

SWEET GRASS COUNTY

BIG TIMBER

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHTS | ACTIVITY GUIDE | DIRECTORY

2023



BIG TIMBER MAGAZINE

2023 COMMUNITY GUIDE FOR SWEET GRASS COUNTY

A PUBLICATION OF SWEET GRASS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



- 2 LETTER FROM THE MARKETING COMMITTEE**
- 3 LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT**
- 4 BUSINESS DIRECTORY**
- 6 SIBANYE-STILLWATER**
- 8 CITIZENS BANK**
- 10 COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**
- 12 MEATS OF MONTANA**
- 13 TRIANGLE COMMUNICATIONS**
- 14 TURNER MINING**
- 15 BIG TIMBER FLY FISHING**
- 16 STEPHENS AUTO SUPPLY & OPPORTUNITY BANK OF MONTANA**
- 17 CIRCLE T TAPROOM & BOBCAT OF BIG SKY**
- 18 TWIN TREE CONSTRUCTION & EARTH WISE GENERAL STORE**
- 19 JH REAL ESTATE & CIRCLE T CONSTRUCTION**
- 20 SWEET GRASS CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP**
- 21 SWEET GRASS CHAMBER**
- 22 100 YEARS OF RODEO**
- 24 SWEET GRASS FEST**
- 26 FIBER FEST**
- 28 FARMERS MARKET**
- 30 SWEET GRASS BREWFEST**
- 31 CRAZY MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS**
- 32 AREA ATTRACTIONS**
- 34 SWEET GRASS COUNTY MAP**
- 35 DOWNTOWN BIG TIMBER MAP**

ON THE COVER

"Cattle winter beneath the Crazy Mountains on a ranch in Melville, MT."

Photography by Lauren Dillon Photography

LETTER FROM THE MARKETING COMMITTEE

Welcome to the first edition of Big Timber Magazine, a publication that celebrates and spotlights the many businesses and events that make our community what it is. In 2022, the Chamber of Commerce took a new approach to memberships and offered a wider variety of membership levels to suit each business's advertising and sponsorship goals. As our community evolves, the Chamber is growing and expanding. We understand that each business that thrives in Sweet Grass County is unique and has a different set of needs. The Chamber exists to serve businesses in Sweet Grass County.

We want to thank all the businesses and community members that keep Big Timber and Sweet Grass County thriving. While 2022 was a year of change and challenges for the Chamber, we look forward to serving our membership and community in the coming year. It takes a large group of dedicated individuals to keep this organization running smoothly and we couldn't do it without each and every volunteer.

Chamber Marketing Committee

*Christine Bakke, Sophie Barta,
Kendra Todd, Stefanie Maestas,
and Susan St. Germain*



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you for picking up a copy of the first ever Big Timber Magazine. As President of the Sweet Grass County Chamber of Commerce, I would like to thank the staff and volunteers who put this publication together. My roots are in Big Timber - born and raised. As my Grandmother and Father before me, I am a proud Herder and graduate of SGHS. Though I left to pursue a career, after 36 years, I returned home in part to give back to the community that gave so much to me.

Joining the Chamber Board in 2018, I was elected President in 2021. It is an honor to work with talented and creative individuals who care about our town and want to see it flourish. In the last few years, the Chamber has increased the size, scope, and impact of our events, community involvement, and membership benefits. This includes adding the annual Brewfest and Big Timber Farmers Market, updating our web presence, as well as introducing a youth scholarship program. Despite the last few years of economic turmoil and uncertainty, we have welcomed many new businesses to our county. As President, I hope the Chamber can do more to support our business members and to focus on our vision to develop a diverse and stable economy to pass onto the next generation. Even if you are not a business owner, the Chamber is always looking for volunteers and collaboration for community projects. Volunteering is a great way to meet new friends, connect with your town, and share your talents.

Here's to Big Timber!

Thank you,

Cathy Radwanski

President, Sweet Grass County Chamber of Commerce
Loan Processor, Citizens Bank & Trust Co.

THIS
MAGAZINE
IS PUBLISHED
IN LOVING MEMORY OF
D. Justin Todd (1963-2016)

FOR HIS DEDICATION TO OUR COMMUNITY AND FOR
HELPING MAKE THE CHAMBER WHAT IT IS TODAY: "FANTASTIC"

CONTRIBUTORS

Kendra Todd
Crazy Peak Brewing
Circle T Construction

Sophie Barta
Earth Wise General Store

Stefani Maestas
Opportunity Bank of MT

Christine Bakke
Christine Bakke Photography
Tuscano Machine

Susan St. Germain
Gusts of Big Timber

Mayzie P. Cremer
Walking P Productions

Raymond Porter
Former Executive Director

Monte R. Koch
Sky Federal Credit Union

Julie Johnson
Tuscano Machine

Lauren Dillon
Lauren Dillon Photography
laurendillonphotography.com
@laurendillonphotography
619.990.6018

Loretta Hurley
Loretta Hurley Photography

Melanie Fabrizius
Layout and Design
www.melannfab.com
melannfab@gmail.com

MEET THE 2022 BOARD MEMBERS



CATHERINE (CATHY) RADWANSKI
President
Citizens Bank & Trust Co.
Served on the board since 2018
Committees: Sweet Grass Fest, Youth Leadership, Personnel



RONDA JOHNSTON
Vice-President
Managing Manager at Johnston Livestock LLC, Treasurer for B Bar T Rodeo Company
Served on the board for approximately 8 years
Committees: Personnel



BECKY LINN-TODISCO
Former Secretary
Self-employed at RND Partners doing health, life and Medicare Insurance
Served on the board for about 10+ years, give or take a few
Committees: Governance



TAMARA WARWICK
Treasurer
Retired CPA, working part time as an accountant. Self employed since 1985
Served on the board for one year
Committees: Personnel



BRYAN BAKER
Lead Pastor of the Big Timber Evangelical Church, leader with MT on a Mission
Served on the Board for 3 years
Committees: Governance (Chair), Youth Leadership, Stewardship



CHRISTINE BAKKE
Christine Bakke Photography, Tuscano Machine
Served on the board since 2015
Committees: Sweet Grass Fest (Chair), Marketing, Christmas, Personnel & Governance



SOPHIE BARTA
Earth Wise General Store Manager
Served on the board since 2022
Committees: Farmers Market (Chair), Marketing, Christmas



TROY DUMONT
Owner of Twin Tree Services and Big Timber KOA
Served on the board since 2022
Stewardship



NATHAN EGGBRECHT
Crazy Peak Brewing Company
Served on the board for 2 years
Committees: Brewfest, Sweet Grass Fest



SUSAN ST. GERMAIN
Gusts of Big Timber
Served on the board for 6 years
Committees: Marketing



HEATHER HASBROOK
Sky Federal Credit Union
Served on the board for 4 years
Committees: Annual Banquet



STEFANI MAESTAS
Retail Branch Manager at Opportunity Bank of MT
Served on the board since 2022
Committees: Marketing, Sweet Grass Fest, Fiber Fest



KASEY STEPHENS
Administrative Assistant at Sweet Grass County High School
Served on the board since 2022
Committees: Youth Leadership (Chair)



KENDRA TODD
Owner at Crazy Peak Brewing and Circle T Construction, Manager at Circle T Taproom
Served on the board since 2017-2022
Committees: Marketing (Chair), Brewfest, Governance

AGRICULTURE

Cayuse Livestock Company
316A Melville Rd, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-537-4445
bigtimber.com

Crazy Mountain Stockgrowers Association
PO Box 640, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5146
bigtimber.com

Crazy Peak Cattle Women
PO Box 162, Melville, MT 59055
bigtimber.com

Halverson Land and Livestock
137 Lower Deer Creek Rd, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-6600
bigtimber.com

Indreland Ranch
170 Glasston Road, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-4232
indrelandranch.com

Johnston Livestock
Road Melville, Montana 59055
406-537-4424
bigtimber.com

Montana Wool Growers Association
PO Box 1693, Helena, MT 59624
406-442-1330
mtsheep.org

Yellowstone Feed
Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5132/932-5182
bigtimber.com

AUTO

Resurrected Rides LLC
Big Timber, Montana 59011
406-932-4494
facebook.com/resurrectedridesbt

Stephens Auto Supply
404 W 1st St, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5136
carquest.com/stores/mt/big-timber

BEAUTY

Janet's Spa and Salon
Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-4005
bigtimber.com

CHILDCARE

Big Timber Daycare
605 E 7th Ave, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-539-4786
bigtimberdaycare.com

CHURCH

Big Timber Evangelical Church
302 Bramble St, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-6843
bigtimberchurch.com

Big Timber Lutheran Church
115 W. 4th Ave, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5723
bigtimberlutheranchurch.org

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Hospitality House
208 McLeod St, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5455
bigtimber.com

Beartooth RC&D
128 Main Street, Joliet, MT 59041
406-962-3914
https://www.beartooth.org

Big Timber Lions Club
PO Box 173, Big Timber, MT 59011
916-873-6033
bigtimber.com

Montana on a Mission
PO Box 696, Big Timber, Montana 59011
406-930-1056
https://montanaonamission.org

Sweet Grass Community Foundation
116 W 2nd Ave, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-3090
sweetgrasscommunityfoundation.org

Sweet Grass County Fair Board
PO Box 640, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5146
sweetgrasscounty.gov

CONSTRUCTION

Circle T Construction
202 E 1st Ave, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-670-4924
bigtimber.com

Haugan's Electric
PO BOX 738, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-931-0048
bigtimber.com

Heritage Construction
34 Big Timber Loop, Big Timber, MT 59011
877-354-2276
heritagebarns.com

Proficient Plumbing
PO Box 1651, Big Timber, Montana 59011
406-930-0205
bigtimber.com

Tom Roe and Son Construction
11 McLeod St, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5171
roeandson.net

Twin Tree Services
PO Box 10, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-290-4574
bigtimber.com

TY Construction
PO Box 1306, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-4524
bigtimber.com

DINING

Circle T Taproom
202 E 1st Ave Suite #4, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5347
bigtimber.com

Café 191
1996 Hwy 191 North, Melville, MT 59055
406-537-4422
cafe191melville.com

Crazy Peak Boutique
216 McLeod Street, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-3118
bigtimber.com

Crazy Peak Brewing Company
202 E 1st Ave Suite #3, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-KEGS
bigtimber.com

Greycliff Mill
11 Greycliff Creek Ln, Greycliff, MT 59033
406-930-0870
greycliffmill.com

The Coffee Stop
Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-8646
bigtimber.com

Thirsty Turtle
37 McLeod Street, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-3330
thirstyturtlemt.com

Timber Bar
Big Timber, Montana 59011
406-932-4040
bigtimber.com

ENTERTAINMENT

B Bar T Rodeo Company
Melville, MT 59011
406-537-4424
bigtimber.com

Big Timber Weekly Pro Rodeo
Big Timber, Montana 59011
406-930-2885
jsrodeocompany.com

Greycliff Creek Stables
9 Greycliff Creek Ln Greycliff, MT 59011
406-930-1982
greycliffcreekranch.com

Overland Golf Course
338 Big Timber Loop Rd, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-4297
overlandgolf.com

Big Timber Carnegie Public Library
314 McLeod Street, Big Timber MT 59011
406-932-5608
bigtimberlibrary.org

Crazy Mountain Museum
2 South Frontage Road, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5126
crazymountainmuseum.com

VI Productions
PO Box 294, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-930-1670
viproductionsmt.com

EQUIPMENT

Bobcat of Big Sky
2125 Old Hardin Road, Billings, MT 59101
406-932-4324
bobcatofbigsky.com

Yellow Dog Rental
119 E 1st Ave, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5323
bigtimber.com

FINANCE

American Bank
313 W 1st Ave, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5265
americanbankmontana.com

