

The Roundup

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Wednesday, December 29, 2021

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SIDNEY'S

TOP STORIES

OF 2021

See pages 8 - 20

Roundup
WEB.COM

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New Year's Eve Benefit For Brittney Samuelson

By Anna Dragseth

The Sidney VFW is hosting a benefit on Jan. 1, at 5 p.m. for Brittney Samuelson, Sidney who was diagnosed with cirrhosis.

There will be live music by Brett Herron, a free-will chili feed, silent auction, 50/50 tickets, and for every fireball order, 75¢ is donated to Samuelson.

The benefit is designed to help offset medical expenses while traveling for care and waiting for a transplant.

"We encourage everyone to come for the benefit. We are hoping to raise money for her as she is facing a lot of medical bills and there are many more to come. Brittney needs a lot of money to get a liver transplant," said VFW Manager, Betty Williams.

Samuelson has been receiving weekly paracentesis to remove excess fluid from her stomach and needs a liver transplant in the next coming months. She has



Above: Brittney Samuelson, their son Christopher and Chris Potter, boyfriend.

Right: Chris Potter, boyfriend, and Brittney Samuelson.

been in the hospital several times for CT scans, blood work, and paracentesis. Her

meld numbers indicate that she is not a viable recipient of a live donor so she must be on the transplant list until a deceased donor becomes



available.

Currently, she is being evaluated at the UT Southwestern Medical Center,

Dallas, TX, and struggles with ongoing swelling, headaches, confusion, and has trouble speaking.

Caregivers Encouraged To Attend Workshop

Submitted by
Marcia Hellandsaas,
McKenzie County NDSU
Extension Agent

Has caring for a loved one become stressful for you? Caregiving is rewarding, but let's face it: caregiving is not easy—physically, emotionally and financially.

"Powerful Tools for Caregivers" is a class designed to provide you, the family caregiver, with the skills you need to take care of yourself.

Classes will be held online on Wednesdays for six weeks from 1:30-3:30 p.m. CT starting Jan. 12-Feb. 16, 2022.

How will the "tools" benefit you? This series will help you in the following ways:

- Reduce stress
- Improve self-confidence
- Balance your life
- Better communicate your feelings
- Increase ability to make tough decisions
- Learn to locate helpful resources

Here is what a past participant has said about this workshop:

"After taking this class, I am a more confident caregiver! Having tools to resolve problems is a definite advantage in becoming a better caregiver and a happier, wiser, healthier me."

When you take care of yourself, everyone benefits.

Pre-registration is requested by Monday, Jan. 10. To register go to: ndc3.org and find the class listed under "select class." Once you are registered a link for the zoom meetings will be sent to you.

For more information, please contact the McKenzie County NDSU Extension Service at 701-444-3451 or email marcia.hellandsaas@ndsu.edu.

Big Sky Cookie Co. Holds Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening



Big Sky Cookie Co. held their ribbon cutting and grand opening Dec. 22. The new business location is 215 S Central Ave, Sidney, next to Centre Theater. Big Sky Cookie Co. specializes in unique custom sugar cookies. Special orders are welcome. They will be open for business starting Jan. 12. Pictured from left, Lindsey Lawrence, Sidney Chamber Vice President; Hanna Jepsen, Board member; Ryan and Lisa Harrel, owners; Larysa Hurst, board member; Andy Keller, Sidney Job Service; Katie Dasinger, Sidney Chamber, and Rick Norby, Sidney Mayor.

MT Superintendent of Public Instruction Speaks to Local Republicans

Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction Elsie Arntzen spoke to Richland Co. Republicans on Dec. 20 at the Richland Co. Extension office conference room. Arntzen was invited to speak to the group to discuss the ongoing controversy with Class AA superintendents and Critical Race Theory (CRT).

In early Dec. superintendents from all eight of Montana's Class AA public schools penned a letter of no confidence in the Office of Public Instruction, Elsie Arntzen. Days later Parental rights advocates, 21 Republican lawmakers and 500 citizens sent a rebuttal letter in support of Arntzen.

Arntzen spoke of her willingness to work with all school administrators to iron out their differences. She was dismayed that the letter from the AA superintendents was released to the media before reaching out to her directly. "I firmly believe in a relationship," Arntzen said. "I believe in communication. All of those superintendents have my cell number." She stated that she will be holding a meeting directly with the AA caucus in Jan.

Arntzen also stressed her belief in local control of school policies. "I believe we need to trust our trustees. We need the opportunity to discuss those school board policies. And if those policies

do inhibit learning, lets review them," she stated.

The next topic Arntzen discussed was CRT. Critical Race Theory is an academic concept with the core idea that race is a social construct and that racism is embedded in legal systems and public policies not just individual bias or prejudice.

"A lot of schools districts are trying to understand what the definition of CRT is and try to understand what the implementation is," Arntzen said. Arntzen turned to Attorney General Austin Knudsen to address the issue.

On May 27 Knudsen issued a binding opinion on CRT. The Binding Opinion

stated that schools, other governmental entities, and employers may not treat individuals differently on the basis of race. Another point the opinion makes is that Many CRT activities violate U.S. and State Constitutions, federal civil rights laws, and/or Montana Human Rights Act. Attorney General's Opinions carry the weight of law in Montana. More information on the Attorney General's binding opinion can be found at <https://dojmt.gov/attorney-general-knudsen-issues-binding-opinion-on-critical-race-theory>.



Elsie Arntzen, Montana Superintendent of Public Instruction, speaks to Richland Co. Republicans Dec. 20.

Yellowstone Chiropractic Clinic
 (406)-433-4757 222 2nd. Ave. SW
 1-866-433-4757 Sidney, MT 59270



Dr. Ryan Laqua
 Chiropractic Physician &
 Certified Medical Examiner

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Arthur O. Damm, 85, Sidney, MT

A private family service for Arthur O. Damm, 85, Sidney, MT was held on Thursday, Dec. 23, 2021. Inurnment will be in the spring of 2022 in Richland Memorial Park Cemetery, Sidney, MT under the care of Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT. Remembrances, condolences and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.



Arthur O. Damm

Arthur O. Damm was born on Oct. 27, 1936, to William and Selma (Mick) Damm, Roosevelt County, MT. He was the oldest child of ten children. He grew up and attended schools in East Fairview, ND. Arthur met Louetta Odenbach with family friends Walter and Pearl Reichenbach, which are still family friends.

Arthur was united in marriage to Louetta on Jan. 17, 1957, in Sidney, MT. To this union they had four children, Becky, Kevin, Myron, and Brenda.

Arthur had a passion for farming, so he purchased his first farm in 1969 by Savage, MT. Arthur and Louetta worked side by side in the operation of the farm. They raised corn, wheat, barley, and sugar beets. They also raised cattle; he always had Red Herefords. Arthur loved to see his crops grow, always walking out to the fields to check on their progress. One thing for sure he always had to have his sugar beet rows perfectly in a straight line. He did an amazing job handling the farm with only an eighth grade education.

He always was figuring numbers on a piece of paper and a tape measure in his jean pocket. Arthur loved to drive the county roads on Sunday to check the crops out. For one thing if you had to move anywhere Arthur was the guy who could pack a trailer and nothing would be broken. Arthur loved to go shopping either, garage sales, flea markets and he especially loved grocery shopping.

In the fall of 2000, Arthur had a heart valve replacement in which he was not able to harvest his sugar beet crop. The Savage community was wonderful and came to help out the day before harvest was to start. Arthur was very grateful person on that day in which all his friends and neighbors came out to help him.

Arthur and Louetta would travel to Yuma, AZ for the winters. They purchased a park trailer. They met lots of good people. After his wife, Louetta passed away in 2008, he continued to winter in Yuma.

After a few years, he met a favorite person, Lorraine Enos and on Lorraine's 80th birthday they had a wedding ceremony. She has been a blessing to our family. She would come up to Montana after the winter and stay in Montana for a few months. She then would travel back to Oregon once the weather was getting cold, then they would head to Yuma for the winter months. This year Arthur was not able to travel to Yuma, due to poor health. Arthur loved to talk to people, there were no strangers to him.

Arthur passed away Friday, Dec. 17, 2021 at Sidney Health Center, Sidney, MT.

Surviving him are two daughters, Becky (Tim) Dolphay and Brenda (Brent) Bowlds; two sons, Kevin (DeAnne) Damm and Myron Damm; six brothers, Marvin Damm, Clinton Damm, Randy Damm, Jack Damm, Merlin Damm, and Delmore Damm; one sister, Charlene Kaercher; seven grandchildren, Nicholas Dolphay, Kellan (Lanis) Damm, Chadd Damm, Jaren Damm, Shelby (Shaughn) Carda, and Shaelyn Bowlds; three great grandchildren, Brayson, Tavin, Easton.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife Louetta; brothers, Raymond Damm and Gerald Damm.

Richard A. Rogers, 74, Sidney, MT

Memorial services for Richard A. Rogers, 74, Sidney, MT are at 1:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 30, 2021, at Faith Alliance Church, Sidney, MT with Pastor Paul Turek officiating. Inurnment will be in Rose Hill Cemetery, Minot, ND under the care of Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT. Remembrances, condolences and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.



Richard A. Rogers

Richard was born Sept. 21, 1947 to Lyle and Laura (Hanson) Rogers, Minot, ND. Richard was the 4th of eight children. He grew up, and attended school in Minot. Richard met the love of his life, Dorothy Shelkey when they were juniors in high school. After graduating in May 1966, Richard and Dorothy were married Oct. 21, 1966. They had five children, Laura, Rick, Blaine, Brenda and Loren.

Richard worked various jobs including working for North Dakota State Highway Department for 17 years. We then moved to Williston where Richard worked for our son, Rick, who owned Country Side Crafts. Richard and Dorothy enjoyed traveling to deliver the pine furniture to many cities on the West Coast and Canada. We then moved to Bismarck, ND where he worked for Burleigh County for 11.5 years. In September 2010, we moved to Sidney and made this our home. Richard retired in December 2014 after working for his son, Blaine at Doorbust'n Portables & Septic Service.

Richard and Dorothy enjoyed retirement by traveling to see our kids, grandkids and other family members. Richard loved spending time at the lake. He couldn't get enough of fishing, campfires, playing cards and making wonderful memories with family and friends. His pride and joy was spending time with his grandkids and great grandkids.

In 2012 Richard started having medical problems and in 2016 Richard's health started to decline.

Richard is survived by; his wife, Dorothy of 55 years; his daughter, Laura Rogers, Sidney; his sons, Rick (Barb) Rogers, Williston, and Blaine (Devra Goulart) Rogers, Sidney; his daughter, Brenda Rogers-Oddo, Williston; his brother, Gary (Sherry) Rogers, Minot; his sister-in-law, Belva Rogers; his brother-in-law, Jim Sand; his grandchildren, Jeffrey (Ashley) Stein, Shaundra Stein, Mariah Slater, Caitlin Rogers, Erica Rogers, Christine Rogers, Chelsie Rogers, Lizzie Oddo, Monte Oddo, Brian Oddo, Destiny Rogers, Sammie Brudwick, Jazmyn Rogers, Michael Rogers, Bailey Rogers, and Kaelen Vaughn; his great-grandchildren, Lane Stein, Loren Rogers, Holly Rogers, Kewon McCollum, Jordyn McCollum, Makenna Stein, Riley Stein, Kadence Rogers, Rysin Rogers, Mason Denton and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Richard is preceded in death by; his parents, Lyle and Laura; his in-laws, Dale & Rose Shelkey; his sister, Corrine Sand; his brothers, Gerald (Butch) Rogers, Lyle Rogers, Andrew Rogers, Jeffrey Rogers, and Steve Rogers; his sister-in-law, Mary Rogers; his son, Loren; his brother-in-law, Neil Shelkey, & nephew, Rory Shelkey.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Sidney Health Center of the charity of your choice in his honor.

