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Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Volume 46 • Number 15

Watford City 2020 Homefest Cancelled

By Anna Dragseth

Watford City's Annual Homefest - a time for summer fun festivities and class and family reunions - has been cancelled this year due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic.

Watford City Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors based their decision on the health and well-being of the general public, event volunteers, and vendors.

The Chamber of Commerce appreciates the support from the community and is looking forward to next year's Annual Watford City Homefest!

Area Schools Face a Balancing Act: Holding Graduation Ceremonies While Keeping Everyone Safe

By Paul Tedrow

The school year was derailed as schools had to cope with the pandemic and its ensuing closures. As the 2019-2020 academic year concludes, schools are trying to find a balance between providing graduates with some sort of normalcy by affording them a ceremony while still keeping people reasonably safe. Some area high schools have already held their graduation ceremonies while others have decided to postpone or modify them in other ways.

Sidney High School administration have worked with official guidelines and placed limitations on this class graduation. The ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 24 at Swanson Field. Graduates will be allowed four immediate family members present and they will not be able to enter the field or leave their seats to take photos or video and are encouraged to practice social distancing at all times.

Graduates at the Savage School held their graduation ceremony on Saturday, May 16 on the football field and it allowed for seats to be widely dispersed. "Families were seated in 'pods' on the field and then everyone else was six feet apart behind and some people remained in their vehicles parked around our track. The weather was glorious for the event and a ton of people just sat in the grass or brought their own lawn chairs. The order of events remained the same, they (graduates) even did their slideshows as usual even though we realize that most people couldn't see it but the slideshows were posted to Facebook for everyone to watch later at their leisure," said Savage School teacher Cassandra Moos.

Culbertson High's graduation was also held on Saturday, May 16. "It was held in the gym by invitation only. Each graduate was limited to the number of people they could invite and for the rest of the public we had it available on Facebook Live," said Culbertson School teacher Janelle Ator.

Fairview graduating seniors chose to delay their graduation ceremony until July 19 with the hope of being able to have a typical ceremony. "We had several virtual meetings with both the senior class and their parents and in those discussions every student and parent were given the chance to voice their opinion and concerns. In the first meeting a parent suggested that it take place during Fairview's Old Timers Festival. Some of the students took that idea and ran with it. When the plans were made we went back to the students and parents via a virtual meeting and no one objected with the idea of having it on that date," said Fairview School counselor Tonya Garsjo.

For any school not mentioned or for up-to-date schedule and restriction specifics, please reach out to school administration as the situation is fluid and prone to further developments.

Montana HD 35 Candidate Forum Held May 14



House District 35 candidates Brandon Ler and Joel Krautter discussed their differences on issues during a Candidate Forum on Thursday, May 14. (Photo by Bill Vander Weele)

By Bill Vander Weele

House District 35 candidates Joel Krautter and Brandon Ler discussed their differences on issues during a forum sponsored by the Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture along with the Richland County Farm Bureau on Thursday, May 14.

Medicaid Expansion, the Solutions Caucus and the economy were among the topics of the candidates' forum between the two Republicans. Mail-in ballots for the primary election must be postmarked by May 26.

Ler said he doesn't believe that Krautter has done a good job representing Richland County in Helena. He noted Krautter, a first-term legislator, voted in favor of Medicaid Expansion which Ler said cost \$1.4 billion and increased the hospital bed tax.

Krautter noted that the bill was supported by Sidney Health Center. He said that federal funds covered 90% of the costs. "It is important to keep our rural hospitals open," Krautter said.

Regarding the Solutions Caucus, Krautter said he is a proud member of the Conservative Solutions Caucus. He said that group's legislators get things done for the people that elected them. "I'm glad to work with any partner that has those beliefs," he added.

Ler noted that Krautter voted with Democrats on 213 votes. "We need an united Republican party," Ler said. "How can you say you're conservative when you vote with Democrats to raise taxes?"

Krautter argued that because Republicans are in control of the House, all of those bills passed Republican-controlled committees.

As far as the issue of school choice, Ler feels every parent has the right to send their child to the school of their choice. "We're all still paying property taxes for these schools."

Krautter said that he is a strong supporter of rural public schools and doesn't want to support any bill that could take money away from these schools. "We have to fight for our teachers and our schools."

The candidates agreed that tax revenue from oil and gas production needs to remain in Eastern Montana.

Krautter pointed out that he received support from West-

ern Montana legislators in order to pass an oil revenue bill that benefited our area. "It takes relationships to get this done and to protect the gains we've already made," he added.

Ler said a unified front from Eastern Montana is vital. "We're the ones dealing with the infrastructure problems and the crime rate. The biggest issue is to stay united."

As far as improving the economy, Ler said cutting taxes for business owners and residents is a key. "Every dollar spent here turns over multiple times," the Sidney native added. He said Montana's residents are overtaxed.

Krautter said his "catch and keep Montana treasures act," sought to bring professionals and skilled workers back to Montana by using incentives.

Ler doesn't feel we should pay to have people move here. "Are these people really invested in our community?" he asked.

Regarding how they would work with Democrats at the legislature, Ler explained that he is a life-long Republican and will vote for Republican-content bills. "I'm not willing to cross the line into their lane," Ler said of Democrats.

Krautter said he believes in leadership that brings people together. He said he co-sponsored bills with Democrats that dealt with mental health/depression and drug price transparency.

In his closing comments, Ler said that he works in agriculture every day and is a small businessman. He wants to work to make sure that our residents have the best opportunity to make a living in the land that they love. Ler said more boots and blue jeans are needed in Helena.

Krautter said he is a common sense conservative who is a problem solver. He asked voters to look of the people who support him including area leaders, Montana Farm Bureau, the Montana Chamber of Commerce and Montana Family Foundation. He noted that out-of-town politicians and their "local pawns" are attacking him because he voted for what was best for Richland County not Helena insiders. "I represent you, not them." He said he worked with local government leaders, schools, hospitals, businesses and farmers/ranchers to solve problems for Richland County. "I had your back in Helena, and I need you to have my back against these attacks with your vote so I can keep fighting for you."

The Roundup & 'Discovering the MonDak Visitors' Guide Helping to Fund Contact Tracing

By Tie Lemerond

Sidney, MT – Knowing that contact tracing is a critical component in keeping residents safe and in ensuring local businesses can open and remain open, The Roundup will be donating a portion of the profits from the "Discovering the MonDak Visitors Guide" to the Upper Missouri Health Department Unit (UMHDU) and to the Richland County Health Department.



Joe White, Communities in Action Corps AmeriCorps member, providing information to an individual tested for COVID-19. This is the first step in the process for contact tracing. (Photo submitted)

Upper Missouri Health Department Unit:

Public Information Officer Daphne Clark, UMHDU, stated, "The UMHDU covers Divide, Williams, McKenzie and Mountrail counties and since we've started providing contact tracing services for COVID-19, we have contacted around 400 people." Clark explained that before restrictions were lifted, people were staying home, and they would only encounter 3-10 people during the two weeks prior to being notified they had a positive COVID-19 result. "Now that restrictions are lifted and people aren't staying home, we're having to contact 10-30 people per each positive person." UMHDU currently has 9 staff dedicated to contact tracing.

As of this interview, UMHDU had not received any donations or funding to help offset the costs associated with contact tracing. Instead, they have had to cut or modify some of the programs they were offering and dip into reserve funds to ensure payments keep going out and their doors stay open.

When asked what she'd like to say to the community in regards to COVID-19, Clark responded, "We encourage you to follow the guidelines that are put out by public health and to make sure you are going to reputable sources for your information: local & state public health departments."

UMHDU and their staff would like to relay their gratitude to The Roundup for thinking of them. "We were surprised and are very happy and thankful," states Clark.

