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Wednesday, October 31, 2012

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Local Ranches Partner Up For Successful Trip To The NILE Rodeo Finals

By Ashley Harris

Sperry Horses and Reid Ranch teamed up for the 6th Annual NILE Ranch Rodeo Finals, held annually in Billings, MT. In order for teams to get to the finals, they must place well in one of the NILE sanctioned Ranch Rodeos from across the region. The team of Sperry and Reid qualified for the Finals at the local Neal Hermanson Memorial Ranch Rodeo in Sidney. The team brought home 4 awards at this year's finals, including 1st in Team Branding, 3rd in Wild Cow Milking, and 2nd in Ranch Bronc Riding. Placing in 3 categories also won them 3rd in Top Teams.

Sperry Quarter Horses is a family owned ranch near Trotters, ND. They have been a horse oriented ranch since 1999, when they started focusing on top-notch horse breeding, raising, and training. The team members for this year's rodeo were: Craig McKenzie, Wilbur Reid, Robert Sperry, Clint Neshem and Jason McNally.

The Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE) started in 1966 as a livestock show. In 2006, the NILE added Ranch Rodeo to their fall events. This event and the display of real ranch cowboys quickly became popular across the region. It wasn't until 2009 that they established the Finals and the qualifying sanctioned rodeos across the region.

On the NILE website it states, "The NILE is dedicated to the promotion of livestock promotion, agricultural education, and respect for our western tradition. We believe those are important for the future of agriculture and we ask you to join us if you share those same values. As partners together we can accomplish more than any one individual".

This year's Rodeo Finals were held in Billings, MT in the Rimrock Auto Arena at MetraPark. On October 17th, at 7:00 pm, 12 rodeo qualifying teams gathered to show off their skills in the categories including: saddle bronc riding, team trailering, team branding, team doctoring, and wild cow milking.

The team of Sperry/Reid placed 1st in Team Branding, where the 4-person team has 2 minutes to catch two calves and get them branded on their ribs on either side. The winner is determined by

the fastest time on two calves.

Sperry/Reid also placed 3rd in Wild Cow Milking, in which a 3 or 4-person team has 2 minutes to catch a cow and milk it. They must fill a 12 oz. longneck bottle and run it to the judge. Fastest time wins.

In Ranch Bronc Riding, a rider will "ride as ride can" for 8 seconds. Points will be awarded for difficulty of the horse, degree of aggressiveness, control, and exposure demonstrated by the rider. Sperry/Reid tied for 2nd in this category.

In order to be eligible for the team championship, teams must enter all events. The standings in each category are given points and added up to determine the team winners. The team of Sperry/Reid came out in 3rd place in the Team Championship category.

When asked how they felt it went, Robert Sperry with Sperry Horses stated, "Overall the rodeo went well. I feel we work well as a team. We all have our place in the ranch rodeos as to which job we are going to do. We would have placed better if we had drawn better cattle for the team trailering event, but that is how the luck of the draw is. We did our best with what was dealt to us. Our team was on top of their



Pictured here is the Wild Cow Milking contest with Robert Sperry and Craig McKenzie handling the cow, while the milker Clint Neshem attempts to start filling up the 12 oz. longneck bottle. Not pictured is Wilbur Reid. This team brought home 3rd place for Wild Cow Milking.

game, and I feel we did the best we could and worked well together. We enjoy getting together as a team and giving it our best. There are some great teams at these and we always like the chal-

lenge."

Sperry/Reid has been to the NILE Ranch Rodeo Finals once before. "Last year was our first year at the Nile Finals and we won 1st place and Robert Sperry was honored with top hand of the rodeo receiving a saddle," Robert Sperry mentioned.

Overall, a successful couple trips to the NILE Finals for the Sperry/Reid team.



The participating team from L to R: Craig McKenzie, Wilbur Reid, Robert Sperry, Clint Neshem and Jason McNally

Wine & Food Festival Saturday In Sidney

By Melissa Boyer

We hope to see you under the Harvest Moon at the Foundation for Community Care's 2012 Wine & Food Festival on Saturday, November 3rd, at the Richland County Fair Event Center in Sidney. Tickets go on sale on October 8th and can be purchased at the Foundation for Community Care and Sidney Health Center. Tickets can also be purchased over the phone by calling 406-488-CARE.

Throughout the evening, attendees have the opportunity to sample an array of different wines and delicious appetizers from local caterers and restaurants. They will also have a chance to browse and bid on artwork donated by talented local artists.

A limit of 500 tickets will be sold this year, so make sure to buy your tickets early. Tickets are \$50 each and include a commemorative wine glass featuring the Lambert Grain Elevator. Local artist Bill Clark has been the designer behind the wine glass art for the last 19 years.

All proceeds raised during the event directly benefit the Foundation's Endowment Fund, helping ensure the continuance and quality of local healthcare services. Get dressed up for a night under the moon with great food, wine & art.

For more information about the 2012 Wine & Food Festival or the Foundation for Community Care, please call 406-488-2273 or stop by the Foundation office located at 221 2nd St. NW in Sidney. Tickets are non-refundable. You must be at least 21 to attend the event. All attendees are required to provide identification that confirms their age.

It's A Charlie Brown Christmas In 2012

The Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture announces the 2012 Christmas Stroll and Parade of Lights will be the day after Thanksgiving, November 23rd. Chosen as the theme this year is "It's A Charlie Brown Christmas".

The Chamber invites the community to become involved in the activities of this day. Food vendors can set up on East or West Main Street, or on the sidewalk along Central Avenue. Food items served in the past have included brats, pretzels, hot chocolate and cider, fry bread, and Christmas cookies. Burritos are already planned for this year. Elec-

tricity can be arranged for those needing power.

The Chamber Soup Contest will again be hosted by Ben and Brian McDowell, and their staff in the Restorx shop on South Central Avenue. Contestants must agree to make at least a roaster full of their specialty, and be on hand to serve. People's Choice awards of \$150 in Chamber Bucks will be divided between first and second place.

Entertainment is needed for the outdoor stage on East Main Street. Any type of vocal, instrumental, or dance act is welcome to sign up and perform. Seating will be available for the audience.

Wrapping up the downtown festivities will be the Parade of Lights at 7:00 p.m. The parade will line up in the Reynolds Market parking lot and travel north the full length of Central Avenue. All entries are encouraged to be decorated with holiday colors and lights. Awards will be given out for Best Use of Theme, Best Use of Lights, and Most Creative.

Contact the Chamber at 406-433-1916 or by emailing schamber@midrivers.com for more information or entries. The Chamber also encourages everyone to shop local this holiday season. The whole community benefits through supporting our local merchants.

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Wade VanEvery Elected as the President of the Montana Association of Chamber Executives

Local chambers across Montana elected Wade VanEvery as the 2013 President of the Montana Association of Chamber Executives (MACE) recently. The fall meeting of the organization was held October 4-5 in Big Sky, Montana, with the Big Sky Chamber of Commerce hosting this annual meeting. MACE is the professional development, continuing-education effort of chamber of commerce in Montana. VanEvery serves as 1st Vice President through the end of 2012. Other 2013 officers elected were Mike Mergenthaler of the Helena Chamber as 1st VP and Bruce Solberg of the Bigfork Chamber as 2nd VP. Steve Malicott of the Great Falls

Chamber will finish his current year as President and serve as Immediate Past President next year. Webb Brown and Jessica Nolan of the Montana Chamber of Commerce were re-elected as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively. The meeting included over 30 attendees from 14 chambers. Keynote speaker Jeff Kline, President of Accrinet Corporation, brought his wealth of social media experience to help members keep current with technology and member communication. Other presenters included the US Chamber of Commerce on national issues, Montana Chamber of Commerce on healthcare, and panels on



Wade VanEvery
local chamber members and membership sales and retention. Members also participated in roundtables on a variety of topics. Northwestern Energy and Montana Chamber Choices health insurance program sponsored the meeting in Big Sky, along with organizational sponsors BlueCross BlueShield of Montana, PPL Montana, Allied Waste Services, Liberty Mutual, Montana State Fund, and Mountain West Companies. The next meeting will be in May, 2013 in Sidney.

