

The Roundup

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Check out our website
roundupweb.com for coverage on:

- The latest Coronavirus updates for MT & ND
- CHI St. Alexius Seeks Funding For COVID-19 Response
- MT Board of Crime Control Applications
- ND CARES Act Funding
- Area Birth Announcements

Artist Brings Joy To Residents At Good Shepherd Home, Watford City

Artist Melissa Gordon arrived on the grounds of the Good Shepherd Home on Tuesday, April 21 and visited the outside of 50 residents' windows. Gordon individually communicated with them through the window to design a piece of art that the resident was able to watch come to life, as well as enjoy for weeks to come.

This project was made possible by a partnership with the North Dakota Council on the Arts, the McKenzie County's Long X Arts Foundation and McKenzie County Healthcare Systems as a way to help combat loneliness and increase interaction during this time of isolation for the residents. Funding was made possible by the Art for Life grant, which helps the organizations bring in professional artists, musicians and area students to entertain and engage with the residents throughout the year.

Kristin Rhone, Good Shepherd Home activities director, said, "This activity was not only fun for the residents it was very meaningful. We individually went to residents and asked them what makes you happy. We then took that information to Mel and together came up with what we thought they would like on their window. The end result was more than we could have imagined. Mel put her

heart and soul into each one of the paintings and the residents absolutely love them. To see their faces after the painting was so completely rewarding and exactly why we decided to do this activity. It brought them joy during a time when joy seems to be so limited. We hope to have Mel come back in the future for other projects."

After Melissa's visit, family members were encouraged to coordinate a window visit to add to the art on the window with washable paint and markers.

In addition to Tuesday's activities, area rancher Callie Thorne and her dad, Wentyn Wold brought a few horses for the residents to view outside the facility. On Wednesday, April 22, Sandy Reiker brought over chickens and bunnies.

Melissa Gordon has been an artist all of her life, selling her first commissioned works at 12 years old. She has won numerous awards for her realistic renderings around the state and has many works in private collections across the country. Melissa has had a number of solo shows and participates in many regional group shows throughout the year.

After over 10 years as a graphic artist, designer and art director, she has

Nina Golden resident of Good Shepherd Home is sitting by her window that artist Melissa Gordon created for her on Tuesday, April 21. (Photo submitted)



worked independently the last 15 years as a freelance artist and illustrator specializing in drawing mediums and a return to fine arts. Her work is currently featured in and on books, murals, greeting cards, rubber stamps, embroidery designs and even satellite dishes.

Melissa also enjoys teaching and has taught in a variety of settings to age groups ranging from kindergarten to senior citizen. She belongs to many local arts organizations and was a founding member of

Bismarck Downtown Artists Cooperative. She has served as a board member of Dakota West Arts Council and was appointed to the North Dakota Council on the Arts in 2015 by Governor Jack Dalrymple. In 2016, she was named as Bismarck Arts and Galleries Citation Award winner.

In addition to her work as an artist, she is also an active member of the community and does volunteer work for many area organizations. To learn more about Melissa Gordon visit <http://www.mel-ink.com/about.html>.



Artist Melissa Gordon puts the finishing touches on "Snoopy" (photo submitted).

Draggin' Main Returns To Sidney, Join In The Fun May 2

Sidney residents drive down Central Ave. Saturday night.



By Paul Tedrow

Draggin' Main returned to Sidney last Saturday, kicking off at Holly and Central and heading south to the roundabout. Music for the cruise was broadcasted on Eagle 93.1 FM.

"Organizers and volunteers were setup at Footers along Central collecting cash and check donations for various organizations. Donations have been made to the Richland Food Bank, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Eastern Montana Out of the Darkness Community Walk. People just pulled up to the sidewalk at the street and dropped money

into a bucket or drove into the parking lot and dropped money off so they can stick to social distancing," said event organizer Nick Kallem.

The sponsors for the program and broadcast included: Footers, South 40, Reese & Ray's IGA, Reynolds Market, Gem City Motors, and ElectricLand.

"The car line started at Holly, the radios tuned to 93.1 and everybody was welcome--it's community, any and all that want to join, including motorcycles," said Kallem.

The Boys and Girls Club of the MonDak will be co-hosting The Final Countdown! Draggin' Main Sidney,

MT, with 406 Audio Visual on Saturday, May 2, beginning at 7 p.m. they will be set up in the Footer's parking lot to receive donations. The club is in need of the following items as they gear up to begin programming in this new and different environment requiring many more resources: gift cards; cash or checks to purchase goods not listed; paper towels; construction paper; washable markers; glue sticks; toilet paper; ziploc bags; styrofoam to go containers; disposable silverware; crockpot and roaster oven liners; bubbles; balloons--multi-pack; sanitizing wipes; sanitizing spray; hand sani-

tizer; gloves; Kleenex; copy paper and masks.

