

The Roundup

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Roundup
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McKenzie County Launches Augmented Reality GPS Tours Of The Community

Submitted by
Jessie Veeder

Watford City - McKenzie County Tourism announces the launch of Yondar, a web-based product that allows visitors to virtually explore area attractions while planning their trip. In addition, once guests arrive, this revolutionary tool, built by InnovatAR, a North Dakota-based tech firm, helps visitors navigate outdoor attractions and unlock prizes for visiting points of interest right from their smart phones.

Yondar virtual tours are available in downtown Watford City, Tobacco Gardens Marina & Resort, and in the north unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Utilizing the capabilities of smartphones, Yondar allows visitors to easily find friends, family and points of interest. With a nimble user interface and no need to download an app, users can quickly begin exploring via a 2D map or in 3D space with augmented reality, which will both help them plan their trip to McKenzie County as well as

make the most out of their time while they're here.

"We're absolutely thrilled to launch this innovative, high-tech experience for our visitors," said McKenzie County Tourism Director Doug Bolken. "This community strives to be on the forefront of growth and exploration, and that includes technology. We have so much to offer guests, and this new tool provides an opportunity to discover the Watford City area in their own way and on their own time."

"Using Yondar is both fun and easy. Users simply click on the URL and view nearby points of interest called 'beacons.' Beacons include downtown restaurants, scenic overlooks and tourist stops along the way," Bolken said.

Yondar is equipped with gamification that allows users to track their progress and unlock prizes from the Visitor Center. Users can also send a private link to friends and family, then instantly share location data and stay connected while

touring the county.

In addition to enhancing the onsite visitor experience, a desktop experience is available at visitwatfordcity.com/VirtualTours. This online tool showcases photos, videos and immersive 360-degree tours of the scenic attractions.

To use Yondar when visiting McKenzie County, go to the following links:

Watford City: yondar.me/Watford

Tobacco Gardens: yondar.me/tobaccogardens

Theodore Roosevelt



National Park: yondar.me/trnp

To watch a video demonstration, click on: Yondar for McKenzie County Tourism

Rieker Book Signing, July 24, Williston

On Saturday, July 24 from 1-4 p.m., there will be a book signing of Sandy Rieker's book "The Most Unlikely Pair" at Books on Broadway, Williston.

After over a year of hard work and creativity, Sandy Rieker and Cheryl Brown, Watford City, had their book, "The Most Unlikely Pair," published.

For the last 10 years, Rieker has wanted to write a book and she found inspiration for her story in her own backyard. Rieker explained, "What inspired this book was at one of my feeding troughs, I have both goats and Peanut the chicken and the outcast of the flock, Hershey the goat, and all of them were eating together and that's when I said I wanted to write a book and then I sat down and started to write the story."

The story piece of the book was inspired by a program Rieker operates called, Tater Tots, which is designed for kids four years old and younger to have fun and meet new friends. She said, "At Tater Tots, we will have a family there and then the next week they are gone, and they leave because they are following the oil. So, I thought how hard that must be on the little kids, so when I thought about Hershey's life it was similar to this situation so that's how I came up with the story piece of it."

She knew she needed



Sandy Rieker with her new book "The Most Unlikely Pair." (Photo submitted)

a creative artist to illustrate the characters of the book, so she contacted Cheryl Brown. Rieker said, "Cheryl brought the pictures in the book to life. She came out to my farm and watched the animals so she could get an idea in her head of who looked like what. It took her a long time, and she did a fabulous job."

Rieker and Brown's goal is to develop a book series. She added, "For now Cheryl and I just said we

want to be in the moment with this one and you know it's a lot of work and we wanted to just celebrate this book." Rieker would also like to see the book be used as a teaching aid in classrooms. "I want to get this book out there in schools because it has such a great underlying message of change can be good, always believe the best, and be ready to forgive."

"Service To Service" Event Scheduled At Elks Lodge

All veterans and their families are invited to attend "Service to Service", honoring the ones who continue to give at the Sidney Elks Lodge July 30 at 5:30 p.m.

Events include: 5:30 p.m.- Registration, hors'

oeuvres and dessert; 6 p.m. - Posting of the colors, welcome & prayer; 6:30 p.m. - Guest speaker; 8:15 p.m. - Honor ceremony; 10 p.m. - Retiring of the colors and prayer.

The event is sponsored

by the Sidney Elks Lodge 1782, Volunteers in Action MT, VFW, Northeast Montana Veterans' Coalition, ABATE of Montana and Richland County Health Department.

Check out our website roundupweb.com for coverage on:

- Williston Basin Speedway Results from July 13
- Sidney Swim Meet Results
- Additional Watford City Homefest Photos
- Additional Fairview Festival Photos

RoundupWEB.COM

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Lewis & Clark Trail Museum Accepts Great Western Trail Obelisk & Plaque

The Lewis and Clark Trail Museum has been gifted with the honor of housing one of five obelisks in North Dakota and a plaque commemorating the journey of millions of cattle and horses traveling from just south of Texas all the way to Canada during the 1870s-90s. The unavailing took place July 18. The other North Dakota obelisks can be found at the Grassy Butte Post Office Museum, Medora, Long X Trail Museum and Fort Buford. Shown with the obelisk and the plaque are (L to R): Kathy James, Crystal Porter and Museum Director Kathy White. Pictured above, right is the obelisk at Long X Trading Post. (Photo by Kathy Taylor)





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When In Sidney For The Larry
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Saturday, July 24
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WEEKLY FRAUD TIP

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STATISTICS

LAKE WATER LEVEL REPORT
Sakakawea

Current Elevation.....1835.7
Last Week's Elev.1836.3
One Year Ago1844.3
Release For Day (C.F.S.)22,000

SIDNEY WEATHER DATA

Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

Date	High	Low	Precip.
July 12.....	84	59	0.00
July 13.....	83	52	0.00
July 14.....	87	59	0.00
July 15.....	93	61	0.00
July 16.....	95	62	0.00
July 17.....	95	64	0.00
July 18.....	100	63	0.00
Total 2021 YTD Precipitation.....	4.264		

OBITUARIES

Angela Rose Vaira, 32 Lambert, MT

Mass of the Christian burial for Angela Rose Vaira, 32, Lambert, MT was held 2 p.m., Thursday, July 15, 2021, at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, Sidney, MT with Father Jim O'Neil as presider.