Locks of Love

Left: Stephanie Jones, right, and her niece, Gracie Burns, cut their hair and donated it to Locks of Love in mid September. (Photo submitted by Stephanie Jones)



Darn Nice Buck

Right: Cayden Hecker of Sidney with his nice buck. He got this with a 350 yard shot on the afternoon of Sunday Oct. 21st. (Photo by Clint Hecker)



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Richard Cayko

VOTE November 6th

Richard Cayko

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Garrison Diversion Conservancy District Director

THANKS FOR YOUR VOTE

Paid for by Richard Cayko, East Fairview, ND

“The People’s Celebration” Marks 150th Birthday of USDA, Land Grant Colleges and Homesteaders

Submitted by Julie Goss and Beth Redlin

In the midst of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law three landmark pieces of legislation creating a new “people’s department” (the US Department of Agriculture); establishing land grant colleges in every state and opening the west to homesteading. To commemorate the 150th anniversary of those historic signings, a “People’s Celebration” is planned for Thursday afternoon and evening, Nov. 8, at the Richland County Fair Event Center in Sidney.

A number of local USDA agencies and programs (Agricultural Research Service, Farm Service Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Forest Service, Rural Development, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, WIC, SNAP and the School Lunch program) , along with local land grant college and historical organizations (Eastern Ag Research Center, Richland County Extension and the MonDak Heritage Center) have joined together for the celebration which will feature booths highlighting the history and current activities of the various agencies and programs, along with an overview of homesteading in the region from the MonDak Heritage Center. Representatives will be available to chat with people about their work and answer questions. In addition, the Richland County Conservation District will be incorporating the homesteading theme in their annual awards dinner which will follow the afternoon’s activities at the same location. More details below.

Displays, school tours, and more

The afternoon begins with an Open House at the Event Center from 1-5 pm, including display booths, speakers, and more. The first hour of the afternoon welcomes school tours with each booth offering short demonstrations and/or presentations specifically targeting 5th graders, although other ages are welcome. Invitations have been extended to area school 5th grade teachers to participate. Interested persons can contact Beth Redlin at 433-9427 to arrange a class tour.

Other plans for the day include a display of our USDA photo contest entries and winners; a farm-themed kindergarten art exhibit, and door prize drawings, refreshments and birthday cake, all donated by USDA and RCCD employees and the MonDak Heritage Center in Sidney. Prizes for the photo contest are also being donated by USDA employees. For more information on the contest, see related story or contact Julie Goss or Heather Luinstra at 433-2103 x3. Entry deadline is Monday, Nov. 5.

A visit with Abe’s cousin!

An extra special treat for the afternoon is a visit from “Abraham Lincoln” or rather a real-life cousin. Bill Brenner of Sidney can trace his family’s heritage back to President Lincoln’s mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and he is understandably proud of that connection. Bill has agreed to participate in “The People’s Celebration” Open House on Thursday, Nov. 8th and will have items from his personal Lincoln family collection on display. He’s also available throughout the afternoon to talk with school children and other visitors about his historic relative.

Afternoon Speaker Schedule

In addition to the displays, the MonDak Heritage Center and several USDA participants are also giving short talks throughout the afternoon on a wide variety of contemporary and historical topics related to their agency missions. They include:

- 2:00 pm: Gary Adams, USDA, APHIS, Helena - “Emerald Ash Borer”
- 2:30 pm: Mark Henning, USDA, NRCS, Miles City - “Born in the Dust Bowl: Building Soil Health”
- 3:00 pm: Tony Preite, USDA, Rural Development “RD Programs for Oil-Impacted Communities”
- 3:20 pm: Bill Brenner, Cutting of the People’s 150th Birthday Cake for all to enjoy!
- 3:40 pm: “Smokey Bear” and Speaker from USDA, FS “History of the Forest Service & Dakota Prairie Grasslands”
- 4:10 pm: Tatyana Rand, USDA, ARS, Sidney “Wheat Stem Sawfly”



4:40 pm: Benjamin L. Clark, MonDak Heritage Center, Sidney “Historical Homesteading Review”
Centennial Farms and Homestead Dreams

The People’s Celebration concludes with a no-host social at the Event Center at 5 pm hosted by the Richland County Conservation District, to be followed by the District’s annual Awards Dinner at 6 pm. The meal is also open to the public; however, there is a \$12 per person charge. To reserve tickets, call Julie Goss at 406-433-1203 x101.

In addition to the Conservation District’s traditional awards, the group will also be recognizing two Richland County “Centennial Farms/Ranches” which have been in operation locally under the same families for 100 years or more. The two will also be included in the Montana Historical Society’s Montana Centennial Farm and Ranch Program.

To conclude the “People’s Celebration,” the Conservation District has also arranged to have Montana Historian and Storyteller Hal Stearns speak at 7 pm on “Homestead Dreams: From High Hopes to Lingering Legacy.” In his talk, Stearns will explore the American West’s last great agricultural land rush and what followed, illustrating his talk with a myriad of signs left on the landscape. Montana, Stearns says, has always been a state marked by boom and bust the fur trade, cattle on the open range, the gold and silver, coal and oil rushes. But no moment in our history has left a mark quite like that of the “honyocker” or homesteader.

Mr. Stearns’ presentation is FREE and open to the public. His appearance is made possible by the Humanities Montana Speakers Bureau Program. Partial funding for the Speakers Bureau program is provided by a legislative grant from Montana’s Cultural Trust and from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

We hope you can join us for this fun commemoration!

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- Total mileage on truck is unknown (Odometer shows 56,882)
- 9 speed transmission
- Rear differentials are tandem twin screws
- Front tires are Toyo 22.5
- Rear tires are 22.5 recap grips
- Day cab
- Truck has wet kit on it
- All DOT inspections have been done at Westlie Truck Center in Minot

RTC will accept bids until Friday, Nov. 30, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.
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Smoke Alarm Tips

About 3,500 Americans die each year in fires and about 18,300 are injured. Many of them might be alive today if they had only learned what to do if there is a fire. It is very important to have a working smoke alarm with a working battery in your home. If you have that, it greatly lowers your chances of dying in a fire. Follow these 10 easy tips on smoke alarms:

1. One of the best ways to protect yourself and your family is to have a working smoke alarm that can sound fast for both a fire that has flames, and a smoky fire that has fumes without flames. It is called a "Dual Sensor Smoke Alarm."
2. Place a smoke alarm on the ceiling of every level of your home and both inside and outside bedrooms. Children and older people can sleep through the loud sound of a smoke alarm. Make sure your escape plan includes someone that can help children and others wake up immediately to escape from the home.

Michael Nevins, 45, Shepherd, MT, formerly of Sidney, MT

Memorial Services for Michael Nevins, age 45 of Shepherd, MT, formerly of Sidney, MT will be held at 11 A.M. Thursday, November 1, 2012 at Lonsdale United Methodist Church in Sidney, MT. under the direction of Fulkerson Funeral Home of Sidney. Remembrances and condolences may be sent to www.fulkersons.com

Michael died Thursday, October 25, 2012 at his home in Shepherd MT.

