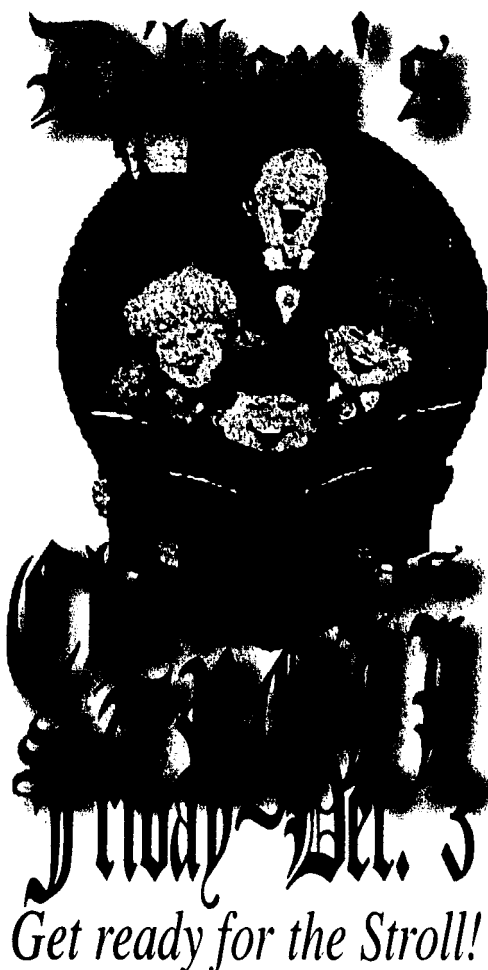


DILLON TRIBUNE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2004 • VOLUME 123, NUMBER 48

MAKING HEADLINES SINCE 1881 • DILLON, MONTANA • 75 CENTS



Get ready for the Stroll!

Christmas shopping, music, food and fun are all on tap in Dillon this Friday as local businesses get ready for the annual Christmas Stroll.

A free chili feed will start at 5:30 p.m., courtesy of the Dillon Tribune. Free popcorn, provided by KDBM/KBEV, is also being provided. Both events are set in front of the Southern Montana Abstract and Title-Gilbert Law Building.

The lighting of the community Christmas tree, in front of the Court House, is at 6 p.m. The Grinch not only is planning to attend, he has devious schemes to steal the key from the treasure box to light the tree. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive at 6:15 p.m. with sacks of treats. The happy couple will appear by fire truck in front of the courthouse.

From 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. a series of events are planned, including Dillon's own Snowman and Elf, on rollerskates, if weather permits, on Montana and Idaho sidewalks.

Music by the Dillon Junior Fiddlers at Papa T's starts at 6:30 p.m.

The Teen Tones and Chi Alpha will stroll the downtown area, with carols.

The Boots Lake Christmas Show is set at 7 p.m. at the Old Depot Theater. The cost is \$5.

Friday night drawings start this Friday night. Sign up all week long at participating businesses and win money and prizes. The drawings will be at 8 p.m. at the corner of Bannack and Idaho Streets.

Annual bazaar Dec. 4

The 33rd annual Community Christmas Bazaar is being planned for Saturday, December 4 at St. Rose Family Center. The bazaar will be held from noon until 3:00 p.m.

For more information, call Linda at 683-4388 or Vicki at 683-4347.

Swag sale at church

The First Presbyterian Church will be selling handmade evergreen swags on Saturday, December 4 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Church Fellowship Hall, located at Pacific and Glendale. Providing Christmas greens to the Dillon community has been a tradition at First Presbyterian for 40 years. Each swag sells for \$6 and comes with a bow.

For further information, contact Sharon Sawyer at 683-2851.

Kids' store, Breakfast with Santa Saturday

The annual Children's Christmas Store (which provides a supervised and inexpensive shopping experience for children ages preschool through fifth grade) will be held in conjunction with the Breakfast with Santa event on Saturday, December 4. Breakfast with Santa will run from 7:30-11:00 a.m. at the Vineyard Church and will serve ham with eggs, pancakes, juice and coffee.

The Children's Christmas Store will be from 8:30-11:00 a.m. at Parkview Elementary School. Donations boxes for the Christmas Store can be found in various locations throughout town: the Beaverhead County Treasurer's Office, Forest Service building, Bureau of Land Management, Law Enforcement Annex at the courthouse, Beaverhead County High School, Mary Innes School Parkview Elementary School, Dillon Middle School, and Womack's Printing Place.

Donated items in clean and good condition are accepted.



Paying the bill

Members of the Camp Fortunate Chapter of the National Lewis and Clark Heritage Foundation passed over a check for \$10,500 to pay for the construction of a granite monument to commemorate where Capt. William Clark stood and took compass readings, just a mile north of present day Dillon. The group oversaw the laying of the stone last Wednesday near the top of what is known as Clark's Lookout. Taking part in the ceremony were Bernie Brophy of Butte Granite Works, who built the monument, Connie Strang and Sandy Prophet from the Camp Fortunate Chapter, and Assistant Bannack State Park Manager Tom Lowe. Bannack State park administers the new park which was built at Clark's Lookout earlier this year. *John Barrows Photo*

Cut in stone... for all time

By John Barrows

It was nearly 200 years ago, or it will be on August 15, 2005, when William Clark, campus in hand, climbed the rock outcropping north of Dillon now known as Clark's Lookout.