We are so thankful for the community's help as we seek to fulfill our mission in unique and meaningful ways to meet the needs of our members, their families, and our community as a whole. We are truly "All in this together."

Truck Driver Appreciation Lunch April 30, Sidney

There will be a free lunch for truck drivers from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, April 30, and starting at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 1, in the Town Pump parking lot. Sponsors for the appreciation lunch include Sidney Sugars, Stockman Bank, Big Sky Siding and Windows, Town Pump, LYREC, Blue Rock, Footers, Reynolds Market, ONEOK, Richland Economic Development, Reese and Ray's IGA and the Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.

Political Action Committee Files Lawsuit Following Krautter Complaint

By Jody Wells

On April 14 political action committee (PAC), Doctors for a Healthy Montana, filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Missoula against MT Attorney General Tim Fox and Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP) Jeffery Mangan. The group claims the statute cited by Rep. Joel Krautter, R-Sidney, in his complaint filed with COPP on April 7 serves no useful purpose and should be repealed. The suit asks a judge to declare the statute unconstitutional and award the PAC cost relief including the cost of litigation.

The statute, the Political Committee Naming & Labeling Act, requires the name of a political committee identify the economic interest, special interest or employer of a majority of the committee's contributors. Krautter's April 7 complaint alleges Doctor's for a Healthy Montana violates this statute because only one of the four contributors is actually a doctor. The complaint asks the COPP to take appropriate action against the group for using a misleading name.

The group has purchased billboard and Facebook advertising questioning Krautter's conservative ideology due to his vote in favor of House Bill 658, which supported Medicaid expansion. Pro-life supporters across the state feel this bill supports public funding of abortions.

Krautter submitted the following statement regarding his initial complaint:

"People should wonder why the newly formed group "Doctors for a Healthy Montana" are trying so hard to conceal from the public the majority of the group's contributors are politicians, not doctors. If they're willing to mislead the public about their group's name, they're willing to mislead the public about my pro-life voting record.

I have a 100% pro-life voting rating from the Montana Family Foundation and my vote for Medicaid reform changed nothing on abortion coverage or access. Catholic hospitals supported medicare reform and clearly stated they would not have done so if it supported abortion. People who claim otherwise are either lying or misinformed.

It's also important to note Montana's leading Republican candidates for Governor, both of whom are pro-life, Tim Fox and Greg Gianforte have positions that reflect my own, that the Medicaid program needs to be maintained.

This group is distracting voters from talking about the issues people are concerned about right now, like how we can get our economy open again, supporting our businesses, agriculture and energy. I've been a champion for our businesses, natural resources and agriculture in Helena and am ready to get back to work."

Krautter's opponent the June 2 primary, Brandon Ler, declined to comment.

Court filings and the COPP complaint will be posted on The Roundup website www.roundupweb.com.

McKenzie County Health Systems received a special delivery of 200 12oz bottles of hand sanitizers from EnerPlus, ONEOK, EOG Resources, RimRock Oil and Gas, Medowlark Brewery and BJ Services on Monday, April 20. Pictured left is MCHS CEO Dan Kelly with the donated sanitizer bottles. (Photo submitted)



Sidney Health Center Adjusts To “New Normal” With COVID-19 Precautions

A message from Jen Doty, CEO and Sidney Health Center medical staff

Every newspaper, television program and Internet headline has appropriately discussed all of the issues of dealing with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Some geographic areas have been hit extremely hard. It is true this pandemic affects large urban areas with a heavy concentration of people the most – primarily because of their inability to maintain social distancing, which every expert agrees is a good idea.

Fortunately, Montana has not experienced a surge of cases beyond its capacity – largely due to the national and statewide precautionary measures that were implemented across the state early on. Over the last six weeks, Sidney Health Center has followed all the national, state and local guidelines to protect its patients, residents and staff. Weekly conferences continue to be held to enact guidelines and disaster preparedness as Sidney Health Center’s administration, medical staff and employees take this national health emergency very seriously.

On April 22 Governor Steve Bullock announced the “Reopening of the Big Sky” with a 3-phase approach. The relaxation of restrictions comes as a relief to many who are

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STATISTICS

LAKE WATER LEVEL REPORT

Sakakawea

Current Elevation.....1840.4
 Last Week's Elev.1840.4
 One Year Ago1845.9
 Release For Day (C.F.S.)24,000

SIDNEY WEATHER DATA

Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

Date	High	Low	Precip.
April 20	65	40	0.000
April 21	77	40	0.000
April 22	74	43	0.000
April 23	65	38	0.000
April 24	60	30	0.030
April 25	65	35	0.000
April 26	69	40	0.000
Total 2020 YTD Precipitation			0.792

ready to get back to work. Many of us in healthcare agree, the downtime has allowed us to get our organizations ready to respond to a community outbreak of COVID-19 as we move forward through the phased approach to re-open many of our services.

