

# THE PIONEER

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Serving Big Timber and Sweet Grass County, Montana

NEWS FROM the Boulder Valley on page 9, about Big Timber and Melville neighbors on page 4 and Reed Point correspondence on page 4.

FOUR BIG TIMBER merchants are sponsoring a special "Tourney Scrapbook" section of pictures from the state Class B tournament in Billings last week. See pages 5, 6, 7, 8.

BIG TIMBER city council members

Monday opened construction bids for the long-awaited Yellowstone Avenue Sewer Improvement District, but got some bad news—no one submitted bond bids to finance the project. Story on page 12.

THREE MORE persons have filed for election to the Sweet Grass High School board of trustees, assuring contests in two of the four nominating districts, and providing candidates for each of the districts. Story on page 4



RESCUE CREWS at the scene of last week's fatal accident. Involved were the semi-truck and the middle station wagon. As workers were removing the body of a youth from the car, the second station wagon slid into the vehicle. (Pioneer photo)

## Woman, grandchild killed in 2-vehicle crash

A 41-year-old Bozeman woman and her 16-month-old grandson were killed in a car-semi-truck accident about 12:45 p.m. March 5 about 2.6 miles west of Big Timber on Highway 10.

The deaths increase the county's 1975 fatality count to four. Two North Dakota men were killed in a truck-van accident about three miles from last week's accident scene in February.

Killed last week was Jane Atkins Colman, Bozeman, and Douglas M. Mullette.

Highway Patrolman Gail Keith, who investigated the accident, said Mrs. Colman, headed east on the slick highway, apparently lost control of her vehicle and struck the semi head-on. The impact of the crash and the momentum of the truck at the time of the accident, forced the vehicle into the borrow pit on

the north side of the road.

The driver of the truck, Duane L. Henderson, 41, Cody, Wyo., told Keith that just before the crash, it appeared Mrs. Colman had straightened her car out of a skid. But the vehicle went into a slide and into the front of the truck, which was in the west bound lane.

The car was totaled, and the truck sustained moderate tractor damage, Keith re-

ports.

AS EMERGENCY crews worked to remove the young boy from the vehicle, a car driven by Robert G. Sease, Denver, Colo., and in the eastbound lane skidded out of control and into the wreckage of the two vehicles.

Patrolman Dick Henthorn, who ticketed Sease for a basic speed violation, said only

quick action by Fish and Game Warden Floyd Thomas, and ambulance crewmembers, Doug Lowry and Jim Sandsness prevented other injuries or deaths.

The three jumped away from the Colman vehicle when they saw the Sease station wagon heading for the wreckage. The vehicle came close enough to Sandsness to rip one of his pants' legs.

## School boards set special levy amounts

### Sweet Grass High School

County voters will be asked to approve a 13-mill special levy for the operation of Sweet Grass County High School for the 1975-76 school year.

Trustees Monday night set the levy, needed to raise \$99,745, during a marathon session that broke up about 1:30 a.m. Members were scheduled to continue their meeting Tuesday night.

In setting the levy, trustees pared down a first preliminary budget to \$303,716. Additional changes will be made before the budget is finally set in late June, and trustees note that if possible, the full levy will not be used.

The new levy compares with 12 mills, approved last year by voters. Trustees only used 11.8 mills in compiling the final budget.

THE PROPOSED general

fund budget calls for expenditures of \$303,716, an increase of \$40,804 from last year's budget of \$262,912. Helping offset the need for an even higher increase is a higher anticipated state funding level. Officials estimate that state aid for the students will total \$203,971.95.

In preparing the budget, trustees noted significantly higher costs of materials and supplies, and the need to upgrade the school's driver's education program next year. The proposed budget includes funds for the hiring of a full-time driver's education teacher, to meet new state requirements.

Among items cut from the first budget was \$2,593 for shop equipment and supplies, \$1,550 in requests for home economics equipment, and \$800 in requests for band equipment. The changes lower the shop budget for

### Big Timber Grade School

Big Timber Grade School trustees last week discussed and approved a proposal to allow the use of the school gym for Junior High Dances. Voters in School District No. 1 will be asked to approve the special levy April 1.

The preliminary budget determined by board members will require approval of a special levy of 22.22 mills. This compares with 29.2 mills requested last year.

A key factor in determining the budget was the 12 per

cent base pay increase in teacher's salaries which was approved last month by board members. Most items on the budget expense remained the same or were minimized somewhat. These involved building maintenance and heating costs. Other items such as supplies were "determined as reasonably as possible to meet inflationary prices."

Recently the grade school entered into a "cooperative purchasing agreement with other area schools" to minimize the cost on such items as ditto paper, paper towels and other paper products. Purchases of larger quantities are made to the lowest bidder.

Board members said they felt the requested 22.22 special levy was as fair as possible to the taxpayers to efficiently operate the grade school. Ed Argenbright, Big

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## Big local turnout State title dream fades

By LARRY LOWARY

hometown team compete at state.

The dream of another state championship title for Sweet Grass High School Shepherders fizzled last week.

But for the estimated 800 county residents who attended the games at Eastern Montana College, Billings, and others who listened to the games on cable TV, the Herders represented the community and their school well.

The Herders won their first game of the tourney Thursday, defeating Belt 58-76. Friday night they were beaten by the Miles City Sacred Heart "Fighting Irish" 63-44, and Saturday morning were defeated by Three Forks, 69-62.

Obviously disappointed at the developments, Coach Randy Morrison said he and players appreciated the chance of playing in the state class B tourney.

"I guess the way you've got to look at it is it was a good experience," Morrison said.

"We can take consolation that when you look at the top four teams (Medicine Lake Honkers, state champs, second place St. Ignatius; third place Three Forks, and fourth place Belt), we played three of the four top teams (all except Medicine Lake) and were beaten by two and won over one. If you're going to be defeated, you might as well be beaten by the best."

LAST WEEK'S trek to Billings was the second time in six years the Herders have earned the right to compete at state. In 1969 the team won one and lost two games in sessions at Cut Bank.

For most local fans, who turned out en masse, it was the first time in many years that they had a chance to see their

A GIGANTIC pep rally Thursday morning at the school provided an enthusiastic send-off for players. Cheerleaders offered a program of cheers, skits, and games for students just before players entered a blue and white decorated bus.

In the first game of the tourney, the Herders had little difficulty beating the Belt Huskies. The Herders led 17-15 at the end of the first quarter, 40-31 at the half, and 51-45 at the end of the third quarter. They increased their margin to 76-58 when the final buzzer sounded.

Top scorer was Jim Graham with 22 points. Others included Mike Henthorn 20, Dan McCauley 14, Alan Petaja 13, Mark Argenbright 5, and Bill Kirchner 5. Petaja had 16 rebounds.

Herders stayed to watch the second game, watching the Irish defeat Thompson Falls in a lopsided game. After a dinner the team returned to watch the third game, between St. Ignatius and Harlem.

MORRISON says Friday night's downfall to the Irish must be credited to the low shooting percentage of the team. The Herders hit only 26.9 per cent of their shots from the field, compared to 51 per cent for Miles City. The percentage was the lowest for the team all year.

"We worked our offense well, and we got good shots, decent shots," Morrison says. The ball just wouldn't go in. In the third quarter, when "they busted out on us," Sacred Heart led 31-29, Morrison

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ALAN PETAJA shows his form during the Saturday morning SGHS-Three Forks game. Although the game was nip and tuck, the Herders lost to the Wolves, to end their tourney play.