

A Year To Remember

February 28, 2003. Cody Langbehn, Chief Executive Officer, commented on the factors contributing to the shortfall and the steps being taken to compensate for them. Stillwater Mining Company released its annual report, revealing the company had approximately half the net income in 2002 as it had in 2001. If SMC continues to operate in Sweet Grass County the county can expect more revenue, if the mine closes in the near future, the funding deficit will likely affect everyone who pays taxes here.

A plea agreement, proposed in the Sweet Grass County District Court case between the State of Montana vs. James A. Tulley, stated Tulley would plead guilty to one of the two counts of sexual intercourse without consent and, if accepted, the second charge would be dropped. Big Timber residents Bill Schwartz and Levi Duncan traveled to Texas to help search for debris from the space shuttle Columbia, and Renae Dorvall was also a part of the recovery project in an administrative role.

The Big Timber Livestock Judging team of Tara Beley, Carlyn Beley, Samantha Plagemeyer and Gary Todd placed first for their division at the Redland Ranch Livestock Judging Contest in Hysham. Several Big Timber 4-H teams competed at the Northwest College Regional Judging contest in Powell, Wyoming, with the Meats Judging team of Gary Todd, Cody Wilsey, Bonny Felton and Sara Hillner placing first. Three Big Timber Destination Imagination teams competed in the state DI tournament held in Belgrade.

April 11-17

According to SNOTEL figures found on the internet, snow accumulation in the Upper Yellowstone area was near the annual average amount as of April 8. Care packets for active duty troops with a connection to Sweet Grass County were to be assembled over the weekend. The Big Timber City Council approved a \$200 donation to be made to the Livingston Humane Society. McLeod native Lloyd Rue, an engineer in the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Helena office, was the recipient of a 2002 FHWA Engineering Excellence Award. The monthly segment of the Lewis and Clark series provided background information on William Clark.

The SGHS Thespians gave three performances of the play "Switching Principals" over the weekend. Honor roll lists for the third quarter for Big Timber Grade School and Christian Liberty Academy were published. While West Nile virus has an exotic name and no one wants to get sick, state and federal health officials said there was no reason to panic. With wood ticks already being active in parts of Montana, health officials wanted residents to be aware the parasites could be carrying a new type of disease. April 6-12 was designated as National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

April 18-24

Sweet Grass County High School was asking for a 0.87 mill general fund levy in the May 7 school election, and Big Timber Grade School was asking for a 3.99 mill levy. McLeod School a 6.15 mill levy and Greycliff School a 9.04 mill levy. The annual Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt was scheduled for Saturday afternoon. Ninety-one SGHS students participated in 47 events at the 2003 District Music Festival in Billings.

Ron DeBates was installed as American Legion district commander and Jamie DeBates as district Auxiliary president at the Spring District 7 meeting in Manhattan. The Big Timber FFA chapter placed

second in Team Sweepstakes at the state FFA Leadership Convention held April 2-5. SGHS seniors Fritz Band and Tara Beley were crowned King and Queen at the Junior Prom held April 12. The Big Timber sixth grade girls won the championship game for their division at the Western Montana College "Western Classic" Basketball Tournament held in Dillon on April 12-13.

April 25 - May 1

A Diabetic Support Group was being formed in Big Timber. Local resident Steve Dempster asked the City Council for a waiver of \$750 in fees the city was requiring for him to receive water and sewer services. Dave Christensen spent two weeks in North Korea delivering seed corn he had spent 31 years developing. Erin Dotterweich of Reed Point was named a United States National Collegiate Award winner in art. The Mad Hatter Saloon was recently purchased by Brian and Judy Pynn of Livingston. The play "Faith County" was being presented at the American Legion. Big Timber Grade School and the Stillwater/Sweet Grass Cooperative were sponsoring a Child Find Clinic.

MAY

May 2-8

SARS was a major health concern which indicated "we need a constant and diligent surveillance system world-wide for the emergence of new viruses." Stillwater Mining Company announced a first quarter loss of \$1.8 million. A stockholders meeting was scheduled in Denver on June 16 for shareholders to vote on the proposal by the Russian firm Norilsk Nickel to purchase the controlling interest, 51 percent, in SMC. An alternative to the Norilsk deal proposed a rights offering, with newly created common stock to be offered to qualifying stockholders. Former Sweet Grass County Deputy County Attorney Jim Tulley pled guilty to one of two counts of sexual intercourse without consent; the second count was dismissed.

The Big Timber Post Office was one of 10,000-plus communities and post offices participating in the annual letter carriers' and postal food drive. A photograph of the Natural Bridge Falls, located south of Big Timber on the Boulder River, was used as the cover of a new book featuring the photography of Salvatore Vasapolli. The first of a

series of four lectures and events sponsored by Rivers Across, the Sweet Grass County Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Commission, featured John Phillips as Captain Clark and Dan Woerner as Sergeant Pryor.

Two new greenhouses opened for business, the Greycliff Nursery, owned and operated by Harold Gehmert, and the Devenny Greenhouse, owned and operated by Jim and Lola Devenny. The Big Timber City Council unanimously approved the new sewer rate resolution, effective July 1.

May 9-15



The Sons of Norway were among the lively participants in the Rodeo Parade where the theme was "Fiesta Montana".



A participant of the Sheep Drive in Reed Point had his hands full during the parade.

The 9th Annual Big Timber Bull-a-rama promised to be an action packed, fast paced event. Cody Langbehn, Chief Executive Officer at the Pioneer Medical Center, told Sweet Grass County Commissioners the PMC has selected a new insurance carrier, Utah Medical Insurance Association, at a savings of \$27,800 over the current AIG premium. The May segment of the Lewis and Clark series contained part one on comprising the Corps of Discovery.

The Big Timber FFA Chapter held their annual banquet, with awards being given out based on individual achievements. Darlene

Sanders was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Air Force and was being transferred to Japan in the summer. School election results were published, with all levies being passed. Big Timber resident Ty Molzahn voiced his displeasure with being issued a parking ticket to the City Council.

May 16-22

Recent storms had boosted state moisture levels, bringing mountain areas in the Yellowstone River basin to 76 percent of average. A article about National Dog Bite Prevention and Safety Awareness Week provided

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MERRY CHRISTMAS
Thanks for a great year — See you again in 2004!
LAUERELL'S SEPTIC

**Wishing You
And Yours A
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
**ONE MOTORS PROPANE
SALES & SERVICE**

**Have a
HAPPY HOLIDAY
SEASON
and a prosperous
NEW YEAR!**
THE FORT
Jeff, Laura & Crew

Wishing all of our friends and acquaintances a prosperous and joyful New Year

We look forward to your continued friendship and support.

**TOM ROE and SON
CONSTRUCTION**
TOM, CHIP and CREW