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Wednesday, November 25, 2015

Volume 41 • Number 41

The Eastern Montana Toy Rescue Is Giving Well-Loved Toys A Second Chance

While some toys just need to be cleaned up, others require more extensive repairs, a challenge volunteers are up to.

By Meagan Dotson

The Eastern Montana Toy Rescue is taking donations, asking for toys that are well used or toys in need of repair. The idea of a toy rescue took shape about ten years ago as founder Duane Nelson had already been fixing toys for his kids and the kids of neighbors and friends. “I started thinking that there are a lot of kids out there without any toys and that fixing toys and donating them would be a good deal,” said Nelson.

The non-profit organization began in the fall of 2015, with six volunteers lending their range of talents to the project, based out of Circle. Each volunteer, including two pastors and a few retirees has their own specialty; woodworking, painting, sewing, electronic and mechanical repair. The Eastern Montana Toy Rescue accepts toys year round, and is happy to be getting started in time for the holidays. Nelson made wooden drop boxes for four locations in preparation for the Christmas season and drop off locations include Circle Insurance Agency, in Circle, Beagle Properties in Sidney, Ray and Wanda Hageman in Jordan, and the Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture in Glendive. Nelson is able to check the drop boxes regularly as he travels working as a home inspector.

Organizations in the area such as the Salvation Army, Kiwanis, Lucky Charms of Jordan, and local churches let volunteers know about families in need and the refurbished items are delivered.

“I feel that we’ve all been blessed with certain talents and if we can share those with others, we should,” Nelson commented, adding that there are a lot of organizations that take new toys, and so the toy rescue is only taking ones that are well used or need fixing.

For more information visit them at Eastern Montana Toy Rescue on Facebook.

In keeping with tradition, The Richland County Tavern Association is donating twelve baskets of food, which include everything for Thanksgiving dinner. Pictured are, L to R, Ray Johnson, South 40; Heather Johnson, Winner’s Pub; Kelly Burke, Bob Burnison, Salvation Army; Reese and Ray’s IGA manager; and Joel Kleinsasser, Rod Iron Grill and Cattle-ac.

Early Christmas In Watford City

By Sheridan Martin

“Put A Jingle In Your Step” is this year’s theme for the 15th Annual Parade of Lights Celebration in Watford City, ND. On November 27 at 6:30 p.m. you can expect to see floats of all shapes and sizes decorated to popular Christmas songs. Citizens can look forward to enjoying hot chocolate, food and Main Street local shopping along with the parade.

Watford City is also setting up for their new Food Drive. This year will be the second drive and they expect a great turnout. For every non-perishable food item a person brings, they receive one ticket entry for a drawing to win 1,000 Watford City Bucks. They set up the same time as the Parade of Lights at an empty lot on Main Street.

Earlier in the evening, visitors can take friends and family to a Live Nativity on Main Street at 5:30 next to the food drive. Put together by local churches, the Live Nativity has been a great start to Watford City festivities to get the community geared up for Christmas.

Williston Downtowners Holiday Stroll

By Tie Shank

The Williston Downtowners Association will be hosting its annual “Holiday Stroll” on Fri., Dec. 4 from 1 – 8 p.m.

What a great opportunity to join your friends and neighbors by kick-starting your holiday shopping while enjoying lots of great festivities in the downtown district. Activities include a visit with Santa, carolers, treats, sales, music, an ice sculptor and much more!

4 - 5 p.m. - WHS Vocal Jazz carolers around Downtown

4 - 7 p.m. - Ice Sculptor

5:15 - 6:15p.m. - First Lutheran Church carolers around Downtown

6:30 - 7 p.m. - WHS Brass Quintet at The Salvation Army Family Store

7:00 - 7:30 p.m. - WHS Brass Quintet at Downtown Plaza

7:30 p.m. - Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Clause & It’s a Wonderful Life at Old Armory - presented by Entertainment, Inc.! Purchase your tickets through the box office by calling 701-577-3179.

Sidney Chamber Enjoying “A Christmas Story” During Christmas Stroll

The Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture is holding its annual Christmas Stroll & Parade of Lights this year on Saturday, November 28th.

This year will kick off with the stroll which is themed, the “Christmas Story” from 12pm-4pm, with the parade starting at 7pm.

For more information on the Christmas festivities in Sidney see the B section inserted in this week’s paper.

The Parade Of Trees Is On Display At The Mondak Heritage Center, Bringing Festive Focus To A Good Cause

By Meagan Dotson

It is that time of year again, and the Parade of Trees is being hosted by the MonDak Heritage Center, 120 3rd Ave South, lending its festive display to Sidney’s local museum through December 7. This is the first year that the event has been held at the MonDak, previously being hosted at Reynolds Market and the Village Square Mall. “The MonDak Heritage Center was quick to jump on board with the Parade of Trees this year,” commented Kim Simmonds, Executive Director. “Not only does it help one of the largest non-profits in our community, but the trees and wreaths on display will create a beautiful backdrop for our MonDak Christmas event, which will take place the first Sunday in December.” “The staff at the MonDak Heritage Center have been excellent in helping us with this project,” said Developmental Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Richland County Michele Seadeek.

The Parade of Trees began in 2006 as a fundraiser for the Boys & Girls Club of Richland County and the Family Resource Center, having raised thousands of dollars for the organizations; local residents and businesses are invited to donate decorated trees and wreaths to be auctioned off Sat., Nov.28, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. during the Christmas Stroll with the Parade of Lights to follow. There is room for thirty-two trees and eight to ten wreaths, depending on size. Entry forms can be picked up at the Boys & Girls Club, 200 3rd Ave SE. Those who donate are asked to glue the sections of the tree together, glue bulb ornament tops onto the bulbs, and wire all ornaments to the trees to prevent them from being broken when they are picked up. It is also asked that there are no loosely glittered ornaments, real feathers, or live plants including fruits and vegetables on the donated trees and wreaths. The last day to donate and set up was Nov. 20 and voting for Best of Show, People’s Choice, Most Creative, and Best Wreath will begin Nov. 21. Nov. 21 will also begin the bidding for five dessert gift baskets and one gingerbread house; a list of what each basket contains will be available at the MonDak and the final bid of the silent auction will be the starting bid for the live auction, both on Nov. 28.

Extension cords will not be included with the auctioned trees, but must be provided and labeled for the display; extension cords can be picked up following the auction. Purchased trees and wreaths can be picked up Dec. 7 and 12. For more information or to donate an item, contact Seadeek at 406-433-6763 or Project Coordinator for the Family Resource Center Melissa Kostelecky at 406-433-4097.

MNAXLP

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AREA RECOVERY GROUPS

MONDAYS:
12 p.m. — AA Group Trinity Lutheran Church Ed. bldg., 214 S. Lincoln Ave, Sidney.
1 p.m. - 3 p.m. – Grief Reovery Support group at Glory of the Lord Family Ministries, Watford City.
6 p.m. – Al-Anon,Trinity Lutheran Church Ed. bldg., 214 S. Lincoln Ave, Sidney.
7 p.m. – Fairview Alive and Kicking at Faith Alliance Church, 704 S. Western Ave.
8 p.m.— AA Group, Northern Pump & Compression, Watford City. Call 770-3603 or 770-2675 for directions or ride.

TUESDAYS:
7 p.m. — AA Group Trinity Lutheran Church Ed. bldg., 214 S. Lincoln Ave, Sidney.

WEDNESDAYS:
8 p.m.— Al-Anon, Sanford Room, McKenzie Co. Public Library, Watford City.

THURSDAYS:
7 p.m. – NA meeting, MonDak Trucking office Bldg., 725 W. Holly, Sidney.
8 p.m.— AA Group, Northern Pump & Compression, Watford City. Call 770-3603 or 770-2675 for directions or ride.

FRIDAYS:
12 p.m. – AA,Trinity Lutheran Church Ed. bldg., 214 S. Lincoln Ave, Sidney.
12 p.m. - 1 p.m. - AA meeting, basement of Wilmington Lutheran Church, Arnegard.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.- 5 Stones faith based recovery meeting, Sidney Nazarene, 606 9th St. SW, Back door is open.
7 p.m. – Path to recovery at Faith Alliance Church, 704 S. Western Ave.
8 p.m. – AA meetings, Trinity Lutheran Church Ed. Bldg, Sidney.

SATURDAYS:
7 p.m. – AA 24 hour group, Northern Pump & Compression, Watford City. Call 770-3603 or 770-2675 for directions or ride.
9 a.m. & 7 p.m. — AA Group Trinity Lutheran Church Education bldg., 214 S. Lincoln Ave, Sidney.

SUNDAYS:
7 p.m. — AA Group Trinity Lutheran Church Ed. bldg., 214 S. Lincoln Ave, Sidney.

STATISTICS

LAKE WATER LEVEL REPORT

	Sakakawea
Current Elevation	1841.0
Last Week's Elev.	1841.1
One Year Ago	1841.4
Release For Day (C.F.S.)	13000

SIDNEY WEATHER DATA

Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Nov. 16	44	21	0.00
Nov. 17	45	20	0.00
Nov. 18	51	26	0.00
Nov. 19	36	11	0.00
Nov. 20	30	9	0.00
Nov. 21	39	11	0.00
Nov. 22	53	25	0.00
Total YTD Precipitation			12.95

Kermit "Bud" Erickson, Sidney, MT

Funeral services for Kermit "Bud" Erickson, 89, of Sidney, MT, was at 2 p.m., Mon., Nov. 23, 2015, at Faith Alliance Church in Sidney with Pastor Paul Turek officiating. Interment was in the Sidney Cemetery under the direction of the Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home. Remembrances, condolences and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com. Visitation will be on Sun., Nov. 22, 2015 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. at the funeral home only.

Kermit "Bud" died on Mon., Nov. 16, 2015, in West Lafayette, IN.

Campbell Soup Company Issues Spaghettios Recall

Submitted by Montana Department of Health

Campbell Soup Company is voluntarily recalling 14.2 oz. cans of SpaghettiOs Original due to a potential choking hazard posed by pieces of red plastic found in a small number of cans. This plastic material is from parts of the can lining which may peel off.

The affected 14.2 ounce SpaghettiOs Original product has a date of February 22, 2017 which is stamped on the base of the can, and a UPC code of 51000 22432 printed under the bar code. The issue was identified after the company received consumer complaints. This recall affects 355,000 cans and is limited to the United States.

According to Ed Evanson of the DPHHS Food and Consumer Safety Section, the state is working closely with its federal and local partners on this issue. "In cases such as this, DPHHS works closely with the Food and Drug Administration and local health departments to ensure that stores with the affected product pull them from the shelves," he said.

DPHHS recommends that anyone who has purchased this product return it to the store where it was purchased for an exchange or full refund.

This product should not be eaten. Please visit fcss.mt.gov for more details regarding this recall or for more information call 1-866-535-3774 between 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. EST, Monday to Friday or visit www.Facebook.com/SpaghettiOs.

Christmas Coalition "Gifts from the Heart"

Submitted by Jakkie Waller

The Richland County Community Christmas Coalition is pleased to announce that the annual "Gifts from the Heart" gift distribution for the needy is scheduled for December 12, 2015. The event will once again be held at the Masonic Temple (on Main, across from the Courthouse) in Sidney. The hours for the distribution will be from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. and recipients will be allowed to choose gifts for a child that resides full time in their home and is under the age of 18. Recipients must be residents of Richland County.

The Christmas Coalition also assists the Richland County Food Bank and the Fairview Food Bank in distributing food boxes. The goal is to provide every family with all the ingredients to make Christmas Dinner!

Now is the time to begin keeping an eye out for gifts for donation. Many good buys can be found and Christmas will be here before we know it. Toy donations can be dropped off at any Richland County Edward Jones offices. Hats & mittens can be donated at any Richland County financial institution. And monetary donations can be taken to Stockman Bank or by contacting Jakkie Waller for pick up.

If you or your group would like to assist in setting up, food sorting or be shopper assistants, please call Jakkie at 480-9117.

Please remember, we ask that children DO NOT accompany the parent or guardian during the shopping experience.

Bootleggers Ball 2016 Letters of Need Deadline Nov. 30

As the Sidney Elks Lodge furthers its mission of Charity…….Elks Care, Elks Share…..is its mission.

Sidney Elks Lodge 1782 has donated over $35,000 this year benefiting the Sidney Boys and Girls Club, the local Cancer Coalition, the Veterans, Boy Scouts, Little League, Drug Awareness, the Sidney K-9 program, the LVA, the Food Bank, a number of scholarships, Camp Make-A-Dream, the Sidney Health Center Color Run, and the Neil Hermanson Memorial Scholarship.

One of the major fundraisers for these charitable donations was held early in February. The 2015 Bootleggers Ball raised $15,000 largely due to our table sponsors: Hurley Enterprises, Chaz N Line, Sidney Liquors, LoenBro, Joslin Trucking and J & T Welding, Prairie Electric, KC Sand, Nagle Ranch, Reneau Welding and Modern Machine. We would like to thank these generous sponsors.

Looking ahead to 2016, we would like to build on last year's charitable giving. We are asking for your help. Instead of the guessing who needs charitable donations from the 2016 Bootleggers Ball, we are asking Richland County Non-Profit Organizations for letters of need (no more than one page) to be submitted to Sidney Elks Lodge Bootleggers Ball Committee 123 2nd St. Sidney, MT on or before November 30th, 2015. Please include the following: Name of Organization, Contact person with phone number, Goals and Objectives of the Organization, a brief description of and budget for the project, how much money is needed for the success of this project and state if other funds will be used. For more information contact Jodie Leland 406-480-1999.

MNAXLP

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$20.99 Turkey Dinner
$23.99 Prime Rib Dinner
We will be closed at 6pm so our employees can enjoy the holidays with their families.
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EVENTS

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

RICHLAND COUNTY

Events in Sidney unless otherwise listed. MT Zone.

Fri., Nov. 27
10:30 a.m. - Storytime. Ages 0-5 years. Sidney Public Library.

