

Sidney's Top



of 2013

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Katie Dasinger, Project Assistant

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3D Mammography Added to Diagnostic Services at Sidney Health Center in 2013

Submitted by Rita Steinbeisser
Women who undergo routine mammograms at Sidney Health Center now have the latest screening and diagnostic technology available to them.

Through a grant in the amount of \$512,520 from the Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Center, Sidney Health Center was able to purchase a Selenia® Dimensions® breast tomosynthesis system that is made by Hologic. Additional funds were provided by the Caring Corner Gift Shop and Good Cents Store in the amount of \$134,000 to pay for the tomosynthesis portion of the 3D mammography unit.

The Selenia Dimensions system offers exceptionally sharp breast images, an advanced ergonomic design providing more patient comfort, and the groundbreaking tomosynthesis platform designed to deliver superior screening and diagnostic performance.

"We are thrilled to be among the growing number of facilities across the nation

designated as a Pink Ribbon Facility that offers Hologic breast tomosynthesis for area women," stated Linda Labatte, radiology manager. "The 3D mammography adds another level of detecting cancer at its earliest stage and compliments our cancer care services nicely!"

Breast tomosynthesis produces a three-dimensional view of the breast tissue that helps radiologists identify and characterize individual breast structures without the confusion of overlapping tissue. In fact, breast cancer screening with tomosynthesis has a higher cancer detection rate than conventional 2D mammography alone.¹ Tomosynthesis technology gives radiologists increased confidence with a significant reduction in recall rates.²

The tomosynthesis screening experience is similar to a traditional mammogram. During a tomosynthesis exam, multiple, low-dose images of the breast are acquired at different angles. These images are then used to produce a series of one-millimeter thick slices

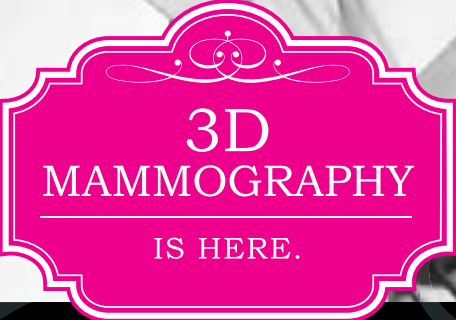
that can be viewed as a 3D reconstruction of the breast.

By offering women the latest technology in mammography, Sidney Health Center expects to increase the number of area women who will be routinely screened. Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among women, exceeded only by lung cancer. Statistics indicate that one in eight women will develop breast cancer sometime in her lifetime. The stage at which breast cancer is detected influences a woman's chance of survival. If detected early, the five-year survival rate is 98 percent.³

Sidney Health Center is committed to the fight against breast cancer. In offering breast tomosynthesis digital mammography, Sidney Health Center provides the latest in imaging technology. If you would like to schedule a mammogram or have questions about this important breast health procedure, please contact your medical provider.

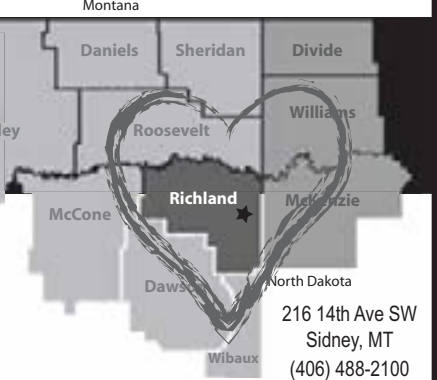


Mammography Staff pictured left to right (back): Joan Marx, Melyssa Bauer and Jessica Dorwart; (front) Linda Labatte and Amy Stewart



"The 3D mammography adds another level of detecting cancer at its earliest stage and compliments our cancer care services nicely!"
Linda Labatte, SHC Radiology Manager

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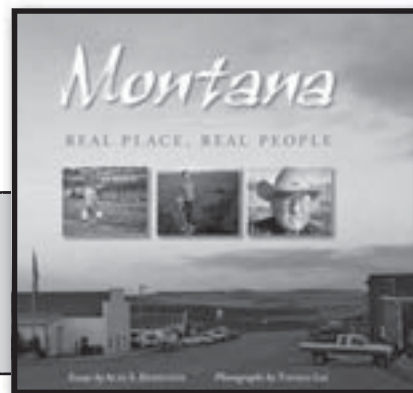
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Mayor Smelser's Top 10

Bret Smelser will end a 12 year term serving as mayor of Sidney after choosing not to seek re-election. Although no one accomplishes everything they set out to when elected, Mayor Smelser is proud of what he and the city council have done during his time in office.

1. HB758 in 2005 gave the city 1/10th of 1% of the county's oil production, split between Sidney and Fairview. "It's the glue that's held us together," Smelser said. "It's not enough to do major projects but it has given us some breathing room."

2. Balanced budget. The budget has been balanced and cash brought forward, with increased cash reserves each year until this one when the city is starting to have to spend those reserves on infrastructure.

3. 3vs.4. The revamping of Central Avenue was done for safety, the slowing and controlling of traffic, and to anchor downtown businesses with 10 vs. 8 feet of parking.

Urban forestry. Sidney has been a Tree City USA for 12 years in a row. Close to 2500 trees have been planted in the past 14 years. The downtown enhancement project is also scheduled for 2014.

5. Increasing the walking paths which were started when Smelser was a councilman. People use the 2 1/2 miles of paths daily, all the way from the high school

to Millers' Corner junction. Richland County completed the path to that junction once the city had completed their share on 5th St. S.E.

6. Governor Nutter's statue. The statue was built using all private donations, and placed in Veteran's Memorial Park. "To me, it gives our kids the idea that leaders can come from Sidney. Hopefully it inspires them to accomplish more. And it reconnects us with our past," Smelser said.

7. Involvement with The Montana League of Cities & Towns and President in 2007. "It's important. We need to stay engaged with them," he said. Five mayors and one councilman from Sidney have served as president of the Montana League of Cities and Towns in the past 50 years.

8. Leadership. "I hope I have provided steady leadership. I've always been ready to listen, yet ready to fight for what was good for the majority of Sidney. I hope I could be counted on to be steady at the helm. Going at least once a year for ten years to Mr. Faulhaber's government class, dealing with the kids, has given me a great perspective."

