,447 hunter trips; 276 elk; 533 mule deer; 524 whitetail deer. That compares with 1985 figures of: 10,244 hunter trips; 264 elk; 559 mule deer and 396 whitetail.

In 1982 the figures looked like this: 6,887 hunter trips; 172 elk; 376 mule deer and 303 whitetail deer.

In the Swan Valley, Mike Aderhold, Fish and Game information officer for Region 1, pointed out that the general harvest trend has been down for the past three years, but the harvest has been better than any year between 1970 and 1982.

"The weather had a lot to do with the harvest this year," Aderhold said.

Counts from the Swan Valley check station for the 1986 season were: 30 elk; 21 mule deer; 234 whitetail and 5,965 hunters.

In 1985, figures showed: 73 elk, 195 mule deer, 194 whitetail and 5,275 hunters.

Compared to 1982, the figures look like this: 43 elk, 140 mule deer, 226 whitetail and 5,027 hunters.



Pam Pitman and son, David, pose with this five-point whitetail buck which Pam shot earlier this season. The nice, even rack measured 147 5/8 (gross green score) and 144 2/8 (net score). A minimum of 170 is required for the Boone and Crockett books, but Roger Selner, who measured the rack, agreed that this was still a trophy class whitetail.

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Scenic 83 meeting set

Keith Hammer of the Swan Valley Coalition will be the guest speaker at the Scenic 83 annual dinner meeting at Holland Lake Lodge, set for December 17 beginning at 7 p.m.

Scenic 83 is the name of a loose-knit organization formed two years ago to assess the impact of proposed tree-cutting and logging activity in the Clearwater and Swan Valleys and how that logging might affect scenic views along Highway 83.

The Montana Department of Highways had originally planned to cut trees along Highway 83 for safety reasons but, according to Jim DeHerrera of the Seeley Lake Ranger District, the project has been postponed. Missoula Electric Cooperative, which has a right-of-way along the highway, is still planning to cut trees which were marked last summer.

These topics and others will be discussed at the no-host dinner. According to organizer Al Cluck, Condon, interested persons should make dinner reservations through Holland Lake Lodge.



Moore invited to Sportsman's Club meeting

Janet Moore, District 65 Representative, has been invited to discuss fish and game laws and proposed legislation at the December 18 meeting of the Wilderness Sportsman's Club in Seeley Lake. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at Barney's.

No late hunts in Region 2

No late hunts are currently scheduled in Region 2, according to Missoula Fish and Game information officer, Bill Thomas. The Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks has in the past arranged late hunts as a management tool for certain areas.

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Linwood Fiedler

Huskies on the run

by Suzanne Vernon

Saturday morning, winter arrived, and while the trees were bending and sighing under the weight of their new coats, Linwood Fiedler and 14 Alaskan huskies silently loped through the aspen, spruce and fir and climbed high on Rice Ridge, then Richmond, through powder snow chest deep on a long-legged husky.

At 4 a.m., before the lavender dawn began to break the sky, Fiedler had been connecting gang-lines and convincing his anxious dogs to wait in their traces as they jumped and barked and howled, excited about running on these mountain trails, frosted with snow and 12 inches of crystal powder.

Fiedler won the 500-mile-long Governor's Cup sled dog race last year, which was run from Helena to Holland Lake and back. He returned to Seeley Lake last weekend to train his dogs in deep snow, conditioning them to buck snowdrifts and stay on their feet through the fluffy powder.

Seeley Lake appeals to Linwood. Although he usually trains on the Little Blackfoot River, near his Helena home, Seeley Lake has more snow, and this weekend, better trail conditions. "I like Seeley Lake," he said on Sunday, sporting a wide grin in the glaring afternoon sun. Linwood took a lunch break at noon and, while he visited, several snowmobilers and skiers approached, each one in turn stopping to watch the huskies and inquire about the dog team. "People here are just fantastic," Fiedler beamed. "Everybody knows about the races and they all ask me questions."

The romance of sled dog racing has infected Montanans in the same sort of way that it first struck Linwood.

"I had never seen a dog sled race until I came to Montana," he laughed. Linwood moved here from Vermont, where he was a member of a ski team and competed in ski-jumping for three years.

"I've always been involved in individual sports, and mushing is probably the epitome of the individual sports," he chuckled.

Linwood's first sled dogs originally came from Jack Hooker's teams. Hooker, of the Whitetail Ranch near Ovando, competed in the Iditarod, an 1,100-mile race run from Anchorage to Nome.

That was seven years ago. Since then, Linwood has trained a team of Alaskan huskies. These long, lean and powerful dogs have been cross-bred for vigor. "There's twenty years of breeding behind these dogs," he explained. And though he admits that "some of them are downright ugly," they are all built to run. "You breed a dog to be thin, to have long legs, a long back and good front shoulders. These are the marathon runners, if you want to equate it in human terms. They aren't the football players," he laughed.