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

RICHLAND COUNTY

Events in Sidney unless otherwise listed. MT Zone.
Wed., Dec. 29

10 a.m.-4 p.m. - **Miniature Art Show** - On display thru Jan. 15 - **Carla Leland: The Cowboy Paparazzi** - On display thru Jan. 29. - **Paige Bowman Art Show** - On display thru Feb. 26. - MonDak Heritage Center, **Holiday Hours:** Reopens Jan. 4, 2022. Reg. Hours: 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 or visit https://mondakheritagecenter.org/.

Sat., Dec. 31
 5 p.m. - **Brittney Samuelson Benefit** - Free will chili feed, silent auction, 50/50 tickets, 75¢ from every fireball ordered donated, live music by Bret Herron. VFW. For more information contact Betty, 406-480-7068.

Mon., Jan. 3
 7 p.m. - **Adult Anxiety/Depression Support Group** - Pella Lutheran Church fellowship hall, east door. For more information call the church office, 406-433-3350.

Sun., Jan. 9
 12-3:30 p.m. - **Annual Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner** **Savage** - Adults \$20; 12 & under \$5. First Lutheran Church, Savage. Lots of room to social distance, also offering meals to go.

2 p.m. - **Sidney Speech Drama & Debate Team Dessert Theater** - Free will donation. Come and see how awesome the team is while enjoying sweet & savory food. Pella Lutheran Church.

Mon., Jan. 10
 5:30 p.m. - **2022 Sidney Soccer Travel Teams In Person Registration** - Sidney Middle School Room 312. \$150 per player + cost of uniform + travel; additional \$20 to play Recreation (Jr. High 6th-8th). Birth years 2021-2001. No registration accepted without payment. Online registration also available starting Jan. 1.

Registration closes Jan. 21. For more information email sidneysoccerassoc@gmail.com or on Facebook Sidney Soccer Association. State will be June 11-12, Livingston.

Tues., Jan. 11
 7 p.m. - **Snacks & Chats** - Anxiety & depression support group for teens. Every teen welcome, no requirements, no expectations. Do homework, play games, chat or just hangout. Meetings on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays each month, Pella Church, not church related. Contact info: Insta: snacks_andchats; FB: snaksandchatsmt or snacksandchats@gmail.com.

Mon., Jan. 17
 6-8 p.m. - **Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture Annual Banquet & Awards Ceremony** - Richland County Event Center. Tickets are on sale at Sidney Chamber for \$40.

Sat., Jan. 22
 5 p.m. - **Gary Buckley Medical Benefit** - Silent auction, 5 p.m.; free will donation roast beef supper 6 p.m., live auction, 7 p.m. Richland County Event Center. For more information call Melissa Buckley, 406-489-3806. If unable to attend but would like to donate an account has been set up at Yellowstone Bank, Gary Buckley Benefit. To donate to the auctions call Travis Morrill, 406-480-9514.

Mon., Feb. 7
 5:30-6:30 p.m. - **2022 Sidney Soccer Recreational Teams In Person Registration** - Sidney Middle School Room 312. \$60 per player. Must be 5 years old by April 1, 2022 up through 8th grade. No registration accepted without payment. \$15 late fee for registrations after Feb. 18. Online registration available Jan. 1-Feb. 18. Registration closes Feb. 25. For more information email sidneysoccerassoc@gmail.com or on Facebook Sidney Soccer Association.

McKENZIE COUNTY

Events in Watford City unless otherwise listed. CT Zone
Tues., Jan. 4, 5-7 p.m. & Tues., Jan. 18, 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 for dates, times & updates.

Wed., Jan. 5
 5:30-6:30 p.m. - **The Girl on the Train Book Club** - A bi-monthly book club for patrons of McKenzie County Public Library. Books will be provided for participants but must be returned at each meeting. Patrons must sign up for each Book Club they would like to participate in. Meetings held at Library's Sanford Room. For more information visit the library or call, 701-444-3785.

Sat., Jan. 8, 8 a.m. - Sun., Jan. 9, 2022, 8 p.m.
Outlaws Winter Classic Youth 5 - Heartland States Championship Qualifying Event, 4-6th grade boys & girls. Fee \$175 team, registration deadline, Dec. 29. Rough Rider Center. Register at roughridercenter.com/events. For more information contact Liz Garcia, 701-609-8175.

Thurs., Jan. 13 & 27
 2-4 p.m. - **Food Giveaway** - First Presbyterian Church, 316 4th Ave. NE.

Sat., Jan. 15
 11 a.m. - **Soup Cook Off** - Sampling/voting begins 11 a.m. & ends 1 p.m., winner announced 1:30 p.m. \$1 per ticket, 1 ticket per taste, 3 tickets per cup. Rough Rider Center. If you would like to enter your soup in the competition call 1-701-842-3665 or visit www.roughridercenter.com.

12-4 p.m. - **Nerf Wars** - Ages 6 & up. \$5 per person. Bring your own gun, ammo will be provided. (Limited quantity of Nerf guns can be provided.) Rough Rider Center. For more information & to pre-register, visit watfordcityparks.com.

Fri., Jan. 21
 5 p.m. - **9th Annual Cowgirls 'N Conservation** - Social 5 p.m., dinner 6 p.m. Rough Rider Center. For your \$30 tickets go to McKenzie Co Soil Conservation District office, 109 5th St NW.

Sat., Jan. 22
 10 a.m.-2 p.m. - **Family Safety Fair** - Grab a snack with a sheriff's deputy, police officer or EMT & ask them your questions. Experience the inside of a fire truck, ambulance, police squad car & emergency management county vehicle! Learn to prepare for disasters & start your emergency preparedness kit. Bounce castles, face painting, cornhole & more. Concessions & coffee will be available. Rough Rider Center.

WILLIAMS COUNTY

Events in Williston unless otherwise listed. CT Zone.
Now through Fri., Dec. 31

5:30-9:30 p.m. - **2021 Spring Lake Park Holiday Lights Drive** - The park will be filled with lighted displays for a wonderful interactive evening drive. \$5 per car. View the fireworks display, Thursday, Dec. 30.

Sat., Jan. 15
 5:30 p.m. - **12th Annual Boots & Brews** - Dinner & dancing, live auction, silent auction, raffles & more. Raymond Family Community Center. Age 21 & over. Proceeds will benefit the youth Coyote Wrestling Club.

DAWSON COUNTY

Events in Glendive unless otherwise listed. MT Zone
Sat., Jan. 1

11 a.m. - **New Year First Day Hike** - This 1-mile hike, on Bluebird Trail will introduce you to Makoshika State Park badlands topography. Free food; refreshments & drinks will be provided following the hike in the visitor center. For more information, call 406-377-6256. You can share your adventure on social media with #FirstDayHikes.

WEEKLY FRAUD TIP
 BROUGHT TO YOU BY **Stockman Bank**

Meet Misty Anderson, Operations Officer at Stockman Bank in Sidney. She is just a phone call away for help answering questions on safe banking and protecting your assets by preventing identity theft. You may also stop by to visit with Misty to learn more on preventing fraud and protecting your identity.



Misty Anderson
 433-8600

301 W. Holly Street

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SIDNEY EAGLE
WRESTLER OF THE WEEK



ADEN GRAVES 160#
 Aden is a 3-time state champion running undefeated this year. Last week he beat 2 North Dakota ranked wrestlers.
Congratulations, Aden.
You are the Sidney Eagle Wrestler of the week!
 This week sponsored by Melby's Creative Curbing

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 Recovery 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.....1828.55
 Last Week's Elev.1829.1
 One Year Ago1838.7
 Release For Day (C.F.S.)16,000

SIDNEY WEATHER DATA
 Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Dec. 20.....	15	1	0.006
Dec. 21.....	19	6	0.016
Dec. 22.....	28	8	0.000
Dec. 23.....	43	23	0.003
Dec. 24.....	44	1	0.001
Dec. 25.....	4	-12	0.012
Dec. 26.....	12	-12	0.012
Total 2021 YTD Precipitation.....			7.835

Diversity, Direction, Dollars Ag Forum Set for Jan. 11

Improving productivity and decreasing costs are the focus of the forum.

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

Farmers in the western Dakotas and eastern Montana will have the opportunity to hear nationally-known speakers address topics affecting agriculture in the region during North Dakota University (NDSU) Extension's Diversity, Direction and Dollars agricultural forum.

It will be held Tuesday, Jan. 11 at the Roosevelt Grand Dakota Hotel, Dickinson.

The forum will provide ideas for improving productivity and decreasing costs while providing high quality food produced in a sustainable manner.

Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. MT with a welcome given by Mike Renner, KDIX radio at 9 a.m. Workshop sessions and presenters include:

- Analysis of the 2021 Drought and Outlook into the 2022 Growing Season in Southwest North Dakota – Adnan Akyuz, NDSU professor of climatological practice and climatologist
- Weed Control Issues: What to Look For – Brian Jenks, NDSU weed scientist, North Central Research Extension Center
- North Dakota Farm Economic Situation and Outlook – Bryon Parman, NDSU assistant professor and agricultural finance specialist
- Soybean Production



Hans Kandel, NDSU Extension agronomist, speaks to a Diversity, Direction and Dollars agricultural forum audience about growing soybeans. (NDSU photo)

for Western North Dakota – John Rickertsen, NDSU agricultural finance specialist, Hettinger Research Extension Center

- Offense versus Defense: How to Deal with Activists – Will Coggin, Center for Consumer Freedom managing director
- Acid Soil Progress Report – Ryan Buetow,

NDSU cropping systems specialist, Dickinson Research Extension Center

Farmers can expect

to come away with at least two good ideas that they can apply to their farms during the next cropping season

and at least one good idea to position their farm to take advantage of the changes occurring.

A registration fee of \$20 covers all breaks, noon lunch and materials and is payable at the door.

DPHHS Announces \$3.7 Million Investment To Help Montanans With Significant Medical Needs

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) announced has an investment of \$3.7 million over the next 18 months to provide a financial boost to over 1,300 Montana Medicaid recipients with significant medical needs.

"This investment puts money back in the pockets of over 1,000 vulnerable Montanans with challenging health care needs," Gov. Greg Gianforte said. "This will not only help these individuals with their health care costs but will also ease everyday living expenses for those who need it most."

Montanans who will benefit are part of the state's Medically Needy Program. The program allows coverage for the aged, blind, disabled, pregnant women, and children whose income exceeds the income limits of Medicaid, but have significant medical expenses.

Through the Medically Needy Program, these individuals can qualify for Medicaid benefits through a process known as "spend down." Individuals can "spend down" their income either through paid medical expenses, a cash payment to DPHHS, or a combination of the two. Remaining income then meets Medicaid eligibility standards.

