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Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Volume 42 • Number 9

Farewell To The Scout Cabin

Submitted by Kim Simmonds

On May 14, 2016 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., community members are invited to a Farewell to the Scout Cabin at the MonDak Heritage Center located at 120 3rd Avenue SE in Sidney. Lunch will be served to attendees, and visitors will have the opportunity to walk through the Scout Cabin, make purchases from items within the structure, as well as view a history of the Scout Cabin that will be on display.

The Scout Cabin was built in 1934 through volunteer labor. The land was purchased at a tax sale and the logs on the front of the Scout Cabin were donated by Fred Estes and came from an old barn on his property. The construction of the stone fireplace inside was supervised by Riley Banta. The Scout Cabin was the third such cabin used by Girl Scouts in Montana.

The original Scout Cabin consisted of a front room with fireplace and a small kitchen behind. In 1942, a long addition was added to the back of the building to provide additional meeting space. During the years, the location served many purposes including at least two daycare facilities that rented the space to make it self-sufficient.

A group of concerned citizens, the Community Youth and Historic Site Facility Corporation, took over the facility in 1978 and offered use of the building to scouting groups, religious groups and other community clubs. In 1992, they donated the cabin to the MonDak Heritage Center.

The removal of the Scout Cabin from the lot next to the MonDak Heritage Center has been discussed for over five years by the MonDak Historical and Arts Society Board, as well as with the Richland County Commissioners and concerned community members. The building has not been used for 15 years, and is no longer suitable for use as a storage location.

The MonDak Heritage Center's Executive Director Kim Simmonds and Education Coordinator Jessica Newman have been working to gather plans and begin to raise money to build an education wing on the site of the Scout Cabin. The addition would not only add a larger classroom space for Newman and her burgeoning education program, but would also provide an additional space for outside classes, such as senior aerobics, tai chi or yoga, or groups to have meetings in their own private space.

Since Newman came on board last May, the education program has boomed at the MonDak. Classes offered at the museum went up from less than five per month to an average of 15 per month, in addition to the educational outreach Newman provides. With the volume of classes being provided, and the number of community meetings that take place at the museum, an education wing will provide much needed space for the Center.

The Scout Cabin will be commemorated on the site with a plaque and the use of the rock that currently leads up to the front door and is used within on the fireplace. Funds raised through the sale of items within the Scout Cabin will be put in an account to help fund the new education wing. Photographs and histories will also be recorded during the clean-up, the farewell event and during the removal to document the complete history of building. Removal of the building is tentatively planned for later this year.

For more information please contact Kim at the MonDak Heritage Center, mdhc@richland.org.

Dakota Boat Center Opens in Williston



Owner Dutch Deick stands in front of one of the beautiful boats for sale at Dakota Boat Center in Williston.

Dakota Boat Center is now open in Williston under the capable ownership of Dutch Deick. Deick saw a definite need in the community for quality, moderately priced boats and pontoons, plus full service. At this time he carries Crestliner and Avalon, with more brands to come. "With all the boaters and fishermen in this area, I saw a need for this kind of business. There's definitely a market," Deick commented. He has already heard comments about how nice it is to have a full service dealer back in town.

Deick is no stranger to the boating market, having spent ten years in Minnesota selling boats and managing dealerships. He and his wife Valerie live in the Cartwright area and have called this area home for over six years. They enjoy the outdoors, hunting and fishing.

Dakota Boat Center is located in the Williston Equipment building at 4996 139th Ave., NW, Williston. They are open from 9-5:30 Monday through Friday and 9am to 2pm Saturdays. Stop by or give Deick a call at 701-770-8075.



Public Notice

Barring unforeseen circumstances, the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project will begin filling and flushing the Main Canal on Monday, April 18 at 6am. Please ensure that all children, livestock and fences are out of the canals, ditches, drains and harm's way. Please unlock any gates along canals.

Montana Department Of Revenue Expands Service As April 18 Tax Deadline Approaches

Submitted by Mary Ann Dunwell

The Montana Department of Revenue is offering expanded hours at its call center to assist taxpayers during the days before the April 18 deadline for filing income tax returns.

Taxpayers who need assistance can call the department's call center toll free at (866) 859-2254, or in Helena at 444-6900. Regular call center hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The call center will have extended hours during the last days of tax season. Beginning Thursday and Friday, April 14 and 15, help will be available from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.; on Saturday, April 16, hours will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; and Monday, April 18,

hours will be 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

The department strongly encourages taxpayers to file their taxes electronically. "It takes a great deal of time, resources and taxpayer money for the department to process paper returns," says Revenue Director Mike Kadas. "But when people e-file their returns, we have those returns in our system automatically, which equates to saving time and money. Plus, taxpayers get their refunds much sooner than if they filed by paper."

Taxpayers can file electronically using the department's e-filing service, Taxpayer Access Point (TAP), or one of many commercial e-filing products including MontanaFreeFile.org. For all electronic filing and payment options, visit revenue.mt.gov

and click Online Services.

Some refunds are taking longer this year due to extra security and review procedures following an increase in fraudulent tax return filings. Since this tax season opened on January 19, the department has blocked 273 fraudulent returns totaling \$345,095.

The department has processed more than 360,717 individual income tax returns so far for the 2015 tax year. These numbers include both electronic and paper returns. The department has issued 287,992 refunds averaging \$417. To check the status of their refunds, taxpayers can go online to the Department of Revenue website at revenue.mt.gov/online-services/wheres-my-refund and read the Where's My Refund FAQs. These questions and answers help taxpayers check the status of their refunds on Taxpayer Access Point.

In addition to calling the department call center, taxpayers can receive assistance by visiting the Mitchell Building in Helena, 125 North Sanders, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Customer parking is on the building's east side. Assistance is also available at the department's offices in Missoula at 2681 Palmer Street. If taxpayers need help filing electronically, they can prepare their state income tax return on paper and take it to the office where we'll help them e-file at no cost.

There are also more than 100 volunteer tax preparation sites around the state through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance and AARP Tax-Aide Montana. To find out if you qualify and to see a list of locations, visit MontanaFreeFile.org. Taxpayers can also use an authorized tax preparer for assistance. For more information, visit revenue.mt.gov.

April 15 is the deadline for submitting an application for various tax relief options. The Property Tax Assistance (PTAP) and the Montana Disabled Veteran Property Tax Relief (MDV) programs can give property tax relief to qualifying low-income homeowners. April 18 is the deadline for the 2EC, an income tax credit for elderly homeowners and renters. Information and applications are available online at revenue.mt.gov under Property Assessment, Property Tax Relief.

MNAXLP

The Prairie Rose Gala For Kent Pelton Nature Park

By Sheridan Martin

Saturday, April 23 at the Outlaws Ballroom, Watford City, ND, from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. marks the Prairie Rose Gala, hosted by the Young Professionals of Watford City. This event is a fundraiser for the new Kent Pelton Nature Park coming soon to Watford City. The park is currently located on park property that is planned space for public gathering and enjoyment of the outdoors. The design offers increased recreation opportunities to the current fishing pond with the addition of a pre-engineered steel pavilion and deck overlooking the pond in the southeast corner. The purpose and need for the project is for conservation, outdoor learning opportunities, social and community opportunities, local and arts culture, health and wellness of the community, keeping nature in the future and much more. The theme for the event is "Old Hollywood Style" and tickets are available for purchase at 1st International Bank and Trust, Larsen Service Drug and Door 204 Coffee Shop.

