

# The Roundup

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Wednesday, March 13, 2024

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MARCH 19, 2024

## AG WEEK, MARCH 17-23, 2024

*Growing A Climate  
For Tomorrow*

Pages 11-15



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## Sidney Airport Operating As Usual Despite Fire

An early morning fire discovered about 2 a.m. Thursday, March 7 destroyed one of three hangers at the Sidney-Richland Regional Airport. The biggest of the three was the hanger that contained the biggest snow removal equipment. Airport manager Ryan

Huotari said that they still have back-up equipment to keep open in the event of snow fall and that the airport is functioning as usual.

He also expressed his deep gratitude to the Sidney Fire Department, MDU and LYREA for their great response. "Those guys are troopers," he said.



## Amended Property Tax Statements On Their Way To Richland Co. Taxpayers

By Dianne Swanson

Richland County taxpayers can expect to receive an amended property tax statement within the next few weeks.

The new tax bills are the result of the November 2023 Montana Supreme Court ruling in favor of Governor Gianforte and the Montana Department of Revenue (DOR), and against the 49 of Montana's 56 counties that revolted against the DOR and refused to collect the full 95 mill state-level school equalization levy. Those counties only billed 77.9 mills.

The 1972 Montana Constitution requires the state to provide the public with an education system that provides equality of educational opportunity. The 95 mill school equalization levy was adopted by the legislature in an effort to meet that requirement. The counties estimated that, with rising property taxes in the state, the levy would generate about \$99 million more than last year's revenues baked into the budget passed by last year's legislature. The Department of Revenue (DOR) directed the counties to collect the 95 mills, the same as they had for decades. The 49 counties refused and billed at the lower rate of 77.9 mills.

The Montana Association of Counties and some individuals filed a lawsuit against the State and the DOR. In a unanimous opinion, the justices stated they generally defer to state agencies like the DOR when questions arise about a law that agencies have consistently interpreted in a particular way for considerable lengths of time.

Richland County Treasurer Amy Metz expects to have amended property tax statements ready to mail to taxpayers by March 25.

Metz said that if a taxpayer paid their property taxes in full last fall, they will receive a bill for the difference between the 95 and 77.9 mills. If they paid only the first half, the difference will all be calculated on the second half. If a taxpayer forgot to pay their taxes in November, there will be penalties and interest on the original first half amount billed; the amended amount will be added to the second half taxes only.

All taxes are due by May 31, 2024. Metz said there will be a section on the tax statement that explains the situation and encourages everyone to read their statement fully. If you still have questions, you can contact the Richland County Treasurer's office at 406-433-1707.

MNAXLP

## Sidney's Lyndale Park Receives Two New Scoreboards



Thanks to the generosity of local businesses, baseball lovers have two new scoreboards at Lyndale Park in Sidney. According to avid baseball fan, Ross Rosaaen, the old scoreboards quit working several years ago, diminishing the experience for fans.

Rosaaen and many others in the community have been concerned about the decline of baseball in recent years and are actively working to bring the sport back to life. Part of their efforts are concentrated on improving the fields.

Niehenke Welding and Yellowstone Bank teamed up to provide the funds for the new scoreboards at Lyndale Park. Rosaaen built the mounting and posts for the signs and dug the holes. Cory Roland, Dynamic Energy, helped dig the holes, pour concrete and sandblasted and painted the steel posts. The concrete was provided by Sidney-Red-E-Mix. All the labor and materials were donated. Dustin Schulz, Triangle Electric, completed all the electrical. "We're trying to rebuild the program and thought this would help," Rosaaen said. "It was truly a local effort," he added.

Both Lyndale and Moose Park now have special infield conditioning dirt that was brought in from Minnesota, completely paid for with donations. Rosaaen also plans to visit with the City of Sidney about possibly getting new dugout benches made at Lyndale.

After almost dying, baseball is making a comeback, including the new Sidney High School baseball team. However, there's always room for more. Rosaaen said that Richland County has a great baseball board and great coaches, and is encouraging kids to get out and participate in 'America's Game'. Registration is open for this season. Go to the Richland County Baseball FB page for a link to register.

Left: One of the new scoreboards as seen from the pitchers mound at Lyndale Park in Sidney.

## Fairview Boys Place 2nd at Class B State Tournament

Fairview Warriors traveled to Billings for the state basketball tournament March 7-9. Fairview Warriors worked hard and came out with a 2nd place state basketball trophy. What a way to introduce themselves to Class B Basketball!

Results

1st game: Fairview 52- Arlee 47; 2nd game: Fairview 56-Anaconda 39; 3rd game Championship: Missoula Loyola 69-Fairview 54

Pictured right: Fairview Warriors with their 2nd place state trophy. (Photo by Keri McPherson Photography)





# Thank You

We are overwhelmed by the surrounding counties' support at Weston Hunter's Benefit. Kyle and I want to Thank everyone who donated, came and had Chili, and helped spread the word.

We are so proud to be a part of such a giving community. Thank you!

- Jenae and Kyle Hunter

## LET'S RAISE THE STEAKS & MILK IT FOR ALL IT'S WORTH HAPPY HOWIE IS TURNING 70!

Celebrate with the whole herd for Howard's special day!  
Take a stroll down pastures passed, share a laugh,  
a toast & graze in the cake arena.



SAT, MARCH 16 • 5-8PM  
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(123 3RD ST SW • SIDNEY, MT)

KEVIN & KAREN BOEHLER PROVIDING MUSIC

## AREA RECOVERY GROUPS

### MONDAYS:

12 p.m. - **Monday Noon AA Group, Sidney** - Prairie Hills Fellowship Hall, 623 N. Central, enter through back entrance door, SE side.  
12 p.m. - **"We Are Not Saints AA Meeting, Watford City** - Glory of the Lord Church, use back door entrance, handicap accessible.  
7 p.m. - **Hope For Today Al-Anon Family Group Sidney** - Prairie Hills Fellowship Hall, 623 N. Central, enter through back entrance door, SE side.  
7 p.m. - **Living Free NA Group, Sidney** - Sidney Lutheran Brethren Church, 1100 Madison Lane.  
8 p.m. - **AA Meeting Watford City** - Northern Pump & Compression. Call 701-770-3603 or 701-770-2675 for directions or ride. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663.

### TUESDAYS:

7 p.m. - **AA Welcome Home Group, Sidney** - Prairie Hills Fellowship Hall, 623 N. Central, enter through back entrance door, SE side.  
7 p.m. - **Living Free NA Group, Sidney** - Candlewood Suites, 201 6th St. NW, Room 228  
7 p.m. - **24-hour Women's AA Group Meeting Watford City** - Northern Pump & Compression. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663.

### WEDNESDAYS:

6:30 p.m. - **Celebrate Recovery, Watford City** - Assembly of God  
7 p.m. - **24-Hr AA Group Meeting, Watford City** - Northern Pump & Compression. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663.  
**THURSDAYS:**  
7 p.m. - **Living Free NA Group, Sidney** - Sidney Lutheran Brethren Church, 1100 Madison Lane.  
7 p.m. - **Al-Anon Meeting, Watford City** - Presbyterian Church, 316 4th Ave. NE.  
8 p.m. - **AA Meeting, Watford City** - Northern Pump & Compression. Call 701-770-3603 or 701-770-2675 for directions or ride. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663.

### FRIDAYS:

7 p.m. - **AA Welcome Home Group, Sidney** - Prairie Hills Fellowship Hall, 623 N. Central, enter through back entrance door, SE side  
8 p.m. - **NA Meetings, Watford City** - First Lutheran Church, 212 2nd St. NW, use 3rd Ave. NW entrance.

### SATURDAYS:

7 p.m. - **AA Welcome Home Group, Sidney** - Prairie Hills Fellowship Hall, 623 N. Central, enter through back entrance door, SE side.  
7 p.m. - **24-Hr. AA Group Meeting, Watford City** - Northern Pump & Compression. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663.

### SUNDAYS:

1 p.m. - **Sober Soaks AA/NA Meeting, Fairview** - Zion Lutheran Church, 309 S. Central Ave., Upstairs Fellowship Room.  
7 p.m. - **AA Welcome Home Group, Sidney** - Prairie Hills Fellowship Hall, 623 N. Central, white building, enter through back entrance door, SE side.  
7 p.m. - **Living Free NA Group, Sidney** - Candlewood Suites, 201 6th St. NW, Room 228

## STATISTICS

### LAKE WATER LEVEL REPORT

Sakakawea

Current Elevation.....1835.2  
Last Week's Elev. ....1835.2  
One Year Ago .....1825.4  
Release For Day (C.F.S.) .....16,000

### SIDNEY WEATHER DATA

Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

Date	High	Low	Precip.
March 4	16	-1	0.000
March 5	22	0	0.000
March 6	19	0	0.000
March 7	21	-7	0.000
March 8	39	1	0.000
March 9	55	12	0.000
March 10	61	27	0.000
Total 2024 YTD Precipitation		0.470	

# Fourth Graders Say "Thanks"

A fourth grader from Lambert won third place in Energy Share of Montana's statewide art contest. On Tuesday, March 5, Paityn Huft received a \$25 check from Energy Share. Kevin Thompson, Action for Eastern Montana Energy Programs director and Energy Share coordinator for eastern Montana, presented Paityn with her prize. Her teacher, Ms. Frisbie, received a \$25 Amazon gift card to use for classroom supplies. Additionally, Energy Share is buying pizza for Ms. Frisbie's class as a "congratulations" for all their fine artwork.

Using the medium of art, Frisbie taught her students about our Montana neighbors who sometimes need a little additional help with keeping warm in the winter. Per Energy Share's contest guidelines, the drawings by her students depict what Energy Share means to them.

First and second places this year went to Delanie Harper, Wilsall, and Brooke Foster, Corvallis. Harper's drawing will be used on Energy Share's thank you cards statewide beginning July 1.

The art contest is part of Energy Share's overall efforts to educate the public on the energy needs of our neighbors across the state. Donations from individuals and businesses including Lower Yellowstone REA, Montana-Dakota Utilities, NorthWestern Energy, and the propane industry, make it possible for Energy Share to help Montanans who face emergency, no-heat situations when they encounter temporary financial difficulties. Energy Share partners with Action for Eastern Montana to help Montanans keep their homes warm and safe.

All the fourth graders who participated in the art contest send a big "thank you" message to those who donate to Energy Share to help keep their neighbors warm. If you or someone you know would like more information on how to apply or how to help, please call Action for Eastern Montana at 406-377-3564 or 1-800-227-0703. You can also visit these websites: [www.aemt.org](http://www.aemt.org) and [www.energysharemt.com](http://www.energysharemt.com).

## Williston Community Library To Host 4th Annual Community Egg Hunt

WILLISTON – Mark your calendars for the Fourth Annual Community Egg Hunt, scheduled to take place on Wednesday, March 27, inside the Williston Community Library.