Sat., Nov. 28
12 - 4 p.m. - Christmas Stroll.
12 - 4 p.m. - East Main. Kids Carnival located in the Village Square Mall. Downtown Holiday Sales. Food, beverage, and craft vendors.
1 p.m. - Centre Theater. Free matinee of The Christmas Story. All ages welcome!
1 - 4 p.m. - RestorX Building. Chili cook off. Free hot chocolate Boy Scout popcorn and sugar cookie decorating.
2:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. - Richland County Public Library will be having pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus.
6 p.m. - Boys & Girls Club Parade of Trees. The trees will be on display to view through MonDak Christmas.
7 p.m. - Central Avenue. Parade of Lights.

Mon. Nov., 30
7 p.m. - Sons of Norway Scandinavian cooking classes. The dishes and cooks will vary each week. 714 East Main. For more information call Bec at 406-488-5455.

Tues., Dec. 1
3:30 - 4:30 p.m. - Lego Club at Sidney Public Library.
4:30 - 5:30 p.m. - Lego League at the Sidney Public Library.

Fri., Dec. 4
10:30 a.m. - Storytime. Ages 0-5 years. Sidney Public Library.
4 p.m. - 8 p.m. - St. Matthew's Craft Bazaar. 310 7th St. SE, Sidney, MT. Lunch will be available. Contact Kelly at 482-5878 evenings.

Sat., Dec. 5
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. - St. Matthew's Craft Bazaar.

Sun., Dec. 6
1:30 - 3:30 p.m. - MonDak Christmas. The MonDak Heritage Center & the Boys & Girls Club will be partnering to host this event which is free. Everyone is invited to attend. A relaxing afternoon of music and refreshments. There will be a bake sal with an array of Christmas goodies, breads, cookies and jellies A photographer will be on hand to take photos with a "Jolly Old Soul".

MCKENZIE COUNTY

Events in Watford City unless otherwise listed. CT Zone.

Fri., Nov. 27
5 - 8 p.m. - Beautiful Bakken Photography Exhibit Debut. The photographers will be present at the debut and reception at the Long X Visitors Center. For more information, contact Daniel Stenberg at 701-444-2990, or email mckenziecountymuseum@gmail.com.
6:30 p.m. - Main Street. Annual Parade of Lights. For more information or to have a float in the parade, call 701-570-5084 or email wcchamber@ruggedwest.com.

Tue., Dec. 1
5 - 8:30 p.m. - Design Your Succession Plan. The program is designed and implemented through the NDSU Extension Service to help you better communicate and work on your family farm/ranch legacy. Tues. & Thur. evenings. Classes will start with a light optional meal. To be held at the McKenzie County Courthouse. Cost to attend $150 which includes binder and workbook. Additional family members $100. You can register at www.bit.ly/DYSPreg. For more info. contact the McKenzie County Extension Office at 701-444-3451 or email extension agent at marciahellandsaas@ndsu.edu or karla.ryan@ndsu.edu. This is a 5 module course to be taken over 3 days. Dec. 1, 3 & 10.

WILLIAMS COUNTY

Thur., Nov. 26
4 - 7 p.m. - Free Community Thanksgiving Dinner. New Hope Church. For more information contact newhopehere.com.

Fri., Nov. 27
6 p.m. - Holiday Lights Parade down Mainstreet Williston.

Fri., Dec. 4
1 p.m. - 8 p.m. - Annual Holiday Stroll. Hosted by the Williston Downtowners Association. Kick start your holiday shopping with family and friends while enjoying lots of great festivities in the downtown district. Activities include a visit with Santa, carolers, treats, sales, music, an ice sculptor and much more.
4 - 8 p.m. - Books on Broadway will be having a book signing featuring 6 authors. Cecile Long, Jim Marmon, Dorth Vader, Charles Rathert, Dick Bingeman, and Jennifer Kendall.
5:30 p.m. - Reindeer Games. Family fun night. Free. Cookie decorating, ornament making, pictures with Santa and much more. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Williston State College. 1410 University Ave, Williston.
Dark - Spring Lake Holiday Lights Drive. $5 per vehicle. Over 60 display pieces. On most weeknights, the Holiday Lights Drive offers activities such as photos with Santa, Friday night movies, Magic of Winter, craft nights and more.Proceeds are divided between Williston Parks and the non-profit group working in the ticket booth each night. For more details call 701-774-9041.

Sat., Dec. 5
9 a.m. - 4p.m. - Confluence Scrapbooking. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center. For more information call 701-572-9034.
6 p.m. - Festival of Trees. Join us for a formal evening of dinner, tree & silent auction, drinks & dancing. Williston State College. 1410 University Ave. $50. Must be 21 and over. All proceeds go to Williston Friendly Faces who are involved in "planting positive seeds" year round in Williston, most notably the Santa's Elves Project which helps families in need of a little extra cheer during the Christmas season. Tickets can be purchased at the CVB located on airport rd.

Sun., Dec. 6
5:30 p.m. - Traditional Twelve Course Polish Christmas Dinner St. Joseph's Church, 106 6th St. W, Williston. Only 120 tickets to be sold. $100 each. Proceeds will be used to send the St. Joseph's Youth Group to attend World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland. For more information call St. Joseph's Church at 701-572-6731.

DAWSON COUNTY

Events in Glendive unless otherwise listed. MT Zone.

Thur., Nov. 26
12 p.m. - 11th Annual Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by the Buechler family. Richey Senior Center. If you can't make it for lunch, join for leftovers at supper. Free of charge. For more information call Marilyn Buechler at 406-773-5693 or Deb Gibson at 406-773-5566.

Wingate Ribbon Cutting

The Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture held a ribbon cutting at the Wingate Hotel in Sidney on Nov. 17. Left to right: Steve Sparks, Garth Kallevig, Lola Herbert, Brandon Taylor, Grace Warren-Diaz, Kristin Kennedy, Marissa Eberling, Kelly Papineau, Stasia Creek, Salina Hagwood, John Stickel, Lawrence Wortham, Shelley Lenz and Kelly Reisig.

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Wildlife Woodcarver At The Mondak

Submitted by Trish Stevenson

"Across the West - New Work by the Blue Buffalo Artists" is currently on display at the MonDak Heritage Center. The group of painters and sculptors create in a variety of media but share a passion for the West as inspiration. Several of the artists were in attendance at the reception held Nov. 21, 2015. Most of the artwork is 2-dimensional, however, our featured artist today was Joan Kosel, who creates her 3-dimensional sculptures by carving wood, specializing in wildlife subjects such as deer, elk, foxes and bears.

Joan Kosel

MNAXLP

The City Of Williston Is Taking Steps To Attract New Retailers To Its Community

Submitted by Barbara Peterson

Williston Economic Development and the Williston Convention and Visitor Bureau are collaborating with Buxton to identify the people who shop and dine in Williston and what new retailers would best serve them.

Buxton representatives were in Williston today to present their initial findings from their advanced consumer analytics. About 60 investors, developers, business and civic leaders attended the meeting to gather more information about Williston's consumers.

Williston Economic Development Executive Director says Buxton's data goes way beyond the traditional demographic information that is normally utilized to recruit new businesses. Buxton is able to determine the characteristics that are unique to Williston's trade area, such as how far people will drive to shop in Williston, the local economy's strengths and the type of space that is available for new retailers. "Williston has moved from a boom to a business model and there are all types of companies that are needed to satisfy our growing population's shopping habits. Buxton will provide the tools and information we need to target and recruit those businesses," said Wenko.

Buxton's retail recruitment solution identifies the top 20 retailers that best suit or match the market it is studying. Wenko says Williston's list generated a lot of positive feedback and excitement.

"The top twenty target retailers include TJ Maxx, Gordman's, Rue21, Hibbitt Sports, Friday's, Chili's, Sonic and others," said Wenko. "The next step is to deliver pursuit packages to those businesses and begin the recruitment process."

The collaboration with Buxton will be ongoing as the recruitment process unfolds. Williston Economic Development will continue to meet with Buxton monthly via conference call for updated status reports. Buxton will also provide in person reviews approximately every six months. Wenko also notes the results will continue to evolve as the economy and population changes and as target businesses either commit or pass on opening a business in Williston.

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Plated oven-roasted turkey,
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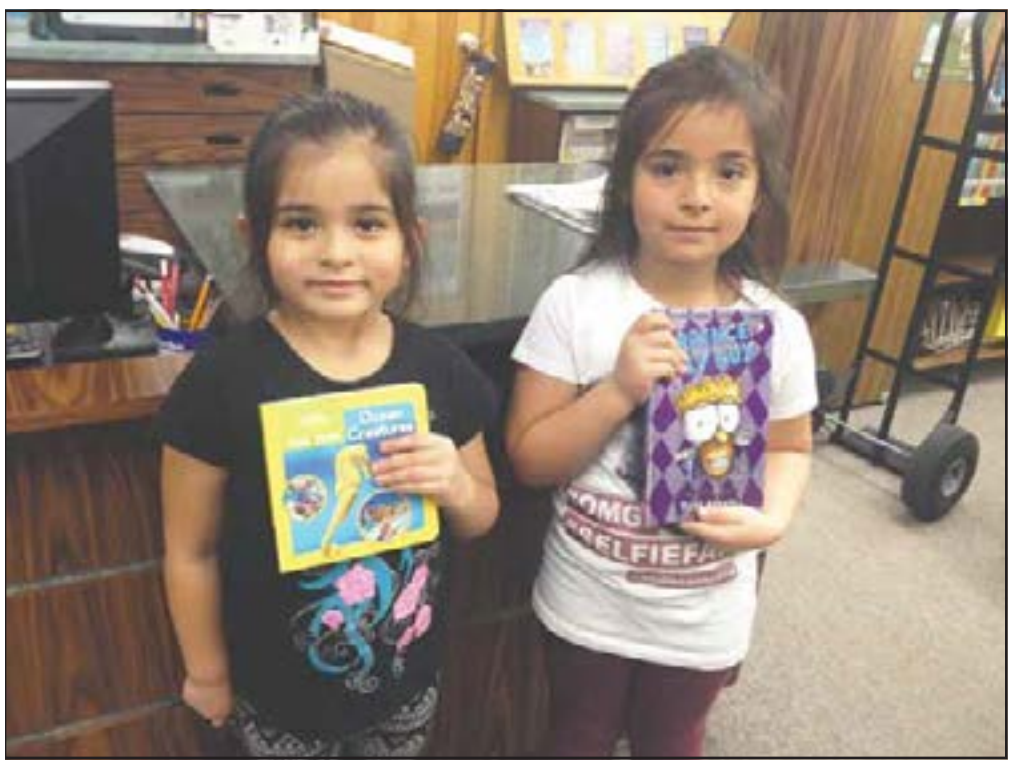
A CHRISTMAS STORY
Stroll & Parade of Lights
Saturday, November 28th
12-4pm – East Main
• Kids Carnival! Located in the Village Square Mall
• Downtown Holiday Sales
• Food, Beverage & Craft Vendors
1-4pm – Restorx Building
• Chili Cook Off
• Free Hot Chocolate by LYREC
• Sugar Cookie Decorating
• Boy Scouts Popcorn
1pm – FREE Matinee at the Centre Theater!
• "The Christmas Story" Movie
2:30 - 5pm – Richland County Public Library
• Pictures With Santa!
6pm – Parade of Trees Auction at the MonDak
7pm – Parade of Lights
• Santa & candy canes at Reese & Rays IGA after the parade.
SIDNEY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & AGRICULTURE

West Side Holds Annual Book Fair



Ruby and Kimberly Cueva show their new books

Carter and Tripp Heggem holding their brand new books.

Kenny and Zachary Damm are excited to have their new books.

Roundup WEB.COM
Everything Roundup on the web.

West Side Book Fair Thank You

Submitted by Dawn Greenwood, Teacher Librarian

The West Side Book Fair was very successful this year. We have lots of very supportive parents who value the importance of reading and make sure their children have a well-stocked home library. The profit from our Book Fair will be used for "I Love to Read" month books, supplies, incentives and awards during February. Thank you, Sidney, for all your support.

MonDak Christmas in Sidney Dec. 6

Submitted by Kim Simmonds

"Photographs and Memories" will be the theme for the 28th Annual MonDak Christmas, which will be celebrated Sun., Dec. 6, 2015. Admission is free and there will be activities for all ages.

This fun afternoon will include live performances by the Liberty Christian Bell Choir, the Sunrise Brass and Signe Verhasselt, a fundraiser bake sale, and photos with Santa. Additionally, the Christmas trees and wreaths from the Parade of Trees will be on display. Everyone is invited. A portion of all free will donations that day will benefit the Richland County Food Bank.

This event is also a perfect time to shop for unique gifts by local artists in the MonDak's gift shop where new books, art, and new artists have been added in recent weeks. It will also be time to stock up on baked goodies at the MonDak's annual bake sale.

If you are interested in donating baked goods to the bake sale, please contact Leann at 406-433-3500.

This event is FREE and open to the public, although donations for photos with Santa are appreciated. Sunday, doors open 1:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. We hope to see you there.

Special thanks to our sponsors, H&R Block and Amanda Seigfreid.

MNAXLP

Legislative Update November 19, 2015

Submitted by Senator Matt Rosendale

The Legislative Fiscal Division, headed by Amy Carlson, took a tour around the state recently to update the Legislators on the financial condition of the state. She was well prepared and her staff accompanied her to assist with the presentation. They summarized the impacts that legislation passed during the last session were estimated to cause, and brought real time numbers reflecting the current state finances.

The long and short of the state's finances are this: We are spending about $5 billion a year, we receive nearly half of that from the federal government, and we will have an estimated $455 million leftover in ending fund balance at the end of the fiscal year.

We can discuss individual accounts like the Fire Suppression Fund, which is extremely well funded and should be able to sustain a difficult fire season. Or the Board of Public Education which is providing funding for 200 children across the state, under the age of 5, in a manner that looks like pre-k, and would be in violation of statute. Then there is the Transportation fund, which is heavily reliant on federal dollars for building and maintaining our roads and is declining in balance. Finally, the Medicaid expansion that the governor pushed through which will expand Obamacare in our state and obligate the taxpayers for a minimal of $25 million a year. And let us not forget that the governor wouldn't fund vital infrastructure projects in Eastern Montana, but raised millions of dollars in additional property taxes. Apparently $455 million in the bank isn't quite enough. The governor still insists on borrowing funds for vital infrastructure instead of using the available funds.