9. Oil & Gas Commissioner. "I represent all of Eastern Montana on the commission because that's where our funds come from. I want to keep an eye on the budget. HB 758 was only



Bret Smelser

temporary. Those funds could disappear." Smelser will be on the board for at least one more year.

10. Infrastructure and Recreation. "For 5 or 6 years, we were on a schedule to replace 2 to 4 blocks a year of our 100 year old water and sewer mains. Then, we had to switch gears and start new projects to accommodate new growth and subdivisions. 170 acres were purchased in 2005 and 2006 to give us design options on a new sewer lagoon. A 15" sewer collector line was laid 2 years ago from the Justice Center to the Sunrise subdivision. The main offal line has been redone from the city boundaries to the lagoon. We appreciate the county commissioners' assistance on that project.

Recreational opportunities were increased with the addition of the new splash pool, the water slide, the skate park, and Sidney's 19th park which contain the new tennis courts and native landscaping.



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B&B Builders, Inc. Adds B&B Trailer Sales & Service, B&B Steel Buildings, Continues to Build Sidney



By Dianne Swanson

With a strong background and a faith in the future, B&B Builders, Inc. continues to build Sidney and the surrounding area. Roger and Don Byer moved to Sidney in 1981 when the area was booming. One year later, things had slowed way down but the brothers stayed and eventually turned B&B Builders into a major construction company and developer.

The first subdivision completed by B&B was the 15 acre

parcel off Holly northwest of Sidney in 2011. Continental Resources and Crescent Electric Supply own businesses there while HD Supply and Jaguar Energy Services have long-term leases.

Because of their past experience working with B&B, Continental Resources called them looking for 1 or 2 lots in the new subdivision. "We worked together on the design and went forward from there," Roger stated. Continental also has

plans for more development as well.

Crescent, HD and Jaguar are large companies which have chosen to expand to Sidney. Crescent Electric Supply opened their 8th Montana location in Sidney in April of 2013. They are in the top 10 largest electric supply distributors nationwide. Jaguar Energy Services, an industry leader in flowback and well testing, expanded to Sidney from Crowley, LA. "They're the nicest folks you'll ever meet," Roger said.

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They have 12 to 20 guys who work out of their base in Sidney. Most of the time those workers are in the field but they are struggling to find permanent housing in Sidney.

HD Supply is the 4th and final business to locate in the subdivision. They provide electrical supplies for residential to industrial use.

"These companies are excited to be here. We needed them and what they supply. They are now a permanent fixture, paying taxes, bringing well paid jobs with benefits which in turn benefits the area's economy. They see lots of opportunity now and in the future. They are here for the long term," Roger said.

Downtown Sidney has been improved by the purchase of the JC Penney, J's Fashion Threadz and Trading Post buildings by B&B Builders Inc. Renovations such as the new sidewalk by Penneys and the facelift at the Trading Post continue to take place. "Even with all our contacts, we have to wait for things to get done too," Roger said.

South of town, another parcel has been developed with part of it sold to Northwest Pipe. "They're a plumbing supply company and nice neighbors to have. We've been needing them in this area a long time. They're a great group to work with," Roger said.

The other part of the development consists of B&B Trailer Sales & Service and B&B Steel Buildings.

B&B Trailer Sales & Service opened in late October of 2013 with Mark Brodhead as manager. The company sells and services flatbed, utility, ATV, gooseneck and enclosed trailers by such brand names as B-B Trailers, Haulmark and P.J. Trailers. They also feature a complete repair and service department and carry an extensive

line of parts and accessories. B&B Trailer Sales and Service is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call the office at 406-433-1888 or Mark at 406-480-7332.

B&B Steel Buildings is the new home for Chief Steel Buildings and Butler Steel Buildings. B&B Builders, Inc. has been a dealer for those buildings, but the new space, with manager Jim Bell, provides a comfortable buying experience for the customers. The company provides a full line of options from agricultural buildings to commercial and retail. B&B Steel Buildings offers everything from excavation to completion, or they can supply the materials and clients can arrange for their own construction. Design options are also available, with professional assistance to ensure the structure fits the needs of the buyer. B&B Steel Buildings is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call them at 406-433-1888 or Jim at 406-480-7249.

Conoco Phillips and Wilson also lease properties on CR 350 from B&B. "These are long-term, stable companies who were here during the last boom and came back when things picked up."

B&B's latest venture started with the purchase of 69 acres from Hank and Bev Stip. The property south of Sidney is now being developed, with the sewer already in and gravel being put in for the new paved road through the property. Unknown issues have caused some problems, but B&B should have final approval to sell lots before the end of the year. Several entities are already looking at some of the 16 industrial lots available. B&B plans to break ground on several projects for tentative buyers as soon as weather permits. By the time the buildings are done,

the infrastructure will be in place. Roger said, "Our goal as developer is to sell the land. B&B Builders would be more than happy to construct buildings to go with that land."

Next fall, a 34 space trailer court will also be ready for occupancy. All industrial and trailer parcels are being sold by Beagle Properties. Anyone interested is encouraged to call them at 406-482-4480.

Byers appreciate the support of the community throughout their various developments. "We have made a multi-million dollar investment in Sidney with this development. Stockman Bank has been with us and beside us in our ventures of development in Richland County and Sidney for the last 25 years. This is our biggest venture with them so far and it's working extremely well," Roger said.

Roger is pragmatic about the development process in Richland County. "The development process is extremely painful," he said. "But, in the world of development and for the betterment of everyone involved, especially the future owners, the process may be necessary. Everyone does their best to move forward on these projects. It's not just local, but state regulations that must also be followed." B&B's northwest subdivision was the first minor subdivision approved in Sidney since the early 80s. It was fairly easy. Now the rules have changed. They're much more defined.

Byers are very optimistic about the future of Sidney and the surrounding area. "We needed a change of mindset – an appreciation of what the community can do together. We need everyone involved to make these things work. We need the community to welcome new businesses, just like they welcomed us in '81. So far, they seem to be."