Through all of this, a significant concern of physicians has been the non-COVID health consequences due to the shutdown. Studies have shown that people are not coming in for necessary non-COVID health care needs. Certainly, people who experience chest pain, stroke, non-COVID infections and other health problems, should seek the immediate medical treatment they need. Cardiovascular disease, cancer and multiple other problems will continue to take many lives unnecessarily if we do not diagnose, treat and manage their symptoms early on. Not doing appropriate prevention, medical care and surgical care will take its toll on the overall health of our community.

At Sidney Health Center our mission remains the same – to help you achieve your highest level of health and well-being. As an organization, we are committed to treating COVID and non-COVID patient populations. It is

Stockman Bank Offers “Teach Children To Save Day” Lesson On Facebook

Friday, April 24, 2020 was National Teach Children to Save Day. Each year, Stockman Bank employees visit Montana classrooms to give a savings lesson to children, helping them develop the skills they need to make smart financial decisions as adults.

Right now, due to the COVID-19 health crisis, students are learning at home. So this year, we they brought Teach Kids to Save Day to homes.

Participants joined Tonya Breeding, a Stockman banker at our Conrad location, for a fun savings lesson designed for Montana students from pre-school to grades K-6. Helping children learn more about the concept of saving, how interest makes money grow, how to budget and determining needs and wants.

Tonya’s video lesson was posted on Friday, April 24, at 3:00pm on Stockman Bank’s Facebook page. Parents and children can watch the presentation at a convenient time. The video can also be accessed on the Community page of Stockman Bank website at www.stockmanbank.com.

Teach Children to Save was established by the American Bankers Association Foundation in 1997. Stockman is proud to participate in the program.

important to re-start routine testing and screening through lab and radiology, and provide urgent and elective surgical procedures to avoid unnecessary delay in treatment.

As Sidney Health Center gradually re-opens its service lines, patient care delivery will look a little different from pre-COVID times. In line with the CDC’s strict guidelines, we are requiring all who enter our building to wear a mask to protect themselves and the healthcare workforce. The organization will continue to implement social distancing practices, be vigilant in hand washing procedures, adhere to self-quarantining guidelines, continue testing for COVID-19, and take all the precautionary measures to ensure our patients, residents and staff is safe and healthy.

At Sidney Health Center, we take our responsibilities to the community very seriously, and appreciate the loyalty and support many individuals and organizations have demonstrated through these challenging times. We look forward to seeing and serving you and your family with the best possible care and treatment. Stay healthy!

Sidney Man Charged with Obstruction & Resisting Arrest

On April 17 Carl Myrland was arrested and charged with Obstructing a Peace Officer or Other Public Servant and Resisting Arrest.

Sidney Police and Richland County Sheriff’s Deputies responded to a noise complaint at 907 3rd St. NW arriving on scene at 11:55 pm. Sidney Police Chief Mark Kraft stated that Myrland repeatedly refused to identify himself. Myrland was then told he was under arrest for obstruction. Myrland physically resisted and had to be taken into custody by force.

After an internal review, it was determined the officers actions were justified and their conduct was within department policy procedure.

Myrland claims to have suffered physical trauma from the incident. “They kneed me in the ribs seven times,” he stated. Myrland also says he will need surgery on his pancreas and a spot behind his ribs.

Myrland will appear in court May 4 regarding his charges.

Letters to the Editor:

The Rest Of The Story

Dear Editor:
 I am saddened when an elected leader of the majority party in the Montana State Legislature becomes involved in a personal attack on an incumbent Legislator, of their party, in a district 500+ miles away, for putting his constituents ahead of partisanship. This also appears to apply, in the opinion of some, in the local central committee. Sort of like a “purity” requirement based on their views. President Ronald Reagan said, in effect, “do not speak ill of a fellow Republican.”

HB 658, the Medicaid reform bill did not change anything on the issue of abortion. This issue wasn’t a part of the bill so it was unchanged. The bill contained a number of changes which will prevent fraud and address work and income standards. It also contains a sunset portion under certain conditions. One might say it made a bad bill better from a conservative viewpoint.

HB 661, the aviation fuel tax increase was very much needed. Currently, the Federal Government pays 90% of the cost of airport improvements. Local Governments are responsible for 10% of that cost and many cannot make the 10% match. However there is an absolute need for these rural communities to provide adequate landing facilities for Air Ambulance service when the lives of your loved ones and friends depend on emergency care at a major trauma facility. This bill was supported by Montana Aviation Groups and many local governments. Only those who purchase aviation fuel pay this tax.

