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Wednesday, August 11, 2021

Volume 47 • Number 27

## Best Of The West Ribfest This Friday In Watford City

Submitted by  
Jessie Scofield

One of the biggest events in Western North Dakota takes place on Main Street Watford City. The Best of the West Ribfest, Street Fair and Classic Car show is set for Aug. 13, and it just keeps getting bigger and better than ever. This year's free concert headliner is chart topping and Grammy Award Winning country legend Wynonna Judd. As one-half of the legendary mother/daughter duo "The Judds", Wynonna was once dubbed by Rolling Stone as "the greatest female country singer since Patsy Cline". This iconic performer has received over 60 industry awards, with countless charting singles, including 20 No.1 hits such as "Mama He's Crazy", "Why Not me" and "Grandpa, (Tell Me 'Bout The Good Ole Days)".

Respected by the millions of fans who are drawn to her music and undeniable talent, Wynonna's rich and commanding voice has

sold over 30-million albums worldwide spanning her remarkable 34-year career.

"The announcement of Wynonna's performance has people across the state excited," said Mary Gumke, Watford City's Chamber director and Ribfest chair. "This is big news for Watford City and we're expecting a record turnout."

The event kicks off with a fundraising breakfast for the local Boy Scouts served on Main Street from 8-10 a.m. The Street Fair opens at 10 a.m. with lunch being served at 11 a.m. and rib teams cooking up ribs on the street all day, serving them to the public at 6 p.m.

And as always, the Best of the West Ribfest, Street Fair and Classic Car Show is free and open to the public, with team games, kids' inflatables and game zone, face painting and more fun throughout the day. Back again this year is the option for guests to purchase a VIP Ticket where they can enjoy drinks and ribs un-

der the shade of the Jones Construction VIP tent and also score the best seats in the house for the evening concert. New this year is a cornhole tournament hosted by Watford City Parks and Rec. In honor of the small rib teams that started this event, the Chamber is hosting a Backyard BBQ Contest where small teams of two are invited to get in on the action.

"If you have the best ribs in town, but only a small grill, this contest is for you," said Gumke. "We're inviting the public to judge and giving out cash prizes for the best!"

During the day you can grab lunch downtown, shop unique vendors and Main Street businesses and enjoy music from local musicians on the side stage. Matt Aakre and the "Dirty Little Secret" kick off the evening on the Main Stage with a concert at 6 p.m. before Wynonna's performance at 8 p.m.

Plan to stick around after Wynonna because you're not going to want to miss the



Wynonna Judd. (Photo submitted)

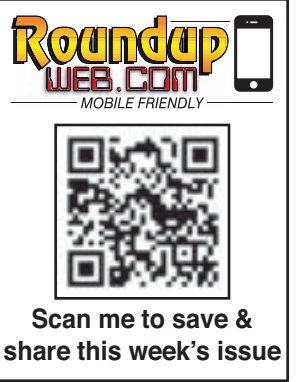
Party after Dark when the Ikons of Rock, "Snake Oil", will be taking the stage for an epic tribute to rock. Dressing up is encouraged!

"We're so excited to be able to bring such big acts to Main Street this year," said Gumke. "We are thankful to our chamber members and sponsors for making this event bigger and better each year and for allowing us to offer these high qual-

ity concerts for free to our community."

For a full schedule, to purchase your VIP Tickets and to sign up as a Ribfest vendor or contestant visit [www.watfordcityribfest.net](http://www.watfordcityribfest.net).

For more information contact the Watford City Chamber of Commerce at 701-570-5084 or [wc-chamber@ruggedwest.com](mailto:wc-chamber@ruggedwest.com) or [www.facebook.com/BestOfTheWestRibfest](http://www.facebook.com/BestOfTheWestRibfest).



Scan me to save & share this week's issue

## Richland County Health Department Continues COVID Vaccine Clinics; Adds Pfizer

Submitted by  
Stephanie Ler, RS, MPH  
Environmental Health  
Director Richland Co.  
Health Department

The Richland County Health Department will continue to offer COVID-19 vaccine clinics on Tuesdays, and will offer a limited stock of Pfizer brand vaccine.

The Health Department carries Moderna 2-dose and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) 1-dose COVID-19 vaccine, offered at walk-in clinics on Tuesdays from 12:30-3 p.m. without appointment. Starting on Aug. 10, a limited number of Pfizer vaccines will be available.

"We were finally able to acquire Pfizer vaccine in reasonable quantities from Glendive Medical Center's ultra-cold storage," said Health Assurance Nurse Director Kathy Helmuth of the new development. "Once removed from the ultra-cold storage, we are able to store the vaccine in our freezer and fridge for a limited period of time. This limited freezer and fridge storage time allows us to carry only limited quantities," Helmuth said.

Pfizer brand COVID-19 vaccine is licensed for people ages 12 and older and is given in a 2-dose series, 21 days apart. To ensure that vaccine is available for you or your teen, please call the Health Department at 406-433-2207 to reserve a dose at a Tuesday clinic.

All clinics are held at the Health Department, 1201 West Holly, Sidney. The Health Department is located in the Community Services Building, next to the Mainstays hotel; in front of the Law & Justice Center; and kitty corner to the new Fire Hall.

If you have insurance please, bring your insurance card. Expect to spend about 30 minutes at the Health Department, though there may be additional unforeseen wait times. For questions regarding the COVID-19 vaccine or to reserve a dose of Pfizer vaccine, please call 406-433-2207.

## Dakota West Credit Union Raises Money For Area Students & Educators

By Anna Dragseth

This summer, the Dakota West Credit Union Marketing Committee, Watford City, started a program designed to generate funds and school supplies for students and teachers. It's called, Apples for Education, and is a community-wide effort to provide needed supplies and other items in the McKenzie County School District.

"We recognize the needs in the community and for Watford City we wanted to do something to give back to the community. People helping people is something we value as an organization - we are always looking for ways that we can support the community for which we serve and help our members," said Brian Smiset, Chief Marketing Officer at DWCU.

There is a drawing of an apple tree in the DWCU office with apples falling off (artist Kandie Beasley), there is a different item on each apple that someone needs. When an apple is picked, people can take it and purchase that item and bring it back to donate. Some of the items needed are school supplies (listed at DWCU or the Watford City High School website), clothes (See list at DWCU), hygiene items, flash drive, headphones, books for the teacher's classroom, cash and/or gift cards for teachers.

Smiset hopes that this program becomes a staple for the DWCU. He said, "We are trying the best we can to satisfy as much need in our community. Any and all help is always appreciated."

Everyone in the community is welcome to pick an apple from the tree located at DWCU and help a student or teacher in need.



Artist Kandie Beasley poses beside her apple tree painting in Dakota West Credit Union, Watford City.

## Richland County Fair Market Grand Champions



Cooper McNally with his Grand Champion Market Hog.