The Sage Grouse Oversight Committee held another meeting and I traveled to Helena to participate. We are starting to dig into the implementation of the program, therefore, the details are being discussed and approved. There will be a group of public hearings taking place across the state in early to mid-January of 2016 to approve rules for the program. I feel comfortable with these rules as the bill, which set up the Committee and program, Senate Bill 261, outlined specific tasks and acceptable practices that could be funded by the appropriation. So the rules basically point to that legislation for implementation instead of providing an interpretation of the legislation.

I spent a fair amount of time making sure the committee would not prohibit adequate funds being used for a multi-year study, which considers the effects of predation on the sage grouse populations. Additionally I had the committee clarify that funds could be used to manage predator problems. To ignore the effects of predators on the sage grouse populations would be equivalent to ignoring the weather conditions. We do not have solid data on these issues; therefore the federal government has refused to consider their impacts.

The Bureau of Land Management and U S Fish and Wildlife Service spoke during the meeting. They have established guidelines for use of Federal Lands which are much more restrictive than the state of Montana has established for state or private land. The bad news is they will not be reviewing those guidelines any time soon and I expect rules for use of BLM lands to be in place for a minimal of 5 years regardless of sage grouse numbers.

Anyone wishing to attend a meeting, receive newsletters or comment on any of the sage grouse committee activities may go online to: http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/cardd/sage-grouse. You will find all of the information there.

I will continue to research and expose spending that seems to be in violation of statute, oppose that which is wasteful or in violation of the constitution, and support that which maintains basic government services.

As always you may reach me at 406-687-3549 or mattrosendale@midrivers.com.

Traditional Polish Dinner will Raise Funds for World Youth Day

By Meagan Dotson

St. Joseph's Church, 106 6th St. West in Williston, will be holding a traditional twelve course Polish Christmas dinner on December 6th at 5:30pm central time.

St. Joseph's Youth Group will use the proceeds to attend World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland in July of 2016. In addition to the fifteen high school students that are going, there will also be twelve adults including two youth leaders and Father Kovash.

St. John Paul II established World Youth Day in 1984 as an opportunity for Catholic Youth from all over the world to come together. While World Youth Day has been held in countries all over the world, Krakow, Poland is especially exciting to those who will be attending because it is where St. John Paul II is from. Events for the trip include a pre-trip sightseeing tour In the Footsteps of St. John Paul II; some of the sights are a visit to St. John Paul II's birthplace, gondola rides, a guided tour of Czestochowa, a 15th century monastery, as well as a guided tour of Auschwitz-Birkenau. During the scheduled events for World Youth Day, students will get an opportunity to meet the Pope.

St. Joseph's Youth Group has never attended the international gathering before and will be the only group from the Bismarck Diocese to attend in 2016. The group will be leaving July 20, 2016 and returning August 1, 2016.

There are only 120 tickets being sold for the authentic Polish dinner, and they are going fast! Tickets are $100 each; get your tickets today by calling St. Joseph's Church at 701-572-6731.

First Protect Montana Kids Commission Meeting Set For Dec. 4

Submitted by John Ebelt

The first Protect Montana Kids Commission meeting is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 4 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Capitol, in Room 152 in Helena, MT.

A meeting agenda and all meeting materials will be posted to the DPHHS website at http://dphhs.mt.gov/protectMontanaKids.

A list of all commission members can be found here, http://dphhs.mt.gov/ProtectMontanaKids/PMKLeftMenu/protectmtkids.

Earlier this year, Governor Steve Bullock announced the Protect Montana Kids initiative to improve systems serving children and families in the state. The initiative will focus on immediate system improvements, system reviews, and statutory recommendations for the 2017 legislative session.

The initiative includes the creation of the Protect Montana Kids Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to advise the Governor on an evidenced-based, comprehensive set of recommendations to align the Montana child protection system with national standards and best practices in the field of child welfare.

The meeting will be streamed live on the Montana Legislative Services Division website at http://leg.mt.gov/css/Video-and-Audio/tvmt.asp.

Anyone who would like to receive future meeting reminders and other relevant information is encouraged to sign up on the DPHHS website to receive email notices at http://dphhs.mt.gov/protectMontanaKids.

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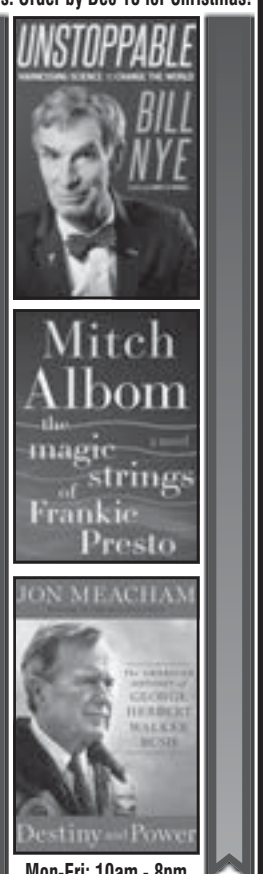

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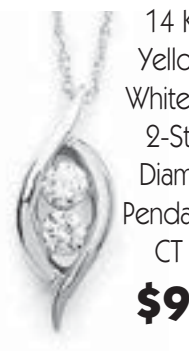
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USDA Announces Investments in Rural Community Facilities in MT

MNAXLP

Submitted by Michael Dann

Acting State Director Janelle Gustafson today announced that USDA has invested more than $12.3 million in rural Montana communities through the Community Facilities Program in fiscal year 2015. Of that investment, $11.1 million was awarded to rural health care facilities. "Providing access to affordable, modern health care for rural Montanans is essential and we are proud to say Rural Development has played a part as USDA celebrates National Rural Health Week," Gustafson said. "Since 2009, Rural Development has invested more than $80 million in health care in Montana."

The Ruby Valley Hospital District received a $9.95 million loan to construct a new Critical Access Hospital in Sheridan, Montana. The new hospital will be approximately 28,000 sq. ft., have nine beds and provide 50 jobs.

A $1.15 million loan was awarded to the Community Hospital of Anaconda, in Anaconda, Montana, for their new 9,648 sq. ft. clinic facility. The new clinic provides space for 10 physicians and a nurse practitioner. The loan provided by Rocky Mountain Bank was guaranteed by Rural Development.

Through the Community Facility Direct Loan & Grant and Guaranteed Loan Programs investments can be made not only in health care but also in schools, community centers, food pantries, and public safety. These are just a few areas where assistance can be provided. An example is Noxon Public Schools, in Noxon, Montana. They received two grants totaling $58,400 to improve the security at their school. Noxon has one school, Kindergarten through 12, serving about 200 students. The grants will provide for modern entry doors with a security entry system around the school to improve student and staff safety.

In Eureka, Montana, the Eureka Volunteer Fire Department purchased 120 sections of fire hose and two house ventilating fans, because of a $16,425 grant. The hoses and fans replace equipment that was approaching 30 years old. Having this reliable equipment will enable the department to fight fires without delays caused by faulty equipment.

Since 2009, USDA nationally has awarded $9.7 billion under its Community Facilities programs, including $4.9 billion for 1,052 health care projects; $266 million for improvements to 206 public schools; $133 million for 555 libraries; $39 million for 240 day care centers; and $791 million to support 4,876 public safety facilities in rural areas.

President Obama's plan for rural America has brought about historic investment and resulted in stronger rural communities. Under the President's leadership, these investments in housing, community facilities, businesses and infrastructure have empowered rural America to continue leading the way - strengthening America's economy, small towns and rural communities

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network Offers Training

Submitted by Richard Maliawco

The NWS Glasgow will soon be presenting an online winter training for CoCoRaHS to anyone interested in either a refresher or to those interested in becoming a new CoCoRaHS weather observer for northeast Montana. If you are available, I invite you to attend the training to learn more about the program, but below is a brief overview for those who would be new observers.

CoCoRaHS stands for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network. Not only do CoCoRaHS observations assist meteorologists at the National Weather Service with warning decisions and verification processes but the information is used by teachers and educators, those with agricultural interests, mosquito control, and by many, many other people. This program is an incredible opportunity for motivated individuals with interest in weather & science to make a real difference for countless people and industries. At the training, you will learn more about CoCoRaHS and how to take weather observations with a focus on winter weather. In addition, there will be several chances for observers to be opportunistic in learning more about weather and science through videos, presentations, and other activities over time.

The details on the training are below:

When: Mon., Nov. 30, 2015 at 7 p.m. MST

Web Link: https://join.me/NWSGlasgow

Call Number: 877-929-2703

Passcode: 8072342#

Note: Log in about 10 minutes early.

"Put A Jingle In Your Step"

Schedule of Events
November 27th

6:30pm – 15th Annual Parade of Lights on Main Street

On Friday, Nov. 27th starting at 5:30 p.m. the Chamber will be holding a food drive to fill the food pantry for the upcoming month. Bring a non-perishable food item to the Chamber trailer on Main Street during the Parade of Lights and receive a ticket for a $1000 Watford City Bucks drawing!

Pictures With Santa Saturday

Mondays in December

$1000 Giveaway!

$250 will be given away each week!

You must register in stores each week to be eligible. Plus, daily/weekly drawings will be held in individual stores.

USDA Issues Safety-Net Payments to North Dakota Farmers Facing Market Downturn

MNAXLP

Submitted by Laura Heinrich

USDA North Dakota Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director, Aaron Krauter announced that approximately 26,000 North Dakota farms enrolled in new safety-net programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill are receiving financial assistance for the 2014 crop year. The programs, known as Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC), are designed to protect against unexpected drops in crop prices or revenues due to market downturns. "These new safety-net programs provide help when price and revenues fall below normal, unlike the previous direct payments program that provided funds even in good years," said Krauter. "The county-based option of ARC protects against lower revenue from a combination of price and yield. For example, corn producers experienced a 30 percent drop in price below the historical benchmark price established by the ARC-CO program. Payments by county can vary because average county yields will differ."

Crops receiving assistance in North Dakota include barley, corn, grain sorghum, lentils, dry peas, soybeans, and wheat. In the upcoming months, payments will be made for other crops after marketing year average prices are published by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Payments to participants in ARC-County or PLC for minor oilseeds, including canola and sunflowers, and chickpeas will occur in December. ARC-Individual payments will also begin in November.

Statewide, approximately 50,500 farms enrolled in ARC-County and 36,500 farms participated in PLC. More detail on the price and yield information used to calculate the financing assistance from the safety-net programs is available on the FSA website at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc and www.fsa.usda.gov/nd.

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Nominations Sought For Montana Outdoor Hall Of Fame

Submitted by Montana FWP

A group of Montana state agencies and conservation organizations is seeking nominations for the second round of inductees to the Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame. The MOHOF honors individuals who have contributed to the restoration and conservation of Montana's fish, wildlife, and other outdoor amenities. "Montana's Outdoor Hall of Fame recognizes Montana's historical and contemporary conservation leaders," said Montana Governor Steve Bullock. "We need to capture and share the important stories of the men and women who've championed Montana's outdoor heritage."

Nominees can include people from all walks of life who reflect Montana's diverse tradition of resource conservation and stewardship.

Participants in the effort include Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, the Montana Historical Society, Montana's Outdoor Legacy Foundation, the Montana Wildlife Federation, the Montana Wilderness Association, Montana Trout Unlimited, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Cinnabar Foundation.

The inaugural MOHOF class was formally inducted last year and included: Granville Stuart, Theodore Roosevelt, Charlie M. Russell, Lee Metcalf, Don Aldrich, Bud Moore, Thurman Trosper, Doris Milner, Cecil Garland, Gerry Jennings, Ron Marcoux, and Chris Marchion. MOHOF inductees are archived at the Montana Historical Society in Helena.

The deadline for nominations is Dec.31. For more information and a nominee application form, visit the Montana Outdoor Legacy Foundation website at www.mtoutdoorlegacy.org. Click "Projects," then click "Montana Outdoor Hall of Fame."

Mountain Lion North Dakota Zone 1 Late Season Opens

Submitted by North Dakota Game and Fish

Mountain lion hunting during the early season in Zone 1 closed Nov. 22 with six of 14 cats taken. The late season in Zone 1, with a quota of seven, runs Nov. 23 through March 31, 2016, or until the quota is filled.

In addition to other legal methods, the late season allows mountain lions to be pursued with dogs. The late season quota in Zone 1 filled early last year, so hunters are advised to check for updates by visiting the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website at gf.nd.gov.

Zone 1 includes land south of ND Highway 1804 from the Montana border to the point where ND Highway 1804 lies directly across Lake Sakakawea from ND Highway 8, crossing Lake Sakakawea then south along ND Highway 8 to ND Highway 200, then west on ND Highway 200 to U.S. Highway 85, then south on U.S. Highway 85 to the South Dakota border.

The mountain lion season in Zone 2, which is the rest of the state outside Zone 1, has no quota and is open through March 31, 2016.

The mountain lion season is open only to North Dakota residents. A furbearer or combination license is required.

MNAXLP

ROUSTABOUT TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT
AUCTION
Lunch will be served
Saturday Dec. 5th 11:00AM
In case of inclement weather sale will be held indoors.
Tim Rice & Charla Kempa: Owners-12903 CTY Road 345
Directions: From Sidney, MT take HWY 16 North for +/- 4 miles to County Road 129. Turn west on 129 and travel +/- 1 mile to sale site. Watch for Signs

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(3) 48" aluminum Vise Grip pipe wrenches
60" Ridgid steel pipe wrench like new
48" Ridgid steel pipe wrench like new
36" Williams steel pipe wrench USA
18" Ridgid pipe wrench steel
10" Ridgid steel pipe wrench
14" Ridgid aluminum
18" Jonesway aluminum pipe wrench
Ridgid Vic groovers
(2) model 4
(2) model 3
(3) model 2
Model 915 Ridgid adjustable Vic Groover
Ridgid pipe threaders 2", 1-1/2, 1-1/4, 1", 1/2"
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Jumbo end wrench set 1" to 2"
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Nut driver set Craftsman
(3) 36" pipe wrenches
48" pipe wrench
3/4" ratchet set in case
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Large end wrench set 1-3/8 to 2"
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Tape measures and tally tapes
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(3) 2' levels
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(2) 4' levels
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Gear puller
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Sheet metal crimper
Welding tool boxes
3' tin smith for up to 24 gauge
Painters mask
Pallet bander
(2) parts washers nice
Lots of air hoses
Extension cords
Fuel hose
Bags of barn lime
Bottle jack
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The Roundup

Do you have news or photos you would like in The Roundup?