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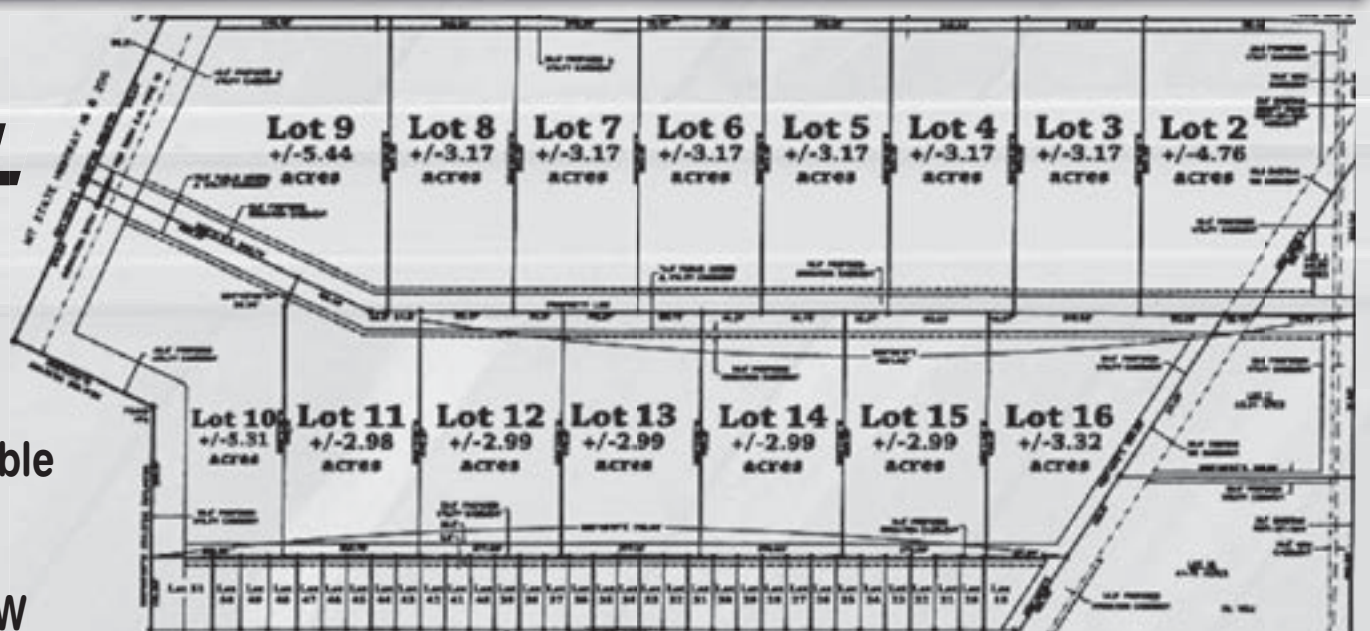
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Boys and Girls Club Making a Difference

By Jaimee Green

51,300 homework assignments completed. 3,230 games of freeze tag. 32,300 books read by children. 57,000 art projects created. 40,375 board games played. 178,000 pictures colored. 1,140 birthdays celebrated. 565 volunteers. 973 lives enriched.

The numbers are staggering.

At the Boys and Girls Club, of Richland County, success is not only evident in the numbers, but in the stories that can be told by the people who have helped keep the non-profit organization's doors open for nearly 10 years. During that time, the Club has helped bridge a gap for youth who would otherwise be home alone while their parents are working in the afternoon or who simply need a place to go where they can be safe while participating in positive and enriching activities.

This year, there are 120 local children enrolled in the organization with an average of 60 youth participating at the Club daily. "This year we

actually had parents lining up as early as 3:00 a.m. to ensure their child got signed up for the programs and activities we offer," said Marissa Schoepp, Board President for the Club.

On Jan 24, the local organization will celebrate its 10th birthday by throwing an oversized birthday party complete with games, cake and appetizers. The event is tentatively set to take place at 5 p.m. at the Club or in the gymnasium of Central School.

"The Club plays a huge role in this community. It is a place where youth can come and be involved with other members while providing them with a safe place to spend their time. Essentially, we are really one big family," Schoepp said.

She became involved in the Club after moving back to the area five years ago and looking for different ways to become active in the community. After picking up her nieces from the Club a number of times, she was impressed by how much they enjoyed their time there. "I

would sometimes try to pick them up early to have a little quality time with them and they would tell me I would have to come back because it wasn't time to leave," Schoepp recalled.

The programs are coordinated by Sarah Berndt, Program Coordinator, based on available funding and the materials they have on hand. Some of the programs include arts and crafts, power hour; a time for tutoring and help with homework, games, gym and SMART Moves (Skills Mastery and Resistance Training). This prevention and education program is geared toward addressing problems such as drug and alcohol use. It teaches more than just the importance of saying no by incorporating role playing and discussion that shows youth how to say no.

Many of the youth who participate in the Club strive to become part of the Junior Volunteer Program which allows them to help organize some aspects of the local organization. They can assist with simple tasks such as

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Congratulations Sidney on your new growth!

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lining up the children during snack time and other activities and programs.

The Club is funded through state and federal grants and local donations.

Throughout the year a number of fundraising activities take place to help subsidize the organization's needs. The Parade of Trees has been successful for many years through the community's support. This year, Club youth created their own tree made of green painted egg cartons and handmade ornaments. The tree is currently on display at Eagle Country Ford.

On March 15, a dinner and silent and live auction will take place at the Richland County Fair Event Center and will serve as another fundraiser event. Catered by the Ranger, attendees will have the option of eating a chicken fried steak or roast beef dinner. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased at the Club or from any board member. The money that is raised will go into the general fund for staffing and material needs.

Since first opening, the Club has relocated twice and currently is in the Central School. With the growing number of students attending school in the area the Board was worried they may lose their current location but Dr. Daniel Farr, District Superintendent for Sidney Schools, worked with them to help ensure they will be able to stay at their present location.

The Club currently employs three full-time employ-



(L-R) Branden Harris, Luke Bergeron, Jed Calvin, Casen Cowell, Justin Cliften and Ali Thogersen enjoy a snack in the cafeteria.



Hattie Brothen (left) and Madison Kapp enjoy the playground equipment at Central School.

ees and five part-time high school students.

"We strive to inspire and enable all young people to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens. We want

them to learn manners, ethics and morals and also find the confidence they need to reach their full potential," Schoepp said.

The cost for an annual membership is \$30.



(L-R) Gage Gustafson, Kaileigh LaRoche, Lucy Sommerfeld, Cassidy Wadley and Hailey Selensky.

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Parkview Village Opens for Low Income Families

By Jaimee Green

The opening of an affordable housing complex is making it easier for a number of families to find cheaper housing during a time when housing costs have reached unprecedented increases associated with the Bakken Oil Boom.