The Richland County Fair was held Aug. 4-7 in Sidney. Pictured above is Garrett Larson with his Grand Champion Market Beef purchased by Exploration Drilling. Kodi Bireley won with her Grand Champion Market Goat, Rylan Kunick won Grand Champion Market Rabbit and Sara Bergstedt won Grand Champion Market Poultry.





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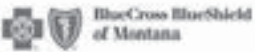
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- to open a joint account or co-sign a loan with them
- for access to your bank or credit card account


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**AREA RECOVERY GROUPS**

**MONDAYS:**

**12 p.m.** — AA Monday Noon Group, Matthew House Office, 416 2nd St. NW, Sidney, MT.

**1 p.m. - 3 p.m.** — Grief Reovery Support group, First Lutheran Church music room, Watford City.

**6 p.m.** — Al-Anon Family Group Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church Ed. bldg., 214 S. Lincoln Ave., Sidney, MT.

**7 p.m.** — Live Free Narcotics Anonymous, Church of God., 814 6th St. NE, Sidney, MT.

**8 p.m.** — AA Group, Northern Pump & Compression, Watford City. Call 770-3603 or 770-2675 for directions or ride. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663.

**TUESDAYS:**

**7 p.m.** — AA Welcome Home Group, Sunny's Family Restaurant, 102 E. Main St., Sidney, MT, Central Avenue Entrance.

**7 p.m.** — 24-hour Women's AA group meeting, Northern Pump & Compression, Watford City. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663.

**7 p.m.** — Live Free Narcotics Anonymous, Church of God., 814 6th St. NE, Sidney, MT.

**WEDNESDAYS:**

**7 p.m.** — Live Free Narcotics Anonymous, Church of God., 814 6th St. NE, Sidney, MT.

**THURSDAYS:**

**7 p.m.** — Live Free Narcotics Anonymous, Church of God., 814 6th St. NE, Sidney, MT.

**7:30 p.m.** — Al-Anon Meeting, Presbyterian Church, 316 4th Ave. NE, Watford City, ND.

**8 p.m.** — AA Group, Northern Pump & Compression, Watford City. Call 770-3603 or 770-2675 for directions or ride. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663.

**FRIDAYS:**

**6:30 - p.m.-** 5 Stones - Faith Based Recovery meeting, Sidney First Church of the Nazarene, 606 9th St. SW, Back door is open.

**7 p.m.** — Live Free Narcotics Anonymous, Church of God., 814 6th St. NE, Sidney, MT.

**7 p.m.** — AA Welcome Home Group, Sunny's Family Restaurant, 102 E. Main St., Sidney, MT, Central Avenue Entrance.

**SATURDAYS:**

**7 p.m.** — Live Free Narcotics Anonymous, Church of God., 814 6th St. NE, Sidney, MT.

**7 p.m.** — AA Welcome Home Group, Sunny's Family Restaurant, 102 E. Main St., Sidney, MT, Central Avenue Entrance.

**7 p.m.** — AA 24 group meeting, Northern Pump & Compression, Watford City. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663.

**SUNDAYS:**

**7 p.m.** — Live Free Narcotics Anonymous, Church of God., 814 6th St. NE, Sidney, MT.

**7 p.m.** — AA Welcome Home Group, Sunny's Family Restaurant, 102 E. Main St., Sidney, MT, Central Avenue Entrance.

**STATISTICS**

**LAKE WATER LEVEL REPORT**

**Sakakawea**

Current Elevation.....1835.1

Last Week's Elev. ....1835.1

One Year Ago .....1843.8

Release For Day (C.F.S.) .....22,000

**SIDNEY WEATHER DATA**

Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Aug. 2.....	90	53	0.00
Aug. 3.....	87	58	0.00
Aug. 4.....	92	63	0.00
Aug. 5.....	83	57	0.00
Aug. 6.....	85	60	0.00
Aug. 7.....	90	63	0.00
Aug. 8.....	97	58	0.10
Total 2021 YTD Precipitation.....	4.374		

# OBITUARIES

## Candace Cox, 67 San Diego, CA formerly of Watford City, ND

A memorial service for Candace Andersen-Cox, 67, San Diego, CA, formerly of Watford City, ND will be 2 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 10, 2021 at First Presbyterian Church, Watford City, ND with Pastor John Brady officiating.

Interment will be in Schafer Cemetery, Watford City, ND, under the care of Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home, Watford City, ND.

Remembrances, condolences and pictures may be shared with the family at [www.fulkerson.com](http://www.fulkerson.com)

Candace Andersen-Cox passed away, Saturday, July 24, 2021, at her home in San Diego, CA.

## Knights Of Columbus To Raise Money For Women’s Clinic

The Knights of Columbus are asking for your financial support of a new ultrasound machine for the Sunrise Women's Clinic, Sidney.

The Knights of Columbus Supreme has been supporting pregnancy centers all over the world to help stop abortion. Since starting this program in 2009 the Knights have placed over 1,200 machines in use. The Knights of Columbus have been able to secure lower pricing from the major manufacturers with these numbers of machines purchased. Supreme Council pays for half and the local council needs to raise the other half. They need to raise about \$18,000.

The local Council, with your help, was able to gift our local women's clinic the machine they have in 2012. They serve an average of 150 expecting mothers each year. They cover about a 100-mile radius of Sidney. Their machine is nine years old this spring and needs to be replaced.

They are asking for your help again to purchase a new ultrasound machine. There's an account for this project setup at Yellowstone Bank, Sidney and you can donate there. You can also give a donation to any of the Knights that you might know. If you would like to send a donation the address is Knights of Columbus Council 3002, PO Box 1309, Sidney, MT 59270.

If you have any questions call Mark Brodhead at 406-488-6331.

## Watford City Barn Dance Set For August 20

**By Anna Dragseth**

The Long X Arts Foundation and The McKenzie County Heritage Park will be hosting a "Good Old Fashioned" Barn Dance at the new Heritage Park Building on Friday, Aug. 20 in Watford City. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m. followed by music at 7 p.m. There will be hot dog and burger plates for \$5, kids games, and lots of dancing.

The music at the event includes the radio stars trio; Merrill Piepkorn (harmonica, guitar, vocals), Smokey Temple (steel guitar, acoustic and electric guitar, vocals), Loy Larson (champion fiddler, mandolin, vocals). These three play country, western, gospel, and traditional music. This is a family-friendly event. For more information on the event, contact Sandy at 701-609-9894.

## Reps. Rosendale And Khanna Introduce Bipartisan Bill To Support U.S. Ranchers

**Submitted by Rosendale Press**

Washington, DC - On Aug. 5 Representative Rosendale along with Representative Khanna (D-CA) introduced the USA Beef Act to support American ranchers. This legislation is a companion bill to Senator Rounds' (R-SD) legislation introduced today in the Senate.

This bipartisan bill would amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to ensure that any beef labeled a "Product of USA." is in-fact a product exclusively born, raised, and slaughtered in the United States.