Wake services were at 6 p.m., Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, Sidney, MT.

Memorials may be made to the Emmaus House or a charity of one's choice.

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

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

Angela passed away on Thursday, July 8, 2021, of injuries received in a motorcycle wreck near Rapid City, SD.

Donald Mort, 93 Sidney, MT

A graveside memorial service for Donald Mort, 93, Sidney, MT will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, July 24 at Pioneer Cemetery (located 1 mile south of Sidney on County Road 350).

Don passed away on Dec. 25, 2020, at Sidney Health Center.

American Red Cross Babysitter's Training Course Offered

Submitted by Marcia Hellandsaas,
McKenzie Co. NDSU Extension Agent

A workshop designed to help youth develop basic skills for babysitting will be held on Friday, Aug. 6 at NDSU Extension Office, 205 6th St. NW, Watford City. The course will start with 8:30 a.m. CT registration and will conclude by 4 p.m. CT. Anyone ages 11-15 interested in babysitting are encouraged to attend.

Topics to be included in the training are: leadership and learning to be a safe and responsible babysitter, basic care, safety and safe play and first aid.

Pre-registration is requested by Wednesday, Aug. 4 at the NDSU Extension/McKenzie County office. Please call 701-444-3451 to register or email marcia.hellandsaas@ndsu.edu.

The session will be taught by McKenzie County Extension Agent Marcia Hellandsaas.

Richland County Commissioners File Resolution To Oppose 30 x 30 Initiative

By Anna Dragseth

This year President Biden issued an executive order to tackle the "climate crisis" - this initiative is known as 30x30. The Biden administration created a report that outlines how 30x30 will support the efforts of people across the country to achieve habitat conservation goals.

The 30x30 initiative plans to permanently reserve up to 30% of US Ocean areas and 30% of U.S. land and freshwater by 2030. It also includes the "Half Earth" program, which is an initiative set to permanently lock up half of the earth's land and water against human-use by 2050.

The initiative also includes the "America the Beautiful" report, which outlines steps that the US should take to safeguard key areas to increase biodiversity, combat climate change, and create more accessible natural spaces.

Richland County and surrounding areas have expressed great opposition to the 30 x 30, "America the Beautiful", and the "Half Earth" program.

To express this opposition, the Board of County Commissioners of Richland County filed Resolution No. 2021-011, which opposes the initiatives and supports private ownership of land.

Several other counties and states have followed suit, expressing their opposition to this initiative. U.S. Senators from Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Tennessee, Georgia, Idaho, Utah, and Alaska have announced strong opposition to 30 x 30.

According to the resolution, Montana Governor Greg Gianforte and North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum signed a joint letter to President Biden that stated: this initiative "infringes on the sovereignty of states and rights of the citizens." Nebraska and Kansas State Attorneys General have cosigned a letter to the Secretary of the Interior declaring that they are prepared to defend their states' and landowners' property rights against 30 x 30.

The Resolution No. 2021-01 filed by Richland County opposes the 30 x 30 program and every other similar program, all separate parts/pieces of such programs, and the Executive Order 14008. It also states that Richland County supports the passage of the "30 x 30 Termination Act." This resolution urges Senator John Tester, Senator Steve Daines, and Representative Matt Rossendale to work for the passage of that act.

3-D Archery Shoot July 31-Aug. 1, Sidney

The Lone Tree Archers Club of Sidney will be hosting their annual 3-D archery shoot on Saturday, July 31, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 1, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. The event will feature 24 3-D animal targets set up on the archery range, which is located about 8 miles southeast of Sidney.

You do not have to be a member of the club to participate in this 3-D shoot. Weather permitting.

Lunch will be available both days. Lots of fun for all ages. For more information, call or text Tom at 406-489-1946.

EVENTS

SEND US YOUR EVENTS!

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RICHLAND COUNTY

Events in Sidney unless otherwise listed. MT Zone.
Wed., July 21

10 a.m.-4 p.m. - **Bill Lord: Prairie Rose** - On display thru July 31. **Walter Piehl Retrospective Exhibit** - On display thru Aug. 14. MonDak Heritage Center, Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. For more information call 406-433-3500, e-mail mdhc@richland.org or visit <https://mondakheritagecenter.org/>.

Sat., July 24

12-3 p.m. - **Larry Pierce Memorial Car Show & Celebration of Life** - Moose Park. To register a car or bike contact Travis Pierce, 406-480-4853.

Sun., July 25

9 a.m.-noon - **Breakfast** - Open to the public. Sidney Moose Lodge.

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

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

Tues., July 27

6-8 p.m. - **Open Shooting** - Sidney Trap Club. Open to the public through Sept. 1. For more information call 406-480-5594.

Thurs., July 29

5-8 p.m. - **Off The Clock Downtown Sidney** - Live music, extended shopping hours, pop-up shops, 50-50 and more.

Fri., July 30

5:30 p.m. - **Service To Service Honoring The Ones Who Continue To Give** - Inviting all Veterans and their families. Sidney Elks Lodge. Horderves and desserts, posting of the colors, welcome & prayer, guest speaker, honor ceremony, retire the colors & prayer.

Fri., July 30 & Sat., July 31

Sidney Class of 1970 - 50th (+1) Reunion - July 30, 5 p.m., registration and hors d'oeuvres; July 31, Tours, golf, 5 p.m. socializing & supper. The VFW Hall, 124 2nd Ave. NE will be open both days for gathering. For more information contact Alida Dore, 406-480-0488, Blinda Larsen or Bec Kallevig.