Perhaps before criticizing, look at both sides of the issue. Wouldn’t it be more beneficial to discuss ideas and issues than resort to something which has the odor of character assassination?

Doctors for a Healthy Montana has one Doctor member. At least at the time of filing.

Moderation in all things

including excesses.

I know former Senator, Former Representative Ed Butcher. Legistats is his creation to rate Legislative votes by his own rules. Enough said.

Representative Joel Krautter went to Helena in order to help the folks in Richland County as their Representative. All the folks in Richland County, not a select few. As a State Representative he also had to consider the concerns of all Montanans. Joel did an excellent job representing Agriculture, the #1 Business in Montana. He worked with the Chamber of Commerce whose members are business folks across the State providing jobs, products and support for the local communities. Is this bad? Heck no! He was highly rated by the Montana Contractors Association who provide many high paying jobs across our state. They build and upgrade our roads and bridges across our State. Is this bad? Heck no. He supported the aviation fuel tax increase which is very important for maintaining and improving our rural airports. Air Ambulances save lives. Good airports make it possible.

I had numerous occasions to visit with Rep. Krautter during the 2019 Session in Helena. He asked questions and offered opinions on various bills and issues, as did I. He was pleasant and easy to converse with. On issues my clients were involved with I gave him our goals and rational. I also was able to provide institutional knowledge on a number of issues. He was appreciative. I am now four months into my 36th year of dealing with the Montana Legislature and State Government. I have seen a lot of so-called game players during this time. Rep. Krautter is not one of them. He researches a bill and votes how he believes it will best benefit his constituents. What more can we ask for?

I respectfully ask you to support him for a second term in the Montana House of Representatives.

– Bob Gilbert, Sidney,

MT.

Dear Editor:

In late summer, when the hills are brown and the valley is still green, I like to drive from Savage to Sidney and then on to Fairview. I see prosperity and civic pride. Richland County is aptly named. You can see the skill of the farmers, the value of irrigation, and the support of a thriving community. You can see the value in high-value crops. As I added irrigation to my farm on the Missouri, sugar beets paid the bills and I’ve been proud to be part of the sugar industry for 30 years. Montana needs more opportunities to add value to our crops and livestock. It is the key to growing our rural economy and towns. The COVID-19 virus has shown the weak links in the food chain. Now is the time for big bold ideas and new leadership to move Montana agriculture forward.

I’ve been an advocate for agriculture and Eastern Montana my whole life. When Whitney Williams asked me to join her ticket as Lieutenant Governor, I said yes because agriculture and Eastern Montana need a strong voice in the Governor’s office and because she has the energy and new ideas our state needs to tackle the challenges our state faces. We’ll be a team that is willing to work with both sides of the aisle to strengthen our public schools, make health care and prescription drugs accessible and affordable, and protect our clean air and water. We will stand up for our state and prevent it from becoming the dumping grounds of another state’s radioactive oil field waste.

I am asking you to honor Whitney and me with your vote, we will work hard for agriculture and Montana and I promise you, I will not forget that I’m from Eastern Montana.

– Buzz Mattelin, Culbertson, MT

Public Plays A Role In Reopening A Safely
 Dear Richland County Residents:

After what seems like a decade of quarantine,

Governor Bullock has given the green light (or really, the yellow light) to reopen our local businesses and #ReopenRichlandCounty.

While we’re all excited to sit down at our favorite restaurant of finally get a haircut, there are a few important things to keep in mind to reopen safely, reduce the possibility of having to reintroduce restrictions, and allow a sustained economic recovery.

First, COVID-19 hasn’t changed. It is still a serious, dangerous pandemic, and we are still living with the threat of it in our community. Reopening safely isn’t like flipping a switch! We’re seeking a “new normal” that leads to a sustained recovery and avoids the needs to re-implement control measures later.

Second, our community members play an enormous role in the sustained recovery of Richland County. This means you are responsible

continuing to maintain social distancing-if a business is open but too crowded, come back later. Tighten your circle-continue to limit your close contacts. Keep track of where you have been and who you’ve been in contact with in case you’re part of the COVID-19 case investigation later. Most importantly, stay home when you are sick, monitor yourself for the development of a fever or cough, and seek medical attention when necessary.

Finally, protect those around you, including our business owners and staff, healthcare staff, children, the elderly, and others with compromised immune systems. Wash your hands, wear a mask, and stay home when you are sick. Continue to follow directives from the Governor, public health, and healthcare providers.