The Parkview Village opened in late September as a partnership between the Richland County Housing Authority, the Richland Affordable Housing Corporation and the Mountain Plains Equity Group of Billings.

Located near Crestwood Inn, Parkview provides 20 apartments with one, two and three bedrooms and new appliances and central air conditioning. Each unit renter also receives a covered car port.

“This project came about because we identified there was a need for housing. Parkview set the precedent for developing a waiting list for affordable housing within the county. We never had to do that in the past,” said Stacey Netz, Deputy Director for the Housing Authority.

Currently, there are several vacancies in the complex with applications being reviewed. The average wait-time for an opening is between six and nine months.

One of the goals of the project was to ensure affordable housing would allow community members not involved in the oil activity to continue to live and work in the area. “There is a need for those people who work in other industries to be able to also support the other aspects of the community where

wages aren't as high,” Netz said.

The project began with an application for tax credits and is funded entirely by those credits received through the state. “It has been a while since this kind of low income housing has been built and the tax credits were the first ever awarded to Sidney,” said Netz.

Rent is figured as a flat amount based on each family or individual's income with a cap at 60-percent median income for a family. This means a family of four can't make more than \$35,000 annually.

“We wanted to be able to provide quality housing those families can be proud of. We wanted to ensure they have a safe place to raise their families while knowing they will be able

to afford their rent at the end of every month,” she added.

Once renters move in, the rent will not increase. Rental rates for a one-bedroom unit are \$570 or less while two-bedroom unit rates are \$685. Three-bedroom units are \$775 or less.

The County has 80 low income housing units within the county and offers housing to over 250 individuals and families through Parkview, housing units in Fairview and Crestwood Inn.

For information on Parkview Village's low income housing contact (406) 433-1978 or pick up an application at 1032 6th St. SW. Applications are also available at the apartments from 8:00 a.m. to 10 a.m., Monday through Friday. Background and credit checks are included in the application process.



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Eastern MT Impact Coalition Making A Difference

By Dianne Swanson

The Eastern Montana Impact Coalition (EMIC) is a unique collaboration of three economic development districts and 1 local development organization formed with the concept that 4 entities working together toward a common goal can accomplish much more than those 4 entities working separately. The coalition leverages resources and coordinates services for its counties and communities to encourage planning, housing development, and obtaining financing for critical infrastructure.

The organizations involved are Great Northern Development Corporation serving Sheridan, Valley, Daniels, Roosevelt, McCone and Garfield counties with Martin DeWitt, executive director; Richland Economic Development Corporation, Leslie Messer executive director; Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation serving Dawson, Prairie, Wibaux, Fallon and Carter counties, Jason Rittal executive director; Southeastern Montana Development Corporation serving Treasure, Rosebud, Custer and Powder River counties, Jim Atchison executive director.

According to DeWitt, EMIC is a trend setting thing not done anywhere else in the nation. "We have a

very unique opportunity with EMIC," he said. The idea for the collaboration started with conversations at the end of a MEDA conference. During the discussions concerning energy impacts and other issues facing economic development organizations, it was determined that the 4 entities face the same issues and obstacles in bringing successful economic development to their specific areas. Rather than chasing the same funding "like stray cats", it was decided to work collaboratively and collectively. "Eastern Montana is one big neighborhood and if something helps a neighbor, it helps you as well," DeWitt said.

The initial step was to form a memorandum of understanding that the goal was to achieve something to deal with energy impacts. Priorities were set which included formulating a plan of action, hiring a resource coordinator and a planner. It was determined that the group had \$20,000 in local matching funds which could be used to go after other channels or pools of money. That \$20,000 has been leveraged into \$380,000 in funding.

The first step was to fund an impact study. Jones, Lang and LaSalle, (JLL) a firm based in Seattle, was hired and has completed the pre-

liminary study. JLL & EMIC provided a centrally located meeting of all 16 NE Counties, called the Community Outreach Event which was held in Miles City. The group presented their findings and garnered input from the attendees on further issues that need to be addressed.

They also participated in the Jobs Summit held by Senator Baucus in Butte. They received more input from the private sector and attempted to get the pulse of the industries involved. The findings from those two events, a legislative social, as well as the energy forum involving Canadian businesses which the group sponsored recently in Sidney, will be incorporated into the final draft of the impact study.

Once the final draft is in place, EMIC will be able to offer the various communities appropriate measures to help them move forward. The regional planner may be deployed to help with growth policies and capital improvement plans since many of the counties represented by EMIC do not have a planner on staff. Once specific plans are developed, the resource coordinator will assist the communities with applying for funds to accommodate the needs each one is facing. "These are definite resources we can provide," DeWitt

explained.

EMIC was able to collaborate as a coalition during the 2013 legislative session, and plans to do the same in 2015. They testified as a group on different bills which pertained to infrastructure impacts in their 16 Counties. "Working together with the legislature, we will try to come up with underwriting for infrastructure needs," stated Messer. "We will support legislation which improves economic development and our region," Rittal added. As a group and individually, the directors are in contact with representatives and legislators year round.

"We have a unique situation with 4 economic development groups who technically are competitors working together to leverage Time, Effort and Money. Eastern Montana is short on all three," Atchison stated. With more bang for the buck and support from Liz Ching, formerly from Max Baucus' office, as well as other government entities, the group hopes to minimize the impacts from not only oil and gas but railroads and coal as well.

EMIC has also held discussions with their colleagues in North Dakota. "It's not just Montana. Our work has no political or geographical borders," Atchison added. Rittal praised the synergy that the 4 directors have. Because of

their great relationship, EMIC has been able to bring development to Eastern Montana that potentially could have gone to North Dakota. "Had we not all worked together and all been at the table, we may have lost IAP to North Dakota," he said. "It really helps that we are willing to work together. We all recognize that Eastern Montana is a close community where neighbors help each other. We put our egos aside to do what's best for everyone."

Messer also praised the working relationship and the opportunities that come from working together. Each director brings an individual skill set to the group as well as knowledge of specific areas. DeWitt invited Messer to his annual meeting in Wolf Point in August, where Bruce Kanai, from Floating Islands International was the guest speaker. Messer, along with County commissioner Shane Gorder and the Richland County sanitarian, was able to bring back an alternative option for our area's lagoon challenges.