Diamond tickets will cost \$100, Gold \$75 and Ruby \$50. All proceeds will go to benefit Kent Pelton Nature Park. Contact Kelsey Linseth for more information at 701-653-5155.

Sidney Public School Is Beginning A Hall Of Fame

By Sheridan Martin

After many years, Sidney Public Schools is now starting "Sidney Public Schools Athletic Hall of Fame".

The first class will be inducted this coming fall, and be a maximum class of 10 this upcoming 2016-2017 school year. Nominations will be accepted until June 1, 2016 for induction/inclusion into the first class to be so enshrined.

More information can be found at the Sidney Public Schools website in the Athletics file, or at the Central and High School offices.

All nominations need to be forwarded to the SPS Activities Office at Sidney High School.

The committee is also looking for a local group that might be interested in sponsoring the event, which will be held early fall of 2016. Please contact the SHS activities office if your group might be interested.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Sidney Public Schools Activities Office at Sidney High School, 406-433-2330.



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Thank You

Rau School would like to thank everyone who supported the World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser.

Funds raised will help pay for the end-of-year Rau School field trip. Everyone in Sidney and the surrounding communities who contributed by buying one chocolate or entire boxes make this memorable experience possible for our students and we are so grateful to you all!

Thank You

The family of Virgil Karst would like to express their sincere gratitude to those who assisted in the care of our dad in recent years:


• Bethel Lutheran Nursing and Rehab Center • Drs. Paul Andelin, John Andelin, Wm. Curtis Small, Edward Pierce and their staff • Sidney Health Center and Extended Care Facility

Our family would also like to thank all of Dad's family, friends and neighbors who have so humbled us with their outpouring of love and support since his passing. We truly do live in a wonderful and caring community.


– Sincerely, Blaine Karst; Daniel, Lanette, Alex and Allyson Young

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NOTICE

Barring unforeseen circumstances, the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project will begin filling and flushing the Main Canal on **MONDAY, APRIL 18 AT 6AM**

Please ensure that all children, livestock, and **FENCES** are out of the canals, ditches, drains and harm’s way. Please **UNLOCK** any **GATES** along canals.

NOTICE

STATISTICS

<u>LAKE WATER LEVEL REPORT</u>	
Sakakawea	
Current Elevation.....	1837.3
Last Week's Elev.	1837.6
One Year Ago	1839.3
Release For Day (C.F.S.)	16,000

SIDNEY WEATHER DATA

Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Apr. 4	69	25	0.00
Apr. 5	59	33	0.04
Apr. 6	61	34	0.00
Apr. 7	59	34	0.00
Apr. 8	57	24	0.00
Apr. 9	73	33	0.00
Apr. 10	4	22	0.00
Total YTD Precipitation.....	0.88		

Eldon P. Steffens, 89, Sidney, MT

Memorial services for Eldon P. Steffens, 89, of Sidney, MT were held at 11 a.m. on Tues., Apr. 12, 2016, at Pella Lutheran Church with Pastor Alton Hillesland officiating. Cremation has taken place under the direction of Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home. Remembrances, condolences and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

Eldon died on Sat. morning, Apr. 9, 2016, at the Tenderness Campus under the care of Rocky Mountain Hospice, Billings, MT.

June Sullivan, 82, Fairview, MT

Funeral services for June Sullivan, 82, of Fairview, MT were held at 2 p.m., Friday, Apr. 8, 2016 at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Fairview, MT with Pastor Mark Nicolaus officiating. Burial was held at the Fairview Cemetery under the direction of the Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home. Remembrances, pictures and condolences can be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

June died Tues., Apr. 5, 2016 at the Sidney Extended Care.

Robert A. “Bob” Evenson, 78, Lambert, MT

Mass of the Christian Burial for Robert A. “Bob” Evenson, 78, of Lambert, MT was held at 2 p.m., on Tues., Apr. 12, 2016 at St. Theresa’s Catholic Church in Lambert with Father Jim O’Neil as presider. Wake services were held at 6 p.m., Mon., Apr. 11, 2016 at St. Theresa’s Catholic Church. Cremation followed the mass under the direction of Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home. Remembrances, condolences and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

Robert died early Friday morning, Apr. 8, 2016, at the Billings Clinic, Billings, MT.

Spaghetti Benefit And Silent Auction For George Thorgramson

On February 17th George Thorgramson had a biopsy on his throat. On the morning of February 19th the doctor called with the diagnosis of stage 3 throat cancer. George started chemo and radiation on March 16th. George has about 6 to 8 weeks of chemo and radiation. He will undergo radiation 5 days a week and chemo 1 day a week both taking place in Williston, ND. His wife Carol, son Justus, daughter Liberty, along with friends and family are all praying for a speedy recovery.

Contributions may be made at the benefit.

Have questions or something to donate? Contact Deanna Aguilar at 406-480-0152. Please have donations for the silent auction to Deanna Aguilar by April 13th, 2016. If you need someone to pick up your donation please contact Deanna.

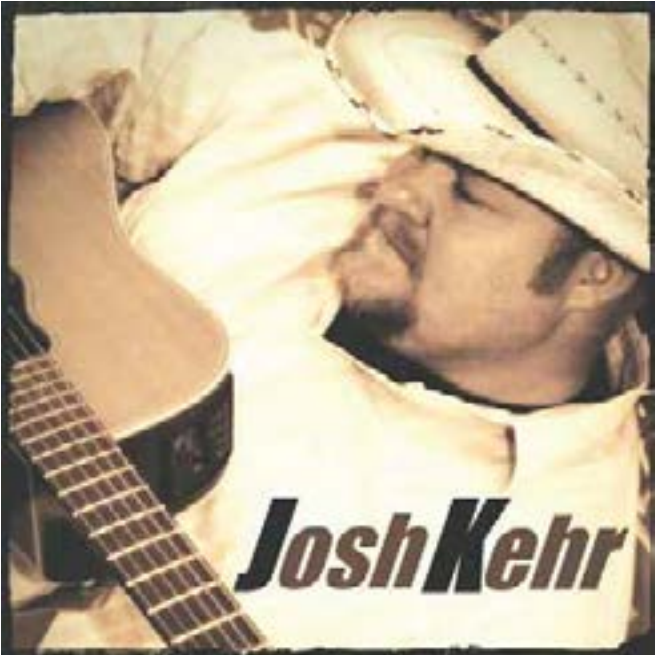
Thank you in advance for your generous support of this worthy cause.

