

# A Year To Remember

recent city council meetings. A compromise was worked out between the parties involved in the matter and the way cleared for its operation.

Mayoral candidates Owen Bokina and Jim Devenny joined city council candidates Ed Parent, Diana Taylor, Ron Thomas, Bill Miller, and Randy Rembold in answering questions posed to them so voters could get an idea of who they would like to vote for in the upcoming election.

October 17 - 23

Sweet Grass County property taxes for fiscal year 2003-2004 increased by 40 percent over last year's budget. Approximately 30 percent of the increase is due to the recently approved mill levy to fund operating expenses at the Pioneer Medical Center.

Mennonites from across the country have been arriving to assist in fence repair following last summer's Hobbie Diamond Fire. The groups are being fed by local churches in the area and will be rotating arrivals and departures in groups of about 30 a week.

The Big Timber Senior 4-H Livestock Judging Team won the Senior division at NHE and racked up enough points to be the highest placing Montana team in the contest.

October 24 - 5

Members of the Big Timber City Council were told of legislative changes they could affect the small-town faces of Big Timber at a council meeting held October 6. The changes will impact future decisions of the council in the areas of annexation, zoning, and liability issues.

Ballots for the positions of Big Timber mayor and two city council members were mailed to voters on October 13. The change resulted in many voters thinking they had to vote for the mayor.

Local law enforcement officers arrested a robber on October 13. The robbery occurred in the area of the Pioneer Medical Center. The change resulted in many voters thinking they had to vote for the mayor.

Members of the Patriots Motorcycles of Sweet Grass County showed their appreciation for military personnel, especially those from Sweet Grass County, by rededicating the downtown McLeod Street to the brave men and women of the American flag.

A picture page in this issue showed some of the fun from the Toot Sweet 'n' Hoot benefit presented October 18.

The results of a statewide survey on the subject of the accessibility of public records were printed. Sweet Grass County officials provided all public information requested.

October 31 - November 6

According to Big Timber Volunteer Fire Chief Mark Stephens, an underground electric wire wrapped around a gatepost in the backyard of Patrick Bryant shorted out, resulting in leaves in the yard catching on fire. The fire spread to propane tanks, a wood pile, and ultimately the back of the house. A neighbor of Bryant's also sustained some damaged siding to his house before the fire was extinguished by the Big Timber Volunteer Fire Department.

Members of the Big Timber City Council were told October 20 by Sweet Grass Sheriff Dan Tronrud of problems he has getting judges to uphold tickets he and his deputies

have written for drivers performing J-turns on McLeod Street. City Councilman Paul Westervelt was not moved from his position that the action, which has been determined to be legal by the courts, should be a ticketable offense.

At the same meeting a group of teenagers from Sweet Grass County High School told council members of their desire for a Teen Center possibly on McLeod Street.

The Sweet Grass County Herder football team ended their season with six wins and three losses.

Stillwater Mining Company (SMC) reported a net loss of \$1.6 million for the third quarter of 2003. According to a SMC news release, decreased revenues were the result of lower combined PGM prices received by the company and planned reduced production levels.

## NOVEMBER

November 7 - 13

Jim Devenny was elected by Big Timber voters to the position of Mayor in the election held November 4. Also elected for two city council seats were Bill Miller for Ward One and Ron Thomas for Ward Two.

The newly formed Red Hat Society of Big Timber issued an invitation for ladies who lunch to join them at The Grand November 13. Members of the Society are easily recognizable by their purple attire and red hats.

Several city businessmen addressed members of the Big Timber City Council November 3.

voicing concern that the state would, in the future, require parallel parking on McLeod Street if the council passed an ordinance outlawing J-turns. They also stated they felt the present 25 mph speed limit on most of McLeod Street is more dangerous than the J-turns.

