

**Another
Grizzly
Encounter**

**Missoula authorities help
locals brainstorm the 'Barn'**

**Groups hold annual
Infrastructure
Meeting**

Seeley
Swan

PATHFINDER

<http://www.seeleyswanpathfinder.com>

Vol XVI, No. 30

"Voices from the Valley"

Thursday, November 22, 2001



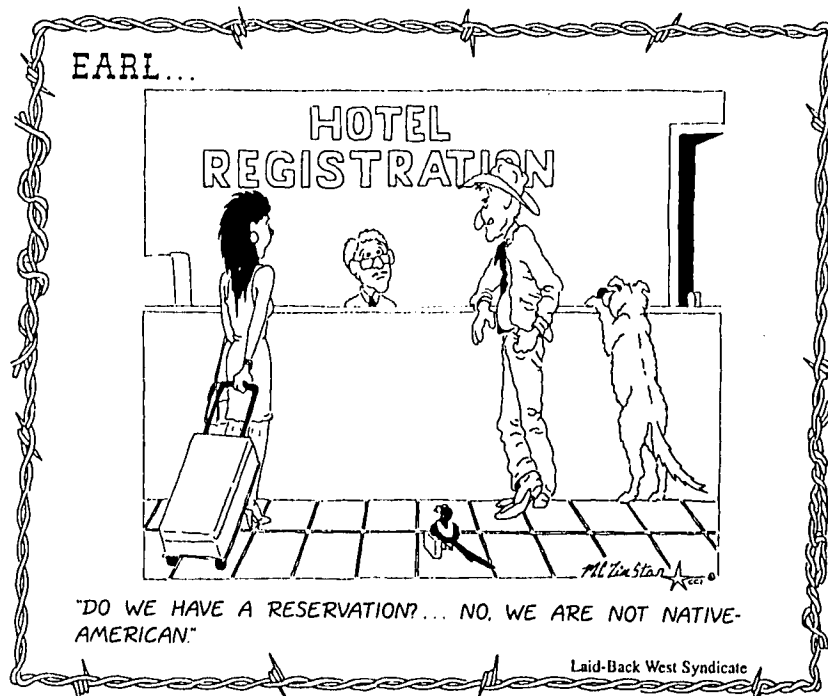
*Hauling
in the catch
in research
project*

Story Inside

NO FISHING
NO POWERBOAT
BAYING AREA
WILE BOAT IS
NO ENTRY

Donn
email: pathfinder@mo

OPINION



Laid-Back West Syndicate

Editorial Comment

Chips . . . bits & pieces

Check out downtown Seeley this weekend. There's open house(s) and refreshments (almost meals in some cases) and special sales in several shops.

We hope you have a safe and happy Thanksgiving. And, as it is a time to be thankful, we are especially grateful to be living in this country at this time and to experience freedoms not known, or imagined, in much of the world.

We have much to be grateful for.

—Gary Noland

Because You Care, There's Energy Share

More than 2,000 Montana households would go without heat this winter if it weren't for the assistance of Energy Share of Montana. The help of all Montanans is needed now to keep their neighbors warm.

"This year will be no exception to the need our neighbors have," said Heidi Murphy, Energy Share Board member representing the Montana Power Company. According to a recent article published in the Helena Independent Record, 142,000 Montanans are living paycheck to paycheck. The Montana Department of Revenue recently determined that out of 323,532 tax-paying households in Montana, 78,970 households were below the federal poverty level. Additionally, the total number of poverty households age 65 and older was 12,822, or 16%. Last year Energy Share of Montana only had enough funds to help 2,241 families, 404 of whom were in the Missoula area.

This November all Montanans will find Energy Share donation envelopes or pledge cards in their utility bill or *Rural Montana* electric cooperative magazine.

Last year over \$180,000 was raised and 100% of the gifts went to those in need. Donations stay in local areas. A Missoula area resident's

gift to Energy Share will stay in that area to help someone with his or her heat.

Another way Energy Share plans to meet the needs of low-income families is to grow its endowment to a level at which it will be able to replace lost funding from the state. Under a Montana law established by the 1997 Legislature and revised in 2001, a corporate or planned gift to an endowment such as Energy Share's qualifies for a 50% Montana income tax credit through December 31, 2001 and a 20% credit after December 31, for a gift of up to \$20,000. Additionally, a gift to the Endowment qualifies for a federal tax deduction.

Energy Share is a private non-profit organization that was established in 1982 to help Montanans who are facing energy emergencies. Since that time, 16,000 households have been helped with \$4.6 million. Energy Share concentrates on providing once-in-a-lifetime help for most of its recipients. Many of its applicants would match the description of your next-door neighbor: a family of three working hard to pay the bills, but in a difficult financial situation because of an injury or layoff. If you would like to help, send your gift to Energy Share, P.O. Box 5959, Helena, MT 59604, or call 1-800-777-7589. Remember, the only reason Energy Share exists is because of people like you. Because you care, there's Energy Share!

The Wild Montana Skies

by Carey Shunskis

(Attached is an essay written by 13-year-old Carey Shunskis, an eighth grader at Beverly Hills Middle School, Upper Darby, PA. It describes the impact Montana, in particular Montana skies, made on her during her brief visit at our cabin on Placid Lake and at the Pich Ranch. —Sharon Kreitzberg.)

It all started when my cousin Kelly called. She told me she was going to a camp this year that was near her grandparents' cabin in Montana. She explained that the camp was a horseback riding camp and it was in the middle of beautiful rolling hills and mountains. Her mother said I was invited to come and stay with Kelly. We got off the phone and immediately called the camp.

Three months later I was on the plane to Missoula, Montana, where Kelly's grandparents would pick us up. It was a tedious five-hour long coach ride on Northwest Airlines. Finally we got there! I stepped off the plane and into the small but beautiful airport. I looked out of the immense window and onward to the infinite jade and mahogany mountains.

We drove for one hour before we reached the cabin. I looked at the crystal blue lake and figured out why it was called Placid. I had one day until Kelly and I went off to camp.

The first night of camp was unnerving. All of the new girls with the cute accents meeting old friends and the uninterrupted prosperity of the calm, continuous Rocky Mountains made me

gasp. Just looking at the skies made me teary. I just keep singing that John Denver song, Montana Skies. It made me realize how lucky I was to be there and be alive and to be seeing the beautiful universe. I fell asleep quickly for I had a long day.

We had a campfire the next night. We sang many songs and talked for a while. I didn't pay much attention to the rest of the crowd, but instead watched the light blue and yellow skies turn a dark orange, purple and burgundy. There were a few stars but no moon. We went swimming in Salm Lake. I saw the multi-colored skies with pearly white clouds softly rolling off the unbounded mountains.

The days were long and hot, the nights short and cold. We learned many resourceful notes and had lots of fun. On the last night we got to stay up late. We played games and just had wild, but controlled, fun. When everyone was getting ready for bed I came out of my tent and stared up into the dead of the night sky. I could see millions and millions of stars. The Milky Way was clearly visible and Mars twinkled its reddish color. I spun in circles until I fell to the ground. It changed me. It made me realize how small I am in this enormous galaxy in orbit. It made me think of the moon spinning around the earth and the earth spinning around the sun and me just lying there after spinning around myself. I could still vaguely see the mountains.

Although the next day I was on the plane to my regular, every day life, I knew that Montana had changed my life forever.

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

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Community members are invited to submit dates, times and locations of events, meetings and other happenings. Submission deadline: Friday, 5 p.m.; call 677-2022

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Drifters, 3rd Wed. 7pm, S.L. Comm. Hall
Quiltmakers of the Tamaracks, 4th Thur. 9am, S.L. Comm. Hall
Swan Valley Comm. Club, 4th Mon. 7pm, Comm. Hall
S.L. Refuse Bd. 4th Mon. 7pm, fire hall
VFW, 4th Tues. 7pm, S.L. Fire Hall
S.L. Water Bd. 4th Wed. 5pm, Glen's Auto
Lions Club, 4th Wed. 6:30pm, S.L. Comm. Hall

WEEKLY MEETINGS:

Alcoholics Anonymous: (help for those with a suspected drinking problem) -Condon: Faith Lutheran Church, every Sunday, 1pm
-Seeley Lake: Every Wed. 7pm, Living Water Catholic Church, on SOS Rd. For info: 677-3271 or 677-2892.

*Potomac: 406-244-5204

Alateen: (help for teenagers of alcoholic families)

Hotline 677-2753

Overeaters Anonymous: every Thursday, 7pm, Faith Lutheran Church, Condon, 754-2371
Missoula County Commissioners Public Mtg, every Wed. Courthouse Annex, Room 201, Missoula, 1:30 pm.
T.O.P.S. Mtg, every Thurs. Mission Bible Fellowship bldg., Seeley Lake, 10am.