Under current law, meatpackers are allowed to import cattle raised in foreign countries, slaughter and package them in the United States, and then send them to market at a premium by labeling it as a product of the USA.

The "Product of USA" label is a significant assurance as to the quality and safety of the beef consumers are feeding to their families. It also serves as a sign to show consumers they are supporting the work of American farmers and ranchers.

Allowing foreign importers to reap the benefits of using the "Product of USA" label defeats the purpose of having a label at all, while also undermining America's ranchers who genuinely utilize practices deserving of the label.

"American ranchers deserve a fair shake. Allowing multinational companies to utilize the 'Product of USA' label while importing foreign meat is both deceiving to the consumer and a hindrance to American producers. This legislation offers a common-sense solution to the benefit of both American ranchers and consumers," Representative Rosendale said.

"Proud to cosponsor this important bill that will promote fair competition for American producers. It'll ensure that beef labeled "Product of USA" is actually raised in the United States. Multinational companies will no longer be able to pass off imported meat as American and consumers can be confident their dollars are staying in their community," Congressman Khanna said.

In addition to Representative Khanna (D-CA), This bill is also co-sponsored by Representatives Yvette Herrell (R-NM), Ed Case (D-HI), Thomas Massie (R-KY), Liz Cheney (R-WY), Clay Higgins (R-LA), Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), Barry Moore (R-AL), Jared Huffman (D-CA), and Morgan Griffith (R-VA).

**EVENTS**

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**RICHLAND COUNTY**

Events in Sidney unless otherwise listed. MT Zone.

**Wed., Aug. 11**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. - **Walter Piehl Retrospective Exhibit** - On display thru Aug. 14.

14. - **Max Schorer's Pop Cars Exhibit** - On display thru Sept. 4.

MonDak Heritage Center, Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. For more information call 406-433-3500, e-mail [mdhc@richland.org](mailto:mdhc@richland.org) or visit <https://mondakheritagecenter.org/>.

**Sat., Aug. 14**

7-9 p.m. - **Sidney Dragging Main Cruising to #Stopsuicide** - Restorx of Sidney, BBQ, 1-5 p.m. For more information contact Jason Schrader, 406-480-4125 or visit [www.facebook.com/Sidneydraggingmain/](https://www.facebook.com/Sidneydraggingmain/).

**Sun., Aug. 15**

8:30-11:30 a.m. - **Fundraiser Breakfast For Fairview Fire Department** - 8 years & older \$10; 4-7 years: \$5; 0-3 years: free. Sidney Moose Lodge.

**Sun., Aug. 15, 22, 29**

1 p.m. - **Bingo** - Open to the public. Sidney Moose Lodge.

3-6 p.m. **Open Shooting** - Sidney Trap Club. Open to the public. For more information call 406-480-5594.

**Tues., Aug. 17**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. - **Richland County Fair Display** - Part of the 100th Anniversary of the fair. On display thru Oct. 30. MonDak Heritage Center, Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. For more information call 406-433-3500, e-mail [mdhc@richland.org](mailto:mdhc@richland.org) or visit <https://mondakheritagecenter.org/>.

12-6 p.m. - **Red Cross Blood Drive** - St. Matthew's Parish Center, 310 7th St. SE. Advance appointments recommended. To make an appointment, call American Red Cross, 406-868-0911 or 1-800-733-2767 or visit [redcrossblood.org](https://redcrossblood.org).

12 p.m. - **Job Service Employers Committee Meeting (JSEC)** - Open to everyone. Reynolds Market conference room. For more information call Margie 406-433-1204 ext. 204.

**Tues., Aug. 17, 24, 31**

6-8 p.m. - **Open Shooting** - Sidney Trap Club. Open to the public. For more information call 406-480-5594.

**Sat., Aug. 21**

9 a.m.-1 p.m. - **Child ID & Bake Sale** - Open to the public. Sidney Moose Lodge.

**Sun., Aug. 22 & 29**

8:30-11:30 a.m. - **Breakfast** - Open to the public. Sidney Moose Lodge.

**Wed., Sept. 1**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. - **40th Annual Quilt & Needlework Show** - On display thru Oct. 2. MonDak Heritage Center, Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. For more information call 406-433-3500, e-mail [mdhc@richland.org](mailto:mdhc@richland.org) or visit <https://mondakheritagecenter.org/>.

**Sat., Sept. 4**

10 a.m.-4 p.m. - **Open Studio Saturdays** - All participants must make an appointment call 406-433-3500 or email [mdhc@richland.org](mailto:mdhc@richland.org). Adults 18+ years old only, masks required, other restrictions apply. Pricing ranges from \$10 to \$65 with all supplies included. MonDak Heritage Center, 120 3rd Ave. SE.

**McKENZIE COUNTY**

Events in Watford City unless otherwise listed. CT Zone

**Thurs., Aug. 12 & 26**

2-4 p.m. - **Food Giveaway** - First Presbyterian Church, 316 4th Ave. NE.

**Wed., Aug. 13**

10 a.m. - **Best of the West Watford City Ribfest** - Ribs & fixings, vendors, car show, legendary smiles kid zone, cornhole tournament and more, downtown Watford City. Mad Dog & Merrill, 12:30 p.m.; Matt Aakre & Dirty Little Secrets, 4:30 p.m.; Wynonna Judd, 8 p.m.; The Big Noise Car Show, 6:30 p.m.; Snake Oil, party after dark. For more information visit [watfordcityribfest.com](https://watfordcityribfest.com).

**Sat., Aug. 14, 21, 28; Sept. 4**

6-8 p.m. - **Alexander Lions Club Hamburgers In The Park** - Every Saturday evening until Labor Day. Alexander City Park.

**Tues., Aug. 17**

2-4 p.m. - **Food Pantry Handouts** - First Lutheran Church, 212 2nd St. NW. For more information call McKenzie County Extension Office, 701-444-3451 or visit McKenzie County Food Pantry Facebook page.

**Fri., Aug. 20**

6:30 p.m. - **Radio Stars Trio Old Fashioned Barn Dance presented by Long X Arts Foundation & McKenzie Co. Heritage Park** - Country, western traditional & gospel. Music starts 7 p.m. \$5 hot dog & burger plates, kids games, dancing. New Heritage Park Building. For more information call Sandy, 701-609-9894.

**Thurs., Sept. 2, 7 p.m.; Fri., Sept. 3, 1 p.m.; Sat., Sept. 4, 8 a.m.**

**Alexander 76th Annual Old Settler's Day Celebration** - Sept. 2: Bonfire. Sept. 3: Chili cook-off, soapbox derby, music. Sept. 4: Parade, vendor & craft booths, BBQ, senior citizen social, horseshoe tournament, hillbilly race, pie eating contest & street dance.

**WILLIAMS COUNTY**

Events in Williston unless otherwise listed. CT Zone.

**Thurs., Aug. 12, 19, 26**

5-9 p.m. - **Summer Nights on Main** - Come downtown Williston to experience incredible live music, amazing food, drinks, kids activities & more.