EMIC has additionally received national publicity due to the uniqueness of the organization. Interviews in Forbes Magazine and National Geographic, plus documentaries on Montana PBS are helping to spread the word throughout the state

and the country.

The group is excited about the future. They acknowledge that we face tremendous challenges but that ours is a better problem to have than some parts of the country. "The reality is that Eastern Montana sits on a tremendous opportunity. We need financial capital from the state and federal level. We can capitalize on that revenue to develop businesses which pay taxes which drive the government," DeWitt said. "We need to get over that hump."

Messer explained that ultimately the group would like to have a new funding mechanism in place whereby EMIC could help fund business projects, separately from any state funds. Looking forward, EMIC defines its goal as such: "Clearly identifying and preparing for impacts to eastern Montana communities will enable economic growth in the region. This plan is a proactive effort to ensure wise investment of resources to the areas of highest need, leading to job creation, increased tax base and healthy communities."

Anyone wishing more information is encouraged to contact DeWitt at 406-653-2590; Rittal at 406-698-3255, Messer at 406-482-4679 or Atchison at 406-748-2990.

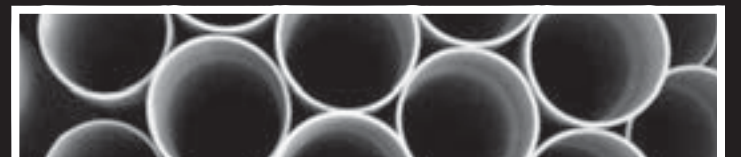


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Tri-County Implement Turns 25; Wins MT Family Business of the Year



Tri-County employees back row: Jim Propp, Drue Roberts, Rick Sharbono, Will McCament and Tyler Christensen. Front row: Stefanie Moen, Larry Christensen, Tami Christensen, Lee Pourroy and Taryn Sivertson. Not pictured Lane Obergfell.

By Dianne Swanson

Tri-County Implement celebrated its 25th year of business in Sidney, captured the Montana Family Business of the Year award and continues to expand to meet the needs of its customers.

After acquiring the majority stock, and at the urging of Case IH, Walt McNutt relocated the former H&H Implement from Choteau, Mont. to Sidney in 1988. That same year, Walt's daughter Tami and her husband Larry Christensen joined what had become Tri- County Implement. They have since purchased the majority of the company. Christensens' son Tyler recently graduated from MSU Northern with a BS in diesel technology and is also working at Tri County. He plans to eventually purchase a majority of the business which would make him the third generation owner.

During Tri-County's 25 years in Sidney, they have expanded 4 times. The most recent addition involved demolishing a 30' X 40' parts area and building a 7200 sq. ft. shop and expanded parts area with a conference room and specialty tool and parts storage upstairs. The expansion was necessary to accommodate the increased work load and the ever-larger farm equipment. The shop has 24' sidewalls and a 30' X 20' garage door. "A new combine just barely fits through it," Larry commented.

Being environmentally friendly is important to Tri-County. Erecting a second storage building in 2006 allowed them to add bulk oil and hydraulic fluid to their inventory. This helps to keep the cost down for their customers and is environmentally friendly with no oil barrels on the property. The company also heats their shop with

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25 years ago, Walt McNutt brought his business expertise, his family & some staff from western Montana (Choteau) to Sidney & re-established a Case IH dealership: Tri-County Implement Inc. We at 1st Bank recognize the many contributions this move has made to the Sidney community.

Thank you Walt, Karen, Tami, Larry & the Tri-County staff!



PS: Thanks Walt for your many years as a 1st Bank Director!

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oil burner furnaces so they can burn any used oil. They also recycle antifreeze and Freon.

Tri-County Implement continually provides training to keep their staff up to date on the latest advances in farm equipment and technology. Under the leadership of Will McCament, who has been trained on the cutting edge of GPS and AFS farming, their precision farming department has grown 150% in the last 3 years. Tri-County promoted and installed the first RTK unit in the area which gives farmers the advantage of using a satellite signal to run their pivots and their tractors. Their qualified Field IQ technician can also rate and section fields for sprayers and planters.

Employee turnover has not been a problem at Tri-County. "We have been very lucky with our key employees," Tami said. Lee Pourroy moved from Choteau to Sidney with the company 25 years ago, but has been with the company for over 36 years. Wade Roberts has been the service manager for 18 years, Jim Propp and Rick Sharbono have been service technicians for 24 and 17 years respectively.

The Tri-County family has always believed in giving back to the community and the state. McNutt just completed 16 years serving in the Montana legislature. He also serves on the Essential Air Service board, the Montana Aeronautics board, the 1st Bank board of directors, the Sidney air show committee, and is current president of the Sidney Airport Authority. He just completed 16 years on the Montana Equipment Dealers board, and is a founding member of Richland Economic Development.

Tami currently serves as president of Richland Economic Development, treasurer of the Montana Jaycee Foundation, board member for the Montana Equipment Dealers Association, president of the Sidney Cemetery Board and committee member for the PPL grant foundation. She is also an ROI Foundation board member, a Richland County Fair board member, a Montana Chamber Foundation board member and an active Kiwanian.

Larry currently serves as the fire chief for the Richland County Fire Department and has been a fireman for 14 years. He also serves on the park board and belongs to the Sidney Elks club. He is a past president of the Sidney Jaycees.

Tyler was active in hockey and Skills USA in high school and college and plans to coach, referee and play hockey now that he has returned to Sidney.

Christensens' daughter Andrea is an office assistant at Prewitt & Co. and will soon be married to Chase Prewitt.

Larry, Tami and the crew at Tri-County look forward to serving the community for a long time to come. An open house is being planned, but in the meantime visit them at 2429 W. Holly St. or call 406-488-4400.



Sidney Volunteer Fire Department Turns 100

The Sidney Volunteer Fire Department celebrated it's 100th anniversary in 2013. Left: The Tiger Cubs from Pack 143 visited the Sidney Fire Department during Fire Prevention Week. They learned about what to do in case of a fire, fire equipment and fire safety.

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By Dianne Swanson

The Shops At Fox Run officially opened on Tuesday, November 19 with Reynolds Market, ElectricLand and ALCO welcoming customers to their new stores. The Lucky Buckle opened on November 25, with Sidney Liquor, PB&J, Subway, Candlewood Inn & Suites and High Caliber Sports scheduled to open in 2014. Talks continue with other businesses interested in building on the property.

