

PARK

from A1

and 6,000 square feet for double-wide manufactured homes. Triple-wide homes would have a minimum lot space of 10,000 square feet.

Nearly 9 acres of open space is proposed.

The proposed housing development, to be built in two phases, would be connected to Evergreen

Water and Sewer District for water and sewer service.

Property owners within 150 feet of the property were mailed notices, and as of Feb. 16 when the staff report was completed, no written comments had been received by the Planning Office.

Board of Adjustment decisions are considered final. The public hearing will be held at 6 p.m. March 6 in the second-floor conference room of the South Campus Building, 40 11th St. W. in Kalispell.

The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on preliminary plat approval on April 11, and will forward a recommendation to the county commissioners for final approval.

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Small Havre ski hill opens for first time in three years

BILLINGS (AP) — A small ski hill in north central Montana is open for the first time in three years thanks to recent snowfall.

The Bear Paw Ski Bowl began welcoming skiers earlier this

month after two weak snow years.

Manager Dave Martens says the small hill in the Bears Paw Mountains south of Havre has gotten close to 100 inches (254 centimeters) of snow.

The ski area run largely by volunteers has a single chairlift that turns just two days a week and 24 runs, including some that serve as connectors to the main trails and the east side of the mountain.

The mountain is only open on the weekends.

DEPUTY

from A1

The sheriff was not immediately available to confirm Hoover's resignation.

Hoover told the court he had gotten in a fight with his girlfriend and made a series of bad decisions on Nov. 23,

2017. Hoover said he had been drinking and was looking down at his phone when he drove through a crash scene that was being investigated by emergency responders. Hoover said he clipped a vehicle. Then he admitted to reaching speeds of almost 100 miles per hour as he attempted to flee the

scene. The Montana Highway Patrol trooper who wrote the police report stated that Hoover came close to hitting firefighters from the Creston Volunteer Fire Department responding to the accident scene on Montana 35. The trooper reported when he started the

pursuit, he wasn't sure whether or not Hoover's Dodge pickup had struck another vehicle or a firefighter directing traffic. Hoover allegedly drove his pickup off the road and into a field, taking out a fence, before he returned to the road and surrendered to law enforcement. Hoover reportedly provided a

breath sample of .0178, more than twice the legal limit. In court, Hoover acknowledged he engaged in behavior that created a substantial risk of death or serious injury to others. Judge Eddy accepted the plea and the Washington State man was released back on his

own recognizance. Eddy denied Hoover's attorney's request to remove his alcohol monitoring device. Hoover's official sentencing date is set for April 26. *Reporter Breeana Laughlin can be reached at 758-4441 or blaughlin@dailyinterlake.com.*

PROGRAM

from A1

to enhance protections in the basin against invasive species."

To this end, the FBC asked the Fish and Wildlife Commission to require mussel inspections for all boats entering the Basin, and decontaminations for most motorized ones. The effort would have been funded by requiring local boaters to purchase stickers.

As the Daily Inter Lake has previously reported, the proposal has drawn

challenges from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, which claims that the Commission can't obligate boaters to purchase stickers. Meanwhile, Upper Columbia Conservation Commission director Lori Curtis recently described the program as another "layer of confusion" for boaters. "The legislators called us to do something, [and] we were trying to fulfill that, but there were lots of issues that were brought up with it," said Jack Potter, FBC member and former Chief of Science and Resources Management for Glacier

National Park, at Tuesday's meeting. Jim Simpson, representing the Lake County Conservation District, then motioned to withdraw the rule. The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation's Mark Bostrom, one of the FBC's ex-officio commissioners, acknowledged H.B. 622's legal mandate, but argued that the body had already met it. "If you look at the exact words of the pilot program" provision in the law, "it does say that the Flathead Basin Commission shall establish a pilot program. I

also believe that they have, through the years." He pointed out that H.B. 622 said that the Commission "may" undertake various steps, like selling boat stickers and tracking vessels, as part of that program. "Those are optional pieces of the pilot program," he argued. Robin Stenkraus, executive director of the Flathead Lakers and not a member of the FBC, voiced disappointment with the situation. She argued that, as H.B. 622 worked its way through the legislature in 2017, state agencies hadn't

adequately warned lawmakers of its legal flaws. In her view, the region is now entering the 2018 boating season "without adequate protection." Over the past few months, several officials involved with the AIS fight have called for more resources to catch mussel-fouled boats. Despite these concerns, the Commission unanimously voted to withdraw the petition. This decision doesn't leave the Basin defenseless. Kate Wilson with the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation pointed out that all of the region's

inspection stations will be open again next year; one of the busiest, on Highway 93 in Ravalli, will open March 16. And Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is preparing its own rule that will require all incoming boats to be inspected. Looking ahead, the motion also states that the commission would "reassess FBC's focus on aquatic invasive species in the basin." *Reporter Patrick Reilly can be reached at preilly@dailyinterlake.com, or at 758-4407.*

FIGHTING

from A1

appendectomy. It seemed like the worst was over.

But Emmery was septic, her kidneys failing because of complications from an infection of E. coli bacteria. The doctors then gave Zoey and Phil a choice: Seattle, Salt Lake City or Denver?

They didn't understand at first. It wasn't until the doctor explained that she needed a destination for their life flight helicopter, immediately, that the seriousness of the situation sunk in.

"I wasn't really scared until they said we needed to leave," Zoey remembers.

By Saturday, Zoey and Emmery were on a life flight to Denver Children's Hospital. It would be nearly a month until they returned home.