One of the reasons that this team has been strong in distance races is that Linwood raised the dogs himself. "I taught them the way I wanted them to be taught. They respond to that," he said. Four winters ago, these dogs were all "yearlings" he said, when he ran the Polebridge, 150-mile race. These same dogs, with three years racing experience,

made up the team that won the Governor's Cup last year.

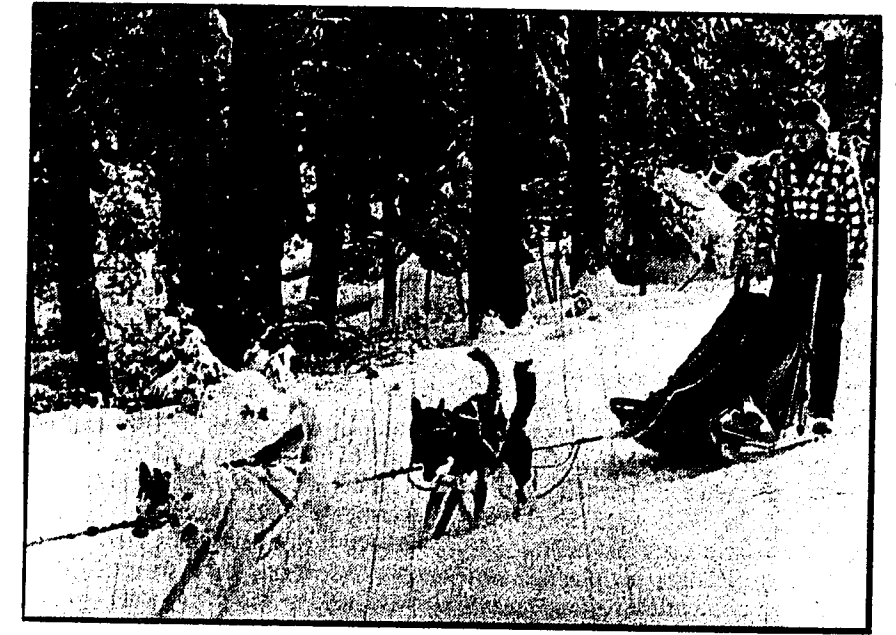
Linwood competed in the Bear-grease Race in Minnesota, a grueling race about 400 miles long. The terrain is "hilly" there, with a lot of ups and downs. Fiedler ran against Libby Riddles and Susan Butcher, both past Iditarod winners. He placed fourth behind them.

Linwood smiles when he remembers explaining the race course of the Governor's Cup to a man from Minnesota. "I explained that there were several mountain passes to go up and over, and that each pass was from four to ten miles long. He didn't believe me," he said. After the race, one Minnesotan commented, "We've got mountains in Minnesota, but they've got tops to them!"

Distance mushers, Linwood feels, are a different breed of people, totally consumed by sled dog racing. "They are real dedicated, and put a lot of time into their dogs," he said. "Most of them... I really like them. But, because you're a competitor, you don't get close to each other," he explained. "Once fall training begins, we hardly talk to each other at all."

Contrary to most Iditarod stories, Linwood has seen mushers pause and chat with each other during competition, and also stop to help a competitor who might need a hand. "They seem to keep it in perspective better," he said, commenting on the fierce, and almost nasty, competition seen in some other individual sports.

But strategy is important. And so is the weather. "The weather makes all the difference," Linwood pointed out. A major winter storm-front blew in during last year's Governor's Cup and changed the course of the race drastically. During the Beargrease last year in Minnesota, warm weather also changed the outcome of the race. "My dogs burned out in the heat," Fiedler said.



Linwood Fiedler heads for the mountains with his team.

Sled dogs are well fed both on the trail and off. Many mushers receive support from dog food companies interested in animal nutrition. Fiedler is testing a new research diet developed by Iams, the major sponsor of the 1987 Governor's Cup Race, set for February 8 through 12.

Fiedler's whole family gets in on the act when it comes to caring for the dogs. They all pitch in and clean kennels and pamper their huskies. Linwood, his wife, Kathi, and sons Justin and Dalton, live in Helena where Linwood attends Carroll College, majoring in social work.

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OUTDOORS

Wetlands mapping project begins

The University of Montana's School of Forestry is leading a multi-agency, five-year research effort to map Montana's riparian wetlands, those areas which lie between rivers, lakes and streams and the dryer uplands. The results of the research, the nation's first attempt on a state-wide level, are expected to have a large impact on both potential legislation and land management practices affecting farmers and ranchers throughout Montana.