When in doubt, stay home. The better we are at protecting each other and ourselves, the less likely we are to continue the spread of COVID-19, and the more likely we are to sustain our recovery.

Stay Safe!
 – Jacquelyn Free, FNP-C
Richland County Health Officer

Governor Bullock Announces Plan To Begin Phased Reopening Of Montana

Governor Steve Bullock announced on Wednesday, April 22 a gradual and phased reopening of the state beginning Sunday for individuals, and extending to businesses on Monday.

"There are very few states in the country that can say they have seen the number of positive cases decline over these past weeks. Montana can say that because, together, we have made that decline in cases possible," Governor Bullock said. "While there is reason for optimism this is not a time for celebration. I am going to ask Montanans to continue to go to great lengths to protect one another, to continue looking out for our neighbors who need it the most, and to continue being vigilant in every step we take."

The plan to reopen gradually was based on the latest scientific evidence and data, and in consultation with public health experts, health care providers, business leaders, and emergency management professionals. The Governor's plan is detailed in a Directive and accompanying Appendix with guidelines for certain industries.

"The Montana business community appreciates the Governor's leadership over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Montana Chamber of Commerce supports a phased approach to re-opening our economy, while still maintaining health standards and containing the spread of COVID-19. Montana businesses are capable of being flexible and partnering with our colleagues and employees to address the challenges that this may pose, and are eager to open our doors once again," Todd O'Hair, President/CEO of the Montana Chamber of Commerce, said.

"Local public health continues to work closely with Governor Bullock and our state partners to work towards a systematic re-opening of Montana that minimizes the risk of viral spread. We appreciate the partnerships we have all across the state, which in no doubt, will continue to serve Montanans," Hillary Hanson, Public Health Officer at the

Flathead City-County Health Department, said.

"Montana and its hospitals moved swiftly and thoughtfully to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and the results of this effort is demonstrated by a lower incidence of the virus in Montana when compared to our neighboring states. Our hospitals responded to this public health emergency and remain prepared to serve our patients and communities and assist in restarting our economy," Rich Rasmussen, President and CEO of the Montana Hospital Association, said.

"Because of Montana's aggressive approach of shutting everything down early in the pandemic, we are in the fortuitous position of having a very low viral burden in the state. With that being said, I feel assured that a cautious, vigilant, and step wise approach to opening up our healthcare, commerce, and education sectors could be attempted. Keep in mind that for every two steps forward we might need to take a step back, but it is in everyone's best interest that we try," Dr. Marc Mentel, president of the Montana Medical Association, said.

Montana's plan to reopen relies on Montanans to adhere to social distancing guidelines whenever possible and to continue to limit gatherings. Guidance remains in place for members of vulnerable groups to continue to shelter at home, though it is no longer mandatory. Additionally, visitation at nursing homes will continue to be suspended and older Montanans and those who are immunocompromised should continue to follow the stay at home directive.

"Our new normal is going to look different. This virus isn't gone from Montana. So as we turn to support our main street businesses and get more families back to work during this time – as we should – we must also be sure to continue looking out for those around us and protecting everyone around us," Governor Bullock said. "Once we begin to reopen, we want to be able to stay open. Our person-

al responsibility to protect those around us – particularly those most vulnerable – remains just as important as any time during this pandemic."

The stay at home order expired on April 26 for individuals and April 27 for businesses. Main street and retail businesses can become operational on or after April 27 if they can adhere to requirements to limit capacity and maintain strict physical distancing. Employers are directed to develop policies to keep employees and customers safe including teleworking when possible, enforcing social distancing protocols, and other measures as provided in an appendix of reopening guidelines.

Places of worship can become operational on April 26 in a manner consistent with social distancing between people who are not members of the same household. Restaurants, bars, breweries, and distilleries can begin providing some in-establishment services beginning May 4.

Businesses where groups gather without the ability to social distance including movie theaters, gyms, and other places of assembly remain closed.

On May 7, all schools will have the option to return to in-classroom teaching delivery at the discretion of local school boards. The Directive does not preclude school boards from declaring local emergencies to continue to receive all appropriate state funding to continue to provide remote learning.

Montana's travel quarantine will remain in effect and out of state travelers and residents arriving from another state or country back to Montana for non-work related purposes are required to quarantine for 14 days.

The Directive does not prohibit more restrictive local ordinances, and encourages local officials to work regionally and make local adjustments as local needs demand.

Montana has aggressively managed the virus with a series of actions including suspending nurs-

ing home visitation, closing schools, closing higher risk businesses such as bars, restaurants, gyms and movie theaters, and enacting a stay at home order. As a result, Montana has the lowest percentage of positive cases per capita when compared to its population and the lowest number of hospitalizations per capita in the nation.