DPHHS Director Adam Meier explains that this announcement will increase the income eligibility limit by \$169 per month – from \$100 to \$269 – for individuals who qualify for the program. The change is effective Jan. 1, 2022. "This increase will lower the amount these individuals will have to spend to cover their monthly contributions and will thus free up more money for basic everyday necessities," he said.

Meier said this type of adjustment hasn't occurred for 15 years.

The 2021 Montana Legislature allocated \$2.8 million for the spend down change. The Department is also leveraging state savings resulting from enhanced federal match for Medicaid – provided through the American Rescue Plan Act – to ensure even more impact to eligible Montanans.

Submitted by Brooke Stroyke, Office of the Governor

Helena, MT - Governor Greg Gianforte has provided guidance to Montana employers and employees impacted by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) rule mandating vaccines for employers with 100 or more employees nationwide.

"Montana law is unequivocal: employers are prohibited from discriminating based on vaccination status," Gov. Gianforte wrote in guidance to Montanans. "While employers may encourage employees to vaccinate, they may not tie or modify any terms of employment based on vaccination status."

On Nov. 5, 2021, OSHA published the "COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Emergency Temporary Standard" applicable to employers with 100 or more employees nationwide. The OSHA mandate violates Montana law prohibiting discrimination based on a person's vaccination status.

The OSHA mandate was immediately challenged, and its enforcement was stayed nationwide by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals until Dec. 17, 2021, when the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals issued a ruling allowing implementation of the OSHA mandate. The Sixth Circuit ruling has also been challenged and is presently pending before the U.S. Supreme Court.

In a letter accompa-

nying his guidance to Montanans, the governor wrote, "The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling is clear that no employer is obligated under the OSHA mandate to include a vaccination requirement in its COVID-19 workplace plan."

He continued, "Montana employers, in exercising their discretion under the OSHA mandate to determine the details of their COVID-19 workplace plans, must do so in a manner that complies with Montana's non-discrimination policy as expressed in HB 702 and codified at Mont. Code Ann. 49-2-312, and may not include any provisions that discriminate based on a person's vaccination status."

The governor's letter

and guidance on the legality of the OSHA mandate may be viewed at

https://governor.mt.gov/_docs/OSHAMandateGuidance.pdf

Gov. Gianforte Reaffirms Montana Law Banning Discrimination Based On Vaccination Status

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\$17,500
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LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS ITEMS

Please patronize your local business this Christmas holiday

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10am - 4pm Daily | 406-480-0074 • 406-480-4422 | 10690 Hwy 16, Savage, MT

Winter Classes Open For Registration

For details and to register, visit handyandynursery.com or our Facebook page

Jan. 15.....Forage Frame
Jan. 22.....Tropical Garden
Jan. 29.....Bonsai Basics

Forage Frame Jan 15th

Monday - Friday: 9am - 5:30pm
Saturday: 9am - 5pm
3515 West Front St
Williston, ND | 701-572-6083

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Ag Producers Should Do Year-end Income Tax Planning

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

Agricultural producers should do tax planning before the end of the year.

"It is that time of the year again to think about year-end tax planning," says Ron Haugen, North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension farm management specialist. "Generally, all or most of the government payments that farmers and ranchers received during the year must be reported as income in the year it is received," says Haugen.

"When tax planning, it is best to start with year-to-date income and expenses and estimate them for the remainder of the year," says Haugen. "Estimate depreciation and include any income that was deferred to 2021 from a previous year. It is best to try to spread out income and expenses so producers don't have abnormally high or low income or expenses in any one year."

Here are several items to note for tax planning:

- * Farmers and ranchers are allowed to use 200% declining balance depreciation for three-, five-, seven- and 10-year property. A 150% declining balance is required for 15- and 20-year property.

- * For most new agricultural machinery and equipment (except grain bins), the recovery period is five years.

- * The section 179 expense has increased. It generally allows producers to deduct up to \$1,050,000 on new or used machinery or equipment purchased in the tax year. There is a dollar-for-dollar phase-out for purchases in excess of \$2,620,000. Equipment



For ranchers forced to sell livestock due to a weather-related disaster, like drought, a livestock income deferral is available this year. (Pixabay photo)

must be above 50% business use to use Section 179.

- * The additional 100% first-year bonus depreciation is in effect. It is available for used as well as new property. It is equal to 100% of the adjusted basis after any section 179 expensing.

- * Net operating loss (NOL) carryback rules are in effect. Producers can carry back losses to offset income.

- * Like-kind exchanges are not allowed for personal property but are allowed for real property.

- * Income averaging can be used by producers to spread the tax liability to lower income tax brackets in the three previous years. This is done on schedule J.

- * Producers who elect to use income averaging for federal purposes also may use Form ND-1 FA (income averaging) for North Dakota income tax calculations.

Other tax planning

items to note:

- * Crop insurance proceeds can be deferred to the next tax year if a producer is a cash-basis taxpayer and can show that normally income from damaged crops would be included in a tax year following the year of the damage. Producers affected by drought may want to consider this option.

- * A livestock income deferral is available for those who had a forced sale of livestock because of a weather-related disaster. This is a very important consideration for producers that had to sell livestock because of this year's drought.

- * Prepay farm expenses. Feed, fertilizer, seed and similar expenses can be prepaid. Typically, discounts are received by paying for these expenses in the fall. Producers can deduct prepaid expenses that do not exceed 50% of their other deductible farm expenses.

- * Defer income to 2022. Crop and livestock sales can be deferred until the next year by using a deferred payment contract. Most grain elevators or livestock sale barns will defer

sales until the next tax year. Producers should be aware that they are at risk if the business becomes insolvent before the check is received and cashed.

- * Purchase machinery or equipment. Machinery or equipment purchases can be made before the end of the year to get a depreciation or 179 expense deduction in 2021.

- * Contribute to a retirement plan such as a simplified employee pension plan, savings incentive match plan for employees or individual retirement account.

Information on agricultural topics can be found in the Farmers Tax Guide, Publication 225. It can be obtained at any IRS office, ordered by calling 800-829-3676 or found online at <https://www.irs.gov>.

Additional questions on this topic should be addressed to your tax professional or the IRS at 800-829-1040 or <https://www.irs.gov>. North Dakota income tax questions can be addressed to the North Dakota Tax Department at 877-328-7088 or <https://www.nd.gov/tax>.

Fireworks At Holiday Lights Drive

By Sabrina Ramey

Williston Convention and Visitors Bureau

The Spring Lake Park Holiday Lights Drive is hosting a fireworks display courtesy of sponsor TNT Fireworks on Dec. 30.

The lights drive features thousands of lights in hundreds of stationary and animated display pieces. It is open nightly 5:30-9:30 p.m. through Dec. 31. Park goers can gain admittance to the Holiday Lights Drive for \$5 cash per car. Half the proceeds from the Lights Drive benefit a non-profit group working the gate each evening and half go to the Parks District to operate and maintain the attraction.

As part of a series of activity nights offered at the Lights Drive, a short fireworks program will be offered on Thursday, Dec. 30 for a New Years Eve party.

"The idea is to give kids and families a celebration to close the 2021 chapter and look forward to 2022, but a night early. Then adults can have their traditional celebration on Dec. 31 if they choose to," commented Williston CVB Director Amy Krueger.

Guests who want to watch the display from inside the park are asked to use parking area and watch for others. Slow and stopped traffic is asked to stay in the right lane of the Lights Drive Loop and leave the left lane open for thru traffic, staff and emergency vehicles. The fireworks will start at approximately 8 p.m. and last about 10 minutes. Please be patient if it runs a few minutes late! Starting fireworks in cold weather can be a little tricky. No parking will be available from the keel boat building to the fishing pier on the west side of the park. No personal fireworks are allowed. Patrons are encouraged to stay warm in their vehicles for the show.

The Lights Drive is also looking for a non-profit group to assist in cleanup the following day, Dec. 31, and help to put out luminaries for the final night of the Lights Drive. This would be a paid opportunity for a local non-profit group. Interested parties are asked to contact the Williston CVB for more information.

For more information about the activities in this article, check www.visitwilliston.com, call 701-774-9041 or find Spring Lake Park Holiday Lights Drive on Facebook

Public Comment Period Extended For Hunting Regulation Proposals

Season-setting meetings scheduled around the state

By Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Helena - The deadline for public comment on the 2022/2023 hunting regulation proposals has been extended from Jan. 14 to Jan. 21.

Those interested can view the proposals and provide comment online at fwp.mt.gov/regproposals. Comments also can be submitted by email to fwpwld@mt.gov.

This is a second opportunity for the public to provide input on 2022/2023 draft hunting regulation proposals. Earlier this fall, Fish, Wildlife & Parks biologists offered science-based regulations/proposals that combine some hunting districts, reduce some license and permit types, and eliminate hunting district portions. FWP staff held informational meetings around the state, and the public was invited to submit comments on those initial proposals. FWP adjusted the proposals based on public comment and presented them to the commission. The commission approved the draft regulations for public comment at the Tuesday meeting.

FWP is holding season-setting meetings around the state to discuss the draft hunting regulations with interested members of the public. At the meetings, biologists will present information on the draft hunting regulations approved by the commission. Following the presentations, there will be time for questions and answers.

Each of FWP's regions will hold a virtual season-setting meeting as well as part of their January Citizen Advisory Committee meetings.

To view a list of the meeting dates, locations and times visit <https://fwp.mt.gov/aboutfwp/public-comment-opportunities/reg-proposals/meetings>.

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As Ice Recreation Season Begins, Anglers, Others Encouraged To Practice Safety

By Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

It's that time of year when ice anglers and other recreationists head out to Montana's "hard" waters for the winter season.

Whether ice fishing, ice skating, hunting, snowmobiling or just taking a walk, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks staff reminds recreationists that safety should be the number one concern during a day out on (or near) the ice.

And when on the ice, remember:

- Anglers and other recreationists should be familiar with the water body they plan to fish or recreate on.

Pay close attention to the changing conditions of the ice.

- If you have even the slightest doubt about the safety of the ice—stay off of it. Nothing is ever worth a fall into frigid water.

- Blue or "clear" ice is usually gray. Watch out for opaque, hard, dark or porous spots in the ice that could be weak, soft areas. Ice also tends to thin more quickly at the shorelines.

- Note areas on the ice that look "different" —they usually are. Many times, thinner areas of ice (caused by springs, gas pockets, sunken islands, points, etc.) have a different color or

look to them. Use extreme caution or stay away from these areas.

The following are recommended minimum ice thickness guidelines (for good, clear ice*):

- Under 4 inches: STAY OFF
- 4 inches: ice fishing or other activities on foot
- 7 inches: snowmobile or ATV
- 10 inches: small car**
- 12 inches: truck or SUV**

*for white ice or "snow ice," double the above minimums

**not recommended, but if you must, proceed at your own risk.

- Watch for pressure ridges. These are areas of open water or thin ice where the ice has cracked and heaved due to expansion from freezing.

- Test the ice ahead of you with an ice spud bar or an auger.

- Don't leave children unsupervised on the ice.