Working under an \$85,000 grant from the State Department of Natural Resources, the University of Montana's Forest and Conservation Experiment Station has taken the leadership role in developing a formal riparian vegetation classification system. Translated, that means all types of plants in wetlands throughout Montana will be categorized in common terms that everyone, from government agencies to private land-owners, can use to better understand the

ecology of the wetlands systems. This common language, or taxonomy, is the linchpin around which the entire research project revolves.

The team is led by Paul Hansen, a riparian ecologist at UM hired for the project; Robert Pfister, director of the School of Forestry's Mission Oriented Research Program; and Don Bedunah, associate professor in the School of Forestry. Pfister and Ron Batchelor, from the Soil Conservation Service in Bozeman, were originally part of a state-wide Riparian Team in 1981 that laid much of the groundwork for the current program. They learned that while several agencies and organizations in the state had active riparian studies, there was no cooperative approach to establishing classification and management guidelines.

In addition, riparian wetlands had long been the "stray child" of land management information and practice, receiving far less attention and study than timberlands, for example, or agricultural and wilderness areas. The situation was spelled out in the Montana Forest and Conservation Experiment Station's grant application: "Increasing concern for management of fisheries, water quality, wildlife and range in the critical riparian zone have

received major attention in the last few years. Competing multiple uses are leading to direct conflicts. Although concern is high, these ecosystems are less studied and less understood than most ecosystems in the state. The problem is complicated by the fragmented multiple ownerships."

Because farmers and ranchers own much of the riparian area throughout the state, Hansen, Pfister and Bedunah will be working closely with them to help them map and manage their wetlands. The benefit to using "cooperators" is two-fold: the state saves a great deal of money in not hiring added personnel to handle that portion of the work; and farmers and ranchers learn firsthand how the system of information works, along with obtaining recommendations on how to keep their riparian wetlands at a peak of function and productivity.

The actual mapping and classification are not difficult to do, but are time-consuming. Hansen and his colleagues select an area which they mark out on a grid. They then walk over the ground, noting types of vegetation at each step and how the ecosystem is structured. They carefully note not just "cottonwood trees," but the exact type of cottonwood and how many there are. Riparian areas vary widely, says Hansen, in their ability to endure certain types of treatment. Where camping by one stream may have little or no effect on its riparian system, another streamside spot may contain vegetation that is extremely fragile and cannot recoup after any disturbance. Grazing along one streamside may work well; along another, it may completely deplete the land and affect the quality of the land adversely.

In general, Montana has enjoyed healthy riparian systems which have added greatly to the recreational, environmental and agricultural portions of the state's economy, says Dan Hinckley, riparian coordinator for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Montana and co-chairman of the Montana Riparian Association.

"Since the 1930s, range lands and riparian areas have been improving. We have better vegetation growth, water storage, raised water tables, better fish habitats, grazing and recreation opportunities. Where riparian areas are kept in good condition, intermittent streams -

those which do not flow year-round - have longer flows. Instead of drying up in July they might now dry up in August, for example."

Hinckley says BLM expects the research to affect their land in ways such as finding better methods for timber harvest, mining practices, livestock grazing and recreational uses.

Understanding the ecology of the wetlands is just the beginning. The project includes plans for sharing information throughout the state; recommending management practices for individual sites; and providing continued education and training for both agencies and individuals who own or work with riparian areas.

Mons Tiegen, executive vice-president of the Montana Stockgrowers Association, expresses some hesitancy about the project. "I think that they're trying to do something positive," he says. "Private landowners are a little sensitive to the word 'riparian' because government agencies don't own much riparian land. I think the effort's fine, but the concern I have is that some procedures and techniques will be developed in the West, for example (Western Montana) and will be forced upon the East, where riparian areas are quite different."

A major goal of the project, says researcher Hansen, is to avoid that particular situation. Because landowners will be taking part in the taxonomic classification of their own property, and the various state and federal agencies are working together on the project, the resulting data base will contain information specific to each individual site. As a result, landowners will have more knowledge and understanding with which to initiate, change, or continue their land management practices. The research team emphasized that they are collecting and providing the data only, not forming policy or telling local boards and landowners how to use the information.

Throughout this winter, Hansen and his colleagues will be analyzing the data they've collected in the last year, gradually compiling it into a two-part report on classification and management strategies. Next spring and summer, they will be documenting their data base and holding a series of workshops throughout the state concerning the research. Actual analysis and examination of wetlands ecologies is being conducted as data is gathered. Throughout the study, the team will be sharing information on their findings, holding training sessions and recommending possible management strategies.

Swan Valley

Swan River Oxbow Preserve

Refuge will protect rare plants

Half a million dollars may seem like a lot of money to pay to protect a rare plant, but to the Nature Conservancy *Howellia aquatilis* is worth much, much more than that.