From there he took three sightings, and noted them in his journal.

Today, you can stand at virtually the same spot, and with a compass, take the same readings with the same result... in the distance you will see the Wisdom (now the Big Hole) River, Beaverhead's Rock about 15 miles north, and to the south, Rattle Snake Cliffs near Barretts.

For years you could imagine the site, but now, with the formal laying of a 2,400 pound Georgia gray granite circle, you can visualize it.

The huge stone disk is a replica, cut in stone, of the compass that Clark himself used to shoot his azimuths of the surrounding area.

And now, in the highly polished, durable stone of the monument, you will be able to see for yourself, almost unchanged, what Clark saw.

Wednesday's moment didn't come easily. It has been the dream of the Camp Fortunate Chapter of the Na-

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Montana Street project, SID back on burner

By John Barrows

Although a proposal to repair a portion of Montana Street South, to construct a new storm sewer, lay curbs and gutters, and install sidewalks in the five-block portion between Helena and Idaho Streets met rough sledding two weeks ago, Dillon Mayor Marty Malesich is getting ready to try again for council approval.

That try, Malesich said, will be at Wednesday's City Council meeting, where he has proposed a resolution authorizing the street project and another setting up a Special Improvement District to finance the sidewalks.

Two weeks ago the plan to go ahead with the construction, and to give the okay to a request for an SID to help property owners on the East side of Montana Street pay for installing new sidewalks met stiff opposition, principally from former Mayor George Warner.

Warner objected to the street improvements because, he said, the city had not approved it, and that part of the financing which would borrow money from the Sewer and Water department for new storm sewers, was illegal he said.

He also objected to the SID on the grounds that a similar proposal failed to pass a majority of property owners, and the law provides a six month waiting period before it can be run again.

Both of these objections were countered by Malesich and by City Attorney W. G. Gilbert, who gave his legal opinion that the city was within its authority to borrow money from the water and sewer department refinancing.

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Open burning season over now

Beaverhead County reminds all citizen that the open burning period closes Wednesday, December 1. The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) closes open burning for the months of December, January, and February each year due to severe inversions that may occur.

People who need to burn can apply for a Wintertime Open Burning Request. Request forms can be obtained from:

Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Permitting and Compliance Division, Air and Waste Management Bureau, 1520 E. Sixth Avenue, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620.

For more information, call 406-444-3490, fax 406-444-1499, or go on-line at www.deq.state.mt.us/permits.asp.

If the DEQ grants the request, a local burning permit is also required. The local permit may be obtained from the Beaverhead County Sheriff's Office Dispatch at 406-683-3700.

Darby man dies in Wisdom area auto accident

A 75 year-old Darby man, Allan Lee Grauer, died in a one-vehicle crash 10 miles north of Wisdom on Montana 43.

The Montana Highway Patrol said the crash occurred about 1 a.m. Friday, November 26, when the man's sports utility vehicle went off the right side of the icy road, hit some boulders and ejected him. Patrol officers said he was not wearing a seatbelt.

The death pushed the Montana fatality count to 210, compared with 241 on November 27, 2003.

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FEMA focuses on local bridges

By Elaine Spicer

Beaverhead County Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator Larry Laknar and Beaverhead County Grantwriter Frank Mastandrea met with representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) in regards to the county's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, according to Commission Chair Mike McGinley.

The FEMA officials, along with Laknar, Mastandrea, and Road Manager Richard Miller, performed an onsite investigation of four bridges being focused on in Dillon. The bridges over Blacktail Deer Creek, on Center Street, Bannack Street, Railroad Street, and Orr Street, and their corresponding footbridges, are of concern due to past flooding problems caused by icing under the bridges.

Beaverhead County, noted McGinley, is one of the few counties in the state with a completed Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan, thus, he said, Laknar is confident that funding may be made available to replace the bridges. An estimate of \$1,125,000 has

been projected for the work on the four bridges, and a cost-share program may be made available, with the county responsible for 25-percent of the total cost.

The group is considering options for the work, and will make a decision on which portions are most necessary, said McGinley.

Donna Jones, representing the Festival of Trees Committee, met with the commissioners to discuss moving forward with plans for a Beaverhead County Museum addition to house a toy collection of the late Joe Womack. According to McGinley, a house has been donated, which the committee wishes to move onto the museum grounds. "They had a really great Festival of Trees and the momentum and community support are there," noted McGinley, referring to the recent fourth annual fundraiser for the project. "They want to know if they can move forward. We will wait until the boards are working together."

However, the ongoing controversy between the Beaverhead County Museum Board and the Museum Associa-

tion Board needs to be addressed, he said, before plans can continue or the toy museum. McGinley added that a meeting between the two boards in question will be held Thursday, December 16 in an effort to resolve the boards' dispute. A facilitator, Eldon Ayers, will run the meeting, McGinley said, on two conditions: one, that an agenda and a mission will guide the meeting, and, two, that he will be in charge of the meeting itself.

The chairperson of the museum board, Lynn Westad, and the chairperson of the museum association, Mike Ryan, will meet to put together an agenda and a mission detailing what they want to accomplish at the meeting.

TekTon architectural firm forwarded a contract for the construction plans of new restroom facilities for the Beaverhead County Fairgrounds, said McGinley. The contract has been signed and returned, and the plans should be available by the end of the year.

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