The Community Egg Hunt will be divided into two-time slots, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and from 4 -6 p.m. This event is free and open to all ages.

Andrea Placher, Williston, Community Library director, expressed her excitement about hosting the fourth annual Community Egg Hunt and stated that the mission of any event they host is to promote literacy in the community, the library's various resources, and of course, a love of reading.

"This event is special because it allows us to collaborate with many community organizations to raise awareness about the library and our missions," Placher said. "The library is thrilled to see friends and families coming together, interacting with each other, and having fun!"

Attendees will receive a bag to fill with eggs, which can be exchanged for a free book. In addition to the traditional egg hunt, there will be a chance to meet the Bunny and take photos. Community agencies will be scattered throughout the library with goodies and handouts, and there will also be golden eggs every hour, which can be exchanged for local business gift cards!

For more information on this story, please contact Andrea Placher, Library Director, at 701.774.8805 or [andreap@ci.williston.nd.us](mailto:andreap@ci.williston.nd.us).

For more information on the Williston Community Library, please visit [www.willistonndlibrary.com](http://www.willistonndlibrary.com). Follow the Williston Community Library on Facebook and Instagram (@willistoncommunitylibrary), and YouTube (@WillistonCommunityLibrary – Williston, ND).

## Fairview Chamber Adds Elementary Age Kids To Easter Egg Hunt

More eggs, more kids, more fun! The Fairview Chamber of Commerce is inviting kids from babies through 5th grade to its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Friday, March 22 at noon egg-xactly at Sharbono Park.

The area will be divided into two sections, one for K-5th grade and one for the younger kids. Featuring thousands of eggs, and some special prizes, this event is sure to be fun for all the little ones.

## Red Cross Blood Drive March 19

A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Tuesday, March 19, from noon-6 p.m. at St. Matthew's Parish Center, 310 7th St. SE, Sidney.

Appointments are recommended, but walk-ins are accepted. To schedule an appointment, call 406-868-0911 or 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

Give blood, help save lives.

## Fairview Red Cross Blood Drive Set For March 21

A Red Cross Blood Drive will held Thursday, March 21 at St. Catherine's Catholic Church, Fairview at 6 p.m.

For appointments, email: [Redcrossblood.org](mailto:Redcrossblood.org); or call: 1-800- red-cross; or call/text Ann 406-489-0998 Walk in welcome.

## Correction

In the Yellowstone Township web site story in the March 6 edition of The Roundup, Darrell Finsaas was listed as a board member of Yellowstone Township. The township supervisors are president Tim Cayko, Scott Buxbaum, Jon Dunbar and secretary-treasurer Vicky Cayko. Finsaas serves on the zoning board along with Tim Cayko, Buxbaum, Dunbar and Vicky Cayko. The zoning board makes recommendations to the supervisors.

EVENTS

SEND US YOUR EVENTS!

THE ROUNDUP: PO Box 1207 • 111 West Main • Sidney, MT 406-433-3306 • Fax: 406-433-4114 • Email: [classads@esidney.com](mailto:classads@esidney.com)

### RICHLAND COUNTY

**Events in Sidney unless otherwise listed. MT.**  
**Thurs., March 14**  
11:30 a.m. - **Richland Red Hatters Lunch Meeting** - Saloon 27, 520 N. Central Ave. To RSVP by March 13 call Paula, 406-489-2843 or Margaret, 406-489-1535.  
**Fri, March 15**  
4-7 p.m. - **Richland Co. Right To Life Easter Bake Sale (Held in conjunction with Knights of Columbus Fish Fry)** - Free will donation. St. Matthew's Parish Center, 310 7th St. SE (use 4th Ave. entrance). Baked goods accepted the afternoon of the bake sale from 3-4 p.m. For more info contact Teresa, 406-798-3464; Diana, 406-798-3429 or Tara, 406-488-6274.  
5-7 p.m. - **Knights of Columbus Fish Fry** - \$13 a plate. Ned Shinnick Hall, St. Matthew's Parish Center, 310 7th St. SE.  
6 p.m. - **Sidney Gymnastics Club Designer Purse Bingo** - 18 & over event, \$50 tickets include one card good for 12 games of bingo & 2 drink tickets. Additional cards \$10 each. The Fringe, Sidney Country Club, 2250 W Holly St. Tickets available by cash or check & can be purchased at Sidney Gymnastics Club during class times & at the door the day of the event.  
7 p.m. - **Northeastern Arts Network Presents Americana Women** - Entertainment with songs by Dolly Parton, The Chicks, Loretta Lynn, Emmylou Harris, Shainia Twain & more! MonDak Heritage Center, 120 3rd Ave. SE. Tickets can be purchased at the door. For concert info contact Leann 406-480-5594 or Jill 406-489-4304.  
**Sat., March 16**  
1-3 p.m. - **MDHC Community St. Patrick's Day Celebration** - Live Irish themed music; walk-in spring ceramics workshop, \$15 per piece; the story of Francis Meagher, soups & snack refreshments. Free community event, free will donations accepted. MonDak Heritage Center, 120 3rd Ave. SE.  
**Tues., March 19**  
12-6 p.m. - **Red Cross Blood Drive** - St. Matthew's Parish Center, 310 7th St. SE. Appointments recommended, but walk-ins are accepted. To schedule an appointment call 406-868-0911 or 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).  
**Thurs., March 21**  
1- 6 pm - **Red Cross Blood Drive, Fairview** - St. Catherine's Church, 317 W 7th St., Fairview, MT. For appointments visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org); or call 1-800-RED-CROSS; or call/text Ann 406-489-0998 Walk ins are welcome.  
7:30 p.m. - **Eaglette Drill Team Extravaganza** - Free will donation. Featuring SHS Band, Cutting Edge Dance Studio, and Sidney Gymnastics Xcel Gold Team. SHS Gym, 1012 4th Ave. SE.  
**Fri., March 22**  
Noon egg-xactly - **Fairview Chamber of Commerce Easter Egg Hunt** - For kids from babies-5th grade. More eggs, more kids, more fun! The area will be divided into 2 sections, 1 for K-5th grade & one for the younger kids. Sharbono Park, 12 Ellery Ave.  
**Sat., March 23**  
11 a.m. - **Sidney Elks Lodge No. 1782 Easter Egg Hunt** - Veterans Memorial Park, 218 6th St. SE.  
**Sat., March 23, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. & Sun., March 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
**2nd Annual Gem & Mineral Show** - Vendors, Kids Corner, Displays. Admission \$3; kids 12 & under free. St. Matthews Parish Center, 310 7th St. SE. For more info contact Eddie White, 406-413-1136.

### McKENZIE COUNTY

**Events in Watford City unless otherwise listed. CT.**  
**Sat., March 16**  
8 a.m. - **Leprechaun Loop** - Race options: 1 Mile Loop; The Lucky 7-7K, Double Your Luck - 14K. Race starts 9 a.m. Meet at Outlaws Gallery, start & end downtown Watford City. Fee \$25 person. Pre-register at [watfordcityparks.com](http://watfordcityparks.com), day of registration also available (cash only). For more info email [info@roughridercenter.com](mailto:info@roughridercenter.com).  
**Tues., March 19**  
2-5 p.m. - **McKenzie County Food Pantry Handouts** - First Lutheran Church, 212 2nd St. NW.  
**Sat., March 23**  
5 p.m. - **McKenzie County Ducks Unlimited Beef Banquet** - Multiple gun raffles, prime rib dinner, live & silent auction, fun for all ages, great outdoor prizes, DU Membership, sponsorships available & more. McKenzie County Ag Expo, 12880 25th St. NW. For more info or tickets visit [701ducks.com](http://701ducks.com).  
7 p.m. - **PRCA Extreme Bares & Broncs Rodeo** - Adults \$30; Kids 10 & under free. McKenzie County Ag Expo Indoor Arena, 12880 25th St. NW. For more info contact Stan Headings 620-874-1526.

### WILLIAMS COUNTY

**Events in Williston unless otherwise listed. CT.**  
**Wed., March 20**  
4:30-8 p.m. - **Are Our Streets Safe, Town Hall Meeting** - Join us & share your thoughts as part of our Williston area infrastructure Safety Action Plan. Williston Community Library, 1302 Davidson Drive.  
**Thurs., March 21**  
3-7 p.m. - **NW North Dakota Semi-Annual Job Fair** - Free admission, networking opportunities, Face-to-Face interaction, on-site Interviews. Williston State College - The Well, 1410 University Ave.  
4-7 p.m. - **Williston Parks & Recreation District Easter Egg Dive** - Great family activity for all ages. ARC Pool, 822 18th St. E.  
**Sat., March 23**  
3 p.m. - **2024 Annual Chili Cook-Off** - Doors open at 3 p.m., chili served at 5 p.m., must be 21 to attend. Raymond Family Community Center, 1002 11th St. W.  
4:30 p.m. - **United Sportsmen of Williston, ND Annual Banquet** - Social hour 4:30 p.m.; banquet 7 p.m., steak dinner. \$40 1 year membership & banquet; \$20 spouse, girlfriend, son, daughter (Banquet only), children 18 & under free. Many guns to be given away, children games available. People's choice trophy contest, Bring your trophy mounts by 4 p.m., auction following banquet. Multi-purpose building Upper Missouri Valley Fairgrounds. Tickets sold at the door. For more info call Kelby 406-579-4948 or Mike 701-570-0312.  
**Tues., March 26**  
6-7:30 p.m. - **Food With Friends** - Cook a tasty meal while socializing with friends. Ages 12+. Learn new recipes & take home the food you prepare. Fee: \$36. ARC kitchen, 822 18th St. E. Register at <https://recreationwillistonparks.com>.

### DAWSON COUNTY

**Events in Glendive unless otherwise listed. MT.**  
**Sat., March 16**  
8 a.m.-1:05 p.m. - **Dawson County 4-H Clover Run 5K** - Dawson County Fairgrounds small animal barn, 2200 N. Merrill Ave. Registration fee \$25. Register online at: <https://runsignup.com/.../Glendive/DawsonCounty4HCloverRun>, or stop by the Extension office for a paper registration form!  
**Sun., March 17**  
2-5:10 p.m. - **Songs For The Lenten Season** - Mini concert of songs for the Lenten Season of inspiration & hope! Refreshments following the concert. First Congregational Church, 120 W. Power St.  
**Thurs., March 21**  
6 p.m. - **Glendive Friends of the Library Brains & Brew Trivia** - 4 people per team, per table, entry fee \$10 or go it alone for \$3 per player. Cross Country Brewing, 320 E Allard St.  
**Sat., March 23**  
5-7 p.m. - **Dance Night - Makoshika Wellness** - Enjoy a fun-filled evening of dance lessons & open dance. Learn country swing, two step, & more. Cost: \$10 per Makoshika Wellness member & \$15 per non-member at the door. Following the lesson there will be live music presented by the Wagon Wheel. Come solo or with a partner. All levels welcome. Wagon Wheel's 17 Club, 1615 West Towne St.