The Nature Conservancy recently committed to spending that sum when it acquired 400 acres which lie south of the existing Swan Lake Wildlife Refuge and north of Porcupine Creek in the Swan Valley "in an old oxbow of the Swan River," according to Conservancy spokeswoman, Joan Bird, Helena. The latest Conservancy newsletter points out that this wetlands area may harbor as many as 6,000 *Howellia* plants.

That's an impressive number of occurrences, considering that there are only four geographic areas in the world where the plant is known to exist: two in Washington and two in Montana. No one knew the plant existed in Montana until 1979, when a botany student discovered it in the Swan Valley.

"If we lose those potholes, we're going to lose the plant," Bird said on Friday. She explained that the Nature Conservancy will seek to acquire lands that harbor threatened or endangered species of plants and animals only in unique situations. The Swan River Oxbow Preserve is the first natural area preserve created by the Conservancy in five years.

"The occurrence of the plant on this property is the reason we acquired it," Bird explained, adding that the area also provides excellent grizzly habitat, and supports two of the state's other endangered plants—yellow lady slipper and northern bastard toadflax.

Bill Pederson, District Ranger at the Swan Lake Ranger District in Bigfork, recently toured the new preserve with members of the Nature Conservancy. In a telephone conversation Friday, he expressed concern for the survival of *Howellia*.

"We won't ignore it. . . we'll look at it as a sensitive plant . . . and identify it in our planning process," he said.

The current Forest Plan now calls for timber harvesting in some of the areas where *Howellia* has been found. Plum Creek also owns land where *Howellia* exists, and those areas are scheduled for roading in 1989 and timber harvesting in 1990, according to Bird.

"*Howellia* grows in three other areas of the Swan Valley: Lindbergh Lake, Condon Creek, and the Woodward Creek Cedar Site in the Fatty Creek area."

Howellia, Montana's rarest plant, grows underwater and has small, white flowers which float on shallow ponds. It is an annual and apparently depends on the wetlands' cyclic drying-out periods, along with renewed winter and spring moisture for reproduction.

Howellia once flourished in wetland areas throughout the Northwest and California, but nearly all the sites critical for this plant's survival have been lost due to agricultural development, timber harvesting and subdivisions, according to Bird, who works for the Conservancy's Big Sky Field Office in Helena.

Howellia grows in three other areas of the Swan Valley: Lindbergh Lake, Condon Creek, and the Woodward Creek Cedar Site in the Fatty Creek area. Any development or timber harvesting in these areas could destroy this rare jewel, according to Bird.

Bird pointed out that *Howellia* does not currently have any legal status as a protected plant species, and that additional research will be done to determine the exact needs of this fragile, monotypic plant. (*Howellia* is the sole species in its genus; the survival of the entire genus is at stake, according to Bird.)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has placed *Howellia* at the top of its list for obtaining protection classification.

"We hope that it will be listed (as a protected species) in the near future," Bird said.

Acquisition of the new preserve is being funded by a combination of donations and fundraising activities organized by the Nature Conservancy. Money for the down payment on the land was provided through a grant from the McKnight Foundation.

Lion season open

Fish and game officials have established harvest quotas for lion hunting districts this year. In the combined hunting districts 130 and 170 (Swan Valley and Flathead Valley) there is a six-lion quota, with a subquota of three females.

Last year in Region One, 51 lions were legally harvested (32 males, 19 females). This kill was a 16% increase over the 1984-85 harvest and was the second highest regional kill since 1971.

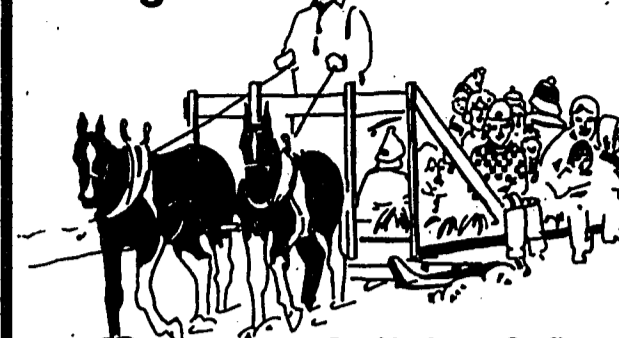
The Region One harvest the last few years has been uneven. Fifty-one percent of the kill came out of just two hunting districts - the Swan Valley (HD

130) and West Sanders County (HD 121).

Hunters must now declare a hunting unit when they purchase a lion license in Region One to preclude "hopping from one hunting district to another" as quotas are reached, according to Mike Aderhold, information officer with the Kalispell Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks. This brings the management of lions more in line with the management of other trophy species such as moose, bighorn sheep and mountain goats, he said.