**Fri., Aug. 13, 4 p.m. & Sat., Aug. 14, 7:30 a.m.**

**North Dakota Chokecherry Festival Spring Lake Park** - Aug. 13 - Burger feed, live music, free ice cream, street performances, kids money dig and lite brite run. - Aug. 14: Paddleboard yoga class, free pancake breakfast, live music, cornhole & volleyball tournaments, vendors, chokecherry store, kid zone; car show; chokecherry festival stroll, pit spitting contest, kids paddleboard races, street performance, kids money dig. Both days, chokecherry train rides, silent auction and chokecherry festival merchandise for sale in Keel Boat Building & more. For more information visit <https://www.visitwilliston.com/calendar/ChokecherryFestival/>

**Sat., Aug. 14**

6 p.m. - **10 Minute Bail Bonds Kids Night at the Races Williston Basin Speedway, Rabe Cote Memorial Race** - All classes. Gates 6 p.m.; race, 7 p.m. For more information visit [www.willistonbasinspeedway.com](https://www.willistonbasinspeedway.com).

**Sat., Aug. 14, 21, 28; Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25, Oct. 2, 9, 16**

9 a.m.-12 p.m. - **Main Street Market** - Hedderich's Lot. Vendors, sponsor activity, food truck and music. Saturdays through Oct. 16.

**DAWSON COUNTY**

Events in Glendive unless otherwise listed. CT Zone

**Fri., Aug. 13**

8:30-10:30 a.m. - **Campfire Program: "Meteors & Medusa"** - Take a look into the night sky during Perseid meteor shower. Learn to identify some summer constellations. Keep an eye out for shooting stars. Makoshika State Park Pavilion, 1301 Snyder Ave.

**Sat., Aug. 14**

7-9 p.m. - **Trivia in the Park** - Teams of up to 7 people can compete in 4 rounds of trivia with different categories. Top 3 teams will win prizes. Bring snacks, drinks and blankets. Kiwanis Pavilion, Makoshika State Park, 1301 Snyder Ave. For more information call the park visitor center, 406-377-6256.



# MedStart Program Sparks High School Students Interest In Healthcare

**By Anna Dragseth**  
MedStart is a summer program aimed at developing the next generation of health care providers. It is hosted by the Montana AHEC (Area Health Education Center) and the Montana Hospital Association. MedStart provides opportunities for students to explore a variety of health care careers through simulation activities, which includes dissections, nursing simulation lab, dental assisting, health information technology demonstrations, mock disaster training/EMS, Cadaver lab and X-Ray activities. The program also sets up students with job shadowing opportunities at local facilities.

MedStart allows students to attend college-planning sessions to help plan out their college and career goals. Each regional AHEC office provides support to students that include college resources, financial aid updates, scholarships and connections to further job shadowing.

Karen, a supervisor of one of the students participating in the program, said, "I love to promote prepara-

tion for any career, but medical too. There are so many career options available that I worry our students are unaware of. We may be able to awaken their excitement for schooling and careers with some prior exposure and planning."

More recently there was a MedStart held July 19-22. This year's event was held online, and each registered student received a kit in the mail that was used for the activities scheduled. A student from Sidney High School, Burton Pollari, participated in this class and explained that the activities he performed through MedStart has influenced him to pursue a career in the medical field.

Pollari said, "I have kind of always been interested in doing something related to the medical field, but this program has really helped give me a 360° view of what kind of careers are out there."

The goal of MedStart is to provide students - who may not otherwise have the opportunity - a chance to further explore healthcare careers and educates them on the large variety of careers available in the



**Burton Pollari dissecting a pig heart. (Submitted photo)**

healthcare industry.

For more information on the program visit [www.scmtahec.org/high-school/medstart/](http://www.scmtahec.org/high-school/medstart/).

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## Rimrock Cabinet Co., Sidney, Holds Ribbon Cutting



Rimrock Cabinet Co. held their ribbon cutting last Friday, 216 S. Central, Sidney, 406-630-2083. Pictured (L-R) Kali Godfrey, Sidney Chamber manager; Lindsey Lawrence, Sidney Chamber board member; Coy Martin, owner, Rimrock Cabinet Co.; Hanna Jepsen, Sidney Chamber board member; and Jeremy Norby, Sidney Chamber board member.

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The Long X Arts Foundation and The McKenzie County Heritage Park Present:

## RADIO STARS TRIO

"Country - Western - Traditional - Gospel"

Merrill Piepkorn  
Harmonica, Guitar, Vocals

Smokey Temple  
Steel Guitar, Acoustic And Electric Guitars, Vocals

Loy Larson  
Champion Fiddler, Mandolin, Vocals

Gather your friends at the NEW Heritage Park Building for a Good Old Fashioned

## BARN DANCE

Friday, August 20  
Doors open at 6:30 PM  
Music at 7:00 PM

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**FREELANCE REPORTER**

The Roundup Newspaper is looking for a Freelance position for reporter to take photos & write stories at a weekly regional publication. Must have computer skills, valid driver's license and reliable automobile. Short distance travel may be necessary. Required testing for: spelling & grammar (basic), reading comprehension & Microsoft Word 2010 at Job Service. Call 433-1204 for testing. To apply, contact Sidney Job Service for a generic application.

**DRIVER WANTED**

Delivery Driver for The Roundup to drive to Minot, ND once a week to pick up newspapers and complete delivery stops in Watford City, ND and Sidney, MT. Average 10-12 hours per week. Must be able to lift up to 80 lbs. Must have a valid operator's driver's license, no CDL required, must have a clean driving record. Apply by submitting a completed generic application and proof of driving record (MVR) to Job Service in Sidney.

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**LEGALS**  
**CITY BUDGET NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Sidney, Montana, had a Budget and Finance Committee Meeting on August 9th, 2021 to set its preliminary municipal budget of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 and that said budget will be placed on file and open to inspection in the office of the City Clerk of the City of Sidney, Montana for the purpose of fixing a final budget and making appropriations as of Tuesday August 10th, 2021. The Sidney City Council will be meeting at the regularly scheduled August 16th, 2021 Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. to hear the Clerk/Treasurer Budget Presentation and to pass the preliminary budget. A Special Meeting of the Sidney City Council will be held on Monday August 30th, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. to hold a public hearing for the passage of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 budget and to pass said budget resolutions. Any

taxpayer may appear there at and may be heard for or against any part of said budget.