Richland County Health Department:

Richland County Health Department Environmental Health Director Stephanie Ler, explained that there are many steps in the process to determine who meets the definition of a close contact, which involves many, many phone calls with the positive case, and their potential contacts. "Public health staff makes phone calls to those identified as close contacts to determine whether they meet the definition of a close contact and whether they are symptomatic. This can sometimes be tricky, because the name and identifying details of the positive case is protected health information,"

states Ler.

Collectively, the Department has made more than 80 calls to the three positive individuals and their named contacts. These calls may last up to an hour, sometimes longer, which means that public health staff has logged at least 80 hours of contact tracing just for positive cases. Additionally, public health staff have logged more than 325 additional calls to those who have tested negative. At approximately 20 minutes per call, this results in more than 100 hours of calls to those who have tested negative.

Richland County Health Department has a dynamic team and have at times had to shift job duties to allow contact tracing staff to focus on their task. Contact tracing can increase the number of hours staff work each week. This in turn increases staff cost. The department has three main staff members and an additional seven staff and AmeriCorps members who have been trained and are currently working as contact tracers.

Ler advises, "It's important that folks understand that they will be contacted if they are named as a positive case. To help in this process, they can make sure their voicemail box is set up and available in case public health staff need to leave an important message. Additionally, folks should tighten their circle of contacts, and make note of with whom they are in close contact with in case they are part of a case investigation later."

"The Department is appreciative of The Roundup's effort to highlight the importance of contact tracing to contain the spread of COVID-19 in our community as well as for donating a portion of their profits to aid in the cost of contact tracing," states Ler.

For more information on helping to support the contact tracing efforts of the UMHDU and the Richland County Health Department by purchasing an ad in the "Discover the MonDak Visitors" Guide, please call The Roundup at 406-433-3306.



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The Roundup

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For testing & generic application, contact Sidney Job Service at 406-433-1204.



STATISTICS

LAKE WATER LEVEL REPORT

Sakakawea

Current Elevation.....1840.4
Last Week's Elev.1840.4
One Year Ago1846.5
Release For Day (C.F.S.)26,000

SIDNEY WEATHER DATA

Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

Date	High	Low	
May 11.....	54	21	0.00
May 12.....	49	33	0.08
May 13.....	64	40	0.02
May 14.....	66	40	0.00
May 15.....	71	36	0.00
May 16.....	73	44	0.00
May 17.....	74	38	0.00
Total 2020 YTD Precipitation.....	1.342		

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:
Let Environment Council Hear From You On Radioactive Waste
For six years citizens have worked with the Department of Environmental Quality to write rules setting safeguards for disposal of oilfield radioactive waste called TENORM.

Richland County Commissioner Duane Mitchell served on the stakeholder working group. He promoted standards consistent with surrounding states to prevent Montana from becoming a dumping ground for out-of-state radioactive waste. Richland County Commissioner Shane Gorder and Civil Attorney Tom Halvorson testified in Helena for consistency with surrounding states and notice of radioactive spills to protect local EMTs, firefighters, and deputy sheriffs. The County Commission and Civil Attorney filed comments and participated in meetings.

There were many hearings, meetings, and legal procedures followed. DEQ received over 2,400 public comments. DEQ proposed a limit of 50 picocuries per gram consistent with science reports, North Dakota's rule, the work group, and public comments.

At the last minute, by a vote of 10 to 6, the Environmental Quality Council objected to the proposed rules, talking about a deal some Council members say was negotiated to quadruple the limit to 200 pCi/gm. Their objection sidetracks the rules. If the Council continues its objection at its May 27-28, 2020 meeting, the sidetrack will become a derailment. Then hot-load radioactive waste that no neighboring state allows could be coming to any county in Montana. Montana already has six licensed TENORM disposal sites near Glendive, Outlook, Culbertson, Missoula, Baker, and Great Falls.

The Environmental Quality Councils needs to live up to its name. For enough Council votes to change, they need to hear from you. Visit leg.mt.gov/committees/interim/2019eqc to learn how you can participate.

Sincerely,
Duane Mitchell, Chairman
Shane Gorder, Commissioner
Loren H. Young, Commissioner
Tom Halvorson, Civil Attorney

Dear Editor,
There are a lot of letters bashing different candidates. I am going to tell you good things about a candidate. My candidate has unquestionable character. What he says is what he believes. He gives to his fellowman. When a local man was fighting cancer, Matt came to town to help him in his butcher shop. He has opened his ranch to The Wounded Warrior Project and to the youth hunting program. Matt and Jean loaded their pickup with pumpkins and brought them to town so all the kids in their church would have a pumpkin to carve.

Matt's character and leadership was recognized by his peers when he was elected as Senate Majority Leader. He has earned A ratings from several conservative organizations and has been endorsed by pro-business groups. Matt is unashamedly Pro-life!

As State Auditor and Insurance Commissioner, Matt decreased the budget in his office by 23%. He was the only state official to decline his pay raise. Under Matt's leadership we now have more insurance options, including member health share options like Medi-Share.

These are just a few reasons why I am voting for Matt Rosendale for US Congress. I hope you will join me.

For Montana,
Beth Hinebauch

Dear Editor:
Joel Is No Domino
I support Joel Krautter for House District 35 Representative. Joel's experience in the Legislature and in-

volvement in the community makes him uniquely qualified to be our representative. His platform "Common Sense Conservative, Problem - Solving Leadership", is appropriate now as it was in 2018 when he was first elected.

Joel has and will make thoughtful decisions based on a review of the facts and for the best interest of his constituents. He will not fall in lock step with the far right wing republicans. He is still a conservative, and I am too. But that doesn't mean he is not supposed to think, and only vote the party line. What kind of a government do we have when that's all we get when we elect someone? If that is the ultimate goal, then just elect a domino. One thing I know about Joel;-- that is he is not a domino.

Joel's opponent Brandon Ler, has fallen prey to Conservatives United for Richland County and Legistats and their far right wing extremist views. Legistats is simply a nonthinking computer program, which only rates Republican legislators. Conservatives United, ran by Jordan Hall (see Jim Steinbeisser letter to editor), recently sent out a campaign brochure. In it, Jordan states that Legistats gives Joel and Walter McNutt F-Ratings. Joel certainly has some pretty good company. Upon a vote of our electorate, Walter McNutt served us for 16 years. We would be in a much worse place without Walter McNutt's leadership.

An F-rating with Legistats is really a badge of honor. An A-Rating requires no thinking, just vote what the computer program says. If we elect Brandon, all he will need to do is consult with Legistats on any piece of legislation. Legistats will tell him the vote he must cast to get an A-Rating. All he needs to do is flop, just like a domino.

We all want leaders and representatives who have convictions, generally similar to our own convictions. We don't want our representative to be so entrapped to those they are beholden to that they cannot think and simply flop like a domino.

It is difficult to be a representative in this day in age; the wind is blowing both ways at the same time. Damned if you do and damned if you don't on many issues. Whether Republican or Democrat it is important for our representative to be able to assess the issues, think the facts thoroughly through, and vote the issues in the best way their conscience leads them, regardless of liberal/conservative, republican/democratic bend;-- and vote in a manner best in line with the best interests of the whole of the community they represent.

Please join me in voting for Joel and return your ballot by June 2, 2020.
Donald L. Netzer

Dear Editor:
When we step into the ballot box every election, we try to have studied the issues and the positions of the candidates so that we cast our vote for the person who will most consistently represent our admittedly Republican views and values: limited government and a judicial system based on a literal interpretation of the US Constitution, fiscal conservatism, religious liberty and freedom of speech, the value of human life at every stage, and the family as the basic unit of society.

Having carefully considered the commentaries/editorials in local newspapers regarding the race for representative in HD 35, it puzzles us that the incumbent, Mr. Joel Krautter, is garnering support from certain individuals whose views seem to tend toward the left—both Democrats and Republicans—but who at the same time assure us that he is conservative. They seem to be doing their utmost to make it appear that Mr. Krautter is only demonstrating bi-partisanship.