Richland County 4-H Jr. Leaders Host The Annual Dinner And Dance

By Josie Evenson

The Richland County 4-H Jr. Leaders are hosting their annual dinner and dance on April 15, 2016 at the Elks Lodge in Sidney. The Richland County 4-H Jr. Leaders are senior 4-H members from across the county who have dedicated themselves to going above and beyond the club level to develop leadership skills, plan and implement 4-H events, promote the 4-H program and serve as role models for younger 4-H members. This event is a service learning projects for the group of Richland County teens. Every year all proceeds from this dinner and dance go to a community member, family or charity in need. This year all proceeds will go to a local 4-H family who lost everything in a house fire. The event will include a meal served by the Jr. Leaders, a live and silent auction and a dance. Dinner will be served from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and will be a choice of chicken fried chicken or tortellini. Dinner will be followed by the live auction and then the dance. This night promises to be a fun filled night. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by contacting a Richland County 4-H Jr. Leader or the Richland County Extension Office at 406-433-1206.

North Dakota Performer Is Excited To Support The Upcoming Best Kept Secret Bra Auction



I am an entertainer born and raised in Southwest North Dakota. As a singer/songwriter, I use my passion for writing and performing to share my message through my songs in a way that is relatable to audiences both young and old. I strive to reach as many people as possible and try to write music that people can truly relate to, no matter what curveballs life may throw at us. That is the reason I am very honored to be a part of this great cause. We will be selling the new album at the event and will be donating four dollars from each album sold to help those who need the help. My newest song is an anthem entitled ‘To Hell with Cancer’, which I will play at the event. I encourage everyone coming to the event to go to www.facebook.com/JoshKehrmusic and give the new song a listen; that way we can sing it all together. Thank you for letting me be a part of this great cause.

Dare to Dream
Josh Kehr

MNAXLP

EVENTS

SEND US YOUR EVENTS!
THE ROUNDUP: PO Box 1207
111 West Main • Sidney, MT 59270
406-433-3306 • Fax: 406-433-4114 • Email: classads@esidney.com

RICHLAND COUNTY

Events in Sidney unless otherwise listed. MT Zone.

Wed., Apr. 13

12 p.m. - Ranger Talk at the MonDak Heritage Center featuring Fred MacVaughn, Curator at Fort Union National Historic Site. Event is free, just bring your own lunch.

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - After School Enrichment. \$50/6 sessions. MonDak Heritage Center. 433-3500.

6 p.m. - 7 p.m. - Circle of Sisters Book Club. Richland County Library. 433-1917.

6 p.m. - 9 p.m. - Car Night. Every Wednesday starting tonight through to August. SE corner of Reynold’s parking lot. Everyone welcome.

Thur., Apr. 14

4 p.m. - 5 p.m. - Teen Craft & Book Club. Richland County Library. 433-1917.

5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Family Coloring Club. Richland County Library. 433-1917.

6 p.m. - 8 p.m. - Middle School Dodgeball Tournament. Sidney Middle School.

Fri., Apr. 15

10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. - Read & Play. Sing songs, play games, read book and do crafts with your child. Richland County Library.

7 p.m. - SHS Play. “A View From Sunset Towers” SMS Auditorium.

Sat., Apr. 16

10 a.m. - Family Friendly Fellowship Get Together. Fun Bible discussions, songs, crafts and a hot pitch-in meal. Everyone is invited and free to the public. Weather permitting, Central Park. Please call Julia at 406-774-3309 or 406-480-5648 with any questions.

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Spaghetti Benefit and Silent Auction for George Thorgramson, free will offering at St. Matthews Parish Center. For more information or to make a donation, call Deanna Aguilar at 480-0152.

12 p.m. - 1 p.m. - Crafternoon. Spring canvas painting. Richland County Library. 433-1917.

2 p.m. - 3 p.m. - Teen Craft. Peppermint sugar scrub. Richland County Library. 433-1917.

7 p.m. - SHS Play. “A View From Sunset Towers” SMS Auditorium.

Sun., Apr. 17

2 p.m. - SHS Play. “A View From Sunset Towers” SMS Auditorium.

Mon., Apr. 18

7 p.m. - 8 p.m. - Glass Fusion Pendant & Earrings. \$20. MonDak Heritage Center. 433-3500.

Tues., Apr. 19

12 p.m. - 4 p.m. - Walk-in Tuesdays. Spring Chicken Footprints. \$15 per project. MonDak Heritage Center. 433-3500.

3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - Lego Club & Lego League. Richland County Library.

7 p.m. - 8 p.m. - Glass Fusion Votive Candle Holder. \$25. MonDak Heritage Center. 433-3500.

Wed., Apr. 20

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. - After School Enrichment. \$50 for 6 sessions. MonDak Heritage Center. 433-3500.

5 - 10 p.m. - Community Pint Night- Meadowlark Public House. \$1 for every pint sold will go to support a community organization.

6 p.m. - 7 p.m. - Book Buddies. Dr. Suess. Richland County Library. 433-1917.

Thurs., Apr. 21

11:30 a.m. - Richland Redhatters. We will meet for lunch at the Rod Iron. Please RSVP by April 19 to Sylvia at 798-3882 or Margaret at 488-4613.

5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Board Development Training. Training will introduce board members and interested citizens to various concepts and techniques for successful board meetings. Come learn how you can be an effective board member. MSU Extension/Eastern Ag Research Center, 1499 N. Central Ave. For more information contact the MSU Extension office at 433-1206.

Fri., Apr. 22

7 p.m. - Decade Dance. Free for all ages. Dress up in the decade you wish to live: 50s, 60s, 70s...Free will donations will be accepted to go towards FCCLA's trip to Nationals. Fairview High School's Old Gym.

7 p.m. - Ceramic Splash Bowl. \$30. MonDak Heritage Center. 433-3500.

WILLIAMS COUNTY

Events in Williston unless otherwise listed. CT Zone.

Fri., Apr. 15

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.- Confluence Quilters at the Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center.

2 p.m. - 6 p.m. - Williston’s 6th Annual Home & Garden Show at the Raymond Center. Additional dates are April 16 & 17.

Sat., Apr. 16

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Confluence Quilters.

6 p.m. - 12 a.m. - Oilfield Wives of Williston present the 5th Annual Masquerade Ball. Semi formal to formal attire and masks. Enjoy music, silent auction, entertainment by Kay Michael Lee Dance, photo booth, cash bar, hors d’oeuvres and dessert. This is a fundraiser for Village Family Services and Family Crisis Shelter. Tickets can be purchased at Bride to Be or GoGo Cafe & Donuts. Must be 21 or older. \$30/ person or \$50/couple. Grand Williston Hotel.

Sun., Apr. 17

7 p.m. - Sam Miltich & Tim Kliphuis concert at the Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center.

Tues., Apr. 19

7 p.m. - Williston Camera Club. Join the Williston Camera Club. All levels of experience are welcome. Come learn something new or sharpen your skills. James Memorial Art Center.

Thurs., Apr. 21

7 p.m. - Fort Buford History Book Club. Join history buffs in a discussion of this month’s selected book, “Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy” by Karen Abbott. Free refreshments. Please call in advance at 701-572-9034.

ROOSEVELT COUNTY

Events in Froid unless otherwise listed. MT Zone.