Richland ..... **Meagan Dotson**
County *406-478-0517*

Roosevelt... **Sheridan Martin**
County *406-529-4031*

McKenzie.....**Kathy Taylor**
County *701-842-6188*

Montana Department Of Revenue Joins IRS Awareness Campaign Against Identity Theft & Tax Fraud

Submitted by Mary Ann Dunwell
MT Department of Revenue

HELENA – The Montana Department of Revenue supports the Internal Revenue Service and other states and associations in appealing to the public to take online security precautions. Several agencies launched the public awareness campaign "Taxes, security, together" at a news conference Thursday morning in Washington, D.C. "Our message is we need the public's help. As a taxpayer, you need to be aware of security steps you can take online and at home to protect your personal and financial data from cybercriminals and tax fraudsters," said Mike Kadas, Director, Montana Department of Revenue. "The department is doing all we can to prevent Montana taxpayers from becoming victims. We need people to be careful as well. We all have a role to play."

A few steps you can take to better protect yourself:

Always use security software with firewall and anti-virus protections. Make sure the security software is turned on and automatically updates. Encrypt sensitive files such as tax records you store on your computer. Use strong passwords.

Learn to recognize and avoid phishing emails, threatening calls and texts from thieves posing as legitimate organizations such as your bank, credit card company and even the IRS. Do not click on links or download attachments from unknown or suspicious emails.

Protect your personal data. Don't routinely carry your social security card. Make sure your tax records are secure. Treat your personal information like you do your cash. Don't leave it lying around.

In 2015, Montana's revenue department stopped more than 1,700 fraudulent tax returns and saved taxpayers nearly $1.9 million in fraudulent refunds. In 2014, the department prevented 1,250 fraudulent tax returns and nearly $1.5 million in fraudulent refunds.

For more information on protecting your data, visit the IRS security webpage www.irs.gov/taxessecuritytogether, the Montana Department of Justice Office of Consumer Protection at https://dojmt.gov/consumer or the Montana Department of Revenue at revenue.mt.gov.

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Governor Steve Bullock, Along With A Group Of Montana-Based Organizations, Is Seeking Nominations For The "Montana Neighbor Awards"

Submitted by Montana FW&P

The awards give recognition to landowners who work collaboratively with their neighbors to enhance Montana's sense of community.

The group is seeking nominations of landowners from across Montana. Winners will receive specially printed and framed Montana Neighbor Award certificates signed by Gov. Bullock and awards committee members.

The Montana Neighbor group includes Artemis Common Ground, The Nature Conservancy of Montana, Montana Council of Trout Unlimited, Montana Association of Land Trusts, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and the Office of the Governor.

"It's no secret that land ownership in Montana has been in transition," said Chris King, Winnett rancher and member of the Montana Neighbor Awards Committee. "There is tension out there between landowners, public resource agencies, and sportsmen. Those situations get press. But the fact is there are many new and long-time landowners who are great neighbors in the Montana tradition. We want to give them recognition."

Award criteria include cooperation, neighborly land access, land stewardship and conservation ethic, and community leadership.

Nomination forms can be obtained from any office of the participating organizations and from FWP regional offices. Send nominations to: Montana Neighbor Awards, C/O Jennifer Bond; Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks; P.O. Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701; or email to: jebond@mt.gov, or to Brian.Kahn@earthlink.net.

National Exhibit Opening At North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum

Submitted by State Historical Society of North Dakota

Nov. 21, the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum in Bismarck will debut Green Revolution, an eco-friendly exhibit with a minimal carbon footprint. Green Revolution addresses critical issues concerning the future health of our planet. This free, family-friendly exhibit will be on display through spring 2017.

Through hands-on activities and historic objects, visitors will gain awareness of sustainability and learn simple ways to help protect our air, water, soil, and environment. Special areas focus on renewable energy, water usage, food choices, and reducing waste. Displays provide practical tips on how to "Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle." Visitors can learn the effects of climate change on ecosystems and explore learning modules that show how to improve our earth. The State Historical Society of North Dakota has personalized the exhibit by adding historic examples of North Dakota sustainability such as clothing made from flour sacks.

Traveling museum exhibitions are typically packed into crates and moved by trucks to museums across the country. Green Revolution, however, is an innovative museum exhibit with virtually no carbon footprint. Participating museums receive all design files and instructions digitally, allowing museum professionals to construct personalized, home grown "eco-zibits" from re-used, recycled materials found within their local communities. For this display, State Historical Society staff searched through storage closets, dumpsters, and even grandma's basement to assemble components. This version of Green Revolution is based on an exhibition originally created by the Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, and made available by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service.

The North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum and this exhibit are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information visit history.nd.gov.

INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE

Make	Description	Sale Price
'95 Cadillac	*Deville, 4-Door*	$3,000
'94 Chevy	*Suburban 4x4*	$8,000
'96 Chevy	*1/2 Ton, 2WD*	$2,500
'97 Chevy	*Cavalier, 2-Door*	$2,500
'98 Chevy	*1/2 Ton, 6.5 Turbo Diesel*	$6,500
'98 Chevy	*1/2 Ton 4x4*	$4,500
'00 Chevy	*Impala LS, 4-Door*	$4,000
'04 Chevy	*Impala, 4-Door*	$6,000
'05 Chevy	*Impala Sport*	$7,500
'07 Chevy	*Suburban 4x4*	$17,000
'08 Chevy	*Impala, 4-Door*	$9,000
'84 Ford	*E350 Cube Van*	$2,500
'89 Dodge	*Dakota*	$1,500
'02 Dodge	*1500 Ram*	$7,000
'03 Dodge	*1/2 Ton 4x4*	$9,000
'03 Dodge	*Stratus, 4-Door*	$4,500
'12 Dodge	*Grand Caravan, 56k miles*	$18,000
'93 Ford	*1/2 Ton 4x4*	$2,500
'95 Ford	*1/2 Ton 4x4*	$3,000
'97 Ford	*1/2 Ton 4x4*	$6,700
'98 Ford	*Expedition 4x4*	$3,000
'99 Ford	*F350 4x4, 7.3 Turbo Diesel*	$10,000
'00 Ford	*1/2 Ton 4x4*	$3,500
'01 Ford	*Escape 4x4*	$4,500
'01 Ford	*Focus LX*	$3,500
'02 Ford	*HD 3/4 Ton, 7.3 Diesel*	$15,500
'03 Ford	*Explorer 4x4*	$4,000
'04 Ford	*Ranger 2WD*	$4,000
'06 Ford	*3/4 Ton 4x4 Diesel*	$12,000
'06 Ford	*Explorer 4x4*	$10,500
'99 Jeep	*Grand Cherokee 4x4*	$5,000
'04 Jeep	*Grand Cherokee 4x4*	$8,000
'02 Mercury	*Sable, 4-Door*	$3,000
'96 Nissan	*Sentra, 4-Door*	$1,500
'02 Pontiac	*Sunfire*	$3,000
'10 Pontiac	*G6, 4-Door*	$10,000

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Montana Farm Bureau Proud Of MSU College Of Agriculture Listing

Submitted by Ag News Wire

The Montana Farm Bureau is proud to learn Montana State University College of Agriculture has been named one of the four best colleges for studying agriculture by the online service, Campus Explorer. According to Campus Explorer, MSU's College of Agriculture was ranked for its diverse six departments, working farms, specialized research centers and the popularity of agriculture on campus. "Montana Farm Bureau has very close ties with MSU, as our state's land grant university," said Montana Farm Bureau President, Bob Hanson. "They have an excellent curriculum covering a variety of disciplines in agriculture, from animal science to Ag education. Our organization has hired many MSU graduates through the years. We are thrilled MSU received this well-deserved honor, ranking at the top with those venerable schools like Purdue University, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Utah State University."

"MSU offers quality agricultural education. They have an impressive array of research stations across the state, ranging from studies in wheat and pulse crop production to cattle genetics," continued Hanson. "We're proud MFBF is involved in many ways with the College of Agriculture, from providing sponsorships, working closely with MSU faculty and staff, and having a Collegiate Farm Bureau presence on campus."

The ranking listed the college's ability to provide more than 100 scholarships in all disciplines of agriculture, available to every student in the college to apply through a single form. "This is great news for MSU College of Agriculture graduates whose potential employers know the MSU grad has had an excellent education for the workforce," Hanson said. "I especially want to thank MSU President Waded Cruzado. She has been very supportive of the College of Agriculture and has been excellent to work with."

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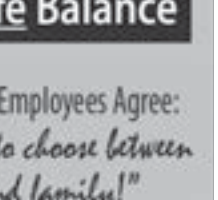
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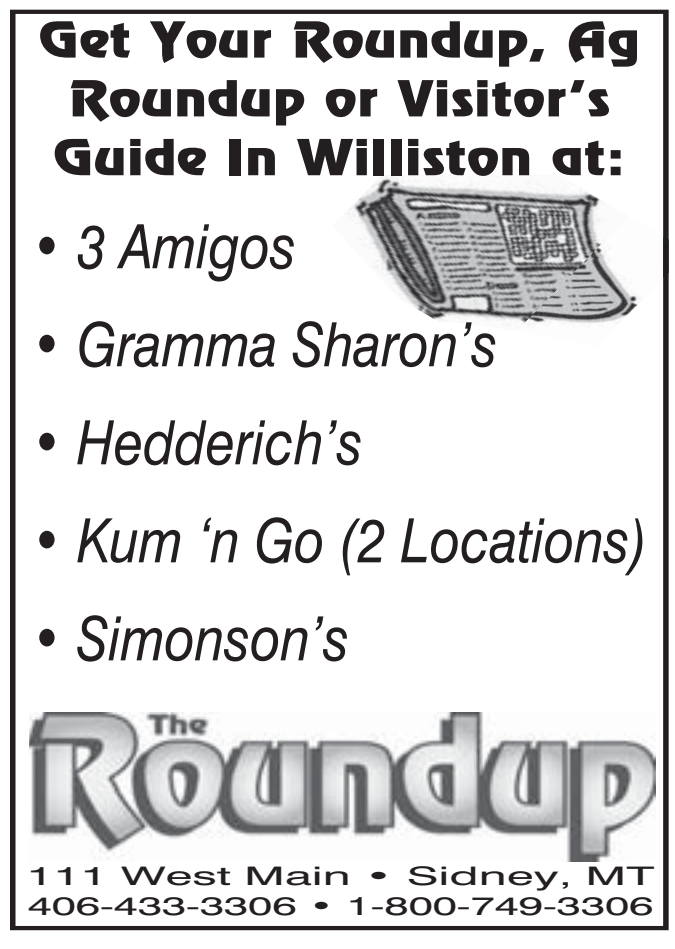


Energy Roundup

Wells Waiting On Completion Top 1,000

Submitted by Tie Shank

WILLISTON, N.D., - The number of drilled oil wells in North Dakota continue to climb as producers delay turning on over 1,000 unfracked wells in hopes of oil prices recovering.

The daily output in North Dakota fell 2 percent in September, harming the industry's ability to grow production.

"That's sending a definite signal to the market that oil and gas operators are not willing to do a lot of drilling or hydraulic fracturing or production at these low prices," said Lynn Helms, director of the state's Department of Mineral Resources (DMR), in a phone conference.

"The drilling rig count decreased 3 from August to September, decreased 3 from September to October, and dropped 4 more so far this month. Operators are now committed to running fewer rigs, but drill times and efficiencies continue to improve while oil prices continue to fall. This has resulted in a current active drilling rig count of 12 to 15 rigs below what operators indicated would be their 2015 average if oil price remained below $65/barrel. Oil price weakness is now anticipated to last through next year and is the main reason for the continued slow-down," said Helms in his monthly Directors Cut.

The statewide rig count is down 71% from the high and in the five most active counties rig count is down as follows:

Divide -69% (high was 3/2013)

Dunn -68% (high was 6/2012)

McKenzie -65% (high was 1/2014)

Mountrail -78% (high was 6/2011)

Williams -79% (high was 10/2014)

Rig count update:

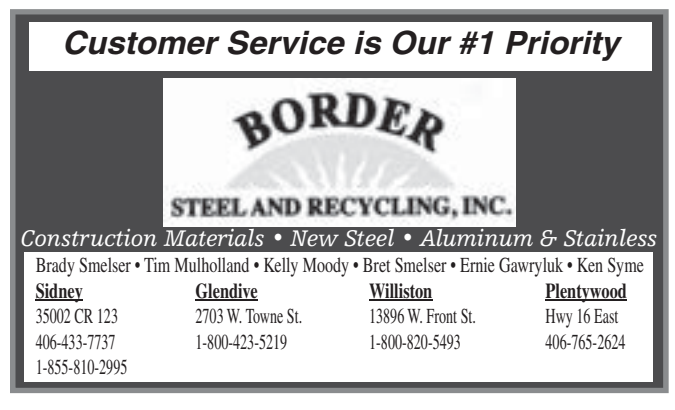
August rig count 74

September rig count 71

October rig count 68

November 13th rig count 64 (in November 2009 it was 63)(all-time high was 218 on 5/29/2012)

Helms writes, "The drop in oil price associated with anticipation of lifting sanctions on Iran and a weaker economy in China is leading to further cuts in the drilling rig count."