Sat., July 31

11:00 a.m. - **Honor Ride & Appreciation Day For Service Men & Women** - All riders and classic cars welcome, \$20 per hand event is free to all service members. Registration is 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at Sidney VFW Post 4099. Proceeds go to VFW Post 4099 Needy Veterans Fund.

7-9 p.m. - **Dragging Main Sidney - Back To The Classics** - Cars of the decades, pre fair cruise. For more information contact Jason Schrader, 406-480-4125 or visit www.facebook.com/Sidneydraggingmain/.

Sat., July 31, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. & Sun. Aug. 1, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Lone Tree Archers Club 3-D Archery Shoot - Featuring 24 3-D animal targets set up on the archery range, about 8 miles SE of Sidney. Membership not required to participate. Weather permitting. Lunch will be available both days. Lots of fun for all ages. For more information, call or text Tom at 406-489-1946.

Wed., Aug. 4

10 a.m.-4 p.m. - **Max Schorer's Pop Cars** - Features colorful, pop culture characters! On display thru Sept. 4. MonDak Heritage Center, Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. For more information call 406-433-3500, e-mail mdhc@richland.org or visit <https://mondakheritagecenter.org/>.

Wed., Aug. 4-Sat., Aug. 7

Richland County Fair & Rodeo - Celebrating 100 Years of Richland County Fair & Rodeo. For more information visit <https://www.richland.org/301/Schedule>.

McKENZIE COUNTY

Events in Watford City unless otherwise listed. CT Zone
Sat., July 24, 31; Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28; Sept. 4

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

Thurs., July 29

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

Fri., July 30

4-8 p.m. - **Neon Roller Skating Party Night** - \$5 a person, prize awarded for best neon outfit. Concessions available for purchase. Rough Rider Center.

Tues., Aug. 3

5-7 p.m. - **Sip N' Paint Margarita Glass Painting, Alexander. Long X Arts Foundation** - Each person will get a set of margarita glasses to customize with their own colors and designs. \$35 per pair of glasses, \$15 for one extra margarita glass to paint. Lewis & Clark Trail Museum.

WILLIAMS COUNTY

Events in Williston unless otherwise listed. CT Zone.
Thurs., July 22, 29, Aug. 5, 12, 19, 26

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

Sat., July 24

1-4 p.m. - **Sandy Rieker Book Signing "The Most Unlikely Pair"** - Books on Broadway.

Sat., July 24 & 31; Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28

9 a.m.-12 p.m. - **Main Street Market** - Hedderich's Lot. Vendors, sponsor activity, food truck and music. Saturdays through Oct. 16. Please respect social distancing at the market.

Sat., July 31

11 a.m. - **2nd Annual Foster Care Awareness BBQ** - Free will BBQ, silent auction, live music, face painting and a kid's activity tent. All proceeds benefit Sparrow Ministry. Harmon Park.

6 p.m. - **Dakota Classic Modified Tour Motorsports & Bras For A Cause Night** - Stock cars, mods and slingshots. Gates 6 p.m.; race, 7 p.m. For more information visit www.willistonbasinspeedway.com.

DAWSON COUNTY

Events in Glendive unless otherwise listed. CT Zone
Sat., July 24

10 a.m.-2 p.m. - **Shine & Show Car Show** - No entry fee. KMart Parking lot. Food trailer. Help celebrate the reopening of Boys & Girls Club coming Fall 2021.

Thurs., July 29 - Sun., Aug. 1

Dawson County Fair - For more information visit www.dawsonfair.com.

Mon., Aug. 2 - Fri., Aug. 6, 6 p.m. Sat, Aug. 7-Sun., Aug. 8, 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.

Revival - Searching for answers? Need Healing? Looking for a breakthrough? Want a refreshing? Nursery and children's ministry provided Saturday and Sunday. Country Cross Ranch, 1313 Hwy 16. For more information visit <https://ferventfireministries.org/>.

Fri., Aug. 6

7 p.m. - **"Paleontology of Makoshika," Campfire Program** - Learn about Paleontology of Makoshika State Park at this evening campfire program at the Park's Hiatt Amphitheater. Free. For more information contact Chris Dantic, 406-377-6256.

Reporter’s Notebook: Oil Town

By Eric Dietrich, Montana Free Press

Sidney, Montana’s Young Professionals chapter put on a conference to showcase their town. Here’s what we learned from showing up.

Editor’s note: As part of MTFP’s Long Streets Project, reporter Eric Dietrich spent a few days in early June on the road in eastern Montana. This is his dispatch.

It’s a Thursday afternoon in Sidney, the 6,400-resident city on the plains along Montana’s border with North Dakota. I’m sheltering from a passing tornado inside a boutique cookware shop, staring at a wall of herb-infused olive oils.

I’ve made the seven-and-a-half-hour drive from Helena to Sidney as part of MTFP’s Long Streets Project, an effort to find stories that explore Montana’s economy across the full breadth of the state. I’m in town for the 2021 Montana Young Professionals Summit. Hosted by the Sidney Young Professionals chapter, the three-day conference is a chance for some of the town’s millennial boosters to showcase their community to peers statewide.

(A disclosure: outside my job at Montana Free Press, I’m the volunteer treasurer of the Helena Young Professionals chapter, which was planning the 2020 version of the summit until COVID-19 derailed our plans.)

Sidney, like a lot of Montana towns that aren’t Missoula or Bozeman, sometimes gets a bad rap, particularly in the sorts of conversations where well-educated, upwardly mobile young Montanans gossip about the places they would and wouldn’t want to settle down. Back in 2019, the area’s then-state representative Joel Krautter sponsored a bill that would have paid college grads to move to Sidney and other small Montana towns, offering grants of up to \$15,000 to people who committed to living in participating communities for five years.