Citizens Bank
130 McLeod St. Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5311
ctznsbank.com

Opportunity Bank of Montana
101 McLeod St, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5317
opportunitybank.com

RND Partners
209 McLeod, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-4499
bigtimber.com

Sky Federal Credit Union
301 W 1st Ave Suite D, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-4004
skyfcu.org

FOOD TRUCK

Big Pig BBQ
406-930-1335
tomsbbqbrub.com

Bills Place BBQ and Catering
5 Donald Road, Melville, MT 59055
406-537-4433
bigtimber.com

GROCERY

Earth Wise General Store
107 W 2nd St, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-6875
earthwisegeneralstore.com

Pioneer Meats
209 E 1st Ave, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-4522
pioneermeatsmt.com

GUEST RANCH

Sweet Grass Ranch
460 Rein Lane, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-537-4477
sweetgrassranch.com

Hawley Mountain Ranch
4188 Main Boulder Rd, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5791
hawleymountain.com

HEALTH

Big Timber Dental
315 McLeod St Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5919
bigtimberdental.com

Pioneer Medical Center
301 W. 7th Ave, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-4603
pncmt.org

The Fire House Gym
225 McLeod, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-6688
thefirehousefitnesscenter.com

INDUSTRY

Northwestern Energy
402 E Main St Suite 3. Bozeman, MT 59771
888-467-2669
northwesternenergy.com

Oie Motor Company
119 E 1st Ave, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5323
bigtimber.com

Sibanye- Stillwater
517 W 1st Ave, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-322-8700
www.sibanyestillwater.com

Turner Mining
304 W Kirkwood Ave Ste 100, Bloomington, IN
812-277-9077
turnermining.com

Tuscano Machine LLC
100 Makers Way, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5676
tuscanomachine.com

Triangle Communications
300 McLeod St, Big Timber, MT 59011
800-332-1201
itstriangle.com

LODGING

Big Timber KOA
693 Highway 10 East Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-6569
koa.com/campgrounds/big-timber

Homestead Bed and Breakfast
614 McLeod St, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-3033
bigtimber.com

Lazy J Motel
172 Big Timber Loop Rd, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5533
lazyjmt.com

River Valley Inn
600 W. 2nd Ave, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-4943
bigtimber.com

Spring Creek Campground
257 Boulder Rd, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-4387
springcreekcampground.com

Super 8 Motel
20A Big Timber Rd, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-203-4757
hwyndhamhotels.com/super-8

MEDIA

Big Sky Prints and Graphics
403 McLeod Street, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5588
bigskyprints.com

Big Timber Pioneer
105 W 2nd Ave, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5298
bigtimberpioneer.net

Christine Bakke Photography
406-326-2145
cbakkephotography.com

Sage Technical LLC
Big Timber, Montana
406-530-SAGE
sagetechnical.com

Ultra Graphics
3413 Gabel Rd. Billings. Montana 59102
406-256-4999
ultrgraphicsmt.com

Walking P Productions
Big Timber, Montana
903-905-6029
walkingpproductions.com

OUTFITTER

Big Timber Fly Fishing
PO Box 34. Big Timber, MT 59011
406-930-1038
bigtimberflyfishing.com

PROFESSIONAL

Sweet Grass County Farm Bureau
1155 Cremer Road, Melville, MT 59055-0276
406-537-4481
mfbf.org

Homes and Turner
116 W 2nd, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-587-4265
holmesandturner.com

Josephson Law Firm PLLC
205 Hooper St, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5900
Josephson Law Firm (bigtimberlaw.com)

Key Insurance
100 McLeod, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-4014
montanainsurance.net

REAL ESTATE

Hayden Outdoors Real Estate
127 McLeod St, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-930-2379
haydenoutdoors.com

JH Real Estate
220 McLeod St, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-321-0023
johnhrealstate.com

Ruthie Johnson Real Estate
318 W 4th Ave, Big Timber, Montana 59011
406-930-1022
ruthiejohansonrealstate.com

Sonny Todd Real Estate
301 W 1st Ave, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-1031
https://sonnytoddrealstate.com

Sweet Grass Title Company
115 W. 2nd Ave, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-930-1822
sweetgrasstitle.com

Yellowstone Real Estate Group
1019 W Park St, Livingston, MT 59047
406-333-0139
yregroup.com

RETAIL

The Fort
228 Big Timber Loop Rd, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5992
thefortmt.com

Town Pump
510 W 1st Ave, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5349
townpump.com

Ullman Lumber Company
301 E 1st Ave, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5332
ullmanlumber.com

Big Timber Ace Hardware
111 McLeod St, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5318
acehardware.com/store-details/10091

Blake Nursery
316 Otter Creek Rd, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-4195
blakenursery.com

Brewers Greenhouse
29 Featherbed Rd, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-930-0444
brewersgreenhouse.wixsite.com/brewers

Gusts of Big Timber
200 McLeod, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5451
gustsofbigtimber.com

Little Timber Quilts and Candy
108 McLeod St., Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-6078
ltquilts.com

Thistle Creek Mercantile
133 McLeod St, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5665
thistlecreekmt.com

Timber Toys
403 McLeod Street, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5588
bigtimber.com

Touch of Sunshine
415 West 1st Ave, Ste 7 Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-6637
bigtimber.com

Tumblewood Teas
14 Anderson St, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-9641
tumblewoodteas.com

SCHOOL

Sweet Grass County High School
501 W. 5th Ave, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5993
www.sgchs.com

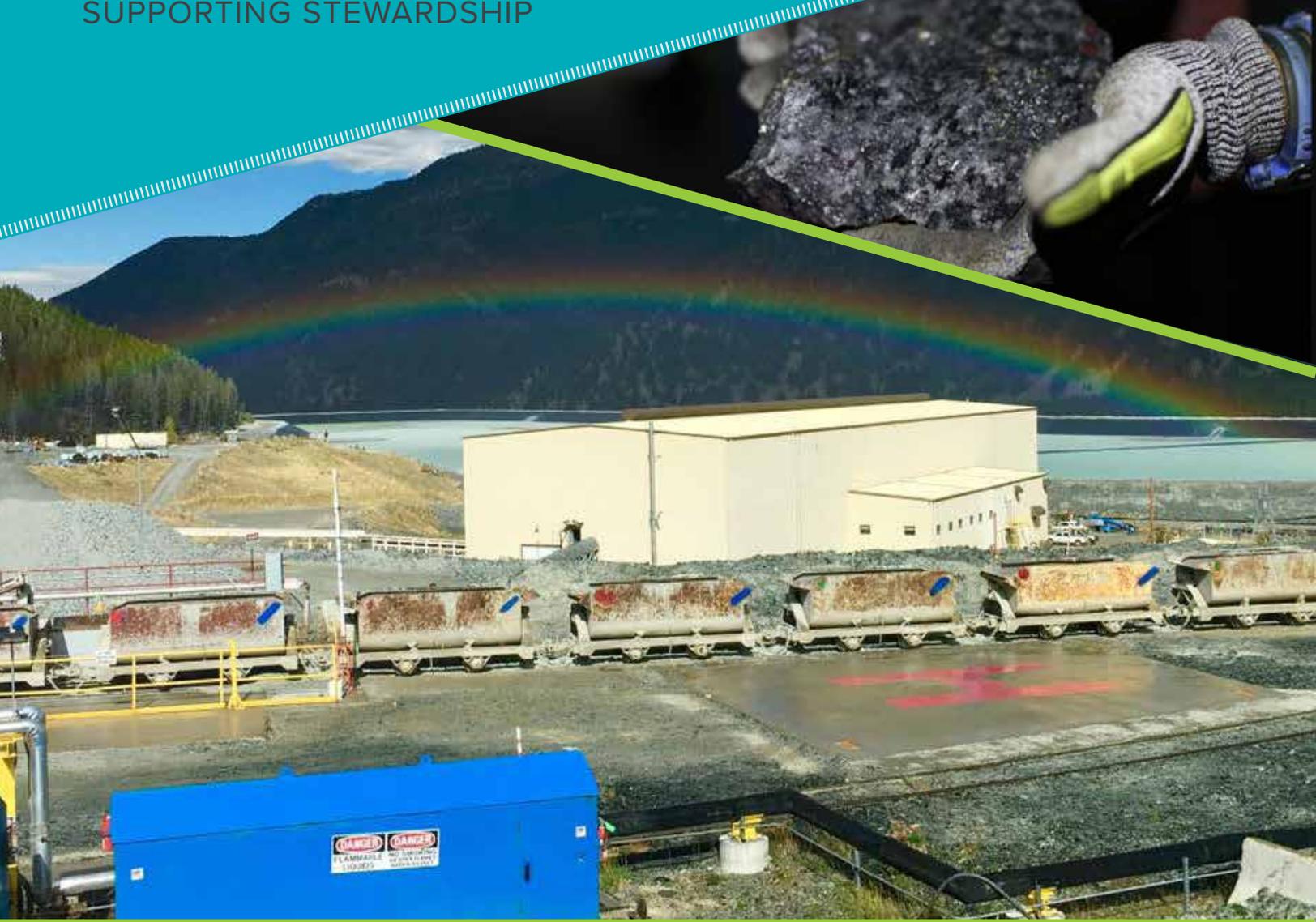
Big Timber Grade School
501 Anderson St, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-5939

VET AND PET

All Creatures Veterinary Service
22 HWY 10 East, Big Timber, MT 59011
406-932-4324
acvsmt.com

SIBANYE-STILLWATER

SUPPORTING STEWARDSHIP



SIBANYE-STILLWATER is a multinational mining and metals processing company with a diverse portfolio of mining and processing operations, including investments across five continents. US Platinum Group Metals operations center around the East Boulder Mine and Stillwater Mine in the Absaroka Mountains, southwest of Big Timber. The company works to provide the country with critical minerals while being a good steward of resources for communities, local employees, the economy, and the environment.

EMPLOYEES

Sibanye-Stillwater is committed to supporting charitable and non-profit interests in the communities where employees live and work. The company improves quality of life for area residents through the Community Giving Program. Employees are encouraged to emulate this giving by volunteering in their local communities.

The Community Giving program focuses on environmental stewardship, local learning, STEM education, rural emergency services, healthcare services, and community activities. To reward employees who give time and talent, Sibanye-Stillwater launched a Volunteer Award for each of its three worksites—the East Boulder Mine, the Stillwater Mine, and the Metallurgical Complex. The winner of the Volunteer Award at each site receives \$1,000, which is donated to the employee's non-profit of choice.

Sibanye-Stillwater selected Gilbert Prather as the recipient of the East Boulder Mine Volunteer Award for his work with the Big Timber FFA chapter. In the words of the colleague who nominated Mr. Prather for this award, “if he’s not working at East Boulder, he’s volunteering his time to help the kids of the Big Timber community learn real-world agricultural skills that they can use for years to come.” Sibanye-Stillwater supports Mr. Prather and his fellow employees in their volunteer pursuits, as well as the non-profits in Sweet Grass County through the Community Giving Program.

ECONOMY

Sibanye-Stillwater’s Montana platinum and palladium mining and processing operations in Sweet Grass and Stillwater Counties add over \$6 billion to Montana’s economic output annually, according to the University of Montana’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research’s June 2022 study entitled Updating the Economic Impact of Sibanye-Stillwater in Montana. The study uses a model calibrated with Montana economic data, designed to show what Montana’s economy would look like without Sibanye-Stillwater. The results are significant. Since UM began studying Sibanye-Stillwater’s economic impact on the Montana economy, the company’s contribution to Montana’s total economic output has nearly quadrupled, rising from nearly \$1.6 billion in 2017 to over \$6 billion in 2021. Expansion of the company’s Montana operations and consistently high palladium prices drove this increase.