MONTHLY SERVICES

FAIM Outreach Specialist, 1st & 3rd Thur. 9:30-3, Seeley-Swan Med. Ctr.
Pinochle, every 1st Sat. S.L. Comm. Hall, 7pm; every 3rd Sat., Senior Citizens Center
DUMPSTER TRANS-FERSITE: 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, 12-4pm, next to Multi-purpose Room, S.L. Elementary, 677-5025

Loving Hearts Thrift Store:

Open Wed. 12:00-5:00, Sat. 11-3, 677-5683 (emergency 677-2110)
Seeley Lake Community Hall: For hall rental, call Cheri Thompson, 677-2454

LIBRARIES:

Seeley Lake Public Library (Seeley-Swan High School) Regular hours: Mon-Fri., 8-3pm (closed 11am-noon for lunch); Wed., 3-8pm; Sat, 10am-3pm. Story Time-Saturdays at 11 a.m.
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.

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Fate Brings People Together for a Purpose

by Mike Thompson
Wildlife Biologist

Thanksgiving snuck up on me this week, maybe because it comes earlier in the month this year than most.

But, I've been reflecting for some time now on how fortunate we at Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) were to be at our positions during a very thin slice of time when a unique collection of people gathered to conceive and carry out the 50th Anniversary Project for the Blackfoot-Clearwater Game Range.

It seems especially remarkable to me now, little more than a month after the Phase 2 land exchange closed, when I consider how many people who came together in these endeavors have now moved on, in one way or another.

Which makes me wonder if the 50th Anniversary Project to acquire Plum Creek inholdings within the Game Range could be assembled from scratch today if it hadn't already happened earlier. And if not, as I suspect, isn't it interesting to

consider how so many of the right people found themselves in the right place at the right time?

If, as they say, history is the best teacher, there was very little hope that the 50th Anniversary would be any different from the 40th or 45th. FWP, and Region 2 in particular, had been trying for years to work something out with Champion International Corporation, and their successors, Plum Creek Timber Company, to acquire critical corporate inholdings within the heart of the elk winter range. We had looked at conservation easements, timber exchanges, long-term leases, land exchanges and land purchases. We had asked for help from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF), The Montana Forest and Conservation Experiment Station, Montana Department of State Lands and private benefactors, all to no avail.

But, some of the right people were beginning to come together in 1998.

Our Game Range Citizens Advisory Council had already assembled in 1989. In 1998 they



were Art Sikkink, Hank Goetz, Jack Rich, Wayne Slaght, Les Marcum, Jim Clawson, Dave McCleerey, Sonny James, Joe Broesder and Steve Wallace. They issued the challenge to FWP in the spring of 1998 and committed to put on a 50th Anniversary Celebration on June 12th of the following year.

At about the same time, Denny Sigars at Plum Creek Timber Company guided FWP in the direction of facilitating a land exchange between the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) and Plum Creek. We had already dabbled in this arena earlier, but this time Steve Wallace and Bob Storer of DNRC recognized some potential for the project. Had this not been the case, and had it not been for these two men, there would be no 50th Anniversary Project today. And, had it not been for the administrative support and leadership of DNRC's Tony Liane, Pat Flowers, Jeff Hagener and Clive Rooney at the early formative stages of the proposal, the efforts of Steve and Bob would have withered on the vine.

Once DNRC was on board for a possible exchange involving about 3,000 acres, which eventually became Phase 2, the hub of the Project was formed. Now what was needed was a partnership to address the remaining 4,800 acres of Plum Creek inholdings in the Game Range.

Enter Jack Rich, with his long

family history and uncommon connection with the Blackfoot-Clearwater elk population, and a newcomer he introduced to the Woodworth area. Wayne Heaton's energy, enthusiasm, and where-withal were critical ingredients in the formation of the Blackfoot-Clearwater Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in 1998. Wayne's tireless grassroots efforts attracted the attention of the parent foundation to this up and coming local chapter, and to the promise of a charter fundraising project for 1999-2000, the Blackfoot-Clearwater 50th Anniversary Project. It also didn't hurt that an Elk Foundation founder, Charlie Decker, was now also a member of the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission, and was committed to the Project.

All of which would have fizzled without land to buy. And, Plum Creek's previous position had been that they would not sell land on the Game Range. But, in February 1999, FWP and Denny Sigars negotiated an 856-acre unit of land that Plum Creek would sell to FWP and its partners. This would become Project Phase 1. Now with the first two Project phases defined, Tim Love and Mike Hillis at the Lolo National Forest championed the Forest's consideration and support of a possible Phase 3 land exchange, to bring another 3,000 acres of Plum Creek land into public ownership. That would leave about 900 acres for the final Phase 4, which abuts other lands in the Game



Range owned by the Bureau of Land Management.

With all the pieces of the puzzle identified it was full speed ahead for the 50th Anniversary Celebration on June 12th. Wayne donated the use of his Horseshoe Hills Guest Ranch for the occasion. So many people were involved and instrumental. Wendy Ninteman, Noreen Humes, and Ali Duval (now Jonkel) from Five Valleys Land Trust; Carrie Cummings, Jennifer McConnell, Ryan Lutey, Jason Hobson, Kirk Murphy, Gary Wolfe and Gary Burnett from RMEF headquarters, co-chair Gary Bender and the rest from the Blackfoot-Clearwater Chapter, chairman Gary Holmquist and the rest of his Missoula Chapter, Kris Russell from Plum Creek, Debby Austin from the Lolo Forest, Tony Liane from DNRC, Nancy Anderson from BLM, Monte Dolack, and so many others.

Riding the wave of the June 12th Celebration, Gary Wolfe, Ron Marcoux, Alan Christensen, Scott Laird and Grant Parker from RMEF helped FWP put together a solid acquisition effort for Phase 1 that closed partially in June 1999, and closed for the full acreage one year later.

I could go on and on, if not for a finite space of paper to print this on. What intrigues me now is that of the names I've listed here (excluding the steady BC Citizens Advisory Council), about half are no longer in the pivotal positions they occupied only a little over two years ago when we were up to our ears in the 50th Anniversary Project. These talented and capable people have moved on as quickly as they came together in the first place, much like the proverbial ships passing in the night.

Which makes what has been accomplished on the 50th Anniversary Project so far even more the marvel. And, it stirs me this Thanksgiving to remember all of you wonderful individuals, those few who are named here, and the many more who I left out this time, for your personal and professional efforts on behalf of wildlife and the Blackfoot-Clearwater Game Range. FWP and our constituents were lucky to meet you, and we wish you all the best as you move on in your future endeavors.

And, we have not forgotten the responsibility we asked for—to use the momentum you gave us to complete Phases 3 and 4.

In Everything Give Thanks

1 Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Are we willing to give God thanks for whatever He brings into our lives? Some times it seems quite hard. Facing the holiday season is hard for those who have recently lost a loved one, or maybe a loved one has just been diagnosed with a fatal disease with no cure. I can assure you that the Lord has a purpose for every thing that He brings into our lives.

Recently, as many of you have heard, I had a little mishap while hunting. Yes, some of us crazy hunters hunt from as high up in a tree as we can climb. (Don't let this secret out, but you often see more game if you are able to sit up in a tree for a few hours). I climbed up into one of my favorite hunting spots; after sitting in the tree for about an hour the wind came up. I have no desire to sit in a tree, 30 feet in the air, when the wind is blowing hard. I began climbing down and my tree climber slid like an express elevator down about 15 feet, then the seat grabbed into the tree and broke I fell the rest of the way and landed on my back.

We must ask the Lord what He is teaching through these things that He allows into our lives. Yes, He does use these situations to teach us if we will yield to Him! I was praying the morning before I went out that He would draw me closer to Him. I told the ambulance crew that I did not have in mind, when I prayed that prayer, a helicopter ride to the hospital. Praise the Lord, the damage done to my back was minimal with a compression fracture on two of my disks.

This entire story is for one purpose — I would like you to consider the blessings that the Lord has brought into your life this

Condon Area Senior Lunch

The Hungry Bear Steak House is serving lunch to Condon area seniors on Mondays and Thursdays at 11:30 AM. Please call the Hungry Bear at 754-2240 for reservations prior to 5:00 PM the day before. This program is sponsored by Swan Valley Senior

Meal time is 1 PM
Thursday, Nov. 22
Thanksgiving.....no congregating today

Monday, Nov. 26 Cranberry Juice, Roast Pork, Mashed Potatoes/ Gravy, Corn, Roll, Cake

Passages

by Pastor Bill Bogardus
Fundamental Baptist Church

year. How has the Lord brought you through your heartaches and trials this year? I praise the Lord for a loving and patient wife, children, family, church family, and good friends. Won't you praise Him for all He has done for you?

People tell me that they are sorry about my accident; I tell them that I am not sorry at all! I am praising the Lord that I am alive and moving! But most of all I praise the Lord for the new life that I found many years ago through the finished work of Christ. My friend do you know Him?

"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

John 3:18



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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-6:00 p.m.
Vacancy Pastor-Dave Renfro 1655 Airport Rd.
Phone-677-2281, 677-2143, or 1-406-549-2364

Living Water Catholic Church
Worship Mass: Sunday-11:30 a.m.
152 SOS Road
Ph: 677-2688 or 258-6815
Pastor-Father Ray Gilmore

Mountain Lakes Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Worship-10:00 a.m. Phone-677-3575
3292 Hwy 83 North
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)
Worship-10:30 a.m. Sunday School-9:15 a.m.
Hwy. 83 & School Lane
Phone 677-2110
Pastor Ken Wutzke

SEELEY LAKE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL MENU

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 26, 2001

Monday, November 26	Fish Nuggets
Tuesday, November 27	Stromboli
Wednesday, November 28	Stew
Thursday, November 29	Smoked Turkey Sandwiches & Soup
Friday, November 30	Chicken Fajita Wraps

November birthdays will be celebrated on Wednesday, November 28.

