

SAY WHAT?

Romney's '47 percent' comment
tops list of 2012 | **PAGE A2**

LEARNING
EXPERIENCE

MSU players reflect on season-ending loss,
look forward to future | **SPORTS**



BOZEMAN DAILY

CHRONICLE

DAILYCHRONICLE.COM

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2012

75¢

POWDER TO THE PEOPLE

New snowfall helps liven opening weekend
for Bridger Bowl, Moonlight Basin skiers

By **JOLENE KELLER**
Chronicle Staff Writer

Skiers and snowboarders around the area rejoiced this weekend as fresh snow accompanied opening weekend at Bridger Bowl and Moonlight Basin.

Bridger opened all of its terrain on Friday — a breath of fresh air after last season, when opening day was only possible thanks to man-made snow in the lower areas of the mountain. It wasn't until mid-January that Bridger was able to fully open its higher elevation terrain.

So it was no wonder that more than 5,000 skiers and snowboarders came out over the weekend to hit Bridger's slopes. Snow began falling on Thursday night, and by Sunday morning more than two feet blanketed higher elevations at the ski area.

"It's really nice coverage out there, considering the warmer weather we've been having lately," said Doug Wales, Bridger's long-time marketing director. "Saturday was fantastic — it was snowing hard all day and filling up tracks. With a solid base and fresh snow, it was the perfect recipe for a ski day. There were lots of hoots and hollers out there."

It wasn't just the marketing department that was stoked by the snow conditions this weekend — MSU student Blake Larson was all smiles after a morning up on the Ridge on Sunday. This marks his ninth season at Bridger, and he's looking forward to getting out as much as his class schedule will allow.

"It was waist to chest deep up top today," he said with a grin, admitting he has "mad pow disease."



PHOTOS BY CHRIS KERR/CHRONICLE
A skier barrels through fresh powder in the High Traverse area at Bridger Bowl on Saturday afternoon.



More **SNOW** | **A10**

A snowboarder cruises past snow-covered trees at Bridger Bowl on Saturday afternoon.

Advocates: 'fiscal cliff' threatens U.S. parks

By **McClatchy Newspapers**

WASHINGTON — Congress' looming failure to solve the fiscal cliff crisis leaves national parks facing large-scale cuts and the prospect of fewer visitors as tax increases leave Americans with less money to travel.

With serious doubts that the politicians will be able to reach a deal before the automatic spending cuts and tax increases go into effect at the end of the year, national park advocates and communities that depend on tourism revenue are growing increasingly worried.

They're joining defense companies, unions, health care providers, chambers of commerce and others in arguing to Congress that the across-the-board cuts would be a big blow to the nation's economy and quality of life.

"The impact will be very, very damaging for national parks," John Gardner of the National Parks Conservation Association, an advocacy group, said after a long day lobbying Congress.

The National Park Service, like other federal agencies, faces an automatic cut of 8.2 percent. That amounts to a nationwide \$218 million cut for the parks, according to members of Congress.

"That could mean some level of closure at virtually every national park in the system, including reductions in park hours or seasons, closures of campgrounds or visitor's centers, and even the outright closure of many parks in the next year. And it could eliminate as many as 9,000 rangers who serve the public, protect our parks, and keep the parks running — a devastating blow," according to a letter the National Parks Conservation Association is sending to members of Congress.

INSIDE
Obama,
Boehner
meet to
discuss
'fiscal cliff'
PAGE A4

More **PARKS** | **A10**

Yellowstone wolf shootings draw scrutiny

By **MATTHEW BROWN**
Associated Press

BILLINGS — The shooting of collared gray wolves from Yellowstone National Park is prompting Montana wildlife commissioners to consider new restrictions against killing the predators in areas near the park.

Wolf trapping in Montana kicks off Dec. 15. It's the state's

Wolf trapping in Montana
kicks off Friday

first such trapping season since the animals lost their federal protections last year after almost four decades on the endangered species list.

But hunting already is under way for the predators in Montana and neighboring Idaho and Wyoming, and at least seven of Yellowstone's roughly 88 wolves have been shot in

recent weeks while travelling outside the park.

That includes five wolves fitted with tracking collars for scientific research, said Dan Stahler, a biologist with the park's wolf program. The most recent to be shot, the collared alpha female from the well-known Lamar Canyon pack, was killed last week in Wyoming.



More **WOLVES** | **A10**

This March 2007 photo provided by National Park Service photographer Doug Smith shows a Gibbon wolf pack in Yellowstone National Park, Wyo.

AP

TODAY'S WEATHER
Cloudy with showers
PAGE A10



HIGH LOW
29 20

INSIDE
EVENTS..... A2
BIG SKY..... A3

OPINION A6
POLICE REPORTS.. A7
DEATHS A7

REGION A7
WORLD..... A8
SPORTS B1

COMICS C1
TV LISTINGS..... C2
CLASSIFIEDS C3

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



HUNDREDS OF CASUAL STYLES

HORNYTOAD KUHL PRANA LOLE SMARTWOOL
ALO PURE JANA MYSTREE NOMADIC TRADERS
PATAGONIA SURVIVAL AVENTURA NAU
JAG KAVU WORN STONEWEAR ROYAL ROBBINS
ICELANTIC DESIGNS WOOLRICH EXOFFICIO
ISIS ICEBREAKER INDIGENOUS KRIMSON KLOVER

ONE AMAZING STORE!



NORTHERN LIGHTS
TRADING COMPANY

1716 W Babcock Ave - 585-2090
www.NorthernLightsTrading.com