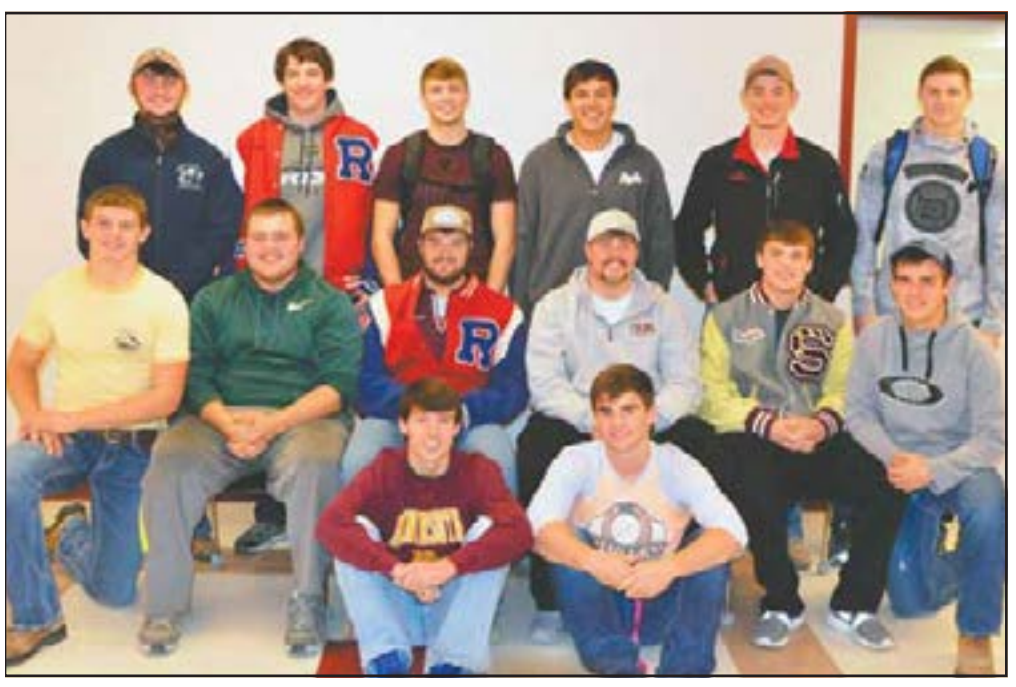


Sidney Football All-Conference and All-State Honors for 2015

Chris Wick received Honorable Mention all-conference wide receiver. Tel Hermanson received honorable mention all-conference quarterback. Quinn McGlothlin received honorable mention all-conference cornerback John Haraldson received honorable mention all-conference offensive tackle. Trent Schilling received 1st team all-conference outside linebacker. Kyle Mueller received honorable mention all-conference outside linebacker 2nd team all-conference tight end. Chris Gartner received 2nd team all-conference defensive end 1st team all-conference fullback. Alec Lovegren received 2nd team all-conference return specialist honorable mention all-conference outside linebacker. Michael McGinnis received 2nd team all-conference free safety. Brenley Steinbeisser received 2nd team offensive tackle. Trace Jones received honorable mention all conference wide receiver and honorable mention all-conference cornerback. Matt Dey received 1st team all-conference defensive line and 1st team all-conference center. Bridger Coffman received 2nd team strong safety and 1st team running back. Hunter Severson received 2nd team all-conference offensive guard and 1st team all-conference inside linebacker.

MNAXLP

Shown are the boys that received all-state recognititon. Back Chris Gartner, fullback. Front (L-R) Hunter Severson inside linebacker, Trent Schilling outside linebacker, Matt Dey center and Bridger Coffman running back. Photos by Kathy Johnson.



Back (L-R) Tel Hermanson, James Haraldson, Quinn McGlothlin, Kyle Mueller, Brenley Steinbeisser, Michael McGinnis. Middle Row (L-R) Chris Gartner, Matt Dey Trent Schilling, Hunter Severson, Bridger Coffman, Chris Wick. Front (L-R) Trace Jones, Alec Lovegren.

Stockman Bank Displays Boys & Girls Club Tree

Stockman Bank in Sidney has decorated their huge Christmas tree with beautiful ornaments made by children at the Boys and Girls Club of Richland County. On the back of each ornament is an item that is needed at the club, including everything from toothpicks to Xbox controllers. Anyone wishing to contribute can pick out an ornament, or pick up a list, bring the item back to Stockman Bank, and the bank will deliver it to the club.

The Boys and Girls Club of Richland County offers a safe and productive place for almost 100 kids after school.

FARM/RANCH LAND SALE

Lands owned by Heidi Hutchinson, of Wibaux, Montana, and Beverly Hutchinson of Miles City, MT, are offering for sale two separate Tracts by private bid. Both tracts have access to a public County Road, "Road 303", lands are in Dawson County, State of Montana, and all minerals are reserved by owners or previous owners.

Township 17 North, Range 57 EMPM

Tract I:	Section 11:	ALL (640.0 acres) 253.3 farm acreage and 386.7 grazing acres
Tract II:	Section 12:	W½NE¼, S½NW¼, SW¼ BLM Lease will go with sale

Lands are fully fenced and have water access, and access across Section 11 to Section 12 for public road access

METHOD OF SALE: Each tract, and then both tracts of land will be offered for sale by bids. Sealed bids for each tract and both tracts, shall be mailed to and/or delivered to the Law Office of R. W. Heineman, PO Box 313, Wibaux MT 59353, by Friday, December 11, 2015. Bids shall be opened at 12:00 p.m., (noon) on said date. Bidders are welcome to attend bid opening.

The three (3) highest bidders for each tract and both tracts, will be notified and invited to a final bidding at the Law Office of R. W. Heineman, at Wibaux, MT, on Friday, December 18, 2015, at the hour of 1:00 p.m., to increase their bid, if they so desire, at which time all bids will be deemed submitted, and if the highest bid is accepted, a sale will be completed to the successful Buyer. All sale bid envelopes shall be marked "Hutchinson Land Sale". The Seller reserves the right to rejeet any and all bids. For further information contact R. W. Heineman at 406-796-2427 or Heidi Hutchinson at 406-660-0802. Existing water rights if any, will be transferred to Buyer. All property taxes, including 2015, are paid by Seller.

TERMS OF SALE: If the highest bid is accepted on Monday December 18, 2015, that ten percent (10%), of the purchase price is to be paid at that time. The remaining ninety percent (90%) of the purchase price, shall be paid to Seller within twenty (20) days of the date, when proof of good title by Title Insurance, in the amount of the sale, is tendered with Deed to Buyer.

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The Roundup

Lunch Menus

Sidney School

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Fri., Nov. 27: No School.
Mon., Nov. 30: Corn dogs, french fries, peaches.
Tues., Dec. 1: Soft shell tacos, mandarin oranges.
Wed., Dec. 2: Turkey gravy over mashed potatoes, fresh fruit, dinner roll.

Froid School

Thurs., Nov. 26: No school.
Fri., Nov. 27: No School.
Mon., Nov. 30: Chicken fajita soup, cornchips, pinto & cheese, pears, salad bar, milk.
Tues., Dec. 1: No info.
Wed., Dec. 2: No info.

Bainville School

Thurs., Nov. 26: No School.
Fri., Nov. 27: No School.
Mon., Nov. 30: Chicken strips, french fries, carrots, fruit.
Tues., Dec. 1: Indian taco, refried beans, strawberries.
Wed., Dec. 2: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, apple slices.

Culbertson School

Thurs., Nov. 26: No school.
Fri., Nov. 27: No school.
Mon., Nov. 30: Hot pockets, peas and carrots, fruit, and milk.
Tues., Dec. 1: Chicken fajitas, rice and beans, fruit, and milk.
Wed., Dec. 2: Chicken breast, rice, broccoli, fruit, and milk.

Richey School

Thurs., Nov. 26: No school.
Fri., Nov. 27: No school.
Mon., Nov. 30: Hot dogs, baked beans, carrots, applesauce, milk.
Tues., Dec. 1: No info.
Wed., Dec. 2: No info.

Rau School

Thurs., Nov. 26: No school.
Fri., Nov. 27: No school.
Mon., Nov. 30: Egg rolls, rice, steamed veggies, fruit.
Tues., Dec. 1: No info.
Wed., Dec. 2: No info.

Lambert School

Thurs., Nov. 26: No school.
Fri., Nov. 27: No school.
Mon., Nov. 30: Super nachos, fresh veggies, muffins, milk.
Tues., Dec. 1: No info.
Wed., Dec. 2: No info.

Fairview School

Thurs., Nov. 26: No school.
Fri., Nov. 27: No school.
Mon., Nov. 30: Chicken fajita casserole, salad, peaches, bread, milk.
Tues., Dec. 1: Beef tips over egg noodles, dinner roll, peas, oranges, milk.
Wed., Dec. 2: Chicken quesadilla, rice, applesauce, corn, milk.

Results are in for the Purple Pumpkin Decorating Contest!

Submitted by Lesley Thiessen

Richland County Family Planning, Richland County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, and Victim Witness Advocate Program celebrated October by hosting a pumpkin decorating contest to raise awareness of domestic violence. Submissions and winners are pictured, from left to right: "Prince Charming was a Beast", by Dorene McDonald, winner of People's Choice; Untitled, by Lesley Thiessen; "Whoooo do you think you are?", by Stephanie and Evelyn Ler; "Love shouldn't hurt", by Herlee & Brylee Moran; "Keep calm & stay strong", by the Richland County Commission on Aging; "Silence is violence", by Sidney High School Key Club, winner of Best Message; "Reawaken your dreams", by Felicia Iversen; and "Domestic violence isn't pretty", by Shyanne Nice, winner of Most Creative. Not pictured is "Don't mask the signs of domestic violence", by Kelly Feldman. The decorated pumpkins were on display in the foyer of the Community Services Building.

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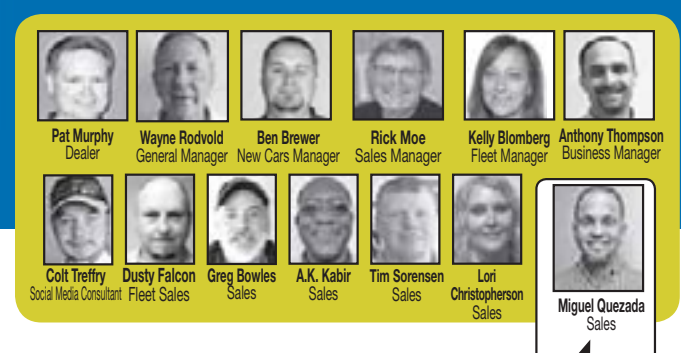

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Western States Struggle With Wave Of Oil And Gas Radioactive Waste

MNAXLP

Submitted by WORC

BILLINGS, Mont. — State governments across the West fail to protect citizens and the environment from a tide of the oil and gas industry's byproduct, radioactive waste, according to a report by the Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC).

The report, No Time To Waste, finds the storage, transport, and disposal of radioactive oil and gas field waste in the West are vastly under-regulated. Oil and gas industry wastes are exempt from the federal regulation, despite the admission by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in a 1987 report to Congress that "oil and gas wastes contain various hazardous constituents." As a result, states regulate radioactive oil and gas field wastes through a patchwork of rules and policy guidelines. "Oil and gas companies essentially handle and dispose of radioactive waste at their own discretion," said Bob LeResche, WORC Chair from Clearmont, Wyo. "Some have resorted to the cheapest option, illegally dumping it."

No Time To Waste reviews regulation of radioactive oil and gas field wastes in six states: Colorado, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. It finds that state regulatory frameworks remain sparse, where they exist at all.

Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana lack formal regulations around the waste stream. Of these three states, only Montana has begun to address radioactive oil and gas waste.

South Dakota has a radioactivity limit for solid waste disposal, but no other oil and gas field waste-specific regulations, while Idaho has a handful of regulations, but no statewide disposal limit.

North Dakota recently adopted new rules. The report finds that while some parts of these rules are more protective than what was previously in place, the rules still fall short in dramatic ways. First, the new rules raise the radioactivity limit for solid waste disposal from 5 to 50 picocuries per gram, making North Dakota farmers, landowners, facility workers, and other affected community members vulnerable to a much higher exposure dose. Second, they fail to improve weak inspection and enforcement protocols. "Without thorough, rigorous, and consistent oversight from the state, especially in the face of a higher radioactivity limit, it is doubtful that the new rules will result in improvements on the ground," said Larry Heilmann, a retired biochemist from Fargo, N.D., who worked extensively with radioactive isotopes in his research.

The consequences of regulatory gaps are well documented. North Dakota has experienced an onslaught of illegal waste dumps across the state. In one instance, a waste transporter dumped 200 garbage bags full of radioactive filter socks in an abandoned building in Noonan, N.D.

Montana, meanwhile, has been inundated by waste from North Dakota. Facilities, such as Oaks Disposal, an industrial-scale oilfield waste landfill near Glendive, Mont., have flocked to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for radioactive waste disposal permits. The Montana DEQ has granted five permits thus far, despite postponing rulemaking.

Seth Newton, a rancher in Glendive, Mont., lives just downstream of the Oaks Disposal facility, and has witnessed the lax oversight firsthand. "Oaks is full of alarming shortcomings," he said. "The facility was sited just a half mile from Deer Creek, and was only designed to weather a 25-year storm event. Any larger storm could cause radioactive waste to leach into the creek. Plus, the bottom of the landfill is only 15 feet above an aquifer." He has observed numerous spills from waste trucks heading to the facility. "My family's livelihood depends on this stream, these aquifers, and the health of this land," Newton said. "The poorly managed siting, design, and construction of this facility puts our health and the health of the ranch at risk."

Radioactive waste poses

risks to surrounding communities if not managed properly. The waste can emit radiation through the air or soil, leach into ground or surface water, or become airborne as contaminated particulates. Exposure to radiation, whether through ingestion, inhalation, or absorption, is associated with a number of health impacts, ranging from anemia, tooth fractures, or cataracts, to a higher incidence of various forms of cancer.

The report calls for federal regulation of radioactive oil and gas waste and stronger state standards to address the needs of the individual states. "Without thorough, stringent, and effective regulation of this waste stream, Western communities are left vulnerable to serious health and environmental impacts," LeResche said.

