

**Contact: Allison King**  
503.915.2795  
[allison@apcoiteux.com](mailto:allison@apcoiteux.com)  
[rpmnorthwest.com](http://rpmnorthwest.com)

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**Local teen killed in avalanche New Year's Eve**  
***Recent grad and up-and-coming racer buried on family trip***

BOZEMAN, MONTANA, January 1 – La Center High School graduate and amateur stockcar racer Wyatt Oden Coiteux, 21, died Saturday in an avalanche outside Cooke City, Montana.

Coiteux, an avid motorsports enthusiast and advanced racer, was snowmobiling up Crown Butte Saturday afternoon with his younger brother when a very large avalanche approximately 100 feet below the mountain's apex was triggered. Coiteux was knocked off his sled and buried at least five feet deep; Cooke City Search and Rescue found him within an hour and revival was unsuccessful. His airbag pack was not deployed.

The eldest son of local retired racer Sean Coiteux and business owner Tracy Coiteux, Wyatt Coiteux grew up as his dad's right-hand man. The family owned and operated successful snowmobile, motorcycle, motorsports, and specialized mechanic businesses throughout Oregon and Washington, with Coiteux as an enthusiastic student of his dad's.

Most recently, the Coiteux name is synonymous with the boutique custom mechanic work operated out of Ridgefield, Wash., and the Great America Stockcar Series (GASS), for whom Wyatt Coiteux was an active board member and notable racer.

Coiteux garnered attention as one of the youngest racers to place in GASS races in Willow Springs and Sonoma Raceways in California, the Texas Mile, Portland International Raceway, and Ridge Motorsports Park in Shelton, Wash. Coiteux, like his father, drove under the Shelby Racing banner. His stockcar number was 83. And while his age kept him as a "rookie" in most races, his technical ability gained him respect, attention, and "challenge laps" by drivers up to three times his age. Trophies and dozens of racing bibs line the walls of the Coiteux family home and shop.

In his high school studies, Coiteux split time between La Center and Cascadia Tech in Vancouver where he excelled in his natural affinity and acumen of all things mechanical. As an enterprising teen, Coiteux quickly became the go-to source for sno-bikes after successfully "fabbing" a Husqvarna snow bike motorcycle and getting the Canadian company's attention as a remarkably young and able sno-bike mechanic in 2018.

He is known in racing circles not only for his early wins and grace on the track, but via his YouTube channel, where he would regularly post footage from his stockcar races, track days in his signature navy blue Mustang GT Boss 302, and drone footage from drives with his dad and other Shelby racing enthusiasts. Coiteux was instrumental in bringing about The Back Country Bash, an annual drive-in and car show hosted by the Coiteux family and RPM Racing crew at their home in LaCenter, Wash. In the five years it has operated, the event has welcomed Team Shelby and SAAC members from around the nation, including Shelby North America's Vice President Scott Black, who came specifically to meet Wyatt and Sean Coiteux.

When not wrenching or racing, Coiteux was dedicated to his family (mother, Tracy, and brother Bryce), his partner Erika Hopmann, and volunteering with The Goodtime Project, a program run at Shelton's Ridge Raceway that allows families impacted by a pediatric cancer diagnosis a day of racecar experience fun. Coiteux was a regular at these events and a favorite of young passengers.

Coiteux has ridden snowmobiles (as well as MX bikes and jet skis) with his family since his infancy. His father is a lauded veteran of myriad search and rescue teams throughout the Cascade Mountain Range. The family describe their final rides together as perfect and epic.

Memorial arrangements are still being planned.

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More information on Coiteux's death: <https://www.mtavalanche.com/node/27418>

*Media inquiries, photos, interviews: contact Allison King*