Thurs., Apr. 21

1 p.m. - 4 p.m - Board Development Training. Training will introduce board members and interested citizens to various concepts and techniques for successful board meetings. Come learn how you can be an effective board member. RC Complex meeting room, 307 Broadway in Culbertson.

DAWSON COUNTY

Events in Glendive unless otherwise listed. MT Zone

Wed., Apr. 20

12 p.m. - 1 p.m. - April Lunch ‘n’ Learn. Travel: Tours, Tips and Strategies. Listen to Marlene, Myrna and Twylla talk about how they plan travels to points unknown. Glendive Public Library Community Room. Tea and coffee provided, bring your own lunch.

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Sidney Middle School Science Fair Winners



Sidney Middle School held their science fair on Friday, April 8th, 2016. Jenna Noble is the middle school science teacher and this was her third year running the show. Above: 7th grade winners, left to right: 3rd place, Claire Frank, Pet Therapy; 3rd place, Kylee Lambert, Drop It Like It's Hot; 2nd Place, Tynan Fahrnow, Fractional Distillation; and 1st place, Cash Cundiff, Solar Can Heater.



8th grade winners, left to right: 3rd place, Mason Mindt, Breakfast Is More Important Than You Think; 2nd place, Ximena Rosas, Electrolyte Showdown; and 1st place, James Allen, The Grieving Grass. Photos by Sheridan Martin

Four University Of Jamestown Students Have Been Elected To Serve On The Student Senate Executive Board For The 2016-17 School Year

Submitted by Dallas Rosin
President - Victoria Getchell - Political Science, English , 2017 Sidney, MT
Vice President - Tyler Leslie - Biology, 2017 Davenport, ND
Secretary - Aly Freitag - Exercise Science & Health and Fitness Administration, 2018 Elko, NV
Treasurer - Jocelyn Meidinger - Political Science 2017, Jamestown, ND

Thank You

The family of June Sullivan wishes to thank the many friends & relatives who touched her life. We also commend the Sidney Hospital staff for the good care she received while she was there. Most of all we want to give our sincere thanks to the Extended Care employees, the manager, the Social Services personnel. They all were very compassionate, caring & professional in caring for June during her last days. They are special so when you see them, shake their hand & thank them for their service to the community. We will always miss her.
- Ted Sullivan, Jim Ketterling & families

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SATURDAY APRIL 16th 2016

5th Annual BAKKEN BREW FEST

RICHLAND COUNTY FAIR EVENT CENTER

288 W. Holly St., SIDNEY, MT

Live music by The Lil' Smokies

Doors Open @ 7 PM

Don't miss the Tapping of the Firkin!

Transportation Available:

*Pick-up & Drop-off at the Hotel Albert, Fairview, MT provided by Sidney Wrestling Club.

*Sidney Shuttle vouchers will be provided for Sidney area transportation (within a 10 mile radius of Sidney) after the event.

Catering By Meadowlark Public House

VIP Tickets: \$100

Gen. Adm. Tickets: \$50

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Sidney Tiger Sharks & Boys & Girls Club of Richland County

Purchase Tickets Online at: www.sidneymt.com or at the Chamber Office

For more information call 406-433-1916. Must be 21 or older, ID and ticket must be presented at door.

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Come Home To Crestwood!





Free food, Free information, Why not!
featuring Dr. Fared Kadum, MD, FOCOG

Date:
April 19th

Time:
Noon-1pm

Location:
Williston ARC
Lunch provided

Topics:
Women’s Health & Wellness
Introduction of New Midwife Services,
Shannon Shepherd, MSN, CNM

Save the Dates:
May 17th - Shelia Ponzio (Pediatrics)
June 30th - Dr. Marburger (Neurology)
For more information on the Lunch and Learns
go to mercy-williston.org or call 701-774-7444

CATHOLIC HEALTH
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Birthdays Rock

By Lois Stephens

I celebrate another birthday soon, and I expect an onslaught of cards pointing out and gently poking fun at my advanced number of years. I look forward to all my cards, whether they remind me that I am well-seasoned in years, or whether they just remind me that someone has thought of me today and wishes me well. Birthdays should remind one that indeed, today we are kings or queens for the day.

Last year one of the cards I received read “Birthdays are like Outhouses: Not exactly pleasant but we’d be in deep doo-doo without them.” I still scratch my head over that one. I LIKE birthdays. I look forward to a special day where more than likely someone else cooks a nice dinner for me, I may get a few presents, co-workers use the event as an excuse to bring treats to work, and I generally receive lots of cards in the mail. I anticipate the thought of chatting with siblings on the phone, and in truth, I rather like the attention birthdays provide. After all, it isn’t every day that others do something a little out of the ordinary in honor of the fact that I exist.

I don’t particularly like the thought that I’m officially one year older, and I have trouble accepting just how many birthdays have come and gone already, but that doesn’t prevent me from enjoying them. I don’t feel like a 60 something old woman, but then again, how do I know what a 60 something person ought to feel like? I feel just fine, not at all old and worn out.

When I was a child, I figured a person had some age on them when they reached the horrifying age of forty-five, they were ancient relics at fifty, and tottering on their last legs at sixty. Fortunately, now that I’ve passed that sixtieth milestone by several years, I can happily report to youngsters that no, we are not decrepit old fossils at sixty plus and that we still have plenty of spark left despite the wrinkles and grey hair. As another birthday card I received advised me, ‘Inside every old person is a young person wondering what the heck happened.’ I can vouch for that one. I still think of me as young, believe it or not. It does make me sit up and take notice, however, when a character in a book worries about her “old” mother who has reached the astonishing age of 65. Instead I cheer when the heroine has some age on her and still more than holds her own against the world.

I am surprised at the number of people who seem to think birthdays are something to dread. Why? Sure, we’re officially another year older, but if you think about it, every day we are a year older than this day a year ago.

Memorial Day, or the 4th of July, or Thanksgiving, unless of course unwanted relatives plan to show up looking for free turkey and all the trimmings. Any annual holiday that we generally look forward to reminds us that one more year has come and gone, but that doesn’t diminish our pleasure in the day itself.

We need to handle birthdays the same way. It’s our special day, an occasion to celebrate ourselves in the company of people we care about. Pish posh if we’re another year older. So what? If we live long enough, we all get old. Celebrate that fact. Revel in all we have done, what we have accomplished, what we have discovered from the inevitable mistakes we all make, and look back on a life well-lived. Enjoy the day, eat cake and ice cream with gusto, and indulge in favorite treats. Why not?

I enjoy stretching the special day out into several days, which becomes possible when cards start dribbling in a week or so before the actual day. I may have lunch with a few friends somewhere around the actual birth date, we celebrate at work on or around the date, and my sister prepares me a birthday dinner even if we don’t get together until a month or so before or after the fact. Who cares? This allows me to spin out the celebration, and enjoy my special day twice or three or four times over the course of a few weeks. Who could ask for more?