The issues that come before the state legislature are often complex and a

certain percentage of them are non-partisan, but most often there are very clear and well-defined differences of opinion—primarily along party lines—regarding a majority of the proposed legislation that is submitted for a vote. If a legislator is known for voting with the opposite party more often than he votes with his own party, doesn't it make you wonder if he is truly representing the people who elected him and the party with which he is affiliated? It is very commendable that Rep. Krautter has, in most cases, voted to support Life and oppose abortion. However, if he labels himself a conservative, why has he voted in favor of socialized medicine/healthcare and expansion of government programs, as well as increased government regulations, taxation, and spending?

We also find it puzzling how often those who bring up a candidate's voting record are accused of making vicious, personal attacks against that person. It appears that truth has fallen on hard times and trying to hold a candidate accountable for his or her voting record is considered politically incorrect. The way a legislator votes on every bill that comes up is a matter of public record; how better can one determine if the person they elected is representing them well and faithfully? A voting record is not a matter of opinion it is a matter of fact.

Candidate Brandon Ler was born and raised in rural Eastern Montana, as were his parents. We've observed him as a neighbor, growing up attending local schools and churches, and deeply involved, as were our kids, in the 4-H program. This young man is not a silver-tongued lawyer, but throughout his adulthood he has been a hard and honest worker and devoted family man, demonstrating initiative, responsibility, and reliability. Brandon has shown a willingness to serve his community as a school board member. He has also been very active and interested in the political process, devoting a great deal of time and commitment to his responsibilities as a member of the Richland County Republican Central Committee, supporting state and national conservative candidates and causes. He understands our moral and religious framework, our way of life and our political values.

During this primary election we will cast our vote for Representative for Brandon Ler, with the confident expectation that he will stand up for conservative values and will represent us in a way that is consistent with the political philosophy and positions of the Republican party. We encourage you to do the same—vote Brandon Ler for state Representative, H.D. 35!

Dwight & Diana Thies-sen

Dear Editor:
Joel Krautter and Brandon Ler
It's no secret that Richland County, and all of Eastern Montana, faces tough challenges in the Montana Legislature. Out-numbered and out-represented by Western Montana, we have to work doubly hard to ensure that we don't always receive the short end of the legislative stick each session. As the race between Joel Krautter and Brandon Ler comes to a short end, it's clear that two different approaches to this legislative challenge present themselves.

The first approach is illustrated by Rep. Joel Krautter. His strategy is to coalesce with as many Western Montanan legislators as possible, no matter their policies or parties, in order to "get back" what Richland County has coming to us. This means voting on legislation that more times than not raises taxes on the entire state exponentially only to "get back" pennies on the dollar of that increased revenue for Richland County. In the end, Richland County has a few more pennies to spend, albeit we – along with the rest of the state – are taxed dollars more. The pennies-for-dollars trade-off rarely matters to those whose only bottom

line is how much money is sent from Helena to Sidney and never considered is the amount of money sent from Sidney to Helena. In order to "get back" a few pennies from Helena, Krautter has voted to raise tax after tax after tax – from increasing hotel taxes to taxing utility bills to Medicaid Expansion (that Richland County overwhelmingly rejected in 2018). This strategy always provides Western Montana with many millions more in government pork and throws crumbs at Eastern Montana by comparison, while raising the tax burden of everyone.

The other approach is illustrated by Brandon Ler and the current stock of legislators from Eastern Montana – all of them Ler's supporters – including Steven Hinebauch, Rhonda Knudsen, Alan Doane, and the former Speaker of the House, Austin Knudsen. Their approach is to form a coalition with Eastern Montana legislators as a voting block large enough it cannot be denied or ignored by the rest of the Legislature. If they stick together, they can block big government bills that will raise taxes and ensure that our area's needs are represented well and that whatever funds are disbursed are disbursed fairly.

Joel Krautter doesn't seem to have a single friend in the Montana legislature in Eastern Montana, and he regularly lauds his ability to work with Western Montana legislators to "get things done." And in fact, Western Montana is exactly where Krautter got 94% of his campaign contributions in 2019. Are we really to believe that Western Montana legislators have Eastern Montana's best interests at heart?

As a county commissioner I work overtime to ensure that we get every dime coming to us from the state coffers. But part of a legislator's job is to ensure that our pockets aren't robbed at home in order to fill those coffers. This part of Rep. Krautter's job seems lost on him. If there's a bill that will raise taxes on Montana, it's a safe bet that Krautter will vote for it. If there's a bill that will lower taxes, it's a safe bet that Krautter will vote against it. This is why he recently received a 56% score in conservatism from the American Conservative Union. Ultimately, Richland County will have to decide if higher taxes and more entitlements is what's best for Richland County. Joel Krautter says that's what we need. I suggest we need a legislator who will cut spending and cut taxation...and that won't be Joel Krautter.

Duane Mitchell
Sidney, MT

Dear Editor,
In my opinion, this House District 35 race has turned into a bitter personal battle between former legislator Walt McNutt and Pastor Jordan Hall. Please, please look past this. To them, we citizens are just pawns in this bloody battle. Don't let this turn into a race between Walt and Jordan. Look at the candidates. Look at Representative Krautter's voting record. Call them. Discuss issues with them.

As for me, I am supporting Brandon Ler. He was raised conservative and will remain that way in Helena. He grew up in Richland County, and was active in 4-H with my children. He has lived a hardworking, tax paying life running a fencing business and working in the oil field to pay his family's bills. To me, he has the perspective to vote right for the people of Richland County.

He won't thumb his nose at the republican leadership on key votes. With the divide in the Republican Party, house leadership is emasculated and left hanging in the wind as deals are cut that continue to grow government, increase taxes, expand socialized medicine, the list goes on.

I ask you please join me and my family in voting for Brandon Ler for House District 35.

Sincerely, Scott Staffanson

Former Representative for House District #35

Environmental Council Set To Derail Protections Against Radioactive Waste

By Tom Halvorson

The Environmental Quality Council has sidetracked six years of citizen work to protect Montana against radioactive waste from out of state. At its April 2020 meeting, the Council voted 10-to-6 to file an informal objection to protective rules proposed by the Department of Environmental Quality. The objection delays the rules going into effect. If the Council continues its objection at its May meeting, sidetracking will become permanent derailment.

DEQ's proposed rules would establish safeguards for disposal of TENORM waste. TENORM is naturally occurring radioactive material with technologically elevated radioactivity. TENORM comes to Montana from the oilfield in North Dakota.

The North Dakota Department of Health hired Argonne National Laboratory to study TENORM in 2013. Argonne used the International Commission on Radiological Protection's maximum recommended exposure to calculate a safe disposal limit. Argonne recommended 50 picocuries per gram. North Dakota set 50 pCi/gm as the limit starting Jan. 1, 2016.

Montana has no administrative rules regulating disposal of TENORM. DEQ licensed the Oaks Disposal site in Daw-

son County that began taking TENORM in June 2013. DEQ licensed more TENORM disposals near Outlook, Culbertson, Missoula, Baker, and Great Falls.

North Dakota has no licensed TENORM disposal sites. Almost 80% of the TENORM at Oaks Disposal comes from North Dakota.

Citizens raised concerns and DEQ hired Tetra Tech Inc to study TENORM. Tetra Tech reached the same conclusion as Argonne and recommended the same 50 pCi/gm limit for Montana.

DEQ began writing proposed rules. It formed a stakeholder work group of non-governmental organizations, industry representatives, local government officials, scientists, and informed citizens. Richland County Commissioner Duane Mitchell served on the work group. He promoted standards consistent with neighboring states.

There were many public hearings, miles traveled, work invested, meetings, and legal procedures followed. Richland County Commissioner Shane Gorder and Civil Attorney Tom Halvorson testified in Helena for consistency with surrounding states and notice of radioactive spills to protect local EMTs, firefighters, and deputy sheriffs. DEQ received over 2,400 public comments.

In January 2020, DEQ proposed 50 pCi/gm consistent with science, North Dakota's rule, the work group, and public comments.