Jack J. Becker, 83, Sidney, MT

Mass of the Christian Burial for Jack J. Becker, 83 of Sidney was at 1 p.m. on Monday, October 29, 2012, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church with Father Jim O'Neil and Father Ned Shinnick as presiders. Wake services were at 6 p.m., on Sunday, October 28, 2012, at Fulkerson Funeral Home. Interment with Military Honors by the MT Honor Guard and the V.F.W. Post #4099 of Sidney was in the Sidney Cemetery, Sidney, MT under the direction of Fulkerson Funeral Home of Sidney. Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

Jack died on Tuesday evening, October 23, 2012, at Sidney Health Center.

Elizabeth "Betty" Paulson, 89, Sidney, MT, formerly of Cartwright, ND

Services for Elizabeth "Betty" Paulson were at 10 a.m., Tuesday, October 30, 2012, at Zion Lutheran Church in Fairview, MT with Pastor Roberta Pierce. Interment was held in the Nameless Cemetery, Cartwright, ND under the direction of Fulkerson Funeral Home of Sidney. Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at www.fulkerson.com.

Elizabeth "Betty" died on Wednesday evening, October 24, 2012, at the Sidney Health Center Extended Care Facility.

STATISTICS

Lake Water Level Reports

	Fort Peck	Sakakawea
Current Elevation.....	2234.0	1831.6
Last Week's Elev.....	2234.0	1832.0
One Year Ago	2236.1	1841.8
Release For Day (C.F.S.)	10,000	20,500

Watford City Weather Data

Source: North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Oct 22	52	36	.....0.05
Oct 23	43	36	.....0.19
Oct 24	55	26	.....0.00
Oct 25	37	27	.....0.00
Oct 26	32	26	.....0.00
Oct 27	35	24	.....0.00
Oct 28	34	25	.....0.00

Sidney Weather Data

Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Oct 22	46	38	.....0.54
Oct 23	45	28	.....0.00
Oct 24	38	28	.....0.00
Oct 25	33	29	.....0.00
Oct 26	34	25	.....0.00
Oct 27	31	24	.....0.00
Oct 28	38	27	.....0.00
Average YTD Precipitation	13.16		
2012 YTD Precipitation	10.60		

3. If you keep your bedroom doors closed, place a smoke alarm on the ceiling of each bedroom.
4. Check smoke alarms monthly by pressing the test button.
5. Never take smoke alarm batteries out to put into other items like games or remote controls.
6. Teach children what the smoke alarm sounds like and what to do when they hear the alarm sound.
7. If there is a fire, leave the home right away by crawling low under the smoke and never go back inside.
8. If smoke from cooking makes the alarm sound, press the "hush" button, if your alarm has one. You can also turn on the kitchen fan, open a window or wave a towel near the alarm until it stops making the sound. Never take the battery out of the alarm.
9. Most alarms need a new battery at least once a year. Some smoke alarms have batteries that last for up to 10 years. If your smoke alarm is over 10 years old, replace it with a new alarm and a new battery.
10. If you rent, talk to your landlord about placing a working smoke alarm in your home. You still need to buy a new battery at least once a year for the alarm.

Keller Benefit Nov. 17

Friends of Edgar and Tracy Keller are hosting a benefit slushburger feed and silent auction Saturday, November 17 from 6-9 p.m. at the VFW in Sidney. The Keller's unborn son, Grant, has multiple tumors in his right lung which will require major surgery at Denver Children's Hospital after he is born.

An account has been established at Stockman Bank in Sidney, under Donations for baby Grant Keller, for anyone wishing to help.

EVENTS

SEND US YOUR EVENTS!

THE ROUNDUP: PO Box 1207, 111 West Main,
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Richland County

Events in Sidney unless otherwise listed. MT Zone.

Wed., Oct. 31

6 p.m. — Sidney Jaycees, trick-or-treating. The Lodge 1015 7th Ave. SW (behind Lincoln Apartments), The Crestwood Inn, 410 3rd Ave. SW and the Sidney Health Center Extended Care, 216 14th Ave. NW (use the main entrance under the canopy).

7 p.m. — Beginning square dance lessons. Every Wed. at Sidney HS Band Room

Thurs., Nov. 1

7 a.m. — Leadership Task Force meeting, Sidney Chamber.

2-4 p.m. or 6-8 p.m. — Winter weather awarness class, tips on winterizing your RVs, USDA-ARS Tech Transfer room, 1500 N. Central Ave, Sidney, MT. More information, 406-433-2220.

5 p.m. — TOPS, Crestwood NW entrance, Weigh-ins 5-5:30 p.m., Meeting 5:30-6 p.m.

8 p.m. — NA meeting, Millers' Corner banquet room.

Sat., Nov. 3

9 a.m. — AA Group Trinity Lutheran Church Education bldg.

7 p.m. — AA Group Trinity Lutheran Church Education bldg.

7 p.m. — Wine & Food Festival, Richland County Fair Event Center.

Sun., Nov. 4

Daylight Savings Ends

7 p.m. — AA Group Trinity Lutheran Church Education bldg.

Mon., Nov. 5

Noon — AA Group Trinity Lutheran Church Education bldg.

6 p.m. — Richland Economic Development, Annual meeting, Sidney Country Club.

Tues., Nov. 6

7 p.m. — AA Group Trinity Lutheran Church Education bldg.

McKenzie County

Events in Watford City unless otherwise listed. CT Zone.

Wed., Oct. 31

8 p.m. — Al-Anon, Sanford Room, McKenzie Co. Public Library.

Thurs., Nov. 1

8 p.m. — AA Group, Northern Pump & Compression. Call 770-3603 or 770-2675 for directions or ride.

View all monthly events on our calendar
at www.roundupweb.com.

The Mourning Dove

By Tie Shank

The Mourning Dove is a uniquely identifiable gamebird with its sorrowful woo-OO-oo-oo-oo call giving the bird its name and with the sharp whistling sound of their wings on take-offs and landings they're easily recognizable. It's a leading gamebird in North America with over 20 million being shot annually nationwide. North Dakota has approximately 5000 hunters who actively pursue this bird for its meat and for sport. The Dove is an early migrating bird and puts a new spin on the meaning of the saying, "Having cold feet." Dove season opened in Montana and in North Dakota on September 1st and closed on October 30th, but hunters need to take advantage of the first couple weeks of the season, as once the first frost hits (or their toes freeze) they tend to begin migrating to the far south to enjoy the warmer climate.

Mike Szymanski, a Migratory Game Bird Biologist with the North Dakota Game and Fish, has been involved in the banding of 1500 – 2000 Dove all over the state of North Dakota. The birds are banded for a number of reasons: One of which is to monitor their survival rates, another is to guide harvest management to track where they migrate. Typically, most of the birds banded in western North Dakota have been harvested in the central highlands of Mexico and in Texas, although one Dove was harvested as far as Nicaragua.

They have the capability of reaching speeds up to 55mph and can fly as straight as a beam of light. Unlike many birds, males and females are similar in appearance and both incubate and care for their squab (young). An average Dove is approximately 12" long and weighs only 4-6 ounces. While lying on the ground, a flat surface or a tree limb, the Mourning dove will lean over with one wing stretched for up to twenty minutes while sunbathing or rain



Photo: Visual Education Service

bathing. It's also common to see this interesting bird Dust bathing.

If you're fortunate enough to wake up to the plaintive cooing of the Mourning Dove, lie back and listen to its lamenting and almost sad song. No matter where I am, the Mourning Doves song makes me feel like I'm home.