The plan includes several phases and details the factors that will determine when it is appropriate to move to the second phase of reopening. This decision will be driven by conditions on the ground and the latest data. Governor Bullock and his task force will continue to monitor cases closely and carefully to analyze Montana's work to contain the virus.

COVID-19 CURBSIDE SERVICE

For the safety of our employees & customers, we are limiting our in-store traffic. However, our doors will remain open. If you have something to pick up or know what you are looking for, we will bring it to you.

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Reynolds Market Makes Donation To Richland County Food Bank



Food banks across the nation are busier than ever right now. People are really struggling and that fear of where the next meal will come from is sadly, a very real one. Reynolds Market wanted to help on Friday, April 24 Reynolds Market employees, from left, Shelby Suko and asst. manager Sam Simard delivered \$2,300 in groceries (including 200 lbs. of hamburger) to the Richland County Food Bank to help lessen the burden. Food Bank volunteers Gloria Yockim and Tory Hill were there to accept the donation. Reynolds Market encourages our other organization to join in the cause. Thank you all, and stay community strong! (Photo submitted)



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Paid for by Joel Krautter for House, P.O. Box 1142, Sidney, MT 59270, Melissa Norby Sanders, Treasurer, Republican.

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MONTANA SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, RICHLAND COUNTY
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:
MARGARET E. ERICKSON, Deceased.
Case No.: DP-20-26
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Co-Personal Representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the decedent are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be mailed to Jeffrey D. Andersen and David J. Andersen, the Co-Personal Representative, return receipt requested, in c/o John D. Greef, 302 W. Main St., Sidney, MT 59270, or filed with the Clerk of the above-entitled Court. **DATED** this 16th day of April, 2020.
Jeffery D. Andersen, Co-Personal Representative
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(Publish April 22, 29 and May 6, 2020)

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Williston Small Businesses Create Sales Opportunities

Small businesses will eventually re-open, but they may never be the same. The COVID-19 pandemic has completely shut down some shops while others are using their ingenuity to keep their doors open.

One local startup was only open two weeks before the state government shut down restaurants, bars and lounges. The owner of Hops & Berry is trying to remain optimistic during the crisis.

"This has been especially frustrating for us as we spent the previous six months getting the taproom built out and ready to open and were then shut down only two weeks after finally opening our doors," said TJ Corcoran, owner of Hops & Berry located in Renaissance on Main in Downtown Williston. "A couple of weeks ago, we started selling curbside growlers and it's been very well-received. We greatly appreciate the com-

munity support. The food and beverage industry has been especially impacted by the shutdown with a near complete loss of revenue."

In the meantime, Corcoran's neighbor, Style Uncorked, is also offering curbside pickup at her store.

"We have been trying to be creative with sales. You can schedule an appointment, shop online and we have weekly Facebook sales," said Kim Wenko, co-owner of Style Uncorked located in Renaissance on Main in Downtown Williston. "The response to the Facebook sales has been awesome! It's a way for customers to see what's in the store, from the comforts of their couches. We offer curbside pickup, free delivery in town and we mail."

Another apparel store located in northwest Williston is also relying on social media to attract customers.

"We are using social

media to stay as connected as we can with our customers," said Lenny Johnson, owner of Genesis located in the Sand Creek Retail Town Centre. "We are taking orders over the phone, we are offering private shopping appointments outside of our current operating hours and we have some items listed on our Facebook shop page."

All three businesses are aiming to provide safe shopping experiences for their customers and clients.

"We are cleaning after every customer and limiting the total people in store to 10 (including employees)," said Johnson. "I also had a local lady make masks for employees and I am requiring they be worn while at work."

Small business owners are optimistically eyeing the re-opening of their stores in the future.

"Thankfully we had two great weeks in business

which gives us the confidence to get through this tough period. It would be much more difficult if we had not yet opened when this all happened," said Corcoran. "We also know that we're all in this together and every day is a day closer to things getting back to normal."

"While there are a lot of things going on right now that are frightening, I have family and employees and employee's families that need me to stay optimistic and get us through this. I do a lot of praying right now," added Johnson.

Johnson and Wenko said the shutdown may change the way people shop in the future; dedicating more time and dollars to small businesses in their local communities.

"I am hoping that this will help the consumer understand how important shopping local is," said Johnson. "I know it is dis-

cussed often and at this point very cliché, but all small businesses, at this point, are counting on the local the consumer to think about us before clicking buy now on Amazon."

"The fact that people are still buying clothes when the world we live in is changing so rapidly is encouraging to me," said Wenko. "The Williston community amazes me with the amount of shopping local and support they have shown all the small

businesses.