County Agent Update

Nutritional Value of Feed

By Danielle Steinhoff

During the winter months, especially in western North Dakota, one of few options ranchers have for feed is grass. During the summer months they wait until the right time, start to middle of July, to cut and bale their hay fields. Feeding this grass hay may raise some questions for ranchers, is this hay healthy enough for my cattle? Raising cattle is a yearlong job, winter time can be tough on the ranchers just as much as it is tough on the cattle. Testing feed for nutritional value may be on top of the never ending "to do list" for some ranchers, and towards the bottom for others. If you get your hay tested, the minimum tests that should be completed for cattle are dry matter, crude protein and energy (measured by acid detergent fiber). There are other tests that can be done, for an additional cost, to figure out what minerals are present and their levels. They hay can be tested for the following minerals; calcium, phosphorous, potassium, magnesium, sulfur, copper, zinc, selenium and others. After getting your results, and possibly being low on a mineral, energy or crude protein levels, a well-balanced mineral mix can help you supplement the remaining nutritional needs.

Energy is needed to provide heat for the cattle, muscle contraction and growth, all animals need energy to perform those three functions. This year, across the state, most grass hays have been testing low in energy. Grass hay should have 52-56%, but some hays are being tested and results show energy levels are at 40-45%. Hays with that low of an energy level need supplemental energy or the cattle will lose weight during the winter months. Low energy levels in alfalfa hay can happen if it had rained on the hay after cutting and before bailing. Protein content, across the state, have been showing adequate protein content, a cow needs a ration of 7-9% crude protein and calves need 11-13% crude protein. Dry matter tests will determine how much dry feed is in a ton of feed. This test should be done if feeding co-products like beet pulp or beet tailings, as wet pulp can have as much as 85% water. Therefore, wet pulp would need to be fed as double the ration to provide the same dry matter and energy content to cattle. Dry matter, energy and protein can change yearly in fields and can be drastically different among feeds. This information was gathered by Karl Hoppe, Area Extension Livestock Specialist at the Carrington Research Extension Center.

Results from Speech & Drama Competition In Miles City

Submitted by Christy Pierce

SHS Speech, Drama & Debate competed at CCHS in Miles City this past weekend. Drama finished 2nd in Class A Sweeps.

Drama results: Dramatic Solo: 2nd place Kyle Topp

Humorous Solo: 3rd place Scottlynn Anglesey

Humorous Duo: 2nd place Tess Ler & Tessa Hill

Classic Duo: 4th place Sarah Turek & Camden Berka, 5th place Kaitlyn Tibbits & Michael Stevens 8th place Jaz Hodge & Luke Turek

Competed: Laura Elmore, Tyler Berka & Katrina Meldahl

Speech Sweep Class A, Sidney took 3rd place.

Speech Results: Extemp: 1st place Zach Sommerfeld

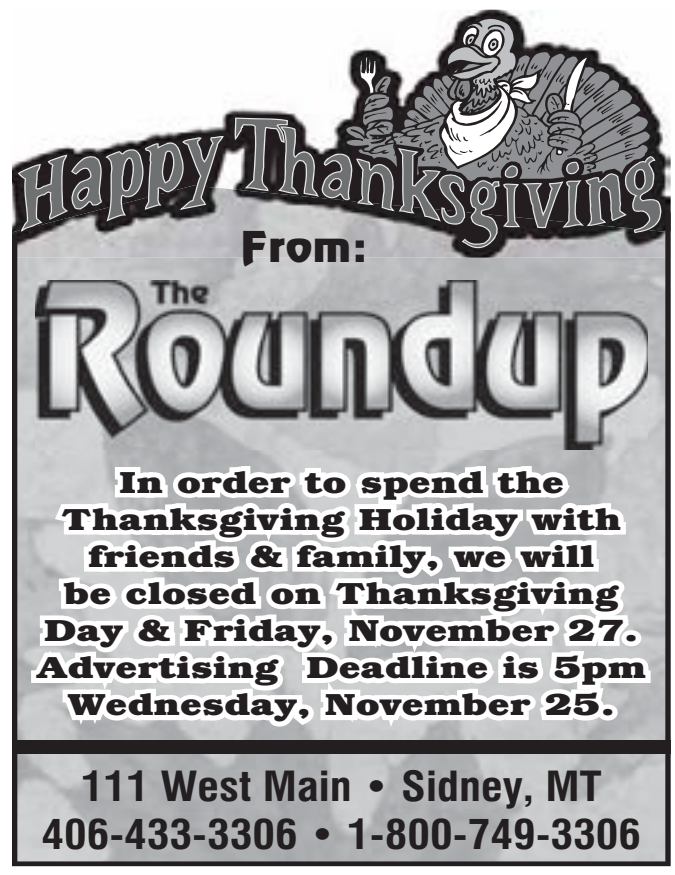
Impromptu: 1st place Kasey Gorder

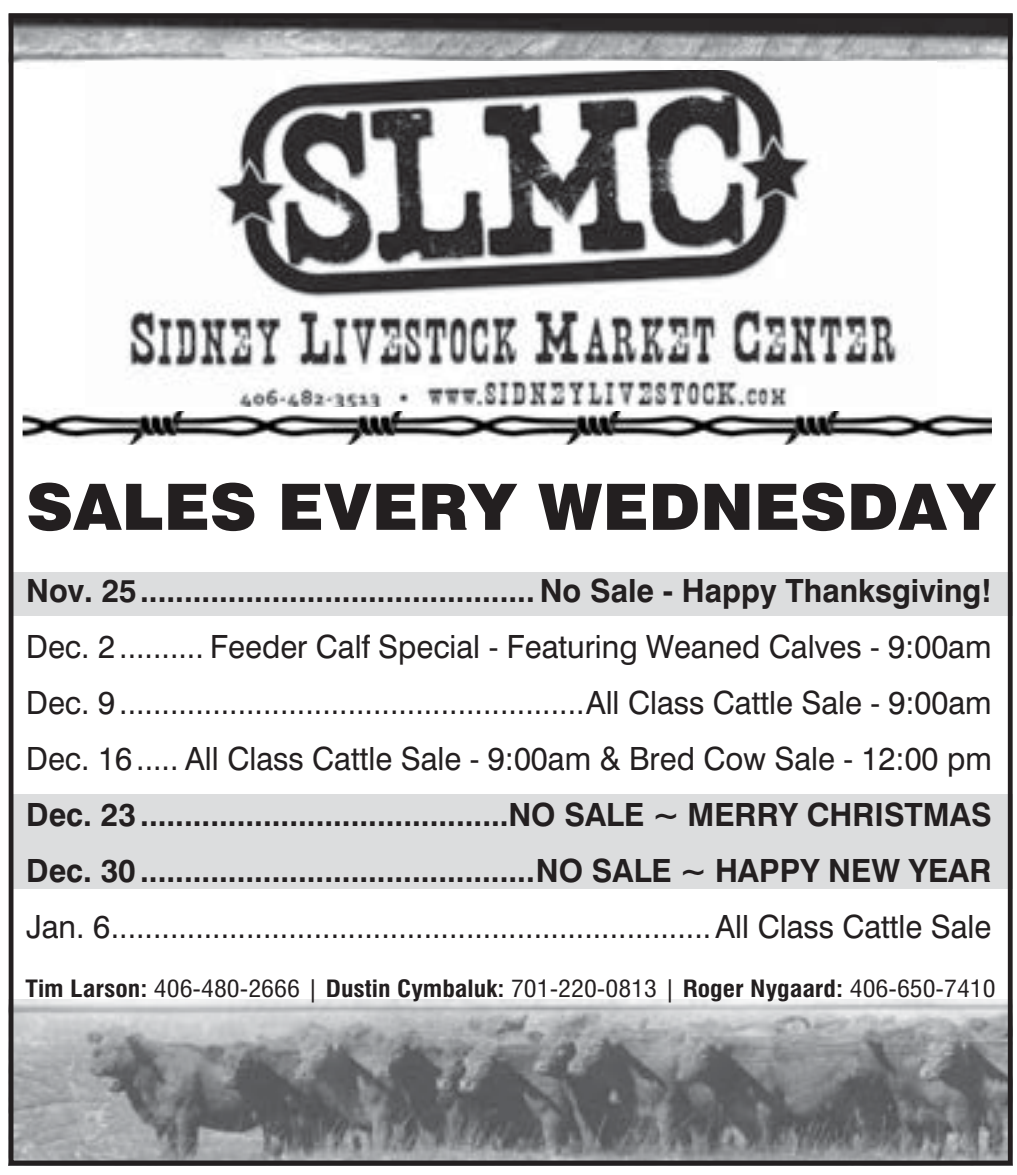
Expos: 2nd place Kasey Gorder

Competed: Josh Delaney

Debate Results: 4th place, Shelby Reidle & Landan Jones

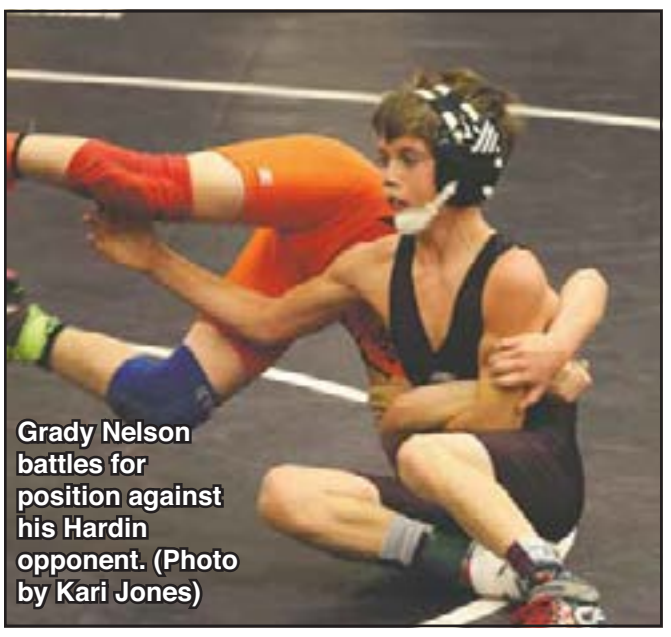
Zach Sommerfeld & Kasey Gorder





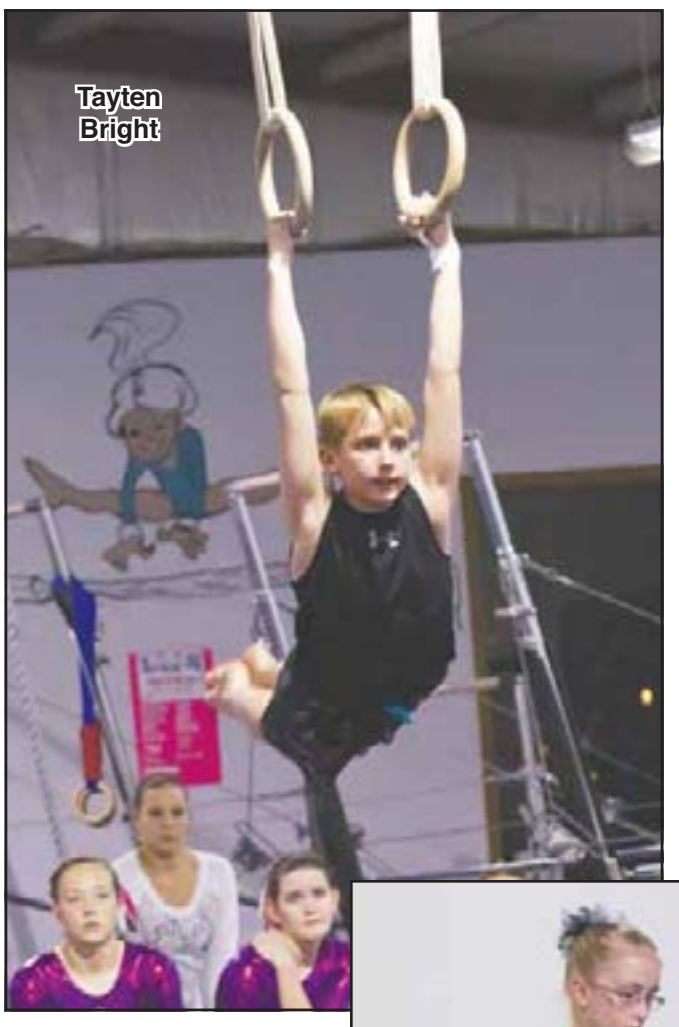
Sidney Middle School Wrestling Forsyth Tourney Results

Sidney Middle School wrestlers traveled to Forsyth for their first tournament of the year. The team placed second behind Miles City by two points. The following are individual placers:
#75A – Kolby Huntzenbiler 3rd
Gage Johnson 5th
#80A – Tucker Nevins 4th
#80B – Grady Nelson 2nd
#90A – Aden Graves 1st
#90B – Kade Rindahl 6th
#100A – Kolter Savik 3rd
#100B – Logan Ullmer 1st
#105A – Kade Graves 2nd
#105B – Kolton Reid 4th
Jordan Darby 6th
#105C – Ashton Swenson – 2nd
#115A – Riley Waters 1st
#115B – Easton Hopes 3rd
Zander Burnison 5th
#125-130 – Jaret Aisenbrey 3rd
#130A – Brodey Skogen 4th
#130B – Boston Peters 3rd
#140 – Jett Jones 2nd
#160-180 – Keelen Geiser 1st
#HWTB – Trey Schepens 3rd



Grady Nelson battles for position against his Hardin opponent. (Photo by Kari Jones)

Sidney Gymnastics Club Held Its Annual "Fun Meet" Gymnastics Competition On Sat., Nov. 21



Tayten Bright

Allison Axtman

Taylor McPherson

Submitted by Keri McPherson

Gymnasts ranging from Level 1 to Level 9 participated in a competition with a "no pressure" atmosphere. This meet is designed as a tune up for the more serious competitions down the road.

Competing teams were: Sidney Gymnastics Club; Devil Dog Gymnastics from Glendive; Northern Pacific Gymnastics from Miles City; and Western Stars Gymnastics from Williston.

Team competition results: Level 3: 1st place Devil Dogs; 2nd place Sidney; 3rd place Northern Pacific; 4th place Western Stars. In the Level 4 team competition: 1st place Sidney; 2nd place Northern Pacific.

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The Roundup
Special Section

The Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture Presents:

A Christmas Story

Take a Christmas Stroll in Sidney Saturday, November 28

The Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture has a fantastic afternoon and evening of fun planned for Saturday, November 28.

Take advantage of fantastic sales all over town, visit with your friends and neighbors, and check out all the food, beverage and craft vendors.