Eastern Montana Impact Coalition

Collaborative efforts of many have formed the new Eastern MT Impact Coalition to address regional planning needs for growth directly related to energy resource development throughout a 16 county area of Eastern Montana. The Coalition is comprised of 4 economic development regions; Great Northern Development Corporation (GNDC), Richland Economic Development (RED), Eastern Plains Economic Development Corporation (EPEDC) and Southeast Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC).

The US Economic Development Administration recently awarded the Coalition with a grant in the amount of \$228,000 to be leveraged with state funds from the Big Sky Trust Fund in the amount of \$140,000, as well as local contributions of \$20,000, for a total of \$380,000. "Eastern Montana has an opportunity to have a positive effect on our national economy through the development of its abundant energy resources. The funding from EDA, along with local and state contribu-

tions, provides the tools needed to harness this potential by offering much needed planning efforts that will determine growth potential for communities allowing them to create suitable infrastructure in a rapid growth economy," - Martin DeWitt, Executive Director of Great Northern Development Corporation.

Upcoming Events

NEMT Developer Forum: November 13th from 11:00am to 3:00pm, hosted by GNDC and the Montana Board of Housing. Opportunity to link housing and infrastructure developers with key community leaders in the region. The Forum will be held in Culbertson, specific location TBD. For more information contact Brianna Vine at 653-2590, brianna@gndc.org.



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New Business at the Yellowstone Marketplace

BMI Training & Consulting is now offering Safety and Emergency Training and consulting services, including full range OSHA training and compliance counseling locally.

After working in numerous positions, owner Ron Gordy believes safety is key.

Gordy stated, "Montana is the worst state in the nation as far as workers compensation goes." He has trained over 1000 people with his more personal approach with his seminars, rather than all business.

Gordy believes, "If a person is more informed they will make better decisions." Gordy has worked with numerous companies doing new hire orientation, log book records training and hazardous material transport and security training, which he still offers.

Gordy stated, "Family preparedness and personal safety is very important to me. I would be happy to do a seminar, free of charge, if anyone is interested."

Gordy also offers firearms training, from basic to advanced for handguns, rifles, ARs, and shotguns. They have a separate website for this, it is www.billingsfirearmstraining.com.

BMI Training & Consulting is located in the Yellowstone Market Place on Central in Sidney. Ron and his son, Ron Jr., will be in the



Ron Gordy (left) and Ron Gordy, Jr.

office from 8-5 Tuesday through Thursday with Mondays and Friday being by appointment only. They are willing to do seminars and meetings on-site or in their office. They can be reached 24 hours a day at 406-480-7080 or by email at rgordy@bmisafetytraining.com. For more information on the services they offer, check out their website at www.bmisafetytraining.com.

The Montana Chamber is Coming to a City Near You!

The Montana Chamber will be "Giving Thanks", appropriately with the season of Thanksgiving to reflect on the 2012 election results, discuss the Montana Chamber's agenda for the upcoming legislative session and to highlight

the many benefits of membership at The Best Western Golden Prairie Inn, Sldney, at 7:30 a.m., November 21, 2012.

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Moisture Management, Soil Health Discussion Set for November 14

By Heidi Hintz
Effective moisture management combined with feeding the “livestock” above and below ground is the theme of the 2012 Soil Health Workshop. The workshop will be held on Wednesday, November 14th, at the Biesiot Activities Center on the Dickinson State University Campus.

Testimony and presentations by producers from North Dakota, Montana, and South Dakota will be a big part of the workshop. In addition, research soil scientists from North Dakota State University and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service will provide new research findings, which are important to sustain soil health.

Southwest North Dakota producers, Derrick Dukart, Manning, and James Zielsdorf, Beach, will discuss grazing strategies and the benefits of cover crops respectively. Montana producer Dirk O'Connor will explain ways to conserve precipitation for its most effective use in a precipitation-lacking environment. Dan Forgery of Gettysburg, SD, will also provide a producer testimonial.

Dickinson based NRCS soil scientist, Jon Stika, will demonstrate how management practices impact soil microorganisms and how producers can create better, healthier soil by making sure the underground “livestock”, or micro-organisms, are fed. Ann-Marie Fortuna, NDSU soil scientist, will discuss the function of soil microbes and how they can increase the value of soil.

There are also two panels scheduled during this workshop. The panels will feature producers giving first-hand accounts of what works and what doesn't work. The panels will also be an opportunity for attending producers to ask key questions regarding soil health management. Dickinson State University assistant professor Toby

Stroh will summarize the Southwest North Dakota Soil Health Demonstration Project. This event is free and open to the public. Individuals wanting more information can contact Heidi Heintz by phone at 701-390-3222 or via email at heidihintz@hotmail.com. The courtesy of an RSVP would be appreciated.

New FCS Agent at the Extension Office

The Richland County MSU Extension office announced that they have hired a new Family and Consumer Sciences agent. Ludmila Keller, graduate of Binghamton University, had been hoping to get an extension job. When asked why an extension job she replied, “It's such a great opportunity to work with a community and to interact with the residents.” So when she saw an opening here in Sidney, she immediately got more information.

Keller's main interest has always been in nutrition, which is why she decided to study it. She likes that she can take everything she learned and apply it to a community. She enjoys running, dancing, and especially likes Zumba. Keller also mentioned she loves spending time with her pets. Her dog, Gatsby, is a rhodesian ridgeback-lab mix with a happy go lucky attitude, while her cat, Loretta, is very grumpy.

“I'm looking forward to getting to know the community, local organizations, and businesses and find out what programs they would like to see started,” Keller said when asked what she hopes to accomplish as the FCS Agent. She realizes the issues of obesity, nutrition, and especially food costs aren't only a national issue, but a real issue in our area due to the oil industry.

Keller is currently working on her Masters of Public Health Degree while finishing up her position as Research Assistant for Women's Health at Virginia Commonwealth University. She also currently volunteers as a nutrition educator at a local free clinic, advising people on proper nutrition.

“I'm really excited. I've been to Sidney once and met a lot of people. I'm looking forward to meeting the community and helping them start the programs they would like to see happen,” stated Keller.

Keller is slated to start work November 13th. She is taking Judy Johnson's old position, after she retired last summer.

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Bucy, Fox Trade Jobs, Ads In High-Stakes AG Race

By Erik C. Anderson
Community News Service
UM School of Journalism

When it comes to getting attention, Montana's race for attorney general is fighting for its share of the airwaves.

TV ads for U.S. Senate, U.S. House and gubernatorial hopefuls dominate, but the attorney general's race has shouldered its way onto the commercial-fest. That's due largely to big money donated by a national Republican group backing GOP candidate Tim Fox of Helena.

The national Republican States Campaign Committee has pumped more than \$580,000 into advertising on behalf of Fox's campaign to become the chief enforcer and defender of Montana law. Its ads focus on a federal law Fox opposes: the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare.

Fox's opponent, Helena Democrat Pam Bucy, has denounced the outside money, which by mid-September had amounted to more than what she and Fox had otherwise raised combined.

"That's a game changer

in this election," Bucy said. "It feels like some out-of-state entities are trying to buy Montana."

Federal health care law

The 43-year-old former prosecutor and assistant Montana attorney general has also blasted Fox's focus on the federal health care law, saying it has overshadowed discussion of the office's principal duties.

"I see myself as the people's lawyer and not just for the people who just don't like Obamacare," she said.

Fox, a 54-year-old Helena attorney and Hardin native, defends his focus on Obamacare, much of which the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld, except for its requirement that states expand Medicaid, the state-federal program that helps the poor, sick and disabled.