Birthdays let us reflect on our lives and recall fond memories of other birthday celebrations. Our special day also allows us to realize how we have grown and changed through the years. Remember, as one of my birthday cards reminded me, “Before you can be old and wise you first had to be young and foolish.” I passed the young part a long time ago. The foolish part may be with me still, but I am old and somewhat wiser than I may have been three decades ago. At least I’ve matured, I’ve led a unique life that no one else has experienced in the same way I have, and I deserve to celebrate that fact with great glee. I earned these gray hairs, and as Will Rogers once said, “I’ve traveled a long way and some of the roads weren’t paved.”

If the fact of your birthday continues to bother you because you don’t like the thought of aging, just pick a favorite age and stick with it, but for goodness sake enjoy your special day and milk it for all it’s worth. After all, it only comes once a year.

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The MonDak Gets A Makeover

Submitted by Kim Simmonds
If you have been in to the MonDak Heritage Center recently, you might have noticed construction workers milling around, signs notifying you of work being done in the lower level of the museum, or electricians up on ladders. Or maybe you noticed that upon entrance, the MonDak has a clean, bright new look.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development, funds raised from the members of the MonDak and the assistance of Prairie Electric and Crescent Lighting, the MonDak Heritage Center now has new lighting in all of its galleries that safely illuminate the artwork and historical artifacts.

"We have rotating art exhibits about every two months," Kim Simmonds, Executive Director of the MonDak Heritage Center, said. "With our old lighting, which had been in place for over thirty years, our guests just weren't able to view the art the way it was meant to be seen. Now, and this can especially be seen on our large J.K. Ralston painting, the white light brings out colors and hues that we didn't see before with the yellow cast the lights were leaving."

The grant from the Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development capped off the needed funds to complete the project. "We couldn't have completed the project without our grantor, and definitely not without the support of our members," Simmonds clarified. "Jason Nelson from Prairie Electric was so patient with us as we applied for grants and sifted through the lighting options. His diligence helped us get the best lighting possible for the museum, and it will last a long time."

In addition to the lighting upgrade, the MonDak has been working on updating some of the exhibits in the lower level. The gun exhibit, largely made up of guns donated by Roger Johnson of Fairview, is getting a complete makeover, including nearly floor to ceiling glass doors that will allow visitors to get up close with the beautiful firearms. Also in the works is an exhibit highlighting past Sidney resident and Montana State Governor Donald Nutter, as well as improvements to the fossil exhibits the museum used to showcase on the main level.



New lighting is part of a facelift at the MonDak Heritage Center.

"Our fossil collection wasn't really interactive before," Simmonds explained. "We are trying to make it possible for our visitors to learn about what they are seeing rather than just reading a label with a scientific name on it."

The enhancements to the fossil exhibits come after a transformation of the dinosaur exhibit last summer. Bones from a Tyrannosaurus Rex and Triceratops are currently on display, which were diligently identified last summer, by Thomas Linn of Glendive.

Other areas of the museum are getting spruced up as well. "With our new lighting, we really wanted to clean up the museum, make it fresh and new again," Simmonds said. New gallery walls were installed to improve how the art looks hung, and a fresh coat of paint was added to the front entry wall. Simmonds continued, "We've also cleaned up our gift shop, and we're working on getting new vendors and items that will appeal to a wider audience." Soon, she said, TV monitors will be installed on the front entry wall that will scroll through upcoming events, a donor list, and a wish list for the museum. Simmonds laughs, "As my predecessor often said, "There's always some going on at the MonDak!"

For more information please contact Kim at the MonDak Heritage Center, mdhc@richland.org.

Upcoming Board Development Training

Submitted by Judy Heupel
The MSU Extension Service in Daniels, Richland, Roosevelt and Sheridan Counties is sponsoring a Board Development Training for all members of local boards on Thurs., April 21. The training is being conducted in four different local locations by Dan Clark and Blake Christensen of the MSU Extension Local Government Center, Bozeman.

The free workshop will be held simultaneously in Culbertson at the RC Complex meeting room, 307 Broadway and in Plentywood at the Courthouse Jubilee Room, 100 West Laurel Avenue from 1-4 p.m.

The same workshop will also be held concurrently in Sidney at the MSU Extension/Eastern Ag Research Center, 1499 North Central Avenue and in Scooby at the Extension/Ambulance Training Room, 106 Railroad Ave from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

There are many different public boards, districts, and committees in our surrounding counties, each with varying responsibilities and powers. There is, however, little consistency and often misunderstanding regarding the authority, responsibility and jurisdictions of the boards.

While it is not possible to avoid all controversy, board members can minimize disagreement and ineffectiveness in procedure, process and outcome through familiarity with the Montana Code Annotated, or other governing by-laws, and by being knowledgeable of techniques to improve interactions on a board or with the public.

The objectives of this workshop are to describe and clarify many of the complex issues confronting boards and board membership in counties. The training will introduce board members and interested citizens to various concepts and techniques for successful board meetings. It will assist board members in acquiring knowledge, skills and abilities through interactive workshop sessions.

Topics include, but are not limited to: Principles of Good Governance, Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members, MT Open Meeting Laws, MT Citizens Right to Participate Laws, Executive Session or Closing a Meeting, Board Member Liability, Effective Meetings, Meeting agenda and Managing Public Comment, Montana's Code of Ethics and Meeting Minutes. Come learn how you can be an effective board member and provide essential leadership in your community. For more information contact the MSU Extension Office in Daniels County at 487-2861, Richland County at 433-1206, Roosevelt County at 787-5312 and Sheridan County at 765-3406.

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7th Grade High Honor Roll Jayden Gackle and Shaylee Dean	9th Grade Honor Roll Bryce Neu, Carson Cayko, Anna Dragseth, Gerit Johnson, Elizabeth Shannon, Alexis Sundheim, Alexander Young, Matthew Hurley and Blake Patten.	11th Grade Honor Roll Taryn Candee, Grace Dragseth, Patrick Hardy, Parker Jensen, Jenna Bieber, Chandler Norby, Martha Hurley, Courtney Seadeek, Tanner Reynolds and Brett Andreasen.
7th Grade Honor Roll Brady Buxbaum, Martha Isley, Easton Hopes and Daniel Porter.	10th Grade High Honor Roll Jae Klocker, Tanner Poulsen and Rex Reynolds.	12th Grade High Honor Roll Cole Berry and Alex Wicks
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Girl Scout Helps Art Class Participants Stay Clean

Submitted by MonDak Heritage Center

The MonDak Heritage Center recently received a gift of 30 handmade art smocks from Sidney student Shelby Reidle. Reidle made each of the smocks as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award Project. Approximately 25 hours went into the creation of the smocks, which will be used in the wide variety of art classes that Education Coordinator Jessica Newman teaches each month.

Reidle is a senior at Sidney High School, and will be attending Concordia College in Moorhead in the fall. She will major in biology and history. When asked why she picked the project, Reidle said that she loves to sew and it was a wonderful project she could

work on with her grandma, Ruth Reidle. She noticed the need for the smocks when she attended art classes at the MonDak and saw how messy some of the projects were.

The MonDak Heritage Center would like to send a huge thank you out to Shelby and Ruth for their support of the museum and the education program!



