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Wednesday, December 27, 2023

Volume 49 • Number 47

SIDNEY'S TOP STORIES OF 2023

See pages 6 - 15

Happy New Year!

Roundup
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Lower Yellowstone Lodge #90 Hosts "Gifts From The Heart"



Pictured (L-R) is Travis Rosaaen, Lower Yellowstone Lodge #90; Jakkie Waller, "Gifts from the Heart" event coordinator; and Lance Averett, Lower Yellowstone Lodge #90. (Submitted photo)

On Dec. 9 Lower Yellowstone Lodge #90 hosted the annual "Gifts from the Heart" program in Sidney.

Local residents came to the Lodge and were given bags of food and were able to select toys and Christmas gifts for their children from the collections provided by local charities. Tables were set up for boys and girls and by ages. Five or six families were allowed to enter at a time and were accompanied by a "Santa Shopper" to help them find appropriate gifts.

There were 135 bags of food including canned goods and a \$15 gift card to help purchase a turkey or a ham from the local grocery stores. Toys were collected for over a month at four Edward Jones locations, financial institutions collected hats and mittens, 60 crochet hats were donated, and the ABATE motorcycle club provided money to buy bikes.

Over 200 volunteers from youth groups and church groups helped set up the event in just three days.

In 2022, there were 152 families, including 453 children, that were given gifts and food. This year there were 158 families and 452 children.

Alexander Who-ville



(Photo by
Robyn Heck)

By Robyn Heck

Alexander Public School was planning to hold their annual Christmas concert, Tuesday, Dec. 19. Due to an outbreak of influenza A, over 100 students were home sick. The school holiday program has been postponed until after the winter break.

Students and staff have been busy decorating the hallways for a Whoville competition. Concert attendees are invited around the school to check out each entry.

They've decided to keep Whoville up until after the make-up concert in January.

BGC Youth of the Month

Submitted by Janelle Chamberlain,
Boys & Girls Clubs of the MonDak

Boys & Girls Clubs of the MonDak is proud to announce Letty Meissel and Mallory Davidson as our December, Youth of the Month.

Letty Meissel is in Mrs. Deming's 3rd grade class and is the daughter of Lacey and James Meissel. She has one sibling and is in the Orange group at the Club. Letty likes arts and crafts projects while at the Club and her favorite subject in school is math. Letty wants to be a teacher when she grows up.

Mallory Davidson is the Youth of the Month at the Base and is in Mrs. Peter's 5th grade class. She is the daughter of Nicole and Steve Davidson. She enjoys art class with Ms. Tammy while at the Club and her favorite subject in school is math. Mallory aspires to be an artist and a dressmaker when she grows up!

Congratulations to both of our December Youth of the Month winners! You have demonstrated respect, kindness, and a great attitude to all at our clubhouse!



Mallory (Submitted Photo)



Letty (Submitted Photo)

Empowering Success: Sidney Health Center's Nurse Residency Program In Action



Under the guidance of Danielle Seitz, RN (L), newly licensed registered nurses Malisa Reed, Halley Henry, and Ande Turner have successfully completed Phase One of the Nurse Residency Program at Sidney Health Center. This program is proving to be instrumental in building their confidence and skills. (Submitted photo)

Sidney, MT (Dec. 8) - In the dynamic realm of nursing, the journey from graduation to professional practice can be both exhilarating and daunting. Newly licensed registered nurses, Halley Henry, Malisa Reed, and Ande Turner, recently completed Phase One of the Nurse Residency Program at Sidney Health Center.

The initial nine-week portion of the program's onboarding process provided a solid foundation, a diverse range of experiences, and a nurturing environment aimed at fostering their growth as competent healthcare professionals.

Upon completing the introduction week, these nurses delved into intensive two-week rotations across key departments including Med/Surg, CCU/ER, Surgery, and OB. Paired with trained mentors in each department, Halley, Malisa, and Ande embarked on a journey of hands-on learning, gaining insights into specialized areas of nursing.

The program's gradual release design is proving to be instrumental in building their confidence and skills. It offers a panoramic view of the healthcare facility, cultivating a cohesive working

environment while allowing these nurses to navigate and understand the intricacies of each nursing domain.