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Parents meet with principal and staff in advisory meeting

By Donna Love

Earlier this month, about forty parents, faculty and staff of the Seeley Swan High School attended the November Parents Advisory Meeting in the high school Multi-Purpose Room.

Those present were in for a real treat. Mr. Bob Green, the new music teacher, and Penny Thomas, Condon parent of Sarah, a freshman at the school, performed two French horn and piano duets written by Leopold Mozart, the father and teacher of Wolfgang Mozart.

Mr. Green said it was appropriate that they play selections by Mozart's father since "successful children are the result of successful parenting."

The performance was held to debut the new 6-foot grand piano that the school has on loan from Kawai Instruments, through a program that Missoula School District I is taking part in.

The piano is on large casters and can be easily moved into locked storage. It will be a wonderful addition to the high school music program and the new Community Concert Series being planned.

But the fun didn't stop there. After the piano debut, several students from

Michael Johnson's new English class, which combines Drama with the language elements of reading and writing, performed two short plays written by the students about the early history of the Valley.

The short plays were written in conjunction with studying "Our Town" the well-known Thornton Wilder minimalist play. In the first play, Jeremiah Wisner, Shane Gehrke, Brooke Dellow and Ramsey Hoehn quickly and efficiently compared old style logging to new style logging.

Jana Greenwood, Josh Kesterson, Mary Yienst and Erin Meissner effectively told the story of the first teacher in the Valley and the first Forest Ranger, Jasper Seely.

Mr. Johnson expressed in his opening remarks that students who participate in the Arts are more apt to attend college, make a higher income and have stronger critical thinking skills. He is pleased to be able to bring drama to the school.

Along with his English classes Mr. Johnson has added a Drama class called "Reconnecting Stars," during 7th period. He currently has eight students in the class.

After the presentations, Mr.

Gallegos gave update on the new construction taking place at the school. He announced receiving a \$20,000 grant given to the school by the Claiborne / Ortenberg Foundation to be used for library shelving. Mr. Gallegos thanked Patti Bartlett-Dunlap for her help in obtaining the grant.

The new library is completed, but has been waiting on furnishings. The grant will help that process along. Mr. Gallegos grinned and said, "I spent the money this morning."

Remodeling of the old library will take place this summer along with the remodeling of the gym floor.

In an attempt to acquaint the Advisory Committee with the multitude of new staff this year, Toni Sexton's part-time appointment as the school's Counselor was announced. Ms. Sexton couldn't attend the meeting, but Mr. Gallegos said he was pleased to have her on staff.

Two new assistant coaches for the year were also introduced. Jodie Miller will help with Girls Volleyball and Joe Bender will assist with Boys Basketball. The school is still short a coach in Basketball and Volleyball. Anyone interested is encouraged to call the school at 677-2224.

In other news, the high school regular afternoon bus schedule has been moved up 15 minutes from 4:00 p.m. to 3:45. Mr. Gallegos felt this would



Patti Bartlett-Dunlap, left, and Tony Gallegos with \$20,000 check from Claiborne/Ortenberg Foundation.

help balance out the time when sport practices run shorter than usual and help the bus students who wait for sports to end before returning home.

A Fall Activities Banquet, hosted by the newly revived Booster Club, is being held on December 10 at 6:00 in the high school gym. The Varsity and JV Football team, Cheerleading team, Pep Band and Choir will be honored. Parents are invited to attend.

There is no charge for the banquet, which is a potluck. Parents were encouraged to watch for further information about the banquet in the Pathfinder or in information coming home with their students.

The school is also looking into setting new criteria for "Lettering" in a sport.

The new criteria might include letters that could be given for "quality participation" as well as for "special achievement." Previously, a student could only letter if the team or individual placed in

"State."

In a short "open comments" session, the sound system, the need for railings in the end of the gym bleachers, Speech class/club, a schedule of Senior Class activities (ordering cap and gowns, Senior pictures, etc.), and transportation of students to school events (such as possible Marching Band practice in Missoula) were discussed.

These issues were noted by Mr. Gallegos and will be looked into.

Mr. Gallegos also reviewed "Senior Priority," a program in which the Seniors are required to perform several hours of community service before they graduate. He has made the decision that the program should take place outside school hours. He feels that if it takes place during school it wouldn't count as "community" service.

For those interested the next Advisory Meeting will be at 7:00 the second Monday in December.

Swan Valley Elementary School Awards

- October 2001 Citizenship Kindergarten - Mariah Cooper-Nies
- First Grade - Sam Yates
- Second Grade - Isaac Yates
- Third Grade - Jessy Stevenson
- Fourth Grade - Megan Christensen
- Fifth Grade - Catalina Parcell
- Sixth Grade - Canyon Parcell
- Seventh Grade - Adam Gereg
- Eighth Grade - Andrew Matthew
- First Quarter Perfect Attendance Kindergarten - KeAnna Conley, Johnny Parcell
- First Grade - Chase Hulett, Kamrie White
- Second Grade - Sophie Hainline, Justine Janssen
- Third Grade - Cascade Parcell, Timmy Siloti, Jacob Smith
- Fourth Grade - Nicole Everson, Sami Hulett, Meghan Janssen
- Fifth Grade - Catalina Parcell, Brian Thompson
- Sixth Grade - Andrew Everson, Tyler Everson, Ayla Johnson, Caitlin Stone, Nathan Stone
- Seventh Grade - Justin Thompson
- Eighth Grade - Sammi Dorne, Andrew Matthew
- High Honor Roll - First Quarter
- Fourth Grade - Megan Christensen
- Sixth Grade - Caitlin Stone, Nathan Stone
- Seventh Grade - Adam Gereg, Jesse Kessler
- Eighth Grade - Mariah Childs, Sammi Dorne
- Honor Roll - First Quarter
- Third Grade - Cascade Parcell, Timmy Siloti, Jacob Smith
- Fourth Grade - Nicole Everson, Sami Hulett, Meghan Janssen, Cassie Moors, Jonah Rosen, Callie Trice
- Fifth Grade - Jon Hainlin, Catalina Parcell, Gwen Rosen
- Sixth Grade - Chance Hulett, Canyon Parcell, Breana Johnson, Ayla Johnson
- Seventh Grade - Steven Bergstrom, Len Kobylenski
- Eighth Grade - Andrew Matthew, Rincon Parcell, Matt Schnabl

Food for Fines at the Library

The Seeley Lake Branch Library will be accepting food for fines from November 21 until December 22. Patrons who bring in non-perishable food items during this time will have overdue fines waived. This does not apply to fines acquired for lost or damaged materials. The non-perishable food items will be donated to the local Food Bank.

Story Time at the library takes place every Saturday at 11:00 a.m. Children of all ages are welcome to attend. Snacks are provided. The Seeley Lake Branch Library is located at Seeley-Swan High School and is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 to 3:00 p.m. (closed 11:00 a.m. to noon for lunch), Wednesdays from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m., and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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| Pumpkin Cheesecake | Pecans on Fire |
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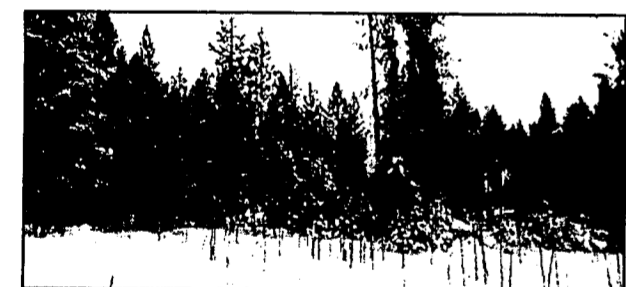
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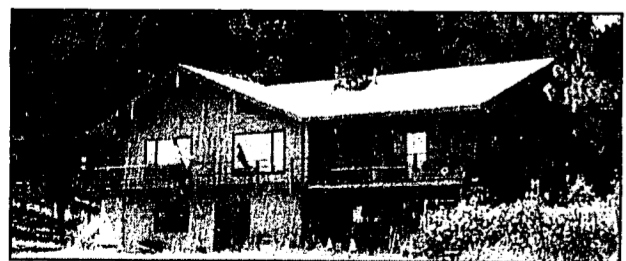
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Seeley-Swan



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Lar K. Autio, M.D.

Donald R. Nevin, M.D.

Terence M. Calderwood, M.D.

Seeley Swan Medical Center

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Annual infrastructure meeting looks at progress with old community projects and new challenges

Continuing old projects, looking into new projects and addressing local challenges facing Seeley Lake were discussed at the Infrastructure meeting held last week. Thirty-two community members attended the meeting sponsored by the Community Council on November 12th at the Seeley Lake Elementary School.

These meetings are held yearly to keep the community aware of the actions and need throughout the community. Additional meetings are held if the need arises.