A chase-only season for lions begins February 16 through April 30 1986. Hunters wishing to participate in any chase season must hold a valid 1986 license as well as a free chase permit.

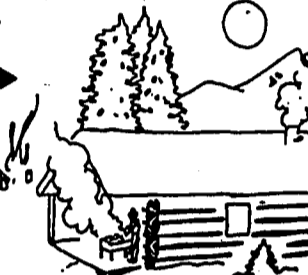
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Seeley Lake

Another successful bazaar

The Seeley Lake Women's Club sponsored another successful bazaar last Saturday at the Community Hall. Since the late sixties, the Women's Club has raised more than \$37,000 which they have donated to the Community Hall for construction materials and "a little labor," according to Mildred Chaffin, current vice president and longtime Club member.

Profits were down a little this year compared to last year, but Marge Flere, secretary, attributed that to the snowstorm that blew in Friday night. "I think we did real good, considering the weather," she said.

"It's a lot of work, but it's a lot of fun, too," Flere laughed, explaining that she, and other Club members, were pretty tired after Saturday's all-day sale. There are currently nine active members in the Club. At one time, there were more than 30 women in the group.

The Seeley Lake Women's Club was first organized in 1953 as a Home Demonstration Club and is the oldest continuously-existing organization in Seeley Lake, according to Mildred Chaffin.

The \$37,000 raised from bazaars, bake sales and quilt sales, represents just the money that has been donated to the Community Hall. The Club has donated thousands more over the years to needy families within the community and,

also, to the Poverello Center in Missoula.

"We are giving to the Poverello again this year," Chaffin explained. The Club is also helping needy families in the community with groceries, clothing and toys for Christmas. Last year, the Club gave "three or four" \$100 checks to needy families in addition to their traditional grocery boxes, Chaffin said. The group has distributed "bachelor boxes" to local residents and cookie tins to servicemen for many years.

The Women's Club has a few stuffed animals and assorted handcrafted items left over from the bazaar, and will continue selling these items throughout the holidays. "We get calls for ten days or so afterwards," Chaffin laughed, explaining that there are often "late shoppers" in Seeley Lake.



Sally Jungers demonstrates some painting techniques with her ceramics at the Seeley Lake Women's Club Bazaar



The Seeley Lake Women's Club: front left to right, Mitzi Haglund, Mildred Chaffin. Back left to right, Marge Flere, Jean Johnson, Bertha Kerbs, and president, Mame Baker. Not pictured, Evelyn Moore, Emma Ashcroft and Ruby Crawford.



Josh and Dianna Plum demonstrated some Discovery Toys games at the Seeley Lake Women's Club Bazaar on Saturday.

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Christmas tree advice

Christmas tree cutting is a ritual enjoyed by many Montana residents. How and where you cut your tree can either improve or damage the forest. The Flathead National Forest offers the following guidelines:

-Cut your tree from an overcrowded stand. This will improve growth in remaining trees.

-Cut trees that are three inches, or less, in diameter at the stump. Cut the stump below eight inches in height and remove all limbs from the unused portion of the tree.

-Avoid cutting your tree from plantations or previously thinned stands.

SCHOOLS

Puppet show Friday

The Patchwork Puppet Company will perform "Rumpelstiltskin" for area children on Friday, December 12 at 3:30 p.m. at the Seeley Lake Community Hall. The show is sponsored by the Seeley Lake Day Care and Preschool.

Mary Watchel and Signe James of the Puppet Company, Missoula, have been entertaining children for 10 years with their handcrafted puppets. They have performed in Seeley Lake during the past three years.

The show will last about 25 minutes, and Mary and Signe will answer questions and introduce puppets after the show. The show is intended for children age three years and up, according to Watchel.

For more information stop by the Seeley Lake Day Care north of Seeley Lake during business hours.

Santa arrives next week

Santa will arrive at Dan's Discount in Seeley Lake on the night of December 17 to begin distribution of candy and fruit to area youngsters. (Santa is also scheduled for a stopover here on December 20 at The Saloon. See related story.)

Also on the night of December 17, most downtown businesses will be open to share hot drinks and cookies, and allow residents the opportunity for late night shopping. According to Jodi DeHerrera, Seeley Lake Area Chamber of Commerce committee chairman for Christmas events, Santa will also give out the traveling trophy for the best-decorated business in Seeley Lake. Tall Timber won the award last year.

The Chamber of Commerce is organizing Santa's appearance on December 17.

Swan Christmas program Dec. 18

The Swan Valley Elementary school Christmas program will begin at 7:30 p.m., December 18, in the new multi-purpose room. Each class will perform a short skit. Santa traditionally visits the kids after the performance, handing out goodies provided by the PTA.