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# Watford City's Mogen Named 2024 Girls Class A Basketball Senior Athlete Of The Year

Jessica Mogen, Watford City, has excelled as a varsity basketball player since 8th grade, which has earned her the designated 2024 North Dakota Powerade Senior Athlete of the Year.

Jessica is the youngest of five sisters who have played basketball for the Watford City Wolves.

Her sister, Amanda in 2014, Katie, 2016; Brooke, 2019; Emma in 2021 and Jessica in 2024. "This year will be the last year I will have a Mogen on the team since my six years as Watford City High School's head

basketball coach," states Tom Dwyer. "He goes on to say, "Jessica is one of the better athletes I've coached. She is 5'9" and posts to 6'2" with her jump stretch. She is versatile on both offense and defense." But she is so much more talented than just her overall athleticism. She works very hard, strives for excellence in everything she does, and is a great teammate."

Her sophomore and junior year she was named to the WDA All Region 4 team. Jessica's career stats consist of: 1576 points; 849 rebounds, 328 assists; 298

steals; 149 blocks which was accrued in 127 games.

She set the career record for most points and most rebounds in a single game in Watford City history last year against Williston when she scored 44 points and 20 rebounds.

This year, she set the record for most points in a single season with 576. She set the record for most steals in a single game with 13 steals. She tied the record for most assists in a single game with 11 assists. She also set the record for most career rebounds in Watford City history with 849 total

rebounds, and set the record for most career blocks in Watford City's history with 149 total blocks.

Jessica will be part of

the Minot State University girls' basketball team next year as a freshman playing beside her sister, Emma, who is a senior.

"Her parents, Eric and Renae Mogen, understand sports which has kept these girls at the top of their game," states Dwyer.



**Sidney Fire Department Donation**

On Feb. 21, Nellie Spence presented a check for \$2,500 to Adam Smith of the Sidney Volunteer Fire Department, to go towards the purchase of Grain Bin Rescue Equipment. Pictured are (L-R) Justin Bieber, Pioneer; Adam Smith, Sidney Volunteer Fire Department Chief; Nellie Spence Pioneer Territory Manager and Jeff Bieber, Pioneer. (Submitted photo)



Photo by Kathy Taylor

GREEN BEER

St. Patty's Day, Sun, March 17

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March 16 .....Cultivating Mushrooms  
March 23 .....Amazing Air Plants  
April 6 .....Carnivorous Plants

Cultivating Mushrooms  
Mar. 16

Handy Andy's  
Nursery

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

Saint PATRICK'S DAY

SUN, MARCH 17

Drink Specials and Green Draft Beer!

- Corn Beef & Cabbage Starting at 11am
- Kitchen Closes at 10pm

O'DONOGHUE'S  
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11am - 1am | 905 3rd Ave SW  
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Saturday  
March 16<sup>th</sup> 2024

Free-Will Donation

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Fairview, Montana

- Feed Starts at 6pm
- Quilt Drawings
- Live Music by Mick Klein



# MDT To Resume Construction On Fairview West Project

FAIRVIEW - The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) and Wickens Construction Inc. will resume operations on the Fairview West project in the coming weeks.

The Fairview West project is reconstructing six miles of Montana Highway 201 (MT 201), including two miles of new alignment north of Fairview. A new intersection is being constructed as part of the realignment, creating a new junction at MT 201 and Montana Highway 200 (MT 200) north of town.

Over the winter, the bridge subcontractor, Sletten Construction, completed the new Yellowstone Canal Bridge and Third Hay Creek Bridge structure in the new alignment section of MT 201.

“We’re happy to be back. We had a productive season last year and will hit it hard this spring,” said Wickens Construction, Inc. Project Manager Mike Lutes. “We appreciate folks taking the time to slow down and look out for our crews in construction zones. Their safety is really up to you all.”

Crews will begin this year’s work by replacing the Second Hay Creek Bridge. Motorists should expect reduced speeds on MT 201 as vehicles are diverted around the structure on a temporary bridge. The temporary bridge will be restricted to a single lane and controlled by timed signal lights. Other operations that will have minimal impact on traffic may resume throughout the project but are weather-dependent.

Project Manager Jerry Phillips, MDT Glendive District, would like to remind the public to watch for the ‘cone zone’ and workers on the highway when traveling

during construction season. “Road crews spend their days working a short distance from fast-moving vehicles. While they make every effort to work safely, they count on motorists to pay attention, slow down, and be careful as traffic passes through work zones.”

MDT is also constructing a roundabout at the intersection of MT 201 and MT 200, along with other intersection improvements. This includes the reconstruction of the intersection with County Road 350. Further

enhancements will provide drivers with wider roadways and shoulders, better sight distance, updated and restored pavement markings, and improved signage to safely guide travelers to their destinations.

Visit the project website to learn more or view the project map: <https://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/fairviewwest>.

Please reach out to Ella Currier at [ellac@strategies360.com](mailto:ellac@strategies360.com) with questions or comments.

## Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Available for Review

By Richland County DES

Richland County and the State of Montana have completed the Draft copy of our new 2024 Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The plan looks at Eastern Montana as a whole, as well as each individual County, and helps to identify natural and man-made disasters while assisting in identifying projects that can be done to help mitigate the dangers of those disasters.

The plan will be in draft stage for approx 2 weeks, and we invite anyone to review it and encourage public comment on its accuracy and content.

Questions and comments can be emailed directly to Richland County Emergency Management at: [brandon.roth@richland.org](mailto:brandon.roth@richland.org)

Both the County plan and the Eastern District plan can be viewed from our website at: <https://www.richland.org/multi-hazard-mitigation-plan.html>

## OBITUARIES

### Michael Dollinger, 64 Watford City, ND

A Celebration of Life Service will be Sunday March 10, 2024, at 2 p.m. CDT at the First Lutheran Church, Watford City, ND with Pastor Matt Rolfsen officiating. A luncheon will follow the service for a time of fellowship and sharing. Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home, Watford City, ND, is assisting the family. Remembrances, condolences, and pictures may be shared with the family at [www.fulkersons.com](http://www.fulkersons.com).



Michael Dollinger

On Feb 18, 2024, Michael “Mike” Wayne Dollinger, 64, passed away in his home in Watford City, ND.

Mike was born on April 14, 1959, in Bismarck, ND, to Wayne and Karmo Dollinger. He was the eldest of his five siblings: Morgan, Megan, Manning, and Marnie.

In 1965, Mike moved with his parents to Oregon, which became his on again off again home while moving to various towns with his mother and father where Wayne worked for the U.S. Forest Service. Mike eventually settled down in Oregon where he attended high school. While in high school Mike worked at Manning Dairy Farm to save money for college and motorcycles. After a near fatal motorcycle accident Mike gave up the hobby. After high school, Mike attended Mt. Hood Community College’s architecture program and upon graduation earned an associate degree in drafting.

In 1982, Mike moved to McKenzie County, North Dakota and became a technician and drafter for the McKenzie County Road Department within the engineer’s office, where he worked for 33 years. His understanding and knowledge of McKenzie County’s infrastructure culminated in his achieving the position of McKenzie County Road Superintendent. In 1982, Mike met Judy Lynn Kromarek (Ralph) and they were married in 1984. Together they had two children, Kyle in 1986, and Jena in 1988. Mike and Judy divorced in November 1991. Mike never remarried.

Mike’s passions, after McKenzie County’s road system, revolved around hunting, fishing, beekeeping, photography, and watching television. Mike’s favorite fishing holes were Leland and Sather Dams where he liked to chase the pan fish. Mike worked as a beekeeper for 6 years and sold the honey he produced to local grocery stores. His photography focused upon the subtle beauty of North Dakota.

He is preceded in death by his father Wayne Clarence Dollinger. He is survived by his mother Karmo Jean Dollinger (Ritter); his siblings Morgan, Megan, Manning, and Marnie Dollinger; his children, Kyle Dollinger and Jena Dollinger; his son in law Timothy Hoffman Sr.; and his grandchildren Braiden Neiman, John Hoffman, and Timothy Hoffman, Jr.

### Anne Babb, 80 Sidney, Montana

Anne Babb, 80, Sidney, MT, passed away on Feb. 26, 2024 at the Sidney Health Center, Sidney, MT, with family by her side.

Services are being planned for the spring of 2024. Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT, is assisting the family.

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

### James Leonard Everett, 71 Sidney, MT

A Celebration of Life Service is planned for Wednesday, March 13, 2024, from 5-8 p.m. at the Yellowstone Perc Building, 102 West Main, Sidney, MT. A meal and refreshments will be provided for all family and friends wishing to attend. Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT, is assisting the family. Remembrances, condolences, and pictures may be shared with the family at [www.fulkersons.com](http://www.fulkersons.com).



James Leonard Everett

James Leonard Everett, 71 peacefully passed away on Monday, Feb. 26, 2024, at St Vincent’s Healthcare, Billings, MT.

James Leonard Everett was born July 2, 1952, in Bellevue, NB, to Leonard Everett and Marion Jacobson. Jim spent most of his childhood in Albert Lea, attending school until the age of 16 when Jim dropped out so he could work and help support his family.

Following a stint in the National Guard, Jim met and married Kathleen Eve Johnson. Jim and Kathy went on to have four children together: Leonard (1975), Jamie (1976), Jace (1979), and Ashley (1985). Jim spent most of his adult life working in the trucking industry, later transitioning into his role as a mechanic. During this time, Jim and his family lived in various states as the Everett family followed the work. They landed in their final home in Sidney, MT, in 1992. Jim and Kathy later divorced in 1996, remaining friends until the time of his passing.

In 1997, Jim moved to Minnesota to be closer to his father Leonard, where he bought his own truck and began driving cross country. While in Minnesota, Jamie, Jenn, and Ashley lived with Jim while Ashley attended school and Jamie worked. This included a time where Jamie and Jim worked side by side at McNeilus Steel. Jim then moved back to Sidney in 2006 to be closer to his kids. Jim continued to drive truck, ending his career as a mechanic. Unfortunately, Jim was forced into early retirement at the age of 64 due to kidney failure.

In his free time, Jim enjoyed spending time with his family, especially his kids (and later, grandkids), fishing, and spending countless hours filling out sweepstakes hoping to win his family a fortune. Jim will always be remembered for his contagious laugh and his gift to gab. He wasn’t much for group settings but if he got you one on one, you were going to hear every story in memory - some again and again. Jim will be remembered by his family and close friends as a man that didn’t have much but would give everything he owned to make someone else’s life easier.