Bill Hyde, superintendent at the Seeley Lake Elementary School said that the school faces several challenges in the next few years. One of the challenges is the fact that many of the elementary teachers are nearing retirement and the low salaries in Montana, especially Seeley Lake will make it difficult to replace them. He said it's difficult to draw young, energetic and dedicated teachers when salaries in Seeley Lake are even below the rest of Montana. And Montana rates 49th in the nation for teachers salaries.

Another challenge he said is filling the special needs of some of the students and meeting those needs are very costly.

Tony Gallegos, the Seeley Swan High School principal, said that he is impressed by the overall grades earned by the students and that a majority of the 165 students made the honor role. He said they are finding ways to work with students struggling with poor grades.

He also said that the new library/media center is nearing completion. While there will be an open house before Christmas, the center will not be complete and in full use until some time in January.

Sally Johnson, representing the Bitter Root Resource, Conservation and Development District, is working on a strategy plan for three counties, which includes the Seeley lake area. She said that anyone who is working on a project is encouraged to give her the details so that it may be added to the plan. There may be some economic development funds available to help with some of the projects submitted.

Tim Love, represented both the USFS and the Hospital District. He said the USFS manages approximately 400,000 acres around the Seeley area. They are continuing their work on projects such as road, trail and campground maintenance and improvements as well as fuel reduction for wildland fire

protection. He said the biggest challenge to the forest service is the demands an increasing population places on the land and needed services.

As for the hospital district, its main challenge is finding a replacement for Physician's Assistant Ben Lindeman who left in June. He said they are trying to recruit a physician. He also added that the debt the SOS Center was carrying into the change over to the Seeley Swan Medical Center no longer exists.

Ray Cebulski represented Missoula Electric Company, which services six counties and 1,830 miles of line. He said they are continuing to upgrade services to ensure fewer outages as well as prevent any catastrophic outage. He too said the increase in population increases the need for additional services in this area. As far as electricity costs, he said that they have a contract with Bonnaville Power Administration for the energy itself until 2011, but he added that there could be an increase of transmission and distribution costs that could effect the costs to consumers. He did say that all in all, Missoula Electric is in good condition and meeting the needs of the customers. He urged people to come to the public meetings and keep involved and informed.

Vince Chappel, the manager at the Seeley Lake Water District, said that they continue to repair and improve the system. He said there are numerous leaks in the lines, and added that the 80 percent loss rate has been reduced to a 45 percent loss rate.

The district is now replacing all meters with radio systems. He said that over the next couple of years they hope to replace ten hydrants that do not work properly.

Over the next five years he said they hope to add a few water mains to the areas that were not included in the water district when it was first installed.

Glen Morin represented the Sewer District. He said that the ground water will continue to be monitored. With many of the citizens concerned and the growing population, he said that they are seeking grants to pay for a system when it is needed.

At this time the district is talking with engineers and will select an engineer by next spring to determine the costs and the available grants. He added that they know many of the Seeley residents could not afford to pay for another project and they are in hopes of paying for the system completely through grants and keeping the

monthly costs of the system around \$20 per household. He also said that it would be at least six years before a system could be put in the area.

Derek Ellinghouse represented the Cemetery District. He said that they continue to make improvements and welcome any comments from the public concerning the cemetery.

Nancy Miller, the Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, said that the chamber has 95 members and they continue to promote the area for both winter and summer recreation. She said that they had 929 tourists at the Chamber office during office hours this summer. The Chamber sponsors the 4th of July parade and activities, Winterfest parade, fireworks at both of those events, the Tamarack Festival, highway cleanup as well as the brackets and banners for the light poles. The Chamber is also trying to put together a photo album of the area and would appreciate any good photos residents may have taken.

Charlie Burmeister represented the Alpine Artisans and the Community Hall. He said the Alpine Artisans continue to preserve and promote the arts in western Montana especially the Seeley Swan Valley. The organization is ten years old and has 60 members. Their main fundraisers to support the high school scholarship include the Wine and Chocolate Social held in February and the Loon & Fish Festival during the Memorial Day weekend. Future plans of the Alpine Artisans include providing musical performances each month beginning in September and running through May.

Concerning the Community Hall, Burmeister reported that they continue to work on insulation and lighting improvements at the hall. They also painted the walls a light color and they are considering putting some windows in. They will work on making the restrooms handicap accessible. A picnic area is also on the list of improvements.

The Seeley Lake Drifriders now have an office at the Community Hall and are helping with the costs of the hall.

Tim Downey represented the Lions Club. He said it is a service organization helping the community with food baskets during Thanksgiving and Christmas as well as eye care and hearing aids for those who are in need of help. They also help support other community organizations in need. They sponsor two wood raffles and a local phone directory each year. He said they are also seeking grants for improvements at the park with handicap access, ice-skating and a

pavilion for holding concerts.

Ken Wutzke, a Council Member and representative for the Loving Hearts Thrift Store, said that an all-volunteer staff runs Loving Hearts and the funds raised through the store help community members who are in need for things such as electricity, etc.

Bruce Wold, owner of the Valley Market, told the members that the Giving Tree will be up at the Valley Market. This tree provides Christmas presents for less fortunate children in the area.

Elinor Williamson represented Paws Up Safe Home. Paws Up is going on its third year of helping lost and abused animals in the area. It is supported by donations only and covers the Seeley Swan, Ovando and Potomac areas. They have assisted 450 people with either adoptions or rescuing abused animals.

They also help low income people with pet care and information about proper care for pets.

She said the biggest challenges that face Paws Up are a lack of volunteers and donations to continue providing care to all of the animals. Since the beginning they have returned 70 dogs to their owners and adopted out 50. While the original goal was to work with dogs, they have also helped over 40 cats. They have a spay and neuter program and give free identification with a photo file for pets.

Pat Swan Smith represented the Seeley Lake Rural Fire District, Seeley Lake Refuse District and the SSTEP program.

She said that the Seeley Lake Rural Fire District is looking at possibly having a second station in the Woodworth Road area. At this point, there are no definite plans but they are collecting information. She added that the bond taken out in 1995 will be paid off in 2009.

As far as the Seeley Lake Refuse District, the district is looking into possibly recycling more items at the site. At present, aluminum and cardboard are being recycled. She reported that the district was able to reduce rates for the first unit charged to homeowners and businesses by \$20 for the next two years. The district has no debts at this time.

Swan-Smith said that the SSTEP program, which is the local domestic violence and sexual assault program, continues to provide services to victims in the valley. She said that they are very active with education in the schools as well as training for volunteers involved in the program. The SSTEP program is part of the

Missoula Crime Victim Advocate program.

Ron Ogden represented the Seeley Lake Drifriders. He said they continue to provide safe and enjoyable winter recreation that also supports the economy of local businesses. They have 350 members and four part-time employees. They groom 350 miles of trail as well as help maintain trails at the ski area. He said they are also building a new groomer shed across from Pyramid Lumber. They now have a new office facility at the Community Hall.

Sam Bolton, the Council Chairperson, also represented the Senior Citizen Center. The Senior Center provides nutritional lunches Monday through Friday at the center. They have a Meals on Wheels program as well. Those wishing to dine at the center need to call ahead so enough food is prepared. Lunches are great and inexpensive. He also added that if a senior cannot afford to pay, they are able to provide lunches. He said that if there are seniors out there who need help, all they need to do is call. The seniors also have a Welcome Wagon service for newcomers.

Stan Nicholson represented the Double Arrow Landowners Association. He said that they continue to work on road maintenance and their Fire Safety Program. He added that ten percent of the acreage was thinned last year to help decrease the chances of wildfire. The association also has a weed program and hope to share their fuel reduction and weed program successes with the rest of the Seeley area.

Bob Grace represented the Greater Missoula Youth For Christ organization. They work with 200 to 300 students per month, which includes the Missoula, Stevensville and Seeley-Swan areas. The organization is supported by donations and fundraisers. Besides weekly meetings, they hold retreats for the students. This summer, one of the retreats will take the students to Mexico. Each student will need \$800 each. He said the purpose for the organization is to help the students make informed decisions and grow in a balanced life. They have also joined in the Adopt a Highway program in the area.

Council Member Ron Cox ended the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and expressing how important it is that boards and organizations share information with the community. He said that the Council hopes to have a community web site, which will show the plans and projects in the area.

Visit

Seeley Swan Businesses With Pages in this site.