Based on 2021 data, the study concludes that “tax and non-tax revenue received by the state government is more than \$295 million higher annually” because of Sibanye-Stillwater and “the company’s presence in the Montana economy ultimately supports 11,334 jobs statewide across a wide spectrum of industries and occupations.” Additionally, the company purchased nearly \$440 million in goods and services from contractors and vendors in 2021, with over half being Montana-based. Sibanye-Stillwater’s total pay for its nearly 2,000 Montana employees was over \$260 million in 2021. Much of the economic impact occurs in Sweet Grass County, where the East Boulder Mine is located, and in Stillwater County, home to the Stillwater Mine. Concentrated ore from both mines is transported to Columbus, where it is processed in the company’s Metallurgical Complex. In addition to mining operations, Sibanye-Stillwater is one

of the largest global recyclers of platinum and palladium, recycling more metal than is extracted.

ENVIRONMENT

In 2020, Sibanye-Stillwater, Northern Plains Resource Council, the Cottonwood Resource Council, and the Stillwater Protective Association celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Good Neighbor Agreement (GNA). The GNA, unique within the mining industry, provides an innovative framework for environmental integrity, community protection, and responsible economic development. It contractually binds Sibanye-Stillwater to certain commitments, holding the company to higher standards than federal and state regulatory processes require. Commitments include transparent interaction with all affected stakeholders, dispute resolution, and positive stakeholder engagement.

In 1990, the Stillwater Mine was looking to build a new tailings facility, downstream from the mine. The related exploratory work upset local residents who sought litigation. Realizing that litigation would be arduous and costly, residents initiated negotiations with the mine to address their concerns. These negotiations laid the foundation for a constructive relationship with local residents and resulted in the creation of the GNA.

The GNA is a legally binding contract that, over the years, evolved to become a collaborative document. Each of Sibanye-Stillwater’s mine sites in the US has a Good Neighbor Oversight Committee that meets three times a year. In addition to these formal, minuted meetings, the Technology Committee and other working groups meet as needed. One such working group to address water quality generally communicates weekly to address ongoing projects. Members also meet socially throughout the year.

Sibanye-Stillwater believes that its Good Neighbor Agreement relationships and responsibilities are at the core of ensuring that neighboring rural communities remain vibrant. Rural vitality is at the heart of Sibanye-Stillwater’s values of collaboration and environmental stewardship. The company is grateful for the dedication of the Cottonwood Resource Council members who have made the GNA work in Sweet Grass County for over two decades.

Visit the website to learn more about the Good Neighbor Agreement, environmental reporting, economic impact, and employment opportunities.

Did you know...
The East Boulder/Stillwater Mine is the largest global producer of primary palladium in the World

CITIZENS BANK

A LIVING LEGACY



FROM THE BRICK AND MORTAR of downtown Big Timber to historic cabins on old homesteads, the legacy of area founders is still seen today. This legacy not only lives on in architecture, but also in descendants and local businesses. Citizens Bank and Trust Co. is a locally owned financial institution serving Sweet Grass and Wheatland counties that traces roots to the first days of settlement of this region. While the bank currently offers a slate of modern financial services, the focus remains on ag producers, honoring a proud tradition started by Big Timber's earliest shepherd.

Charles McDonnell grew up in Ireland, emigrating to America in 1870. Landing at San Francisco with 75 cents, he spent 50 cents on breakfast, then took a job loading wool. Eventually, McDonnell would move to the Sacramento Valley, starting a ranching operation

with fellow Irishman Edward Veasey. The pair received word of open country north of Big Timber, and with another gentleman, James Duffey, they made plans to migrate to Montana.

Veasey and McDonnell set out: moving 3,200 sheep from Placer County, California to what is now Sweet Grass County, Montana, through the rugged interior of the American West. Traveling roughly ten miles per day, the men encountered mountains, deserts, prairie, mining towns, railroad stops, and tribal lands. The herd arrived in Big Timber on November 7, 1880, completing a five month journey. Overwintering six miles north of town, the animals were wiped out by the legendary winter of '80 and '81. McDonnell witnessed sheep bleed from the nose due to excessive cold. He was without feed or open range to supply the flock with sustenance. Only 727 remained from the original herd of 3,200.



As the season turned, so did fortune. The men settled up the American Fork Valley, south of Harlowton, filing many desert, timber, and farm claims, eventually homesteading over 11,000 acres near Melville. Their flock grew to over 18,000 head at one time. Arriving on the West Coast with less than a dollar to his name, McDonnell walked to Montana with a dream - and hundreds of sheep. By the early 1900's he was one of the wealthiest men in the county, beginning a distinguished career in public service. Running as a Republican, he served on the local level and as a State Senator, representing his neighbors in the new capital: Helena.

McDonnell organized Citizens State Bank in 1906, serving as President. His family moved to Big Timber in 1907, on the corner of McLeod St and 4th Ave. Over the next twenty years, McDonnell grew the bank, eventually merging with the competing Commercial Bank and Trust Co. to form Citizens Bank and Trust Co. in 1927. McDonnell's legacy continues through his granddaughter, Mary Ellen (Mimi) Cremer, who serves on the Board of Directors.

Cremer believes that supporting local businesses is vital for a strong community, especially through dynamic economic conditions. "Citizens began as an agricultural lender, but now the loan portfolio has expanded," Cremer explains. "As a smaller, locally owned bank, we loan on character and put trust in local residents."

McDonnell's son Charlie, Mimi's Uncle, went on to become a loan officer, then later president of the new bank. In tough times, such as the Great Depression, the younger McDonnell would require small ranches to purchase a milk cow so that food would always be available for the family. Citizens still offers a personal touch, with local employees serving on community boards, attending Herder games, and shopping in local stores.

The current President, Clint Rech, grew up in agriculture. Raised in Roundup, Rech has lived in Big Timber for over a decade. As President, he oversees the profitability of the bank, mentors new

business owners, and supports local ag producers. Rech also serves on the Hard Rock Impact Mining Board for the Montana State Department of Commerce.

"I've had a love affair with ranching my whole life," Rech recalls. "I understand the environment: getting hit with hail, flood waters wiping out fences, fires, and dealing with extreme drought. We know what that is like - those variables that come with agriculture - and we feel we understand that better than most banks because we've lived through it."

While larger banks often utilize a 'cookie-cutter mentality' with computer programs to make loan decisions, Citizens has real people who can weigh the unique problems that customers are facing.

"If you're in the cattle business," Rech explains, "it's a margin business. You make a little money, break even, or you minimize your loss. And I've lived in that world my whole life."

In addition to the deep understanding of the ag community, Citizens also offers a full slate of products for personal and business customers. Loans available include auto, home, construction, recreational vehicle, and various lines of credit. Traditional banking services such as safety deposit boxes, savings accounts, and checking accounts are integrated with modern conveniences like online banking, bill pay, mobile deposit, health savings accounts, and other products.

The lobby is open Monday thru Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm, with the drive-thru open from 8:00am to 6:00pm. Call (406) 932-5311 to reach the Big Timber branch.

SWEET GRASS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

LOCAL GIVING FOR
LOCAL LIVING



SUPPORTING LOCAL EFFORTS helps build a vibrant community. Sweet Grass Community Foundation supports many programs and efforts within Sweet Grass County. The mission of the Foundation is to build relationships and manage funds to focus, strengthen, and advance our community. The Foundation provides support in many different ways to local nonprofits and organizations through networking, facilitation, fundraising, leadership, and granting programs.

Every September the Foundation administers the Give Where You Live fundraising campaign. This campaign promotes philanthropy throughout the community. Through Give Where You Live, giving is simple and easy, and community members can connect with local nonprofit causes they care most about. Donations made during Give Where You Live are partially matched by Sweet Grass Community Foundation's Match Fund. In 2022, the Match Fund provided a 70% match made possible by Match donors.

During this past year, the Foundation facilitated a networking opportunity through a forum focused on the health of our community. This forum brought together people who work in all areas of health, including the food bank, mental health, sheriff's department, public

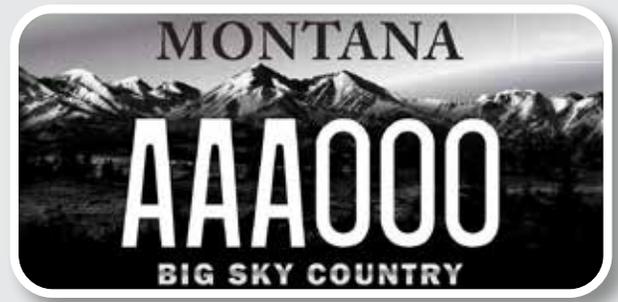
health, senior center, our local hospital, and many more. Through this effort, committees were developed to continue the priorities the group determined as areas of need. Led by Foundation staff and board members, these follow-up committees have met regularly throughout the year and are developing both online and printed resources that will be readily available to assist anyone in finding the information and help they need.



The Foundation's granting programs provide funding for a variety of efforts in the county. Grant programs make an impact across diverse focus areas, age groups, and areas of interest. Priority is given to efforts that make a lasting impact. In 2021, the Foundation was able to distribute \$564,894 back into the community.

Endowed funds are an additional option for donors to consider when giving locally. These funds are set up by donors who want to give back to the community both now and in perpetuity. Sweet Grass Community Foundation administers these funds for the donors, establishing with them how they want to support the community, and ensuring their support continues for many years to come. These types of gifts provide a great way for anyone to continue supporting their favorite organizations and interest areas, even after they are gone.

When you purchase a Sweet Grass Community Foundation license plate, you support Sweet Grass County and the many wonderful things that take place here.



Sweet Grass Community Foundation created a License Plate in 2017. Since then, proceeds from the license plate have allowed the Foundation to make a larger impact in Sweet Grass County. Funds from the plate have supported a variety of efforts over the years. Recent projects include remodeling efforts in the Hospitality House Senior Center, new drumline equipment for students in Sweet Grass County High School, a new and more efficient heating and cooling system at the Sweet Grass Post 19 – American Legion, the major remodel project at the Civic Center along with many other county-wide efforts.

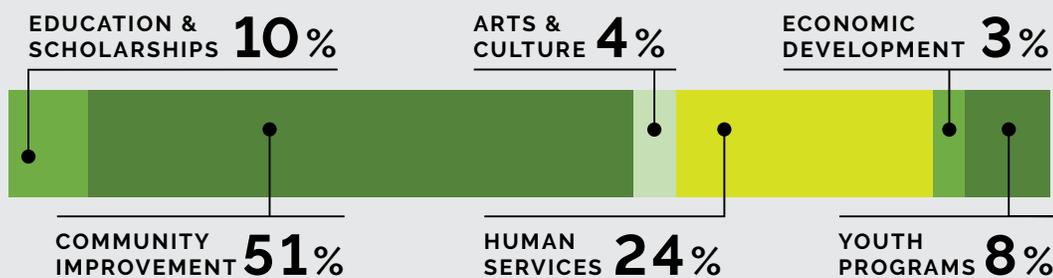
The Foundation has wonderful volunteers who help make all of these things happen. Volunteers assist the Foundation with newsletter

mailings, the Give Where You Live Kickoff Event, community projects like the work day at Lion’s Club park, and serve on the Board of Directors.

The efforts of Sweet Grass Community Foundation would not be possible without generous support from donors. The Foundation is grateful for the support and trust from the community.

To learn more, visit the website at sweetgrasscf.org and follow us on Facebook.

SWEET GRASS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SUPPORTS MANY PROGRAMS AND EFFORTS WITHIN SWEET GRASS COUNTY.



MEATS OF MONTANA

LOCAL PROCESSOR EXPANDS TO 2ND LOCATION



MEATS OF MONTANA, headquartered in downtown Big Timber, is the new retail destination for the popular processor, Pioneer Meats. In their coolers, you can find a variety of local meats and specialty treats. Brian and Kary Engle own the business - working for almost two decades to build a neighborhood butcher shop, world-class custom meat processing facility, and regional product distribution network.