Krautter, who is a Sidney Young Professionals member, argued the incentives would help Sidney and similar towns bolster their talent pools in professions such as accounting and law. The proposal died in a budget committee.

Oil And Agriculture

Katie Dasinger, a summit organizer who in her day job works for Richland County’s economic development office, chalks up much of the town’s recruiting challenge to people simply not being familiar with its charms.

“A lot of people have not been to Sidney. A lot of people have not been to east of Billings, truthfully. And a lot of people don’t understand the oil industry or the irrigated ag that we have,” she says.

Dasinger says the educational aspect of the summit was designed to introduce attendees to those two industries. The itinerary included a tour of a local oil pad where excess natural gas is being used to power a bitcoin server farm, as well as a presentation on how the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project gives the area’s sugar beet industry enough viable acreage to support a centralized processing plant. A talk on that plant, Sidney Sugars, noted that its customers include Smirnoff, a point driven home when conference organizers offered attendees a round of vodka shots.

Out west in Montana — anywhere west of Billings, that is — Sidney is probably best known as an oil town. It’s been the Montana epicenter of the Bakken oil boom, the wave of oil extraction unlocked in the late 2000s by drilling innovations including hydraulic fracturing, or fracking.

For a few years, Mon-

tana newspapers were full of stories about the Bakken’s gold-rush-style economy, man camps and boomtown crime. Richland County produced more than 20 million barrels of oil in 2006, according to Montana’s Department of Natural Resources & Conservation — a resource then valued at roughly \$1.1 billion.




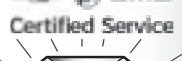
Reinvesting In Home

More than a decade later, oil production in the county is down by about half from the peak of the boom. Even so, the spillover effects

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The interior of MiMi’s Kitchen in downtown Sidney, Montana. Credit: Eric Dietrich / MTFP



An oil well pad near Sidney, Montana Credit: Eric Dietrich / MTFP

Richland County Fair & Rodeo
“A Century Of Community”
August 4-7, 2021

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**Student Registration**

Preschool/Kindergarten Screening
July 26th & 27th

A letter will be sent home with a time slot for each student - if the time does not work, please contact the school.

Any new families having a preschool or kindergarten student, please contact the school.

Registration
August 2nd - August 4th
9am-2pm
Located in the commons area

August 2nd Last names beginning with A-L
August 3rd Last names beginning with M-Z
August 4th Anyone who cannot make other dates.



BOOK
SIGNING
SAT, JULY 24
1-4PM

“The Most
Unlikely Pair”
By Sandy Rieker
Watford City, ND



Reporter’s Notebook...

Continued from
previous page.

of oil wealth are palpable. The town sports several newer hotels and county buildings. While downtowns in smaller Montana cities are often gap-toothed with vacancies, Sidney’s is full of vibrant storefronts. Its Central Avenue has not one but two breweries.

“There has been a lot of oil money coming in and out of here, and a lot of locals have re-invested in homes,” says downtown business owner Heidi MacGrady, MacGrady, a lifelong resident with a hand in several Sidney businesses, co-owns the boutique cookware shop, MiMi’s Kitchen, with her husband and another couple. In addition to the wall of olive oil, the shelves are stocked with cast iron cookware and trendy cookbooks. A portion of the space is devoted to a large kitchen area furnished with marble countertops, where guest chefs teach cooking classes a few times a month. The shop also sells made-from-scratch lunch offerings. Pastries and quiche are available in a to-go case.

Another co-owner, Billie

Hillesland, says the store provides an alternative community hangout in a town where the other options are diners or gas stations.

“We know it’s different. It really doesn’t fit for Sidney, but when people come they kind of flock to it,” she says. “We have little old ladies that come every day for coffee, and they don’t have to hang out with the old men.”

The business has been open for about a year, MacGrady and Hillesland say, though they had to shut down for several months after a fire last fall. Both women say community support was essential in encouraging them to reopen after that setback.

Weathering A Storm

On this Thursday afternoon, I’m sitting in MiMi’s with a different sort of disaster on my mind. A breakout session held at the shop, a presentation on the financial dynamics of the energy industry, has been interrupted by a chorus of smartphone alerts notifying attendees that the National Weather Service has issued a local tornado warning.

A few minutes later, as storm clouds build over downtown, the city’s emer-

gency siren blares, prompting Dasinger, who has been outside moving a snack cooler, to sprint into the shelter of the shop. (Richland County’s emergency services Facebook page eventually issues a notice that the siren was actually triggered by a grass fire. “If a tornado is spotted, the siren will stay steady for 3 to 5 minutes,” the county clarified.)

Inside MiMi’s, MacGrady reassures us that the concrete building is as safe a place as any to ride out the storm. Outside, rain and hail fall so hard that water accumulating on the street overflows onto the sidewalk.

As it turns out, a tornado does touch down outside town that afternoon, according to the Sidney Herald. Another violent thunderstorm rolls through later that night, interrupting a barn dance the conference had organized at the county fairgrounds and knocking out power to most of the city overnight. The storms ultimately toppled more than 800 power poles in Richland and surrounding counties, so many that Gov. Greg Gianforte later issued a disaster proclamation so local

electric cooperatives could use federal disaster aid to help pay for repairs.

‘It Doesn’t Advertise Itself’

The week after the summit, I call Dasinger to ask whether she’s satisfied with the way things turned out. She’s upbeat.

“I thought it went well, minus the hundred-year storm that we had,” she says.

The storm had forced conference organizers to cancel some of the events planned for the next day, including tours of agricultural operations run by people who instead needed to spend the day dealing with the aftermath. As the summit came to a close midday Friday, Dasinger and others asked around for volunteers to lend a hand as neighbors pitched in on cleanup efforts. I ended up briefly helping a local couple pick up the contents of a storage shed that had been demolished by a fallen tree.

