

The Weather

DATE	HIGH	LOW	PC.	REC. HIGH
Jan. 10	30	23	.16	51/2007
Jan. 11	20	17	.00	51/1986
Jan. 12	19	13	.00	48/1959
Jan. 13	17	-4	.00	50/1983
Jan. 14	17	0	.00	57/1994
Jan. 15	15	-2	.00	54/1961
Jan. 16	18	-4	.00	53/1961

2017 precip. 0.89 Jan. precip. 0.89 T. Falls River Flow, 13,400 cfs; Plains, ICE cfs; Noxon, 12,000 cfs; Thompson River, ICE cfs.

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
41/21

PARTLY CLOUDY

**P.M.**
SNOW

SATURDAY
40/23



SUNDAY
37/25

P.M.
RAIN/ SNOW


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Watershed group seeks input on restoration plan

by Brita Olson, Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group

It takes a collective effort to protect and improve a watershed, and that's why the Lower Clark Fork Watershed group wants the public to become involved in the stewardship of their watershed.

The Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group is a non-profit organization that works with partners on restoration of streams and riparian areas in the lower Clark Fork River basin.

"We really value the knowledge and opinions of the people who live in this area," said Brita Olson, coordinator for the group. "After all, it's the local residents and landowners who know and use these streams and rivers."

The Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group is in the process of initiating two watershed restoration plans

in 2017. The group hopes to complete a Watershed Restoration Plan for the Thompson River drainage in 2017, and to update an existing Watershed Restoration Plan for other Lower Clark Fork River tributaries (from Prospect Creek west to Blue Creek at the Idaho/Montana border) in 2018.

"Watershed Restoration Plans are a tool for local communities to identify, plan, and implement projects on streams, lakes, and other waterbodies whose long-term health are important to them," explained Ann McCauley, associate director of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana, which is helping to fund the planning process. Additional supporters include Avista Corporation and NorthWestern Energy.

"It's important for local communities to be involved

with the development of these plans," McCauley added, "because they are the ones who know the value and importance of their community's natural resource needs the best."

The Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group has been involved in stream restoration and enhancement projects through the lower Clark Fork area for over ten years, completing many projects in partnership with entities such as local watershed councils, state and federal agencies, and private corporations.

One recent project, for instance, was in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and Avista Corp. to restore a section of the Vermillion River to improve habitat for fish. Other projects have focused on naturally stabilizing the banks of streams to prevent erosion and sedimentation, which can reduce water quality and harm fish.

Watershed restoration plans guide restoration efforts by identifying the best management measures to reduce pollution in watersheds, improve water quality for fish and other beneficial uses, and to prioritize projects for the maximum improvement of water quality and quality throughout the watershed.

The public can get involved now by taking a short survey on the Lower Clark Fork Watershed Group's website; www.lowerclarkforkwatershed-group.org/wrp-input/. The survey also gives respondents the opportunity to sign up to be notified of meetings or other opportunities to get involved.

In addition to collecting the observations, insights and opinions of local landowners and residents, staff will also be studying previous plans, existing documents and data on the health of the watershed, and taking a hard look at previous restoration efforts to determine what's working and what's not working. They will meet with fisheries biologists and other experts to make sure the plans are based on the best information available.

Planning is a necessary step in effective restoration work, Olson said, in part because it will generate confidence in potential funders.

"We need good plans, not only to help us decide what to work on," she said, "but also to attract funding to pay for the work."

For more information, visit www.lowerclarkfork-watershedgroup.org.

Photo by Ed Moreth

FIRST ARRIVAL – The first Clark Fork Valley Hospital baby of 2017 arrived Monday, Jan. 9. Mom Alissa Fisher of Thompson Falls poses with her newborn, Christine Fisher, who was 6 pounds, 12 ½ ounces and 18 ¾ inches long. Christine's dad is Rocky Fisher and her older sister is Samantha Fisher, 2. Her maternal grandmother is Jean Witters of Thompson Falls and her paternal grandmother is Mary Fisher of Trout Creek. Dr. Ronald Black delivered the baby.

County students named to MSU-Bozeman Fall honor roll

Montana State University recently announced its fall semester undergraduate honor rolls and the list included 17 students from Sanders County or with connections to the immediate area.

Plains students lead the list, with 13 students.

Seven of the students earned President's Honor Roll status for perfect 4.0 grades. The others listed earned a grade point average of between 3.5 and 4.0. Students must complete a minimum of 12 credit hours to be on either list.

Over 4000 students earned honors at MSU.

Making the list were Kathryn Chandler of Heron; Emily Cowles and Geneva Zoltek of Hot Springs; Alana Griffin (PHR) of Noxon; Andrew Baker (PHR), Kendra Bertrand (PHR), Tanna Cole, Daniel Damschen (PHR), Jack Dolson, Jake Lile (PHR), Sara Nestor, Hailey Phillips (PHR), Danika Whitcomb, David Damschen (PHR), Shannon Dimond and Elisabeth Dryden of Plains and Joseph Lundberg of Thompson Falls.

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Trout Creek School Adult Ed Classes

Class	Instructor	Begins	Time
Card Making	JoAnn Pruett, 827-1415	Jan. 30	Mondays, 6:00 p.m.
Yoga (evening)	Patty English, 827-9446	Jan. 24	Tuesdays, 7 p.m.
Zumba Class	Megan Stevens, 827-1738	Jan. 26	Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.
Line Dancing	JoAnn Pruett, 827-1415	Jan. 27	Fridays, 4:00 p.m.
Yoga (morning)	Bonnie Reishus, 847-0109	Jan. 26	Thursdays, 9 a.m.
G.E.D.	Heidi Weatherly, 827-3629	Jan. 26	Thursdays, 5 p.m.

Classes Cost \$10 Senior Citizens (60 or older) are FREE
For more information or to sign up for a class, call the instructor
Must have at least 5 people sign up for class to be offered

Cell ban

Continued from page 1

A person convicted of the offense can be fined between \$25 and \$300 and sentenced to not more than 90 days in jail for a first offense violation. A second violation carries a minimum sentence of 10 days in jail and/or a fine of not less than \$50.

Let's go to the ELKS!



Western Swing Dance Lessons

FREE!

Friday, Jan. 20, 6:45pm
(Following 6pm potluck dinner)

Everyone welcome!

Open Sun., Jan. 22, for Football Playoffs!

Clark Fork Valley Elks Lodge
Thompson Falls, 827-7770

Chuck Wagon Dinner & Show

Sat., Jan. 21



Head on in to the Roundup!

Dave & Deb along with Caroline Penny
will be doing Cowboy Trail Songs and Sing-Alongs starting at 6 p.m.

Rib Eye & New York Steaks, twice baked potatoes, glazed baby carrots, corn bread and dessert
Regular menu available

Fri. Specials
Fish Fry - \$11
Prime Rib
827-4458



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