"Williston Economic Development and the Small Business Development Center have resources available for small businesses as they navigate through the pandemic. To learn more, visit their websites at <https://www.willistondevelopment.com/> or <https://ndsdbdc.org/>. The Center for Development will tentatively re-open its doors at a date yet to be determined in May.

Montana Hemp Growers Establish Checkoff; Applications Sought for Committee

Submitted by Virginia Corbett
Montana becomes first state in US with hemp check-off.

Helena, MT – Montana hemp growers have voted to establish a 1% checkoff for hemp, making Montana the first state in the nation to establish a hemp checkoff. Checkoff funds are used to fund activities related to research, market development and education.

"I believe there is a high ceiling for the future of hemp in Montana, but we won't be able to get there without investing in research, marketing and education," said Ben

Thomas, MDA Director. "It's great to see Montana hemp growers' willingness to look towards the future, and we are excited to work together to move things forward."

The Department is also seeking qualified applicants to serve on the Montana Hemp Advisory Committee. The Committee is responsible for advising the Department on funding priorities as they relate to research, marketing and education. The application deadline is May 15, 2020.

Those interested in serving on the committee can find an application by visiting <https://agr.mt.gov/>

Portals/ 168/Documents/Boards/Director's%20Application%20Hemp.pdf. Applications can be submitted to MDA via:

• Email at: danielle.jones@mt.gov

• Mail at: Montana Department of Agriculture, Hemp Advisory Committee, 302 N. Roberts, Helena, MT 59601.

The Montana Department of Agriculture's mission is to protect producers and consumers, and to enhance and develop agriculture and allied industries. For more information on the Montana Department of Agriculture, visit www.agr.mt.gov.

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Planning For A Garden

By Carrie Krug
MSU/Richland County
FCS Extension Agent
 Submitted by The
Richland County
Nutrition Coalition

With days starting to get warmer, you might find yourself wanting to get outside more, and the possibility of starting a garden might have crossed your mind. However, there are some things that you should consider before starting your garden. In the MontGuide, Planting a Successful Home Vegetable Garden (2009), written by Cheryl Moore-Gough and R.E Gough, it mentions that having a successful garden is not only dependent on how you garden but also planting the right vegetables at the right time. For example, hardier

vegetables such as cabbage can tolerate frost and can be planted in earlier spring. However, more tender vegetables such as peppers don't tolerate frost and need to be planted when it is warmer, according to Cheryl Moore-Gough and R.E Gough.

Cheryl Moore-Gough and R.E Gough, mention that the organization of your garden should be considered when determining where to plant your crops. For example, taller vegetables such as corn should be planted in the northern or northeastern parts of your garden to reduce shading. To take advantage of sunlight distribution, arrange your rows in your garden from north-south.

Another tip from Cheryl Moore-Gough and R.E

Gough is plant vegetables that need heavier watering during the fall, away from your root vegetables such as potatoes, and onions (because they will need to dry for proper storage). These are just some of the many items to consider when planning for a garden.

For more information or to read the full MontGuide on Planting a Successful Home Vegetable Garden visit the MSU Extension store <https://store.msuxextension.org>. There are also additional MontGuides from Can I Grow That Here? all the way to Growing Annual Flowers that can be found at the MSU Extension store. In addition to MontGuide's, Tim Fine, our MSU Richland County Agriculture Extension Agent is offering Gardening We-

binars on Friday's at noon through the end of April. For more information on these Webinars, check out the Richland County Extension Facebook page. Happy gardening!

For more information, check out the Richland County Nutrition Coalition Facebook page at www.facebook.com/1rcnc1, and the Pinterest page at www.pinterest.com/1rcnc1.



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Add Tropicals to Your Home This Spring



Spider plant (*Chlorophytum elatum*). Photo from wikipedia.org.

By Andy Kuester

With the season of spring soon upon us many are turning towards vegetable gardening and what they can do outdoors. However, the groups of plants known as "tropicals" or "houseplants" has become more than a little popular in past years.

Everyone knows the concepts of the benefits of houseplants and how they can improve the air inside your home. What many generally forget is that the ability for a plant to help improve the air in your home depends directly on how much light it receives. This is because the process by which plants produce oxygen, known as photosynthesis, requires light as part of the process. If a plant is placed in the dark, it may exist, but it will not help you with the improving of the air inside your home.

There have been several studies that have been done in past years on the benefits of plants in indoor environments. NASA did one in the 80s. That study listed several plants that were known to help improve the air quality inside buildings by not only converting carbon dioxide back into oxygen, but also by filtering other toxins out of indoor air.