Jessica Chamberlin  
City Clerk/Treasurer  
  
(Publish August 11th, 18th and 25th, 2021)

## HELP WANTED

### The McKenzie County Fair Board is seeking a new Fair Board Secretary

- Part Time Position
- Basic Knowledge of Quickbooks helpful
- Must be able to work flexible hours
- Must be able to interact well with people

**For more information or to apply, contact Carolyn Levang at 701-770-6938 or 701-675-2306 Serious inquiries only**



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<b>Sidney School</b> Wed., Aug. 18: Cheese-burgers, french fries, mandarin oranges. <b>Savage School</b> Mon., Aug. 16: Taco in a bag. Tues., Aug. 17: Scalloped potatoes and ham. Wed., Aug. 18: Chicken sandwiches. <b>Richey School</b> Mon., Aug. 16: Super nachos, fruit, salad bar, cookies Tues., Aug. 17: Meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, fruit. Wed., Aug. 18: Fish sticks,	macaroni and cheese, fruit. <b>Lambert School</b> Mon., Aug. 16: Super nachos, fresh veggies, fruit. Tues., Aug. 17: Spaghetti, corn, garlic bread, fruit. Wed., Aug. 18: Popcorn chicken, tots, fruit. <b>Fairview School</b> Wed., Aug. 18: Build your own burger bar, french fries, fresh veggie, watermelon, smores bars. <b>Alexander School</b> Tues., Aug. 17: Crisпитos, rice, green or red gravy. Wed., Aug. 18: Hot dogs or cheddarwurst, macaroni and cheese.
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## HELP WANTED

**Junior High & High School Wrestling Coach**  
If interested, contact Leslie or Terrille at:  
[Leslie.Bieber@k12.nd.us](mailto:Leslie.Bieber@k12.nd.us)  
[Terrille.Jacobson@k12.nd.us](mailto:Terrille.Jacobson@k12.nd.us) or

### PART-TIME FILL-IN DRIVER

One day a week picking up newspapers early Tuesday morning in Minot with stops at businesses and post office in Watford City and Sidney. Fill in when permanent driver is temporarily unavailable. Must be able to lift up to 80lbs, have a valid operator's driver's license (CDL not required) & clean driving record. Applicants will be required to submit a copy of driving record. Call 406-433-3306 for questions. Applications available at the Sidney Job Service.

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# 15th Annual ND Chokecherry Festival 2021, Aug. 13-14, Williston

**Friday, Aug. 13**  
 4 p.m. - Nemont 1000 Burger Feed at Pavilion  
 4-5 p.m. - Live Music on Stage: Andrew Savoia with DJaden  
 4:30 p.m. - Free Ice Cream with chokecherry syrup with Keel Boat area  
 5:30-6:30 p.m. - Live Music on Stage: Ben Johnson & Schmitt Music Jam  
 5:30-6:30 p.m. - Street Performance near Dog Park: Justin Ward  
 6 p.m. - Kids Money Dig south of Pavilion near volleyball courts  
 7-8:30 p.m. - Live Music on stage: Mooncats  
 7-8 p.m. - Street Performance near Dog Park: Heather Rae  
 10 p.m. Lite Brite Run  
**Saturday, Aug. 14**  
 7:30-8:30 a.m. - Pad-dleboard Yoga Class at

swimming area  
 8-10 a.m. - Free Pan-cake Breakfast with Chokecherry syrup & live music  
 Andrew Savoia 8-9 a.m.; Brian Salvesson 9-10 a.m., south end of park  
 10 a.m. - Cornhole tournament Family Tournament starts at noon  
 10 a.m. - Vendors, Chokecherry store and Kid Zone Open  
 10-11 a.m. - Live music on stage: Schmitt  
 10 a.m.-4 p.m. - Car show  
 11 a.m. - Volleyball tournament  
 11 a.m.-noon: - Live music on stage: Mooncats  
 11:30 a.m. - Chokecherry Stroll starts at Keel Boat building  
 12:30 p.m. - Pit spitting contest kid zone  
 12:30-1 p.m. - Live Mu-

sic on Stage: Andrew Savoia with DJaden  
 1 p.m. - Kids Paddle-board Race at swimming area  
 1:30-2:30 p.m. Street Performance near Dog Park: Justin Ward  
 2 p.m. - Kids money dig south of Pavilion near volleyball courts  
 2-4 p.m. - Live music on stage: Ben Johnson  
 Both Days: Demonstration and Competition Events with Dock Dogs in the Lions Amphitheater Parking Lot  
 Chokecherry Train Rides 4-7 p.m. Aug. 13; 10-4 p.m., Aug. 14  
 Paddleboard Rentals: 5-10 p.m. Aug. 13; 12-5 p.m., Aug. 14  
 Silent Auction and Chokecherry Festival Merchandise for sale in Keel Boat Building

## Letter To The Editor

In 2018, Medicaid Expansion was on the ballot and Richland County voters against funding the welfare program by 67%, an overwhelming majority. In 2019, former Rep. Joel Krautter crossed party lines to vote with his Democrat colleagues and fellow "Solutions Caucus" Republicans to narrowly pass Medicaid Expansion. In other words, Rep. Krautter voted against the will of his constituents.

However, in an op-ed published April 14, 2019 in another publication, Krautter explained his reasoning for voting with Democrats on the issue. Ed Buttrely, Llew Jones, and other members of the Solutions Caucus slipped in a work requirement for Medicaid recipients.

Krautter wrote, "I supported Representative But-

trely's bill because I believe in the reforms it makes to the Medicaid law set to expire in June without reauthorization." He went on, "I also heard from constituents that they supported new work requirements for able-bodied adults, whom the reformed law includes..."

As expected - and as many of us warned at the time - either the courts or a Democratic administration would be likely to overturn those work requirements. Today, the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services notified Montana DPHHS that, "a five-year extension of the Medicaid expansion waiver will not include work/community engagement requirements."

In other words, the primary reason some left-leaning Republicans used to

explain to Montanans why they voted for what we voted against has now been overturned. Now, we are left with a Democrat welfare bill - passed by a Republican-Democrat caucus - without the work requirement until at least 2025 (when another sunset clause takes place).

Let this be a lesson; don't vote for bad bills because you can make them slightly better. And there's another lesson; primaries matter. And another; party loyalty matters. And finally, we should all expect our representatives to represent us and our will moving forward, and be beholden to left-leaning Republican legislators like Llew Jones or Ed Buttrely from the other side of the state.

Jordan Hall, Sidney

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# THE RACING ROUNDUP

## Dillon Price: A Truly Inspiring Driver

**By Anna Dragseth**

Dillon Price, Glendive, originally of Plentywood, has been racing circle track for the past eight years with his No. 308 race car; racing at several tracks throughout the area including Mandan, Dickinson, Williston, Estevan, Billings, Belgrade, and Great Falls.

He started in the IMCA Sport Mod class and moved up to racing IMCA A Modified two years ago, after being diagnosed with Leukemia. He said, "I've always wanted to race A-Mods so I just thought I'm going to move up just in case I won't be able to race in the future."

Despite having to do chemo treatments daily, he raced a full season of 25 nights with his A-Mod just to prove that he could do it and to show that his illness wouldn't be able to stop him from achieving his goals and

pursuing his love of racing.

Price got started in the Sport Mod class with the help of Jody Kropp, Chad Johnson, and Jim Zaremski of Great Falls; all of who were very instrumental in kick starting Price's racing career.