Montana Lakes Real Estate
(Real Estate Brokerage)
Mountain Country Rentals
(winter/summer equip rentals)
Cheetah Herders
(Marathon Races)
Swan River Valley Real Estate
(Real Estate Brokerage)
Rocky Mountain Retreat
(Seeley Lake Bed & Breakfast)
Cougar Mountain Cedar Homes
(builder laminated logs)
Big West Whitetails
Guided trophy hunts
QDM specialists

Pine Hills Outfitters
in Canada and U.S.
Seeley Lake Motor Lodge
Affordable Lodging
Dan's Discount
Sportsman's Headquarters
Arrowhead Condominiums
Traveler's Destination
Mark Young Outfitters
Private Land Hunts

Brown Bear Gift Shop
(Grizzly Bear Education)
Deer Creek Excavating
(Foundations, Walls, Ponds)
Universal Martin Estate
(real estate sales)
Montana Eco Outfitters, Inc.
(Special eco tours)
Swan River Tours
(Guided tours with Al Cluck)

Deer Country Quilts
(Unique Quilt Shop)
Lodges on Seeley Lake
(Where the Views are Best)
WTR Outfitters
(One of Montana's Oldest)
Coopenhaver Outfitters
(Hunts & Special Pack Trips)
Novak Llama Company
(Llama pack trips)
Holland Lake Lodge
(One of Montana's Most Scenic)

Double Arrow Resort
(Historic Lodge & Golf)
The Emily A.
(Choice Bed & Breakfast)
Snowcrest Kennels
(Sled Dog Adventures)
The Rich Ranch
(Guest Ranch, Outfitters)

Montana Equestrian Tours
(Unique Trail Rides)
Kozy Kountry
(Lodge, Steakhouse, Fly-In)
Clearwater River Realty, Inc.
(Real Estate Sales)

Lindley's Steakhouse
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(Highway 83 Motel)
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www.seeleylake.com & www.seeleyswan.com

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Gill netting produces data for fish biologists

Story & photos
By Donna Love

Ten thousand years ago during the Ice Ages, glacial activity formed depressions in the ground between the Swan and Mission Mountain Ranges.

As the fingers of ice receded the depressions filled with water. Five main lakes including Alva, Inez, Seeley, Salmon and Placid Lake were created.

These lakes covered 3250 acres of water surface and came to support three native sport species of fish including Westslope cutthroat trout, Bull trout, and Mountain whitefish.

Native Americans camped on the banks of the pristine, natural lakes on their way to their hunting grounds in what is now the Bob Marshall Wilderness.

Later, settlers arrived first seeking furs and then the wood of the lush green timbered valleys. Humans in few numbers had little impact on the plentiful fish supply.

As human population grew so did the impact. Surprisingly, the largest impact was not from what was taken out of the lakes, but from what was put in.

Northern pike, a non-native species, was introduced in Salmon and Lake Inez in the late 1980's. (In 1997 after a high spring runoff pike showed up in Seeley.)

Concerned, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks began seriously monitoring fish populations in the Drainage in 1995. They did this through the use of gill nets, which can catch a large number of fish in a short time.

Gone Fishing

Fish studies had originally taken place in the drainage in the 1950's and sporadically continued until the early 1990's.

The new, recent intense round of netting became the responsibility of Rod Berg, a Research Fish-

eries Biologist from MFWP's Region 2.

Retired Post Master, Dwight Giffin, who owned a cabin on Placid Lake, helped. Time constraints kept the Department from netting in 1997, but Giffin was again hired in 1998.

Giffin trained local resident, Bill Gehrke (pronounced Gur-kee), a retired logger and former owner of Willy Bill's Saw Shop in Seeley Lake to help.

For the past four years Giffin and Gehrke have gill netted the Clearwater Drainage beginning on Placid Lake around the second week in September and continuing on to the other lakes.

They usually spend one week on each lake, but this year such small numbers of fish were caught on Seeley (fewer than 50 fish a day compared to over 100 last year) that MFWP decided they should spend another week on the lake to get a better sampling.

Warmer weather and water temperature (8 degrees warmer than last year's 53 degrees) as well as it being almost one week earlier than last year were sited as the possible cause of the low numbers. Numbers picked up in the second week, but they were still down.

Cut the Bait

The gill netting process is extensive, time-consuming work. Each evening before dark, six days a week, five nets are placed in the water at regular intervals. Giffin and Gehrke work in a different area of the lake each day circling the lake twice by the end of the week.

The nets are left in the water overnight. In the morning they are pulled and the fish removed. Depending on the number of fish in each net the retrieval process can take up to four hours.

Each net is 125 feet long and six feet wide. The net is placed in the water lengthwise like an underwater volleyball net perpendicular



Dwight Griffin, left, Placid Lake cabin owner, and Bill Gehrke, Seeley Lake resident, have gill netted the Clearwater Drainage for the past four years.

to the shoreline.

Two large end-weights hold the net in place. Small buoys keep the top of the net afloat. The bottom cord is weighted to hold the net down.

Four of the nets used this year were surface nets. These float near the top of the water. One was a deepwater net with heavier weight on the bottom to sink it.

The nets are designed to catch a fish live so that it can be returned to the lake. Each net has five twenty-five foot long sections. Each section has a different size mesh from one half inch to one and a half inch.

The smallest mesh is placed closest to shore in about six feet of water. This mesh size catches little fish along the shore. The bigger mesh catches larger fish patrolling deeper water.

Set the Hook

Pulling the nets is a tedious process. Giffin and Gehrke gently maneuver their 24-foot, specially rigged pontoon boat into position near the deep end of the net. They move carefully because the boat cover, left on to protect the netters from weather, limits visibility.

When in place the motor is turned off and each netter takes a side of the net and pulls. If there are a lot of fish in the nets, the nets are heavy.

As the net is pulled it is placed as neatly as possible in a tub to aid ease of placement in the water that evening. Local teenagers, such as Nathan Love and Chad Cox sometimes help.

The fish are removed as the nets are pulled. Sometimes the fish slide easily off the net. On other

occasions a fish is so tangled the other netter gets a coffee break.

When a fish is tangled badly the netters resist the temptation to cut the fish up even if it is dead. The fish have to be weighed and measured whole.

Fish that are caught live are placed in a "live-well," a large tub filled with lake-water. If the fish has died it is placed in one of two tubs, one for game fish and one for rough fish.

Giffin and Gehrke regret that



Chad Cox, left, and Nathan Love volunteer for the day to help Griffin and Gehrke haul in the gill nets.

some of the fish die, but setting the nets late in the evening and removing them first thing in the morning minimizes mortality.

The Department uses gill nets because baseline data going back to the 50's is available from this method, but they also use other methods. Hydro-acoustics (fish finders) are good for surveying fish density and are best used on schooling species such as salmon.

Tributary surveys are done using electro-fishing. Creel surveys can determine angler satisfaction and water quality tests determine the quality of the water. Each survey method has its strengths and weaknesses, but used together they paint a useful picture.

Catch and Release

After the fish are removed from a gill net, the netters examine the catch. In assembly line fashion Gehrke weighs and measures each fish and calls out the measurements to Giffin who records the data.

The live fish are handled first and released.

Then, with "the skill of surgeon," Gehrke cuts open the dead fish to determine the sex of the fish (females have egg sacs that lie along the backbone) and the contents of the stomach.

They also take a sample of the scales of each fish. The scales, which have microscopic growth rings on them, will be examined later to determine the age of the fish.

Giffin and Gehrke pause here to tell the story of a biologist that once arrived equipped with a sterile table and tools to operate on dead fish.

Giffin and Gehrke wear surgical gloves, but it's to keep their hands warm. Heavier gloves would be too clumsy. To clean his knife Gehrke wipes it on his pant leg.

When all the fish from one net are recorded Giffin and Gehrke move on to the next net.

In the normal five-week process they will have set and hauled one hundred and fifty nets. This year, with the extra week, it will be one hundred and eighty.

Catch of the Day

Occasionally a net catches a non-fish species. Once on Salmon Lake they caught a muskrat and they worry about catching otter because they often see signs that otters have been around (fish fins and tails have been nibbled on), but they've never caught one.

They also worry about diving birds. Once on Placid Lake they caught a grebe and on two occasions they trapped loons. In 1999 on Alva Lake a loon got in the net,

but was able to get to the surface to breathe. In the morning they set the thoroughly frightened bird free.

Last year a loon on Salmon Lake wasn't so lucky. It drowned. Both birds were first year chicks that had made it to the fall. Neither bird was banded so it is impossible to know where they came from.

Hook, Line and Sinker

Over the years Giffin and Gehrke have seen a lot of amazing things. One of the most remarkable fish they've sampled was this year on Seeley Lake, when they hauled in a ten pound, twenty-seven inch German Brown trout. The fish was caught live, tagged and returned to the lake.

In a tribute to the tenacity of northern pike, a large 26 inch, 12-pound pike, sampled this year on Seeley Lake had a large double hook sticking out its side. At first glance it looked like the fish had been snagged.

On closer inspection they could see that the fish originally swallowed the hook and over time the hook made its way through the stomach lining and out the fish's side.

Giffin and Gehrke knew that because the fish had a steel leader, complete with spinner, hanging out its mouth. They could pull back and forth on the hook and spinner, and the leader would slide back and forth inside the pike.

Even more remarkably, the leader had cut into the corner of fish's mouth, but the cut had healed over so the leader was now "sewn" in place.

Apparently the fish swallowed the hook, but continued to feed and swim with the leader and spinner hanging out of its mouth. The pike size hole that the hook made in the pike's side was almost completely healed.

It was so extraordinary they took the fish to Missoula for the Department to see.

The One That Got Away

Giffin and Gehrke thoroughly enjoy the work and plan to gill net for many more years.

When asked if future motels in the area will be named "The Pike Inn," Giffin and Gehrke laugh and say they don't interpret the data, they just record it, but they do know some things.