These Seeley Lake Elementary students were recently chosen as V.I.P. (Very Important People) in a new program at the school intended to "Pat the one on the back who does something worthwhile," according to Principal John Hebnes. Pictured here are, front row, left to right, Melinda Cahoon (second grade), Shawna Nemmers (third grade), Arwyn Welander (first grade), Ben Cahoon (afternoon kindergarten). Middle row: Kelly Christian (sixth grade), Leann Taylor (fifth grade), Joe Weddle (fourth grade), Jenny Nentwig (seventh grade). Back row: Tony Scolliek (eighth grade), Shawn Helvick (sixth grade) and Jack Shoupe (eighth grade).

Roller skating parties approved

At the request of the Swan Valley PTA, Swan Valley Elementary trustees recently approved roller skating parties to be held in the new multi-purpose room. One stipulation to allowing roller skating on the gym floor was that children should wear skates with urethane-type wheels. The PTA has tentatively scheduled skating parties for December 27 and New Year's Day.

In other PTA news, the Swan Valley group is collecting Campbell's Soup labels as a fundraising activity. According to president Susie Cox, the group only needs 67,000 labels to purchase a new computer for the school!

Correction

Joe Weddle, Seeley Lake Elementary fourth grade student, should have been included in the first quarter Honor Roll. Joe's name was not on the list initially provided to Pathfinder, and school officials apologize for the error.

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Recreation Guide

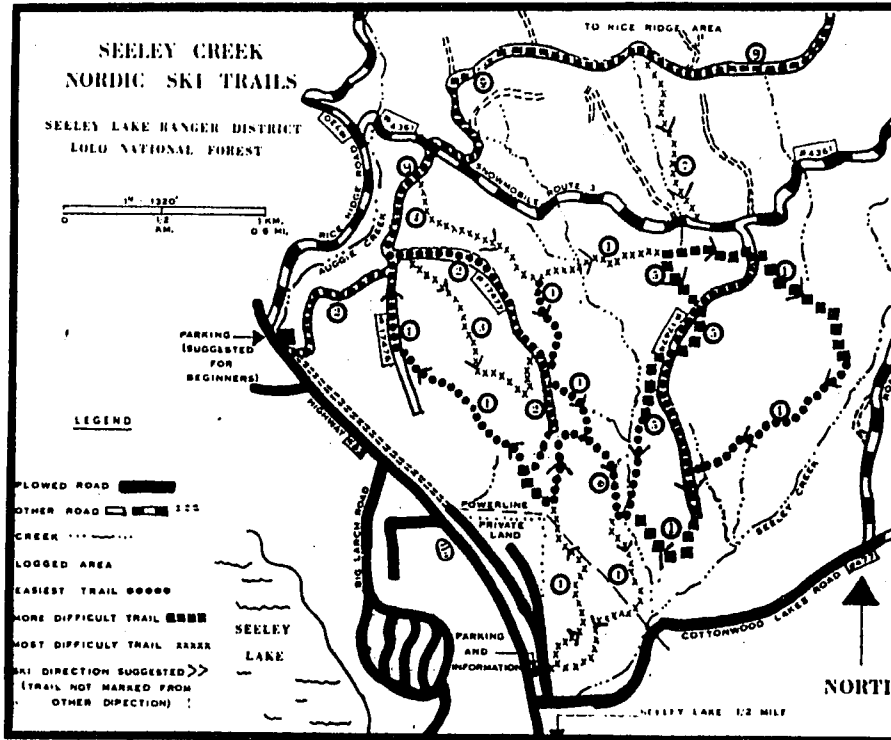
Cross-country ski trail system has new signs

Volunteers and Forest Service employees from the Seeley Lake Ranger District are currently working on a system of cross-country ski trails located east of the Seeley Lake Community Hall. New signs are being installed and trails are being re-marked. Some trails are also being packed with snow machines.

Access points for the ski trail system are located behind the Seeley

Lake Community Hall (for intermediate to advanced skiers) and north of Seeley Lake on the Rice Ridge road (for beginner through advanced.) Jim DeHerrera, recreation management assistant with the Seeley Lake Ranger District, said Monday that work this year will be concentrated on the trails in the west half of the system. "We have a system in transition this winter," DeHerrera said.

Maps of the trail system are available and posted on bulletin boards at both access points. Dogs and motorized vehicles are not allowed on the trails.



Current snowpack is average

BOZEMAN-Most of Montana's mountains had average or above average snowpacks around December 1, according to readings from the U.S. Soil Conservation Service's 70 automated snow survey sites.

The two exceptions are in northwestern Montana where snowpacks are nearly twice the average levels, and in central and southwestern Montana where the snowpack is below average, according to Phil Farnes, SCS snow survey supervisor.

The first manual snow measurements of the season will be made at the end of December. About 100 of the 240 snow courses in the state will be measured then. The 70 automated SNOTEL sites provide snow, precipitation and air temperatures daily.