Mayor Doug Lowry told the group assembled if parallel parking is ever designated on the street the state would be required to redo that portion of McLeod Street as the high curbs presently in place would prevent vehicle doors from being opened on the passenger side. Lowry also stated he felt the city has the jurisdiction in the speed control matter to lower the speed limit to 15 mph on McLeod Street (the roadway is a state highway and so under the jurisdiction of the Montana Department of Transportation).

The council also took action to enact the grant process that would allow for the hiring of an economic development person at a cost shared with the county of \$60,000 over the next three years.

Sweet Grass County High School announced the school has received a \$500 grant from the ExxonMobil Educational Alliance program to support the school's physical education and athletics program.

Three members of the SGHS girls' volleyball squad were listed among the top ten District 4-B volleyball players. They were Kayla Ryan, Jessi Stenberg, and Sara Roe.

Big Timber resident Linda Mlekush returned home from St.

Vincent's Hospital in Billings where she had been receiving treatment for injuries suffered in an accident that occurred September 11 in which her car ran over her.

November 14 - 20

Big Timber Grade School Superintendent/Principal Gary Harkness announced a fulltime Principal would be hired for the school year beginning in August 2004. When this occurs, Harkness will serve as Superintendent one third time until he retires, possibly after the 2006 school year.

Cedar Raisins of Reed Point was the winner for the Junior category of the Make It Yourself With Wool Contest for District 4 held in Billings.

The Big Timber Sweet Grass County Science Olympiad Team was gearing up for the State Finals to be held on the campus of Montana State University.

Louis Strand, President of the Crazy Mountain Retired Educators, announced the group had donated a video entitled "Resources for the Blind and Visually Impaired" to the Big Timber Carnegie Library.

November 21 - 27

High winds caused several

trucks to turn over on I-90, as well as felling innumerable trees and at least one power pole, causing a fire.

A report of the Big Timber City Council meeting held November 18 stated Betty Alexander, City/County Planner, had told Council members the deadline for submitting grant requests to the Forest Service under the Rural Service Grant had changed from April to January 15. The Council asked Alexander to begin work on a cost proposal for a sprinkler system for the city park.

Five month old Louie Todisco, son of Joe and Becky Todisco of Big Timber, was in the Denver Children's Hospital receiving treatment for a suspected virus that had apparently attacked his heart.

November 28 - December 4

Those interested in a traditional holiday were advised to throw out the silverware and try eating outdoors to fully experience a Thanksgiving like that spent by Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock in 1621.

Festivities were announced for the annual Crazy Mountain Christmas to be held November 28. A free movie for the kids, hay rides,

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*Happy Holidays!*

**CRAZY MOUNTAIN RENTAL**

Loren & Clyde

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*



**DELLINGER & GALLAGHER, CPAs**

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Harold, Jane, Ron and Jules



**The Sweet Grass County Chamber of Commerce**

Wishes You A Safe, Happy Holiday and a Healthy, Prosperous New Year

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

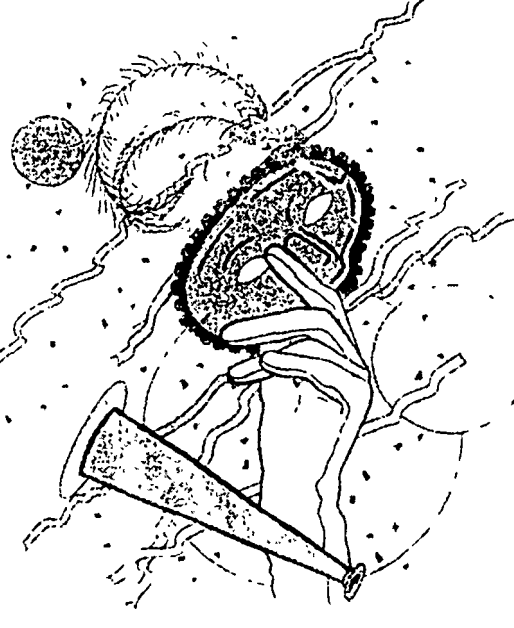


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Greetings to our many friends! Wishing you another joyous year!

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