- Lakes and ponds do not freeze at the same thickness all over. Some ponds have windmills to aerate water for fish survival, and ice may be thin near these areas.

- Moving water — rivers, streams and springs — weaken ice by wearing it away from under-

neath. Avoid going on ice on rivers and streams, or where a river or stream enters a lake, pond or reservoir.

- The least safe ice usually occurs early and late in the season, when the weather is warmer and less predictable.

- Remember, NO ICE is 100 percent safe!

Some other common ice-safety reminders to keep in mind include:

- Search for videos on ice safety and "what to do" if you should fall through the ice. One can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gOW8ZaYqHA>

- Consider changes in the weather (and ice conditions) during the prior 24 hours.

- It's a good idea to wear

a life jacket (PFD) or carry a throwable flotation device while out on the ice — safe ice anglers and recreationists do it all the time.

- Dress warm but practical. Many styles of ice fishing jackets and bibs provide extra buoyancy to help keep you afloat if you do fall through.

- Before you leave the house, tell someone where you plan to go and when you plan to return.

- Carry a pair of ice picks (long spikes on a heavy string around your neck). If you break through the ice, you can use the spikes to grip the ice and pull yourself out of the water.

Montana FWP wishes all anglers and recreationists a safe, adventurous, and successful season.

Start Your New Year Off Right With A First Day Hike

By Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks

Helena — Start 2022 off on the right foot with a First Day Hike at a state park near you. On Jan. 1, Montana State Parks will host First Day Hikes at Flathead Lake State Park (Wayfarers, West Shore, and Lone Pine units), Travelers' Rest State Park, Spring Meadow Lake State Park, First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park and Makoshika State Park. Being immersed in nature has never been more important for your mental health and physical well-being. These fun and informative hikes are open to all ages and are family friendly.

Montana State Parks First Day Hikes are available at:

Flathead Lake State Park (Big Arm, Wayfarers and West Shore Units) and Lone Pine State Park

Every time you hike, snowshoe, fat-tire bike, sled or cross-country ski a trail at one of these parks, log your miles at the trailhead to help lead your park to victory. At the end of the month, the participants with the most miles from each park will receive a prize. The competition will

kick off on Jan. 1 and conclude on Jan. 31.

Flathead Lake State Park consists of six unique park units located around Flathead Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake west of the Mississippi. The park units on the east side are Wayfarers, Yellow Bay and Finley Point and the west side units are West Shore, Big Arm and Wild Horse Island. In addition to boating, swimming and fishing, each park unit offers unique winter views of the lake and its surrounding mountains and don't forget the wildlife viewing opportunities.

Lone Pine State Park is located 5 miles southwest of Kalispell and offers one of the most vivid views of the valley, 7.5 miles of trails, and a beautiful interpretive center that provides information on living in a wildlife urban interface. While out on the trails in January, a hiker may come across several different mammal tracks or birds that are toughing out the Montana winter.

Travelers' Rest State Park

Stop by Travelers' Rest State Park between 10 a.m. and noon for a special self-guided First Day Hike. Brochures and activity guides will be placed outside

the Travelers' Rest Visitor Center at the park kiosk for you to take with you. Enjoy a 1.5 mile walk around the park to learn about why winter is such a special season. Enjoy the fresh air and look for wildlife on the traditional homeland of the Bitterroot Salish people, and around the only archaeologically verified campsite of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Spring Meadow Lake State Park

Visit Spring Meadow State Park for a short, easy hike just under a mile. We will discuss the history and interesting facts about Spring Meadow Lake. Hike begins at 11 a.m.

First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park

The gates at First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park will be open from 1-4 p.m. on New Year's Day for people to come out and enjoy the park's 3-mile, self-guided trail. Ranger Alice will be leading a guided hike from the visitor center starting at 1:30 p.m. for those that who like to hike with a ranger and learn about the history of this fascinating park. For more information, please call 406-866-2217 or email alice.southworth@mt.gov

Makoshika State Park

This 1-mile hike on the Bluebird Trail will introduce participants to Makoshika State Park badlands topography. Hike begins at 11 a.m. Free food; refreshments and drinks will be provided following the hike in the visitor center by the Friends of Makoshika. For more information, call 406-377-6256.

Hikers should wear weather-appropriate clothing, bring a water bottle and ice cleats or snowshoes if the trail conditions are snowy or icy. First Day Hike participants are encouraged to share their adventures on social media with #FirstDayHikes. For more information on these or other Montana state parks, visit: stateparks.mt.gov.

First Day Hikes is an annual, nationwide special event co-sponsored by America's State Parks which originated more than 25 years ago at the Blue Hills Reservation — a state park in Milton, Mass. All 50 states will be participating in the tenth annual national event that encourages everyone to celebrate the New Year with guided outdoor exploration.

OBITUARIES

Carolyn Wolff, 85 Sidney, MT

Funeral services for Carolyn Wolff, 85, Sidney, MT are at 2 p.m., Monday, Jan. 3, 2022, at Ebenezer Congregational Church, Sidney, MT with Pastor Dave Meehan officiating.

Visitation will be 12-6 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 2, 2022, at Fulkerson-Stevenson Memorial Chapel, Sidney, MT.

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

Carolyn passed away on Sunday, Dec. 26, 2021, at Roosevelt Medical Center, Culbertson, MT.

Gordon Bradley, 88 Sidney, MT

Mass of the Christian Burial for Gordon Bradley, 88, Sidney, MT is at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2021, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, Sidney, MT with Fr. Jim O'Neil as presider.

Wake services were held at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2021, at Fulkerson-Stevenson Memorial Chapel, Sidney, MT.

Interment with Military Honors will be in Crane Cemetery, Crane, MT at a later date under the care of Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT.

Visitation was 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2021 at the funeral home and one hour before mass at the church.

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

Gordon passed away on Friday, Dec. 24, 2021, at Sidney Health Center, Sidney, MT.

Arline M. Pust Unruh, 95 Sidney, MT

Funeral services for Arline M. Pust Unruh, 95, Sidney, MT are at 10 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 30, 2021, at Yellowstone Community Church, Savage, MT with Pastor Butch Hart officiating.

Interment will be in Sidney Cemetery, Sidney, MT under the care of Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT.

Visitation will be 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2021 at the funeral home and Arline's casket will be closed at the church.

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

Arline passed away Saturday, Dec. 25, 2021, at Sidney Health Center Extended Care, Sidney, MT.

New Medicare Scams Target Telehealth

**By Jennifer Schultz, Communications Coordinator
Missoula Aging Services**

Missoula, MT - Dec. 1 - Multiple accounts of scam calls have been reported to Montana's Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), including new attempts to take advantage of Montanans' increased use of telehealth during the pandemic. The current complaints document unsolicited phone calls people are receiving with the purpose of sending unnecessary medical supplies or stealing Medicare numbers. Those calls include "we need to confirm your Medicare number" and "you are eligible to receive a free genetic test kit."

Telehealth fraud has increased along with the increased use of telehealth during the pandemic. Telehealth services include virtual office visits and certain medical services using two-way telecommunication systems like video, telephone, and email. If you don't know whom you are speaking to and

they are inquiring about your medical needs, please hang up and consult your own provider.

If you receive a call from someone you don't know claiming to be with Medicare or a provider who will bill Medicare and they request your personal information or would like to send you free medical/lab testing kits, including genetic or cardiovascular, please hang up and report this to Montana SMP at 1-800-551-3191.

Always read your Medicare Summary Notice for improper billing of items or services.

If you suspect telehealth fraud, address it immediately. If you receive an unsolicited phone call from someone wanting to verify your pain symptoms, family history, or medical illnesses including cardiovascular, genetics, or any cancer, or you receive unsolicited medical devices or test kits in the mail, please call your local Montana SMP at 1-800-551-3191.

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Sidney's Top Stories of 2021

New Richland County Fair Manager Focuses On Connecting Community & County Fair

By Anna Dragseth

As of Sept. 13, Pamela Shelmidine-Wipf joined the Richland County Fair & Rodeo as the new fairgrounds manager. With this position, she oversees the day-to-day operation of the fairgrounds, including regular maintenance and rental of the buildings. She will also procure the entertainment for the fair and oversee the logistics of Richland County Fair & Rodeo.

"Everything has been going well. I am enjoying getting to know the fair staff and the 4-H staff. I look forward to meeting more of the people in the community," stated Wipf.

Wipf is originally from Jefferson County in upstate New York. She is a 10-year veteran of United States Air Force, has three grown children, and loves fiber arts, quilting, and gardening. Her most recent position was Jefferson County Fair manager, which is the longest continuously operating county fair in United States.

She said, "I have been a county fair manager for many years where the position was seasonal, to have the opportunity to manage a facility that operates year-round was always on my

priority list."

She is looking forward to getting to know Richland County, its businesses, and its people. Her long-term goal is to find ways to improve our fairgrounds to make it "the place to be" at any time of the year.

The community is key to the success of any county

fair. She explained that she hopes to continue to nurture the positive relationships with community members and businesses that are already in place.

Wipf added, "I want to develop new relationships with local groups and businesses to grow an even stronger bond between the

community and Richland County Fair. I strongly be-

lieve the fair should support as many local businesses as

possible - we cannot thrive without each other."



Pamela Shelmidine-Wipf

Laqua Elected MT State BPOE (Elks) President

Dr. Ryan Laqua, Sidney, was elected Montana 2021 state BPOE (Elks) Lodge president in July 2021. He will serve a 1-year term.

Laqua has owned Yellowstone Chiropractic Clinic, Sidney, for 20 years and has also been a member of the Sidney Elks Lodge for as long. He served as Exalted Ruler from 2006-08, District Deputy to the Grand Lodge from 2008-10 and has served on various state committees. He is the current trustee chairman for the local lodge. In July 2019 he was elected 2nd vice president of the Montana Elks Association.

At this year's national Elks convention in Tampa, FL, he was chosen to carry the Montana state flag in front of 6000 members.

Laqua is very active in the community. His memberships include:

Sidney Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture,



Dr. Ryan Laqua. (Photo submitted)

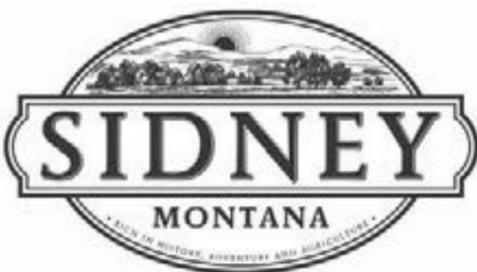
Sidney Moose Lodge, API, Sidney Swim Team Board and Sons of Norway.

The Sidney Lodge focuses on serving the youth and veterans. They participate in the local and national Hoop Shoot program, drug awareness grants, awards

the largest scholarship award, supporting community organizations and local benefits.

The lodge is the 4th largest in the state.