Opened in 2021, the new facility, located at 209 E 1st Ave, is a refurbished building. Originally constructed as a dairy, the structure was converted into a butcher shop in the 1950's. Incorporated into the interior are pieces of local lore: flooring from the old high school gymnasium, doors from a 1920's Montgomery-Ward Kit Home from the Engle Ranch, and pieces from the prop house used in the movie *The Horse Whisperer*.

"I take pride in revitalizing a piece of history. Every surface has been replaced, from floors to siding to ceiling," explains Brian. "We used as many local contractors as we could and kept as much of the old feel of this building as possible. It would have been cheaper to knock it down and start fresh, but I wanted to show that you can give new life to something old."

Currently, Meats of Montana offers a broad array of products including locally grown beef and lamb, wild-caught Alaskan seafood, and famous Pioneer Meats smoked sausages. Customers also have access to specialty cheese and soda from small family-owned businesses in Minnesota, as well as delicious dairy products from Kalispell Creamery.

"We opened the downtown location to increase foot traffic and focus on retail sales. The community supports this new store, but we are also bringing visitors to Big Timber," Brian adds, "about a third of our customers are from out of town."

The Pioneer Meats journey began on July 2nd, 2004 with a 40ft by 100ft trailer. Several years later, the Engles were able to hire Harv Van Wagoner, a local rancher, and expand their processing facility. By 2007, there was a team of four, with much of the night cleaning being staffed by high school students.

Between the two businesses, the company currently employs over thirty, contributing over \$1.3 million in payroll each year to workers in Sweet Grass County. The team will process over 1,800 beef, 1,800 hogs, 300 lamb and 1,200 wild game in 2022. Brian's philosophy is 'take care of your community and it will take care of you.' The Engles donate to many organizations, employ local workers, serve on community boards, and hire area contractors.

"We see so many ag communities struggling to survive," notes Kary. "By volunteering our time, donating our services and participating in local activities, we hope to help Sweet Grass County remain viable for generations to come."

For hours, custom butchering services or for other inquiries, call (406) 932-4522 to reach the store.



TRIANGLE COMMUNICATIONS

LOCAL CO-OP PROVIDES “MONTANA-SIZED INTERNET”

TRIANGLE PROVIDES telecommunications services, including Broadband Internet and both local and long-distance telephone, to residents of Central Montana. Over 17,000 subscribers live in parts of 16 counties from the Canadian to the Wyoming border, an area totalling over 24,000 square miles. The co-op is proud to support communities, businesses, and youth. Various scholarships, grants, and loans help keep the service area thriving.

Triangle Telephone Cooperative (TTC) is a company owned by its members. The cooperative was incorporated on March 24, 1953 in Havre, Montana by rural residents across the region. In 1994, TTC purchased 13 exchanges from US West (now CenturyLink) and formed a subsidiary named Central Montana Communication (CMC). Rebranding in 2008, the cooperative and its subsidiaries chose the name Triangle Communications.

Part of the cooperative business model is democratic control. Triangle’s Board of Trustees is made up of members who dedicate their time to serve on the governing board. They represent mem-

bers from different districts in the service area and make decisions to lead Triangle into the future. Co-op members are encouraged to share comments and concerns with representatives, as well as the management team. Triangle holds two annual meetings each October, one in Havre and one in Big Timber. The annual meeting is an opportunity for members to voice concerns they may have as well as share camaraderie with other cooperative members.

Triangle is a proud member of each community throughout the service area. In Big Timber, Triangle is a supporter of the Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, up to 37 high school, and six college, scholarship opportunities in the service area are available. To retain and recruit quality educators to rural Montana, the co-op offers the Teacher Appreciation Scholarship.

To view services offered or to join the cooperative, visit itstriangle.com or stop by the Big Timber office on McLeod Street.

TURNER MINING GROUP

TURNING THE TIDE FOR BLUE-COLLAR WORKERS



FOR YEARS, blue-collar industries and the value they bring have often gone unnoticed. Six years ago, a mass movement began across the country. News and social media educated the public on the necessity of these trades, the livelihoods they support, and the careers they provide. Turner Mining Group helped raise awareness and quickly gained traction as a new company built on “changing the game” on how people were treated in the industry. Founded with a purpose, the company set out to make life better for the mining industry. Today, Turner has deployed thousands of next generation and veteran-skilled workers nationwide – including the workforce operating in Sweet Grass County.

Since business began in 2017, the company has expanded to include an operations headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah and a corporate headquarters in Bloomington, Indiana. Operations in Sweet Grass County focus on the East Boulder Mine, owned by Sibanye-Stillwater. With over 40 employees at the project, Turner Mining is one of the largest employers in the county. To provide opportunities to residents, the company has a target of hiring seventy percent of the crew locally.

PEOPLE FOCUSED

Turner’s team consists of people with diverse skill sets – spanning

from heavy civil to mining. Leaders with decades of experience lead the charge, passing down the knowledge they’ve gained throughout their careers. Turner believes that training and preparing the next generation is one way they can live up to their mission. With good people as the foundation, mining can continue to be a thriving, sustainable industry.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Turner Mining Group offers a variety of employment opportunities to include early, experienced, and site management candidates. As a trusted full-service provider, Turner Mining Group is a positive force transforming the mining industry through dedication to their purpose, people, and partners.

Learn more about careers at Turner Mining Group at turnermining.com.

BIG TIMBER FLY FISHING

WHERE RUGGED MOUNTAINS
MEET WILD RIVERS



FISHING BROUGHT Rachel Cullen and Doug Ayers together. Turning a personal passion into a professional project, the pair purchased Big Timber Fly Fishing in 2019 by partnering with the former owner, George Anderson. The company offers decades of combined experience and a high caliber crew. Custom tailored fishing experiences are available for both individuals and groups of all experience levels.

“You can count on our trustworthy, fun-loving guides to lead you on your fly fishing adventure,” explains Cullen. “We take great pride in providing an experience that goes beyond the cast. Our adventure-seeking team will always uphold quality, integrity, and safety as the cornerstones of our job.”

Blue-ribbon trout fishing pairs with jaw-dropping views of the iconic scenery: the Crazy Mountains, Beartooth Mountains, and expansive Yellowstone Valley. Soaring eagles take to the skies while grazing elk wander the banks. Moose, bear, antelope, and deer also appear across these landscapes and skylines - where rugged mountains meet wild rivers.

“You’ll feel like you’re floating through the clouds,” says Cullen. “The pristine waters carry you downstream alongside gorgeous reflections of that big Montana sky.”

Half or full-day trips can be walking, wading, or floating. Full-day excursions include amenities like shuttles, picnics, and refreshments. Beginners or seasoned anglers can book personalized sessions or group lessons. Clients are guided through the Yellowstone, Boulder, and Stillwater rivers along with a variety of tributaries, depending on the season and situation.

“We understand the importance of finding the ideal combination of venue and guides who will assure a thrilling adventure. We would love to visit with you about the unique experiences available.” Cullen offers, “let us answer your questions, trade some fishing stories, and book your next trip.”

Since 1986, Big Timber Fly Fishing has welcomed anglers, newbies, and floaters from across Montana and the world to the region. To book a trip or refer a fisherman friend, the company can be reached by email or phone.

Learn more about Big Timber Fly Fishing at
bigtimberflyfishing.com.
Doug Ayers Outfitter# 52335

STEPHENS AUTO SUPPLY

A RELIABLE FAMILY TRADITION



WITH THEIR FATHER MARK, Chance and Chase Stephens are the fourth generation owners of Stephens Auto Supply. Their main focus for the business? Reliability.

“We want to keep people’s vehicles on the road,” says Chance, “keep people ranching and keep the good that Big Timber was in the 1940’s when our great-grandpa opened this place.”

“We want Montana and Big Timber to compete and keep up with the rest of the world,” Chase adds, “but we want to keep our business the same as it’s always been: reliable. We just want to keep Big Timber great.”

For the agriculture, construction, mining, and automotive repair industries, the company is a cornerstone of the community. For decades, friendly staff have offered guidance on parts and supplies. Marv Stephens is a second generation former owner who bears witness to the shift in the local economy. “All of it has changed,” Marv explains, “The customers have really changed. There used to be a lot of ranchers here and we used to do a lot of business with them. We still do businesses with the ranchers, but there’s not as many. The cost of parts has gone up. Things were much simpler in the old

days: the cars, trucks, and tractors - they are all computerized now. We still had filling stations back then too...”

While friendly, old-school, local reliability remains, the company has added modern services. As a CarQuest supplier, Stephens Auto offers in-store pickup for online orders. Customers can select the right part or product and get it delivered to the shop in Big Timber. Stephens Auto frequently donates to local causes, supporting Herder sports, youth agriculture, and community events. Whether customers are looking for basic products or need expert advice, the reliable staff at Stephens Auto offers their services to locals and travelers.

To reach the store call (406) 932-5136, open 7:00am to 6:00pm Monday thru Saturday.

OPPORTUNITY BANK OF MONTANA

CELEBRATING OVER 100 YEARS
SERVING MONTANANS



HEADQUARTERED IN HELENA since 1922, Opportunity Bank of Montana is the fourth-largest bank in the state with over \$1.9 billion in assets. Opportunity operates 30 full-service bank branches throughout Montana, including Big Timber.

Brandi Schweigert is the Vice President and Regional Retail Manager of the Ag Division, overseeing branches in rural communities from her office in Big Timber. Schweigert grew up on a ranch in Sweet Grass County, later moving to Helena for college. Beginning in 2011, she returned home, working closely with bank leadership to advocate for the customer experience and focus on banking services to rural Montana.

“It is important to me that community banking remains aligned with the communities we serve,” Schweigert explains. “Understanding those needs and relating to our customers translate into how we can best do business in Big Timber and Sweet Grass County. This further demonstrates the bank’s mission to strengthen the financial future of Montanans.”

Opportunity Bank is a leading Farm Services Agency guaranteed lender and a leading residential mortgage lender in Montana. A full range of banking, lending, agricultural, and digital services are offered. The Big Timber branch is managed by Stefani Maestas, who volunteers with the Chamber of Commerce on various efforts including Marketing, Sweet Grass Fest, and Fiber Fest.

“My first day in Big Timber was during Sweet Grass Fest,” Maestas recalls. “With the rodeo, parade, and festival I knew that I found a wonderful community to raise my children. Through my work at the bank, I am able to serve the folks who welcomed my family to town. Through volunteering with the Chamber, I am able to give back and ensure this town is a great place to live and work.”

The lobby is open from 8:00am thru 4:30pm with the drive-thru being open until 5:00pm. To reach the Big Timber branch, call (406) 932-5317. Member FDIC - Equal Housing Lender. NMLS #412554

CIRCLE T TAPROOM

A NEW COMMUNITY HUB

WITH PATRONS ON THE FRONT PATIO and local brews behind the bar, Circle T Taproom serves as a family-friendly community gathering place for locals and visitors alike. Owners Colter and Kendra Todd operate the taproom, brewery, and their construction company from their headquarters in Big Timber.

“The Circle T Taproom features 12 Crazy Peak Brewing taps at all times,” says Kendra, “It’s the best place in town to find a wide variety of locally crafted brews using Montana-grown malts and hops.” In addition to microbrews on tap, you can also find wine, seltzer, cider, soda, and non-alcoholic beer. Pizza, wings and other snack food options are offered alongside locally-made jerky, pepper sticks, and BBQ pork bites.

Patrons enjoy an open choice of seating options with an indoor bar and seating, outdoor porch, and front patio. “In the summer, we see a huge influx of travelers, tourists, fishermen, hunters, hikers, and campers who are looking for places to stop along their Montana journey,” says Kendra. “Our loyal local patrons keep our business going through the fall and winter, and we wouldn’t be here without them.”