"(Chief Justice) John Roberts got it right when he said Congress put a gun to the states' heads," Fox said. "Certainly, in many respects, it's become more evident that Montana needs an attorney general that will stand up to federal government, mainly

because of the Affordable Care Act."

That's also a slam at current Attorney General Steve Bullock, the Democratic nominee for governor who defeated Fox to become attorney general four years ago. Bullock refused to join attorneys general in 26 states, all but one a Republican, who offered legal arguments against Obamacare in federal court.

Fox said he would have joined that effort.

Other issues

Meanwhile, there are other issues in the race.

Fox, who is the father of four, says the state's Sexual or Violent Offender Registry is broken. He says law enforcement needs to keep better tabs people who have threatened the public's safety.

Bucy, who is endorsed by several law enforcement groups, said additional law enforcement is always a priority, but added that she's not aware that the system is broken.

"Since his commercial has come out saying there are 'gaping holes' in the registry, I've gone to three different deputies and they didn't know what Tim was talking about," Bucy said.

Bucy, a mother of three, says children need to be protected in the Internet community and has announced her eSm@rt Kids initiative to educate youth on how to responsibly interact online.

Another issue that divides Fox and Bucy is the attorney general's voting membership on the State

Lands Board, which oversees the leasing of millions of acres of state-owned lands. The revenue supports public schools.

Throughout the campaign, Fox has criticized the current attorney general for his vote last year against Arch Coal's successful bid to mine state-owned coal in the Otter Creek area.

Managing state lands

If elected, Fox said he will vote to promote the development of Montana's gas, coal, oil and other natural resources. He added that he's the lone candidate in the race who wants to develop state resources and the jobs that would bring.

"I believe that the position on the State Land Board is creating jobs and jumpstarting our economy here in Montana, along with standing up to the federal government when it introduces job killing legislation," he said.

Bucy, who is endorsed by the Montana Conservation Voters, disagreed and said she takes natural resource development seriously.

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Pam Bucy



Tim Fox

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North Dakota State Executive Director Aaron Krauter announced that approximately \$310.8 million in payments, including \$91.4 million in Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) rental payments and \$219.4 in direct payments will be made to North Dakota agricultural producers this month.

In 2012, North Dakota producers had more than 32,000 contracts covering over 2.39 million acres of land enrolled in CRP. The voluntary program helps farmers and ranchers safeguard environmentally sensitive land and provides habitat for game and non-game species.

Final direct payments are made through the Direct and Counter-cyclical (DCP) and Average Crop Revenue Election (ACRE) Programs, which provide payments to producers of certain commodities based on planting history and established yields. Participants in the programs in North Dakota have enrolled 19.1 million acres of cropland. About 94 percent of producers in North Dakota participate in the two programs.

Producers reported about 22.4 million acres of annually planted crops to

Farm Service Agency for the 2012 crop year. Just 163,000 acres were reported as prevented planting, down

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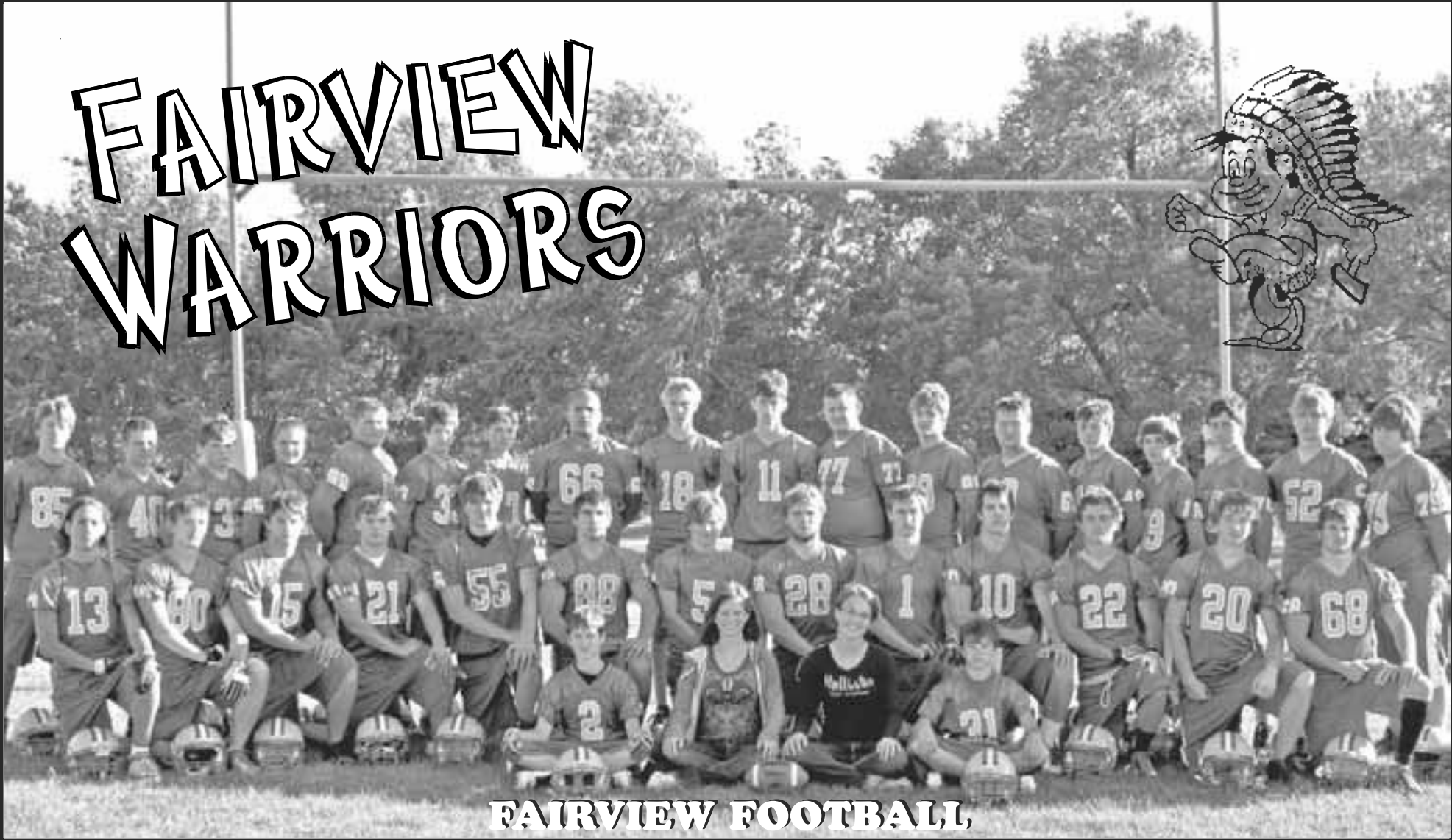
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Auditor Candidates Clash Over Health Care, State Lands

By Hanah Redman
Community News Service
UM School of Journalism

Candidates Derek Skees and Monica Lindeen are travelling the state, trying to whip up enthusiasm for the most misunderstood office on the ballot: state auditor.

For starters, the auditor's office doesn't "audit" anything. Instead, it works to protect people from investment scams and ensures that insurance companies pay their customers' rightful claims. The auditor also sits on the State Land Board, which regulates the use of more than 5 million acres of state land.

"We've done a lot of great things for Montanans," said current Auditor Lindeen, a Democrat who is putting her four-year record on the line. Her rival Skees, a Republican legislator from Whitefish, is rallying opposition to the federal Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare.

A history major with a bachelor's degree from Central Florida University, Skees opposed Lindeen's efforts last session to implement the new federal health care. If elected auditor, he said he would advise lawmakers on issues surrounding the act and educate them about its flaws.

