

Spokane offers prime sledding hills

EMMET WINKLE VON STACKELBERG
Staff Reporter
LEWIS AND CLARK

Everybody has their thing during the winter. For most people, it's something at least a little thrilling and more than a bit glamorous—snowboarding or skiing perhaps. But some of us, a select few, make our sport the honorable pursuit of the sled.

For these warriors, the thrill comes not from sledding being inherently awesome or the powder being especially radical. No, for the sledsmiths, it's all about the hill. Spokane's ultimate hills mostly come from, unsurprisingly, the biggest hill around—the South Hill.

Indeed, gravity undoubtedly has a southern bias. And gravity is key. These are the hills Newton himself wouldn't want to miss.

The Best: Chase

This middle school on the upper south hill has a seriously great hill, not too many trees, and is about as safe as it gets. Yet it's so steep, sledders can't help but get a good rush shooting down it.

Pros: Easily accessible by car. Safe and wholesome.
Cons: So safe, tiny children are often crawling all about, and just as often right in your path of travel. So wholesome, it can be a little boring.

Manito

Ah, the Mustang of sledding hills. Sledding at Manito is like taking a chainsaw to a tree. Limbs might be lost, but the sense of accomplishment makes up for it in the end.

Manito's variety is perhaps its greatest claim to fame. The main hill is great, of course—usually coated in a sheet of ice and with three or four sizable humps for getting some air—but boredom will eventually set in.

When it does, there's a myriad of other hills to venture to. And while some of these hills are better or worse, less or more crowded, steeper or shallower, they are all assuredly dangerous.

A large portion end with a section of large rocks or in a public pathway, and all have plenty of trees to run into.

Pros: Lots of hills to choose from. Well

cultivated by many other sleds. The main hill is one of the fastest.

Cons: The most dangerous sledding in Spokane—past injuries include paralysis, broken noses, broken legs, and, of course, concussions. People. So many people.

Area Around 37th and Glenrose

This wheat field sloping down Tower Mountain is big, beautiful, long and undeniably illegal. It is mentioned here only for the sake of being complete, not because it's recommended. It could never be recommended, even if the sledding there were really, really great.

Pros: Fast, long, steep, big, secluded. Not many people out there.

Cons: Probably illegal.

Corbin Arts Center Lawn, Off 7th Ave

Though it ends dangerously in the middle of a relatively well-traveled street, this sloping lawn at the bottom of the South Hill is perfect for a particularly snowy day when traffic is thin.

Pros: Completely treeless. Near downtown, but still on the South Hill. Good and steep.

Cons: Pretty dangerous and difficult to walk to.

The Worst: Mission

This strip of land is flat. Which makes sledding difficult.

Pros: Nobody trying to sled here.

Cons: It's flat.

Indian Trail

Another section of entirely flat land, which isn't so good for sledding.

Pros: Deserted.