BPA will host a kid's carnival from noon to 4pm in the Village Square Mall. For a minimum $5 charge, kids can enjoy the bean bag toss, coin toss, bowling and much, much more.

Check out the tantalizing aromas in the RestorX building from 1 to 4 pm as the area's top chili cooks vie for prizes. After the judging is complete at 2pm, the public is welcome to try free samples. Entries are still welcome. Call Marissa at 489-3560 or email her at marissa.chamber@sidneymt.com. The Cutting Edge Dance Studio will host sugar cookie decorating for a small fee, the Boy Scouts will be selling popcorn, and Lower Yellowstone REC will be serving free hot chocolate.

The classic movie, "The Christmas Story" will be playing at the Centre Theatre at 1pm. with free admission for all.

Get your free photo taken with Santa at the Richland County Public Library from 2:30 to 5pm.

Check out all the beautiful trees, wreaths, and swags at the MonDak Heritage Center from 4 to 5pm, then come back for the Parade of Trees auction at 6. All proceeds benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Richland County and the Family Resource Center.

The Parade of Lights begins at 7pm and travels down Central Avenue to Reese and Ray's IGA where Santa will handing out candy canes to the kids.

Red Kettle Donations Help People In The Community

The "Ring the Bell" Will Be At Reynolds and Reese & Ray's IGA
Mon., Nov. 30 - Sat., Dec. 19

Shifts include: Mon -Fri: 4 -6pm
Sat: 10am - 12pm, 12 - 2pm, 2 - 4pm, 4 - 6pm
2 Ringers needed for each shift

You've Been Grinched!

This year The Grinch will be downtown visiting businesses. If The Grinch visits your business, you can pay $25 OR have 2 volunteers to ring the Salvation Army Bell.

If you are interested in ringing a bell, call the Rita or Jessica at: 406-433-2207

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4 Ways to Spread Cheer and Save Your Wallet this Holiday Season

(BPT) - The holiday season is often dubbed "the most wonderful time of the year," but for many Americans, it can be an incredibly stressful time financially. The National Retail Federation predicts a 4.1 percent increase in sales this year, with the average American set to spend an estimated $786 in the following categories:

* $459.87 on gifts for family
* $80.00 on gifts for friends
* $26.03 on colleagues
* $30.43 on the other people in their lives

Whether shopping online or in-store, there's often a temptation to spend too much on gifts, leading to a case of buyer's remorse come January. Regions Bank, one of the largest U.S. banks with 1,630 branches across 16 states, has advice for consumers on how to prepare financially for the holiday shopping season.

1. Begin with the golden rule. Spending on gifts shouldn't exceed more than 1.5 percent of your annual income. Use this rule as a guide to determine how much you should set aside to spend on gifts for your friends and family - and stick to it.

2. Separate and delegate. Consider creating a separate account to fund gift purchases and make regular contributions from your primary checking account in a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis.

3. Only buy what you can truly afford. To prevent overspending, never leave home without a list of what you intend to buy, and be sure you have the money needed to cover your purchases once you arrive in-store.

4. Use timing to your advantage. While things like airline tickets should be booked far in advance, other items - toys in particular - often drop in price during the first two weeks in December. Sometimes it pays to wait, other times it does not, so be sure to check for deals before you head out shopping.

As December nears, now is the time to start mapping out your shopping strategy. Establish a benchmark based on your income; create a holiday savings account, and fund it regularly; be sure you're purchasing within the parameters of what you can truly afford; and know when to buy and when to wait. And remember, the holidays are meant to warm the heart - not burn the wallet!

Be a Responsible Host

Submitted by Nicole Hackley
Richland County Partnership for Promise

The winter holidays are a time to enjoy the company of family, friends, and co-workers. Whether you are planning a dinner, informal gathering, or holiday party, your job as host is very important. Your many responsibilities include planning the menu, entertainment, gifts and games. However, some of the most crucial details can be overlooked in all of the frenzy. Perhaps your most important responsibility as host for a gathering where alcohol is involved is to take steps to ensure your guests' safety both during and after the celebration. Drinking and driving is an all too familiar and tragic combination. More people are on the road, and they also are consuming alcohol as a part of their holiday celebrations. Additionally, providing alcohol to underage youth is illegal, but often, parents allow their children to drink alcohol during holiday gatherings.

The Richland County Partnership for Promise would like to offer some tips to help keep your holiday's safe, legal, and fun this season. First and foremost, recruit people ahead of time to be sober drivers, who can ensure that everyone makes it home safely. Also, avoid making alcohol the main focus of social events. Instead, entertain guests with music, dancing, and games. This is a great opportunity for adults to be role models to kids, showing that alcohol does not need to be consumed to have a good time. As a host, provide a wide arrange of drinks, including non-alcoholic beverages. If you are going to serve alcohol, make sure there are plenty of food choices available, and that the underage kids will not be consuming it. Foods high in protein like meat and cheese are great choices, because they slow down the absorption of alcohol into the blood stream. Towards the end of the event, stop serving alcohol. Instead, choose this time to serve desserts, coffee, and non-alcoholic drinks.

Lastly, your most important responsibility of the night is making sure everyone has a safe ride home. Enlist the help of the sober drivers you recruited before the event. Luckily, Sidney Shuttle is available to drive people home if there is no sober driver. Have their phone number on hand in case you need it. If there are no reasonable options for a safe ride home, always be prepared to have guests stay the night at your home. If a person insists on driving despite his or her obvious intoxication, take the keys, ask for help from other guests, or temporarily disable the car. If all else fails, say you will call the police (and do so).

The Partnership for Promise would like to wish you a happy, healthy and safe holiday season!

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The Parade of Trees on Display at the MonDak Heritage Center

By Meagan Dotson

It is that time of year again, and the Parade of Trees is being hosted by the MonDak Heritage Center, 120 3rd Ave South, lending its festive display to Sidney's local museum through December 7th. This is the first year that the event has been held at the MonDak, previously being hosted at Reynolds Market and the Village Square Mall.

"The MonDak Heritage Center was quick to jump on board with the Parade of Trees this year," commented Kim Simmonds, Executive Director. "Not only does it help one of the largest non-profits in our community, but the trees and wreaths on display will create a beautiful backdrop for our MonDak Christmas event, which will take place the first Sunday in December."

"The staff at the MonDak Heritage Center have been excellent in helping us with this project," said Developmental Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Richland County Michele Seadeek.

The Parade of Trees began in 2006 as a fundraiser for the Boys & Girls Club of Richland County and the Family Resource Center, having raised thousands of dollars for the organizations; local residents and businesses are invited to donate decorated trees and wreaths to be auctioned off Saturday, November 28th from 6:00pm to 7:00pm during the Christmas Stroll with the Parade of Lights to follow. There is room for thirty-two trees and eight to ten wreaths, depending on size, and entry forms can be picked up at the Boys & Girls Club, 200 3rd Ave SE. Those who donate are asked to glue the sections of the tree together, glue bulb ornament tops onto the bulbs, and wire all ornaments to the trees to prevent them from being broken when they are picked up. It is also asked that there are no loosely glittered ornaments, real feathers, or live plants including fruits and vegetables on the donated trees and wreaths. The last day to donate and set up is November 20th and voting for Best of Show, People's Choice, Most Creative, and Best Wreath will begin November 21st. November 21st will also begin the bidding for six dessert gift baskets and one gingerbread house; a list of what each basket contains will be available at the MonDak and the silent auction for this will be held during the live auction on the 28th.

Extension cords will not be included with the auctioned trees, but must be provided and labeled for the display; extension cords can be picked up following the auction. Purchased trees and wreaths can be picked up December 7th and 12th; for more information or to donate an item, contact Seadeek at 406-433-6763 or Project Coordinator for the Family Resource Center Melissa Kostelecky at 406-433-4097.

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Tree Ornaments Reservoirs of Holidays Past

By Lois Stephens

I can't understand people who each year purchase a tree already decorated in one theme or another, all coordinated and cutesy. They place this tree with its meaningless ornaments somewhere in their house for a few weeks, and then discard the tree along with all its ornaments at the end of the holiday season. Where is the meaning and the fun in that? I have received my ornaments, each and every one of them, from family and friends through the years, and these trinkets provide memories of times past and people I have known and loved throughout my life. I would no more part with my cherished tree decorations than I'd burn down my home.

I don't always put up a tree at Christmas; it depends on time and circumstances, but when I do I haul out my tin stuffed full of treasured items. The memories that assail me as I reverently pull each ornament out of storage makes trimming the tree a true blessing. These decorations provide me with a lifetime of memories that embrace, celebrate, and remember family and friends across the decades. Every single ornament I own was either handmade by me or by family and friends, bought especially for me by those same family members and friends, or I've inherited them from my parents or grandparents. Each ornament, regardless of how worn or threadbare it may have become over time, holds treasured memories of the person who gifted me with that particular item, and each memento reminds me of some incident or another associated with the person who gave me the ornament. Each object has the ability to remind me of many different adventures and good times I may have shared with that individual.

Here, let me show you. I open the large Christmas tin that stores my variety of tree trimmings, and the first item I spy is a cross stitched ornament my beloved sister made for me. One of many ornaments made just for me by my sister, this one features a Doberman with a bone; the ornament itself has the shape of a Christmas stocking. Now, I love Dobermans and have owned several special, unique dogs of this breed throughout my adult life. This ornament not only reminds me of my very talented sister and the many years of joys, sorrows, and secrets we've shared, but it also brings to mind Gypsy, Skye, Falon, Echo, and Ruby, all fantastic Dobermans that have enriched my life and given me unswerving loyalty and friendship as I negotiated the ups and downs of life as an adult.

I reach in the storage box and pull out several more ornaments made by my sister. She has given me decorations made from a large assortment of materials, including those cross stitched on cloth, ones she hand painted on wood, a snowy barn scene painted on a shiny Christmas ball, and a few store bought items that match my interests. All of these ornaments flood me with remembrances of good times and bad shared with my sister; some escapades I haven't thought about in years but a particular ornament has the ability to unleash those memories and make me smile.

Next I pick a humble plastic gewgaw out of my tin. I detest this particular cheap plastic ornament, but I keep it because it belonged to my grandmother. When I cradle this unremarkable relic in my hands, I remember stories my Grandma told me, I recall through her eyes the Depression she and my grandfather lived through, the hardships and struggles they faced, and how they came out of it intact. I remember her frugality, the fact that she delighted in making a teabag last for ten cups of tea. These

A friend, now passed on, gave me this ornament many years ago.

life lessons I could easily forget, but a small, unprepossessing ornament on the tree suddenly becomes an object of magnificence when I recall its original owner and the love and learning that owner bestowed on me.

Now I pull a gorgeous ornament out of storage. I received this gift from a beloved friend who has passed on to a better place. This friend, the husband of my best friend when I lived in Canada, gave me this ornament one Christmas season. It brings me great joy to handle this decoration and to recall the man who gave it to me, his idealism, his love for his wife, his devotion to his two daughters, and his commitment to his community. I remember sage advice he gave me while my marriage was in the process of breaking apart, and I see his smile when I handle the magnificent ornament he gifted me.

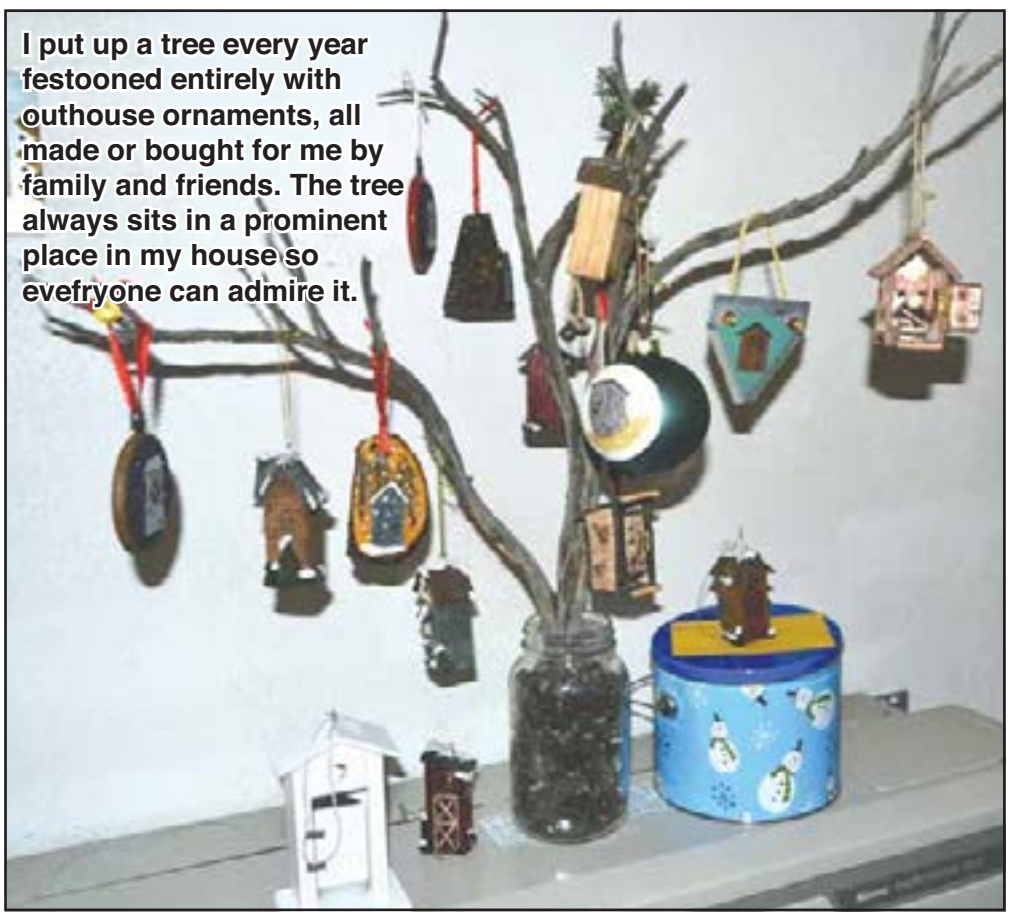
The next object I pull from storage, a crocheted Christmas ball, came from this man's wife, my best friend at the time who remains a dear friend to this day. This multitalented lady has given me several handmade ornaments, all of them true treasures, and all of them reminding me of summer afternoons sitting on a swing in her back yard, the gorgeous flowers she grew, sharing lemon lift tea and rice pudding which happened to be two favored treats we delighted to share together. These and a thousand other cherished memories of times and confidences shared with this friend, some of them happy and some of them heartbreaking, come out of my memory banks when I handle the special items she made with me in mind. Each one has a place in my heart, strengthened our friendship, and helped make me the person I am today.