"Exploring different departments has strengthened our nursing skills by giving us insight into their procedures and needs. Understanding the processes from Surgery to Med/Surg or pre-surgery preparations equips us to better inform patients," exclaimed Malissa. "This program broadens our nursing skills and provides a supportive community for new nurses like myself."

Guiding this transformative experience is Danielle Seitz, who is a Registered Nurse and the program's facilitator. Through the three-phase onboarding process, Danielle serves as a liaison for these individuals. Her on-going check-ins and unwavering support throughout the program's duration ensure that nurses feel empowered to identify their unique niches within the organization.

"When approached to lead this project, I was a little overwhelmed by its scale, but the alarming statistics drove my determination to make this rural healthcare program a success," stated Danielle as statistics indicate that between 17-30% of first-

year nurses leave their jobs. "Working closely with newly licensed nurses has been a mutual learning experience. Our platform enables open discussions about both successes and challenges, allowing immediate guidance and reinforcing skills to handle future situations gracefully."

"Like Malisa mentioned, collaborating with various departments broadens our perspective," Halley agreed. "However, having Danielle as our dedicated contact through this program offers us a reliable support system. Whether we encounter challenges, need advice, or seek a sounding board for ideas, knowing we have her support is invaluable."

The stories of Halley, Malisa, and Ande reflect the program's transformative impact, not just in honing technical skills but also in fostering a sense of belonging and purpose within the healthcare community. Their journey underscores the importance of tailored support and comprehensive training in empowering nurses to thrive in the multifaceted landscape of healthcare.

"I am so excited to offer this program to new nurses, who are anxious to put their

skills to work. With so many service lines to choose from, it is often an eye-opening experience," explained Pam McGlothlin, Nursing Services Senior Executive. "Through this onboarding process, they get a sense of what area they want to dedicate their time and talents to and we are open to training them in specialty areas like surgery, labor and delivery, ICU or cancer care."

McGlothlin also points out, "The advantage of working at a critical access hospital, like Sidney Health Center, is that nurses can grow in their profession at an accelerated rate. Moreover, they often become a jack of all trades and a valued member of the team. The nurse residency program really jumpstarts their nursing career in a safe learning environment."

By implementing innovative programs like this, Sidney Health Center is committed to shaping the future for nursing roles in rural healthcare settings. For more information about job opportunities at Sidney Health Center, visit the organization's website at sidneyhealth.org.

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Lunch Menus!

Sidney School
Tues., Jan. 2: Corn dogs, oven wedges, peaches.
Wed., Jan. 3: Biscuits & gravy, hash browns, orange juice.
Thurs., Jan. 4: Spaghetti pepperoni hotdish, tossed salad, applesauce, garlic breadsticks.
Fri., Jan. 5: Chili, cinnamon rolls, pineapple.
Mon., Jan. 8: Hamburger gravy over potatoes, green beans, pears, hot rolls.
Tues., Jan. 9: Orange chicken, fried rice, steamed broccoli, mandarin oranges.
Wed., Jan. 10: Cheeseburgers, French fries, grapes.
Savage School
Wed., Jan. 3: Chicken cordon bleu.
Thurs., Jan. 4: Tater kickers.
Fri., Jan. 5: Pizza pasta.
Mon., Jan. 8: Tater tot hotdish.
Tues., Jan. 9: Chicken drummies.
Wed., Jan. 10: Hamburgers.
Froid School
Wed., Jan. 3: Hamburger potato casserole, veggies, buns, fruit, salad bar.
Thurs., Jan. 4: Cooks choice, salad bar.
Fri., Jan. 5: Sub sandwiches, chips, baked beans, fruit, salad bar.
Mon., Jan. 8: Scrambled egg bake, biscuits, hash browns, go-gurts, fruit, salad bar.
Tues., Jan. 9: Tacos, refried beans, taco bar, fruit, salad bar.
Wed., Jan. 10: Pork roast, mashed potatoes, gravy, veggies, buns, dessert, salad bar.
Lambert School
Thurs., Jan. 4: Chicken alfredo, breadsticks, broccoli, fruit.