This exciting addition north of Sidney was started with a vision by Reynolds Corporation which included not only a much larger store for them, but also a collection of businesses that would provide a total shopping experience for the MonDak region. With excellent cooperation from Associated Foods and their subsidiary Market Development, the project quickly went from vision to completion in just over a year. The property was purchased from Joe and Leslie Russell, approval was received from the city, and Langlas & Associates started building.

Reynolds Market more than doubled it’s floor space, adding thousands of new items to the shelves. The deli, under the capable management of Coral Diede, provides breakfasts and lunches plus all your favorite meats and cheeses freshly sliced to your specifications, or just relax with your favorite beverage in front of the warm fireplace.

Gary Lee packed up his smiley face cookies and headed

out to Reynolds Market as the manager of the new bakery. Pick up some freshly baked bread or goodies, or place an order for something special.

The floral department under the leadership of Dianne Aamoth provides fresh flowers and plants, plus all the fun extras for your celebration.

Joe Torres in the produce department and Josh Reynolds in the meat department continue to offer customers the high quality items Reynolds is known for.

Store manager Ron Utgaard is very pleased with the first month of operations in the new location. “It’s gone really well,” he said. “There were a few hiccups but for as big a project as we did, and moving when we did, it went pretty darn good. The new departments have gone really good with the experienced department heads we have.”

ElectricLand, your local Radio Shack dealer, has also had a great first month. Owner Raleigh Peck said sales are going well. “We’ve seen lots of new people, and we’re enjoying the new space.” ElectricLand utilized the space by providing designated areas for different products, including the Verizon area and the back wall full of TVs and home automation lines. The new install bay is being put to use by ElectricLand’s experienced installers and service department.

ALCO also opened their first store in Sidney on Novem-

ber 19. The approximately 27,000 sq. ft. store offers a line of quality merchandise, convenient location and friendly service. Leann Sommers, Sidney store manager, is delighted with the reception the store has received in Sidney. “It’s been a very exciting time in Sidney. ALCO’s soft opening on November 19 and Grand Opening on November 23 were a huge success. The Sidney community has been very positive and welcoming. We have great associates taking care of our customers and making it all happen. The timing has been perfect. Customers can do their Christmas shopping as well as shop for their basic needs and not have to leave town. We look forward to the New Year and ALCO’s continued involvement in the Sidney community.”

The Lucky Buckle opened her inviting new shop full of home décor plus men’s, women’s, infant’s and children’s clothing on November 25, just in time for the holidays. Owner Marci Albin is pleased with the new location. “It’s great. We enjoy being here with the increased visibility and awesome parking. Our coffee bar has also been a great addition for this end of town.”

Watch for more business openings at The Shops At Fox Run in the months to come.

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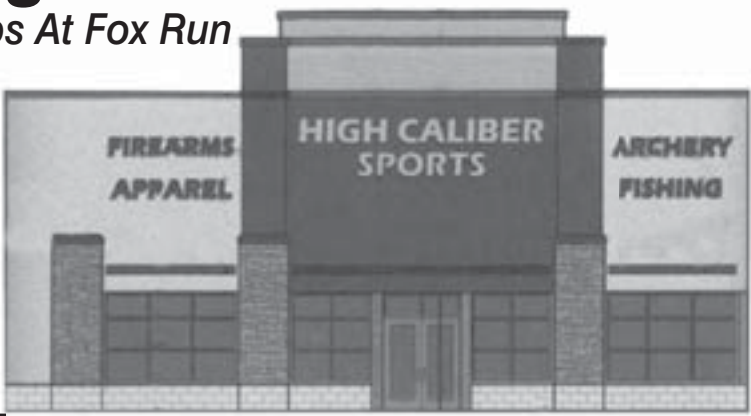
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The largest flag in eastern Montana was raised for the first time during the Reynolds Market and The Shops at Fox Run Ribbon Cutting ceremony in November.



Father Ned Schinnick blesses the site during the groundbreaking ceremony in May.

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The 2013 Champions



The Sidney Lady Rangers took 1st at the state hockey tournament. Shown are back (L-R) Ashley Bjork, Jade Brunsvold, Maci Holst, Abby Balcer. 4th row (L-R) Danielle Steinley, Chelsey Metcalf, Malorie Cvancara, Erin Harris, Mary Voll, Aubrey Kessel. 2nd row (L-R) Bryana Christensen, Eliska Cvrkalova, Shawnee Tyler, Jordan Baxter, Jordan Tyler. Front Goalies Nicole Monsen & Micala Morehouse. Coaches Damon McLaughlin & Dustin McLaughlin. Photo by Picture Perfect.



The Sidney boys golf team earned the state championship. The boys team includes (L-R) Bobby Frank, Tristan Potts, Paul Brannan, Connor Frank and Luke Beenken.



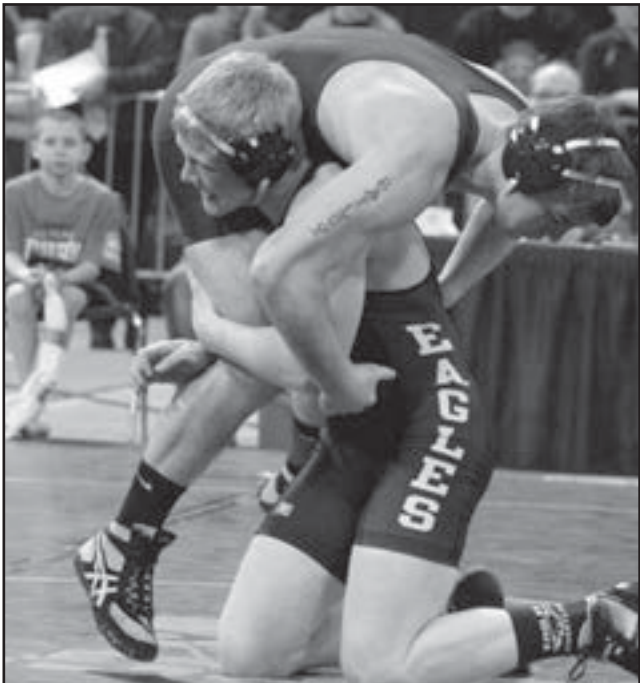
Whitney Leuenberger (above) placed first in shot put and discus. Jalyssa Gorder (below) was pole vault champ.



Kalen Hance was state champion in Extemporaneous Speaking.