Suddenly, the Environmental Quality Council put the proposed rules on its agenda for April 27, 2020. One member of the Council said there was a negotiated deal to quadruple the limit from 50 to 200 pCi/gm. He said he has a real problem with public comment changing that deal. Another member's remark suggested the deal might be with the Montana Petroleum Association, who wanted 200 pCi/gm.

The Richland County Commission had heard there was criticism of DEQ for giving too much weight to public comment. The Commission commented saying, "That is a strange criticism in a free republic of self-government. We should count ourselves fortunate when any state agency, instead of lording it over the people, listens to us."

The future of out-of-state radioactive waste will be in the balance at the Council's May 27-28, 2020 meeting. Citizens should not be discouraged from commenting to retain 50 pCi/gm for our health and safety.

2020 Voter Ballot Information Richland Co.

Submitted by Stephanie Verhasselt
Richland County Clerk & Recorder/Election
Administrator

The Federal Primary election to be held on June 2, is an all-mail ballot election. All active, provisional, and late registrants will receive a ballot in the mail. Inactive voters will need to update their registration to receive a ballot. Ballots were mailed May 8. Montana is an open primary state that requires voters to receive all eligible party ballots. Only vote one party ballot. Put the voted ballot in the pink secrecy envelope. Place the pink secrecy envelope in the white affirmation envelope and sign the affirmation envelope. Destroy the other two ballots. Ballots can be mailed in or dropped off at the Clerk and Recorder's office located at 201 W Main, Sidney, MT. Due to COVID-19, our office doors are closed. Please knock and we are happy to help voters with registration and ballot drop off or pickup. For more information call 433-1708.



MiMi's Kitchen To Open Saturday In Sidney

By Paul Tedrow

Sidney will soon have a store unlike any other. MiMi's Kitchen has its grand opening on Saturday, May 23 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. The dream of owning a store like this has been in the works for quite some time for Billie Hillesland, one of MiMi's store owners. MiMi's will be under joint ownership by Chris and Billie Hillesland and Heidi and Curtis MacGrady.

MiMi's will be open 7 days a week. The store schedule is Monday-Saturday 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday's from 1-4 p.m. We wanted to be sure our doors were always open for those wanting to shop.

Beyond its retail area, MiMi's will also feature an oil, vinegar, and seasoning tasting station from one of their top vendors, Olivelle which is based out of Bozeman, MT.

The store will also have a 700 sq. ft. commercial kitchen, which will hold cooking classes for up to 20 students. MiMi's will also be providing weekly grab and go lunches as well as oven ready meals during the week.

Hillesland wants to encourage customers that even if the store doesn't have what they are looking for we are more than happy to try and find it for them. The goal is to be a place where local people do not have to travel to find what they are looking for anymore. They can find it right at MiMi's.

MiMi's will not be limiting the number of people allowed in the store, however, they encourage people to continue practice social distancing. There will also be face masks and hand sanitizer provided to all customers.

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Hospitals Come Together To Support Improving Healthcare In The Region

Through the Rural Health Development Grant Hospital Improvement Grant several eastern Montana facilities have banded together to provide support for each other on a regional basis. It is designed to provide additional funding for hospitals for capital purchases, quality improvements and for creating cost savings and operational efficiencies. The grant is meant to benefit smaller facilities in implementing improvements in their facilities on an annual basis.

The Hospital Improvement Grant has been established since 2009 and has distributed over \$460,000 with participation from over 26 healthcare facilities. The participating facilities, on a voluntary basis, contribute

funds to Rural Health Development, Inc. a 5013©. Once the funds are received, applications are reviewed by the grants committee, made up of rural hospital CEOs and then funding is distributed.

This year, Sidney Health Center received a grant for \$5,223.17 for the purchase of an Obelisk™ UV Portable Total Room Sanitizer. The portable UV room sanitizer will be shared between the three operating rooms on a rotating basis. The new equipment is an affordable, lightweight, portable and extremely powerful solution for sanitizing surfaces and air in the surgery department. It will be instrumental in promoting patient safety by successfully disinfecting



Obelisk UV Portable Total Room Sanitizer (Stock photo)

against all microbes including the most difficult bacteria and viruses.

"When we applied for the grant, little did we know how instrumental this equipment would become during the COVID-19 pandemic," stated Jennifer Doty, Sidney Health Center CEO. "We are so grateful for the funding as it helps protect the health and safety of our surgical patients."

Each year, Sidney Health Center averages more than 1,700 surgeries

annually. Surgical specialties include general surgery, obstetrics/gynecology, otolaryngology, orthopedic, and podiatric.

The funds are distributed to the region's smaller critical access hospitals, but funding comes from all hospitals in the region including Billings Clinic and St Vincent's Healthcare.

For further information about the grant please contact Montana Health Network.

Dear Richland County voters,
I recently wrote a letter to this paper warning of the influence certain western legislators was trying to exert on our local elections. In that letter I revealed both the legislators and their local disciples.

One of those disciples, Pastor Jordan Hall, took umbrage to my suggestion that he spend less time in matters of the political world and more time in matters of the spiritual world. His reply to me, written on the letterhead of the Conservatives United for Richland County, is as follows:

Dear Walt,

I saw the letter-to-the-editor in which you suggest my time is better spent "caring for my flock." With due respect sir (and it is little), I typically do not make a habit out of taking ecclesiastical advice from foul-mouthed and ill-tempered alcoholics who only go to church for funerals.

Thanks,

Jordan Hall

In my long career as both your Representative and as your Senator, I have never received a response of this nature. It has been my experience that individuals resort to name calling and highly personal attacks only when the position they are defending lacks credibility. With that being said, I ask that you form your own opinion on the character of Pastor Hall - as I won't be commenting on him personally.

I have made Eastern Montana my home for many years and I want to be ensured that Western Montana influences will not ride roughshod over the compelling needs of Sidney and Richland County. I believe this goal is best achieved by re-electing Representative Joel Krautter and ignoring those outside influences that seek to exploit us.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Walt McNutt

— Paid for by Walt McNutt, Sidney, MT —

2020 Dryland Field Days

The date for the annual dryland field days at the Froid Research Farm is tentatively set for Thursday, June 25. More details will be made available here as plans are finalized. The Sidney dryland field day, typically held jointly with Montana State University's Eastern Agricultural Research Center in Sidney, MT, has been cancelled for 2020, but will return in 2021.

GRADUATION 2020

Alexander High School Graduation • Sunday, May 24 • 2 pm • High School Gym



Taylor Gayton



Drew Greene



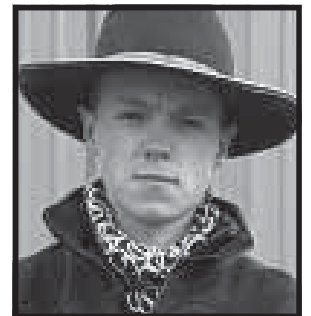
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Dakota West Credit Union Awards Additional Scholarships To Support Its Members

Submitted by Juliet Jones

Watford City, ND – Breaking from its tradition, Dakota West awarded \$500 to every student who submitted an application for its 2020 Dakota West Credit Union Annual Scholarships. Originally planning to award four scholarships, current high school seniors and enrolled college and trade school students submitted essays focusing on the Dakota West Value of Communication.

“The unconventional circumstances for most students

2020 Scholarships Awarded By Lower Yellowstone Lodge #90 of Masons & Ben York Memorial



Blake Lien



Hunter Watson



Kade Anderson



Hailey Christensen

Submitted by Bob Goss

Lower Yellowstone Lodge #90 of Masons has awarded a \$500 scholarship in memory of Earl & Clona Hawley. The 2020 winner is Hailey Christensen, Sidney High School. Hailey plans to attend Minot State University to study criminal justice. The Earl & Clona Hawley scholarship was created by Richland Chapter #62 of Eastern Star to recognize the devotion of Mr. & Mrs. Hawley to their community.

In addition, three more students have been named as winners of 2020 Ben York Memorial scholarships.