When they first started netting, the pike on Salmon Lake were found in great numbers and every year they beat their record for size. At the same time, game fish and Kokanee salmon numbers were down.

This year fewer pike were sampled and they were substan-



From left: Dwight Griffin, Chad Cox, and Nathan Love watch while Bill Gehrke weighs and measures a fish taken from the nets.

tially smaller, a sign that the pike are feeding on their own offspring. On the flip side, game fish and salmon numbers were up.

Fisheries Biologist Berg explained that "when the pike depleted the food supply they outmigrated downstream leaving fewer pike in the lake."

Giffin and Gehrke also guess that maybe anglers, with no limits on pike, or maybe nature is taking care of things on its own since pike in their native habitat have an abundant, more diverse food source.

On the down side, the pike in Inez and Seeley are continuing to grow in size and numbers, but game fish numbers are down. Berg fears that the pike cycle of Salmon

Lake is being repeated.

As the Department watches, they worry about the effect the pike will have on bald eagles that rely on salmon, diving birds such as grebe and loons that rely on perch (Salmon Lake hasn't had nesting loons since 1996), and other critters, such as otters that also eat fish.

But getting rid of pike isn't so easy. One way is through the use of chemicals, although the broad use of chemicals, would not only be cost prohibitive (around a million dollars to treat Seeley Lake alone), more importantly, the quality of the water supply to the community would be temporarily jeopardized. Also, there would be no guarantee that someone wouldn't put pike right back in.

Nevertheless, the Department is looking into using highly localized chemical spraying in selective areas such as spawning grounds.

Another method of control would be the introduction of a sterile fish species that eat pike or through the use of fish traps. The unwanted fish could then be removed from the water.

All of these methods would take a long-term commitment and need to be sustained over a long time.

And that's why Giffin and Gehrke keep netting. They love fishing and they love the valley. They know that providing useful data is important and they want to help in any way they can.



Buckets of fish are filled with the gill net catch.

'Barn' Again

County Commissioner, Museum directors from Missoula brainstorm ways to raise funds to complete the Barn Museum

by Addrien Marx

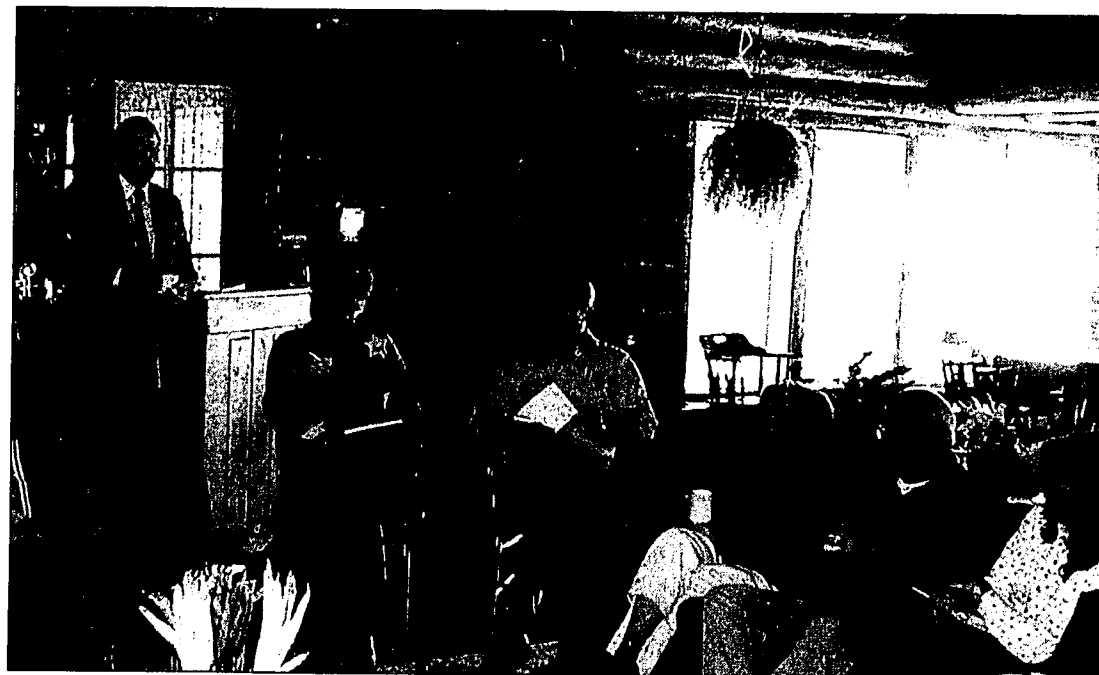
As traffic streams by the old historic barn (future site of the Seeley Lake Historical Museum and Visitors Center), many glances pause on the quiet site and thoughts are usually followed by questions. "When is the barn going to get done?" "Why can't they get it done...it looks so close to being finished?" "Damn, the barn had such a great push in the beginning...has everyone forgotten about it?"

On Thursday, November 8th, a small group of interested people gathered to discuss ideas that might help the barn board gain some new momentum for completion of the project.

Roger Johnson, Pyramid Mountain Lumber; Colleen and Stan Nicholson, The Community Foundation; Jean Curtis, County Commissioner; Dr. Bob Brown, Director of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula; Gary Glynn, Trustee of the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula and board member of Friends of the Fort; Dave Atkins, United States Forest Service Regional Office, Community Assistance Program; Ron Cox,

Community Council; and Rod Kvamme, Lions Club, were in attendance with the Board of Directors of the barn.

Bruce Johnson pointed out to the group the importance and need of getting the Museum and Visitor Center open. "We have a rich natural and cultural resource in this valley...and we are only now being discovered." When the project is complete and the doors open,



Brainstorming ideas for the Barn: from left, Gary Miller, Addrien Marx, Bruce Johnson, Colleen Nicholson, Stan Nicholson, and Zoe Mohesky. Not pictured but present was Roger Johnson, and Ron Cox.



At left is Jean Curtis, county commissioner, and Dr. Bob Brown, director of Fort Missoula Museum.

Photos by P. Swan Smith, for the Pathfinder

visitors and residents are going to put to use the unique offerings of a Visitor Center and Museum that will make their stay in this valley more meaningful and better informed.

The opening of the barn really promotes the economic diversity of this area that has been identified as a necessity for a broader-based, stronger economy.

The barn can serve as the gateway to our valley - and its aesthetic and cultural appeal will naturally invite everyone who passes by to use it as a resource.

Guests offered a variety of helpful ideas, which the Board will begin to pursue this winter, in addition to the usual grant-writing activities.

Anyone interested in helping with a special project or wanting to share an idea may contact any board member: Addrien Marx, Bruce Johnson, Gary Miller, Ed Bezanson, or Zoe Mohesky.



At front is Colleen and Stan Nicholson and Zoe Mohesky. In back, from left, are Dave Atkins, Gary Glynn, and Rod Kvamme.

Did You Know?

by Addrien Marx

One of the most critical issues our growing tourism industry faces in the Seeley-Swan is how to inform and educate our visitors so they may appreciate and value the wealth of resources our valley has to offer. Visitors and residents need to interpret our natural treasures as well as know how to use them with little or no impact. Preservation of our natural attractions and recreational opportunities is paramount with promoting tourism.

Seeley-Swan is fast becoming a known treasure find to recreationalists and visitors. Directing that growth and informing wise use of our attractions is a necessity. But did all of you realize these points put together by Bruce Johnson, board member of the Seeley Lake Historical Museum and Visitor Center?

DID YOU KNOW:

- Forest Service and State campgrounds offer 200 campsites here - all with lake access?
- The 230 miles of groomed snowmobile trails rank this area as #5, according to the last issue of SnoWest Magazine?
- We have 18 km of Nordic ski trails, enough that the U.S. Olympic team considered Seeley Lake for training?
- This valley is bordered by 1.5 million acres of Bob Marshall Wilderness - considered by many the "Crown Jewel" of the wilderness system?
- Camp Paxson is on the Register of Historic Places?
- Seeley Lake has the largest larch tree in the nation - 84 inches in diameter?
- Some larch trees here are over 800 years old?
- A 17-pound brown trout was taken from Seeley Lake this past September?
- We have the largest nesting loon population west of the Mississippi?
- The United States Forest Service offers a pamphlet on just the birds on Seeley Lake?
- Lynx researchers have fifteen cats collared in the area?
- The Race to the Sky travels through Seeley Lake every year?
- The Great Divide Mountain Bike Route (from Canada to Mexico) travels through the Seeley Lake area?
- Where else can you find the rare larch ball?

Did you know this list is easily continued? These are some of the treasures we need to protect by interpreting and informing visitors on how best to enjoy. The Seeley Lake Historical Museum and Visitors Center needs to be completed for the general health of the future in this valley.



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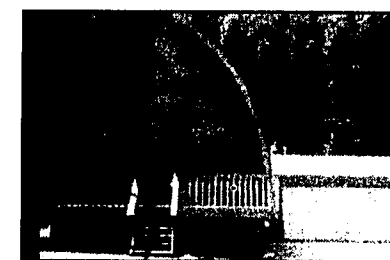


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Walk to the Lake!