Price would pit for them and help them work on their cars while living in Great Falls. When he moved back to Glendive, he decided to purchase a car of his own and start racing.

Since then, Kropp, Johnson, and Zaremski have been helping him with his car. He said, "Every year I go out to Great Falls and race with them for three days. They have helped me a lot and call me every single week just to check in on me, to see if I need any help with my car."

He has a small but mighty racing crew, consisting only of his wife, who has been at his side at every

race. "She helps me with everything and that season we ran 25 nights, I about killed her off - she was about ready for me to be done racing," chuckled Price.

He explained that racing is tougher than a person thinks, especially with such a small crew. "Running a whole year of racing really takes a lot." He goes to work during the day and comes home to work on his car to get it race-ready and then does it all over again just to go race that same weekend.

Price said, "It is a lot of juggling, fast-paced, and hectic. The work just never stops, during the winter I strip the car down and put a new deck and body on it so that next year it is fresh and ready to race on the track."

One of the biggest challenges Price faces is sponsorship. Due to the fact that there are no local tracks in

Glendive, he is unable to gain sponsorship. He said, "Everything costs a lot of money, which seems to be the biggest limiting factor nowadays."

Price loves the adrenal rush of racing and the competition. "The competition is what makes it fun because it is so steep; any night anyone can win. There is a ton of local talent that is super-fast."

His favorite part about racing is the community that comes with it. "I have received a lot of help from a lot of people, it is crazy, but it is kind of how circle track works. It's just a big family - if



your down people help you out and even up in the high levels someone is always willing to help, whether that be with getting parts or fixing up your car."

When Price was sick, he said that the racing community was definitely the most concerned about it and wanted to make sure he was

all right.

Price hopes to continue to make it to as many races as he can and hopefully race a late model in the future. He wants to travel a lot more next year and hit a lot more competitions. "I am hoping to stay as healthy as I can so that I can run as many nights as possible."

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# 2021 State Meet Sidney Tiger Sharks Results Columbia Falls July 31-Aug. 1

The Sidney Tiger Sharks had 2 high point trophies at the State Meet in Columbia Falls, July 31-Aug. 1. Toby Kleinke 8 and under boys; and Morgan Kindopp 11-12 girls which ended up being a 3 way tie.

Boys 100 Free Relay 8 & Under: A Relay, 1st Place, Wyatt Johns, Kamden Johnson, Crew Falcon, Toby Kleinke

Girls 100 Free Relay 8 & Under: A Relay, 1st Place, Paisley Obergfell, Ella Laqua, Harper Danielson, Braya Radke

Boys 100 Free Relay 9-10: A Relay, 2nd Place, Braydon Herbel, Toryn Gonsalez, Avery Schantz, Beckett Norby

Girls 100 Free Relay 9-10: A Relay, 2nd Place, Addison Steffan, Aspyr Sorteberg, Avery Sukut, Skylar Rodgers

Boys 200 Free Relay 11-12: A Relay, 3rd Place, Jade Steffan, Quentin Waters, Jaxcen Sanders, Evan Erickson

Girls 200 Free Relay 11-12: Relay Sidney Tiger Sharks, 1st Place, Kylee Rodgers, McKenna Haralson, RayElla Radke, Morgan Kindopp

Boys 200 Free Relay 13-14: A Relay, 2nd Place, Ethan Erickson, Parker Wunder, Hunter Sanders, Corben Holler

Girls 200 Free Relay 13-14: A Relay, 3rd Place, Zoey Garsjo, Marett Schieber, Avé Norby, Ryleigh Kleinke

Girls 200 Free Relay 15-19: A Relay, 6th Place, Elizabeth Langwald, Railyn Herbst, Avery Iversen, Hadley Garsjo

Girls 100 IM 8 & Under: Harper Danielson, 2nd Place; Brylee Moran, 8th Place

Boys 100 IM 9-10: Beckett Norby, 2nd Place; Colton Johns, 13th Place; Toryn Gonsalez, 17th Place

Girls 100 IM 9-10: Addison Steffan, 6th Place; Avery Sukut, 12th Place; Harlee Moran, 14th Place

Girls 200 IM 11-12: RayElla Radke, 3rd Place; Micah Haralson, 8th Place; McKenna Haralson, 9th Place; Madycen Sanders, 10th Place

Boys 200 IM 13-14: Ethan Erickson, 2nd Place

Girls 200 IM 13-14: Avé Norby, 3rd Place; Zoey Garsjo, 4th Place; Lilly Herbst, 10th Place; Amara Iversen, 11th Place

Boys 200 IM 15-19: Seth Dodds, 2nd Place

Boys 25 Free 8 & Under: Toby Kleinke, 1st Place; Wyatt Johns, 6th Place; Crew Falcon, 9th Place

Girls 25 Free 8 & Under: Braya Radke, 2nd Place

Boys 50 Free 9-10:



8 and under state champion relay teams. Back row: Wyatt Johns, Camden Johnson, Crew Falcon, Toby Kleinke. Front row: Paisley Obergfell, Ella Laqua, Harper Danielson, Braya Radke. (Photos submitted)

Beckett Norby, 3rd Place

Girls 50 Free 9-10: Skylar Rodgers, 5th Place; Aspyr Sorteberg, 10th Place

Girls 50 Free 11-12: Morgan Kindopp, 2nd Place; Kylee Rodgers, 8th Place

Boys 50 Free 13-14: Corben Holler, 2nd Place; Parker Wunder, 10th Place

Girls 50 Free 13-14: Ryleigh Kleinke, 1st Place; Zoey Garsjo, 7th Place

Girls 50 Free 15-19: Hadley Garsjo, 5th Place

Boys 25 Breast 8 & Under: Wyatt Johns, 1st Place

Girls 25 Breast 8 & Under: Paisley Obergfell, 1st Place; Harper Danielson, 8th Place

Boys 50 Breast 9-10: Braydon Herbel, 1st Place; Avery Schantz, 8th Place

Girls 50 Breast 9-10: Aspyr Sorteberg, 2nd Place

Girls 50 Breast 11-12: Morgan Kindopp, 1st Place; RayElla Radke, 3rd Place; Kylee Rodgers, 7th Place

Boys 100 Breast 13-14: Hunter Sanders, 3rd Place; Paul Gonsalez, 8th Place

Girls 100 Breast 13-14: Marett Schieber, 4th Place; Maci Nelson, 11th Place

Girls 100 Breast 15-19: Hadley Garsjo, 6th Place

Boys 50 Free 8 & Under: Toby Kleinke, 1st Place; Wyatt Johns, 8th Place; Kamden Johnson, 10th Place; Caysen Beiswanger, 12th Place

Girls 50 Free 8 & Under: Braya Radke, 1st Place; Paisley Obergfell, 3rd Place

Boys 100 Free 9-10: Beckett Norby, 3rd Place; Avery Schantz, 9th Place; Braydon Herbel, 11th Place