“We truly have a community, and people are moving here and staying here for that community,” Dasinger says later.

But I get the sense she’s perhaps a bit disap-

pointed about the relatively small number of people from western Montana who used the conference as an excuse to check out Sidney. Dasinger says the organizers spent the better part of two years advertising the event on social media and in newspapers across the state.

Even so, chatting with as many of the approximately 60 attendees as I could, I met only a handful of people who had traveled from as far west as Helena, Butte or Great Falls. I didn’t bump into anyone from Kalispell or Missoula, though I did meet several North Dakotans.

Dasinger says she understands that drawing people to far eastern Montana is an uphill battle, since the region doesn’t have built-in attractions like nearby national parks or the state Capitol building. Committing to a first visit is “a huge leap of faith,” she acknowledges.

“People don’t understand how vibrant and cool Sidney actually is, because it’s so far and it doesn’t advertise itself like Glacier does,” she says. “They don’t understand that if they come here they’re going to have a good time.”

Golden Roundup

Whacking Weeds

By Lois Stephens

I detest using a weed whacker. I call these monstrosities instruments of the devil, and have always waged a losing battle with them when trying to encourage them to perform, as they ought to perform. I resent the way they do not run properly for me, the frustration they cause, and the job they often do not do very well. I think these evil creations feel the same way about me; they seem to work efficiently when others handle them, but I

place my hands on them and they rebel. These contrivances behave erratically, they quit for no reason whatsoever, and invariably run out of twine. You name it, it happens when I decide to try using one of these devil’s instruments.

When I still lived in Crane, I had a neighbor who very patiently showed me how to use his trusty weed eater, he demonstrated its powers for five minutes at my house while clearing an admirable number of

weeds in the process. He handed the machine to me, I started whacking weeds with a vengeance, and the instrument quit within ten seconds. My neighbor started it, used it for another several minutes with no troubles at all, handed it back to me, and the untrustworthy piece of junk abruptly quit. I thrust the whacker back at him, told him to never mind, that I would just pull the weeds by hand, and I did.

When I married my husband, it was understood that he would do the weed whacking at our place. He knew my dislike of these finicky beasts, so he operated these unreliable instruments, maintained them, and took care of all the objectionable weeds around the property that I could not mow down with the lawn mower.

For years, my hus-

band upheld this unspoken agreement regarding who operated the weed eater. Until this year, that is. I told my husband in May that we needed the weed whacker up and operating as the pesky plants were threatening to take over in a few areas. He procrastinated for a week before he finally retrieved the weed eater from our storage shed. He cleaned it, fueled it, put in a new bundle of twine, and tried the machine out on a few, a very few, weeds around the house. He possibly spent an entire two minutes whacking weeds. He shut off the machine, laid it in the grass, and walked away to return to his more exciting YouTube activities.

That whacker laid on the grass for a week. I pointed out to my husband in that time period several spots where he could put the instrument

to good use. Those conversations went in one of his ears and straight out the other.

I finally picked up the cursed contraption, took it up to his shop, and laid it in the middle of the floor when he could not possibly fail to see it and had to step over it to get in and out of the shop. Unfortunately, a large object lying in the middle of the floor obstructing passage did not provide the motivation nor the hint that I had hoped it would produce.

Meanwhile I polished up my trusty clippers and started clipping by hand. I did the entire interior perimeter of the garden fence with those clippers, mentioning to my husband on several occasions what activity I was up to. I then started on the outside perimeter but I wanted it done as quickly as possible since some of the weeds were going to seed and I wanted them out of the way before they matured. I mentioned this little fact to my husband, and continued to clip weeds by hand with the clippers while the weeds continued to grow and mature.

I retrieved an old push mower and used it in a few spots I ought not to have used it as I had about a foot of space to drag the mower between the outside garden fence and a rather steep bank, but that mower did a good job and helped me clean up a tangle of unwanted plants.

Shaming didn’t seem to motivate my husband to do his job, so I finally asked him if the whacker was difficult to start and if it was giving him any problems. He leaped off his chair where he was sitting watching exciting YouTube garbage, assured me the whacker was easy to start, it worked well, it was a pleasure to use, and he then proceeded to give

me an elaborate, detailed fifteen-minute tutorial on how to start the appalling piece of tin and plastic, run it, and change the string.

I stared at him aghast through the entire demonstration. Here I stood, wasting fifteen minutes listening to a lecture on how to use a machine I had no intentions of ever operating.

Questions that ran through my mind: If it is so easy to use, why is he not using it? If it runs so well, why is he not running it? If he likes the machine as much as he claims, why is he not putting it to good use? If it is such a good little instrument, why does he not run it more often? I do most all other yard work around here, so in my opinion he can run the weed whacker and get the job done.

I returned to my clippers and mower. A few days later my husband saw me clipping by hand, he announced that the weed eater would get the job done a lot faster, so I snarled at him, ‘Well then use it.’ He took one look at my face, marched to the shop, picked up the weed eater, and finished the job for me. About time, in my opinion, but I now realize he may not like weed whacking as much as he claims. Actually, I think it just takes up too much of his valuable screen watching time.

I have an old mower I use in tough spots, and if I wreck it, so be it. I do have a trusty pair of lawn clippers, and if worse comes to worst, I will rent a goat to help me eliminate unwanted plants and shrubs, but I will not weed whack. I will not use that particular instrument of the devil to help me in my yard work. I truly believe I would tear out weeds with my teeth before I consented to operate a weed whacker machine.