Plants that were studied in NASA's study are listed as follows. English ivy (*Hedera helix*), Spider plant (*Chlorophytum elatum*), Devil's ivy, Pothos plant (*Epipremnum aureum*), Peace lily (*Spathiphyllum 'Mauna Loa'*), Chinese evergreen (*Aglaonema modestum*), Bamboo palm (*Chamaedorea seifrizii*), Variegated Sansevieria, (*Dracaena trifasciata 'Laurentii'*), Heartleaf philodendron (*Philodendron cordatum*), Selloum philodendron, lacy tree philodendron (*Philodendron bipinnatifidum*)

In addition to this study, there was one done by Kamal Meattle in the late 2000s where he shared his findings on a Ted Talk video. The three plants at the top of HIS list were; Bamboo Palm, "Money Plant" or Pothos, and the Snake Plant or Sansevieria.

In this study Meattle claimed that a person could live in a glass jar and have all the oxygen they would ever need, if they had a half dozen "8 inch sized" plants from his list. While I don't know how eager I would be to be sealed in a glass jar, the idea of plants helping us improve the air HAS been proven.

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How To Keep Your Car On The Road Longer

(BPT) - Did you know that one in four Americans keep their cars for an average of seven years or more? Nearly another third (29%) say they typically own their car for three to four years. With Americans keeping their vehicles on the road for the better part of a decade, it's important to implement consistent maintenance habits to ensure a smooth ride.

Hankook Tire's latest Gauge Index survey examined how long drivers keep their cars. The following are tips for drivers looking to keep their cars cruising well into the 2020s:

1. Keep it on the calendar: Whether consistency comes based on a mileage amount or a specific date on the calendar, setting and keeping regular tune-up appointments is a simple way to keep your car healthy. Regular maintenance inspections can be a great time to evaluate other parts of your car, not just what's beneath the hood. For example, most drivers (78%) also use their maintenance routine as a chance to check their tires. And, be sure to examine your windshield wipers and headlights to see if they need to be replaced.

2. Adjust for the seasons: Hankook also found that over 2/3 of Americans (69%) say all-season tires are inter-

changeable with winter tires. In some cases, that might be true, but if you live in a climate with drastic weather swings as the seasons change, that can be like saying your favorite T-shirt is suitable for a frigid winter storm. Winterizing your vehicle when the temperatures drop can help it last not only through the colder months, but also avoid potentially bigger problems down the road. Consider swapping the all-seasons for a set of winter wheels.

3. Repair and replace (when needed): Sometimes, a routine oil change will shed light on a maintenance issue that requires more attention. In that event, consider your repair vs. replace decisions carefully - is the option you're choosing a temporary bandage, or will it help lengthen the life of your vehicle in the long run? For many, this depends on what needs replacing, and whether that part is considered "essential." For example, only 30% of drivers will replace their tire pressure monitoring system sensors if they were to break. However, these sensors can offer vital infor-

mation about the pressure in your tires, which has a lasting impact on your driving experience.

4. Clean it up: Keeping your car clean is about more than appearances - it can also help keep it running smoothly for much longer because dirt and grime can cause corrosion to the paint and even more, especially if it gets into the mechanics of the car. For those driving over salted winter roads, regular car washes become an even more significant step to extending your vehicle's lifespan, as winter road salt can be particularly corrosive.

No matter if your vehicle is brand new, or you're looking to hold on to an old-timer a little longer, these tips from Hankook tire can keep you steering straight into the next year, decade and perhaps even beyond.



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Local Business Seeking Partners To Help Fill Community Need



Chris Entzel, Sidney Mercantile, at the counter with outgoing orders and free community sanitization supplies (Photo by Paul Tedrow).

By Paul Tedrow

For awhile now, a local Sidney business has been contributing a percentage of sales revenue back into the community via a local organization.

In February it was for the Angel Fund, which helps out local families with children to meet school lunch costs. Hanson Independent chipped in and matched Sidney Mercantile's contribution to the Angel Fund.

For the month of March, the Brodie Gorder Memorial Project was the recipient of

Sidney Mercantile's community contribution. The Brodie Gorder Memorial Project helps local families with expenses for children's extracurricular activities like sports equipment or 4-H travel expenses.

There currently is no match partner for March and beyond so Chris Entzel, Sidney Mercantile owner, is seeking a local business to partner up and help match contributions. With a lot in the community shut down due to the pandemic, there is no better time for local

business to partner up in filling community needs.

“The community would very much appreciate it,” adds Entzel. She plans to choose a local organization to donate to and continue this monthly well into the future.

Sidney Mercantile will be back to normal hours of operation Tuesday-Saturday 11 a.m.- 6 p.m. as soon as it is safe to do so at 214 S. Central Ave., Sidney. Just look out for the mannequin on the sidewalk.

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