Hunter Watson, Lambert High School, will be awarded \$1,000 over two years to study Plumbing at MSU-Northern at Havre.

Blake Lien, Lambert High School will receive \$1,000 over two years to enter the electrician program as MSU Northern in Havre.

Kade Anderson, Sidney High School will receive \$500 for the one year electrical lineworker program at Northwest Lineman College, Meridian, ID.

These scholarships are in addition to the \$1,000 scholarship announced earlier for Josh Herron, Fairview High School.

The Ben York Scholarship was created to honor the memory of Ben York, a Master Mason and long-time builder who specialized in plumbing and HVAC in Sidney.

right now made the final months of this school year an exercise in self-discipline. Any students who made the effort to speak to their viewpoint on the importance of Communication in this time of social distancing deserves to be recognized for his or her dedication,” Juliet Jones, Dakota West Marketing Coordinator, explained of the change in the number of recipients.

Taylaln Kaczmar, Dakota West’s Watford City branch member, plans to pursue studies in Biological Sciences at North Dakota State University. Kaczmar wrote of the importance of Communication, “Once in the medical field, discussion with providers and patients will be critical for the best and efficient care to be provided. I recognize that having effective communication in the workplace can determine and impact how well my relationships with my superiors, coworkers, and patients will be.”

Charles Eriksmoen, a current student at Bismarck State College, is finishing his first year as a farm and ranch management major. Eriksmoen paused in his online studies to write, “Communication will impact my life heavily in the future years to come and it is a large part of my life and will always be a big part of my life to continue to communicate with breeders, friends, family, and anyone that is willing to help me succeed.”

A member of the Watford City branch of Dakota West, Ethan Kobosplans plans to study cyber security this fall at the University of North Dakota. His application pointed to the importance of Communication when he penned, “In current times, student engagement with teachers has been greatly diminished. And due to this, it has become important for students to develop the ability to briefly, yet professionally, communicate with teachers regarding their classroom questions.”

Gracey Russell from Washburn hopes to begin classes in the fall at Bismarck State College. Regardless of the change of in the current online class environment, Russell recognized the role of Communication in her future, “Communication also goes in hand with the career I want to pursue in the future. I want to get my nursing degree and become a nurse. Communication is vital in this field because if people do not communicate with each other, then others could potentially be at risk.”

One of the first applicants, prior to his school being closed in March, Clayton Ledahl intends to stay close to home when he enrolls at Williston State College in the fall.

“After I graduate college I plan to open and run my own business. If I do open up my own business, I would have to do interviews with potential workers. In order to do this I’d be communicating with people I’m interviewing.” This could well include people in Ledahl’s hometown of Grenora.

Morgan Reiser, finishing her first year at Dakota College of Bottineau, took time to elaborate on the role of Communication in the current world scenario, “Right now, in these trying times, I do not think communication could be more crucial. With Blackboard Collaborate, Zoom, and email I am able to stay in daily contact with my professors to discuss all of my assignments and any questions I may have. Not only has communication been a huge part of my life, especially in these special circumstances, but it will continue to be a huge part of life in my future.” Reiser studies Nursing from her home in Turtle Lake.

A two-time Dakota West Scholarship recipient, Hannah Johnson quoted George Bernard Shaw in her take on Communication, “ ‘The single biggest problem with communication is the illusion that it has taken place.’ ” Johnson continues, “The importance of good communication cannot be overlooked and is needed on a daily basis.” Dakota West’s Grenora branch is proud to have Johnson as one of its members.

These seven students received news of their receipt of these scholarships on Dakota West’s Facebook page (www.facebook.com/DakotaWestCreditUnion) on Friday, May 15.

Dakota West expresses its congratulations and gratitude to all the student members who belong to the non-profit credit union headquartered in Watford City. Established in 1941, each of its branches and its members and employees help grow the Dakota West family with exceptional commitment to building relationships and strengthening communities.

Dedicated to exhibiting its values of Responsibility, Positive Attitude, Respectfulness, and Communication throughout west and central North Dakota, including branches in Grenora and Watford City, Dakota West Credit Union is instilling its young members with skills to maintain personal financial responsibility throughout their education. Dakota West supports that all its members grow with comprehensive, competitive financial products partnered with personal, professional service. To learn more about its services and communities, visit <http://www.dakotawestcu.com/member-services/>.

Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site Is Modifying Operations To Implement Local Health Guidance: Popular Rendezvous Event Cancelled

Williston, ND – Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site has made the difficult, but necessary, decision to cancel the upcoming 2020 Rendezvous that was scheduled for June 18-21. The health and safety of our visitors, employees, volunteers, and partners at Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site is our number one priority. The National Park Service (NPS) is working service wide with federal, state, and local authorities to closely monitor the COVID-19 pandemic.

This decision was made out of an abundance of caution. Alice Hart, Fort Union Trading Post Superintendent said “The popular Rendezvous event attracts more than 3,000 participants and visitors and is supported by more than 100 volunteers. Current guidance for social distancing and limitations on large gatherings make it unsafe to hold such an event in the near future.”

The park is planning new digital outreach for the week

of Rendezvous, including a social media campaign celebrating past Rendezvous’ and hosting a digital version of the ever-popular Kid’s Day on Thursday June 18. Please look for updates on our park website, www.nps.gov/fous and on social media at <https://www.facebook.com/FortUnionTradingPostNHS/>.

Updates about NPS operations will be posted on www.nps.gov/coronavirus. Please check with individual parks for specific details about park operations.

About the National Park Service: More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America’s 419 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov, and on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.



Burgum Statement On Federal Agency Ruling Pre-Emptying Washington State’s Crude-By-Rail Law

BISMARCK, N.D. – Gov. Doug Burgum issued the following statement after the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) pre-empted a Washington state law that effectively banned rail shipments of Bakken crude to refineries

in that state.

“We deeply appreciate the Administration and PHMSA for basing this decision on sound science and preserving our state’s constitutionally protected right to interstate commerce,” Burgum said. “Washington state’s law was based on

an unsupported, erroneous assumption that Bakken crude oil poses a higher transport risk than other crude oils, when in fact it is shipped in a manner that’s even safer than what federal standards require. We’re grateful to Senators Hoeven and Cramer, Con-

gressman Armstrong and our fellow Industrial Commission members, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, for their determined efforts to block this unfair and arbitrary limitation on Bakken crude. Today’s action supports U.S.

energy security and is a much-needed win for North Dakota oil producers, who need access to the West Coast market, especially as they deal with the dual challenges of a global oil price war and slumping demand caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.”

North Dakota and Montana jointly petitioned PHMSA last July to overturn the Washington law, which barred crude oil from being unloaded at Washington refineries from rail cars with a vapor pressure greater than 9 psi – well below accepted national standards. In an Aug. 5 letter to PHMSA, Burgum argued that the Washington law would “significantly reduce the value

of Bakken crude without any proven safety benefit.” About 10% of North Dakota’s daily Bakken crude production is transported by rail to Washington refineries, the governor noted.

In today’s ruling, PHMSA determined that the federal Hazardous Material Transportation Law (HMTL) pre-empts Washington’s vapor pressure limit, which it said would set “an alarming precedent” and “epitomizes the type of patchwork State regulation that Congress sought to avoid when it enacted the HMTA and established a framework of uniform national regulations for regulating the transportation of hazardous materials.”

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Reid Inducted Into Nursing Honor Society



Brianna Reid

Jamestown, ND - University of Jamestown nursing student Brianna Reid, Sidney, was inducted into the Xi Kappa-at-Large Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society. The society recognizes nursing students and community nurse leaders who have demonstrated achievements in nursing, leadership qualities, and high professional standards.

The University of Jamestown was established in 1883 and is ranked as a top tier regional school in US News and World Report and a top Midwestern school in The Princeton Review. The school features development of the whole person through its distinctive Journey to Success experience.