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Sidney's Top Stories of 2021

Ribbon Cutting & Grand Reopening Of Sidney-Richland County Library

Sidney-Richland Co. Library Held Open House & Ribbon Cutting

Sidney Richland Co. Library held their open house and ribbon cutting in October. Pictured for the ribbon cutting are (L-R) Mayor Rick Norby, Loren Young and Duane Mitchell, Richland Co. commissioners; Brandon Janshen, SDI Architect; Karen McNutt, library board; Jenna Janshen, SDI Architect; Katie Dasinger, RED; Nancy Verschoot, library board; Kathryn Murphy, librarian; Chip Gifford, chamber board; Ezzie O'Clair, librarian; Kali Godfrey, Sidney Chamber Executive Director; Kelly Reisig, library director; AnnDee Taylor, library board; Miranda Evenson, librarian; Diana Miller, library board; Robin Hernandez, past library board; Terry Sivertson, library board; Suzie Kringen, Kringen Construction; and Leslie Messer, RED Director.



By Anna Dragseth

The Sidney-Richland County Library celebrated its newly renovated space with a ribbon cutting on Wednesday, Oct. 20. The open house gave the public a chance to see the space and visit with library staff about current programs

and services.

"We love our library, and we are proud of the space we have," said SRCL Director Kelly Reisig

The library went through renovations on the outside, downstairs, the main area, and the inside upper level. A new parking area was created behind the library along with new landscaping and pavement.

The downstairs is an entirely renovated area that added over 5,000 square feet to the library space. It includes a new children's area for story time and books, a new library-dedicated small program/class space, and a new office for the Learning Volunteers for Adults Program (LVA).

The main area of the library includes new restrooms, new circulation area, new computer stations, and additional seating areas. The upper level now has a new Montana History Room, teen area, and shelves for large type, adult fiction, and nonfiction materials.

Reisig explained that the biggest catalyst for the

improvements was the absolute need for space in every area of the library.

She said, "Our maintenance person had no storage or floor drains for cleaning. Although we had a basement, it needed improvement and had no access for those that were unable to use stairs. The demand for the library's collection continues to be high and our ability to fulfill that need was greatly diminished because of our limited capacity to add to the collection. Finally, we also needed space for programs. Our weekly story time, for example, was held upstairs. In order to prepare we had to move all of the tables, push library shelving out of the way (which meant that during the program parts of the collection were not accessible). Even with those changes, we would find that the space could not accommodate the number of children and families in attendance."

She is most excited about the accomplishment of making the renovation possible. "A public library is a result of the dedication of the community, the Library Board of Trustees, and the staff. As a city-county library we also are fortunate to enjoy the support from both the City of Sidney and Richland County Commissioners. Most libraries have capital improvements as a result of a bond referendum that, if passed by the voters, ultimately increases the taxes in a community. We didn't have to do that because Richland County Commissioners believed in the library and wanted to make those improvements without passing on that tax burden to the taxpayer. It's rare, often overlooked, and is a great example of what makes living in this county so special."

The library has partnerships throughout the community to enhance services and education. This new space enhances its collection, programs, and services in a myriad of ways that will make Richland County a better place.

Advanced Communications Brings Local Radio Expert "Back Home"



Pictured left: (L-R) Justin Damm, Melissa Damm and Larry Denowh.

Advanced Communications has brought another local communications expert home to Sidney. Justin and Melissa Damm have purchased Advanced Communications, Sidney, after Larry Denowh's retirement in November 2021.

Damm who was born in Sidney, is a 1993 graduate of Sidney High School and earned an electronics degree in 1995 from DeVry Institute of Technology, Phoenix, AZ. In 1997, he began his radio business career at

Joriga Electronics, Tempe AZ. In 2007, he moved to Billings and worked at Priority Communications and in 2010 he moved on to become Industrial Communications' service manager in Billings.

He and his wife, Melissa, who is a Sidney Middle School Special Education teacher, will be serving all of Richland County and the MonDak area.

"I had always told Larry that if he ever wanted to sell that I would be interested

and I would like to move "back home." He finally took me up on the offer.

"People are different here. As you meet and visit with people here, they are just friendlier," said Justin.

When asked how he got into the business Denowh laughed and said, "After working here for ten years. The previous owner, Rosealea said you're going to buy a business today" and she made me a deal I couldn't refuse.

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Sidney's Top Stories of 2021

Sidney's New Outdoor Ice Rink Will Expose More Kids To Hockey

By Anna Dragseth

Quillings Park, Sidney, looked a bit more festive this holiday season with the addition of a new outdoor ice rink.

Michael and Cole Fink, two brothers who are actively involved with the Richland Rangers Alumni Association spurred the ice rink's inception. Cole Fink stumbled upon outdoor ice rink boards for sale on Facebook and thought it would be a great idea to buy it to put in Quillings Park.

"We thought if there is a rink for public use, that would help more kids get involved in hockey and be introduced to it at a younger age, which is good for the hockey program itself," said Dr. Michael Fink, Richland Youth Hockey Board and the Alumni Association President.



Bogdan Oprica and Cole Fink work on constructing the walls of the rink. (Photo submitted)

The two brothers discussed it with the Hockey Board and split the cost of the rink equipment with the Alumni Association. They

soon got the okay from the City of Sidney and started installing the boards.

"The only other rink in town is the one inside



The new hockey rink at Quillings Park, Sidney. (Photo submitted)

the hockey rink and that is being used quite often. You also have to be a member of the hockey association to play hockey at that rink, so we thought this would be great to get non-members involved in the sport," said Michael Fink.

This will give kids a chance to go and play a game of hockey without being coached. Fink says the

area lacks "neighborhood get together pick-up games."

"Kids used to go play sports in a field or find a little pond and play hockey. Nowadays, sports are so structured from the get-go. It is good for kids to learn by playing with neighborhood kids of different ages and learn the sport on their own without being coached."

This outdoor ice rink

will help offer some of that for hockey players and non-hockey players alike; allowing hockey players to learn the sport on their own.

Quillings Park has a warming house and lights, making it a perfect place for the rink. Once the ice gets solid enough to be maintained, it will be ready to play for kids of all ages to play on.

Richland County Title Holds Ribbon Cutting In New Location



Richland County Title held a ribbon cutting and open house in their new location at 108 4th St. SE, Sidney, on Aug. 25. Pictured are (L-R) Landan Jones, Hanna Jepsen, Alli Nelson, Lynn Cole, Eldon Moos, Heidi Tennancour, Doreen Ottemoeller, Jennifer Lear, Nick Hacker, Kendra Baldt, Cassandra Schubert, Tonya Williams, Denise Matson and Kali Godfrey.

Sidney Lions Club Celebrates 50 Years Of Service

Submitted by Kristin Kennedy, Sidney Lions Club

Sidney - Sidney Lions Club celebrated its 50th year anniversary on Saturday, May 15 at Sidney Elks Lodge.

Since the club's chartering in 1971, its members have worked on a variety of projects in the local community, such as Adopt-a-highway, Christmas Wreath, Flags for First Graders, Lions Trap Shoot fundraiser for scholarships, Meals-on-Wheels, Mint Sales, Peace Poster, People Movers the Richland County Fair & Rodeo, Pie Social at Crestwood & the Lodge, Youth Track Meet, Sight Screenings - just to name a few. Proceeds from past fundraising events have gone to scholarships, flood victims, Camp Mak-A-Dream, Richland County Food Bank, area schools, local non-profits and many, many, more. The Sidney Lions Club is planning the

Youth Track Meet on May 10 and Lions Trap Shoot on June 27.

According to Raymond Carlson, 2020-2021 Club President, "We are proud of our club's 50 years of service to the community. The Lions club members thank everyone who contributes to this important work. You are truly helping Lions make a difference in our community."

To celebrate this milestone, the club hosted a 50th Anniversary celebration at the Sidney Elks Lodge, Saturday, May 15. The Sidney Lions Club has 62 members and meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 12 p.m. at Sidney Moose Lodge. Lions clubs are a group of men and women who identify needs within the community and work together to fulfill those needs. For more information or to get involved with the Sidney Lions Club, please contact the sidney.lions.club@gmail.com or find them on Facebook Sidney

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Sidney's Top Stories of 2021

"Rockin' Your Heart Weekend" Pasture To Plate Ranch Tour Held June 5

By Nicole Lucina

The weekend was all about beef, cattle, ranchers, education and fun. The "Rockin' Your Heart Weekend" took place June 4-5 and was sponsored by the MonDak Stockgrowers Association.

A team roping event kick started the festivities on Friday at Richland County Fair and Rodeo. Participants were able to demonstrate their roping skills.

With a chance to watch roping skills, live music, food and concession stands and the beer gardens, attendees from young to old had something they could enjoy. Alyson Shriver performed at the event.

"She's got a beautiful voice. People really enjoy listening to her," said Kristin Larson, TITLE with the Montana Beef Council.

Saturday's celebration started with the 5K/10K beef run called "Run For

The Brand." Larson said the run/walk brought in a good crowd with 30 participants. The medals handed out were made from cow tags and water bottles were donated by MT Bare Cave.

This year marks the 9th anniversary of the Cattleman's Ball. With February being Heart Healthy Month, these events have traditionally been held then. Larson explained they wanted to add more events and came up with the Pasture To Plate Ranch Tour.

The tour gave people the chance to see firsthand and learn about a working ranch, its history, the cattle, their operation and many other aspects. Tour participants met at Sidney Livestock Saturday morning and took a bus out to Bar JV Angus Ranch owned by Dale and Jill Vitt.

The family-owned and operated ranch got its start between 1931-1932 when

Dale's great grandfather started it, making Dale a fourth-generation rancher. Having started with only a few cattle and sheep, the ranch has come a long way with now having hundreds of cattle.

With so many misconceptions surrounding cattle and beef, Larson said that was the motivation and incentive to add the ranch tour.

"People think that cattle spend all their time in feed lots, and that's not the case," said Larson.

There is a lot more to cattle operations than people think. Sustainability was one of the main topics discussed on the tour. In an effort to help educate people on the topic they explained why grazing, rotating pastures, the feed, minerals, water and even their genetics play such a big part in the quality of the beef.

"So many people don't know where their beef

comes from. They think it just comes from the store," Larson said.

What a lot of people don't know is that farmers and ranchers run extensive tests and put in a lot of effort to have the best genetically sound cattle. Weight, frame, build, feet, legs, milk, fat and marbling are just a few factors that are looked at when dealing with the genetics of cattle.

Consumers want the best beef possible, and ranchers strive to provide that. Cattle become like family to the ranchers. Their cattle are cared for and treated much like a human child is treated by its mother. They are given things such as minerals for nutrients and standard, preventative vaccines to keep them healthy. They even go so far as to use insect repellants for the cattle's comfort. The only other time they receive medication is when they're sick and it's necessary, so the beef is all-natural.

"You can ask Dale about any cow, and he can tell you everything about it," Larson said.

By rotating pastures for cattle, it not only changes up their diet with different



Dale Vitt talking to the group about his cattle operation. (Photo by Kristin Larson)

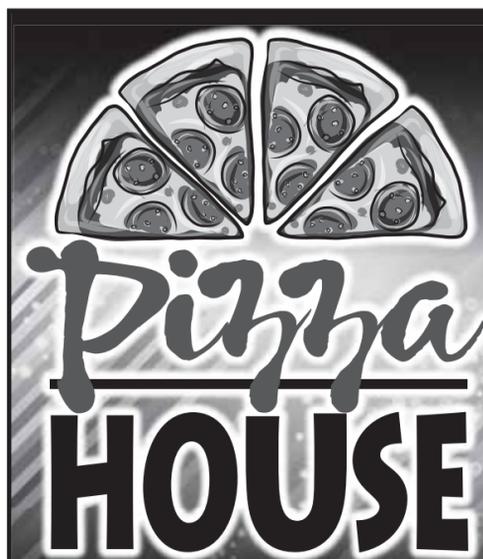
plants, grass and feed for them to graze but it's also good for the land. While people talk about maintaining fields, it was pointed out that mother nature does that for the ranchers all on its own.