Usually by now, 20 percent of the season's snowpack has accumulated, Farnes says. Mountain precipitation in October was below average, with the exception of the northwest corner of Montana. That trend reversed in November, with well-above average precipitation, except for the southwest corner of the state.

Snow Report

Snow conditions are perfect now for both snowmobiling and cross-country skiing. There is a well-packed base with about four inches of powder. As of Monday at the Seeley Lake Ranger Station, there were nine inches of snow on the Valley floor. There is plenty of deep powder at the higher elevations.

Fishing Report

Fishing is fair to good along the shores of Seeley Lake, which has not yet frozen over. Some of the smaller lakes and potholes in the valleys are frozen and fishing is picking up there. Ice on Salmon, Inez, Alva and Rainy lakes is not yet thick enough to support fishermen and ice houses.

Whitefishing remains good in the Blackfoot River.

Dolack's Blackfoot River

Poster commissioned by The Nature Conservancy

Sometimes, the things we take for granted are the things outsiders find most attractive about Montana. And sometimes the things that need to be protected, are also the things we take for granted. But, thanks to generous landowners in the Blackfoot Valley, and the efforts of members of the Nature Conservancy in Helena, a project designed to protect portions of the Blackfoot River corridor became a success and was recognized internationally with a video filmed by the Land Trust Exchange.

The Nature Conservancy is now commemorating the project with a new Monte Dolack poster. According to Dolack, whose studio is in Missoula, the Blackfoot River poster is one of a series of five posters now being planned by the Conservancy. Dolack has been working on the Blackfoot River poster idea for "about a year," he said last week. The idea for the poster came from Conservancy member, Bob Kiesling, Helena, who was not available last week for comment on the project.

Dolack also created a commemorative poster for the Pine View Swamp Preserve along the East Front of the Rocky Mountains. Plans for other posters include commemoration of the Dinosaur Digs near Augusta, and a Montana Centennial poster.

(Editor's Note: more information on the Blackfoot River Corridor Project will appear in next week's Pathfinder.)



Geri Netherton, Seeley Lake, poses with Monte Dolack's Blackfoot River poster. The poster was commissioned by The Nature Conservancy. Poster logo reads: "Celebrating a successful venture in public and private conservation."

Country Journal

by Suzanne Vernon

Finally, winter is really here. I love this fluffy white snow that glides beneath your skis. And that warm afternoon sun isn't bad either!

Several people are hoping for clear skies this Friday night, as there is a meteor shower predicted. If conditions are right, we'll see about 20 to 30 "falling stars" every hour after 10 p.m. (though I'm going to check earlier because I have missed these things before!). We're approaching a full moon, which often interferes with viewing of meteor showers. But the past few nights have been dark and crystal clear.

The bird migrations seem to be winding down. Loris Uhl did see several eagles and osprey gathering on Salmon

Lake last week, but Audubon folks in the Valley tell me that may be the tail-end of the eagle migration.

We have seen many interesting tracks in the snow. The mice have all been out exploring since the storm Friday night. If you are patient, sometimes you'll even catch them scampering across the fragile surface of the snow.

Grouse are easy to watch now. You can follow their afternoon tracks and watch them feed on the snowberries and rose hips. They now roost near the house at night.

We also have a Clark's nutcracker, and several Downy and Hairy woodpeckers. The Clark's nutcracker has to have the most powerful beak of any of these birds. He really attacks the suet!



Movie & VCR Rentals

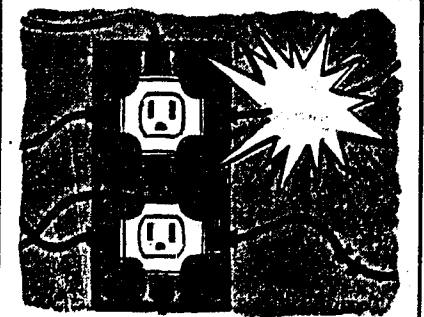
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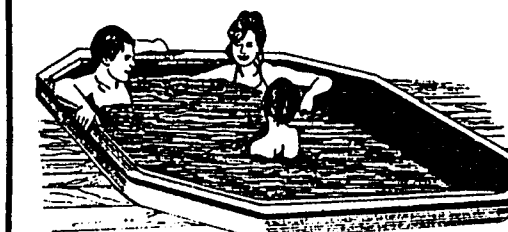
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G.H.G. - THANKS for your upbeat, uplifting messages. Folks like you make this Valley special! Merry Christmas. - A Fan

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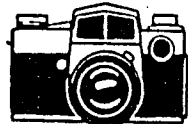
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Your Full-Service Office **MLS**

JOAN COWAN REALTY
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Seeley Lake, MT 59868
406/677-2355
The Professional Realtor

DOUBLE ARROW REALTY
Drawer E
Seeley Lake, MT 59868
406/677-2204 or 1-800/821-3709
Prime Recreational Property

150 FEET DEEDED FRONTAGE on Clearwater River with good building site, power, phone, central water and year round road. Seeley Swan Realty, 677-2828.