Girls 100 Free 9-10: Skylar Rodgers, 8th Place

Girls 100 Free 11-12: Morgan Kindopp, 1st Place

Boys 100 Free 13-14: Corben Holler, 3rd Place

Girls 100 Free 13-14: Ryleigh Kleinke, 1st Place; Maci Nelson, 7th Place

Girls 100 Free 15-19: Hadley Garsjo, 5th Place

Boys 25 Back 8 & Under: Toby Kleinke, 1st Place; Kamden Johnson, 2nd Place; Caysen Beiswanger, 6th Place; Crew Falcon, 7th Place

Girls 25 Back 8 & Under: Harper Danielson, 3rd Place; Paisley Obergfell, 5th Place

Boys 50 Back 9-10: Braydon Herbel, 5th Place; Colton Johns, 8th Place; Avery Schantz, 10th Place

Girls 50 Back 9-10: Ad-



Morgan Kindopp

dison Steffan, 5th Place; Aspyr Sorteberg, 8th Place; Avery Sukut, 10th Place

Girls 50 Back 11-12: McKenna Haralson, 10th Place

Boys 100 Back 13-14: Corben Holler, 1st Place; Hunter Sanders, 4th Place

Girls 100 Back 13-14: Marett Schieber, 4th Place; Avé Norby, 5th Place; 1 Lilly Herbst, 6th Place

Boys 100 Back 15-19: Seth Dodds, 1st Place; Caleb Kleinke, 8th Place

Girls 100 Back 15-19: Avery Iversen, 10th Place

Boys 25 Fly 8 & Under: Crew Falcon, 5th Place

Girls 25 Fly 8 & Under: Brylee Moran, 7th Place

Boys 50 Fly 9-10: Colton Johns, 12th Place

Girls 50 Fly 9-10: Addison Steffan, 5th Place; Skylar Rodgers, 10th Place; Harlee Moran, 12th Place

Boys 50 Fly 11-12: Evan Erickson, 5th Place; Jaxcen Sanders, 6th Place; Jade Steffan, 7th Place

Girls 50 Fly 11-12: RayElla Radke, 3rd Place; Lexie Albright, 7th Place

Boys 50 Fly 13-14: Ethan Erickson, 3rd Place; Parker Wunder, 7th Place

Girls 50 Fly 13-14: Ryleigh Kleinke, 2nd Place

Boys 50 Fly 15-19: Caleb Kleinke, 9th Place

Girls 50 Fly 15-19: Elizabeth Langwald, 8th Place; Railyn Herbst, 12th Place

Boys 200 Free 11-12: Evan Erickson, 6th Place

Girls 200 Free 11-12: McKenna Haralson, 8th Place; Lexie Albright, 13th Place; Micah Haralson, 14th Place

Boys 200 Free 13-14: Ethan Erickson, 3rd Place; Parker Wunder, 9th Place

Girls 200 Free 13-14:



Toby Kleinke

Avé Norby, 4th Place; Maci Nelson, 7th Place; Brooklyn Wunder, 13th Place; Madison Kapp, 14th Place

Boys 400 Free 15-19: Seth Dodds, 4th Place

Boys 100 Medley Relay 8 & Under: A Relay, 2nd Place, Kamden Johnson, Wyatt Johns, Toby Kleinke, Crew Falcon

Girls 100 Medley Relay 8 & Under: A Relay, 1st Place, Harper Danielson, Paisley Obergfell, Braya Radke, Ella Laqua

Boys 100 Medley Relay 9-10: A Relay, 2nd Place, Colton Johns, Braydon Herbel, Beckett Norby, Avery Schantz

Girls 100 Medley Relay 9-10: A Relay, 2nd Place, Avery Sukut, Aspyr Sorteberg, Addison Steffan, Skylar Rodgers

Boys 200 Medley Relay 11-12: A Relay, 3rd Place, Jaxcen Sanders, Jason Sorteberg, Jade Steffan, Evan Erickson

Boys 200 Medley Relay 13-14: A Relay, 1st Place, Corben Holler, Hunter Sanders, Ethan Erickson, Parker Wunder

Girls 200 Medley Relay 13-14: A Relay, 2nd Place, Avé Norby, Marett Schieber, Ryleigh Kleinke, Zoey Garsjo

Girls 200 Medley Relay 15-19: A Relay, 8th Place, Hadley Garsjo, Avery Iversen, Elizabeth Langwald, Railyn Herbst

Boys 100 Fly 13-14: Hunter Sanders, 4th Place

Girls 100 Fly 13-14: Zoey Garsjo, 3rd Place; Marett Schieber, 4th Place

Girls 100 Fly 15-19: Elizabeth Langwald, 4th Place; Railyn Herbst, 7th Place

## Letter To The Editor: Oil And Gas Operations Can Fuel Montana's Economic Recovery

Aug. 3 - It is no secret that Montana is full of natural resources. Access to an abundance of fossil fuels and renewable resources makes our state one of the nation's largest energy suppliers, and our communities have long benefitted from the revenue generated by statewide oil and natural gas operations — especially in Richland County.

As Richland County Commissioners, we are well-versed in oil and gas operations and understand just how critical oil and gas tax revenue is for local and state budgets. We are at the heart of Montana's oil and gas country — 43% of oil and gas is produced here, the highest concentration in the state. In 2015, the total value of oil production in Montana was \$1.15 billion. Our county routinely receives some of the highest amounts in state oil and gas tax revenues due to the energy sector's robust presence here, benefitting our local schools, businesses, hospitals, and other critical institutions.

Suffice to say we know energy.

But we also know that the current debate surrounding the energy industry is swirling around the climate crisis and how to solve it. Federal proposals concerning oil and gas drilling permits, as well as increases to the corporate and Global Intangible Low Tax Income (GILTI) rates, have been put forth to help raise money for infrastructure development and fight climate change.

However, these proposals will do more harm than good to energy states

like Montana. Federal policies must ensure a smooth energy transition without hurting the budgets and economies of communities that rely on natural gas and oil production. After such a devastating year filled with immense grief and financial hardship, now is the worst possible time to increase taxes and limit operations for Montana's oil and gas operators, as well as American businesses, workers, and the supply chains they rely on as we all collectively recover from the global pandemic.

Oil and gas production on federal lands brought in roughly \$25 million in tax revenue for state funding this past year. This revenue goes directly into Montana's General Fund Budget, which provides critical funds for public outlays like education, healthcare, and conservation. In fact, in Richland County we just donated \$1 million in oil and gas severance tax revenue to Sidney Health Center for an air ambulance, something that is crucial to reach those in need in a region as large and rural as ours. Without revenue from oil and gas operations, residents in Richland County and throughout the rest of Montana will see their quality of life suffer and their local communities and economies negatively impacted.

Beyond federal leasing changes, the White House has proposed to raise the US corporate tax rate from 21% to 28%. The impact of such an increase would be felt by businesses small and large across Montana and the rest of the country, resulting in reduced wages,

fewer profits, and increased costs to everyday workers and taxpayers.