Emmaus House Scholarship

Cole Roberts, Sidney, has received a \$4200 scholarship from Vision of Hope of Emmaus House for his continued education. This scholarship represents 1/2 of the proceeds of the Emmaus House/VOH fall fundraiser and 1/2 of proceeds from the VOH 5k walk/run. Pictured with Cole are Sr Rita Rauschendorfer and Sr Regina Murray, Emmaus House. VOH will be hosting a Virtual 5k Walk/Run on June 27 to help fund future scholarships and to help in it's ministry to young adults on the autism spectrum. (Submitted by Jenifer Vaira)

Boyer Awarded The Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) Designation

Alexandria, VA – CFRE International has named Melissa Boyer as a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE). Melissa Boyer, Foundation for Community Care Director joins over 6,700 professionals around the world who hold the CFRE designation.

Individuals granted the CFRE credential have met a series of standards set by CFRE International which include tenure in the profession, education, and demonstrated fundraising achievement. They have also passed a rigorous written examination testing the knowledge, skills, and abilities required of a fundraising executive, and have agreed to uphold Accountability Standards and the Donor Bill of Rights.

"The CFRE credential was created to identify for the public and employers those individuals who possess the knowledge, skills, and commitment to perform fundraising duties in an effective and ethical manner," states CFRE International President and CEO Eva E. Aldrich, Ph.D., CAE, (CFRE 2001-2016). "As the certification is a voluntary achievement, the CFRE certification demonstrates a high level of commitment

on the part of Melissa Boyer to the fundraising profession and the donors who are served."

CFRE recipients are awarded certification for a three-year period. To maintain certification status, certificants must demonstrate on-going fundraising employment and fundraising results and continue with their professional education. Employers and donors who work with CFREs know they are getting a professional who is committed to the best outcomes for their organization and has the requisite knowledge and skills.

The CFRE certification signifies a confident, ethical fundraising professional. Since 1981, CFRE has set standards for fundraising professionals. As the only globally recognized fundraising certification, CFRE indicates professionalism, confidence, and ethics. It is how today's fundraiser shows accountability, service, and commitment to making a difference for good. The CFRE certification program is accredited by the American National Standards Institute and is the only accredited certification for fundraising professionals.

As the premier global credential for career fund-

raisers, the CFRE designation is endorsed and supported by the world's leading professional and philanthropic associations, including:

- Association for Healthcare Philanthropy (AHP)
- Association of Fundraising Consultants (AFC)
- Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP)
- Association of Lutheran Development Executives (ALDE)
- Association of Philanthropic Counsel (APC)
- BBB Wise Giving Alliance (BBB)
- Boy Scouts of America (BSA)
- Boys & Girls Clubs of America (BCGA)
- Brazilian Fundraisers Association (ABCR)
- China Association of Fundraising Professionals (CAFP)
- Canadian Association of Gift Planners—Association Canadienne des Professionnels en Dons
- Planifies (CAGP-ACP-DP)
- Educate Plus
- European Fundraising Association (EFA)
- Fundraising Institute Australia (FIA)
- Fundraising Institute New Zealand (FINZ)
- The Giving Institute

- Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI)
- Hong Kong Management Association (HKMA)
- International Catholic Stewardship Council (ICSC)
- Japan Fundraising Association (JFRA)
- Kenya Association of Fundraising Professionals (KAFFP)
- Korea Society of Philanthropy (KSoP)
- National Association of Cancer Center Development Officers (NACCDO)
- National Association of Charitable Gift Planners (CGP)
- Nepal Center for Philanthropy and Development (NCPD)
- New England Association for Healthcare Philanthropy (NEAHP)
- North American YMCA Development Organization (NAYDO)
- Shanghai Jing'an Fundraising Social Charity Innovation Development Center (FIDC)
- Texas Association of Community College Foundations (TACCF)
- United Way Worldwide (UWW)
- Virginia Association of Fundraising Executives (VAFRE)

CFRE International congratulates Melissa Boyer for achieving the CFRE designation.

For more information please visit www.cfre.org or call 1-703-820-5555.

Richland County COVID-19 Information

Stephanie Ler, RS, MPH, Richland County Health Department Public Information Officer

Montana remains in Phase One of the Governor's re-opening plan. Governor Bullock has not provided a specific date that Montana will progress into the second phase. Currently, restaurants, bars, casinos, retail businesses, personal care providers, gyms, movie theaters and museums are open with restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our community. Many organized activities have resumed with restrictions.

All guidance documents and checklists for #Reopen-RichlandCounty are available at www.richland.org/rchd, by clicking on the COVID-19 related tabs. Documents can also be obtained by calling the Information Line at 406-433-6947.

It is important that individuals take personal responsibility to protect themselves and others while participating in activities and visiting local businesses. This means keeping track of where you have been and who you have been with, tightening your circle of contacts, monitoring your health and not going out when you are sick. Bring a cloth mask when you visit the hospital, a healthcare provider, the grocery store, and other places where social distancing may be difficult.

If you have questions, call the Information Line at 406-433-6947.

Untethering of MMP Providers: What Comes Next

By Aliza Hunter

The Department of Public Health and Human Services has sent letters to all registered medical marijuana registered cardholders within the state of Montana. The letter, issued April 29, 2020, explains to cardholders that effective June 2 they will no longer be tethered to their current medical providers. This means that all registered cardholders will be able to purchase medical marijuana from ANY licensed provider within the state of Montana. On May 3, 2019 Senate Bill 265 was signed requiring all untethering to be completed prior to July 1, 2020.

Rick Whatman owns four dispensaries within the state of Montana including Sidney, Glendive, Plentywood, and Bozeman. Whatman believes that untethering is a move in the right direction however, he also believes that the MMP (medical marijuana program) has a potential of losing income due to licensed providers currently paying for many of their client's medical cards. The positive to this, Whatman states, is that some providers offer and specialize in products that others do not offer. This allows the client the freedom to utilize products that may not have been available at the initial providers location.

Whatman advises that this business is a difficult one with expense, changes in law, and recent supply/demand issues. On April 1, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a letter was written by Gov. Steve Bullock to the registered card holders in Montana stating that because of the need to reduce travel and exposure, card holders were allowed to receive their monthly allowable amount of medical marijuana at one time within that month. The regulated allowance prior to the outbreak was one usable ounce per day up to five ounces per month. Because of this new directive, providers such as Whatman, find it difficult to be able to keep up with the need of his currently tethered cardholders. Montana licensed providers grow and produce everything that they sell, so there is a potential that patients may see a limited supply of product throughout the duration of the pandemic. As for the cost of the operation, Whatman shared that the testing of the medical marijuana prior to sale costs him \$375 per test, when Colorado provides the same testing for \$35. After the pandemic ceases, Whatman cannot predict what the state of Montana will do with the further changes to the law surrounding cannabis (production and sales). Whatman then goes on to say that the state of Montana needs the income from recreational sales, when the law passes. In 2018, High Times reported that Montana collected \$1.8 million (June 2017–July 2018) in medical cannabis tax revenue in their first year, doubling the states' expectations.

Draft Environmental Assessment For Surplus Water Use At Lake Sakakawea Available For Public Comment

Riverdale, ND – A draft environmental assessment for a surplus water request at Lake Sakakawea in North Dakota is currently available for public review. The draft EA evaluates the use of surplus water and the environmental impacts of constructing an industrial water intake to allow 1,000 acre-feet (maximum withdrawal rate of 2,100 gallons per minute) to be used by White Horse Water, LLC for oil and gas development.

The proposed action, located in Sand Creek Bay of Lake Sakakawea, would include approximately 1,900 feet of horizontally directional drilled (HDD) underground pipe connected to a water intake screen above the lake bed, and approximately 1,200 feet of water pipeline (all on private land) connected to an existing water pond owned by White Horse, LLC. Approximately 1,850 feet of intake pipeline would be located on USACE-owned property. White Horse, LLC would locate the water pipeline within a common right-of-way within reason to minimize additional disturbance to the landscape. The majority of the proposed project is located on private land and easements have been secured with the landowner.