THE FIGHT for Emmery's life started with a common bacteria. Known for its role in recalls of contaminated foods, such as lettuce or flour, E. coli is actually a family of bacteria that mostly live in human or animal intestines. Most E. coli bacteria aren't harmful to humans, but a few produce deadly toxins that cause bloody diarrhea, vomiting, and in severe cases like Emmery's, acute kidney failure.

The Heimerls aren't sure where Emmery contracted E. coli; it's difficult to pinpoint, as the bacteria is found all around us — in raw meat, untreated dairy products, water, animals or other humans. The week before she fell ill, Emmery swam in a hotel pool, helped

her dad prepare jerky and ate numerous potentially E. coli-infested foods. Phil also developed an infection, but like most adults, he got over the food poisoning in 24 hours.

Emmery, however, was a different story. E. coli is much more dangerous for children under age 5, who are at risk of developing Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome, also known as HUS. Toxins from the bacteria damage red blood cells, blocking tiny vessels to the kidneys and preventing the body from clearing waste and fluids. Consequences can be dire without immediate emergency care.

For Emmery, this meant a litany of tests, procedures, machines and precautions. Once she arrived in Denver, she was intubated — a tube placed through her trachea to help relieve fluid pressure on her lungs. She was placed on continuous dialysis to clear her body of waste. She was sedated, taken off dialysis for another blood transfusion, then put on dialysis again.

It was "one thing after another," Zoey recalls. She and Phil, who had arrived in Denver a day after her, stayed day and night by Emmery's side in her hospital room. The 2-year-old was swaddled in restraints and machines — a catheter, Velcro ties on her hands to keep her from unplugging something and the gigantic intubation machine on her neck that frightened her every time she awoke.

"It was heartbreaking, seeing her like that," says Zoey. "You still don't really understand. It was the hardest to watch her struggle."

"You just really can't even explain it. When

there's nothing you can do — I mean, we just said a million times, 'God, I would just swap her in a second. Let me do this for her.'"

YET AFTER all this, the scariest part was still to come. That Friday night, just shy of a week in Denver, Emmery had her first seizure as Zoey looked on.

"That was probably the scariest thing for me," she says. "I'd never seen one, and she's foaming at the mouth...it was horrible. It's just crazy that a body can go through that and not be permanently damaged."

Along with her HUS, Emmery had developed Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy (PRES), swelling in her brain caused by high blood

pressure that led to seizing, headache and hallucinations.

Luckily, the staff at Denver Children's were prepared, as PRES often accompanies HUS. Under their care, she was clear of seizures and off intubation within a few days. By the end of the week, she could even indulge in some ice cream.

Still, it was a long road ahead. There were pain meds to take and more tests to run. Zoey and Phil stayed through all three weeks with the unwavering support of their family and friends, who held down the fort at home and took care of Emmery's 6-year-old brother, Riley.

"They were all so supportive. We had group messages going so they went through the whole

ride with us," Zoey says, adding that the community has rallied behind the family. "We've got messages, calls — people have come together like crazy."

That support has coalesced into a fund-raising page and a silent auction and spaghetti feed this Sunday, Feb. 25 from 2-6 p.m. at Fatt Boys Sports Bar in Kalispell. Proceeds from the event will help cover Emmery's extensive medical costs.

For Zoey and Phil, the relief is tempered with spreading the word on the risks of E. coli and HUS, especially for young children.

"It just needs to be more out there," says Zoey on awareness of HUS. "It's hard for us to live in a bubble. There are so many ways you can get it."

In the meantime, the Heimerls are enjoying being back home. Emmery is on the mend, not quite her former "loud" self, but feeling well enough to crank out some tunes on her toy guitar and look forward to a princess-themed 3rd birthday on March 6.

The Heimerls are ready for "just getting [Emmery] back to her normal life and abilities," says Zoey. Already, the bubbly two-year-old asking for chocolate has come a long way since her month in the ICU. Zoey shakes her head at the whirlwind of it all. "Just how many people have reached out to us — it's amazing."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

WEYERHAEUSER DONATES \$5,000 TO SUPPORT AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP

Northwest Montana Community Land Trust, Inc. (NWMTCCLT) helps bridge the gap between the valley's high property values and the modest incomes of many who live and work here - people who are vital to the community's quality of life and well-being.

Kalispell, MT – February 23, 2018

Northwest Montana Community Land Trust, Inc. would like to thank Weyerhaeuser for their generous contribution of \$5,000.00. This grant will help support the expansion of the NWMTCCLT program and service area to Columbia Falls, MT. Existing NWMTCCLT homes in Kalispell represent over \$3 million in community assets. Since, 2009, NWMTCCLT has acquired, renovated, and offered 56 permanently affordable homes for sale to low-income individuals and families. Expanding to Columbia Falls is the next step in NWMTCCLT's strategy to address the affordable workforce housing crisis in Northwest Montana. Funding will be used to build organizational capacity, including public relations and marketing to the Columbia Falls workforce and strategic collaborations with public and private entities.

ABOUT NORTHWEST MONTANA COMMUNITY LAND TRUST, INC.

The Northwest Montana Community Land Trust (NWMTCCLT or CLT) is a community-based organization formed in 2009 that provides permanently affordable homeownership opportunities for very low- to moderate-income individuals and families. For the past eight years, the CLT has been acquiring and rehabilitating homes in the City of Kalispell and has helped 56 families become homeowners. NWMTCCLT has a goal to offer similar benefits to residents of Columbia Falls. For more information, please visit www.nwmtclt.org.

NWMTCCLT is a non-profit with the mission "providing permanently affordable ownership opportunities for low- and moderate-income families in the Flathead Valley." NWMTCCLT is a tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and donations may be eligible for charitable deductions depending on your individual tax situation.

ABOUT WEYERHAEUSER

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