202 East First Ave.
406.932.KEGS(5347)

BOBCAT OF BIG SKY

ONE TOUGH ANIMAL®

BOBCAT OF BIG SKY, located in Billings, serves the Big Timber area with quality customer service. Customers across the region access a complete line of Bobcat equipment including compact track loaders, skid-steer loaders, excavators, telehandlers, and attachments. New and pre-owned loaders, compact tractors, utility products, mowers and more are also available. The full-service dealership builds customer relationships around sales, parts, service, and rentals.

Since 1958, Bobcat Company has been empowering people to accomplish more. As a leading global manufacturer of compact equipment, Bobcat has a proud legacy of innovation and a reputation based on delivering smart solutions to customers’ toughest challenges. Backed by the support of a worldwide network of independent dealers and distributors, Bobcat offers an extensive line of compact equipment. Headquartered in West Fargo, North Dakota, Bobcat continues to lead the industry, all while helping



people succeed and build stronger communities and a better tomorrow.

Bobcat partners with many organizations and supports projects in the communities where customers, dealers, and employees live and work. In 2022, Bobcat employee Jack Keller volunteered with his new bride Mikayla Keller at the Big Timber Farmers Market and Sweet Grass Brewfest. Bobcat of Big Sky supports community events in Sweet Grass County by sponsoring the Chamber of Commerce.

To see the current lineup of new and used Bobcat equipment, visit the store off I-90 just east of the Lockwood exit in Billings. Call (406) 252-0822 to reach the store or visit bobcatofbigsky.com to browse available products and services. For Bobcat equipment rentals in Big Timber, call Yellow Dog Rental at (406) 932-5323.

TWIN TREE CONSTRUCTION

TWIN TREE CONSTRUCTION has been in business over 10 years and now serves Big Timber and all of Southwest Montana. “Our company specializes in providing quality residential design and construction services for new homes, additions and comprehensive remodels,” says owner Troy Dumont. Twin Tree Construction also designs and builds custom millwork such as doors, cabinets and staircases. Co-owners Jake Klingensmith and Troy Dumont welcome new customers and are happy to discuss your project.

Please call 406.290.4574 to schedule a free initial consultation.



EARTH WISE GENERAL STORE

2022 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

THE MONTANA WAY of life - hiking, camping, and fishing - is at the heart of Earth Wise General Store. The great outdoors are central to “who we are and what we do” for owners Janet Schroeder and Allen Barta. The shop features organic, local, and sustainable goods to help customers reduce their carbon footprint and preserve the planet for future generations.

“We started by creating a space to promote Montana made products,” explains Schroeder, “and for customers to recycle bulk items with refill options. We wanted to take care of our own. Now, we still offer the services we built our business on, but continue to grow to meet the needs of our customers. The store has bloomed into a deli, a market with a wide selection of groceries, and a gathering place where the community supports local suppliers

and employees. We are so grateful for Big Timber and the support they’ve shown us.”

In addition to environmental education and supporting local Montanans, Earth Wise also contributes to various local causes.

Visit earthwisegeneralstore.com or call 406.932.6875 for hours and more information.

JH REAL ESTATE

SALES FROM THE SADDLE



THROUGH WORKING CATTLE and horses on a ranch as a boy, John Holifield appreciates the western way of life. Whether fishing, hunting, or going out for a trail ride, Holifield roams the prairies and peaks of Sweet Grass County with clients, family, and friends. The best way to admire the wonders of creation, according to Holifield, is from the back of a horse. Over five years of ranch and multifamily experience help Holifield share the western way with locals and newcomers alike. JH Real Estate serves buyers and sellers across Montana in ranch, residential, recreation, and commercial property services.

"It's a great community and I like the land here," Holifield comments, "I think there's a lot of quality land here; quality agricultural opportunities and recreational opportunities. That's what I like about selling here, but more than anything, I like the people. I say it all the time, but it's just a great community to be in. There's great people to work with and great people to sell property to and for."

Holifield acquired the brokerage in 2022, retaining Mary Lair as a broker, adviser, and

business partner. Lair adds nearly two decades of specialized and extensive local knowledge of the region, serving customers with honesty and integrity. The firm offers other services including a competitive market analysis to give customers an accurate estimate of what a property is worth. Either of the experienced brokers can give an opinion of value using comparable sold properties.

To inquire on a listing, or to find out what your property is worth, visit the office in Downtown Big Timber at 220 McLeod St. Call (406) 321-0023 to reach the office.

CIRCLE T CONSTRUCTION



CIRCLE T CONSTRUCTION is a general contracting company owned by Colter and Kendra Todd that specializes in commercial and residential construction. "Right now we have crews working in Ennis, Bozeman, and the East Boulder area," says Colter Todd.

The company got its start in 2011 after Colter and Kendra finished school at MSU Bozeman. "We moved to Eastern Montana to work with family during the oil boom and decided to pursue working for ourselves," says Kendra. "One project led to another, and we spent the next several years building shops, hotels and doing full interior and exterior house remodels for farmers and ranchers," says Colter.

In 2016, Big Timber became home base when Colter decided to move back and purchase a 1953 gas station. The building located at 202 East First Ave was renovated in stages over the course of three years and is now the Circle T Construction main office, as well as a taproom and brewery.

The Todds are involved in many local organizations and enjoy giving back to the community. "I like doing local work, I like employing local, I like supporting local," says Colter. "We currently employ between 10-20 crew members depending on the season," says Colter. "We like supporting the community that supports us."

Call 406-932-5612 or email circlt2011@gmail.com

CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP

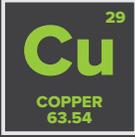
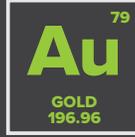
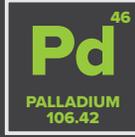
WHAT CAN THE CHAMBER DO FOR YOU?

THE SWEET GRASS County Chamber of Commerce is a board-led organization that strives to serve businesses in Sweet Grass County with events, marketing, economic development, community outreach and education.

In 2022, the Chamber made changes to the long-standing membership benefits by offering four additional membership packages. While a basic membership remains \$150, we also offer tiers to accommodate various budgets and advertising goals. With the addition of the new membership levels, the Chamber is simplifying how we collect sponsorships. Rather than reaching out several times a year for sponsorships, businesses can choose

to support all events for the year at one time. This provides better value to our members by providing advertising at each and every chamber event held in Sweet Grass County.

With our website reaching over 3,000 people per month, an active social media presence, our newly released Big Timber Magazine, and multiple Chamber-sponsored events throughout the year, your membership will get your business name in front of customers online, in print, on social media, and in person. Through this streamlined effort, we are working to increase revenue to your business and give back to the community.

 \$150/year	 \$500/year	 \$1000/year	 \$3000/year	 \$5000/year
MEMBERSHIP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Voting member at quarterly meetings 	MEMBERSHIP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Voting member at quarterly meetings 	MEMBERSHIP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Voting member at quarterly meetings 	MEMBERSHIP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Voting member at quarterly meetings 	MEMBERSHIP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Voting member at quarterly meetings
WEBSITE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Standard website listing in our Business Directory 	WEBSITE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Enhanced website listing including a 300-500 word article + photos ✓ Listed as Silver Level Sponsor 	WEBSITE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Enhanced website listing including a 300-500 word article + photos ✓ Listed as Gold Level Sponsor 	WEBSITE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Enhanced website listing including a 500-1000 word article + photos ✓ Listed as Palladium Level Sponsor ✓ Logo + your link on our front page 	WEBSITE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Enhanced website listing including a 1000-1500 word article + photos ✓ Listed as Platinum Level Sponsor ✓ Logo + your link on our front page ✓ Thank you listing on Community Calendar Page
PERKS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use of bulk mailing permit 	PERKS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use of bulk mailing permit ✓ 2 tickets: 2023 Annual Banquet 	PERKS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use of bulk mailing permit ✓ 4 tickets: 2023 Annual Banquet 	PERKS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use of bulk mailing permit ✓ 4 tickets: 2023 Annual Banquet ✓ 4 tickets: 2022 Brewfest 	PERKS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Use of bulk mailing permit ✓ 8 tickets: 2023 Annual Banquet ✓ 8 tickets: 2022 Brewfest
	EVENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Listed as Silver Level Sponsor at all Chamber events 	EVENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Listed as Gold Level Sponsor at all Chamber events 	EVENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Listed as Palladium level sponsor at all Chamber events ✓ Logo displayed on Chamber Event Signage 	EVENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Listed as Platinum Level Sponsor at all Chamber events ✓ Logo displayed on Chamber Event Signage
		MAGAZINE CONTENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Half page feature in upcoming Crazy Mountain Magazine 	MAGAZINE CONTENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Full page feature in upcoming Crazy Mountain Magazine 	MAGAZINE CONTENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Two page feature in upcoming Crazy Mountain Magazine



Visitor Center Open
 Memorial Day Weekend - Labor Day Weekend
 1350 Highway 10 West | Big Timber, Montana
 Located near the Big Timber West Exit Across from the Town Pump

(406) 932-5131

EMAIL: chamber@bigtimber.com

www.bigtimber.com

A PROUD PAST & “FANTASTIC” FUTURE

SWEET GRASS COUNTY
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

THOUGH THE SWEET GRASS

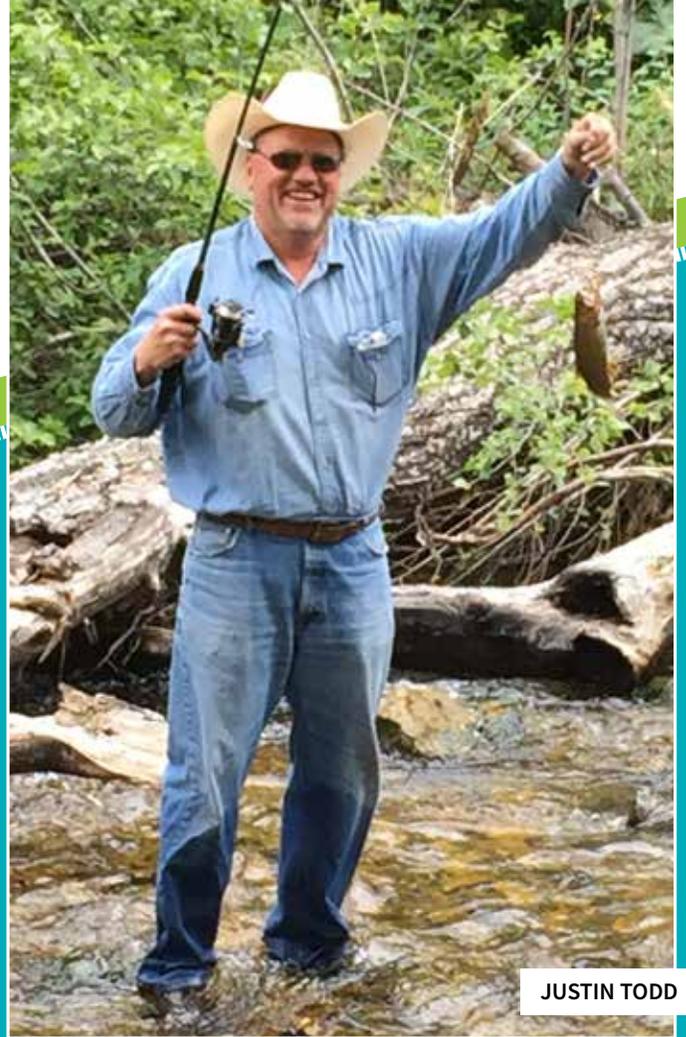
County Chamber of Commerce has a focus on the future, the organization embraces local lore. From early homesteaders to modern mavericks, area history includes a cast of inspiring characters. Early names like Charles McDonnel and Leo Cremer fill newspaper archives and museum exhibits. Less common, however, are the stories of modern times. People like Wolfgang Droedge, Gwen Petersen, Virgil Gust, Connie Kunda, and many others built Big Timber with contributions large and small; lasting and fleeting. One such character is the former President of the Chamber, Justin Todd.

