

GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE

MY MONTANA

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 2014

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#Montana Tweet

"Whenever I travel and see another MT car I always check to see if I know them #montana problems"

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SECTION

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Seamus Jennings of Great Falls uses a horn that calls campers together at Ravenwood Outdoor Learning Center's camp.

Call of the wild

Ravenwood camps aim to connect children with nature

By Kristen Inbody Tribune Staff Writer



COLUMBIA FALLS — Sitting on logs in the woods, three boys chipped obsidian into arrowheads, more or less. At their feet were shards of rock, broken bottles and pieces of a television screen used to practice flint knapping before they picked up obsidian. "There's something very satisfying about using busted TVs to make Stone Age tools," said Luc Tunkel, staff at Ravenwood Outdoor Learning Center's recent teen camp. "More than the skills, it's a deep nature connection," he added. "The skills are a vehicle to

that." Reed Miller, 14, of Kalispell, Carver Gilman, 13, of Whitefish, and John McDonnell, 13, of Kalispell, watched Tunkel intently as he demonstrated lines in the obsidian he'd exploited to break off a large piece. While he was technically working on an arrowhead, Reed said, "I suppose I'm working on learning." He started coming to

Ravenwood camps six years ago. "At first I came for friends, then fun, but it's gained a lot bigger meaning," he said. Reed's vision is to make at camp something his parents would never allow him to craft at home — an ax. He found a stick and learned how to leverage a notch out of it. "Who would have thought of using other trees to twist the notch out?" "Cavemen," Reed said. "I really want to know how to make a quality product," he added. "It's reassuring to have a good handle in your hands." Carver chipped away at what

See CAMP, 3L



Carver Gilman, Reed Miller and John McDonnell learn flint knapping from Luc Tunkel. They made arrowheads, axes and knife blades. The campers learn basic skills with broken glass before they take on obsidian. "There's something very satisfying about using a busted TV to make Stone Age tools," Tunkel said.

UNIQUELY MONTANA



TRIBUNE PHOTO: RICH SANDERS Tom Lyons, right, hand made this stand-up paddle board as a gift for his wife Cherie Bowman-Lyons.

Local man makes wood paddle board for his wife

By Erin Madison Tribune Staff Writer

After trying stand-up paddle boarding last summer, a paddle board was on Cherie Bowman-Lyons' wish list. "Both my daughter and I really loved it," she said. "I said it was going to be my next big purchase." But before she got a chance to make that purchase, her husband Tom Lyons crafted her a hand-made paddle board. "It was my wife's Christmas present, but she didn't get it until June," Lyons said. Instead, Bowman-Lyons found two paddles and a paddle board ornament under the tree on Christmas morning. Then, Lyons got to work building the board. Lyons is an avid woodworker but never had built anything like a paddle board before. He estimates the project took about 160 hours. "I quit counting after about 100 hours," Lyons said.

The wooden 68-pound paddle board that Lyons built is hollow. He ordered the internal frame online and built the rest of the board himself. "The internal skeleton is like a fish scale," he said.

On the outside, different types of wood make an elaborate design on the top of the board. Lyons came up with the pattern himself and used western red cedar, redwood and Port Orford cedar.

See PADDLE BOARD, 3L



TRIBUNE PHOTO: KRISTEN INBODY Is your pet a dog or a cat?

MONTANA QUIZ

ANSWERS ON PAGE 4

- 1. Is Montana a dog state or a cat state when it comes to pet ownership? A. Cat B. Dog C. Even split D. Bird
2. The first designated tribal wilderness in the country is associated with which tribe? A. Northern Cheyenne B. Blackfeet C. Salish and Kootenai D. Assiniboine and Gros Ventre
3. How does one say hello in Assiniboine? A. Wahey B. Haähe C. Oki D. Hau