It is estimated that 1.4 million small businesses, employing almost 13 million Americans, would pay the higher tax rate, which hurts consumers' wallets and impedes recovery efforts statewide on the heels of the pandemic. Additionally, the nonpartisan Tax Foundation estimates that 75% to 100% of the corporate tax is felt by laborers — any increase would fall onto the shoulders of everyday workers.

In addition to increasing the corporate tax, there is discussion over doubling the GILTI tax rate from 10.5% to 21%. This tax is meant to keep the profits of American companies in the country, rather than abroad. At its current rate, it is not burdensome enough to limit growth and competition. However, when coupled with the proposed increase in the corporate tax rate, the result is that American companies would pay some of the highest effective tax rates in the industrial world, limiting development and stifling competition at a time when rivals like China outpace us on the Fortune 500 list.

In their current form, the proposed federal actions on leasing and taxes will hurt all Montanans, whether they are in extractive industries or not. Transitioning to a new energy era will take time and patience, but also sound policy that recognizes the pivotal role that oil and natural gas plays in Montana and other energy states.

Richland County Commissioners, Duane Mitchell, Loren Young, Shane Gordor

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# MT Dept. Of Agriculture Shares Best Practices For Hay Shipments To Prevent Noxious Weeds & Pests

**Submitted by Chelsi Bay, Montana Department of Agriculture**  
Helena - As Montana agricultural producers strive to find adequate feed for livestock during severe drought conditions and a damaging wildfire season, the Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) is issuing guidance

for out-of-county or state shipments of hay to prevent the spread of noxious weeds and other invasive pests. "The need for hay far outweighs our supply right now in Montana," said Acting Director Christy Clark. "We recognize the need to find hay for our producers, but there can be some very

serious consequences if we don't do our due diligence in making sure that hay donations and shipments from other states aren't bringing weeds and insects that are not currently present in Montana with them." Hay being transported from other states and counties has the potential to introduce or spread noxious and invasive weed species,

insect pests, and plant diseases. Use the following best management practices to mitigate and prevent their introduction and spread:

- Ask where the hay was grown/donated from, and use certified weed free forage, if available
- Feed hay in an area that can be easily monitored for new weeds for several years

- Coordinate with your local weed district or MSU Extension office to monitor areas and identify unknown weeds and pests
- Control weeds before they produce seed, and defer moving livestock through any area with a new weed species until it is removed or contained.

The MDA Noxious Weed Program is available

to assist producers in their decision to use hay from out of state. Please contact Jasmine Reimer, 406-444-3140, for more information. The Montana Department of Agriculture is serving Montana Agriculture and growing prosperity under the Big Sky. For more information on department programs and services, visit [agr.mt.gov](http://agr.mt.gov).

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## Guest Opinion:

# Leasing & Tax Policy Proposals Threaten U.S. Energy Independence

By Senator Steve Hinebaugh (R-Wibaux); Senator Kenneth Bogner (R-Miles City); Representative Jerry Schillinger (R-Circle); Representative Brandon Ler (R-Sidney); and Representative Bob Phalen (R-Glendive)

In Montana, we are far away from the hustle and bustle of Washington.

Instead of busy streets and crowded communities, our state is full of pristine mountains, flowing rivers, and vibrant ecosystems. Montana's environment is the envy of states across the country, and we must be sure that any policy that comes forth in our nation's capital does not impact our state's natural resources and the benefits they bring to our communities.

Unfortunately, there have been some federal policy proposals related to oil and gas permitting and taxes put forth that will negatively impact Montana's jobs and revenue — and more gravely, will damage American competitiveness and our nation's energy independence. As elected officials of our fine state, we want to make it clear that we will stand against any such policies that threaten Montana's workers, families, and communities, and the industries that support them.

Montana joined 12 other states in a lawsuit against the federal government after they decided to enact a pause on the issuing of any oil and gas drilling permits on federal lands and waters. Although a federal judge has

recently ruled in the plaintiff's favor, halting the leasing moratorium and declaring that it would cause undue harm to energy states like ours, nothing is finalized yet. If the aggressive climate agenda outlined by President Biden continues to be pursued, then a permanent leasing ban may certainly be on the cards.

We can't let that happen — Montana would lose hundreds of millions in revenue that currently funds our schools, hospitals, and infrastructure. The oil and gas industry brings a host of benefits to residents in every part of our state, directly supporting nearly 30,000 jobs and producing almost \$250 million in state revenue. Montana's General Fund Budget, which provides large contributions for education and conservation initiatives, receives nearly 6% of its funding from oil and gas operations.

A leasing ban also hurts our domestic energy development at home. We are blessed to have a vast abundance of natural resources here in Montana — it truly is God's country. However, a leasing ban means that we are blocking our

companies from accessing our resources. It is bad for Montana's workers, budget, and our communities. We cannot become reliant upon foreign sources for our energy, doing so raises energy costs on consumers, harms our national security, and leaves us at the whim of other nations.

Beyond federal leasing policy, the White House and other federal officials have proposed raising taxes as a way to fund the hotly-debated infrastructure bill. Specifically, they want to raise the corporate tax rate from 21% to 28%, and the Global Intangible Low Tax Income (GILTI) rate from 10.5% to 21%. Increasing these tax rates would only place extra burdens upon the companies and businesses that help power Montana's economy.

Coupled with a leasing moratorium, these tax increases could spell doom for the financial well-being of Montana's small and large businesses alike. Raising the GILTI tax, a fee designed to keep the tax profits of multinationals in the United States, is especially problematic for our nation since it would limit American competitiveness abroad. The current 10.5% GILTI rate is half of the current corporate rate — as designed. In determining this figure, the Senate Budget Committee recognized that taxing GILTI at the "full U.S. corporate tax rate may hurt the competitive position of U.S. corporations relative to their foreign counterparts."

The proposal to reform the GILTI rate also imposes undue burdens upon companies with smaller international operations and the government itself as they need to calculate what is owed country-by-country, rather than one flat sum. It makes no sense to place both tax and administrative-related burdens upon our nation's enterprises, especially during a time of economic recovery.

Montana's communities depend on oil and gas revenues to fund important services. We must be sure that intended policy consequences do not harm the residents and limit the economic growth of energy states like ours. We urge our nation's lawmakers to consider common-sense, all-of-the-above energy policy that does not harm industries critical to communities everywhere.

Senator Steve Hinebaugh, a rancher, serves as a Republican member of the Montana Senate, where he represents District 18. Senator Kenneth Bogner, a former Marine, serves as a Republican member of the Montana Senate, representing the 19th District. Representative Jerry Schillinger, a farmer, serves as a Republican member of the Montana House of Representatives for District 37. Representative Brandon Ler, a business owner, is a Republican member of the Montana House of Representatives for District 35. Representative Bob Phalen, a farmer, serves as a Republican member of the Montana House of Representatives for District 36.

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