Jim is survived by his sons Jamie (Jennifer) Everett, Dickinson, ND, and Jace Everett, Sidney, MT; daughter Ashley Everett, Sidney, MT; grandchildren Kaden, Candace, Paityne, Alse, Mya, Addison, Nova, Bex, and Mason; great-grandson Bohon; sisters Beverly Rachelle, Laramie, WY, and Mary Castor, Lebanon, MO; and brother Danny Everett, Oklahoma.

Jim was preceded in death by his son Leonard Everett, father Leonard Everett, mother Marion Landsdown, brother Jay Everett, sisters Betty Lynn Morningstar and Patty Walters, and niece Erin Setright.

### Irene J Davidson, 90, Froid, MT

A Celebration of Life Service will be Tuesday March 12, 2024 at 11 a.m. at the Froid Lutheran Church, Froid, MT, with Sheri Crain officiating. A luncheon will follow the service. Irene will be laid to rest next to her husband at the Richland Memorial Park, Sidney, MT. Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT, is assisting the family. Remembrances, condolences, and pictures may be shared with the family at [www.fulkersons.com](http://www.fulkersons.com).

Irene J Davidson, 90, peacefully passed away on Tuesday March 5, 2024 at the Roosevelt Medical Center, Culbertson, MT, with family by her side.

### Lunch Menus!

**Sidney School**  
**Thurs., March 14:** Sloppy joes, carrot sticks, potato chips, juice.  
**Fri., March 15:** No school.  
**Mon., March 18:** Spaghetti, garlic toast, tossed salad, pears.  
**Tues., March 19:** Orange chicken, fried rice, steamed broccoli, mandarin oranges.  
**Wed., March 20:** Super nachos, tater tots, mixed fruit.

**Savage School**  
**Thurs., March 14:** Tostadas.  
**Fri., March 15:** No school.  
**Mon., March 18:** Korean beef.  
**Tues., March 19:** Chicken alfredo.  
**Wed., March 20:** Lasagna.

**Rau School**  
**Thurs., March 14:** Peanut butter & jelly sandwiches, potato chips, carrots, apples.  
**Fri., March 15:** No school.  
**Mon., March 18:** Popcorn chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas, dinner rolls.  
**Tues., March 19:** Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, apple-sauce.  
**Wed., March 20:** Pulled pork, green beans, mandarin oranges.

**Froid School**  
**Thurs., March 14:** Pulled pork on buns, fries, veggies, fruit, salad bar.  
**Fri., March 15:** No school.  
**Mon., March 18:** Italian dunkers, veggies, fruit, salad bar.  
**Tues., March 19:** Soft shell tacos, refried beans, fruit, salad bar.  
**Wed., March 20:** Masons day! French dip sandwiches, bosco sticks, veggies, fruit cups, brownies, salad bar.

**Bainville School**  
**Thurs., March 14:** Sub sandwiches, chips, carrots, apples, salad bar.  
**Fri., March 15:** Chicken alfredo, broccoli, oranges, salad bar.  
**Mon., March 18:** Popcorn chicken bowls, corn, tropical fruit, salad bar.  
**Tues., March 19:** Tortellini pasta, broccoli, pears, salad bar.  
**Wed., March 20:** Reese Harmon Day! Cheese soup, cheesy bread, raspberries, brownies, salad bar.

**Richey School**  
**Thurs., March 14:** Corn dogs, fries, broccoli, fruit, salad bar.  
**Fri., March 15:** No school.  
**Mon., March 18:** Grilled cheese, tomato soup, veggies, brownies, fruit, salad bar.

**Tues., March 19:** Chicken alfredo, breadsticks, corn, fruit, salad bar.  
**Wed., March 20:** Beef patties, fries, broccoli, fruit, salad bar.

**Culbertson School**  
**Thurs., March 14:** Ham & cheese noodle hotdish, peas, pears.  
**Fri., March 15:** Grilled cheese, tomato soup, peaches.  
**Mon., March 18:** Pizza sticks, salad, pineapple.  
**Tues., March 19:** Chicken nachos, Spanish rice, mixed fruit.  
**Wed., March 20:** Riblet sandwiches, baked beans, mixed fruit.

**Lambert School**  
**Thurs., March 14:** Hot ham & cheese, chips, fruit.  
**Fri., March 15:** Hamburger gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, fruit.  
**Mon., March 18:** Spaghetti, garlic bread, green beans, fruit.  
**Tues., March 19:** Quesadillas, fresh veggies, fruit.  
**Wed., March 20:** Goulash, corn, fruit, buns.

**Fairview School**  
**Thurs., March 14:** Scaloped potatoes & ham, veggie, fruit, fresh garden bar.  
**Fri., March 15:** No school.  
**Mon., March 18:** Chicken tenders, waffle fries, veggie, fruit, fresh garden bar.  
**Tues., March 19:** Beef tacos, Spanish rice, veggie, fruit, fresh garden bar.  
**Wed., March 20:** Sloppy joes, chips, veggie, fruit, fresh garden bar.

**East Fairview School**  
**Thurs., March 14 & Fri., March 15:** No school.  
**Mon., March 18:** Sub sandwiches.  
**Tues., March 19:** Cheesy chicken noodle casserole.  
**Wed., March 20:** Shepherd’s pie.

**Alexander School**  
**Thurs., March 14-Mon., March 18:** Spring break.  
**Tues., March 19:** Chicken drumsticks or riblets, wedges, baked beans.  
**Wed., March 20:** Orange or teriyaki chicken, rice, spring rolls, fortune cookies.

**Watford City School**  
**Thurs., March 14 & Fri., March 15:** No school.  
**Mon., March 18:** Chicken tenders, tater tots, fruit, veggies, salad bar.  
**Tues., March 19:** Cheeseburgers deluxe, cheese curds, fruit, veggies, salad bar.  
**Wed., March 20:** Popcorn chicken KFC bowl, biscuits, fruit, veggies, salad bar.

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# Richland Ranger Bantams Season Comes to a Close



Hitch Horsburgh vs. Fargo Angels on March 9. (Photo submitted)



Korbyn Johnston vs. Mandan on March 8. (Photo submitted)

**By Brenda Filler**

Oh, what a season it has been! We have all heard or maybe even been told – “don’t worry, you’ll get ‘em next time”, or “you can’t win them all” and while those statements might be true one statement seems to fit the Bantam season more than others – You either win, or you learn. The Bantams have done exactly that, learn. When things did not go quite as planned, they took it as a chance to learn and push forward.

To say that the Bantams have made their coaches, families, friends, fans, the Richland Ranger Club, and heck even themselves proud would be an understatement.

Each game this team faced over the past weekend brought new challenges for them to face and obstacles that they needed to try and overcome.

Tournament day 1 - Thursday, March 7, the Ranger Bantams, sitting at 2nd seed in the West, faced off against the Fargo Angels, 3rd seed in the East. After 3 quick periods the Rangers came out victorious with a 4-1 win.

Day 2 of the tournament, Friday, March 8, brought the Bantams a game against the Langdon Blades, 1st seed in the East. The Bantams fought ahead but were not able to

get the point on the board ultimately falling to Langdon 2-6.

Their second game on Friday matched the Rangers with Mandan Mayhem, 3rd seed in the West. What a game it was – Mandan came out strong scoring in the 1st and 2nd, but your Rangers fought back in the 3rd taking the game to overtime where they unfortunately fell to Mandan 3-4.

Saturday, March 9 the Bantams found themselves face to face once again with the Fargo Angels for their final game of the tournament. This game took the Rangers to their 2nd overtime game of the tournament which came to a close when the Bantams defeated the Angels 6-5.

The Bantams end their season with 14 wins and 2 losses in league play and 2 wins and 2 loses in the state tournament. Thank you to

everyone that supported the 2023-2024 Richland Ranger Bantams. This past season was one wild ride and a heck of a journey for these kids and their coaches, Braden Kindopp and Shane Schantz.

Let these players remember the moments spent at the rink, the memories made and let them take pride in playing this great sport. Until next season everyone.

## Sidney Health Center February 2024 Births

Rocky Lee Barnhart was born Feb. 12 to Roxey & Laura Barnhart, Alexander. Maternal grandparents are Kathy & Stephen Weidner, Maumee, OH. Paternal grandparents are Roxie & Sandra Barnhart, Montague, MI. Sisters: Bailey & Leia. He weighed 7 lbs. 5 oz.

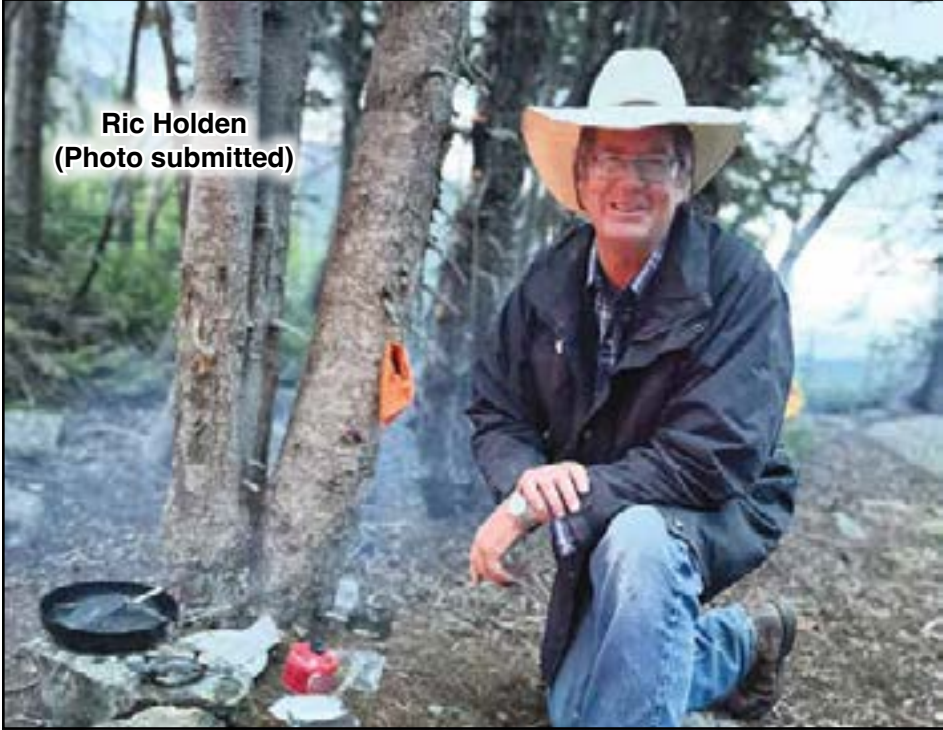
Ishmael Wayne Washington was born Feb. 15 to Timothy Washington, Jr. and Carissa Bronson, Williston. Brothers: Izaac and sister Izabella. He weighed 6 lbs. 3 oz.