Jessica Newman and Shelby Reidle



Sidney Track Action

Wyatt Heringer hands off the baton to Trace Jones en route to a first place victory of the 4 X 100 relay at the Wibaux Invitational in Glendive. The team ran a 44:98 and consisted of Heringer, Jones, Michael McGinnis and Quinn McGlothlin. The Eagles travel to Baker next weekend.

Sidney High School Honor Roll-3rd Quarter

Jordan Baxter, Lauren Beenken, Luke Beenken, Jory Bell, Mindy Brower, Justin Candee, Mateya Coffman, Tenna Cooley, Jocce Cundiff, Joseph Evans, Brooke Franklin, Kelsie Hall, Madison Hammer, Cammy Heck, Wyatt Heringer, Coy Hermanson, Landan Jones, Aubrey Kessel, Autumn Larson, Michael McGinnis, Dawson McGlothlin, Tierney Messmer, Logan Peterson, Skylar Petrik, Shannyn Reidle, Shelby Reidle, Christine Schabert, Michelle Stagl, Carlee Strasheim, Madison Thiessen, Sarah Turek, Amanda Valnes, Kaelyn Volk, LaTasha Wieferich, Chantel Wilcoxon, Katlyn Winter, Clay Carpenter, Tetyana Denysenko, Shaylyne Fisher, Breanna Frank, Garrison Hughes, Quinn McGlothlin, Chase Morehouse, Trista Papka, Ethan Petrik, Cole Roberts, Kyle Topp, Austin Watterson, Marlee Zentner, Joshua Aisenbrey, Joshua Delaney, Megan Deming, Tianna Earle, Tayler Fischer, Tel Hermanson, Kaitlyn Keithley, Brianna Lunderby, Lindsey Minow, Sabryna Moe, Abigail Reitz, Caleb Slade, Jared Steinbeisser, Tierrany Trudell, Luke Turek, Laura Elmore, Carter Hughes, Micala Morehouse, Cade Strasheim, Kasey Godfrey, Devon Watkins, John Carpenter, Matthew Folstad, Harmonie Hampton, Tessa Hill, Daniel Johnson, Josephine Langwald, Kyle Mueller, Brianna Reid, Mattie Steinley, Katie Stoddard, Camden Berka, Alexia Berube, Dannielle Carpender, Kanitha Charoanpanich, Bridger Coffman, Allyson Harris, Trace Jones, Tess Ler, Shyan Phend, Emily Skogen, Sheridan Williams, Lane Wold, Kasey Crabtree, Michael Gangstad, Marcus Lovgren, Trent Schilling, Jace Winter, Scottlynn Anglesey, Matthew Dey, Tayler Lange, Alec Lovegren, Coleton McIntyre, Blaine Nelson, Myka Steinbeisser, Madison Thiel, McKenzie Bjork, Sierra Crowe, Bree Fischer, Cyrus Hintz, Katherine Hoolsema, Dylan Johnson, Wei-Ni Ku, Ryan Lander, Braxten Larson, Dillon Lunderby, Paige Metz, Lane Obergfell, Lilli Seitz, Hunter Severson, Mason Thiel, Kaitlyn Tibbits, Nang Widiyasa, Dameli Aimbetova, Carson Allen, Benjamin Brodhead, Torey Dahl, Larren Foust, Clay Fox, Madison Gorde, Alexis Haggerty, Emily Hanson, Catalina Langwald, Sean Montgomery, Waylon Van Buren, Tyler Berka, Rian Cobb, Jazmine Hodge, Ainhwa Idoate, Nicholas Larson, Chelsey Metcalf, Peyton Beyerle, Janelle Brien, Heather Chreiman, Arianalaksan, Jerren Jensen, Kaleb Jimison, Jace Johnson, Taryn Potts, CeCelia Propp, Kirsten Strickland, Kiana Uran, Lauryn Barnhart, John Beyer, Desirae Fasching, Connor Fink, Garrett Still, Peyton Tofte, Gabriel Vender-Dahl, Parker Dean, Maddison DiFonzo, Kolton Nevins, Dyllon Popescu, Holly Bouchard, Kylee Byer, Casey Christensen, Kyle DeTienne, Elizabeth Hill, Hailie Larson, Isak Rosales, Lane Shields, Danielle Steinley, Mackenzey Tucker, Quinlyn Tuttle, Aaron Entz, Morgan Folstad, James Haraldson, Garret Leland, Maria McKenzie, Katie Murray, Brett Norby, Jordan Tyler, Tesa Wieferich, Shanan Zueger, Kyler Anderson, Lunden Bachmeier, Katelyn Berglund, Shaelyn Bowlds, Jacob Dean, Dalton DeMary, Nakieta Dietrich, Nicholas Edwards, Christian Eggar, Jasmin Fritts, Andrew Hansen, Hayley Leamer,

Naomi Mata, Alex Messer, Cayla Norby, Patrick Prince, Brandon Rasmussen, Emily Rindahl, James Rohner, Laurel Sartin, Taylor Schepens, Cristian Seitz, Brenley Steinbeisser, Benjamin Stevens, Emily Swenson, Skyler Tibbits, Erkinai Tilekbek-Kyzy, Kia Vang, Christopher Wick, Preston Wilhelm and Abby Wing.



Hats off to our Volunteers!

In recognition of National Volunteer Week, we extend our gratitude and appreciation to all our volunteers. Their dedication and efforts make a difference by enriching the quality of care and touching the lives of people in our community. Thank You!

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For more information please contact:

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Carla Houchen, Volunteer Coordinator • 488-2116

• Good Cents Store

Darla Hill, Hospice Volunteer Coord. • 488-2226

• Activities, Visit with Patients, Sit with Patients

Extended Care

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The Lodge At Lone Tree Creek

For more information please contact:

Renae Ash • 488-4682

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Foundation for Community Care

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Gina Heckey, Executive Director • 488-2273

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Sidney School
Thurs., Apr. 14: Lasagna, tossed salad, cheesy bread, mixed fruit.
Fri., Apr. 15: Ham & cheese wrap, chicken noodle soup, mandarin oranges.
Mon., Apr. 18: Cheeseburger, french fries, peaches.
Tues., Apr. 19: Chicken drumstick, potatoes & gravy, diced carrots, mandarin oranges, dinner roll.
Wed., Apr. 20: French toast, sausage links, hash brown, applesauce.
Savage School
Thurs., Apr. 14: Tacos.
Fri., Apr. 15: Corn dogs.
Mon., Apr. 18: French dip.
Tues., Apr. 19: Chicken a la king.
Wed., Apr. 20: Super nachos.

Lambert School
Thurs., Apr. 14: Polish sausage, scalloped potatoes, corn, fruit, milk.
Fri., Apr. 15: Tatertot hot dish, salad, fruit, buns, milk.
Mon., Apr. 18: Italian dunkers, green beans, peaches, milk.
Tues., Apr. 19: Super nachos, fresh veggies, fruit, milk.
Wed., Apr. 20: Hamburgers, fries, fresh veggies, fruit, milk.

