



Winterfest pairs great food and fun at Paws Up this month

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By Dennis Bragg













GREENOUGH - Things don't slow down at Paws Up during the winter, in fact this year, guests are enjoying the outdoors at a whole different clip, as the resort becomes the first place where guests can try skijoring.

"Most have skied just a little bit or have some experience with skiing, downhill skiing in particular," said Paws Up Activities Manager Riley Egan. "We don't make it a requirement but it's kind of a recommended thing to it. You just get a little bit more fun if that horse can kind of get up to speed a little bit more."



Dennis Bragg photo.

MTN's Erin Yost and Ariana Lake were on hand this past week, literally learning the ropes.

"You can take it as easy as you want and then just work your way up," Egan said. "You don't need to go to a full out sprint right from the git go."

Erin took it careful on the first lap, but it was no time at all before she got the hang of it. And there's nothing like a horseback ride through the snow for a Montana winter.

"We have snowmobile trips that go up in these beautiful mountains back behind me here. We've got snowshoeing, cross country skiing."

After a cold morning outside, there's shopping indoors, and Paws Up legendary cuisine.

One of the things that's fun about Winterfest is the interaction between guests who come here to stay at Paws Up and those of us who live in Western Montana.

"Absolutely. I mean we're excited again to have guests coming in from all over the country, all over the world to be honest," said Paws Up General Manager of Guest Relations Jon Martin. "But also having local Montanans is a big part of that too. We look forward to that. We had that last year and we'd love to have some more locals again to really experience Paws Up, not only for Winterfest but we have Valentine's Day a few weeks after that."

Visiting Winterfest chefs will be trying something different to celebrate the season.

"We're doing a great, kind of slow food style dinner at the Equestrian Center, kind of outdoor cooking inside," said Paws Up Executive Chef Ben Jones. "Which is going to be a challenge for the chefs but it makes it more entertaining for the guests. Then the Saturday night we're doing a really fun paired dinner. All the chefs have collaborated on each course and we're all working together and making it a team environment."

"Of course the temperatures can get cold in the winter here in Montana," Martin said. "We really look forward to having people here and enjoying amazing warm food, warm drinks and getting out and enjoying our hockey rink outside. And we will have the fires on both inside and outside and the fire pits and we look forward to having you."

Winterfest will also feature live music this year.