Wynston Wyatt Slater was born Feb. 20 to Wyatt Slater & Auguste Salyards, Trenton. Maternal grandparents are Terrie Arneson & Scott Salyards, Montana. Paternal grandparents are Wade & Tammy Slater, North Dakota. He weighed 7 lbs. 15 oz.

Callister Luke Senn was born Feb. 23 to Mathew & Chloe Senn, Sidney. Maternal grandparents are Rick & Marcie Besecker, Clovis, CA. Paternal grandparents are David & Tracy Lawrence, Savage. Brothers: Dayton, Hunter & Bow. He weighed 9 lbs. .2 oz.

Sawayzie Mae Wick was born Feb. 29 to Chris & Ciara Wick, Sidney. Maternal grandparents are Gary & Kari Sinks, Sidney. Paternal grandparents are Doug & Nicole Wick, Sidney. She weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz.

# Montana Livestock Country Of Origin Labeling



Ric Holden (Photo submitted)

GLENDIVE - Congressional candidate, Ric Holden, is calling on congress to reinstate country-of-origin-labeling for the livestock industry in the United States. At the present time the U.S. consumer does not know if they are eating an American raised meat product or some product from a foreign country. Large meat packing companies have been flooding the market with imported meat products and denying consumers the right to know the origin of their food purchases. Year after year the large meat packing companies have packaged foreign meat with American meat products. These large out of state meat packers have always resisted the attempts to label food prod-

ucts like beef. Holden said, “we can send a man to the moon, but we can’t figure out how to sort meat into labeled packages”. Holden went on to say, “it is just a matter of want and desire”, the packers want to make extra money by selling foreign meat in the United States, under a U.S. government stamp of approval.

Congress is now negotiating the next farm bill. Foreign lobbyists are working to kill any attempt that congress might take to require the labeling of meat products. As a rancher, Holden, knows the importance of labeling clean, fresh, and wholesome American meat and separating it from meat products shipped into the U.S. from other countries.

The labeling of beef was specifically removed by congress in 2015. This action is denying meat consumers the right to know the origin of their meat products. Holden said, “As a member of congress I would amend the farm bill to include the labeling of all meat products sold to American consumers.”

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**Sidney:** Tues. & Fri., 11:30 a.m., 813 3rd St. NE, 406-433-8077  
**Savage:** Thurs., 12 p.m., 178 E Main St., 406-776-9980  
**Lambert:** Tues., 12 p.m., Fox Lake Sr. Center, 406-774-3439

**Activities/Cards**  
**Fairview: Men/Cards,** Mon.-Fri. daily at 12:30 p.m.; **Women’s Cards:** Wed. at 12:30 p.m.; 217 5th St. West, 406-742-5050  
**Sidney:** Cards Thurs., 1 p.m.; 813 3rd St. NE, 406-433-8077  
**Lambert:** Cards, Tues., 1 p.m.; Fox Lake Sr. Center, 406-774-3439

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# Flood Alleviation Project Moving Forward In South Meadow, Sidney

The South Meadow Village Storm Water Project is moving forward with the \$1.7 million project chosen for review for a FEMA BRIC grant which would cover 75% of the cost. The next step, and part of the review, is a request for information which the Sidney City Council authorized the civil engineering firm of Morrison Maierle to respond to at their meeting March 4.

According to Sidney Public Works Director Jeff Hintz, "severe flooding has occurred two or three times in the past 13 years primarily on the east side of Sunflower Lane. With a drainage area of 1000 acres, a rapid snow melt or deluge of rain just won't fit into a 12" pipe. Sand bagging by city crews and volunteers for three days straight at about eight

Sunflower Lane residences has occurred on more than one occasion," Hintz said. "We've had some close calls," he stated.

There is a drainage ditch in that area but he said it's impossible to keep it clean and by the time it reaches the bottom, it doesn't work. It also drains into the irrigation canal, which government regulations no longer allow. The solution is a 54" pipe which will go along side the main canal, then under the canal on the southeast of South Meadow, into the drainage ditch and on to the Yellowstone River. As to the \$1.7 million price tag, Hintz said the city will need to cover the remaining 25%, but there may be SRF loans to help offset some of the cost. "It's hard to swallow, but it has to

be done," he stated.

The Council also approved a request from Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project Manager James Brower that the city pay the \$1000 cost of an easement at the north end of Pheasant Run along 6th St. This would allow them to improve the existing drainage ditch, needed because all the water from the Meadows drains under the canal into their ditch and development has created drainage issues. Brower reasoned that their project, along with the other improvements made in the Meadows, would also help the city with their drainage problems.

The city started working with Morrison Maierle six or seven years ago to develop a master plan to alleviate storm water issues. Six to eight projects were identified with the North and South Meadow areas deemed to be the most critical. The second is the Anderson subdivision along 22nd by the ROI group home, which has been threatened and needed to be sand bagged multiple times. The \$350,000 needed to complete that project may come from American Rescue Plan Act with matching funds by the city. Next is 11th St. SW, followed by the railroad tracks on the south side of town.

Hintz said the city is looking into establishing an Enterprise Fund for storm water, much like the ones for water, sewer and garbage where excess money collected is put into those funds and can not be shared with any other department. The fund could be used to help with future projects.

# Fairview Boys Place 2nd at Class B State Tournament



Fairview's Wyatt McPherson works the ball around Arlee. Fairview beat Arlee 52-47 in the first round of the tournament held in Billings March 7. (Photo by Keri McPherson Photography)



Fairview's Deacon Gackie works to get around the screen to block the ball during their first game at state against Anaconda. Fairview beat Anaconda 56-39 on March 8 to advance to the championship. (Photo by Keri McPherson Photography)



Tyler Loan works to drive in against Loyola. Fairview fell to Loyola 54-69 in the championship to place 2nd. (Photo by Keri McPherson Photography)

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# Matt Rosendale Drops Out Of Eastern Montana House Race

**By Arren Kimbel-Sannit**  
Continuing a series of campaign reversals, Republican Montana Congressman Matt Rosendale announced last week that he will not seek re-election to the state's eastern U.S. House district.

Rosendale, a hardliner who was elected to the House in 2020 after serving as Montana State Auditor, launched a long-anticipated campaign for the U.S. Senate Feb. 9, only to call it off six days later. Then, at the end of February — by which point several Republicans had already begun campaigns to fill his U.S. House seat — he filed to run for re-election to his current office. Assuming he doesn't reverse course again, his announcement means he will leave office at the end of his term.

Speaking with Montana Free Press, Rosendale listed a number of reasons for his planned departure from the House: frustration with the difficulty of moving

the needle on his policy priorities; retribution by his political enemies; "false and defamatory" rumors about him and even a death threat.

And just last week, the anti-spending crusader noted, the GOP-controlled House passed a \$460 billion omnibus spending measure replete with earmarks from members of his own party.

"I've tried for three years to have an impact on the two big issues that I think are national security threats," he said. "And that is the out-of-control spending and immigration. For the last year, having the majority, we have not been able to move the needle a single bit. And look, I came in knowing that the system is severely broken, and it's in bad need of reforms. If I can't move the needle that much, and I am approaching my 64th birthday, it's time to step back and let someone else try."

Rosendale said also that at about the time he filed for re-election, a death threat was made against

him that resulted in the U.S. Capitol Police contacting law enforcement in Montana who sent officers to one of his sons' homes. A spokesperson for the Capitol Police said the agency does not discuss potential investigations.

Additionally, around the time Rosendale dropped out of the Senate race — a decision he attributed then to former President Donald Trump's endorsement of his primary opponent Tim Sheehy — an unsubstantiated rumor began circulating in Montana and in Washington, D.C. that Rosendale had conducted an affair with a staffer. Because the details of the story were hazy, and no party came forward with evidence of an affair or to make the allegations on the record, most media outlets did not cover the rumor until former U.S. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, a North Dakota Democrat, gave it air on a political podcast. That prompted a denial from Rosendale, a legal threat and a public

statement of support for her husband by Rosendale's wife, Jean.

Rosendale said that the threat and rumor "placed a cloud on the MT-02 election." He added that he doesn't believe his dropping out of the race will further fuel the rumor mill.

"The people across Montana know who I am," he said. "They know me. They trust me. My family certainly knows me and trusts me."

Rosendale, a real estate developer who moved from Maryland to Dawson County in 2002, was first elected to the Montana State Legislature in 2010. He made his first federal bid to represent what was then Montana's at-large U.S. House district in 2014, but failed to advance beyond the Republican primary. He was back in the Legislature the next year, then successfully ran for state auditor in 2016. In 2018, he faced the incumbent Democratic U.S. Sen. Jon Tester in a tight, hugely expensive race that — despite several appearances in Montana by Trump in support of Rosendale — resulted in the largest victory margin of Tester's senatorial career. National Republicans would later keep that loss in mind when they recruited Sheehy, a wealthy Belgrade businessman and political neophyte, to face Tester in the 2024 cycle.

Rosendale won election to Montana's at-large U.S. House district in 2020 and then to the newly created eastern district in 2022. In Congress, Rosendale joined the House Freedom Caucus and established himself as one of the GOP's most vocal hardliners. He voted against certifying 2020 presidential

election results — and, indeed, against most big-ticket bipartisan legislation — is staunchly anti-abortion and was among the crew of GOP lawmakers who voted with Democrats last year to oust House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, who had endorsed Rosendale in 2018.

Rumors that Rosendale would mount a Senate run on the strength of this reputation circled for much of 2023. Even before officially launching his campaign, he attacked Sheehy as "Mitch McConnell's lackey" and openly accused national Republicans of trying to strong-arm him out of the race. Notably, this put Rosendale at odds with Republican Montana U.S. Sen. Steve Daines, who chairs the National Republican Senatorial Committee and has aggressively played in GOP primaries.

"During his time in public service, [Rosendale] has been a strong advocate for fiscal responsibility, the Second Amendment and pushing back against federal overreach," Daines said in a statement. "I thank him for his service and wish him well as he gets to spend more time with his wife Jean and their grandchildren."

In the end, Rosendale's formal U.S. Senate campaign lasted less than a week before he abandoned the bid.

By that point, several other Republicans with varying degrees of renown had begun campaigning to replace Rosendale. He told Montana Free Press Friday that he doubted whether he would even run for re-election, but that he was encouraged by many, including former President Donald Trump

and "several of the current candidates," to do so.

Given the advantages of incumbency and Rosendale's name recognition in the district, he would have proved a formidable opponent to any of his would-be challengers.

But none of the other Republicans who have launched eastern district congressional campaigns backed off when Rosendale filed for re-election. In recent days, even fellow conservative stalwart Elsie Arntzen, the termed-out Superintendent of Public Instruction vying to replace Rosendale, has taken shots at him.

