dependent; the warmer it is, the faster they develop, according to Ruth O’Neill, Montana State University (MSU) plant sciences and plant pathology research associate. The grasshoppers are thick at the west end of the valley around Bear Creek Road. People moving irrigation hoses are seeing the grasshoppers completely cover the hoses. Potomac residents like the France family have questions about the number of grasshoppers this year. Katy France has seen the road on the east end of Potomac covered with alive and dead grasshoppers. “The road was even brown where the cars had driven over the grasshoppers,” said France. France wondered if it is due to weather or season lengths. People in Potomac are seeing local movement of the grasshoppers that is encouraged by early hot and dry weather. Although the Potomac grasshoppers are not migrating, it is common to see bands of grasshoppers walking in a similar direction at times added O’Neill. “This has been a dry spring, and grasshoppers thrive in dry and
Hopping About Hoppers!

Story & photos by Sigrid Olson Pathfinder

POTOMAC - Since mid June Potomac residents have seen many grasshoppers covering roads and fields, sometimes so thick that the ground looked as if it were moving. All across Montana they can damage cropland and rangeland. Although grasshoppers are common to Potomac during the summers, the densities seen this June are not. Egg hatching for grasshoppers normally starts in late April to early May in Montana. The speed of development is temperature-dependent; the warmer it is, the

Fireworks
Prohibited - Stage 1 Fire Restrictions

Pathfinder

Stage 1 Fire Restrictions have been imposed in Missoula, Flathead, Lake, Lincoln and Sanders Counties, effective 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 3. Missoula County Commissioners decided Tuesday, June 30 that Stage 1 restrictions extend the perpetual prohibition of fireworks from county parks, Forest Service and state lands to private lands. No fireworks will be permitted on any land in Missoula County, public or private. For other counties, please contact your local fire department for fireworks restrictions.

The Seeley Lake community fireworks display is still scheduled, however the one in Condon has been cancelled. The Missoula City-County Office of Emergency Management’s Missoula 9-1-1 Center is staffing a fireworks report line.

While the public will still be able to purchase fireworks, they are encouraged to report the use of fireworks to 406-258-4850. Law enforcement will respond as resources allow. To report a fire call 911.

Stage 1 Restrictions prohibit all fireworks and create severe restrictions on campfires and smoking. Stage 1 Restrictions also mean that responding agencies can hold an individual that starts a fire as a result of fireworks financially liable for the costs of fighting the fire.

This move comes on the heels of the Missoula County Fire Protection Association’s determination that fire danger in Missoula County is Extreme. That determination is in consultation with all local fire agencies, land management agencies and local government and is based on information related to weather, fuels, and current and expected conditions.

The Upper Falls on Morrell Creek is not frequented nearly as often as lower Morrell Falls. There is an unmarked trail 100 yards before you reach the lower falls that takes you to the upper falls. It is a steep climb and is not maintained; use extra caution. For full hike details see page 15.

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Smith Creek Schoolhouse

(continued from pg. 1)

having withstood the test of time for 93 years until its destruction in 2011,” said Lamar.

After the school was destroyed in 2011, the USVHS partnered with the US Forest Service to rebuild the Smith Creek School. A decision had to be made where to locate the structure - in its original location, near the community hall, or at the museum grounds. Lamar said the majority of interested community members wanted it to be located at the museum grounds where it would be more accessible, as well as easier to protect and maintain.

The replica is on permanent display at the USVHS museum Highway 83 in Condon, Mont. The USVHS has numerous items from the one-room schools in the upper Swan Valley that will become part of the one-room Smith Creek School exhibit. “In many places in the United States, the one-room school was part of the distant past, whereas, here in the Swan Valley much less so,” said Lamar. “This exhibit will be a valuable addition to the Swan Valley Museum & Heritage Site.”

Schoolhouse Timeline

1918 - The Smith Creek School was built in 1918 of larch logs and sited close to the then main road in the Swan Valley near present day Kauffman Road.

1932 - The Smith Creek School was permanently closed.

2011 – It remained in the same location until the school was sawed in pieces and put in a burn pile by a contractor for the Flathead National Forest (FNF).

2011 August - USVHS president Steve Lamar received word that the Smith Creek School was in pieces in a burn pile. Lamar began talks with the FNF about replacing or restoring the building.

2014 – Michael Downs, then recreation specialist for the FNF said, “We [FNF] want to make it right, to mitigate the situation.” Downs said that the FNF wanted to rebuild the school using Montana Conservation Corps (MCC), a non-profit group that employs young people who come to work in Montana's wild places through the state's AmeriCorps program. Logs for the project were supplied by Dick Wolf and Bill Anderson, Swan Valley residents.

2014 Sept. 8 – Community volunteers and five members of the MCC along with the FNF started working together to reconstruct the Smith Creek Schoolhouse.

2015 May 13 – Site preparation began at the Condon Work Station to construct the remaining log roof structure. It consists of purlins, gable ends and the ridge pole.

2015 May 18 – Gary Lazarowski, Lamar and FNF employees begin work on the roof structure at ground level which is to be placed on the wall structure at the museum site when completed.

2015 May 21 – The log wall structure was moved from the Condon Work Center to the school’s permanent site at the Upper Swan Valley Historical Society Museum. It was set up by volunteers Bill Anderson, Gary Lazarowski, Steve Lamar and two US Forest Service employees.

2015 June 8 – Roof structure consisting of purlins, gable ends and the ridge pole was moved to the museum site and set onto the log wall structure. (photo 011 Bill Anderson loading it (Steve Lamar photos)

2015 June 23 – Volunteers came to the Condon Work Center to rake and pile debris left at the work site to be burned in the fall. It was decided to reseed the area in the fall when there is rainfall. Leftover log scraps will be sawed and used as firewood at Forest Service rentals.

2015 – Summer work continues at the museum site to close in the rebuilt Smith Creek School which when completed will house one-room schoolhouse memorabilia.

Photos provided by Steve Lamar

Students in front of the Smith Creek School in 1932.

School moved to permanent site, the Upper Swan Valley Historical Society Museum in Condon.

A diamond or V-notch from the original school.

The Smith Creek School completed and at its new home at the USVHS museum site.

A display currently in the museum that will be moved to the schoolhouse.

The roof structure at the Condon Work Center.

Bill Anderson placing the final log on the roof at the museum site.

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Photo by Colleen Kesterson

Swan Valley Historical Society Museum in Condon.

A display currently in the museum that will be moved to the schoolhouse.

The Smith Creek School completed and at its new home at the USVHS museum site.