



NOMINATE A NURSE TODAY!

Celebrate a nurse by nominating one who has made an impact in the lives of others. Ten honorees will be featured in a special publication on May 5th in The Montana Standard in honor of National Nurses Week.

GO TO: mtstandard.com/contests/nurses2026 to NOMINATE a nurse!

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BIG HOLE VALLEY SKIJORING

WILDEST SPORT ON TWO SKIS



MEGAN NIELSEN PHOTOS, MONTANA STANDARD

A skier is pulled by a horse as they compete at Big Hole Valley Skijoring in Wisdom on Feb. 21.

Mashup of skiing, rodeo hits Wisdom



Attendees cheer on one of the teams at Big Hole Valley Skijoring in Wisdom on Feb. 21.

MEGAN NIELSEN
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Rodeo culture collided with ski culture at Big Hole Valley Skijoring in Wisdom on Saturday. Skijoring combines the two sports by racing through a course with participants on skis or snowboards while pulled behind a horse and rider.

Saturday's event saw some first-time competitors as well as some more experienced in the sport. Attendees tailgated the event, building fires, grilling and drinking as they took in the spectacle.

Megan Nielsen is a photographer for the Montana Standard newspaper.



A rider reaches for a ring at Big Hole Valley Skijoring in Wisdom on Feb. 21.

Water system is a gem for Butte

Water treatment chief says water supply can handle planned Sabe data center

MIKE SMITH
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On a professional level, there's nothing more important to Jim Keenan than water in Butte-Silver Bow County.

His job, big picture, is ensuring residents in Butte-Silver Bow have clean drinking water to live on and Butte's biggest plants and mining ventures have the industrial water they need to operate and keep people employed.

Concerns about both have been raised as a company's hopes of building and operating a sprawling data center at the Montana Connections Business Park just west of urban Butte have unfolded and intensified.

Data centers need massive amounts of electricity to operate and some can be water guzzlers, too, using enormous amounts for cooling systems that keep servers from overheating.

Please see WATER, Page A5

Study looks at metals impact on waterfowl

DUNCAN ADAMS
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They swim like ducks and look like ducks, but American coots are members of the rail family of birds.

Coots have faces only a mother coot could love. Their flattened features resemble those of a hapless pugilist. Bald eagles hunt coots because the slow fliers are easy to snatch.

Quirky American coots regularly stop at the Warm Springs Ponds during migration seasons. When they do, it's often in the tens of thousands.

Many other species of waterbirds favor the Warm Springs Ponds during migration and breeding. The settling ponds network is a profoundly better alternative than the bird-snuffing Berkeley Pit to the east.

Please see BIRDS, Page A3

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