Now, Rosendale says he doubts he'll ever again seek an elected political position.

"You don't step into the arena that I have and take on these battles without creating a lot of very, very powerful enemies," he told MTFP. "And unfortunately, a lot of them use whatever tools they have to impose some kind of retribution upon you. And unfortunately, that's one of the risks of public life."

He said, though, that he didn't know where this vengeance was coming from.

With Rosendale out of the race, it's hard to identify a clear favorite in the GOP primary. In addition to Arntzen, prominent candidates include state auditor Troy Downing and former Congressman Denny Rehberg.

Four Democrats have filed for the seat as well, though its heavy Republican lean likely means the victor of the GOP primary in June will be elected to Congress in November.

## Downing Announces Candidacy For Montana's 2nd Congressional District

HELENA — Republican State Auditor Troy Downing formally has announced his run for U.S. Congress to fill the open seat in Montana's Second Congressional District. As the America First candidate in this race, Downing has out-raised and out-poled other candidates considering running and will not be outworked in garnering the party's nomination.

He will file paperwork with the Secretary of State's office on last week. Stay tuned for additional media details for the filing event.

"I'm in this race to protect and defend the people of Montana's Second Congressional District from the crisis and chaos created by Joe Biden and the left-wing radicals," said Downing. "It is time we send a pro-wall, pro-gun, and pro-America conservative to Congress to stand with President Donald Trump and get results for Montanans. Voters can count on me to continue to fight for them and take on the Washington special interests without apologies or excuses."

Downing announced in February and raised more than \$350,000 last quarter maintaining a significant cash advantage in the race. He was elected in 2020 as the Montana State Auditor, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance. He is an Afghanistan (OEF/ GWOT) United States Air Force (USAF) Combat Veteran, entrepreneur, and businessman running for

Montana's Second Congressional District.

**Meet Troy Downing**  
Republican combat veteran and businessman Troy Downing currently serves in one of the five elected statewide constitutional offices for the State of Montana. As Montana State Auditor, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, and Land Board Commissioner, Downing has defended state residents from fraud, worked to lower costs for families, taken on criminals preying on the vulnerable, and promoted economic development, while protecting the state's natural resources.

As Montana State Auditor, Downing prosecuted criminals and protected our senior citizens, families, and veterans. As a member of the Board of Land Commissioners, Downing has voted to increase access to public lands and promote agriculture and natural resource development by approving timber sales, oil and gas leases, and agriculture projects that grow our economy and create high paying jobs. As Insurance Commissioner, Downing has helped industry thrive in Montana and has held companies accountable keeping rates down for Montana families. A proud Montanan, Downing began his career in education as a research scientist and educator at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences at New York University (NYU). He left NYU to found a technology startup

company that he successfully merged with Yahoo! Inc. in the 1990s. Downing went on to help other startup companies succeed through angel financing and mentorship. After his career in the tech industry, Downing founded a nationwide insurance company and a nationwide commercial real estate firm that creates, sells, and manages real estate investment securities. Downing's strong sense of public service led him to enlist after Sept. 11 in the U.S. Air Force/Air National Guard, serving eight years in a Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR) squadron and two tours of duty in Afghanistan. The CSAR motto "these things we do, that others may live" resonates strongly with him. He was sent on multiple missions to rescue wounded soldiers on the battlefield. When Downing was not on alert or forward deployed "outside the wire", he volunteered in the military hospital in Kandahar as well as on outreach missions in Afghanistan. Today, he continues his service to fellow veterans as a volunteer, donor, and supporter of several Montana based veteran organizations. Downing is also a proud active lifetime member of the Montana Veterans of Foreign Wars and a member of the Montana American Legion. Troy Downing and his wife, Heather, have four grown children and live in Helena.

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## MonDak Ag Days 2024



Mark Erickson of Buckshot Seeds and Gold Standard Seeds provides an update on the Multi-seed Crushing Plant near Trenton. The final draft of the feasibility study is set for a mid-March release date.

The Sidney Chamber of Commerce held their annual MonDak Ag Days event March 7-8 at the Richland County Event Center. Above: Casey Korejwo, Greenwood Renewable Ventures COO and president, spoke about the proposed biofuel plant near Fairview. The plant will process sugar beets and other crops. The project is currently in the capital raising stage of development.



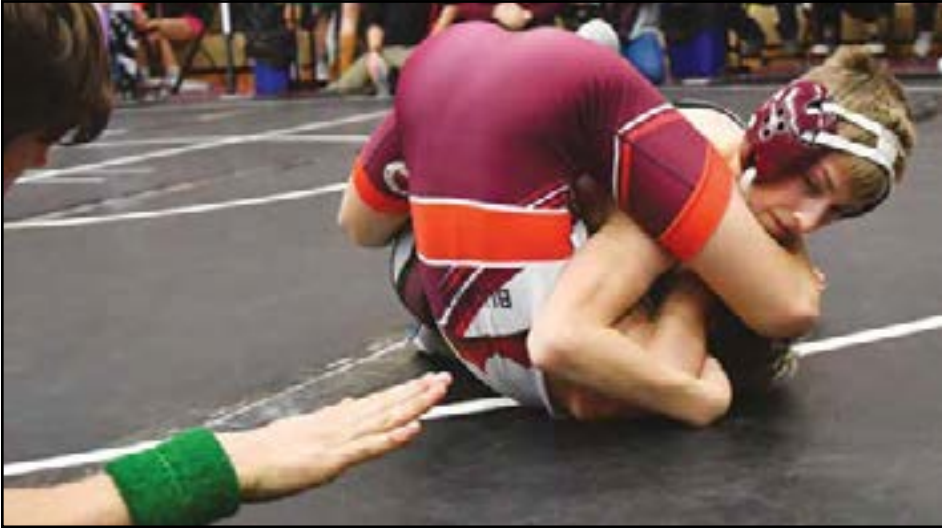
Attending the MonDak Ag Days Agriculture in Government Panel on March 7-8 were: (L to R): Speaking: Rhonda Knudsen, State Senate Dist. 15; seated are Brandon Ler, State House Dist. 33; Morgan Thiel, State House Dist. 30; Joel Krautter, 2nd Congressional U.S. Representative; and Stacy Zinn, 2nd Congressional U.S. Representative.



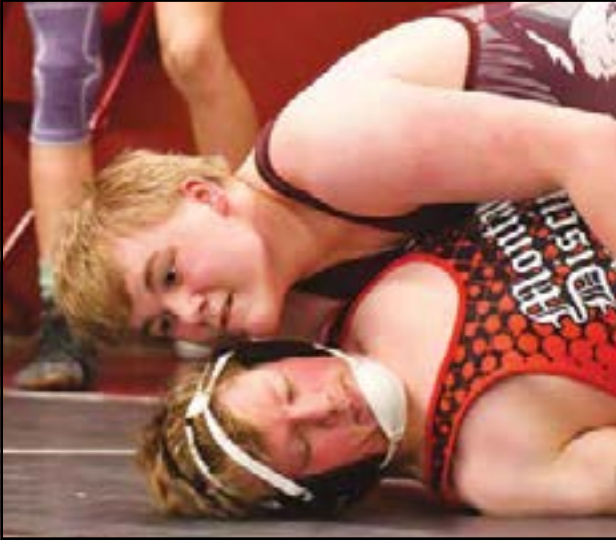
### Rathbun Equipment Services Ribbon Cutting

Rathbun Equipment Services, LLC has purchased Lebsock Welding, Fairview. They will be focusing on sales and repair. Shown at their ribbon cutting ceremony are (L to R): Kali Godfrey, Sidney Chamber of Commerce, Sidney Mayor Rick Norby, William Rathbun, Munee Rathbun, Rowdy Cvancara, Kristy Prewitt, Allison Thiel and Beau Rindahl.

### 2024 Brodie Gorder Memorial Iron Eagle Wrestling Tournament



The 2024 Brodie Gorder Memorial Iron Eagle Wrestling Tournament was held March 9-10 at SHS. Above: Hazen Foss (Sidney) won by fall over Tucker Buckley (Bozeman) in 1:16. Foss placed 1st at Schoolboy 80 lbs. Visit roundupweb.com for results. Right: Waylon Schieffer (Sidney) won by fall over Dane Mueller (Montana Disciples) in 2:56. Schieffer placed 2nd at Cadet 195 lbs.



Team Brodie 120 pounder Yuriah Camacho gets a pin against his Stanley opponent during the dual tournament on March 9. Team Brodie placed 4th.

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# MonDak Heritage Center To Host Community St. Patrick’s Day Celebration on Saturday, March 16

The MonDak Heritage Center is celebrating St. Patrick’s Day and Irish history Saturday, March 16 from 1-4 p.m. with a free event for the entire family.

The day will begin at 1 p.m. with a walk-in ceramics workshop. There are numerous ceramics pieces to choose from including many new spring related items. Each ceramics piece will be \$15 and available on a first come first serve basis. This is a great opportunity to create a unique work of ceramic art while listening to Irish melodies. At 2 p.m., artist, historian, and musical talent Stephen Glueckert will begin a free performance of Irish themed music and share the story of the famous Irish immigrant Thomas Francis Meagher.

Glueckert’s art exhibition “The Odyssey of Montana’s Thomas Francis Meagher” is currently on display in the MDHC’s Center Gallery. As you spend time with Stephen Glueckert’s expressive oil pastel drawings you will feel the danger, energy, and emotion of Meagher’s



The Odyssey in MDHC Center Gallery (Photo submitted)

odyssey. Glueckert’s 24 colorful vignettes are filled with the celestial, earthly, and man-made symbols that governed Meagher’s life: His birth and privileged upbringing in Waterford City, Ireland in 1823. His leadership in the Young Irelander Rebellion of 1848. His imprisonment in Van Diemen’s land and escape to the United States in 1852. As a commander on the bloody battlefields of the American Civil War. And finally, his mysterious and tragic death at Fort Benton, MT, in the churning waters of the Missouri River

in 1867. Though Meagher’s time in Montana was short, he remains a source of Irish pride in our state and his story continues to capture the imaginations of Montanans of all types.

At the Community St. Patrick’s Day Celebration, Glueckert will explain his exhibition in an artist talk and perform Irish themed music, songs related to Meagher’s life, and melodies of Irish history in Montana during this interactive artist lecture and performance.