10 ACRES next to Forest Service with meadow, trees, view, creek, road, power and phone. Seeley Swan Realty, 677-2828.

LEVEL LOT ON DOUBLE ARROW with water assessment already paid. \$11,900.00 Joan Cowan Realty, 677-2355.

THREE BEDROOM, TWO BATH DELUXE MOBILE HOME ON 6.5 ACRES with large garage and shop. \$79,900.00 Joan Cowan Realty, 677-2355.

RECREATIONAL LAND. 2 to 10 acres. Great selection - mountain views, creek or river frontage, secluded or close to town. END OF YEAR SPECIAL: Two bedroom log home with large deck, city water and close to town. \$64,000.00 - Double Arrow Realty 677-2204 or 1-800-821-3709.

1983 WOODLAKE 2 bdrm mobile home on Seeley Lake Homesite lot. Close to town/schools. Easy terms for complete package, w/25% down. Rich Real Estate, 677-2467.

SEELEY LAKE HOMESITE LOT w/city water, septic tank & drainfield. Hook-up for mobile home. Rich Real Estate, 677-2467.

OVER 100 FEET RIVER FRONTAGE with this 4-bedroom home on the Clearwater. Spacious and comfortable. Call Cheryl. Seeley Condon Realty, 677-2484.

LAND HO! City lots, 2.9, 5, 20, and 80 acre parcels. Call Bud or Cindy. Seeley Condon Realty, 677-2484.

2 BDRM LOG HOME on two plus acres. New oak kitchen, new bath, attached garage, large deck, spectacular views. \$55,000 terms. Seeley Swan Realty, 754-2233.

10 ACRES. Views of both Mission & Swan, county road, utilities nearby. \$25,000 terms. Seeley Swan Realty, 754-2233.

RICH REAL ESTATE
Box 505
Seeley Lake, MT 59868
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Your Oldest Real Estate Firm

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Six Salespeople to Serve You

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Specializing in Swan Valley

Business Briefs

The new video game parlor in Seeley Lake now has a new name: 5 Star Arcade. Mark Hickman, son of the Reverend D. Paul and Mrs. Hickman, Seeley Lake, submitted the winning name in Jan Lee Enterprises' "You-Name-It" contest, according to LeRoy Vick, proprietor. Mark won \$20.00.

5 Star Arcade is one of the newest businesses in Seeley Lake, located next to the Seeley Lake Mercantile. The adult-supervised game parlor offers a variety of popular video games.

With all the talk of hunting for trophy deer and elk, Warren Stone of Stoney's 4-G's at Clearwater Junction reminds residents that the No. 10 (in the nation) Boone and Crockett elk is on display at Stoney's. Warren acquired the elk mount 16 years ago and it has been displayed at Stoney's since that time. The elk was shot in Mineral County, Montana.

Good Times hosts open house

Susan Shea of the Good Times General Store will be hosting an Open House the afternoons of December 13 and 14 (Saturday and Sunday). She is having a "preview" of several new clothing lines for infants through adults, including slacks, sweaters, jogging suits, ski pants, jackets, mittens and hats. She will also be introducing several new Christmas gift items.



Happy Holiday

VALLEY MARKET

FOOD FARM

One Mile South of Seeley Lake on Highway 83
Phone 406/677-2121

Specials
December 10 - 16

MEAT DEPARTMENT FEATURES

LOCKER BEEF - USDA Choice

Half, Hind and Front Quarter

Cut, Wrapped and Frozen to Your Specifications

See us today for your needs and check our prices!



"Fresh" Fish Specials

FRESH WHOLE DUNGENESS CRAB	\$2.89 lb
JUMBO BUTTER CLAMS	\$1.89 lb
BLUE MACCO (Veal of the Sea) STEAKS	\$3.99 lb
RED SALMON STEAKS	\$2.89 lb
ALBACORE MINI STEAKS	\$3.99 lb
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FLAVOR-CRISP® CHICKEN (12 Piece Box)	\$4.99/box

Bananas	23¢ lb
Carrots (5 lb bag)	\$1.00/bag
Red Delicious Apples	49¢ lb
Rainier Beer (12 pak, 12 oz cans)	\$4.25

Meadow Gold Ice Cream (gallon bucket)	\$3.59
Meadow Gold Cottage Cheese (24 oz)	\$1.39
Folger's Coffee (3 pound tin)	\$7.98