



‘FOR ALL TO ENJOY’



BEN ALLAN SMITH, MISSOULIAN

A Douglas fir is harvested from within a Good Neighbor Authority project on U.S. Forest Service land near Seeley Lake for the Montana Capitol Christmas tree which will be displayed in the Capitol rotunda.

2025 State Capitol Christmas tree harvested in Seeley Lake

MISSOULIAN STAFF

A Douglas fir felled on U.S. Forest Service land in Seeley Lake is headed to Helena to stand as the State Capitol Christmas tree this holiday season.

The tree will make its way to the Capitol Rotunda and will be decorated in the coming days, according to a press release from Gov. Greg Gianforte’s office.

“Each year, it’s a privilege to bring a tree from our public lands into the State Capitol for all to enjoy,” Gianforte, who attended the tree-cutting, said in the

release. “Through the Good Neighbor Authority, the State of Montana and the Forest Service work together to actively manage our forests and improve their health. This year’s tree is an example of the good work happening to reduce fire risk in Montana.”

A tree-lighting ceremony with the governor and first lady is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 1 at 5 p.m. in the Capitol Rotunda.

The tree was harvested in coordination with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.



Gov. Greg Gianforte speaks during the harvesting event near Seeley Lake on Monday.

UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

Galloway named Regents professor

JENNY LAVEY
UM News Service

The Montana Board of Regents has named Julia Galloway, a University of Montana professor and director of ceramics, a Regents professor, the highest honor conferred upon faculty in the Montana University System.

Galloway is the 14th UM faculty member to earn the professor rank since it was established in 1991, and she is the first visual artist from UM to receive the distinction.

“I’m delighted the arts are being recognized in this way,” Galloway said. “The Regents Award brings a level of real credibility to the arts as a sincere endeavor of scholarship and research. This gives students hope in a different kind of way that they’re doing something essential and worthy.”

UM President Seth Bodnar said Galloway’s impact on the arts at UM has been tremendous.

“Professor Galloway embodies the best of what higher education in Montana stands for — creativity, service and excellence,” said UM President Seth Bodnar. “Through her art and teaching, she has brought international recognition to the University of Montana and inspired countless students to find purpose in their craft.”

An internationally recognized artist and educator, Galloway is celebrated for her pioneering work in ceramics in Montana and across the country, her commitment to sustainability and her lauded mentorship of generations of emerging artists.

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DOWNTOWN MISSOULA

Police investigating shooting

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The Missoula Police Department is investigating after a man was shot in the leg, leading to a shelter-in-place order on Tuesday night in downtown Missoula.

The Missoula Police Department issued an alert at 7:38 p.m. on Tuesday evening asking people to shelter in place for two blocks around the intersection of Ryman Street and West Broadway, near the Missoula County Courthouse.

The alert said it was “due to an incident downtown.”

According to MPD Sgt. Canyon McKinstry, who was on scene, another officer at the downtown station heard four gunshots fired nearby at 7:19 p.m. Police responded to the incident at the 200 block of Ryman Street and found a 27-year-old male victim who had been shot in the leg, according to an MPD press release sent Tuesday night. The male was transported to St. Patrick Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Police recovered several shell casings and a firearm at the scene, according to the release.

There was a heavy police presence in the area downtown, and police used a dog to search trash cans.

Missoula Police Department Spokesperson Whitney Bennett told the

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