Gresh Jones was the 119 lbs. wrestling state champion.



Ryder Peterson also took home a first place at 171 lbs.



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Air Show Extravaganzas Climb Top Ten List

By Jaimee Green
Hard dives. Gut wrenching loops. White steam spraying out of manifolds. You don't have to be a pilot to appreciate the sound of booming jet propelled engines scissoring overhead or be captivated by the sight of synchronized planes diving in perfect symmetry just after engines cut out only to be restarted seconds before perilously crashing.

Air shows are awe inspiring for every community filled with want-to-be dare devils who can enjoy and appreciate the dramatic effects of acrobatic aviation from the safety of the ground. That's part of why the Richland County Airport Authority and the Sidney Chamber of Commerce went to so much trouble to ensure Sidney was able to offer high caliber air performances to the area in 2013 and in years past.

This year, they were able to offer two shows; the Canadian Forces Snowbirds last May and Wings of Freedom III this past September with performances including skydivers, high flying aerobatics, a 36,000 horsepower Shockwave Jet Truck capable of accelerations of 3Gs, and a wing-walker.

"We have been able to bring in some of the top performers in the world. This is our home and we want to provide this kind of quality

entertainment to our community. We have been able to do that with great success because we have a community that supports our efforts and actively gets involved in that process," said Alan Seigfried, Chairperson for the Wings of Freedom Air Show Committee.

The Committee is made up of pilots and local aviation enthusiasts who say they receive the most gratification when all the work is done and they know they have done the best they could to ensure a show's success.

With so much work that goes into organizing an air show through collaboration with the FAA, 2013 was a unique year with the Committee able to host two separate events. While the Wings of Freedom Air Show was a meticulously planned event, hosting the Snowbirds came about somewhat unexpectedly. The Snowbirds contacted Bryan Prevost, a Sidney pilot and acquaintance, and expressed an interest in performing and the Committee was happy to accept their offer.

During their stay in Sidney they were also able to coordinate their mandatory performance review, an FAA requirement which allows them permission to perform in the U.S. "We were happy to host the FAA's test to ensure they could continue

to perform in this country," Seigfried said.

The Snowbirds performed in five U.S. air shows this year.

Like nearly every event that takes place in a small community, the amount of in-kind work donated by volunteers served as the driving force that made both events possible. The Committee itself is comprised of over 10 volunteers who dedicate their time to ensuring the events' success.

Planning an air show can take anywhere from six to nine months once all of the paperwork and safety checks are completed.

The Snowbirds 431 Air Demonstration Squadron is based in Moose Jaw, Canada and flies CT-114 Tudors. Previously, they performed in Sidney in 2009.

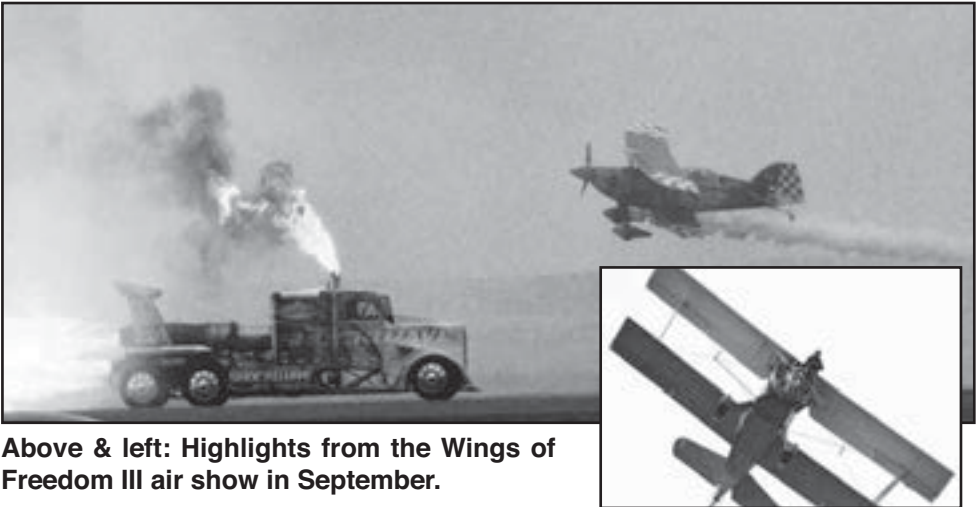
Another air show took place in Sidney back in 2004.

Siegfried said the Committee plans to wait at least a year before they will think about planning another air show. Historically, because of the expense of hosting air shows, most events do not generate money. However, in previous years Sidney has been able to secure a profit from their events with the money going into an account designated as seed money to be used for the next air show they host.

"With so much that goes



Major Wayne Mott (R), who acts as the Team Lead as well as the pilot for Snowbird 1, presents a gift of appreciation to Sidney's Bryan Prevost, who was instrumental in bringing the Snowbirds to Sidney for the second time. (File photo)



Above & left: Highlights from the Wings of Freedom III air show in September.

on in our community, we are just glad to see it was considered to be one of the top ten events to take place in Sidney this year. We couldn't do it without the generosity of the wonderful businesses and community that support us," Seigfried said.

We Would Like To Congratulate The Top Ten And Wish Everyone A...



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Sidney Business Expand and Welcome New Arrivals in 2013

A New Name and Look for Richland Inn & Suites

By Dianne Swanson

In order to better serve their guests, Richland Inn & Suites, formerly Richland Motor Inn, completed an extensive addition and remodeling this summer. 27 new rooms were added, 14 of which are suites. All the hallways were re-carpeted, and the lobby was remodeled. An elevator was added to provide easy access for guests and better working conditions for the employees. A hot breakfast buffet now awaits guests in the morning with eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy and more. The guest laundry room has been enlarged and a 24 hour sundries shop has been added. A new business center and an extensive fitness center complete the new look. A new white linen package will also be in all the rooms soon. Along with the building addition, Richland Inn and Suites acquired a new General Manager, Brandon Taylor, who brings extensive experience to the position.

Taylor has been in the Sidney community for almost 2 years and is involved in many local organizations. He and his staff welcome you to come and check out the “new” hotel at 1200 S. Central or call them at 406-433-6400. Your experience is waiting.



Above: The newly remodeled Richland Inn & Suites. Left: General Manager Brandon Taylor.