Throughout the day, soup and snack refresh-

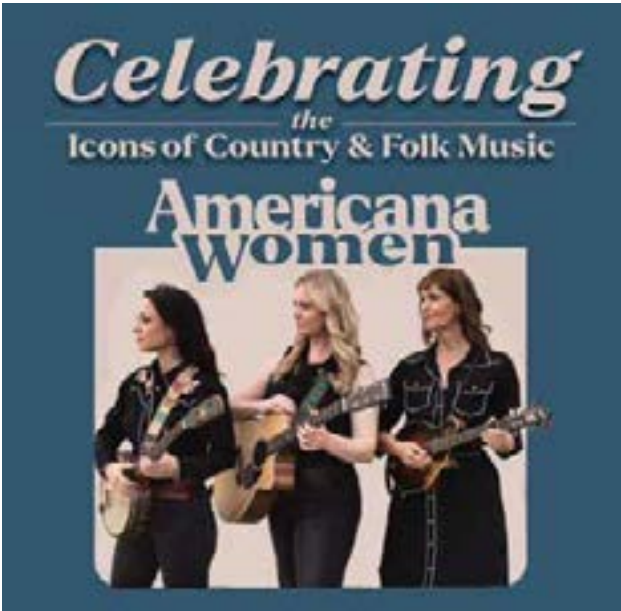
ments will be available for people to enjoy as they listen to Stephen Glueckert’s Hurday Gurday instrumentals, guitar melodies, and original Irish tunes.

Doors open at 1 p.m. and this event is free, family friendly and open to the public!

The MonDak Heritage Center is open Tuesday-Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturday from 1-4. p.m. Admission is free. For more information call 406 433-3500 or e-mail mdhc@richland.org. Visit us online at www.mondakheritagecenter.org.

## ROUNDUP, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2024 9A

### Big Sky Concert Series Finale “Americana Women” To Appear March 15



Celebrate the icons of country and folk music on Friday, March 15h with the “Americana Women” as the Big Sky Concert Series Finale! The performance will be held at the MonDak Heritage Center, Sidney, at 7 p.m.

Featuring three multi-instrumentalists from New York City, “Americana Women” is distinguished by their tight harmonies, sizzling solos, and passion for bringing more female artists to the spotlight. This dynamic group is sure to have you toe tapping, clapping, and singing along to the female icons of country, folk and folk rock! From the classic hits you grew up with to the contemporaries carrying the torch, you’ll be entertained with the songs by Dolly Parton, The Chicks, Loretta Lynn, Emmylou Harris, Shainia Twain and more!

Tickets can be purchased at the door. or call 406-433-3500. For concert information contact Leann 406-480-5594 or Jill 406-489-4304.

The Big Sky Series is made possible in part by the Montana Performing Arts Consortium Presenter Development Program which is supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, Montana Arts Council, legislative grant from Montana’s Cultural Trust, and WESTAF.

# Golden Roundup

## Senior Nutrition Programs

You often hear people complain about having to go grocery shopping but for some, particularly seniors on a fixed income, the idea of being able to fill a shopping cart can seem like a luxury. Across America, many seniors face food insecurity and live with the reality or fear of hunger and malnutrition.

The Older American’s Act (OAA) helps fund several nutrition programs to help address this growing problem. Within Richland County, OAA funds help provide three major nutrition programs:

Home Delivered Meals

Congregate Meals

Commodity Supplemental Food Program

Each of these programs has their own guidelines and requirements that Richland County must adhere to in order to receive these helping funds. It is important to note that none of these programs are considered “Entitlement Programs” which means there is a limited amount of money available for them each year.

Home Delivered Meals

The Home Delivered Meal program is commonly referred to as “Meals on Wheels”. It is one of the COA’s most asked about programs

but it also has the most stringent qualifications. Home Delivered Meals is the most expensive program to provide and maintain so it is reserved for those who have few or no other options.

To be eligible for Home Delivered Meals you need a referral from your physician stating that you are “homebound”, over 60 years of age and are in danger of not receiving proper nutrition. Once qualified for the program, you will receive a hot meal delivered to your home five days/week within Sidney. If you reside outside City limits, you will receive nutritionally balanced and flash

frozen meals delivered in bulk once/month. There are a limited number of spots in the program so preference is given to those who are the most economically challenged.

Congregate Meals

For those who don’t qualify for Home Delivered meals, Congregate Meals are a great alternative and provide even more care for your body. Just as nutrition is important for your physical health, socialization is important for your mental health and well-being.

Congregate meals are offered at four different locations throughout Richland County and are a great way to share a

home-cooked meal with friends. The meal schedule is as follows:

Monday: Fairview Senior Center at 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday: Sidney Senior Center at 11:30 a.m. and Fox Lake Senior Center at noon.

Wednesday: Fairview Senior Center at 11:30 a.m.

Thursday: Savage Senior Center at noon

Friday: Sidney Senior Center at 11:30 a.m.

To be eligible for Congregate meals you need only be at least 60 years old or the caregiver or spouse of someone 60 or older.

There is no charge for either meal program, however there is a suggested donation of \$5/meal. All donations go straight back into the program to ensure its longevity but no one will ever be turned away or lose a service due to an inability to donate.

Commodity Supplement Food Program (CSFP)

The Meal programs are great but what do seniors do about their food at home? The CSFP program can help. As suggested by its name, the program isn’t meant to replace grocery shopping but rather supplement the gaps in your pantry.

Due to rules with-

home-cooked meal with friends. The meal schedule is as follows:

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Due to rules with-

in the program, most CSFP locations need to prepackage their food and recipients must take whatever is in their package. Richland County’s program is unique in that we are fortunate enough to make available all the products from the program so individuals can choose what will be the most beneficial to them

Products in the program include a selection of canned fruits and juices, meats and proteins, cereals, vegetables, and dairy products. Recipients can choose as many items from each category (up to the category limit) that they will use or none at all. Eligibility into the CSFP program is based on income. Richland County is given a specific number of clients it can accept; others are placed on the waiting list and given spots as they become available.

Nutrition is the key to a healthy body and these programs are crucial to helping many seniors maintain their physical and mental health. If you’d like to learn more about any of them, call the Richland County Commission on Aging at (406) 433-3701 or visit its website at www.seniors.richland.org.

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**MARCH 19, 2024**

# AG WEEK, MARCH 17-23, 2024

## Growing A Climate For Tomorrow

Pages 11-15

# History Of National Agriculture Week

Agriculture is the biggest food contributor in America. America is the net exporter of food, which means that this industry is a source of food and wealth. The rich history of agriculture in the U.S. attracted colonists to the area. Since most colonists were European, the styles of agricultural cultivation and production were Europe influenced as well. Colonists also brought a large amount of livestock with them to America, which caused changes in its natural landscape. As the population grew, farms expanded, and settlements moved from the east into the west. This caused the agricultural industry to grow exponentially, with a larger variety of produce being rooted. Once the west was populated and cultivated, a wheat frontier was formed. The east was firmly set on cattle and livestock with only a handful of small-scale crops. On the other hand, the south was dominated by tobacco and cotton. Lastly, the north was dominated by people who planted only what they needed, anything in excess was sold to the market.

It was only during the Civil War and the Second World War that the agricultural system became centralized, and a

proper agricultural system was introduced. The Agriculture Council of America, formed in 1973, has supported the farmers and agricultural advancements in farming techniques in the U.S. It comprises influential leaders in agriculture, food, and farming who work together as a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the world on the importance of agriculture in American Society.

At the same time when the council was formed, the first National Agriculture Day was also introduced, which soon developed into an entire week-long celebration. National Agriculture Week has been celebrated ever since, with full enthusiasm to support agriculture and

spread awareness about the potential and vitality of agriculture.

For more information on National Agriculture Week visit <https://nationaltoday.com/national-agriculture-week/>.

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# Chlorpyrifos Insecticide Products Legal For Insect Control In 2024

According to the North Dakota Department of Agriculture there are currently two products with the active ingredient chlorpyrifos that are registered for agricultural crop use in North Dakota as of February 2024.

**By NDSU Agriculture Communication**

In November 2023, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit issued a ruling overturning the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s final rule of August 2021, which revoked all food crop tolerances for chlorpyrifos.

The Eighth Circuit Court's decision was based in part on the fact that the EPA had issued a Proposed Interim Decision (PID) in 2020, which included 11 chlorpyrifos crop uses that the EPA determined met safety tolerances. Before the PID could be finalized, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit issued a ruling ordering the EPA to either amend or revoke chlorpyrifos food tolerances and gave the EPA 60 days to comply.

The EPA revoked all chlorpyrifos food tolerances in its final rule in August 2021 (effective February 28, 2022). The Eighth Circuit Court held that the EPA could have issued a PID amending tolerances despite the short turnaround time and therefore vacated the order to revoke all food crop tolerances.

"Because of the Eighth Circuit Court's ruling, food crop tolerances are restored and producers can now use currently registered chlorpyrifos products on all crops with reinstated tolerances, consistent with directions for use on those product labels," says Janet Knodel, North Dakota State University Extension entomologist.

According to the North Dakota Department of Agriculture Pesticide Product Search site, located at <https://www.kellysolutions.com/nd/searchbychem.asp>, there are currently two products with the active ingredient chlorpyrifos that are registered for agricultural crop use in North Dakota as of February 2024.

"Those products are Pilot 4E, a liquid formulation used primarily as a foliar insecticide in several crops, and Pilot 15G, a granular formulation used as an at-plant band treatment for control of soil dwelling insects, notably sugarbeet root maggot in sugarbeets," says Mark Boetel, NDSU School of Natural Resource Sciences professor of entomology.

"Be sure to check with



Chlorpyrifos is an important and valued tool for insect and mite control in many crops including alfalfa, field corn, soybeans, sugarbeets, sunflower, and spring and winter wheat. (NDSU photo)

your state's department of agriculture for registered chlorpyrifos products," advises Knodel. "Even for registered products, availability may be limited in 2024."

"Chlorpyrifos is an important and valued tool for insect and mite control in many crops including alfalfa, field corn, soybeans, sugarbeets, sunflower, and spring and winter wheat," says Adam Varenhorst, South Dakota State University Extension entomologist. "This has the potential to be beneficial for producers, especially with the management of certain insecticide resistant insect pests, including pyrethroid resistant soybean aphids, pyrethroid resistant red sunflower seed weevils in South Dakota, and insect pests for which there is no other effective option."

"As a reminder, read, understand and follow the label directions for these products regarding registered crops, application methods, application rates, preharvest intervals and the total seasonal limits for active ingredient per acre. Also, be sure to follow personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements on the product labels, as well as environmental hazard, spray drift mitigation, and agricultural use language," cautions Andrew Thostenson, NDSU Extension pesticide program coordinator.

Chlorpyrifos is highly toxic to bees that are directly exposed to the treatment or to remaining residuals on blooming crops and weeds. Per the Environmental Hazards section on the label, do not apply this product or allow it to drift to blooming crops or weeds if bees are visiting the treatment area.