Newer 1792 sq. ft. 2 story home on 1 park-like acre. Main level includes an open kitchen/dining/living room area. The kitchen has oak cabinets. There is a log stair railing, a spacious master bedroom and full bath, plus a large laundry room. Upstairs there is a second bedroom and a family room. The property includes a large 25' by 30' garage with a loft and it is almost completed. There is also a rustic cabin (400 sq. ft.) that is plumbed, has a wood stove, and is on a foundation. There is a wonderful fenced strawberry garden and a flower garden. The lake and Big Larch Campground are just a short walk away. \$158,000.

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Another Grizzly encounter in the Blackfoot Valley area

The Ovando Mountain area in the Blackfoot Valley will reopen to hunting Wednesday morning, November 21, 2001.

The area was closed last Friday night as a result of a conflict between a hunter and a bear. The hunter felt that a grizzly bear was charging him and fired a shot at the bear. The hunter believed he hit the bear, but the bear was not dead. He called 9-1-1 and reported the incident and Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) wardens, bear management personnel and the Powell County Sheriff's Office responded to interview the hunter. Because of darkness, the search for the bear was postponed until Saturday morning. FWP personnel and the hunter returned to the site of the incident and searched for evidence that the bear had been hit by the hunter's shot. A very small piece of tissue was found. Hounds were used to trail the bear. It did not appear to the trackers that the bear was seriously wounded.

On Sunday bear management personnel used Karelian bear dogs in an attempt to locate the bear. The bear was not found.

State Game Warden Derek Schott, after interviewing the hunter and investigating the scene, believes "The hunter's shot was justifiable under the circumstances. The hunter claimed that bear was only 16 to 18 feet from him when he shot."

The site where the incident occurred is approximately four miles northeast of Ovando and between Doney Lake and Highway 200.

James Jonkel, bear management specialist, believes the bear has moved out of the area. He cautions hunters in the Blackfoot drainage to be

careful and take the proper precautions to avoid conflicts with bears.

He cautions hunters to "Think grizzly and think defensively" by taking precautions to avoid a bear encounter. Precautions include:

- If you hunt alone let someone know your detailed plans and have a way to periodically check in.

- Carry pepper spray and know how to use it.

- Hunting partners should share details of their hunt plans and have a check in or communication system.

- Report grizzly encounters to FWP (406-542-5500 weekdays during business hours), FWP TIPMONT line (1-800-847-6668, 24 hour, seven days a week) US Forest Service, county sheriff, local law enforcement, or 9-1-1.

- When hunting in grizzly country, the golden rule is to "get your game animal out of the area soon as possible." The longer a carcass remains lying on the ground, hung up in hunting camp, or in the back of a truck, the more likely it will be discovered by a

- Grizzly. Some grizzly bears have learned that a rifle shot means a gut pile or animal carcass.

- Carcasses left in the mountains overnight should be cached and made to be visible from a distance. Locate an observation point and clear the brush in that direction. Cover the animal with branches and sticks and mark it with a piece of clothing or flagging. Drag the gut pile away from the carcass and cover it with brush. Before leaving, walk to the observation point and memorize the site.

- Next morning, approach the downed animal carefully. Yell or whistle repeatedly. With binoculars study the scene from the observation point and scan the area for movement. Grizzly bears often drag the carcass a short distance before caching it under a pile of dirt and debris.

- If a grizzly bear is at site and refuses to leave or the meat has been cached and is not salvageable, report the incident to FWP. Hunters who have lost an animal to a grizzly may be eligible for another license.

- Never push a grizzly exhibiting aggressive behavior off an elk or deer carcass.
- If you live in grizzly country, it is best not to hang carcasses behind the house or in the garage for extended periods. Big game carcasses stored outside should be hung from a stout 15-foot pole at least 25 to 30 feet off the ground. The elk or deer should be suspended from the center of the pole and well above a bear's reach. Grizzly bears have been known to climb trees and stand on objects in order to reach carcasses.

- Some grizzly bears are opportunists and change their behavior in order to take advantage of new food sources. So if you are hunting or living in grizzly country, always assume that grizzlies are in the area and make sure your camps, cabins and homes are bear proof, and that bear attractants are contained or removed.

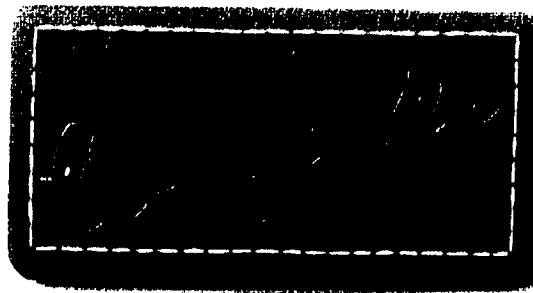
The area will be signed to warn hunters and encourage them to report any conflicts with bears. FWP personnel will be in the area through the end of hunting season, Sunday, November 25, 2001.

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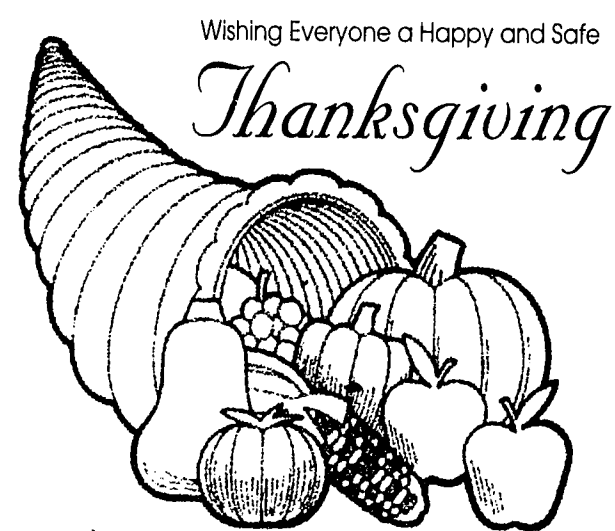
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Thanksgiving

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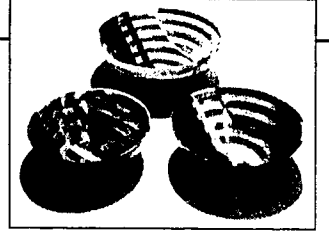


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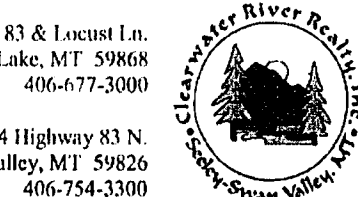
Happy Thanksgiving

The spirit of the season makes us especially thankful for our many clients and friends like you.

Scott Wendy Marcia Gayla
Robin Kevin Wayne
Laura Jeff Michele

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Please Pause For Pets and Paws

Skampi, The Birthday Girl at The Rainbow Bridge

It was early, but the sun was out. It almost seemed brighter today, and so all the little dogs and cats knew it was going to be a fun day. Misty and Kalahari were sunning themselves on a rock. Einstein was telling Kashena and Elsee how he knew how to build a fence that would hold those pesky sheep in. Lucy, the black and white mix, and Lucy, the Blue Heeler, had become friends and were sitting by the creek. Killer, Casi and Bum had fast taken up with Old Spud, Meg, Lady and Bo, and there were good times to discuss about their life in Seeley Lake. Zak was still trying to impress Maggie the Scotty. So far it wasn't working too well, but Zak was not going to give up. Hans, Brother, Heidi, Mr. B and Tsuni had just returned from a walk. As always, it was warm and peaceful, and all were enjoying each other's company. It was Big Boy Yukon who first heard the music and ran down the hill barking. "It's someone's birthday. Listen!" It was very quiet and then there was the Happy Birthday song. There was the rustling of paper and as if in a sun ray, Skampi appeared with her blanket on her back and a newspaper in her mouth. It was Freckles who spoke. "Welcome. Please come forward. We are happy to see you. A birthday girl, you must be." All the other little animals gathered around and admired the birthday girl. "Please tell us about you and how you happened to come to The Rainbow Bridge." Skampi began her story. "Unlike many of you who were thrown-aways, but like many of you, I knew nothing but undying love from the people I owned. My people picked me out over all the other dogs in the pet shop." There were oohs and ahs, for the other little ones knew for sure Skampi was a lucky dog. Skampi continued, "I was supposed to be little, like tiny, and a tiny dog was what my people were looking for, but I gave them the eye, and they couldn't resist me. See, this is the eye I can give. I got me anything." The other dogs and cats all applauded Skampi's eye look. Skampi felt loved and welcomed. "I grew up much bigger, but by that time I had hooked my Dad and Mom good. I went for walks in the forest. I was very brave. I would check out all the trails to make sure it was safe for my Dad. I was quite a bushwhacker." "Oh Skampi, you're so brave," the others called out. Skampi was loving this attention. "Yes," Skampi continued, "each morning I checked out the perimeter of our property and helped fetch the paper. This morning, two big dogs came by in a pickup, and maybe because it was my birthday, I jumped too high and too close to the pickup and was run over." The other little dogs all sighed. "Oh don't feel sorry for me. I was so loved and I heard my Dad running to save me, but God came down and put my wings on me before my Dad got to me. You see," Skampi said, "God walks in the woods also, and needs me to bushwhack, and I will serve with honor. I know my Dad and Mom would be proud. God and I did strike a bargain however. No bath except in the stream." Skampi was going to be fun and an exciting girl to have at The Rainbow Bridge. "Come," said Scarlet, "and put your stars on the loving memory tree." Skampi then walked escorted by all to the memory tree where she put two golden stars on the tree, one for Ron and one for Elva. Skampi then stepped back and said, "Don't grieve. I will love you always," and then Skampi walked over the creek, spread the blanket, and laid the newspaper down, which she will have ready for lap time when everyone meets one day at The Rainbow Bridge. All the little cats and dogs then sang Happy Birthday to Skampi. Skampi was happy. She was safe and loved. It felt just like her beloved home in Montana.