Monte Koch, another previous Chamber President, recalls that Todd worked tirelessly to make the Chamber relevant and effective, after a period of uncertainty. At one point, Becky Todisco, who currently serves on the Board of Directors, and Justin Todd were the only volunteers willing to build the Chamber. Starting with a team of two, Todd recruited locals to serve on the Board, personally funded many programs, and pushed the Chamber to lead efforts to revitalize downtown Big Timber.

“He was the unrepentant Big Timber booster and promoter,” explains Koch, “always willing to share his toothy grin and greet you with that trademark tagline: ‘fantastic.’ He understood the Chamber should promote and market Big Timber for the benefit of member businesses – a rising tide lifts all boats. He also believed the Chamber should be a vital and engaged partner in the effort to revitalize downtown Big Timber while maintaining unique, local charm. He was instrumental in adding a new concert to Sweet Grass Fest to attract locals and visitors. To this day, the Chamber is responsible for creating, developing, and programming the best events in Big Timber.”

Todd grew up in Big Timber and lived across the west before returning home. Having lived in Powell, Wyoming for a time, Todd was familiar with the transformation of the downtown from a neglected area to an energized central business district. Todd was friends with the driving force of that transformation – Dave Reetz. In 2015, Todd invited, and paid for, Reetz to come to Big Timber to host a series of public and private discussions about Big Timber and its future. Reetz provided an overview of Powell’s downtown transformation and offered some suggestions for Big Timber.

“At a breakfast meeting after the main work session,” Koch recalls, “Dave turned very serious, looked at both Justin and I and said ‘I came in from the east on Big Timber Loop and boys, I was going to tell you that it was hopeless.’”



JUSTIN TODD

Reetz then described his surprise and utter joy when he turned left on McLeod and was struck by the charm of Big Timber’s downtown and the great potential. “With Dave’s new found ardor for Big Timber,” says Koch, “Justin was as giddy as a schoolboy in thinking about the possibilities for downtown.”

Christine Bakke was also recruited to join the Chamber by Todd, eventually serving as President. “Justin was an amazing mentor,” Bakke recalls. “By helping my photography company and getting me involved in the Chamber, he showed me how to help other business owners and give back to the community.” Bakke cites marketing campaigns such as Love the Locals as early wins for Chamber businesses. Todd was instrumental in fresh branding and relaunching an improved website to promote Big Timber.

Todd passed away suddenly in 2016, leaving behind family, friends, and the “fantastic” town he loved. At the time, Koch and the Chamber encouraged the community to “remain resolute in our efforts to carry forward with his vision notwithstanding his heartfelt absence.”

Because of Todd, volunteers he recruited, and like-minded individuals, the Chamber transformed into an effective partner in the success of Sweet Grass County and the revitalization of downtown Big Timber. In the last few years, businesses have opened downtown giving new life to old storefronts. From Shepherder Square to Sweet Grass Fest, longtime locals and recent transplants alike are carrying on Todd’s efforts to energize downtown. Although much work remains, the community can look to the legacy of leaders like Justin Todd to find inspiration to keep moving forward.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

MR. RODEO: THE CREMER RODEO CO. YEARS

THEN

APPROPRIATELY DUBBED,

“Mr. Rodeo,” Leo John Cremer Sr. homesteaded near Melville, Montana,

with his bride, Bertha Stokes, in 1911, soon becoming a family of three. In 1919, Cremer attended his first rodeo in Bozeman, Montana. Cremer returned home eager to try producing a rodeo of his own. Through years of trading horses with wayward homesteaders and farmers in his home-state of Wisconsin, Cremer created a string of horses spanning various sizes, shapes, colors, and temperament — a perfect herd for a laid-back rodeo amongst friends. With neighbors, Cremer staged Sunday rodeos at the Gibson settlement where they bucked-out horses and the occasional steer.

Over the next 27 years, Cremer provided stock and produced rodeos across the country. He bucked broncs in Madison Square Garden; rubbed elbows with legendary cowboys such as Gene Autry and Will Rogers; and became a Montana State Senator, even petitioning to move Montana’s capital from Helena to Big Timber.

In 1948, the same year he was elected to the State Senate, Cremer produced his first Big Timber Rodeo. Although he had provided

livestock for the Big Timber Rodeo and helped over the years, this was the first year Cremer Rodeo Co. entirely put on the show. Cremer announced he planned to “put on the biggest one-day

rodeo show in the world” in Big Timber, leading Cremer Rodeo Co. to build bucking chutes and old-grandstand bleachers at the Sweet Grass County Fairgrounds. Leo Cremer hired a top-tier announcer, provided the livestock, and attracted professional rodeo cowboys with high payouts. On a Sunday in July, over 7,000 people came to the Big Timber Rodeo and accompanying parade, and according to the book *Mr. Rodeo* by Patrick Dawson, thousands more came “just for the party.” Cremer’s efforts paid off and he donated his proceeds to build a new hospital and American Legion hall for the community.

Leo Cremer passed away in 1953 in Melville after a life of adventure, countless leaps of faith, and

“dirty-good” bucking horses. He was inducted into the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame in 1979. Old Leo’s listing in the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame sums it up best: “the man who was known as Mr. Rodeo believed in family, good bucking horses, and supporting his hometown of Big Timber.”



Big Rodeo

Big Timber is to have a big rodeo and a good one Saturday and Sunday. Everybody who knows of McDowell Bros. of Melville and their rodeo work at Harlowton, the Midland Empire fair and other places knows their guarantee of a good show is absolute. They will have the Grey Cliff band as a side attraction, and Saturday evening will stage a dance at the auditorium. Some of the best riders in the country will appear, and the following well known bronchos are on the program: Butterfly, Jazz Baby, Spark Plug, Kangaroo, Cricket, Tambourine, Wild Bill, Red Cloud, Shamrock, Dynamite, Blue Elephant and others. There will be riding, bucking contests, relay races, bulldogging, etc., and every minute will be a live one.



A Good Show

Big Timber saw a good, live rodeo, Saturday and Sunday, staged by McDowell Bros. of Melville. Good crowds attended, especially Sunday afternoon, and everybody was more than delighted. Every feature was good. Jack Tracey pulled the best stunt Saturday with Shamrock, and Sunday a young lumberjack, Wagner, rode Butterfly and got the \$25 cash purse. Paul L. Van Cleve, Jr. and Paul L. Van Cleve, III, and Stanley Rudd featured in some of the main events, the latter being especially good in steer riding. The rodeo will be at the Midland Empire fair at Billings and at the State fair at Helena. About 45 horses were brought to this city, and many people from the country attended Sunday.

S OF BIG TIMBER RODEO

NOW

SINCE THE FIRST BRONC

bucked-out at the Big Timber Rodeo in 1923, the event has welcomed thousands

of contestants and spectators to Sweet Grass County. Garnering fans from far and wide, the Big Timber Rodeo anchors a weekend of community events, class reunions, and concerts now known as Sweet Grass Fest. The Centennial makes Big Timber Rodeo one of the longest-running rodeos in the world, alongside the Pendleton Roundup and Calgary Stampede.

Today, the Big Timber Rodeo is a Northern Rodeo Association (NRA) sanctioned event occurring near the end of June each year at the Sweet Grass County Fairgrounds. With ticketed performances on both Friday and Saturday night, free slack is also available for attendees. Local and out-of-town rodeo cowboys and cowgirls compete in a variety of events. The 2022 rodeo was a dirt stage for 281 contestants over the course of two days. Although management of the Big Timber Rodeo has changed hands a few times throughout the years, the Big Timber Rodeo is currently put on by B-T Rodeo Company, a non-profit operated by descendants

of Old Leo Cremer: Ronda (great-granddaughter) and Rod Johnston and Jake (great-great-grandson) and Chelsie Johnston.

“It takes more than just us to make the rodeo happen,” says Ronda Johnston, B-T Rodeo Company Treasurer. “So many community members volunteer their time and effort behind the scenes. It’s funny, many of them have volunteered since Jake was a kid, and some even before that. Of course, there are younger people who step up and do their part now as well. I love this, because it’s like the whole community plays their part in putting on the rodeo; and they support us every single year by filling the stands. We are so grateful for the local community and their involvement in the rodeo.”

This year, Sweet Grass County celebrates the Centennial of the Big Timber Rodeo. Festivities kick off Friday, June 23, continuing thru Saturday, June 24, 2023. For more information, visit B-T Rodeo Company on Facebook.



SWEET GRASS FEST

A FAMILY FRIENDLY FESTIVAL



A SWEET STORY

Rodeo weekend welcomes class reunions, dancing, live music, and classic cars to Big Timber every June. In 2002, community volunteers worked to unite these events, add a street fair, and brand the weekend as Big Timber's summer festival: Sweet Grass Fest. Locals, visitors, and Herder grads flock to the fairgrounds for rodeo action after the parade downtown. The festival is named after sweetgrass: a sacred native plant found across the plains and prairies of the American West.

THE BEST FEST IN THE WEST

Festivities are thanks to many local groups including B-T Rodeo Company, American Legion Post #19, Big Timber Volunteer Fire Department, Montana on a Mission, Sweet Grass Community Foundation, Big Timber Lions Club, Pioneer Medical Center, Friends of Dornix Park, Big Timber FFA, City of Big Timber, and the Sweet Grass County Chamber of Commerce. To join the community for a weekend of family-friendly fun, come to Big Timber in late June and visit bigtimber.com for current information.

CENTENNIAL RODEO

Fans fill the stands each summer, as they have since 1923, for the annual Big Timber Rodeo. B-T Rodeo Company is a local nonprofit operated by the Johnston family, continuing the tradition of the legendary Cremer rodeo and Big Timber rodeo. The NRA-sanctioned event kicks off with Friday morning slack followed by the Friday night and Saturday night competitions. Join us for two fun evenings of Bareback Riding, Saddle Bronc Riding, Bull Riding, Steer Wrestling, Tie Down Roping, Team Roping, Ladies Barrel Racing, Ladies Breakaway, and the Junior/Rookie events.

CAR SHOW

Rat rods, classic cars, motorcycles, tractors, trucks, imports, and muscle cars line McLeod street vying for high marks from local judges. The American Legion and Legion Auxiliary welcome entries from across Montana, selecting winners for various categories. Both civilians and veterans can compete. Proceeds support Veteran and community projects, including the ongoing renovation of the Legion Hall in Big Timber. Sweet Grass Tech, a local youth-focused mechanic school, also displays project cars from current students.

STREET FAIR

From food trucks to fine furs, a diverse selection of handcrafted goods fill the street fair in Downtown Big Timber on Saturday. Local and regional vendors offer a variety of trinkets, toys, fine art, household goods, jewelry, clothing, and unique gifts. Major attractions include the infamous FFA Alumni french-fries and the newly expanded Kids Zone. Downtown shops, bars, and restaurants are also open for first-time visitors and lifelong residents alike.

PARADE

On Saturday afternoon, car show entries clear McLeod street to line up in the parade. Local businesses and community groups trail the American Legion to form a promenade for spectators.

LIVE MUSIC

Live music is offered at various venues throughout the weekend. Visit bigtimber.com for current information.



FUN RUN

Join us to depart downtown in the morning to complete a 5k loop. The route extends through the neighborhoods of Big Timber, then down to the beautiful Boulder River through Dornix Park. Proceeds benefit Montana on a Mission, a Christian charity that works to improve the lives of those needing help through local and international projects like the annual "Homeward Bound" week of service in Big Timber each August.