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A Seat At The Table

Members of the Watford City High School Student Ambassadors Leadership team have joined Vision West as student advisors to share their voice and ideas in support of Vision West ND and their mission. Vision West is a consortium that represents 19 energy producing counties in Western ND. The goal for this group as they lead, educate and collaborate, is to mobilize western North Dakota towards a resilient and prosperous quality of life for all residents promoting long-term sustainability for our communities. On July 15, students participated in their first meeting held at the Williston Basin International Airport. Topics covered include: Child Care in ND, Behavioral Health & Crisis Services in western ND and Education and Workforce Legislative Updates. Pictured from left, Pat Bertagnolli (Ambassador Co-Advisor), Watford City High School students: Kanyon Tschetter, Ally Cross, Alexzandria Garcia, Macee Franz, Vision West: Deb Nelson (Administrator) and Jim Hennessy (President). Submitted by Patrick Bertagnolli)



Richland Co. Democrats Meet

The Richland County Democrats held their first meeting July 13 at Veterans Memorial Park. Members were treated to a barbecue. Shown are back row (L to R): Fred Lake, Dale Spracklin, Greg Miller, Brenda Mischel, Pat Mischel, Jerry Redlin, Sigurd Rudie and Beth Redlin. Middle row (L to R): Janet Spracklin, Dan Eakin, Sheelah Prevost, Peggy Hart and Nicole Davidson. Front row (L to R): Arlene Riggs, Janet Martineau and Kathleen Waller.

Canning, Pickling, Preserving OH MY!

By Carrie Krug,
MSU/Richland County
FCS Extension Agent

As the heat of summer continues and harvest is just around the corner; canning, pickling, and preserving season is here too. The number one priority when preserving your harvest is the safety of the finished product by destroying any bacteria, and molds that might cause foodborne illnesses. One of them being botulism, caused by a toxin in bacteria. The bacteria can grow, especially in improperly processed home-canned foods.

Have no fear home-canning foods is still a great way to preserve your harvest. It is recommended to use recipes that have been tested and are from reputable sources. The National Center for Home Food Preservation, USDA Complete Guide to Home Canning, 2015, So Easy to Preserve, 6th edition, are all great places to start on your canning/preserving journey. Another note is any earlier editions of these books are not recommended because science is always changing, and recipes are updated along with the new science. If you're looking for reliable resources online, add EXTENSION to your google search looking for .edu websites to help you find those reliable resources.

Adjusting your processing time based on the altitude of where you live will ensure your food is preserved safely. If you live in Sidney, Savage, or Fairview the altitude is under 2,000 feet, where if you live in Lambert the altitude is over 2,000 feet. The altitude of where you live can change the processing times, or if you're using a pressure canner the lbs. of pressure you will need to process your product. These adjustments

are made to ensure heat is distributed evenly and for long enough to produce a safe product.

The acid level of what your planning on processing will also affect the method used to preserve them safely. Low-acid foods such as vegetables (except most tomatoes), meats, fish, and poultry, need to be processed at a higher temperature, which is only reached by using a pressure canner. Where high-acid foods such as fruits (with naturally high acidity), tomatoes with the added acid, and pickled products can be canned in either a boiling water canner or a pressure canner. Tomatoes grown today have a lower natural acidity (pH) level and will need to be acidified before canning to help prevent botulism.

Using a pressure canner (dial or weighted gauge) and a boiling water canner are two recommended methods of preserving your harvest using the canning process. Using a convection oven, dishwasher, pressure cooker/saucepans, and open kettles are not recommended methods for preserving because they don't prevent the growth of bacteria such as botulism.

Did you know if you use a dial gauge canner that you should get it checked yearly for accuracy? Have no fear; this is a free service offered at your local MSU Extension office. In addition to getting your dial gauge checked, MSU Extension offers a variety of resources on canning safety. From walking you through safe canning practices, helping you determine what went wrong, reliable, research-based information is available.

Contact the Richland County Extension office at 406-433-1206, or stop in at

1499 N Central Ave., Sidney for more information.

Information referenced from MontGuide Home-canning Using Boiling Water Canners and Pressure Canners and Utah State University: Avoiding Common (Major and Minor) Canning Mistakes.

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June 17, 2021
Janice Klempel
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By: Laurel Molden
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(Publish July 7, 14, 21, 28, 2021)


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OUTDOORS

Monster Catfish Roundup



The Montana Catfish Association held the 17th Annual Monster Catfish Roundup at the Sidney Bridge on July 17. Above is the first place team Brenner Flaten and Chad Dawson, Glasgow, with 25.75 lbs.



Third place was Sara Schwenk and Larry Turbiville with 23.39 lbs. Schwenk was also the Big Fish winner.



Second place was Tim & Steve Linder with 23.44 lbs.

Reminder: Boating Under The Influence Is Illegal

By Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks

Don't Drink and Drive. It's a message you hear all the time. But what about Don't Drink and Boat? Boating under the influence, or BUI, is dangerous and illegal. In Montana it is unlawful to operate or be in actual physical control of a motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat, water skis, surfboard or similar watercraft while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

According to the United States Coast Guard, the use of alcohol is involved in about a third of all recreational boating fatalities. Boating, fishing and other water sports are fun in their own right. Alcohol can turn a great day on the water into the tragedy of a lifetime. Play it smart and don't drink and boat.

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Rough Rider Center To Host ND West Region Legion Baseball Tournament

By Anna Dragseth
The Watford City and the Rough Rider Center will be hosting the 2021 North Dakota West Region Legion A Baseball Tournament July 21 – 24. Teams participating in the tournament include Bismarck Reps, Bismarck Caps, Mandan A's, Minot Metros, Bismarck Scarlets, Bismarck Senators, Williston Oilers, Dickinson Volunteers, Jamestown Eagles, and Watford City Walleye.

Two games will be on Wednesday with four games occurring each of the next three days. The top four teams will advance to the state tournament in Jamestown. Brackets will be finalized after the weekend once season play is wrapped up. When this is complete, brackets can be found next week at www.watfordcityparks.com/Events/List and www.roughridercenter.com/Events/List.