Froid School
Thurs., Apr. 14: Hotdog on a bun, crinkle cut fries, peas, salad bar, fruit and milk.
Fri., Apr. 15: Club sandwiches, chips, fresh carrots, salad bar, fruit and milk.
Mon., Apr. 18: French dip sandwiches, fries, toffee bars, lettuce mix, salad bar, fruit and milk.
Tues., Apr. 19: Cheeseburger soup, bosco stix, green beans, salad bar, fruit and milk.
Wed., Apr. 20: Chicken fajitas, taco bar, refried beans, cinnamon rolls, salad bar, fruit and milk.

Bainville School
Thurs., Apr. 14: Breaded pork chop, rice, broccoli, applesauce.
Fri., Apr. 15: BB chicken legs, green beans, fruit.
Mon., Apr. 18: Chicken strips, potato, mixed veggies, fruit.
Tues., Apr. 19: Quesadilla, taco bar, fruit.
Wed., Apr. 20: Chicken pot pie over biscuits, carrots & peas, peaches.

Culbertson School
Thurs., Apr. 14: Chicken cordon bleu, mashed potatoes, broccoli, fruit and milk.
Fri., Apr. 15: Pizza, salad, fruit and milk.
Mon., Apr. 18: Sloppy joes, coleslaw, fruit and milk.
Tues., Apr. 19: Chicken breast, baby bakers, green beans, fruit and milk.
Wed., Apr. 20: Chili, bread and butter, fruit and milk.

Richey School
Thurs., Apr. 14: Pizza, lettuce salad, pineapple, chocolate pudding, milk.
Fri., Apr. 15: Slush burgers, fries, corn, peaches, milk.
Mon., Apr. 18: Hot dog, baked beans, green beans, applesauce, milk.
Tues., Apr. 19: Pizza casserole, dinner roll, corn, peaches, milk.
Wed., Apr. 20: Chicken strips, mixed veggies, apricots, milk.

Fairview School
Thurs., Apr. 14: Chicken burger on a bun, fries, fresh fruit, milk.
Fri., Apr. 15: No school.
Mon., Apr. 18: Calzone (meat & cheese), pineapple, peas, milk.
Tues., Apr. 19: Walking taco, beef, cheese, lettuce, salsa, fresh fruit, breadstick, milk.
Wed., Apr. 20: Ham, mashed pots, oranges, bun, milk.

Watford City High School
Thurs., Apr. 14: Teriyaki chicken, rice and steamed broccoli.
Fri., Apr. 15: Pizza or cheese stick, marinara sauce and corn.
Mon., Apr. 18: Baked beans and wedges or french fries.
Tues., Apr. 19: Chicken and rice hot dish, buttered bread, peas and carrots.
Wed., Apr. 20: Burrito, black beans and corn.

Medicine Lake
Thurs., Apr. 14: Super nachos, refried beans, salad , pears, dessert.
Fri., Apr. 15: No school.
Mon., Apr. 18: BBQ pork on a bun, baked beans, carrots & celery, chips, pears.
Tues., Apr. 19: Frito stax, refried beans, salad, peaches.
Wed., Apr. 20: Cheeseburger, french fries, watermelon.

Nesper Receives Recognition For His Years Of Outstanding Service With The Richland County Baseball Association

By Meagan Dotson
On Tuesday, April 5, Jesse Nesper received an award for his service as President of the Richland County Baseball Association. Nesper has served as President for a total of five years and has been on the board for ten. For Nesper, baseball has been a family affair for as long as he can remember; he fondly recalls returning foul balls at \$.25 a piece when he was a kid. "My dad was President for thirteen years and growing up I remember always being at the ball park during the summer. My dad would be

busy doing whatever needed to be done and my mom would be working at the concession stand; it seemed like our family was always the last one at the baseball field. When I was a kid I asked my dad why we were there so much and he told me it was because someone had done it when he was a kid. I think that's always stuck with me," he explained of his involvement.
Dan Peters and Leah Norby will serve as Co-Presidents this year. The Richland County Baseball Association has as many as 200 kids in the program during the season,

and Nesper will continue to serve on the board and help out where needed, confessing that he just can't stay away from the sport that has been a lifelong involvement for him.
Peters presented the award, and upon receiving it Nesper expressed his gratitude and added, "No one here (at the meeting) does this for themselves. We're all here because we think that baseball is important enough that kids should have the opportunity to learn the sport. We're here so that kids can play ball."

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On behalf of the Richland County Baseball Association, Dan Peters, left, presented Jesse Nesper a plaque for his years of outstanding service.

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County Agent Update

Spring Road Safety

With spring in full swing (we hope) there are some things to keep in mind when traveling in more rural areas. Perhaps the most important thing, for those of you that run into farm equipment on the roads, slow down. On all farm equipment whether it's a sprayer, water pickup or seeder, there will be a slow moving vehicle sign, which is the bright orange triangle. That sign shows that this vehicle/machine will only be going 25 mph or slower. Please be patient and take your time, moving equipment is a needed part of farming and could be quite dangerous. For you, your families and the farmers' safety, slowing down and moving over is extremely important.

Strategic Tillage

Recently I came across an article from the Carrington Re-

By Danielle Steinhoff

search Extension Center that was written by Jasper Teboh. The article was titled "Does strategic tillage help minimize the impact of phosphorus stratification on crop yields in no-till farming?" which I found to be quite interesting. This article mentions that some farmers wonder if strategic tillage (occasional tillage as in once every ten years), of their long-term no-till field to manage some undesirable impact is necessary. These undesirable impacts are such as stratification of Phosphorus (accumulation near soil surface), soil pH levels, weed prevalence and soil compaction. The nutrient stratification is due to placement and very low mobility in the soil, nutrients such as Phosphorus, Potassium or Zinc accumulate in the top 3-4 inches of the soil while doing long-term no-till. When the topsoil is very dry, stratification can lead to low Phosphorus uptake. But positive yield responses to the practice of one-time tillage strategy for long term no-till fields have been inconsistent. One question that this article brought up was; how would one-time

tillage affect weed control? When we think of conventional tillage, we know that it buries the weeds below depths of emergence, but when you introduce tillage in a long-term no till plot that also breaks seed dormancy and can move buried viable weed seeds to the surface and give them the change to germinate. Something that farmers do every year is apply fertilizer, especially Phosphorus. Applying Phosphorus by broadcast is easier but the practice is a cause for stratification. Banding near the seed can reduce fixation and increase uptake early in the season. Deep banding on Phosphorus reduces stratification near the soil surface. Of course to truly figure out how much Phosphorus or any fertilizer you should be adding to your fields, soil testing is extremely important. Of course with a predicted dry year, soil testing will be key in managing your costs. Like every year, farmers never want to be applying more fertilizers and spending more money than needed, sending in a sample to the NDSU Soil Lab is an easy and relatively quick process.

