



P.O. Box 904
1-800-346-1876

Forsyth, MT 59327
custer@rangeweb.net

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT ALIVE IN CUSTER COUNTRY

Southeastern Montana is coming alive with Christmas Spirit as communities across the region show their Hometown Pride with tree lightings, parades, holiday strolls and, of course, Santa Claus!

“Custer Country is once again celebrating the Christmas season in a magical way, as our local communities observe the Holidays with lots of lights, trees, parades, caroling and incredible shopping opportunities,” said Custer Country President Rose Emily Longan. “Our hometown merchants and civic groups are working as hard as Santa’s elves to make 2006 a very memorable Christmas.”

Billings’ events include the traditional **“Christmas at the Moss Mansion,”** which features sixteen Christmas trees decorated by community volunteers and non-profit organizations. Guests to the historic 1903 mansion are encouraged to vote for their favorite tree for the 'Peoples Choice' Award. Tours run through January 6, Sunday to Friday: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., Saturday: 9:00 to 4:00 p.m., closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years, call 406-256-5100 for more information.

The **“Billings Holiday Parade,”** led by Santa Claus, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Friday, November 24, features more than 100 festive entries and lighted displays through downtown Billings. Contact the Downtown Billings Association at 406-259-5454 for more info.

Forsyth’s “Christmas Walk and Parade of Lights” offers decorated windows and extended shopping hours by local merchants, caroling and a multitude of floats along Main Street, all culminating in a Holiday fireworks display. The Parade and Walk runs from 7 until 9 p.m. Friday, November 24; for more info call the Forsyth Chamber of Commerce at 406-347-5656 or 1-877-4SYTH-MT.

Glendive’s “Holiday Light Parade” brightens Merrill Avenue at 7 p.m. Friday, November 24 with majestic floats and glittering Christmas lights. Shoppers are helped by holiday shopping hours, children can have their photo taken with Santa, and Christmas music fills the air. For more info, contact the Glendive Chamber of Commerce at 406-377-5601.

Miles City’s AAUW Christmas Market is the largest event of its type in Eastern Montana, featuring vendors from across Montana and neighboring states who sell crafts and wrapped baked goods, ceramics, artwork, woodcarvings and many other gifts. Miles Community College has hosted the event for more than twenty-five years. For more info, call the local Chamber at 406- 232-3748.

Roundup’s Christmas Stroll, set for Saturday, November 25, begins with the **“Jingle All The Way”** parade at 4:30 p.m. As the floats travel from north to south on Main Street, the town’s

Christmas lights will begin to glow. When the parade ends, Santa Claus will join the Children's Carnival at Wells Fargo Bank. For more info, call 406-323-3544.

Working with Travel Montana, Custer Country serves thirteen counties: Big Horn, Carter, Custer, Dawson, Fallon, Golden Valley, Musselshell, Powder River, Prairie, Rosebud, Treasure, Wibaux, and Yellowstone, as well as the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Reservations.

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For More Information, Contact Robin Urban
406.697.0941 mtrru@hotmail.com