Cattle's hooves till the land, their manure fertilizes it and the rain and snow water it, all playing a role in the maintenance of the pastures.

It has also recently been a subject of study and found that there are multiple health benefits in beef/red meat. The Montana Beef

Council, founded in 1954, has done extensive studies and research on the benefits of beef.

It's full of vitamins, minerals, amino acids, improves muscle mass, is an antioxidant, prevents iron deficiency and so much more. Beef provides 10 essential nutrients and is also low in calories. The Montana Beef Council provides information on their website www.beefitswhatsfordinner.com, about the nutritional benefits, different recipes and so much more.



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Sidney Youth Center Comes Back!!

Submitted by Sean Dodds, Eastern Montana Community Mental Health Center

Today's youth are facing more stress and anxiety than ever before, which has led to an increase in youth mental health and substance abuse issues in Richland County over the years. Since Sidney Public Schools switched to a four-day week back in the fall of 2020 we, as a community, have been searching for a way to keep students engaged in healthy activities during their extra day off each week.

Sidney Public Schools, along with the Drug Free Communities Coalition and Faith Alliance Church, have teamed up to bring you the Sidney Youth Center. Our goal is to provide a safe place where students grades 6-12 can come to hang out, play games, do homework, and get some free tutoring if they need it!

"This has been something our community has wanted and needed for quite

some time now," says Jaylea Siroky, DFC coordinator, "and even before switching to a four-day week we've struggled to provide a resource for kids to relax or receive support outside of school. I'm excited to see how we can build on this in the future!"

The Sidney Youth Center reopened on Friday, Sept. 17. Kids are welcome to come anytime between 1-4 p.m., and we will continue to be open on every

Friday that kids are not required to be in school.

We are still actively searching for adults who are passionate about helping youth in our community to volunteer during these days. Anyone who is interested should contact Harry Owczarek, pastorharry@faithalliancesidney.org or Sean Dodds, sdodds@emcmhc.org for more information.

The Sidney Youth Center is located at 301 E. Main, Sidney.

Sidney Young Professionals Hosts MT Young Professionals Summit 2021

By Anna Dragseth

This year the 2021 Montana Young Professionals Summit was held in Sidney June 9-11. This is a statewide event that helps Young Professionals in Montana expand their professional networks and personal development. It provides them with the opportunity to explore the different aspects that make up the United States.

This year the theme was "Where Energy Meets Sustainability; the Land of Oil and Ag". This was the first time that the event was held in eastern Montana. Past host cities include Great Falls, Billings, Butte, and Kalispell.

"Our committee felt it was important to highlight different tours of our region which will be a different experience for attendees. While we will still had personal/professional development breakout sessions and keynote speakers, the tours offered attendees the opportunity to get out of the classroom/office and truly see what makes Richland County successful," said Katie Dasinger, Sidney Young Professionals president and Richland Economic Development program coordinator.

Dasinger was excited to show off the "amazing community" of Sidney. She said, "It is often said that Sidney has limited opportunity and is not as vibrant as communities in western Montana. But we know that isn't true, but now we were able to show this truth to others."

MTYP has a tradition of honoring young professionals from across Montana for the difference they make in their communities. There are four state awards and as the host city, Sidney also gets to have a Sidney-Centric award for one of our local young professionals. Nominations for the awards are free, anyone can nominate, and nominees need to live and work in Montana and be between the ages of 18 and 40. To nominate for a state award, check out their website at www.sypsidney.com. To nominate for the Sidney Young Professional of the year, send an email to sypsidney@gmail.com with the name of the nominee and a write up of why they should win.

If you or someone you know is interested in attending, register online at www.sypsidey.com.



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Sidney's Sports Champions of 2021

Sidney Hosts Big Sky State Games 3 on 3 Hockey Tournament March 19-21

The Richland Rangers Arena will hosted the Big Sky State Games 3 on 3 tournament March 19-21 in Sidney.

The Big Sky State Games is open to amateur athletes in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and Idaho. The ice hockey portion includes all age groups. Mites, termites, bantam, pee wee squirts and jr. gold divisions will participate. There is a limit of eight teams per age group.

The games will consist of two teams of three players. The rink is divided in half and two games are played simultaneously. There is a one period with a 30-minute runtime. There is no penalty box so all penalties will result in a free shot at the goal.

Tiger Sharks Take 1st Place at State

Pictured below is the Sidney Tiger Sharks swimming team after taking 1st place at the state tournament in Columbia Falls.



Richland Ranger Girls 12/14U Silver Place 1st

The girls 12/14U Silver wins over Dickinson in OT 5-4 to win the state championship. The Rangers were at Mandan. (Photo submitted)



Back To Back PeeWee Silver Champs!

The Richland Rangers PeeWee hockey team took first place for the second year. The Rangers scored at 2-1 victory over Devils Lake in West Fargo in March. Coaches: Josh O'Donnell, Justin Collins and Shane Schantz; Aaron Filler, Korbyn Johnston, Brody Verhasselt, Morgan Reid, Miguel Trevino, Kalin Price, Stetson Armes, Brady Collins, Morgan Kindopp, Nic Farrow, Mark Berg, Aslee Everett, Avery Schantz and Bridget Ligon. (Photo submitted by Kaci Schantz)

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



(L-R) Front: Dawn Rehbein, Gary Schoepp, Marissa Topp, Trina Buxbaum, Michelle Dignan. Back: Jeremy Kish, Axle Cremer, Peggy Franzen, Kristen Nathe, Dan Smith, Orlon Bostrom, John Cremer. Not Pictured: Caitlin Yadon

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Sidney's Top Stories of 2021

Sidney's Sports Champions of 2021

Sidney Wrestlers Win 4 in a Row

The Sidney/Fairview wrestling team had a dominant performance yet again at the Montana State Class A Wrestling Tournament last year in Miles City. The Eagles have now won four state Class A titles in a row.

The eastern division took four of the five top team places this year. Sidney came out first with 326.5 points followed by Laurel with 188 points. Fergus (Lewistown) was in third with 182.5 points. Frenchtown finished fourth with 162.5 points. Rounding out the top five was Custer Co. (Miles City) scoring 127 points to place fifth.

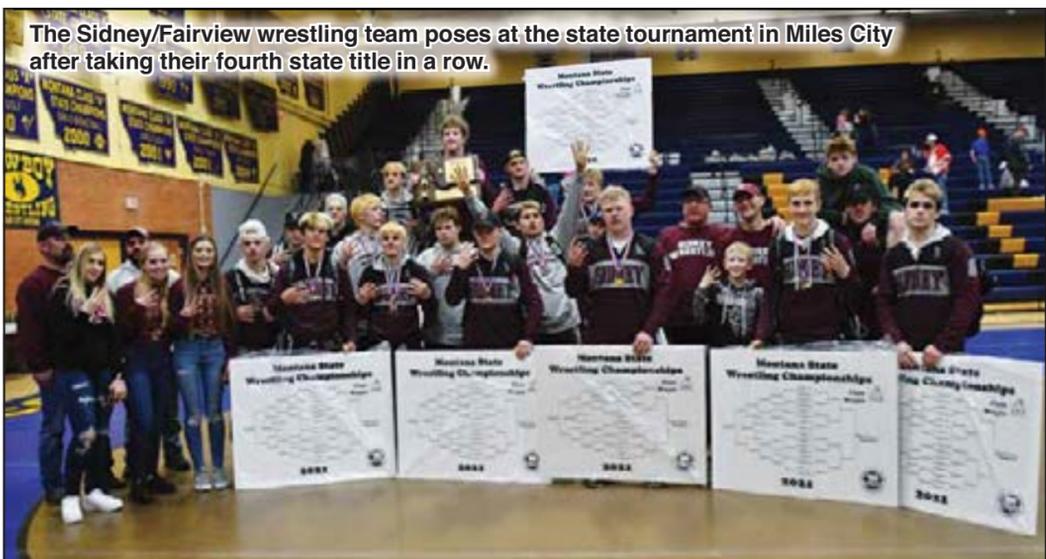
The Sidney/Fairview High School wrestling team was in first place after the first day of action at the tournament. They advanced 14 wrestlers to the semifinals with one in the consolations at the start of the second day. Sidney/Fairview advanced nine wrestlers to the finals after the semifinal round. Six of those wrestlers became state champions. The team had 14 wrestlers in the top three places and didn't lose any matches in the consolation final round. Five wrestlers placed third with one wrestler placing fifth. For full results see page 10.

State champions were Owen Lonski at 113#, Zander Dean at 126#, Aden Graves at 152#, Kade Graves at 160#, Riley Waters at 182# and Brodey Skogen at 285#. Lonski and Skogen are now 2x state champions and Aden Graves and Waters are 3x state champions.

"It was a pretty dominant performance. They went out there and did what they needed to do," said head coach Guy Melby.

It was a bittersweet end to a strange year for the team due to the pandemic. The Sidney/Fairview wrestling program hit 602 dual wins under Melby's leadership. "We made the best of the situation at hand," stated Melby. "We were thankful to get to wrestle and we took it day by day."

The Eagles will lose ten seniors after this year, nine of which are state placers. "When you have ten seniors obviously you are going to have some holes in the lineup. These underclassmen haven't been sitting around playing checkers," said Melby. "But our seniors have done a great job of developing these younger kids. They are great role models."



The Sidney/Fairview wrestling team poses at the state tournament in Miles City after taking their fourth state title in a row.



Wyatt Reid & Emma Cundiff. (Photo submitted)

Cundiff, Reid State Champs at Virtual State Speech, Drama & Debate Tournament

Sidney High School hosted the first ever Virtual State Speech, Drama and Debate Tournament. Usually the tournament is only two days however with WiFi restrictions it was a three-day meet. Twenty Class

A schools from across the state competed via computer. Judges from across the state via the internet judged the competitors.

When the tournament was all done the results were broadcast live from the

SHS library over the MHS website.

Emma Cundiff and Wyatt Reid were state champions in Classical Theatre. They are a duo that is meant to be.

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Sidney's Top Stories of 2021

Allcheck Medical Clinic Holds Grand Opening, Adds Additional Providers

The Allcheck Medical Clinic held its grand opening July 14 at 223 N. Central Ave., Sidney (located at the east end of the Checkers building).

The Allcheck Medical Clinic offers patient health care for every stage of life. Its goal is to provide a medical facility where patients can be comfortable, listened to, and understood. They focus on prevention and staying well - they will be available when something comes up, whether that means caring for you in the clinic or helping coordinate the care you need with other specialists. They understand the busy home and work lives of patients and offer compassion and respect, with flexible appointment times, easy scheduling, and secure online access to results and other information.

They have three providers on staff at the clinic. Carlos Trevino, MD, is from Texas and has been in the medical field for over 30 years primarily practicing family medicine.