Paws Up
Don't forget November 20. Fill those bags for the Food Bank. (Our Food Bank needs help all year long.)

Paws Up
Blessings and thanks to the Tromlys for the generous donation. My thoughts are with you.

Paws Up to Lucy
Received a wonderful memorial and letter from Charley and Norma Hughes for Lucy, their beloved Blue Heeler. Received a picture of Lucy also. Thank you for all. The picture is special. Isn't it amazing how a blind dog could lead us to so many friends?

Attention
We desperately need a loving home for Sugar Ray, our big gray and white indoor/outdoor cat, neutered and has all shots.

Note
It was nice to be recognized as an organization by the Community Council, and did attend the meeting. It was a fun and fruitful gathering led by Mr. Bill Hyde and Sam Bolton, who did a great job. Sam, we still have a free dog for you. Organized? I'm not sure of that some days. As our community grows, it becomes more important. The responsibility of pets and the care of our pets also grows. Communities who care for their pets are known as good communities. Let's be the best.

Found
On Monday, November 19, a female puppy, approximately 10-12 weeks old, Husky/Malamute/Wolf mix??? No collar, no tags. Call Renee at Paws Up Safe Home for your big lecture. WE DO GIVE OUT FREE ID.

Elinor Williamson 406 677-2174 PO Box 522 Seeley Lake, MT 59868 Non-profit #368168	Paws Up Safe Home Renee Stowe 406 677-3435 PO Box 323 Seeley Lake, MT 59868
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Swan Song

Ervin Sevren Gysler
Ervin Sevren Gysler, 78, passed away on November 15, 2001 in Great Falls of lung cancer. Ervin was born on August 27, 1923 in Plentywood, Montana and was raised in Hinsdale, Montana. He attained a BS degree in Agriculture from Montana State College in Bozeman. He was a sergeant in the U.S. Army during World War II and served in the European Theater. He retired from the Army.

Ervin married Lois Larson in Great Falls in 1951. He was a teacher and coach in Hinsdale, and was involved in sales in Great Falls and Fort Benton. He owned Gysler Manufacturing until his retirement in 1972, and manufactured the Gysler Flexible Chisel Plow.

Ervin was involved in the Lions Club, Elks, SCORE, and Lutheran Church, and was a member of the Montana Constitutional Convention. He enjoyed his grandchildren, bowling, hunting, golf and fishing. Ervin was preceded in death by his wife Lois, who died on August 22, 2001. He is survived by three sons: Carl of Anchorage, AK, Chris of Bozeman, and Eric of Great Falls; and 2 grandchildren. Cremation has taken place. A memorial service was held on Monday, November 19 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Seeley Lake.

Memorials may be sent to Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Seeley Lake.

Seeley Lake Eighth Grade Wraps Presents

The eighth graders from Seeley Lake Elementary School are holding a fund raiser for their graduation. The students will be at Rovero's in Seeley Lake on Friday, November 23 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. wrapping presents for patrons. They will also be at Annie's Emporium on Saturday, November 24 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. offering their services to wrap presents. Donations will be accepted for this service.

Christmas Bazaar

The fifth annual Christmas Bazaar, sponsored by the Seeley Lake Senior Citizens Center, will be held Saturday, December 1st, at the Seeley Lake Community Center. Local craftsmen and artists will be selling a variety of gifts for you or your loved ones. Baked "goodies," soup, sandwiches, and beverages will be available at a nominal fee. There is no admission charge for this event. Contact the Senior Citizen Center, 677-2000, for further information.

Swan Song

Gregory Alan Knudson
MISSOULA - Gregory Alan Knudson, 30, of Missoula, passed away on Saturday, Nov. 10, 2001, at Kelly Island in Missoula. He was born on Jan. 25, 1971, in Havre to Gary and Helen Knudson. He attended Clinton Elementary School where he was the salutatorian of his 8th grade class. Greg was a member of the Hellgate High School football team and graduated with honors in 1989. He attended Utah State University, UNLV and was currently attending the University of Montana where he was studying computer science. Greg was a very talented artist and an excellent carpenter.

He had a passion for art, rocks - he loved rocks, and computers. He played in the Mount Jumbo Little League and in 1988 he pitched the winning game to win the state championship. During high school he won an honorable mention for all-state football and broke the record for tackles in his freshman year. Greg also enjoyed Boy Scouts.

Growing up, Greg loved hiking, exploring, playing baseball and football, writing, and staying at his Grandpa's cabin in Hungry Horse. Greg enjoyed spending time with his friends, his sister, Amie, and especially his best friend and brother, Kelly. Greg wanted to be remembered as being very passionate, loving, compassionate, and a big dreamer. He enjoyed traveling and going to the river with Laura, Caitlin, and Niko. He deeply loved his friends and family and especially loved his girlfriend, Laura, her daughter, Caitlin, and their dog, Niko.

Weather Report

DATE	HIGH	LOW	CONDITIONS
Nov 1	48	34	0.04"precip. Breezy
Nov 2	48	35	Trace precip., mostly cloudy
Nov 3	54	29	Mostly clear
Nov 4	56	27	Mostly clear but hazy
Nov 5	59	26	Partly cloudy, light breeze
Nov 6	57	28	Mostly cloudy
Nov 7	48	24	Clear but fog on lake early
Nov 8	48	18	Clear but fog on lake early
Nov 9	56	19	Mostly clear but hazy
Nov 10	56	18	Partly cloudy, smoke haze
Nov 11	53	19	Mostly clear
Nov 12	57	23	Mostly clear
Nov 13	57	25	Partly cloudy a.m., mostly cloudy p.m.
Nov 14	52	29	Mostly cloudy
Nov 15	54	27	Fog early a.m., then mostly cloudy

Craft Fair Crafts - Bake Sale

Saturday, December 1st
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Seeley Lake Community Center
Sponsored by Senior Citizens

Chicken Coop & Lounge

Cafe Phone 677-2980
Lounge Phone 677-9214

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The Working Man's Supper Club

Senior Nutrition Program Menu

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

Monday, November 26
Lasagna Roll-ups

Tuesday, November 27
Chicken Broccoli Alfredo

Wednesday, November 28
German Dinner

Thursday, November 29
Turkey Pot Pies

Friday, November 30
Stuffed Bell Peppers

Bird seed available.

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Join the Coffee
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Soup's on ...

Lunch Menu for this week... 11/22 to 11/28

- Thursday: Thanksgiving — We are closed
- Friday: "No Where Near New England" Clam Chowder
- Saturday: "Billie Bob's Bodacious" Beef Stew
- Sunday: "Yes, we have *no* soup...."
- Monday: "Texas Lone Star" Chicken Tortilla Soup
- Tuesday: "Mr. Potato Head's" Cream of Potato Soup
- Wednesday: "Holey Moley" It's Cheese & Macaroni

~ 11 a.m. until gone, 12 oz. bowl with roll - \$2.50



12 Pack 12 Oz. Bottles
Bud or Bud Light Beer

\$7.99

Special of the Week

"White Russian Latte"

Freshly steamed milk & sweet, strong espresso is added to the syrup flavors, Coffee Royale & Vanilla, for a delectable start to your day!

Save .25 cents on any size this week!

"FYI"

Coffee is the most popular beverage worldwide with over 400 billion cups consumed each year.



12 Pack 12 Oz. Cans
Coke Products

\$3.19



18 Pack 12 Oz. Cans
Red Dog or Icehouse

\$7.88

YMCA News Update on Activities

Adult Art/Craft Class will begin Monday, November 19, 5:00 p.m. in the science room at Seeley Lake Elementary School. Registration fees are \$15.00. Come and learn the interesting art of mosaics! This ancient art form is as limitless as your imagination! This class will run 3 sessions, Monday, Tuesday with the final class on Monday, November 26th. Please call the YMCA Outreach office to sign up. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, 8:00-12:00 and Wednesday, 8:00-12:00 & 1:00-5:00.

Are you ready to get in shape?

Adult Fitness Classes began Monday, October 1, 2001. Walk fit classes will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. in the Seeley Lake Elementary School gym. Participants will have the option of walk fit or step class, warm up and stretch together, walk or step class followed by weights and stretch together.

Effective October 15, evening classes will be Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. in the new gym at Seeley Lake Elementary School. Monday-Step, Wednesday-Kick boxing, and Thursday-cardio toning. Registration fee is \$15.00 per month for Walk-Fit and \$25.00 a month for Step, Kick and Cardio toning.

Call the Seeley Swan YMCA Outreach for details at 677-3330.