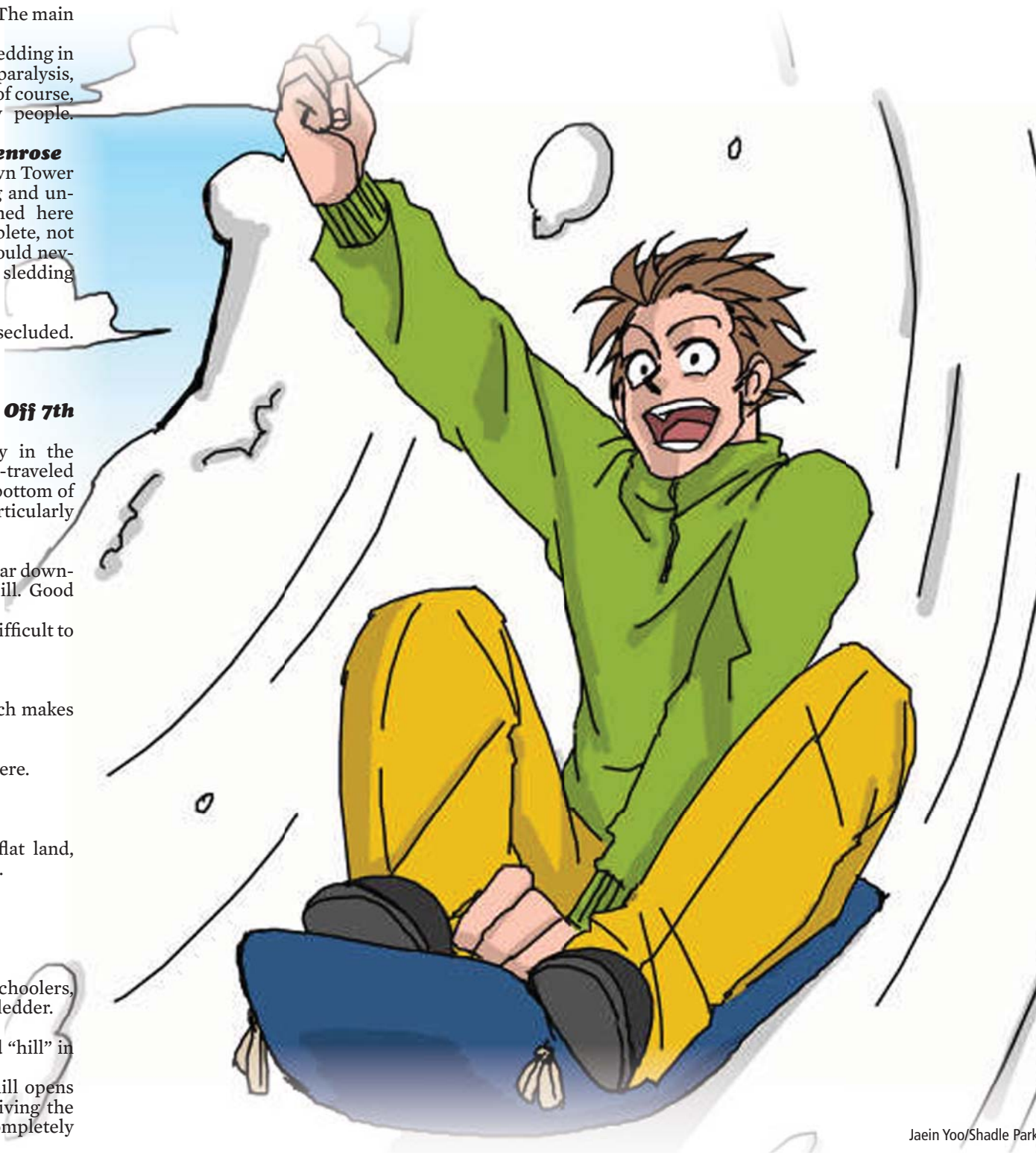
Cons: Also flat.

Cannon Hill

The it-place for elementary schoolers, this isn't the spot for a serious sledder.

Pros: Has a hill and the word "hill" in its name.

Cons: The aforementioned hill opens out into an ice-covered lake, giving the sense of danger when it's completely safe. But not the good kind.



Jaemin Yoo/Shadle Park

Making Christmas brighter with generosity

ASHLEY ALLEN
Staff Reporter
LEWIS AND CLARK

Starting on Nov. 21, the Tree of Sharing will begin taking donations at Riverpark Square, Spokane Valley Mall, and Northtown Mall. The Tree was founded in 1982, and has been sponsored by KREM TV and the Westminster Congregational Church every year.

There are other Trees of Sharing throughout Spokane, including one at Spokane Community College.

The Tree is a volunteer-based project that provides gifts to low-income children, women and men throughout Spokane who would not normally receive anything for Christmas.

"Committee volunteers are the mainstay of the Tree of Sharing," Dru Powers, Tree of Sharing Coordinator of fifteen years, said. "The project is important to our community [because] it allows 6,000 individuals of all ages to have at least one gift at Christmas. It is a way that the Spokane area shows that they care."