The public is encouraged to provide comments on the draft environmental assessment, which is available for viewing at: www.nwo.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Planning/Project-Reports/. Comments can be mailed to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District; CENWO-PMA-C;

ATTN: Luke Wallace/Lake Sakakawea Surplus Water EA; 1616 Capitol Avenue; Omaha, NE 68102-4901. Comments can also be emailed to: cenwo-planning@usace.army.mil. Comments must be postmarked or received no later than June 26, 2020.

This draft EA is consistent with the National

Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508), the Corps' regulations for implementing NEPA (33 CFR 325 and Engineering Regulation 200-2-2) and other applicable environmental laws and regulations.

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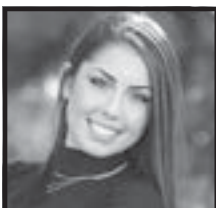
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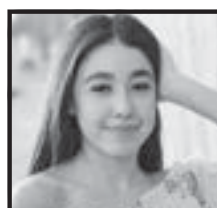
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Watford City Parks And Rec And Rough Rider Center To Provide Summertime Fun

By Anna Dragseth

This year, the Watford City Parks and Recreation and the Rough Rider Center have been working hard to provide fun summertime activities and new equipment for the whole community to enjoy!

As of May 7, the Watford City Parks and Recreation just completed setting up a brand-new outdoor fitness area. The 1.9-mile Linear Park Loop now has an outdoor fitness area that includes 20 pieces of exercise equipment catered to older kids and adults.

Robin Arndt Watford City Park District supervisor, said, "We were very excited to offer this fitness area to the community. When we were setting the equipment up, you could just see that everyone was just so excited to see it go up."

Since the installment of the equipment, many people have been out enjoying it. Arndt explained that there had been many more people using that path compared to the last couple of years due to many people being home because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It has just been exciting to see more and more people enjoying these trails because after all, that is what

we built them for," chuckled Arndt.

The Watford City Parks and Recreation group will also be installing a vault toilet this year. "Many people have expressed that one of the major needs for the park would be restrooms, so we decided that this would make a good addition to the park," stated Arndt.

The Watford City Parks and Recreation ask that each individual take responsibility and practice safety guidelines outlined by the CDC as this fitness equipment will not be sanitized.

On top of having a new outdoor fitness area, the Rough Rider Center has been working hard to prepare for summertime activities. They have been planning on having swimming lessons, recreational programs, and a KidStop Summer Camp.

"Tiffany Preszler, Rough Rider Center aquatics manager, has two sessions of swimming lessons planned for this summer. Session 1 will start on June 15 and end on June 25; this will be for levels one-six. Session two will start on July 20 and end on July 30; this will be for levels one-six. There will also be an evening session during session two for levels

one and two. These sessions will run Monday-Thursday" stated Joshua Nollmeyer, Rough Rider Center recreation manager.

The Wild West Water Park and the Rough Rider Aquatics Center hours of operation are to be decided upon as new information, and CDC guidelines are being evaluated. Additional details on pool operations can be found at www.watfordcityparks.com and www.roughridercenter.com.

Watford City Recreation is also moving forward with providing recreational programs for the community. "With new guidelines being evaluated daily, we do foresee being able to provide programs this summer. These programs may have to be modified to fit guidelines, but it is exciting to plan and determine what we can do to provide opportunities for our community," said Nollmeyer.

"Baseball and Softball encompass a lot of what we provide during the summer, and we will be offering these opportunities this summer in whatever way we can. We envision providing our Cal Ripken Minors and Major programs (for those ages 9-12), Fast Pitch Softball (ages 9-15), and Adult Soft-



The Linear Park in Watford City opened May 7. (Photo submitted)

ball programs hopefully soon as they will be part of our first wave of programs we open up. We are monitoring and waiting on the Babe Ruth organization to update their plans this summer; this will then impact our baseball programs for those between the ages of 13-18. We are also planning on providing baseball programs for younger kids, such as BlastBall (age 3), Tball (4-6), and Rookie (Coach Pitch) for kids 7-8. Details on how these programs will specifically look will all be based on guidelines, but again we are

excited to be providing them in whatever capacity we can for the kids," explained Nollmeyer.

In addition to these programs the Rough Rider Center will be offering a KidStop Summer Camp. Starting June 1, kids entering kindergarten-6th grade will be able to participate in KidStop Summer Camp opportunities which includes fitness and recreation, STEM learning, and arts and crafts. For more information on the program you can contact KidStop Coordinator Amanda Jones at amandaj@roughridercenter.com

The Rough Rider Center is evaluating information and guidelines daily and is planning on opening June 1 - how the Rough Rider Center operates will be directed by CDC guidelines.

Nollmeyer said, "In all of these areas, we have appreciated the flexibility and understanding people have shown as we navigate the reopening process and all the risk factors and guidelines we must consider. We thank everyone for working with us!"


MT 200 – Fairview Construction Project Update

Concrete paving work began on Thursday, May 14. Motorists should be aware that during concrete paving work, crews will be closer to vehicles than usual as they are working within smaller-than-normal lanes. A flagger will be on-site to direct the flow of traffic along MT 200 (Ellery Ave) during this first phase of paving.

Please be aware that 9th Street (MT 200) is closed to traffic where it transitions from 9th to Ellery Ave. It will remain closed for about a week.

There are no additional traffic impacts planned for motorists traveling through the area and traffic will remain flowing. Traffic will remain reduced to two-lane,

two-way traffic but the highway will remain open to traffic during construction. The traveling public is asked to prepare for occasional delays of up to 15 minutes and is reminded to slow down and watch for work crews and equipment in the construction zone.



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CT Suite Is Open At RMC In Culbertson

By Jaimee Green

The word “excited” just doesn’t cut it. It can’t begin to describe the sentiment around Roosevelt Medical Center. Perhaps words like “ecstatic or over-the-moon are more fitting. That’s because the community now has access to something big and most-definitely worth celebrating!

After a year of planning and remodeling, the CT Suite is now complete at RMC. That means patients can now benefit from access to state-of-the-art computed tomography (CT) diagnostic technology.

The fanfare of a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house is still tentatively planned. However, while we practice

social distancing, those events are delayed.

The 80-slice Cannon Aquilion Lightning scanner will now enable medical staff to quickly determine health status and a course of treatment while giving patients the ability to receive up-to-date healthcare technology right at home.

“This is a game changer for improving the quality of care in our area. It will ensure patients can receive that vital next step in diagnostic testing to determine which treatments to administer locally,” said Jody Lizotte, RMC nursing director. “It helps us determine which specialty facility is the most appropriate for a patient’s medical needs. In an emergency, the receiving medical team is then better prepared to treat the patient based on the CT test they have already received from us. Time savings can be critical to ensuring the best patient outcomes,” Lizotte added.

Lisa Rutledge, RMC radiology technologist, oversees the department. Rutledge has been with RMC for nearly two years and has worked in radiology since 2001.

The purchase was made possible through a \$500,000 grant from The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust. With a legacy of saving lives, the Helmsley Charitable Trust continually makes a difference in the outcomes of rural healthcare patients by improving access to quality healthcare in rural America.

The grant provided \$400,000 for the purchase of the scanner and \$100,000 toward remodeling a location in the hospital to accommodate it. Most of the work was completed in-house to cut down on cost.

RMC had been considering adding CT services for several years but needed to ensure the service would not create a loss of revenue for the facility and create a financial burden. “This is a vitally needed diagnostic tool we have wanted to provide to the community as a way of improving patient outcomes. We needed to be sure we would be able to staff the suite and cover the additional expenses associated with its’ addition,” said Audrey Stromberg, RMC administrator.

Based on the number of patients referred to other facilities for CT testing, RMC foresees completing about 20 tests each month.