"This means that application timing must occur when pollinators are not actively foraging on the crop and will not be exposed to residuals during foraging activities," says Patrick Beauzay, NDSU Extension entomology research specialist. "Application of chlorpyrifos insecticides should occur in the evening after 6 p.m. Do not apply chlorpyrifos or any other pesticide during temperature inversions, as severe off-target drift is likely to occur under these conditions."

"The future of chlorpyrifos is still uncertain. While registered product and crop uses are again legal, the EPA will continue to evaluate chlorpyrifos food tolerance and environmental safety as required by law during the registration review process," says Thostenson.

The EPA likely will issue a new PID for the 11 identified crops from the 2020 PID, including alfalfa, soybean, sugarbeet, and wheat (spring and winter), which could include amended tolerances and new use restrictions, says Knodel. Crop uses that were not identified in the 11 uses specified in the PID are especially uncertain and could have their tolerances revoked entirely. Sunflower and corn were not included in the 11 crop uses.

Producers, crop consultants, pesticide applicators, commodity groups and other stakeholders can and should provide comments to the EPA when they publish decisions, recommends Knodel.

## Montana Farmers Union Scholarship Window Closes March 31

The application window for Montana Farmers Union scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 closes March 31.

The annual scholarships are offered through MFU as part of the organization's commitment to education and include the Bud Daniels Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000 and the John Korsbeck Memorial Scholarship for \$1,000. Montana Farmers Union Foundation \$1,000 scholarships also are available.


Several Farmers Union Locals also offer scholarships for county residents, with Cascade County-wide Farmers Union Local offering a scholarship worth \$1,000, Chouteau County Farmers Union Local offering one at \$500, and the Flathead County-wide Farmers Union Local offering a \$500 scholarship.

Students planning to or currently attending Montana State University-Northern who express a strong interest in meat sciences also are eligible for scholarship funding through MFU.

Traditional and non-traditional students can apply for multiple scholarships through one online application available on MFU's website. The application window is open through March 31. Current college students and high school seniors are encouraged to apply. Montana Farmers Union members also are eligible for scholarships through National Farmers Union ([nfu.org](http://nfu.org)).

To learn more and apply, visit: <https://montanafarmersunion.com/education/scholarships-grants/>.

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# Bares & Broncs Rodeo Kicksoff March 23 At McKenzie Co. Ag Expo

**By Katelyn Sponheim**  
In the new McKenzie County Ag Expo Indoor Arena, Watford City, Stan Headings will be hosting the sixth annual Bares and Broncs Rodeo, March 23 at 7 p.m. Its the second year of being a PRCAsanctioned event. The rough

stock rodeo features the best horses of five different stock contracting companies to be competed on by some of the best PRCAscowboys in the business.  
This year, Stace Smith Pro Rodeo (Malakoff, TX), Burch Pro Rodeo (Gillette, WY), Brookman Pro Rodeo (Sidney, MT), J Bar J (Brockway, MT), and Outlaw Buckers Rodeo Corp. (Wainright, AB) will attend with 10-15 of their top horses, giving every cowboy a shot at a great ride on a top horse. Each contestant will get one horse, with the top 4 advancing to a short round. Thirty saddle

bronc riders and thirty bareback riders, over half having been to the National Finals Rodeo and past world champions included, will thrill the crowd as they compete for the payout of over \$40,000.  
The cowboys won't be the only World Champions in the building. Several horses who have graced the National Finals Rodeo and hold world titles will be filling the chutes at the Expo center, in its first time hosting at the new facility.  
In between sets, Dusty Dickerson, Illinois, will entertain with her Roman riding performance as she has multiple times at the National Finals Rodeo. Tate Rhoads will be the rodeo clown for the evening and present the "fan of the night" moment, and crowd giveaways. Jesse Knudson will be coming from Wisconsin to announce and has performed the sound and music for the steer tripping event at the National Finals Rodeo. A concessions

and bar will be offered, and there will be a VIP area for sponsors to enjoy the show.  
Immediately following the rodeo, a live band featuring John Scalia and the Dirty Word will perform for those not quite ready to call it a night. Admission to all the evening's entertainment is \$30 for adults, and children 10 and under attend for free. For any questions, Stan Headings can be reached at 620-874-1526.

## Registration Open for 2024 Edition of 406 Grazing Academy

**From MSU News Service**  
BOZEMAN – Registration is now open for the three-day 406 Grazing Academy, an annual workshop aimed at ranchers seeking to hone their grazing management skills and learn new strategies. This year's event will be held June 11-13 in Miles City, and registration is open until April 26.

Registration costs \$200 per person and includes materials, a range monitoring kit, and lunch and dinner each day of the workshop. Those interested in attending can register at <https://svc.mt.gov/doa/opp/DNR-406GrazingAcademyRegistration/cart>.

Montana State University Extension will host the workshop alongside the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, with support from the Dan Scott Ranch Management Program in MSU's Department of Animal and Range Sciences. This year's program will include speakers and a field portion designed for hands-on learning.

Participants are responsible for travel and hotel costs. A block of rooms is available at the Miles City Inn & Suites with code "406 Grazing Academy." A limited number of scholarships are

also available through the Montana Rural Employment Opportunities program.



Participants in the 406 Grazing Academy conduct field measurements. The three-day event is open for registration through April 26. Photo courtesy of Jeff Mosley.

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# Roberts Opens “Dirtech”, Soil Moisture Monitoring Business In Fairview

As a Sidney, graduate, Evan Roberts is no stranger to the sight of pivots in the fields of the area. While Evan graduated with a degree from MSU Billings College of Technology, he has been working with pivots for the last 15 years. Evan owns and operates Dirtech, a soil moisture monitoring business, based in Fairview, servicing Eastern Montana and Western North Dakota.

Evan’s goal is to give growers the ability to make informed irrigation decisions from the information that the moisture probes send directly to their cell phones, which he assists in setting up and translating. Every rotation saved by knowing the soil’s exact moisture content saves water, electricity, time, and money. With a glance at their CropX app, the brand of the probes and accompanying technology, producers can direct themselves or hired hands efficiently to the pivots that need operated and know exactly how much water to deliver onto their fields for that irrigation. Plants need soil, water, fertilizer, and sun. With the information from the probes, you can take one major aspect out of that equation and know with confidence that you did the watering part right. Both over-watering and under-watering can dramatically affect yield, disease, and fertilizer loss.

The moisture probes report temperature, moisture, and salts at three different levels which meets the NRCS (National Resources Conservation Service) requirements for cost share programs. Evan is working with the area NRCS offices and can provide direct reporting straight to them to simplify the process.

Many local growers are in the process of learning a new-to-them crop with the recent loss of Sidney Sugars and the sugar beet market for our area. Corn and soy have requirements that differ, and while producers are more than capable in their ability to farm and adapt, the probes can offer a secret weapon in answering questions of how they can get the best out of their fields.

Leasing services include probe installation, setup, software and telemetry subscription, support for the growing season, and extraction come harvest time all for one low price. Contact Evan at 406-480-0051 or dirtech.mtnd@gmail.com.

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**Evan Roberts, Dirtech, with one of his CropX probes. (Submitted photo)**

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**Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council Meetings March 18-20**

HELENA - The Noxious Weed Management Advisory Council will meet beginning on Monday, March 18, from 1-2 p.m. for the business meeting followed by a grant hearing with the presentation of grant proposals through 5:15 p.m. at the Delta Hotel in Helena.

The hearing of proposals will continue Tuesday, March 19, from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. through Wednesday, March 20, from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Starting Wednesday at 2:30 p.m., the business meeting will reconvene followed by deliberations only to conclude when a consensus is reached

Meetings will be conducted in-person with the option to join online through Zoom. An agenda is available on the Montana Department of Agriculture website at agr.mt.gov. To request information to join the meeting virtually, please contact Greta Dige, Noxious Weed Trust Fund Coordinator, by email at greta.dige@mt.gov.

The Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund (NWTF) Grant Program was established by the 1985 Montana Legislature to provide funding for the noxious weed research projects, state and community education/development projects, and local cooperatives.

To view all current public meeting notices and find more information on the Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund, visit agr.mt.gov.

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# Department Of Revenue Warns Of Tax Season Scams

The Montana Department of Revenue warns all Montanans to be aware of numerous scams and frauds related to their tax information and refunds.

The most recent scam involves the advertising of a 1-800 number for the Department of Revenue that mimics the department's call center number.

When the taxpayer called that number, they were routed to a fraudster who attempted to get the taxpayer's social security number and immediate payment for money that the taxpayer allegedly owed. Thankfully, the taxpayer was already suspicious of the number and instead reported the incident to us.

The Department of Revenue may contact individual taxpayers or businesses by phone, but in nearly all cases we will call only after sending at least one letter by U.S. mail. Such calls may come from our Collections Unit to discuss past-due taxes or a payment plan, or to verify information.

To verify a call or a letter you received is from the Department of Revenue, please call our Call Center at (406) 444-6900.

Other common tax season scams include:  
Paying for a refund: If a caller says they have your tax refund, but you'll have to pay a "fee" to receive it, it's a scam. The Department of Revenue will never demand money before giving you your refund.

Threatening arrest, or seizure of your property: Taxpayers have received letters saying they owe taxes to Montana, and that the state will seize their property, or even file a warrant for their arrest.

Unclaimed Property, for a fee: The Department of Revenue returns unclaimed assets, such as insurance payouts, mineral royalties or old bank balances, to thousands of Montanans each year. You do not have to pay a fee to collect your own unclaimed property if you submit a claim directly with the department. Search at <https://tap.dor.mt.gov> to see if you have property with the department.

Phishing for data: Don't click links on unsolicited emails. These links could infect your computer with malware that can jeopardize the security of your personal data such as your Social Security Number or banking information.

# Application Deadline For Some Landowner Programs Is March 15

**By MT FWP**  
HELENA—Landowners have until March 15 to apply for Unlocking Public Lands (UPL) Program or the Public Access Land Agreement (PALA) Program. These programs are designed to provide public access to state or federal land where access is either limited or doesn't exist.

For enrollment in UPL, landowners will receive an income tax credit in the amount of \$750 per agreement and up to a maximum of \$3,000 in tax credits in exchange for allowing access across the private lands via roads or trails to reach inaccessible public land. Landowners must hold the public land lease and can decide how the public may cross their private property.

For enrollment in PALA, landowners will be paid, including money for possible infrastructure reimbursements (e.g., gravel, culverts, cattle guards) to facilitate public access to inaccessible public lands. Landowners must hold the public land lease. Payment amounts vary based on a variety of factors, with one landowner possibly holding multiple agreements. The governor-appointed Private Land/Public Wildlife Advisory Committee will review complete applications and make a recommendation to the FWP director.

More information about these two programs, including enrollment criteria, application forms, and fact sheets describing these FWP public access programs, can be found at: [fwp.mt.gov/landowner](http://fwp.mt.gov/landowner).

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