Online registration is open now:
<https://runnercard.com/roadrace/public/raceGroup/977045>

On site registration and packet pick up will be at the City Hall parking lot Friday evening (23rd) from 5:30 - 6:30 and Saturday morning from 7:15 - 8:00 a.m.

CLASS REUNIONS

While Sweet Grass Fest welcomes many tourists and first-time visitors to Big Timber, the weekend is all about the Herders. Other events are built on the foundation of the Class Reunions: where old friends gather to relive the glory days.

Visit bigtimber.com for the current schedule of events.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, June 23, 2023

- 8:00am Morning Slack
- 5:30pm Rodeo Gates Open
- 7:00pm 100th Annual Rodeo presented by B - T Rodeo Company
- 10:00pm Live Music

Saturday, June 24, 2023

- 7:00am Fireman's Breakfast
- 8:30am Montana on a Mission 5k Fun Run
- 9:00am Street Fair, Car Show, Kids Zone
- 2:00pm Parade
- 4:30pm Rodeo Gates Open
- 6:00pm 100th Annual Rodeo presented by B-T
- 10:00pm Live Music

FIBER FEST

FROM SHEEP TO SHAWL



FROM SHEEP TO SHAWL, local artisans showcase the best in fiber arts each May. With a vendor fair, demonstrations, culinary tour, hands-on activities, and fiber arts classes, Crazy Mountain Fiber Fest honors the historic wool industry in Sweet Grass County. Shirley Halverson, a local rancher and member of the Montana Wool Growers Association, wanted to share her love of raising sheep and creating fiber crafts from local wool. After attending a fiber festival in a neighboring community, Halverson approached the Chamber of Commerce with the idea of hosting one in Big Timber.

Initially, Halverson spun a small thread of volunteers together including Kelli Brewer, Connie Simonich, Debbie Henson, and Chamber Executive Director Julie Johnson in 2015. The group recruited new volunteers and grew the event each year. With continued outreach and new partnerships, the event has grown to a two day jamboree with various locations and activities. By sharing local history with residents and guests, the festival both preserves regional culture and highlights the economics of wool production.

“People raise sheep today for the same reasons they have for over a century in this area,” explains Johnson, “meat and wool. Lamb is a nutritional red meat high in protein and low in calories. Wool is used to make clothing, furniture, insulation, fertilizer, fine art, and much more. Lanolin, used for lotion, adhesive tape, and other products, is also derived from sheep production. Our hope is the festival will draw more attention to the importance of sheep producers.”

Festival participants can tour the wool house, a large brick warehouse in Big Timber along the railroad tracks where area shearers

shipped out bales of wool for generations. In 1895, shipment exceeded 4 million pounds, making Big Timber the world’s largest wool exporter. Although production has reduced exponentially, the facility is still used today for wool storage before the product goes to market. Event attendees can also explore McLeod Street. Downtown establishments and local food trucks joined the festival in 2022 with the Big Timber Lamb Jamb Restaurant Showcase, featuring menu items where lamb was a main ingredient. Dishes included the lamb-beef blend ‘Herder Burger’ at the Timber Bar and Grill, gyros at Crazy Peak Boutique, and lamb tacos from Bill’s Place BBQ and Catering. The focus of the event, however, remains at the Civic Center.

Vendors from across Montana offer artisan crafts. Items are made from a variety of animal and plant fibers including alpaca, sheep, rabbit, coconut, banana, bamboo, and much more. Products include clothing, home decor, fine art, and fiber crafting supplies. Both entry level and advanced fiber arts classes are offered by local and regional experts. For a small fee, students can learn dyeing, spinning, weaving, and felting. Volunteers also host free activities like wet and dry felting.

“One of my favorite memories was watching a man, who clearly was being dragged around the festival by his wife against his will, come to the wet felting station and begrudgingly agree to try it - since he had nothing better to do,” recalls Johnson. “Almost instantly I saw him start smiling and enjoying himself. Later he was telling his wife she should take it up, because you know he wanted to do it again. That right there is proof that you should always try new things.”

Outside, in Shepherder Square, there is a petting zoo, chuckwagon



Did you know...

In 1892, over two millions pounds of wool were shipped from Big Timber via rail



display, food trucks, and periodic sheep shearing demonstrations. Spectators watch Duane Myrstol, Harv Van Wagoner, and other volunteers shear wool from sheep. The wool is sorted at the carding table, where attendees can help clean and prep the wool. Next, the wool is dyed or left raw. A variety of techniques can be used to then spin the wool into yarn. Finally, the yarn is weaved, knitted, or crocheted into a final product. Fiber Fest attendees learn exactly how wool is transformed from sheep to shawl.

Inside, attendees can study the process step-by-step with the “Sheep to Shawl” display, organized in 2022 by Camile Palmer. Other exhibits include the Crazy Mountain Museum and Montana Wool Growers Association. Additionally, local artisans proudly enter fine art pieces into the Fiber Arts Showcase. With no prizes, awards, or rankings, the showcase is simply a place for locals to share what they have been working on with each other and the public.

“This festival is full of hands-on activities that anyone can participate in,” says Johnson, “but the real reason you should come is the people. You are guaranteed to meet amazing artists, folks with an array of cool skills who are happy to share them with you, and history buffs who can tell you fascinating stories about our community.”

Crazy Mountain Fiber Festival is on Friday, May 19th and Saturday, May 20th in 2023. The event is free and open to the public.



Crazy Mountain Fiber Fest

**Friday, May 19 &
Saturday, May 20, 2023**

• PRESENTED BY •

Fiber Fest Volunteers

**Sweet Grass County Chamber
of Commerce**

**Montana Wool Growers
Association**

Crazy Mountain Museum

BIG TIMBER FARMERS MARKET

A LITTLE FUN IN BIG TIMBER,
ALL SUMMER LONG



FRIDAY FUN

From the middle of July to early September, growers, merchants, and makers gather at Lions Club Park on McLeod Street each Friday to market their wares. Throughout the years, farmers markets in Big Timber have been established then abandoned as volunteer engagement, vendor availability, and economic conditions fluctuated. With a focus on community involvement and a family-friendly venue, a small group of volunteers transformed the Big Timber Farmers Market from a dusty Saturday morning gathering in a parking lot to a serious weekly market with something for everyone. From Ullman Lumber donating the handcart in the first season, to Sweet Grass Community Foundation granting funds to purchase a supply shed in 2021, the market is a volunteer-driven event with generous community support. Working through initial resistance, volunteers planted the seeds for a perennial event that yields a bountiful harvest: regular Friday fun - all summer long.

LAUNCHED AT LUNCH

In spring of 2017, a meeting was called to revive the farmers market in Big Timber. Monte Koch, Jami Moody, Christine Bakke, Vera Pederson, Kelli Brewer, and Lois Huffman discussed options and weighed tradeoffs. By the end of the lunchtime meeting, Huffman was appointed as the volunteer Market Master and the summer event series began.

“Our goal was to improve access to local produce, encourage sustainable living, and contribute to a sense of community,” recalls Huffman. “We believed that having the Market in the park on Friday evenings would give the community a pleasant way to wind down and catch up with friends after the work week. We also hoped to catch the interest of travelers and tourists making their way up the Boulder for their weekend getaways. A larger, long-term goal was to encourage interest in local produce gardening and to support local artisans.”

“The new Big Timber Farmers Market took off and was immediately a popular event,” Huffman explains, “The community was ready and eager for it. The change to Fridays in the park was genius. It was exhilarating to see our project take off.”

RAGS TO RADISHES

In the early days, the market operated on a shoestring budget. Musicians volunteered their talent and time, often receiving donations from the vendors as compensation, including cash tips, produce, baked goods, soap, and other items. Huffman and Koch built the market by creating a brand, commissioning a logo, distributing flyers, submitting advertisements, ordering banners, and convincing the City Council to allow use of Lions Club Park. As the success of the event compounded, local businesses began providing sponsorships. Each week, more and more longtime locals and first-time tourists would wander the market grounds. Despite challenges, the duo’s efforts yielded rave reviews and rad results.

After two seasons, the first Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Huffman at the Annual Chamber Banquet in 2019. “More than anyone,” Huffman explains, “this was Monte’s vision. He held the first meeting. He found the first funds, convinced the City Council to let us try, installed the electricity panel, and allowed the Market to use the Chamber’s insurance. I was the public face, but the Farmers Market would not have happened without Monte.”

Through the years, the focus remains to better serve the vendors and improve the event’s ambiance. With support from the Chamber and through Huffman’s efforts, Big Timber Farmers Market was awarded a grant from the USDA to purchase a fleet of stout tents. Holding up in inclement weather with a wind rating of 35 mph, the tents were purchased from TentCraft, a Veteran Owned company. The new fleet was designed, manufactured, and assembled in Michigan. For the 2022 season, the tents debuted with the iconic red radish waving in the breeze. With the tent fleet, Farmers Market offers vendors and attendees a professional experience and shelter from ‘refreshing’ rainstorms and hot summer sun.

PASSING OF THE BELL

One of the Market Master’s duties is to enforce the rules of the market. Vendors cannot begin selling until the market bell rings at 4:30 pm. During the fifth season of the market, Huffman ended her tenure as Market Master and returned to Oregon to be closer to



family. At the launch of the Market on July 29, 2022, Huffman passed the bell to the new Market Master: Sophie Barta.

“Farmers markets connect the community to fresh food, crafts, flowers, and much more,” boasts Barta. “It is a wonderful way to bring people together and support local producers. Vendors offer a variety of regular staples and exciting new items. Our market is small, but steadily blooming. I am looking forward to seeing the Market thrive and grow!”

Barta serves as Market Master, on the Board of Directors for the Chamber, and as manager at Earth Wise General Store. With gardening experience and volunteering with other markets, Barta adds a fresh perspective to build on the foundation laid by Huffman and Koch.

Familiar faces at the market include Tom and Linn Sharp with Big Pig BBQ, Natalie Zigweid’s authentic French macarons, and the Duncan Ranch Colony farmstand. Many volunteers, producers, sponsors, and artisans have built up the event over the years. The market is held at an expertly maintained city park with mature trees, a pool, a playground, and public art.

“Being Market Master for the first five years of Big Timber Farmers Market was the best job I ever had. The joy of doing the work, satisfaction of the results, recognition from the community, all the encouraging comments, and support for the Market were extremely satisfying,” says Huffman. “I poured my heart into the Market and, in return, it filled my soul.”

The Big Timber Farmers Market runs each Friday from mid-July thru early September. Visit bigtimber.com to view the calendar or email Sophie Barta at btfarmersmarket@gmail.com to get involved. Market grounds are at Lions Club Park, at the intersection of 8th Avenue and McLeod Street in Big Timber, Montana.



**LIVE MUSIC * FOOD TRUCKS
FRESH PRODUCE * BEER
LOCAL GOODS * FAMILY FUN**

**Each Friday from mid-July
thru early September**

The mission of the market is to provide a gathering place for local growers and artisans to offer their bounty to the community, and for the community to purchase fresh local produce and handcrafts in a convivial atmosphere.

SWEET GRASS BREWFEST



JOIN US for a taste of Montana made brews from across the region. Brewfest 2023 is on Friday, August 18th. The event is free and open to the public. Adults 21+ can sample beer for a small fee that includes a commemorative glass.

Visit bigtimber.com for more information.



**LOCAL BEER * LIVE MUSIC
FOOD TRUCKS
FARMERS MARKET
KIDS PLAYGROUND**

Friday, August 18, 2023

*Thank you to Triangle Communications, Sibanye-Stillwater, and Crazy Peak Brewing for supporting this event year after year.
. Thank you to American Bank, Opportunity Bank of Montana, Citizens Bank, and Sky Federal Credit Union for volunteering your time.*



CRAZY MOUNTAIN CHRISTMAS

YOUR HOMETOWN HOLIDAY

FAMILY FUN

The Sweet Grass County Chamber of Commerce, in an effort to keep locals in town and foster community, presents multiple opportunities for family fun each year. From the market to a tour of town, locals light up the night and deck the halls Montana style. Join us downtown to support local businesses.