Last session, Lindeen recommended four unsuccessful bills designed to help Montana administer the new federal law. Skees accused her of trying to implement the law while he and others in the Legislature were still fighting it.

Health care reform

Lindeen, who did her graduate work in educational foundations at Montana State University in Billings, said her bills would have allowed the auditor to review and enforce the parts of the act that aren't currently in Montana law, such as allowing young people to stay on their parents' insurance until age 26.

She also wanted the ability to review premium rates for health insurance. Otherwise, she said, the federal government will regulate those changes. If elected, Lindeen said she would introduce the rate-review bill again.

"Every insurance commissioner in this country has a legal obligation to implement and make sure that the law is being followed," Lindeen said. "It doesn't matter if you're a Republican or a Democrat. As the insurance commissioner, that's what you do."

But Skees said Lindeen should have opposed the federal law instead of working to implement it.

"She defends herself by saying it's the law of the land," Skees said. "What I say is, to blindly follow something, even if it's wrong, is still wrong."

Skees also said he extended six invitations to Lindeen's campaign to debate the Affordable Care Act and was ignored.

Lindeen said she would accept an invitation that came from an outside organization, but said she doesn't think she should have to accept one from Skees individually.

Managing state lands

Another important aspect of the auditor's job is voting on

the management of state-owned lands and natural resources as one of five members of the State Land Board.

While Skees says the current land board should be streamlining the way for businesses and others to lease lands and access more natural resources, Lindeen says the board has been very successful over the past four years.

Skees said he would use his position on the State Land Board to confront the federal government about land policies that he sees as detrimental to Montana and work to get the use of those lands more directly under state control.

"This state is burning to the ground, and the beetles are destroying our forests, and the wolves are killing our game, and this is all federal policy," he said.

Skees said in an email that if he were on the land board, he would "do anything (he) could think of" to facilitate business growth through the use of natural resources.

He said the land board could allow more businesses to operate on state lands and give a boost to the state's economy by making it easier for businesses to receive permits.

"You need to look at results, not strategic votes without follow through," he said.

However, Lindeen said the current land board has approved natural resource leases that have provided over \$250 million in state revenue. That is more than any Land Board has done in the same amount of time in Montana's history, she said.

"I have voted for every single oil, gas, timber and coal use that's come before the land board," she said.

Role as watchdog

Both candidates point to their backgrounds in business. Lindeen founded one of the first Montana-based Internet service providers, and Skees took over his family's construction business before joining Roger Porch Construction Inc., where he is now vice president.

One of the main jobs of the Auditor's office is dealing with restitution for investment fraud and insurance claims. Lindeen said she is proud of the work her office has done for the past term.

"We've been able to get over \$15 million in claims paid that wouldn't have got paid otherwise," she said.

Skees said in an email that it is the auditor's job to be the "watchdog" over insurance companies, and that as auditor he would work to eliminate regulations that have nothing to do with good insurance practices.

Shepard of the Valley Fall Bazaar and Bake Sale

Saturday, November 10, 2012, the Shepherd of the Valley Church, located 211 East Holly, Sidney, will be holding a fall bazaar and bake sale from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. There will also be soup, sandwiches, pie, coffee, baked goods & gift baskets offered for sale.

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Astronomy for Everyone at Your Library

Submitted by Becky Hayes
How big is the universe? Why does Saturn have rings? How do I use this telescope to see all the cool stuff I hear about on the Discovery Channel? On November 9th at 7:00pm, you can join us at the Sidney-Richland County Public Library for a special presentation by former NASA consultant Dr. Kevin Manning to answer all those questions, and any others that you can think of! Dr. Manning will give an

exciting presentation titled “Astronomy for Everyone: The Size & Scale of the Universe” and then take us all outside (weather permitting) to use his telescope and get “eyes on” with the night sky. People of all ages are welcome to attend, and Dr. Manning’s presentations have received rave reviews at libraries across Montana and the rest of the country. Of course, the evening wouldn’t be perfect unless we included some free popcorn, and door prizes, now would it?
Dr. Manning’s presentation is made possible by an

anonymous donor, who also provided some great door prizes. We’ll have solar system kits, bedroom decorations, and even a telescope or two to give away. The Richland County Libraries Foundation (that’s RCPLF for short) will also be raffling off two handmade stargazing chairs (constructed and donated by the Savage 4-H Club). Tickets will cost \$5 for one, or \$10 for 3, and you can buy them starting November 1st at the Library, or at the main event on November 7th. Astronomy is a great way for anyone to get into science and fun for the whole family, especially since we have such amazing views of the night sky around Richland County.

The Library also wants to give a big thank you to all of our friends on Facebook, and the RCPLF for their support of this project and our other programming. If you haven’t heard, we are currently running a “Dollars for Likes” challenge with the RCPLF, where they will donate up to \$350 to support library programming. So if you’d like to see more fun events like this one, or if you have some ideas of your own, please head over to our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/sidneyrichlandlibrary>. Your Like gets us \$1 to support our Teen Poetry Slam (Nov. 16, details coming soon!), new furniture in the kids area and other great projects, PLUS you’ll be updated on all the latest happenings and never miss any of our fun contests or programs! We’ll see you on November 9th at 7:00pm, and as always, you can call 433-1917 (or post on Facebook!) if you have any questions.

Maximize Your Pivot \$\$\$ Irrigation Workshop

This past growing season came with several issues for growers from getting the crop planted in dry conditions to quality issues then having again dry conditions. Crop rotation and diversity are considerations producers must think about to while managing their farm operation. One of the biggest question marks in irrigation is how to achieve consistency in crop management and yields along with maintaining quality. To address some these questions, an irrigation workshop has been developed emphasizing research taking place in the region and specific management practices. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, December 18th, at the Williston Research Extension Center (Ernie French Center) starting at 9:30 a.m. (CST).

The workshop will start with a talk on soil health issues of salinity and alkaline from Chris Augustin, NCREC Soil Health Area Extension Specialist. Then discussion will switch to weed herbicide resistance and how rotating mode of actions will slow the resistant race with weeds by Jeff Stachler, NDSU Weed Scientist. Tom Scherer, NDSU Extension Ag Engineer, will present on how to measure and calibrate flow pressure on pivot so they are sit up correctly to wrap up the morning session

Following lunch, Chet Hill, Area Extension Ag Diversification Specialist, will review sprinkler uniformity and an over-

all spotlight of irrigation in the region. Mike Hove with the ND State Water Commission will give an update on the water permitting process and the real time metering monitoring systems being tested in the state. And finally, Tyler Tjelde, WREC Irrigation Agronomist will provide an update on the NessonValley irrigation research site and highlight a couple research projects on water management.

There will be a noon lunch sponsored by Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative. Mon-Kotawill be sponsoring the breaks during the workshop.

If you have any further questions, please call Chet Hill, NDSU Extension Area Ag Diversification Specialist, at (701)774-4315.

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Punt, Pass and Kick

The five young individuals in the picture represented Richland County in the Sectionals of the Jaycee and NFL sponsored “Punt, Pass, and Kick” competition that took place at Connors Field in Miles City on Sunday, October 14, 2012. (L-R Front Row) Jeff Tjelde - Fairview (6-7 year olds), Jesse Selting Fairview (10-11 year olds), Maddie Peters – Sidney (10-11 year olds), Boston Peters – Sidney (8-9 year olds) and (back row): Max Peters – Sidney (12-13 year olds). (Photo submitted by Dan Peters)

- Maddie Peters scored well enough overall to finish first in her age division and possibly an opportunity to compete in Denver, before a Denver Bronco’s game in December.
- Boston Peters finished second in his age division and kicked the ball off the tee for a new State record of 53’ 4”, breaking the old record of 51’ 4” that was set by a young man from Whitehall in 2002.
- Max Peters had the furthest throw in the passing portion of the competition of 123’ 6”, including all of the players at the competition up to 15 year olds.