Almost every community service agency, such as Cancer Patient Care, Head Start, and the Boys and Girls club, in the area is involved with the Tree. The agencies collect gift wishes from local low-income residents, and submit the wishes to the Tree



Stock photo

of Sharing.

Tree of Sharing booths are set up in all three of Spokane's major malls, where you can pick up a gift tag. The tags have descriptions of a gift request and name who the gift is going to, i.e. a five-year-old girl or a 70-year-old man.

Once you have a tag, purchase the gift and return it to any of the booths. The gift will then be wrapped and given to the person who asked for it.

"The Tree not only gives them a gift at Christmas, it helps them to realize that other people care about them in their time of need," Powers said. "We receive many thank you cards from individuals and entire families that are so appreciative."

If you would like to get involved with the Tree of Sharing, contact Dru Powers at dru.powers@juno.com.

Volunteers are needed to work at the booths, wrap presents, and distribute gift requests.

"Every year I am impressed by all of the volunteers who come forward to help make this endeavor a reality, and the many individuals in our community that purchase gifts," Powers said. "There are so many good and caring people in the world and in our community."

The Tree of Sharing will stop taking gift donations on Sunday, Dec. 14.

'Tis the season for extra blankets, extra following space

RACHELLE PARSLOE
Staff Reporter
CENTRAL VALLEY

Sunlight-void mornings and cold car seats are two of the smaller winter hazards drivers have to worry about. Teen drivers, ages 15 to 17, were involved in crashes which resulted in the deaths of approximately 31,000 people from the years 1995 to 2004, according to analysis done by the American Automobile Association Foundation for Traffic Safety.

This does not include the number of drivers who have been stranded due to severe winter weather.

Follow these winter driving safety tips and improve your chances of sliding through this winter accident free.

Prepare your car for the season. Be sure the anti-freeze is fresh and full, the exhaust system and heater are working properly, all lights are functioning (including hazard lights), the oil has been changed, the brakes are in good shape, the defroster can do its job, the battery is not going to die, the tires are appropriate for winter, the windshield wipers are not dried out, there is wiper fluid and the gas tank is at least half full to avoid a frozen gas line.

Adjust your driving for the weather. Drive at appropriate speeds for the road conditions and go slower than the speed limit if necessary. Increase following distance and keep in mind that bridges and overpasses can be slipperier than normal roads.

Have emergency items. Good items to keep in your car include: scraper, brush, small shovel, jumper cables, tow chain, bag of sand or cat litter, road flares, basic tool box, blanket, heavy boots, warm clothing, flashlight with batteries, and an emergency survival kit, including high-energy foods and bottled water.

Know the procedure for making a 911 call. When reporting an emergency, let the dispatcher know you are calling from a cell phone, provide your cell number, report the problem, be able to describe your location, report any injuries, and stay on the line until help arrives and stay near the scene if it is safe to do so. Make sure all vehicle passengers know where you keep your cell phone and how to use it if they do not have one of their own. Also, be sure that they know the procedure for a 911 call.

Be proactive. Avoid traveling alone and let others know about your travel plans. Call ahead to the destination and tell them when you are leaving, your travel route, and when you should arrive. Always scrape off your windshield and brush all the snow off of your car, including the hood, roof, lights and trunk. Snow can blow into the vent and cause defrosting problems as well as melt and re-freeze on the windshields. It can also blow off and cover the back windshield and tail lights.

If you do find yourself in a situation where you are stranded for awhile, remain calm and stay in your car. This will decrease chances of hypothermia and increase chances of being rescued.

QUOTE OF THE ISSUE

"This is more than statistically significant: it is egregious. This type of music naturalizes sex to young people, delivering it from the ether of abstraction to the level of practical reality; by framing men as sex-driven pimps and women as sex objects, it inevitably teaches promiscuity as the norm."

—Josh Bosshardt's "Deep thoughts from Josh"

MORE JOURNALISM GOODNESS

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BEST SNOW TIRES FOR THE SEASON

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FUN FACT

The Bible, the world's best selling book, is also the most shoplifted book.

CONTACT US

Send your questions, compliments and hot tips to the staff at: spokanevox@gmail.com