WINTER MARKET

Downtown shopping opens up the day after Thanksgiving each November. Up and down McLeod Street, storefronts market the latest inventory and seasonal specials. Downtown Big Timber hosts businesses with long histories in the community alongside new stores for shoppers to explore. Kids of all ages can visit Santa to pose for photos and deliver their wish list. The Winter Market has vendors offering a variety of baked goods, pickled produce, handcrafted items, and artisan gifts. Shoppers peruse classic storefronts, local eateries, and a variety of vendor fairs to kickoff the season. Big Timber offers an authentic, relaxed, and family-friendly alternative to throngs of corporate consumers stampeding into big box stores. Join us for window shopping and downtown walking.

LIGHTED PARADE

Light up the night with a promenade of local businesses and civic organizations. Hometown highlights include the famous flames of Oie Motor, flashing lights of Big Timber Volunteer Fire Department, and horse drawn carriages from Greycliff Creek Ranch. The Lions Club dishes up chili at the American Legion while shoppers stroll downtown. Beautifully lit snowflakes and Christmas lights dress up downtown storefronts, Carnegie Library, and Sheepherder Square. With bar specials, sidewalk strolling, and parade tailgating, the Lighted Parade is a timeless Big Timber tradition. Join us for a hometown holiday.

CHRISTMAS CRUISE

Competing for the prize for best decorated home in town, residents enter their address in the official competition sanctioned by the Chamber. Attendees pick up and submit ballots in Sheepherder Square. Prospective participants can sign up by emailing chamber@bigtimber.com and winners are announced in the Big Timber Pioneer. Join us for a Christmas Cruise and town tour.

Sign up by emailing chamber@bigtimber.com.

2022 CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE
Cathy Radwanski, Citizens Bank and Trust Co.
Christine Bakke, Christine Bakke Photography
Sophie Barta, Earth Wise General Store
Bonnie Ferguson, Little Timber Quilts



AREA ATTRACTIONS

1. NATURAL BRIDGE FALLS

Named for a gravity defying limestone arch that once spanned the Boulder River just above the falls, which collapsed in 1988, Natural Bridge is located up the Boulder from Big Timber. Follow McLeod Street up Highway 298, south of town, to reach the park area. The falls fluctuate in appearance across the seasons, with the most runoff in early or mid-June.

Informational signs line the trails describing the geology and history of the area. The site features accessible paved trails and picnic tables and is the trailhead for Green Mountain Trail which will take you to a saddle offering a view of both the East Boulder and Main Boulder Valleys and both the river-fed corridors. These extended backcountry trails begin from the paved ADA-accessible viewpoints within the State Park. Join us for a quiet walk on a beautiful trail.

2. DOWNTOWN BIG TIMBER

Visit our historic downtown for shopping, dining, and to see what life is like in a real Montana small town. Big Timber is located at the intersection of the I-90 Business Loop and Highway 191 and near the confluence of the Boulder and the Yellowstone rivers. McLeod Street leads south to the Boulder River valley. Join us for a stroll downtown.

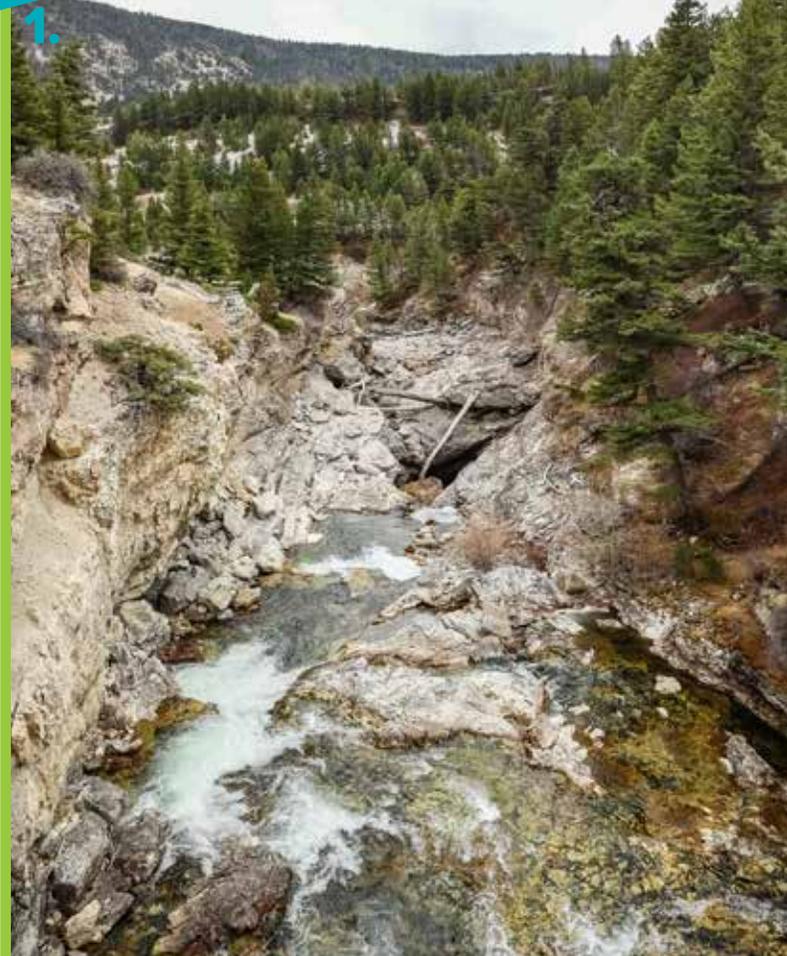
3. CRAZY MOUNTAIN MUSEUM

Our museum provides a historical look at Sweet Grass County with exhibits ranging from archaeological and geological finds and information to the Pioneer Room which features early settlers and their families, as well as exceptional rotating exhibits.

Don't miss the 'Cobblestone City,' a diorama that features a miniature recreation of the town of Big Timber as it existed in 1907. The display is over twelve feet long and six feet wide. It is built on a 1/16" to a 1' scale and shows Big Timber prior to the fire of 1908 that destroyed 1/3 of the downtown. Join us for a look back at our history.

4. CRAZY MOUNTAINS

The Crazy Mountains, which span a distance of 40 miles, are a part of the northern Rocky Mountains. Crazy Peak is at 11,209' above sea level, at a prominence of 5,719' from the prairie below. The bedrock is an igneous intrusion, known as the Big Timber stock to geologists. The Shields River, South Fork of the Musselshell River, Big Timber Creek, Otter Creek, and Sweet Grass Creek all originate in the Crazies. Join us for a breathtaking view.





2.



2.



3.



VISION

We want to see - the communities within Sweet Grass County prospering with a diverse and stable economy to pass on to the next generation.

MISSION

We exist - to serve businesses in Sweet Grass County with events, marketing, economic development, community outreach, and education.

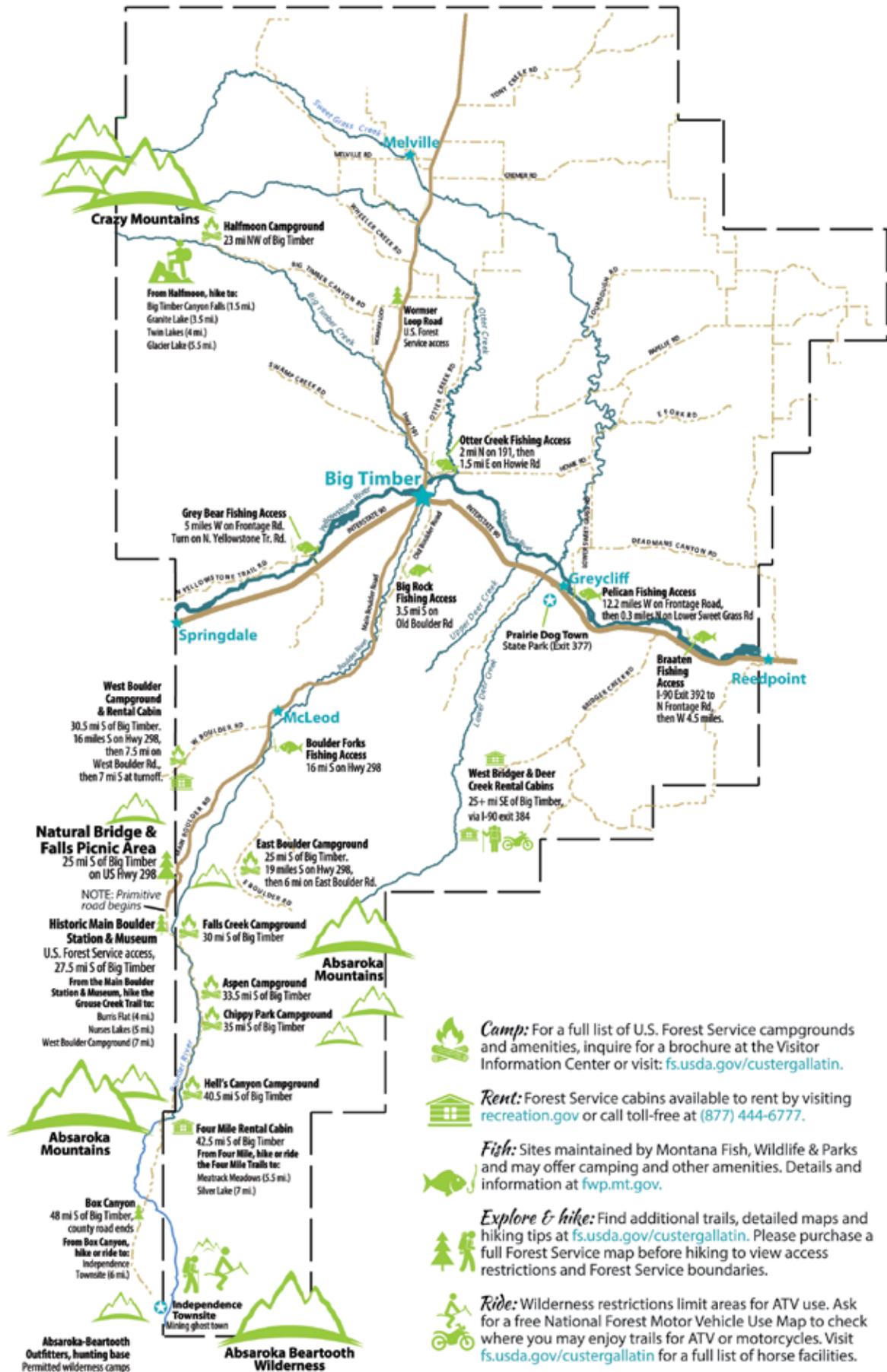
VALUES

We get things done through - involvement, partnership, stewardship, and leadership.

HISTORY

- 1919:** Sweet Grass County Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture established
- 1977:** Sweet Grass County Chamber of Commerce reformed
- 1992:** First Annual Crazy Mountain Christmas
- 1996:** Visitor Information Center Grand Opening
- 2002:** First Annual Sweet Grass Fest
- 2018:** First Annual Crazy Mountain Fiber Fest
- 2018:** Chamber launches Friday Big Timber Farmers Market
- 2020:** First Annual Sweet Grass Brewfest
- 2023:** First Ever Big Timber Magazine

www.bigtimber.com



SWEET GRASS FEST 2023

CELEBRATING
100 YEARS OF RODEO
IN BIG TIMBER!

FRIDAY
June 23rd
SATURDAY
June 24th

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

- » Centennial Rodeo
- » Parade
- » Car Show
- » Food Trucks
- » Live Music
- » Street Fair
- » Kids Zone



SPONSORED BY

