

# Polk Pedalers hit Montana

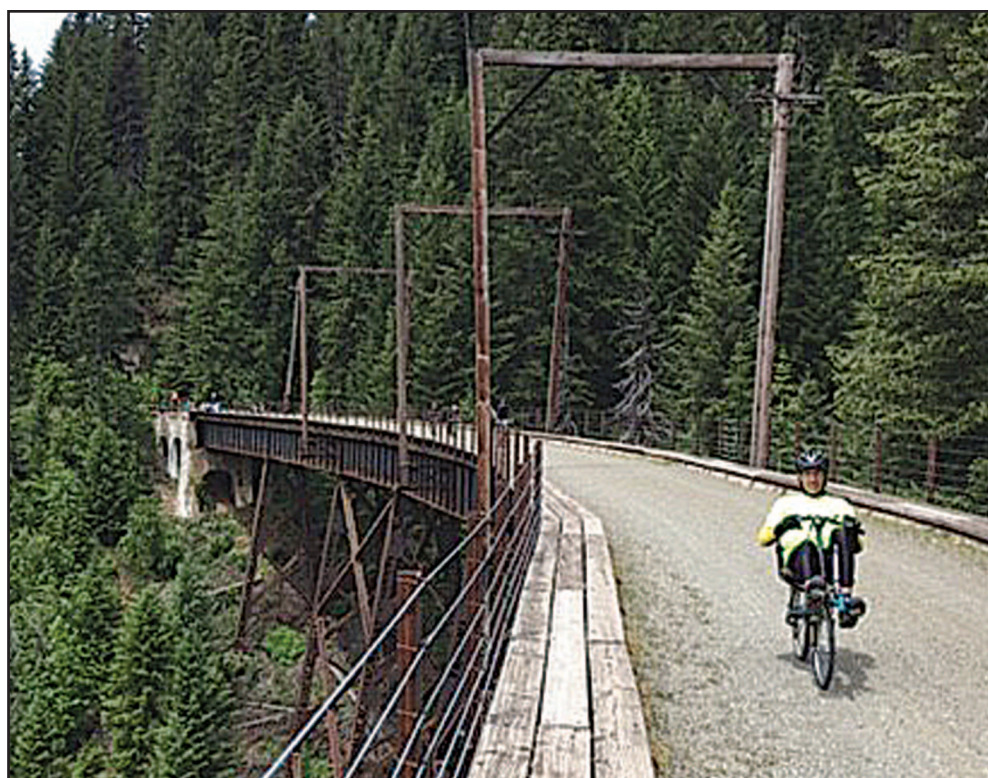
By Wayne Sitkei  
For The Itemizer-Observer

The Polk County bicycle club, named the Polk Pedalers, is an adventurous group.

In June, nine riders pedaled a whole week in the middle of some of Montana's most beautiful valleys. Each day was a ride about 60 miles long. Some of the riders cycled every mile while others rode the morning until lunch time. How about a lunch in a small Montana town? Noxon, Mont. is such a place, where the local saloon is the only open venue, which happens to make great burgers.

These Montana watering holes display walls covered with local news, trophy mounts and old photos, like the 1947 photo of Uncle Bill's fishing trip to Crystal Lake. Looking at the ceiling you'll see hundreds of one dollar bills tacked there.

"We knew we were in the heart of Montana when you see elk, bear, cougar and moose mounts on every wall," club vice president Wayne Sitkei said.



WAYNE SITKEI/ for the Itemizer-Observer

Nine riders from the Polk Pedalers club traveled to Montana in June.

Local fare was the plan all along. By eating at mom and pop restaurants and sleeping at small motels, the true feel of Montana was present. It couldn't have been better. The highlight ride was an old

railroad converted to a bicycle path called the Hiawatha trail. It treats you with a pair of mile long tunnels and 250-foot-high trestles through the continental divide of the Bitterroot mountains.

If you're interest is piqued in riding with a fun group that caters to all level of riders, contact this bike club. You can email or call the club president Dick Dye at dyegrannies@gmail.com or 503-338-9419.

# Curtis: Hopes to become golf pro

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She began to warm up to the idea that perhaps a couple hours on the golf course could be fun and that, if she was good, it could offer scholarship opportunities for college.

"I told him I'm going to learn how to play," she said. "It was a little bit of a joke at first, but I fell in love with it."

She picked up the sport quickly — something she credits her athleticism for.

"I've always played sports," she said. "There have been times I've been playing four at one time. I was really big into softball until my eighth-grade year, so my hand-eye coordination was really good, so even when I started and had a bad swing, I was able to hit it."

She's made great strides in her play, and the good moments more than make up for the frustrating ones.

"How rewarding it is to play," Curtis said. "You're going to have bad shots, but once you hit a good one, it's a

great feeling."

While Curtis doesn't plan on stopping her playing career anytime soon, she also hopes golf leads to another avenue: becoming a golf professional.

"I want to become a teacher and reach out to ladies who want to learn the game, or older ladies who want to learn, but not from a man," she said. "Golf can be kind of a sexist sport. I think it's great to get more girls out playing, and almost all the golf pros right now are guys."

Her style will be how she plays — to keep people having a good time no matter what and to use the sport she loves to help others.

"There's been a lot of pros who are so serious that it makes you feel bad when you're not playing well," Curtis said. "This is a crazy hard sport. It's harder to hit something on the ground than moving. I want to be welcoming and friendly while we're playing."

## Giving some tips



Dallas boys basketball coach Trent Schwartz (right) gives tips to players during Dallas' basketball camp on Friday afternoon.

The three-day camp held at Dallas High School focused on improving fundamental skills. A camp aimed at younger players was held July 13 through Friday in the mornings. Dallas will host volleyball and soccer camps in August. For more information: [www.sites.google.com/a/dsd2.org/dallas-high-school-athletics/](http://www.sites.google.com/a/dsd2.org/dallas-high-school-athletics/).

LUKAS EGGEN/  
Itemizer-Observer

# Larry: Wanted to become a dentist

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"In the 17 years, I've never had a retail store," Peterson said. "I've been out here for five or six years, but we'd have people say we tried to find you, but couldn't. (My wife) and I kept thinking we should open a store and finally said let's just go for it."

His retail store held its grand opening on Friday and features handmade longboards, skateboards, clothing and supplies.

"There really isn't a whole lot between Eugene and Port-

land in terms of skate shops," Peterson said. "We can help give some of the local kids some options and show what we have and what we make in a better setting."

With his first official store finally opening its doors, Peterson is ready for the next chapter in his business.

"Dentists can make a lot of money," Peterson said, smiling. "But I know I wouldn't have as much fun. Really, the sky's the limit with what we can make. If they can dream it, we can probably build it."





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