The new service will enhance EMS coverage too. Often times, when an emergency room patient needs to be transferred to an area facility for a CT test, two volunteer ambulance personnel must transport that patient. This takes one ambulance and personnel away from possibly responding to an emergency. This will also potentially save the patient the additional cost of the transfer by ambulance.

The Helmsley Charitable Trust’s most recent donation is



Lisa Rutledge, Roosevelt Medical Center radiology director. (Photo submitted)

its’ second gift to RMC. Its’ first grant was given in 2013 and was used to implement eCARE Emergency services to bring telemedicine support to the emergency department. Through this technology, RMC is able to bring specialty-trained health care providers and patients face-to-face through video monitoring in real-time. The vision of eCARE Emergency is to improve outcomes for emergency patients by linking RMC’s emergency room staff to a remote multidisciplinary team, specialty trained in emergency medicine.

“Roosevelt Medical Center is honored to be a two-time beneficiary of the Helmsley Charitable Trust’s generosity and looks forward to enhancing the quality of care for the people who live in our area,” said Jaimee Green, RMC marketing/foundation director.

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Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative June 3 Annual Meeting Cancelled

Submitted by Jami Propp

The Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) board of trustees voted unanimously to cancel the 2020 annual meeting of members scheduled for June 3 at the Richland County Event Center. This is in response to Gov. Steve Bullock declaring a state of emergency in Montana and President Trump declaring a state of emergency in the

nation due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve, LYREC will strive to keep our membership informed. The 84th annual meeting program will be distributed to all members in late May. The program will contain the 2019 annual meeting minutes and financials, board of trustee candidate biographies, scholarship information, and a cooperative update from LYREC’s CEO and board president. We are committed to maintaining open communication and will be utilizing social media and our website to send important information to our members regarding business. LYREC is also exploring alternative options for a meeting with members.

The Nominating Committee met on March 3. Following the committee’s work, they nominated only one candidate per district; accordingly, the election of trustees will be by acclamation. Dennis Nelson will be re-elected to represent District 5, Greg Rauschendorfer will be re-elected for District 6, and Allen Thiessen will be re-elected for District 7.

“We are truly saddened to have to cancel the annual meeting for the first time in our cooperative history. It’s a tradition we value and cherish,” said Jason Brothen, LYREC CEO/general manager. The decision to cancel was not made lightly, but LYREC board and management felt it was in the best interest for the health and safety of our members, employees and communities. We appreciate your support and understanding as we navigate this unique and unprecedented time together.

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Sidney Health Center Welcomes General Surgeon

Sidney, MT – As Sidney Health Center resumes doing elective surgeries in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization is pleased to announce the addition of Deborah Harris, D.O. Dr. Harris joins the medical staff as a General Surgeon along with Dr. John E. Carey and Dr. Edward Bergin.

The surgery department was temporarily closed for elective surgical procedures when the novel coronavirus pandemic hit the United States more than a month ago. The downtime allowed administration, surgeons and staff time to stock up on

personal protective equipment and adjust policies and procedures to meet the latest CDC guidelines including preoperative COVID-19 testing for all elective surgeries.

"We are excited to expand our surgical team with the addition of Dr. Harris and feel the time is right to start gearing back up with elective procedures," stated Jen Doty, Sidney Health Center CEO. "Hospitals across Montana are doing surgeries with the recommended guidelines and we are prepared to do the same."

Dr. Harris is an American Board Certified Osteo-

pathic Surgeon, who has a special interest in women's health including breast and gynecologic surgery, as well as general laparoscopic and endoscopy procedures.

Dr. Harris graduated from Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine before completing her residency at Suncoast Hospital, which is affiliated with NOVA Southeastern University, Largo, FL in 2003. Most of her career, she has worked in Alaska and Ohio.

Dr. Harris plans to be on-site two to three weeks per month seeing patients in the clinic and performing surgeries as needed.

General surgeons typically operate on common abdominal complaints including appendicitis, hernias, gallbladder surgeries, stomach and intestinal issues. In addition, they are trained to operate on breast, skin and soft tissue and endocrine glands as well as trauma, surgical oncology and in critical care situations.

"With Dr. Kelly O'Neal retiring in March, the timing was right to bring Dr. Harris onboard," stated Becky Cassidy, Senior Executive Physician Services. Dr. Harris has worked at Sidney Health Center on a locum tenen basis for about six

months and worked with Dr. Carey previously in Alaska. "It's great when professional connections turn into a recruitment opportunity for the benefit of our community."

Sidney Health Center's surgical services include general surgery, obstetrics/gynecology, orthopedic, otolaryngology (ENT) and podiatric. The ten surgeons collectively performed around 1,700 surgeries at Sidney Health Center in fiscal year 2019.

For a complete listing of physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants, visit the Sidney Health Center website at



Dr. Deborah Harris
(Submitted photo)

sidneyhealth.org.

We Salute Our Veterans On This MEMORIAL DAY • MONDAY, MAY 25 Memorial Day Parade & Services

Social distancing is asked during the program. Due to the restrictions at this time, there will not be a picnic following the program.

Posting of Flags 7 am
Spearheaded by Sidney Lions
Parade Chairman Gene Ronningen
Flag Pickup at Central Park 10 am
Parade of Flags of Honor 11 am
Master of Ceremonies Gene Ronningen
"Star Spangled Banner" All
Invocation Eric Rydbom, Ret. LTC, LPA
Flag Folding Girl Scouts
Guest Speaker Dwight Linde
Presentation of Gift to Speaker Bill Henderson
Tribute to Departed Comrades VFW Post & Auxiliary
Taps Charlotte Hafer, Dawn Hammerly
Benediction Eric Rydbom, Ret. LTC, LPA

Special thanks to: Sidney Lions Club members and other volunteers helping to post and fold the flags, and members of the Sidney VFW Post 4099 and Auxiliary. Thank you to all participants of the parade and program. A special thank you to all our Veterans who served our country. Thank you to the Sidney Chamber of Commerce for the donation of the gift.

Flags of Honor caretakers Violet Sharp & Margaret Bradley
Flags to be taken down at 4:30 (weather permitting)



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VFW POST 4099 Sidney
Open 9am - 5pm
Memorial Day
Flag setup.....7am
Parade.....11am
Program (no lunch) ...11:30am
124 2nd Ave NE • 433-9982

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OBITUARIES

Wayne D. "Bud" Morrill, 82

Fairview, MT

Graveside services for Wayne D. "Bud" Morrill, 82, Fairview, MT was held at 2 p.m., Friday, May 15, 2020 at Fairview Cemetery, Fairview, ND with Pastor Kelly Sloan officiating.

The Montana Honor Guard and the American Legion Post #114 of Fairview provided military honors.

Visitation was Thursday, May 14, 2020, noon - 5 p.m. and Friday, May 15, 2020, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home is caring for the family.

Remembrances, condolences and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

Wayne "Bud" passed away on Friday, May 8, 2020, at Billings Clinic, Billings, MT.

Rocky Dean "Rock" Brekhus, 62

Aurora, CO formerly of Sidney, MT

A small family funeral was held for Rocky "Rock" Brekhus, 62, formerly of Sidney, MT on Thursday, May 14, 2020, at Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT with Pastor Rolf Preus, Trinity Lutheran Church officiating.

He was interred next to his dad, Rosvel, in Sidney Cemetery, Sidney, MT under the care of Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT.

Remembrances, condolences and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

Anyone wishing to offer a remembrance is encouraged to share their sentiments by USPS or email with Rock's brother Duke (dukebrekhus@gmail.com) who will share with the rest of Rock's family.

Those wishing to send flowers are encouraged to donate to the National MS Society in lieu of flowers.

The Brekhus family wishes to thank family and friends everywhere for their outpouring of love and grief, for all the well wishes, and for all the prayers that continue to pour in. God Bless.

On May 6, 2020, at 12:28 a.m. Rock Brekhus passed away peacefully at Cherry Creek Nursing Center, Aurora, CO. His passing was the result of primary progressive multiple sclerosis complicated by a recent COVID-19 viral infection.

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