Winter Weather Awareness Class

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Sidney Sugars Fire Losses Minimal

Sidney Sugars Incorporated experienced a fire in a pulp dryer last Thursday night. According to general manager David Garland, a shaft broke on a gear drive, which stopped the drum and started the pulp inside on fire. The employee in that position immediately isolated the problem to the drum, and followed procedure to a T. Sidney Sugars determined that fire department involvement was warranted and called them.

The incident occurred at 6 p.m. and the fire department was wrapped up and gone by 8:30. Loss was limited to the pulp in the dryer, with no other damage.

Garland would like to recognize and thank the Sidney Sugars employees who responded promptly and correctly to the initial problem, and the Sidney Volunteer Fire Department for their quick response and professionalism.

Sidney Jaycees Trick or Treating in Sidney

The Sidney Jaycees would like to invite area preschoolers and elementary aged children to safe and warm trick-or-treating at the Lodge, 1015 7th Ave. SW (behind Lincoln Apartments), the Crestwood Inn, 410 3rd Ave. SW and the Sidney Health Center Extended Care, 216 14th Ave. NW (use the main entrance under the canopy please). The trick-or-treating will begin at 6:00 p.m. and last until the candy is gone or until 7:30 p.m. Please do NOT come early as the residents of the facilities will not be ready until 6:00. If you have any questions about the Jaycees or this trick-or-treating event call Jody Christensen at 488-5910.

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Back (L- R) Taylor Fink, Autumn Rehbein, Mariam Dartsmelia, Alexis Johnson, Alyssa Damm, Shanna Olson, Rachel Prevost. Middle Row L to R: Brittany Whiteman, Bailee Fink, Michelle Switzer, Megan Volbrecht, Taylor Brown, Audrey Helmuth. Front (L-R) Tea Thiessen, Shelby Senner, Shaye Johnston, Paige Smith, Jessica Williams.




Fairview

Back Row (L-R): Faith Vitt, Morgan Taylor, Lexi Cayko, Masyn Klose, Hannah Hardy, Haelee Spaabeck, Amber Friesz. 3rd Row (L-R) Amie Taylor, Amanda Otterstetter, Bailey Schriver, Alexis Gustafson, Jaena Cotter. 2nd Row (L-R) Alex Wicks, Caitlin Yadon, Brooke Richards. Front Row (L-R) Erin Cozzens, Abby Lebsock.



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Public Instruction Candidates Clash Over Standards, Resources, Local Control

By Melisa Penman
Community News Service
UM School of Journalism

Incumbent Denise Juneau is banking that a statewide initiative, Graduation Matters Montana, can bring the number of high school dropouts, nearly 2,000 a year, down by 50 percent by 2014.

As state superintendent of public instruction she has sought to use her office to build programs she says are necessary to prepare students for a modern economy. It is also, she hopes, the kind of program that will earn her re-election this fall.

"It is important to me to continue the progress that we have made," said Juneau, a member of the Mandan and Hidatsa tribes and the first Native American woman elected to statewide office. "Having communities focus on increasing our graduation rates and improving student achievement is going to pay off in Montana for years to come."

For Juneau to have a chance to do that she must defeat Republican challenger Sandy Welch, an education consultant and former Ronan principal who began her career in education as a math teacher.

Both candidates have said they want to encourage more community involvement in local schools, but Welch also stresses the need to limit the state's role in local decisions. The two have also sparred over experimenting with charter schools, publicly funded independent schools that operate under looser restrictions than a traditional public school.

Local control, charter schools

For Welch, the answer to improving education standards and graduation rates is fewer state-organized programs.

Welch said the Office of Public Instruction should be a resource for local schools instead of a state agency issuing mandates.

"What I want to be doing is to be talking about what are the goals for our schools and then giving our local schools and local administrators, teachers, parents and the school boards, the control locally to really address their students' needs," she said during a recent interview in Missoula.

As part of that program of school reform, Welch indicated she would be open to considering a "well designed" charter school program. She also said she would relax the rules for higher performing schools while lower performing schools would face a more rigorous set of regulations.

According to the Associated Press, Juneau blasted the idea of a charter program during a recent debate with Welch, saying, "Throughout this campaign, my opponent has advocated for pulling money out of our public schools to fund private schools and for-profit corporations, grade schools on an A to F scale, get rid of standards that ensure small class sizes and school quality, and use unproven methods to rate our teachers."

Juneau added in an interview that Welch's plan to target underperforming schools would put undue pressure on schools where poverty is a major factor in student success. She said she worked to establish the Schools of Promise, hiring 22 people to work with teachers, administrators and school boards in three of the lowest performing districts.

"We know poverty plays a huge part in how students perform so that making sure we are supporting those schools needs to be a goal of the OPI," said Juneau.

Fundamentally, Welch said student learning needs more attention. "In the past the system has focused more on teaching than it has on learning," she said.

She said Juneau's administration has overregulated local schools and placed too much emphasis on data. Welch wants the OPI to be a conduit for schools and teachers to share what is working in their districts.

Juneau, however, said she has used the data first required by the federal government to gauge where schools currently are and where programs may be helpful.

Money for schools

The superintendent holds the additional responsibility of sitting on the five-member State Land Board, which oversees the management of 5.2 million acres of school trust land across Montana.

Welch supports increased development of the state-owned resources as a way to generate more income for schools and increased job opportunities for Montana's students.

"To me natural resource development is one of those things that Montana can do that will really create those opportunities for our kids," said Welch. "It gives them a reason to excel in school."

For Juneau, the superintendent should focus on using the resources to generate revenue for the school trust, while managing the land for the years ahead. As a Land Board member, Juneau recently voted to lease state-owned coal to the Signal Peak Energy coal mine near Roundup. But she opposed Arch Coal's bid to lease state-owned coal in the Otter Creek area, saying at the time the company's bid wasn't in the state's long-term financial or environmental interests.

Juneau said she would continue to work with the other members of the Land Board to increase revenue for Montana while protecting the value of state resources. She argued that Welch focuses on the energy boom to the detriment of tourism and other uses for state land.

As the race nears the finish, both candidates are touting key endorsements.

The Montana Chamber of Commerce is backing Welch's campaign, and so is state Sen. Jonathan Windy Boy, a Democrat from Box Elder.

The prominent among her campaign donors include Republican congressional nominee Steve Daines, GOP gubernatorial nominee Rick Hill, former Superintendent of Public Instruction Ed Argenbright, and political action committees representing the coal, oil, natural gas and timber industries.

Juneau has the backing of the Montana Education Association-Montana Federation of Teachers, the Montana Public Employees Association and the Montana Conservation Voters. The Billings Gazette has endorsed her run.

Prominent contributors to her campaign include Eric Feaver, president of the statewide teachers' union; Democratic attorney general nominee Pam Bucy; and dozens of retired teachers and college professors.

A Fistful Of Hollers: A Murder Mystery in the Old West Roosevelt Memorial Healthcare Foundation Fundraiser

Roosevelt Memorial Healthcare Foundation, a Montana not-for-profit organization with a mission to ensure the continuance of quality local healthcare, announced it will hold its annual fundraiser on Saturday, November 10, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

The fundraiser will be a dinner party with a slight twist. Join us as we meet characters such as Fanny Dango, Digger Deep, Nasty Nate, Wyatt Burb, Messy James and town hero, Squint Leastwood. It will be a fun evening featuring lots of laughs, good food and drinks, and an incredible chance to raise money for a great cause.