"This is the first time we have hosted this tournament! This will bring in communities such as Jamestown, Bismarck, Minot, Dickinson and more as we showcase our great facilities and community to more than 160 athletes and their families. We want this to be a memorable experience for those visiting and have everyone buzzing about Watford City when they leave. The most excit-

ing part is knowing we have an opportunity to provide the athletes, coaches, umpires, and families with a top-notch tournament experience. We feel like Watford City does just that," said Joshua Noll-

meyer, Rough Rider Center Recreation Manager.
This tournament is open to anyone and everyone. There are day passes and tournament passes available for purchase. Concessions

will be available throughout the tournament. For more information on the tournament, call the RRC at 701-842-3665.

Roosevelt Medical Center To Host Teddy Bear Clinic

By Jaimee Green
Roosevelt Medical Center will host its' first annual Teddy Bear Clinic on Wednesday, Aug. 11, from 1-4 p.m. during the Roosevelt County Fair. The "clinic" will be set up on the lawn under a brown canopy. The event is free to the public and recommended for youth between the ages of three and nine.

During the three-hour event, youth can bring their

favorite stuffed animal and it will receive a free health check and annual vaccinations by a medical provider. No appointments are necessary, and each plush animal will receive a certificate of good health.

"This activity is a fun way to address the fears and concerns many young patients have when they go to the clinic or when they have routine medical procedures," said Jaimee Green, RMC

marketing and foundation director.

All youth who participate will be entered to win a large teddy bear and will receive a coloring book, courtesy of RMC.

Small teddy bears will be available to youth who want to participate in the event but do not bring a plush animal.

For more information, contact Jaimee Green at 406-787-6476.

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Watford City Homefest Baby Pageant

Watford City held their annual Homefest celebration July 15-17. For more photos go to roundupweb.com. Above: Little Mr. Homefest Kashton and Kolsen Villalpando, in wagon. (Photo by Kathy Taylor) Right: Little Miss Homefest Sawyer Skarda. (Photo by Kathy Taylor)

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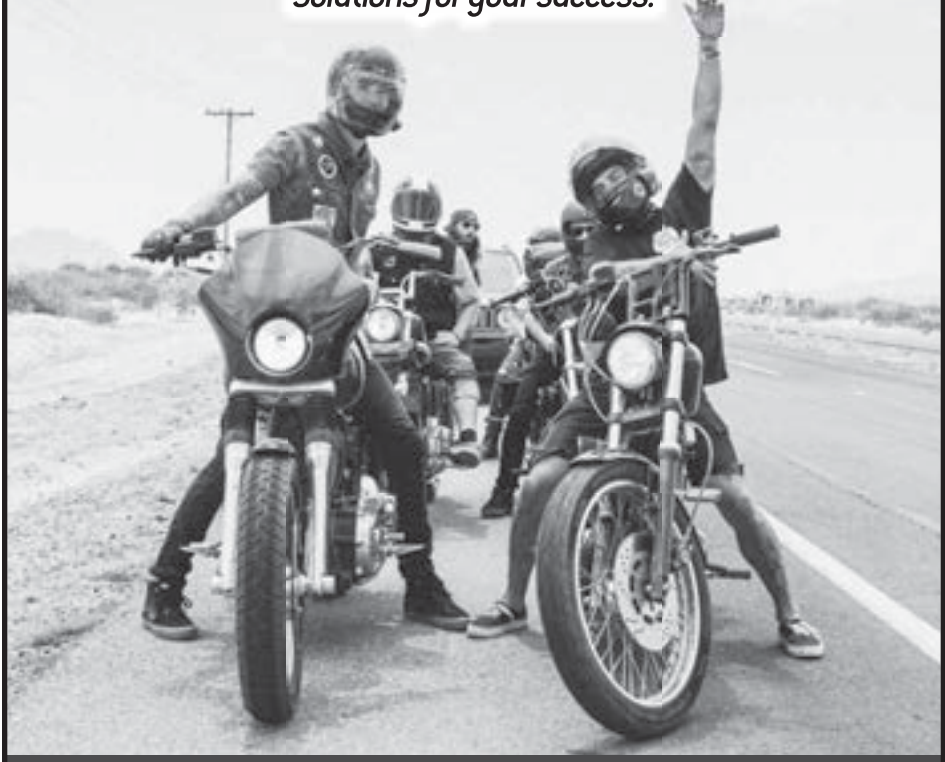
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Fairview Festival

Fairview celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Fairview Festival and Old Timers Reunion on July 17. Pictured right is (L-R) Chloe Bushnell, 9, Cartwright, and Kaylee Johnson, 8, Fairview getting ready for the start of the Kiddie Parade pulling their 'Let's Party' wagon. For more photos go to roundupweb.com.



Ag Appreciation Golf Tournament



The Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture held their annual Ag Appreciation Golf Tournament at the Sidney Country Club on July 12. First place winners of John Deer garage stools and \$25 Powder Keg Gift Cards, from left, Mike Alderman Troy Bratcher, Jake Brokaw and Dreysyn Bratcher. (Photos submitted)



Second place winners, \$50 Western Tire Gift Cards and hats, from left, Shawn Larsen, Jake Mahlen, Luke Mahlen and Trent Panasuk.



Third place winners of Sidney Sugars giftbag (mug and sugar) from left, Todd Cayko, Larry Davidson, Aaron Davidson and Kyle Cayko.

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Dividing Perennials

**By Andy Kuester,
Handy Andy's Nursery**
What is a perennial?

Remember, a perennial is identified as a plant that comes back year after year bringing growth to the landscape for many seasons. Trees and shrubs are examples of "perennial" plants. However, there are many plants, such as daylilies, hostas, peonies, and tulips that are also perennials and yet are not what we consider a tree or shrub. These "non-woody" plants are known to the gardener as "herbaceous perennials". These plants do not grow on existing growth from last season. Instead, they sprout new growth from their established root systems.

These plants can be split, propagated, or divided. Most woody plants cannot. At least not in the same way or to the same degree that this plant group can.