In September Martha Nugent, APRN-CDP-AG-NP-C, (Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner) was added to the medical clinic team. Martha became a registered nurse in 2011. She

enjoyed caring for oncology patients in the hospital, and her specialty naturally became medical oncology. Martha later attended the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, TX to obtain a Master of Science in Nursing. She became board-certified as an Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner in April 2019. She moved to Sidney, in Jan. 2020 to work alongside Dr. Chad Pedersen at Sidney Health Center - Cancer Care as the Oncology Nurse Practitioner where she cared for patients undergoing cancer treatment. Her areas of experience include oncology and radiology nursing, chemotherapy administration, wound care, and patient education. She also ran the High-Risk Breast Clinic, Pulmonary Nodule Clinic, and counseled patients prior to genetic testing.

Martha loves helping others, but there is a special place in her heart for the elderly population. She recently became a Certified Dementia Practitioner through the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners®, so that she can teach caregivers how to help our loved ones with dementia.

Martha is an active member of American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, Montana State Oncology Society and Oncology Nursing Society. She frequently travels outside of the local area to educate her peers in Montana and Wyoming about the NCCN (National Comprehensive Cancer Network) guidelines for follow-up on incidental pulmonary nodules and the challenges of lung cancer treatment in rural areas.

Martha was just voted as one of the top three for the Advanced Practice Provider by the newspaper readers of Richland County. Martha states "she is proud to join Dr. Carlos Trevino, the team at Allcheck Medical Clinic, and believes we are a wonderful addition to the community, and is excited to grow with us!"

On Dec.1 Allcheck announced the addition of Van K. Le, PA-C.

Van was born in Vietnam and spent most of her teenage years in England before moving to the US in the late 1990s.

Van attended South Bank University in England and received her BS honors in food science in 1991. She then received her BS in



Carlos Trevino, MD
(Submitted photo)

biology from the University of Texas at Dallas in 2016 and graduated from her Master Program in Physician Assistant Studies at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Feb. 2021. During her clinical rotations, she discovered a love for family medicine, which emphasizes the importance of having a long-term working relationship fostered between providers and their patients across the ages.

Van is a licensed physician assistant for the State of Montana, is a member of Montana Academy of Physician Assistants, and also a member of AAPA -



Martha Nugent
(Submitted photo)

American Academy of Physician Assistants, and the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. She carries an AHA certification in Basic Life Support, certification in Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support, Basic Disaster Life Support and American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry Medication - Assisted Treatment Online PA Waiver Training. She graduated with honors at University of Texas, Dallas.

Van has two children, both of whom are grown and reside in California. When not working, she enjoys walking her dog, hiking, and



Van K. Le, PA-C
(Submitted photo)

keeping in touch with family and friends. She also loves to cook, bake, knit, paint and sing karaoke.

Van is fluent in both the English and Vietnamese language. If you would like to schedule an appointment with Van, please call 406-488-5500.

Janette McCollum, Allcheck and Checkers owner, said, "Our goal is to offer additional healthcare for the Richland County community and surrounding area." More information about the clinic can be found at www.allcheckmedicalclinic.com.

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Sidney's Top Stories of 2021

2021 Marks Niehenke Welding's 100th Year Of Quality Service To The Community



Pictured above: Stan Rosaaen building his first addition onto the old mobile gas station, which is still part of the shop with the original mobile colors from the '50s. (Photos submitted)

By Anna Dragseth
 Since 1921 Niehenke Welding has been providing quality service to the community - with its top priority being area farmers and ranchers. The company specializes in general welding, agricultural repairs, heavy equipment welding, fabrication and machining.
 Joseph John Niehenke started the company in 1921. After serving in World War I, he bought a shop in Sidney, and started providing blacksmith services to the area. The shop was originally located near 120 2nd St NW.
 In 1936, J.B. Dawe Jr. purchased Niehenke Welding and moved it to its current location on North Central Ave. Stan Rosaaen

then purchased the company from Dawe in 1971. "After my dad returned home from the Vietnam War, he worked at the shop with Dawe. Then purchased the company and partnered with Rocky Oberfell," said Ross Rosaaen, Niehenke Welding current owner.
 Richard Williams, Stan's half-brother, was also a big part of Niehenke Welding for 15 years. "We owe him some credit for what Niehenke is today. He provided good service and was a good welder - he taught me a few things," said Rosaaen.
 In 2011, Ross Rosaaen bought the company from his dad, Stan. Ross grew up in the shop playing basketball and hide and seek. He

said, "I spent a lot of time in this shop. I would come up here on weekends with my dad and early mornings in the summertime - I have helped my dad out since I was 11 years old."
 Ever since Ross purchased the company, the mission of Niehenke Welding has stayed the same. "We have not changed our service to the community. They are our number one priority and always have been - we keep our community first," added Rosaaen. "Our number one goal is to provide quality service to our local farmers and ranchers. We try to keep the cost of the repairs down as much as possible because farming these days is expensive - I am a 24/7 guy if they need

me, I'm up here."
 When asked why he thinks the company has been in business for 100 years, he responded, "Determination, my dad's determination is what has been keeping this company running. All he did was work and he still does; he is working six-hour days up here in the shop and he is 73 years old."
 Rosaaen describes welding as a lifestyle, not a job; he enjoys serving his community. He said, "Niehenke wants to thank all the farmers, ranchers, and the local community for the support. Niehenke Welding is what it is because of my father, Stan, and because of the support of locals."

Kallevig Retires From Stockman Bank; Whiteman Named Sidney Market President

After more than 40 years of dedicated service to the community and Stockman Bank, Garth Kallevig retired March 31.
 Kallevig began working for Stockman Bank in 1981. His early years at the bank included capacities in customer service, real estate, and commercial lending. Kallevig then began his role as Sidney Market President in 2006.
 A native of Sidney and long-time resident, Kallevig studied at the University of North Dakota-Williston and Montana State University. He has been active in many community organizations over the years including the likes of the Sidney Education Foundation, Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, Boy Scouts and Dollars for Scholars. Kallevig also served as Sidney School Board Chairman.
 In addition to Kallevig's retirement, Pam Burman, Consumer Loan Department Manager, and Deana Bauer, Administrative Assistant will both be retiring. Burman is an eastern Montana native and has been in banking for over 43 years, including 20 with Stockman. Bauer has been with Stockman for 37 years.
 Wade Whiteman, cur-

rent vice president, Ag Loan Department Manager, took over as president of the Sidney market April 1. His new responsibilities as market president will include overseeing bank operations, management and employee supervision, all lending activities, as well as oversee branch management in Plentywood.
 "I have every confidence that Wade will do a great job with our amazing staff and team we have here at Stockman Bank," comments Kallevig. "With his experience here in Sidney along with background and positive leadership skills, he is and will be a great asset for our team and the MonDak area for many years to come. Plus, growing up in eastern Montana, Wade knows and understands the unique lifestyle and traditions we enjoy"
 Whiteman, an eastern Montana native raised in Richey and a Montana State Alum, has been with Stockman Bank since 2010. Whiteman has been actively involved in the community serving with the Richland County Conservation District, HealthWorks Board and MonDak Ag Days Committee.

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Sidney's Top Stories of 2021

Richland County Fair Adds New 4-H Structures

By Jody Wells

The Richland County Fair & Rodeo will feature some new construction for this year's event. The new 4-H complex and buildings were built with B&B Builders as the general contractors for the project. The new complex consists of a horse barn and stalls; a sheep, swine and goat barn and a cattle barn. Along with these three separate barns, there is also a new show area with expanded grandstands. B&B is also constructing a new fence around the north parameter of the fairgrounds.

The buildings are replacing the old 4-H structures that are planned for removal.

The new buildings are located where the old agriculture building once stood, to the east and north of the 4-H food booth. The exhibits and booths that used to be in the old agriculture building will be in the commercial building this year.

The Richland County 4-H program has needed this expansion for many years. "Plans were in the works before I started as extension agent in Richland County back in 2010," said Richland County Extension Agent Tim Fine. Due to increasing numbers of 4-H participants the program outgrew the old buildings years ago. The hope is this new expansion will suit the needs of the 4-H program for years to come.

This year will be a learning year for how to best utilize the space. "We are still working out the kinks," said Fine. "We are figuring out how to run things more efficiently." Besides using the structures for the fair, the hope is to also use them year round. Most notably would be the Keith Steinbeisser Memorial Livestock Judging Competition that has been held at the Dynneson Feedlot.

The new project is part of a grand plan for the future Richland County Fair and Rodeo. "This is the biggest thing in Eastern Montana," said Richland County Commissioner Duane Mitchell. "We get people from all over. Last time I counted we had 32,000 people in four days."

The expansion was four years in the making. Richland County officials spent a full year of that time evaluating what was needed with two years of study. They used projected growth data, input from fair participants and board members to assess what was needed. The location near the main grandstands and large rodeo arena was key along with the ability to use the structures year round. "There are so many tiny details, it just takes forever to get things figured out," stated Richland County Commissioner Loren Young.

Local ranchers have also stepped up to provide temporary livestock panels for this year's fair. "For this year we are going to use livestock panels donated by large producers in Richland County and western North Dakota," said Richland County Commissioner Shane Gorder. Everything will be permanently fenced in for the future, but this will give them

The new 4-H show arena and grandstands during the 4-H Market auction at the Richland County Fair.



a good idea of where these permanent fences should be placed.

The project hasn't been without its challenges. Weather and the pandemic have been the biggest hurdles to overcome. The project started Oct. 22, 2020, which was late considering the size of the project and the required completion date. The next biggest challenge has been obtaining the materials for the project. The disruption in distribution chains due to the pandemic has been a fight for the contractors.

The weather conditions have also been both a blessing and an obstacle for the project. "Mother Nature treated us good this winter. It worked well for pouring winter concrete," stated B&B Builders owner Roger Byer. The spring and summer climate has had the opposite result for the project. "The top dirt is just dust," Byer added. "It takes a lot of water and time to make the dirt usable."

Luckily the storm on June 10 didn't force any major setbacks. There were a few dented items and a contractor trailer was to-

taled. None of the new structures were damaged.

B&B Builders worked closely with the fair board, Richland County Commissioners and SDI Architect Desig, Miles City, in constructing the project. "It's nice to be doing this expansion for such an incredible staple to our community," said Byer. B&B Builders was also the contractor for the fairgrounds office and ticket building, Richland County Events Center, 4-H and school exhibit building located at the fairgrounds.

Sidney's Butler Ag Equipment Opens



Butler Machinery Company Service Manager, Colton Carlin

Sidney's new Butler Ag Equipment shop has been up and running as of Nov. 1. The facility is located at the former B&B Rentals location, 34940 MT-23, near the intersection of MT-16 and MT-23. It is the company's first store in Montana and 20th location throughout the Midwest.

The company offers a full line of AGCO equip-

ment brands, select CLAAS equipment and other smaller ag-focused lines, as well as ag technology, parts and service. They represent many manufacturers including Caterpillar, AGCO, CLAAS, Drago, Horsch, Killbros, Balzer, Sullair, Metso, Mesaba, Trail King and more.

Since 1955, Butler Machinery Company has been the leader in agriculture and

heavy equipment in North Dakota and South Dakota. It is a third-generation, family-owned equipment dealer with 20 locations spanning over North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Montana.