Tickets are on sale at Hometown Market, Richland Federal Credit Union-Culbertson Branch, First Community Bank-Froid and Culbertson Branches, Welcome Stop and Roosevelt Medical Center. Win a chance to re-stock your wine cellar by purchasing a ticket and bringing a bottle of wine to the event. More information is available at www.facebook.com/RooseveltMedicalCenter.

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The popcorn and it's maker at Party Central for Moonlight Madness. Pictured (L) Dana Moos and Cassandra Moos.They took 3rd place.



Taking 1st place in the costume contest for Moonlight Madness was (L) Kim Skeens and Brandie Azure with the Jock Stop.They were dressed up as a "U Dead" cheerleader and football player.



The Seitz Insurance crew dressed up as the "Replacement Refs" for Moonlight Madness. Pictured, L to R, are Jeremy Norby, Cammi Skinner, Lori Mayer, John Seitz, Melanie Cvancara, Gay Kunesh, David Seitz and Kellie Gilligan. They took 2nd place.



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A Race Overlooked: The Campaigns For Montana's Lone Seat In Congress

By Alexandra Schwier
Community News Service
UM School of Journalism

As Montana yards fill with campaign signs, as canvassers crisscross neighborhoods in support of gubernatorial candidates, and as TV ads take turns blasting U.S. Senate candidates, the names Kim Gillan and Steve Daines rarely appear on the political radar.

The two candidates for the state's sole U.S. House seat remain largely unknown to voters as Election Day draws near. According to Montana State University political scientist David Parker, only about 20 to 30 percent of voters can identify Democrat Gillan and her Republican rival Daines.

Gillan, who trails Daines in money, has had to rely on traditional methods to get her name out.

"I've traveled 1,000 miles in the last two and half days, meeting with different groups," Gillan said.

Despite the challenges of running a grassroots campaign, she said it has advantages in a state like Montana where "people like to meet you, they like to shake your hand and they really aren't going to be 100 percent trustful with someone they know from television."

Although Daines has run many more ads than Gillan, he stresses the same kind of message about his campaign.

"We have had a chance to travel to all 56 counties in this state," he said, "and I have had the chance to sit

around with cups of coffee and have conversations about what matters to Montanans."

Different messages

But campaign strategy is where the similarities between Gillan and Daines end.

For Daines, his message to voters is he will fight to rein in an out-of-control national government that has created a sense of "uncertainty" in the country.

"We don't know what the tax code is going to be like next year," he said. "You talk to the farmers, the ranchers, our small community bankers, and boy, one of the number one issues is the regulations coming out of Washington."

Gillan is campaigning on a pledge to reduce the partisanship in Washington while advocating what she calls Montana's culture of "helping your neighbor." This includes proposing government investment in key services like education and health care.

She argues that Daines' support of the budget proposal put forward by Republican vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan would benefit the wealthy at the expense of critical services like Medicare and Social Security.

"In Montana we are all about fairness. Everyone is always willing to pitch in and do their part, whether it's helping a neighbor or solving a community problem," she said. "I don't feel that the Ryan budget does that at all.

It basically places the burden on hard-working families, senior citizens and the middle class. And you know what? Most of Montanans are not millionaires."

Daines said his belief in cutting the size of government is about being fair to future generations.

"We have four kids, two in college and two in high school, and they are going to inherit this debt," he said. "And it is up to this generation to start moving in a path back to fiscal sanity, and fiscal sustainability."

The role of experience

Daines, who is 50 and vice president at the high-tech company RightNow Technologies in Bozeman, said he formed many of his political opinions based on what he learned in the business world.

"Twenty eight years in business and you understand the importance of problem solving and the importance of efficiency, because if you don't become efficient, you don't run a business well, and you are out of business. And I think some of those principles could be applied to leadership in Washington," he said.

Although Gillan, 60, stresses her experience running a training program at MSU Billings, she points to her 17 years in the state Legislature as what best qualifies her for Congress. On the trail, she cites passage of her legislation to cover the diagnosis and treatment of autism through insurance companies as proof that she can

work with lawmakers from both parties.

"Simply put, people know my reputation precedes me," she said. "I'll stand up to anyone if it's going to hurt Montana."

Both campaigns have focused heavily on how and when the reach of the federal government ought to affect Montanans.

The centerpieces of Daines' campaign are scaling back regulations that hurt job growth and fighting large federal programs like the Affordable Care Act, which aims to expand the number of Americans with health insurance.

Gillan, who supports the new health care law, said Daines opposes government action that could help thousands of Montanans access health insurance but supports expanding the reach of the federal government into controversial social issues.

"I've always been a long term supporter of a woman's right to choose," she said. "If



Steve Daines



Kim Gillan

you are going to talk about less government then we want less government in making those very personal and private decisions."

On the issue of abortion, Daines said his position is not about the role of government but about core values.

"I think this gets back to the issue of defending the rights of those who can't defend themselves and that's a

fundamental value we had in our Constitution that we defend the rights of the individual," he said.

Voters will weigh these two starkly different visions of the role of the federal government on Nov. 6, deciding between Daines' vision of reduced spending and smaller deficits or Gillan's call to support education and job training.

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R&L vs Garfield County, 12 noon;
Wibaux vs Saco/Hinsdale, 2 p.m.;
Carter County vs Fairview, 4 p.m.
Eastern A Divisionals in Hardin:
Sidney vs Miles City, 6 p.m.; Laurel
vs Glendive, 8 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 2
Eastern A Divisionals in Hardin:
Billings Central vs winner of Sidney/
Miles City game, 11 a.m.; Hardin vs
winner of Laurel/Glendive game, 1
p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 2
Eastern A Divisionals in Hardin
Eastern C Divisionals in Sidney
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, Nov. 5, 6, 8
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WCHE-10



Acreage Reporting Deadline Approaching for Fall Seeded Crops

Farmers and ranchers in North Dakota are reminded that USDA's Farm Service Agency has new acreage reporting deadlines for the coming crop year. Producers must report fall seeded crops and perennial forage, which comprises grass, hay, alfalfa, and pasture, by November 15, 2012.

Aaron Krauter, State Executive Director for FSA in North Dakota, says the change comes as a result of a national effort to align acreage reporting dates between FSA and Risk Management Agency. "The big change for North Dakota producers is that we now have two acreage reporting dates," Krauter said. "You still need to report spring crops by July 15th, but if you're planting a crop like winter wheat that will be harvested in 2013 or have hay or pastureland, it's important to get those crops reported by November 15th."

Because of the change in reporting dates, late-filed fees will not be assessed if producers miss the November 15th, 2012 deadline. "Going to two different acreage reporting dates is a new thing for producers in North Dakota, and we understand that it's going to take a while to get everybody thinking about coming into their county office in the fall," Krauter said.

Producers should contact their local FSA county office if they are uncertain about reporting deadlines. In order to meet FSA program eligibility requirements, producers must submit timely acreage reports. Reports filed after the established deadlines must meet certain requirements to be accepted.

Horizon Bazaar Nov. 2 in Watford City

The Horizon Assisted Living in Watford City is having a bazaar on November 2nd from 4pm-6pm. They will be selling popcorn cake, krum kaka, lefsa, a variety of jellies, bars, pies, candies, and other goodies. They will also be having a silent auction.

They will be serving a plate of egg rolls and chicken fried rice for \$5 a plate.

For more information contact Paula Wagner at 701-444-4689.

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