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Northwest Pipe Fittings Opens Sidney Branch

Northwest Pipe Fittings Inc. has recently opened a new branch location at 34930 Highway 23 just south of Sidney. NWP was founded in 1957 and now has 150 employees at locations in Billings, Butte, Belgrade, Kalispell, Great Falls and now Sidney. This new expansion allows the company to further extend its footprint into western North Dakota, while enhancing the excellent service that their eastern Montana customers have come to expect. From the Sidney location NWP will regularly service the Williston, Tioga, Stanley, Watford City and Dickinson areas.

Northwest Pipe Fittings, Inc. distributes a full line of

commercial and residential plumbing and heating products, underground water and sewer products, industrial and domestic water pumps, plus industrial pipe, valves and fittings. The company has in excess of fourteen million dollars in inventory at their six locations.

The company has enjoyed a history of success and has grown to be the largest wholesale distributor of its kind in the market region. A fleet of trucks delivers material between the 6 branches, and on a regular weekly basis to customers throughout the entire state of Montana, northern Wyoming and western North Dakota. NWP's aggressive manage-

ment team is devoted to maintaining productive staff, service and inventory.

Everyone is invited to come out to see the new Sidney facility, meet manager Dan Goodnature and his staff and see the products they have to offer. Store hours are 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday. They can also be reached by calling 406-630-5120.

Northwest Pipe Fittings Inc. would like to say "Thanks" to the fine folks of Sidney for the already warm welcome. A grand opening is planned for the spring to show their appreciation.

TriFecta Home Center Opens

Sisters Teresa Benson, Becky Benson and T.J. Rost opened TriFecta Home Center in July in the former Finnicum's Furniture building. Since then, they have been adding inventory and services to meet the needs of the community.

In addition to well known brand furniture, the store carries

daltile, a candle line, decorative and area rugs, unique wall art and beautiful florals. The contractor's corner provides an area for contractors to meet with clients to choose the right products for their project. Pratt & Lambert paint is also available at TriFecta Home center. They recently teamed up with Brenda Lar-

son to add Creative Solutions cabinetry and design to the store.

TriFecta Home Center is open 7 days a week for the convenience of their customers. Stop by the store at 1051 S. Central Ave., or call them at 406-433-9896.

Sisters Teresa Benson, Becky Benson and T.J. Rost

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Tractor Supply Company Opens Sidney Location

Tractor Supply Company opened its newest location on East Holly in Sidney on November 23. With 19,097 sq. ft. full of merchandise, the store has something for everyone.

Store manager Kaylynn Helfrich is happy to be in Sidney. "Everything is going exceptionally well. It is a pleasure being so very well received in the community and we are excited to be here. We are having a great time getting to know our

customers and helping them with their needs."

Tractor Supply Company is a growth minded company, always looking for potential new locations that are a good fit as far as the target market is concerned. This was especially true in the Sidney area due to the farmers and horse owners in the area. The TSC product category expertise includes lawn and garden, and animal care products that service the needs

of both large and hobby farmers, plus their extensive inventory appeals to those in almost any walk of life.

Store hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sundays. Stop by or call 406-482-9756. For more information, visit www.TractorSupply.com.



Tractor & Supply Co. of Sidney held their ribbon cutting December 7. Participating in their ribbon cutting are (L-R) Enid Houtari, Sidney Chamber Sunrise Ambassador; Chase Hall, Wade VanEvery, assistant manager; Jeremy Burg, district manager; Kaylynn Helfrich, manager; Gennie Sportsman, Claire Keenan, Josh Larson, Britney Wallace, Tammy Bohn and Cheryl Peterson, Sidney Job Service.



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Agri Industries Expands

Agri Industries, Inc. has grown in 30 years from a Williston company focused solely on agricultural irrigation to a multi-faceted business with locations in Williston, Miles City and Sidney.

This summer, Agri Industries in Sidney finished an expansion project which more than doubled the size of their parts department, provided more office space, and a conference room.

The need for improved customer service led to the expansion. “The Sidney community has always supported us very well,” Mike Ames, president of Agri Industries

said. “It’s an ag based community and we’re really, really grateful for our customers. We’re always looking for opportunities to serve them better.”

Sidney store manager Lee Candee, who grew up north of Lambert and joined Agri Industries immediately after receiving his engineering degree from MSU Bozeman, is very service oriented. “He’s a wonderful operator and store manager. He has a great relationship with the customers. If he sells something, he wants to have the parts and service to take care of the product. Here in

northeastern Montana and Northwestern North Dakota, it can be a long ways to get adequate parts. That was the motivation behind the expansion,” Ames explained.

With the expansion, Agri Industries has achieved their goal of a stronger retail presence, providing parts for irrigation systems as well as heating, plumbing, drip systems, water heaters and more. “We’ll have it there, plus the knowledgeable staff to assist the customers,” Ames said.

Agri Industries has always been an ag focused company. “We love working

with agriculture but it’s a challenge depending on weather and commodity prices,” Ames said. In the 1980s the company realized the need to diversify and has gradually added water well drilling, directional drilling, pipeline contracting and electrical contracting. The Sidney store has also added plumbing, heating and air conditioning, and communications. Businesses purchased and incorporated into Agri Industries include Sax Electric, Kalberer’s Heating, Omni Communications, Prairie Pump and Machine, Boyce Drilling and Heiniger Drilling. These were companies Agi Industries had working relationships with. Some owners wished to re-

tire, but have the businesses continue. “It’s been a positive thing for us, to be able to provide continuity of service,” Ames said. Along with the companies have come great employees, some of whom are still employed by Agri Industries. Those employees have benefited from working for a larger company able to provide benefits that most small companies can not.

Community involvement is also a priority for Agri Industries. “Lee, Neil Iversen (Williston store manager) and I are all local guys with engineering degrees from Bozeman. That degree formed the foundation to do what we’ve done over the last several years. We have a deep

appreciation for the communities we serve and live in, both western North Dakota and eastern Montana. Strong customer support has given us the opportunity to do what we’ve done. The opportunity to serve, to give back, that’s pretty important to us,” Ames said. “Local people, some with roots going back several generations are employed by Agri Industries. Our plan is to leave a company that will go beyond us.”

Agri Industries may be contacted in Williston at 3105 2nd St. W., 701-572-0767; Sidney at 1775 S. Central Ave., 406-488-8066; Miles city at 2106 S. Haynes Ave., 406-234-2309.

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