Aha, I see a very poorly made paper ornament in the tin. I pick up this not-so-nice decoration and smile ruefully. It happens to be an ornament I made the first year of my marriage to my first husband forty plus odd years ago. That first Christmas money certainly did not grow on trees, I had not yet lived long enough to collect the assortment of ornaments I cherish today, so I made our tree decorations that year out of paper and from cloth. I still have several of these not-so-attractive ornaments, but I keep them to remind me of a portion of my life. The first few years of that marriage, in a country other than the US, alone and with few friends and no family nearby were not easy for a twenty something naïve young girl. I learned a lot, encountered some difficulties, but also enjoyed great experiences that I would not trade for love or money. These ornaments help me remember those times, that place, and the life I built and the friends I made.

Then I come to my outhouse ornaments. My sister has cross stitched or painted many of these decorations for me, and several special friends also have gifted me with clever outhouse ornaments that I love dearly. I would never part with these under any circumstances. They recall my friends, my sister, and their indulgence with me as I developed a love affair with outhouses.

Yes, I have pictures that span six decades and that also remind me of other times and places, but I think the Christmas season in particular remains a time to remember family, friends, times past, and to help us reflect on the future. What better way to do that than through treasured ornaments that hang on the tree, sparkle in the light, and that vibrate with a life of their own as they radiate the memories and love contained within them.

A few of the many outhouse ornaments made or bought for me by friends and family.



I put up a tree every year festooned entirely with outhouse ornaments, all made or bought for me by family and friends. The tree always sits in a prominent place in my house so evefryone can admire it.

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How to be a Great Holiday Guest and Host

(BPT) - The holiday season is chaotic enough without the added stress of entertaining. Whether you open your house to family and friends, or attend parties hosted by others this season, these tips will help you keep tensions low and stomachs full wherever you celebrate.

Don't show up empty-handed

Although the invitation didn't specifically say to bring a gift, don't let that be your excuse to show up empty-handed to your family or friends' holiday festivities. Host gifts don't need to break the bank. Do a little research about what your host would enjoy - maybe it's a decorative candle, a cute ornament, their favorite homemade peanut brittle or an assortment of naturally good Arla(R) Havarti and Gouda cheese alongside festive jams and spreads.

These options don't have to cost a pretty penny - just enough to show your host you appreciate all of the hard work and money put in to hosting the party. Your thoughtfulness will not go overlooked.

Save time and money with a holiday potluck

When you are the host, instead of trying to do it all, look to your guests to help build the perfect holiday party menu. It's customary for the host to supply the main dish and beverages, while the guests bring the rest.

To ensure your potluck doesn't turn out to be all cookies and pie, create a sign-up sheet for appetizers, side dishes and desserts. That way people get to choose what to bring, but you'll have an even assortment of delicious food to go around.

Add an element of competition by allowing your guests to vote for their favorite dish of the night to earn some holiday bragging rights for next year's party.

Try not to overindulge

During the holiday season, it's easy to get carried away with heavy entrees and sweet treats as vegetable side dishes fall to the wayside. Instead, opt for a dish that feels indulgent even though it's filled with greens and naturally good seasonal ingredients.

This recipe for Apple, Gouda and Farro Salad from the blog Two Peas and Their Pod is a delicious, healthy and hearty addition to any holiday spread. It's the ultimate cold-weather salad full of flavor and textures from the apple slices, Gouda bits, farro, toasted walnuts, dried cranberries and a simple apple cider vinaigrette. Plus, it takes only minutes to throw together, making it the perfect time-saving side dish for any holiday get-together.

Apple, Gouda and Farro Salad

Makes 6 servings as a side dish, or 4 servings as a meal

Ingredients:

For the salad:

1/2 cup roughly chopped walnuts

6 cups mixed greens

1 large apple, core removed and thinly sliced

6 ounces Arla Dofino(R) Gouda cheese, cut into cubes

1 cup cooked farro

1/3 cup dried cranberries

For the apple cider vinaigrette:

1/4 cup olive oil

1 1/2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar

2 Teaspoons honey

1 Teaspoon Dijon mustard

1 Teaspoon minced shallot

Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

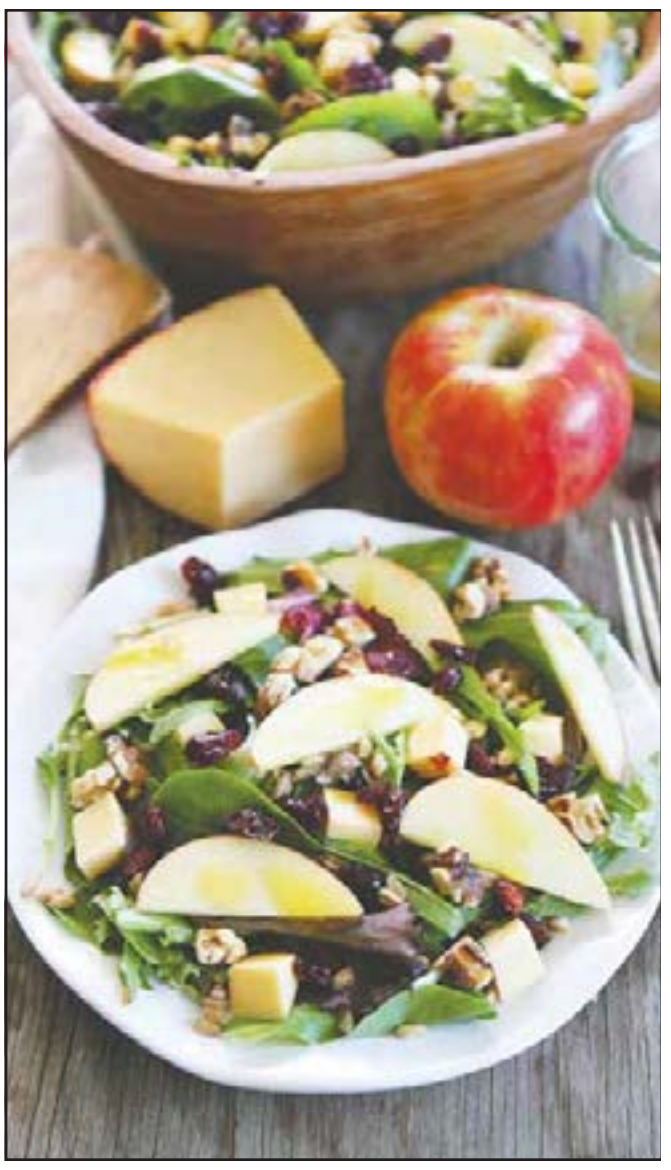
Directions

First, toast the walnuts in a small skillet over medium heat, stirring frequently. Cook until the walnuts turn brown and smell toasted. This will take about 5 minutes. Transfer to a small bowl to cool.

Place the greens in a large bowl. Top with sliced apples, Gouda cheese cubes, farro, dried cranberries and toasted walnuts.

To make the vinaigrette, whisk together the olive oil, apple cider vinegar, honey, mustard and shallot. Season with salt and black pepper, to taste. Drizzle the salad with the vinaigrette and gently toss. Serve!

Note: Honeycrisp or Granny Smith apples are great options, but any apple variety will work.



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Bust Holiday-Hosting Stress with These 5 Smart Party-Planning Tactics

(BPT) - When it comes to holiday get-togethers, no mood-killer is worse than a stressed-out host or hostess. Your guests may be willing to brave snowy roads, low temperatures and the fruitcake they know you'll serve, but if you're too frantic to enjoy their company, they won't enjoy yours, either.

This holiday season, try some stress-busting tactics to ensure you stay calm, your party runs smoothly, and your guests arrive to a warm welcome. Here are five ways to minimize party-planning, prep and presentation stressors:

1. Become a fixture at your local rental store

Stop scouring the house for enough chairs to seat everyone, agonizing over not having enough tables, or worrying which of your grandmother's prized china dishes will crash to the floor during this year's party. Renting the items you need spares you the time, logistical challenges and expense of buying or borrowing. What's more, you don't have to worry about where you'll store rarely used items - such as chafing dishes or linens - from year-to-year.

Local rental stores carry a range of products perfect for holiday gatherings, such as tables and chairs, dishes and silverware, warming trays, lighting, centerpieces - even portable dance floors. To find an American Rental Association member store in your area, visit www.rentalHQ.com. Just remember to contact them and reserve your items early, as the holidays are a busy time for rental stores.

2. Take a shortcut to menu planning

Your guests can only eat so much turkey, ham, green bean casserole and fruitcake; you'll need to flesh out your menu, even though you may not have the time to be creative. Figuring out what to make besides the must-have traditional favorites can be a drag, but an online search can make the task easier.

A plethora of websites offer not just great recipes to try, but entire suggested menus. Some smart online searching can yield a host of ideas, even if you're hosting people with special dietary needs, like vegan or gluten-free. Some sites even allow you to plug in preferred ingredients, dietary restrictions, etc. and have a menu generated for you.

3. Cheat shamelessly on food prep.

In a perfect world, your holiday meal prep would run like a precision instrument, and all your dishes would be done at exactly the same time and arrive on the table at the same moment. Who lives in that world? In reality, making food a day or two - or even a week - ahead, freezing it, and heating it when you need it is a much smarter way to get everything on the table in a timely manner.

Or, you can buy prepared items from your grocery store - like brown-and-serve rolls, cook-and-serve sides, etc. - and "doctor" them to be more like your own. Another option is to supplement your own cooking with a dish or two from your favorite restaurant. Or, you can go all-out and have the entire affair catered.

4. Tactics for easier decorating

Unless you started a week before Halloween, you may not have the time to decorate the whole house from top to bottom like something out of a home decorating show. Instead, decorate wisely and time-efficiently by focusing your attention on key areas guests are most likely to see. A great entryway sets the mood, and a well-decorated kitchen and dining room evoke a festive atmosphere. Don't overlook the powder room! A scented candle on the vanity and some sleigh bells on the doorknob are both decorative and practical. And go ahead and buy that pre-lit Christmas tree - you'll save scads of time not having to untangle lights and get them in just the right spot on the tree.

5. Simplify your spirits.

You could make yourself crazy trying to prepare for everyone's spirit wish list - but don't! Simplify your beverage service with one good red, a fine white, and one each of a domestic, imported and light beer. If you must serve cocktails, wow your guests with a single "signature" holiday cocktail that's easy to whip up. You can find plenty of holiday cocktail ideas online.

Staging a holiday celebration doesn't have to be stressful, if you use resources like rental stores and pre-made items and ideas to make the task easier. So, invite your guests and enjoy their company during the holiday season.

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(BPT) - Good times with loved ones are an important part of the holidays, so it's understandable if you want everyone to put down their smartphones and turn off the TV while you're sharing a holiday meal. But you can "tech the halls" to help get the most from your holiday entertaining! Did you know that certain home gadgets can actually make the season easier and more enjoyable - and give you more time to spend with those you love?

Here are six home technologies that will bring a little holiday cheer to your family and friends:

Phone home

The perfect holiday host knows that it's all about the ambience. But, when you're entertaining, who wants to mess with dimming or raising the lights, opening or closing blinds, adjusting the thermostat or a host of other minor, but time-consuming tasks? Home automation systems allow you to control multiple home functions from a central keypad or your smartphone so you can create the perfect atmosphere in every room with the touch of a button.

Get comfortable

Speaking of adjusting the thermostat, while it's important to make sure everyone is warm and cozy during the holiday season, frequent adjustments to temperature settings are inefficient - and unlikely to keep everyone comfy in your home. A programmable thermostat allows you to choose optimum temperatures for different times of day and set the thermostat to automatically make adjustments, so you can focus on hosting. Plus, proper use of a programmable thermostat can trim your heating bill nearly $200 a year, according to Energy Star.

Get organized

With a houseful of guests, and the need to store a variety of food and drinks, your refrigerator needs to do more than just keep food cold. It needs to let you access and store food items quickly and easily. For instance, LG's "door-in-door" refrigerator gives you the perfect spot to store those popular drinks or must-have snacks in the interior compartment, all without opening the entire refrigerator. The door-in-door compartment opens with the push of a button, and the refrigerator provides optimal organization and storage.

Heat it up

Holiday decorations are an essential part of the season, but a fireplace can really help you step up the ambiance. Modern gas fireplaces do far more than fire up a flame at the flick of a switch. With a remote-controlled fireplace you can ignite the flame from across the room, control the flame height, and set a specific temperature. Some fireplaces even have a setting that will start the flame automatically when the temperature in the room reaches a preset level.

Enjoy music in style

What would the holidays be without a seasonal soundtrack? Whether yours is filled with traditional carols, Christmas rock or the sounds of the big game, you'll want your whole house buzzing with festive excitement. The elegant "Music Flow" curved sound bar from LG not only delivers a powerful audio experience in a sleek design, it's equipped with both Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity and can be paired with additional Music Flow speakers and sound bars so you can create a customizable audio system for your entire home. You can also control the sound bar and speakers from your smartphone, allowing you to set the mood with music, or turn up the volume on the big game from across the room, or even from another room in the house!

Cook with confidence

Your oven will likely see as much action as the refrigerator, if not more, during the holidays. Whether you're baking cookies, whipping up holiday dinner or serving a festive holiday brunch, having a smarter range will make cooking easy. If you've been thinking of replacing your old one, pre-holiday is the perfect time. Look for features that can help you cook like a pro in the kitchen, such as ProBake convection technology for even baking and EasyClean technology to clean up messes quickly, warming drawers and double ovens.

The right technology can help ensure you have more time to share with loved ones during the holidays - and make those holiday chores easier to handle.

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