For more information on the company and their locations, check out their website at www.butlermachinery.com and/or butlerag.com.

Richland Federal Credit Union Welcomes New Agricultural Loan Officer

Sidney, MT - Richland Federal Credit Union (Richland FCU) is pleased to announce the hiring of Tim Fine as an Agricultural Loan Officer, effective Nov. 1, 2021. Tim is joining the credit union's experienced agricultural team alongside fellow loan officers Nancy Verschoot and Chris Gardner.

As an agricultural loan officer, Fine will work on developing and analyzing the financial needs of the credit union's agriculture members including operating loans, term loans for equipment and livestock, and real estate loans.

"We are excited to add Tim to our team of professionals to serve the members of our credit union,"

said Kevin Mayer, Richland FCU CEO. "Tim's past employment as a county extension agent brings a wealth of knowledge in crop production and livestock. He is well-known and respected by our farmers and ranchers."

Fine comes to Richland FCU from Montana State University where he served as an extension agent. His work with Richland Extension focused on agronomy, livestock and horticulture. Fine has been involved in many aspects of agriculture production throughout most of his life. As the new agricultural loan officer for Richland FCU, Fine will be combining his love for the agricultural industry with the credit union's values.

"When I moved here, my objective was never to make the agricultural community adjust to what I wanted or needed, but rather to become a respected member of that community and a trusted resource," said Fine. "There are plenty of forces working against our agricultural producers and it is important to me that I be involved as a resource working for them. This new position allows me to continue to help this vital group through the collaborative and trusted network created by Richland FCU."

For more information about how Richland FCU can support your agricultural loan needs, call 406-482-2704 or email general@richlandfcu.com.

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Sidney's Top Stories of 2021

Sidney Health Center Year In Review

By Rita Steinbeisser
Sidney, MT - In 2021, Sidney Health Center accomplished great things as it adjusted to a "new" normal with record-high patient volumes in the clinic, ER and hospital. Despite many challenges, there were several reasons to celebrate throughout the year. The organization kicked off 2021 celebrating the 10th year anniversary of the Cancer Care radiation therapy

services. In 2011, Sidney Health Center expanded its outpatient cancer services to include radiation therapy when it opened Phase I of the Cancer Care suite with the installation of a Tomo-Therapy Hi-Art radiation system. This was the first of its kind in Montana and has proved to be a vital and necessary service in the MonDak region - treating 600 area cancer patients in its tenure.

Recruitment efforts continued with the addition of four physicians and two physician assistants, bringing the total to 45 members on the medical staff. Among the new recruits included Dr. Eric English in the ER, Dr. Andrew Roberts as a hospitalist, Dr. Peter Deveaux in general surgery, and Dr. Rouba Hadi for pathology support. In addition, physician assistants Joan Turek and Adrienne Bryant were

hired to improve access to care through the Primary Care and Same-Day Clinics.

New services included the addition of aquatic therapy and the joint venture with fAIRMED, a critical transport company, to bring an affordable air ambulance service to residents living the MonDak region.

In July, the Rehabilitation Services started offering aquatic therapy with the installation of a 15' x 15' Endless Pool. The pool was installed through a collaborative effort between Rehab Services and HealthWorks, where the pool is located. Funding for the \$400,000 pool project was provided through designated funds from Sidney Health Center, grant funds from the Foundation for Community Care, and a healthy donation from the Good Cents Store.

In October, Sidney Health Center's Care Flight service hit the skies, offering high quality, affordable, air medical transportation for

patients requiring emergent or urgent medical care that is not provided locally. To date, the service has flown 35 patients to regional destinations including Billings, Great Falls, Bismarck, and Fargo. Of those transports, Care Flight has assisted area facilities including Baker, Ekalaka, Glendive, Lewistown, Malta, Miles City, Plentywood and Poplar. Through donations from the Foundation for Community Care and Richland County, Sidney Health Center was able to secure \$2.9 million in funding to purchase a plane for the air ambulance service.

And last but not least, the organization made great strides to address the impacts of COVID-19 in the community. Sidney Health Center expanded its Same-Day Clinic providers, implemented COVID-19 drive-thru testing for symptomatic individuals and set-up an outpatient monoclonal IV therapy unit to reduce hos-

pitalizations and non-emergent visits to the Emergency Room. Additional efforts were made to expand access to COVID-19 vaccinations for employees, patients and residents.

Since the onset of the pandemic, one of the main concerns has been the health and well-being of the workforce and the community. It's been a full year since Sidney Health Center received the first shipment of COVID-19 vaccines and administered the initial doses of the Moderna vaccine. Since then, a lot of work has been done to protect the health of the workforce, long-term care residents and the patients through the continued use of PPE, screening, testing, and vaccination.

Through it all, Sidney Health Center's mission remains the same, which is to help you achieve your highest level of health and well-being.



Care Flight's first flight of 2021. (Photo submitted)

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Lucy's Bloomers, LLC Opens



Lucy's Bloomers is located on South Central Ave., Sidney, next to The Depot.

A brand new garden center opened up on S. Central Ave., next to The Depot, Sidney, called Lucy's Bloomers. They will be open seven days a week from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. MST during the summer months. The garden center carries a large variety of items such as Black Gold and Miracle Gro Soils, fertilizers, peat moss, stone décor, yard spinners and more.

The garden center also offers a wide variety of succulents, annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs. Their garden store will be filled with yard décor, a variety of pots and yard/garden chemicals.

Mel retired in December after 36 years of working for White Drug. Vicki and Mel Hoffman decided to open up a garden center of their own where they will carry several new items.

The plants that his customers have come to love will be sold exclusively at Lucy's Bloomers, with the addition of trees and shrubs zoned for our area.

For more information about the garden center checkout their Facebook page: Lucy's Bloomers Garden Center or follow them on Instagram.

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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.



Burton Pollari dissecting a pig heart. (Submitted photo)

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 preparation 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 healthcare industry.

For more information on the program visit www.scmtahec.org/high-school/medstart/.

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Sidney's Top Stories of 2021



Huckleberry Children's Boutique Holds Ribbon Cutting

The Huckleberry Children's Boutique held a ribbon cutting and grand opening on July 31 in Sidney. Huckleberry will fill the need for clothing and accessories for babies and new mothers in the Sidney area. Huckleberry Children's Boutique is located at The Shoppes at Peifers General Store building, 141 7th St. SW. Pictured above is (L-R) Elaine Stedman, Sidney Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture President; Jordyn Melby, Huckleberry Children's Boutique owner and Kali Godfrey, Sidney Area Chamber and Agriculture Director.

The Parlour Holds Grand Opening



The Parlour had a Ribbon Cutting on Thursday, May 27 for their Grand Opening. Pictured is back from left, Amy Bieber, Shay Steinbeisser, Hanna Jepsen and Mike Eberling; front, Elaine Stedman, Nick Johnson, Emersyn and Larysa Hurst, Paula Eberling, Madina Sult, Alli and Violet Nelson and Kali Godfrey. (Photo by Nicole Lucina)

Mimi's Kitchen Makes A Full Recovery After Devastating Fire



Above: The newly renovated Mimi's Kitchen, 106 2nd St. SW, Sidney,

Right: The Olivelle Oil & Vinegar display inside Mimi's Kitchen.



By Anna Dragseth

After a devastating fire in October 2019 that burnt down most of Mimi's Kitchen, Sidney, the business has made a full recovery.

Mimi's Kitchen is a family-owned business that makes customers their number one priority. They specialize in quality cutlery, cookware, bakeware, dinnerware, gourmet foods, coffee and other special gifts. They also offer cook-

ing classes, shopping and lunches.

Mimi's Kitchen is excited to have bounced back from the fire and is happy to have their business up and running.

Mimi's Kitchen's retail side of things reopened for business on Monday, April 26. The business is open from Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. They offer grab and go breakfast and serve

Chef Amy's daily lunches in addition to pies and other goodies.

For more information on Mimi's Kitchen and their re-opening, check out their Facebook page: Mimi's Kitchen or their website at <https://mimiskitchenco.com>. They can be reached at 406-488-MIMI (6464).

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Sidney's Top Stories of 2021

Cape Air To Replace Fleet With New Planes



Tecnam P2012 Traveller at the Sidney-Richland Municipal Airport.

By Jody Wells

Cape Air presented their new Tecnam P2012 Traveller planes to the public at the Sidney-Richland Municipal Airport on April 7. The new planes will replace the airline's current fleet of Cessna 402s. The first commercial flight from the Sidney Airport took place April 9. The company currently has three of the new planes in service in Montana with two more entering service. Eventually all eight planes in

the Montana fleet will be replaced with the new Tecnam P2012 Traveller. The older Cessna 402s will remain on hand as backups making Cape Air's service even more reliable in the future.

The Tecnam P2012 Traveller is an eleven-seat aircraft designed and manufactured by the Italian company Costruzioni Aeronautiche Tecnam, based in Capua, Italy, near Naples. The new planes will make room for an additional seat

on each flight and will increase the cabin capacity by 30%. The high wing design will ensure a great view from every seat. Other new features include Italian leather seats, overhead lighting, under seat storage, USB charging ports and cup holders. The increased cabin capacity will also provide additional head & leg room compared to the Cessna 402.

Cape Air, the nation's largest commuter airline,

began serving eastern Montana Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2013, taking over the service provided by Big Sky Airlines. From its hub in Billings, Cape Air operates daily, year-round flights to five regional communities. There are currently five daily round trip flights to and from the Sidney Airport to Billings. Reservations can be made by visiting capeair.com or by calling 800-CAPE-AIR.

Gulliver's Under New Ownership

Sidney's first original soup and sandwich shop, Gulliver's Restaurant continues to provide delicious meals to the community, despite change in ownership.

The restaurant has been in business for 40 years, with 27 of those years being under the ownership of Joan Nelson. She has been looking to sell the business and retire but continued to operate it because she did not want to see it close its doors.

As of Nov. 1, Katie Tringali, a Gulliver's employee, took ownership of the



Joan Nelson and Katie Tringali. (Photo submitted)

restaurant. Tringali has been with the business since 2012 and wanted to see it flourish instead of shutting down.

Gulliver's Restaurant will have a re-grand opening and ribbon cutting at the beginning of the year.



Blend Hair Salon and Spa

Blend Hair Salon and Spa, a new business in Sidney on the corner of 2nd St. SE and 2nd Ave., had their ribbon cutting on Monday, May 3. Pictured from left are Lindsey Lawrence, Elaine Stedman, Larisa Hurst, Jayme and Raquel Kelly, owners; Alli Nelson, and Kali Godfrey.



It's All Gravy Opens In VFW

Katie Herman opened It's All Gravy in the VFW, 124 2nd Ave. NE, Sidney, on July 15. It's All Gravy is open Monday-Friday 4-8 p.m. There are nightly specials and Katie caters also. She has free delivery within Sidney limits. For more information call 406-480-9194.

Pictured are (L-R) Larry Herman, Josh and Katie Herman.



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Sidney Dental Moves To New Location

Sidney Dental moved to 406 N. Central Ave. in March. There were previously located in the West Side Professional building. Dr. Franco Ferrara, dentist, practices in general dentistry, crowns and implants. For appointments call 406-482-2666.



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