Why divide perennials? If your perennial plants show any of the following, it may be time to rejuvenate them through division.

- The flower quantity or flower size is poor.
- The stems and branches have become tangled.
- The center of the plant dies leaving a ring of new growth around the perimeter.
- The plant loses strength, flopping over or requiring staking when it never did before, or the leaves are pale or yellow.
- The plant has outgrown the space you have given it. This is especially likely if it grows in a particularly hospitable site.
- The plant is in the wrong place in your garden.
- You want to share this plant from your garden with friends and neighbors.

If plants in your space

are exhibiting any of these characteristics, it could be a good idea to consider dividing them.

When should I divide perennials?

This question is perhaps a little more difficult to answer well. Perennials can be divided in early spring (generally early April) or in the Fall (late August through September).

The general rules are:

- Summer and fall-blooming plants in spring
- Spring blooming plants in the fall.

How to go about dividing perennials?

Tips for successful division of fleshy, fibrous, tuber, and rhizome perennials are as follows:

- The day before, water the plant thoroughly.
- Choose a day that will be overcast and not too hot. Work either in the cool of the morning when the plant is fully hydrated or late afternoon when the night will allow for better recovery.
- Remember that exposed roots dry out quickly.
- Dig the hole the divisions are going into, or have pots ready for them.
- Some plants benefit by having their top foliage cut back. This allows you to see where the natural divisions occur. This can be helpful when making your cuts.
- If the plant is large, use a spading fork to dig all the way around it, well away from the base to minimize the loss of roots. Generally, a fork does less damage to the roots than a shovel. Lift the entire clump out of the ground. You may have to remove some of the dirt to see the roots.
- If the whole plant doesn't require division and you only want a few new plants, you can dig or cut out clumps around the edge-

es. The parent plant will recover quickly and appear unchanged.

- Remove any weeds or grass before you replant.

Inspect the plant for unhealthy parts, usually an old woody center or rotten roots. Eliminate them.

- For fibrous-rooted plants, use a spade (or two), an old bread knife, or your fingers to separate the clump into plants the size you want. Very old and well-established perennials, like daylilies or Astilbe, may require more aggressive handling.
- Keep the divisions moist and shaded. Save the youngest pieces for replanting, usually the ones at the edge of the plant. Each piece should have roots and a minimum of 2 buds/piece of the crown. Discard the rest. The larger the pieces, the sooner the plant will bloom again.

- Plant each division in a hole twice its size. Fill in with good quality soil mixed with organic matter, keeping the plant at its original depth. Don't feed with nitrogen until the following year — nitrogen encourages top growth and the divisions need to focus on their roots.
- Water well. If the weather is especially hot and sunny, you may need to shade the plant for a few days.

The need to divide perennial plants usually means you've been successful in growing them. Enjoy the time spent in your garden and the fruits of your success.

Good luck and happy growing!



Photo submitted.

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When Recreating On The Water This Summer, Be Safe And Follow The Law!

Wardens are seeing many water recreators out of compliance

By Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks
Unseasonably warm weather is occurring early in Montana, and many boaters and anglers have been going to the local reservoirs and other waterways to get some relief from the heat. However, along with having fun, folks need to follow all the laws while out and about. Wardens have been checking a slew of boaters and anglers recently, and some common issues are recurring as summer is getting underway:

- License possession while fishing: Many anglers contacted this spring and summer have not had their license in possession while fishing. This is a requirement by law. Anglers are required to produce their fishing license when requested by a game warden.
- A good recommendation is to carry the original printed license and hold a digital "copy" on a phone as



a backup. The digital phone copy is legal, provided the license is quickly accessible and saved as a PDF, *screenshot of the license or a photo of the license. Sometimes, anglers have tried to rely on spotty cell phone service to look up their licenses via the internet, which has not always worked. Save a copy that you can find immediately!

- *ALS Receipts and screenshots of "Items Held" on the MyFWP page do not count as licenses.
- Required Safety Equipment on boats: Multiple citations have been issued this summer for insufficient safety equipment on boats. By law, the following are required for noted watercraft:
 - A wearable U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device must be readily accessible for every person on the vessel, regardless of age. This includes, but is not limited to, all boats, kayaks, paddleboards, jet skis and canoes.
 - All vessels 16 feet in length and over must have one U.S. Coast Guard approved throwable personal flotation device that is immediately available for use.
 - Children under 12 years of age must wear a life jacket on a boat less than 26 feet in length that is in motion.
- Towing/Skiing:
 - There must be at least two people on board a towing vessel, one operator/driver and one observer. If the operator is 12 or younger, the observer must be at least 18.
 - The person(s) being towed must be wearing a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket
 - Fire extinguishers:

All motorboats must carry a U.S. Coast Guard-approved type B fire extinguisher.

- *Exception: motorboats less than 26 feet long that are propelled by an outboard motor and are completely open construction (no closed spaces where gasoline fumes may be trapped) are not required to have a fire extinguisher.
- Validation Decals on Boats: Wardens have found that most boats have followed this rule, however, a few boats are still missing their required decal.
- All motorboats, sailboats or personal watercraft that are registered in Montana must display two validation decals. Current validation decals are red in color and are in effect for a three-year period expiring Feb. 28, 2023. Validation decals may be obtained, free of charge, at any Fish, Wildlife & Parks regional office or at the fwp.mt.gov website.
- AIS Check Stations:
 - All watercraft are required to stop at all open AIS check stations. Folks doing "drive-bys," whether intentionally or unintentionally, are being cited.
 - All nonresident watercraft must be inspected before launching in Montana. This is required by law.
 - Proof of Inspection Paperwork: Many nonresident boats that have been contacted do not have their proof of inspection paperwork in their boat while on the water. Please always carry these.

For more information on fishing or boating laws, please pick up a copy of the 2021 Fishing Regulations or Montana Boating Laws. Good luck and be safe out there!

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