USDA Seeks Applications For Grants To Help Agricultural Producers Increase The Value Of Their Products

Submitted by Janelle Gustafson

USDA, Rural Development State Director John Walsh today announced that USDA is making up to \$44 million available to farmers, ranchers and businesses to develop new bio-based products and expand markets through the Value-Added Producer Grant program. "Agriculture is Montana's largest industry and adding value to this industry's products will only help Montana's farmers, ranchers, and rural business owners increase economic opportunities for their families and communities" said Walsh. "The Value-Added Producer Grant program is an under-utilized program in Montana. This program can help expand agriculture markets and deliver a higher dollar return to producers."

Value-Added Producer Grants help eligible applicants enter into value-added activities related to the processing and/or marketing of bio-based value-added products. Generating new products, creating and expanding marketing opportu-

nities, and increasing producer income are the goals of this program. These grants support planning activities, such as developing a business plan, as well as provide working capital to implement viable value-added business plans. Grants are awarded through a national competition. The maximum grant amount for planning grants is \$75,000 and \$250,000 for working capital grants. Matching resources are required.

More information on how to apply is on page 20607 of the April 8 Federal Register. The deadline to submit paper applications is July 1, 2016. Electronic applications submitted through grants.gov are due June 24, 2016. Additional information and assistance is available through the USDA Rural Development Office serving your county.

Since 2009, USDA has awarded 1,126 Value-Added Producer Grants totaling \$144.7 million. USDA awarded 205 grants to beginning farmers and ranchers.

In Montana, Poor Orphan

Creamery, located in the Laurin community, received a \$15,750 grant in 2014. The working capital grant helped the sheep dairy to produce value-added hand crafted farmstead cheeses from milk harvested from their flock of Icelandic dairy sheep. The cheese is now sold throughout the United States and Internationally.

Congress increased funding for the Value-Added program in the 2014 Farm Bill. That law builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past six years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for taxpayers.

Since 2009, USDA Rural Development has invested \$11 billion to start or expand 103,000 rural businesses; helped 1.1 million rural residents buy homes; funded nearly 7,000 community facilities such as schools, public safety and health care facilities; financed 180,000 miles of electric transmission and distribution lines; and helped bring high-speed Internet access to nearly 6 million rural residents and businesses.

Montana Department of Transportation Seeks Comments on Montana Rail Grade Separation Study

Submitted by Charity Watt; Rail, Air Quality & Studies Section Planner

Helena - The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) would like to notify the public and seek comments on the draft 2016 Montana Rail Grade Separation Study (RGSS), an update to the 2003 RGSS commissioned to address changing conditions and assess highway-rail crossings at affected communities across the state. Since publication of the 2003 RGSS, several Montana communities have experienced growth in population, roadway traffic and train traffic, contributing to vehicle delays at at-grade railroad crossings. Both safety and delay issues at railroad crossing continue to be an important statewide

and individual community concern. To address current and future safety and delay issues at railroad crossings across the state, the 2016 RGSS utilized a data-driven methodology to objectively rank public railroad crossings using factors such as vehicular volumes, train volumes and community mobility.

Ten crossings were selected for further analysis, which included site visits, recommended separation configurations, conceptual plans, benefit-cost analyses and planning-level cost estimates. Project selection for construction, funding types and availability, and prioritization were outside the scope of the 2016 RGSS. For more information, please contact Diane Myers at (406)-444-7252. To comment on the study, visit:

<http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/railgrade/>. Comments may also be mailed to Montana Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620-201001. Please indicate comments are for the Montana Rail Grade Separation Study and submit by May 6 to ensure your comments are adequately reviewed and considered for the final study. Alternative accessible formats of this information will be provided upon request by contacting the Office of Civil Rights, P.O. Box 201001, Helena, MT 59620; (406) 444-9229; fax (406) 444-7243, or e-mail to aflesch@mt.gov. Those using a TTY may call (800) 335-7592 or through the Montana Relay Service at 711.

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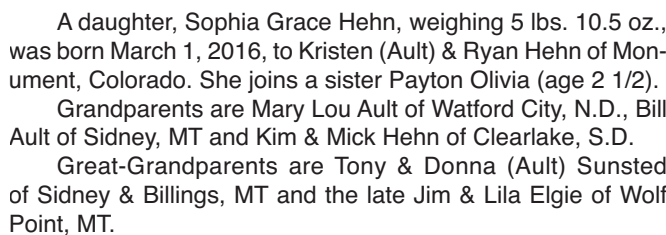
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Sidney Students Attend Leadership & Skills Conference

Nine students of the Sidney Skills-USA chapter attended and competed in Leadership and skill competitions. There were 419 students from 31 different schools around the state that attended the 45th annual conference.

Brady, Tel and Dillon competed in Carpentry, Blaine and Alex competed in the Cabinetmaking, Sydnie in the Job Interview and Basic woodworking, Colton in the Power Equipment Technology, Marcus in the Diesel Equipment Technology and Sean in the Precision Machining Contest where he placed 2nd Overall.



(L-R) Brady Gorder, Alex Messer, Tel Hermanson, Blaine Nelson, Marcus Lovegren, Sydnie Severson, Colton McIntyre, Dillon Lunderby and Sean Lofthus.



Front Row (left to right): Boston Peters
Back Row (Left to right): Jerome Entz, Lorenzo Talaciof, Ethan Rickman, Mustofa Taylor, C.J. Nevins, Riley Waters and Coaches Dan and Max Peters
Not pictured: Ian Jurgens, Hudson Severson, Braden Klinke, and Tate Wieferich

Paddlefish Snagging Season Opens May 1

Submitted by North Dakota Game & Fish

A paddlefish tag is required to participate in North Dakota's paddlefish snagging season, which opens May 1 and is scheduled to continue through the end of May. However, depending on the overall harvest, an early in-season closure may occur with a 24-hour notice issued by the state Game and Fish Department.

Snag-and-release of all paddlefish is required on Sundays, Mondays and Thursdays; therefore, the first two days of the 2016 snagging season will be snag-and-release only. Mandatory harvest of all snagged paddlefish is required on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. On these days, all paddlefish caught must be kept and tagged immediately.

All paddlefish snagged and tagged must be removed from the river by 9 p.m. of each snagging day.

Those planning to participate during snag-and-release-only days need to have in their possession a current season, unused paddlefish snagging tag. Use or possession of gaffs is prohibited on snag-and-release-only days, and, if it occurs, during the snag-and-release extension period.

Legal snagging hours are from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. One tag per snagger will be issued. Snagging is legal in all areas of the Yellowstone River in North Dakota, and in the area of the Missouri River lying west of the U.S. Highway 85 bridge to the Montana border, excluding that portion from the pipeline crossing (river mile 1,577) downstream to the upper end of the Lewis and Clark Wildlife Management Area (river mile 1,565).

If the season closes early because the harvest cap is reached, an extended snag-and-release-only period will be allowed for up to four days immediately following the early closure, but not to extend beyond May 31. Only snaggers with a current season, unused paddlefish snagging tag are eligible to participate. Only a limited area at the confluence of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers is open to this extended season snagging opportunity.

All paddlefish snaggers must possess a paddlefish tag in addition to a valid fishing license. Cost of a paddlefish tag is \$10 for residents and \$25.50 for nonresidents.

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