Fri., Jan. 5: Soup & sandwiches, fruit.
East Fairview School
Wed., Jan. 3: Shepherd's pie.
Thurs., Jan. 4: Chicken noodle soup.
Fri., Jan. 5: Pulled pork.
Mon., Jan. 8: Chicken alfredo.
Tues., Jan. 9: Hawaiian haystacks.
Wed., Jan. 10: Pizza.
Alexander School
Tues., Jan. 2: Meatball subs, fries, fruit, vegetable bar.
Wed., Jan. 3: Super nachos, fruit, vegetable bar.
Thurs., Jan. 4: Boneless or bone-in wings, fries, fruit, vegetable bar.
Fri., Jan. 5: Chili, pretzel bites, fruit, vegetable bar.
Mon., Jan. 8: Popcorn chicken or finger steaks, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, fruit, vegetable bar.
Tues., Jan. 9: Street tacos or burrito bowls, cilantro lime rice, fruit, vegetable bar.
Wed., Jan. 10: Hot ham or turkey on buns, tomato soup, fruit, vegetable bar.
Watford City School
Wed., Jan. 3: Chicken cheese quesadillas, Spanish rice, fruit, veggies, salad bar.
Thurs., Jan. 4: Cheeseburger deluxe, cheese curds, fruit, veggies, salad bar.
Fri., Jan. 5: 4x6 Pepperoni pizzas, gingerbread cookies, fruit, veggies, salad bar.
Mon., Jan. 8: Steak fingers, mashed potatoes, gravy, fruit, veggies, salad bar.
Tues., Jan. 9: Crisпитos, fritos, treat, fruit, veggies, salad bar.
Wed., Jan. 10: Orange chicken, fried rice, fortune cookies, fruit, veggies, salad bar.

STATISTICS

LAKE WATER LEVEL REPORT

Sakakawea
Current Elevation.....1839.1
Last Week's Elev.1839.4
One Year Ago1831.2
Release For Day (C.F.S.)17,000

SIDNEY WEATHER DATA

Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Dec. 18.....	41	11	0.000
Dec. 19.....	40	23	0.000
Dec. 20.....	45	23	0.000
Dec. 21.....	50	23	0.000
Total 2023 YTD Precipitation.....	13.644		

OBITUARIES

Eileen May Quale, 83 Wibaux, MT formerly of Sidney, MT

Graveside services for Eileen May Quale, 83, Wibaux, MT, formerly of Sidney, MT, were held at 10 a.m., Monday, Dec. 18, 2023, at the Sidney Cemetery, Sidney, MT, with Pastor David Huskamp officiating. Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT, is assisting the family. Remembrances, condolences, and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.



Eileen May Quale

Eileen May (Linker) Quale died on Dec. 14, 2023, at the Wibaux County Nursing Home.

Eileen was born on Aug. 17, 1940, in Sidney, MT, a daughter of William and Mollie (Strasheim) Linker. She was the youngest of three children and was raised in Sidney with her sister Ruthie and brother Bob. After she graduated from Sidney High School in 1958, she married Norman Quale, Wibaux, and they had four children. For a while they lived in Billings before moving to Washington state. They divorced in 1970 and Eileen and the children returned to her hometown.

Eileen was employed for many years as a childcare provider, office custodian, and Avon representative. Mrs. Quale will be remembered by all the children she baby-sat. Eileen enjoyed homemaking and gardening. Her mother was an excellent cook and baker and Eileen enjoyed being in the kitchen alongside her.

Family was the important thing to Eileen, and she traveled to various states to visit her children and enjoyed seeing new places. She liked listening to hymns and old country music. Eileen was a kind and caring woman and loving mom and grandma. She had a tender heart for all children. She had many lifelong and close friends.

Eileen was baptized and confirmed at Ebenezer Congregational Church. She was active in church activities, the ladies aid, and choir. Eileen was a wonderful mother, grandma, great-grandma, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend.

Eileen is survived by her four children: daughter Debbie (Marty) Bradley, daughter Susan (Martin) Perez, son Bill Quale, and daughter Cheryl Quale; her nine grandchildren: Remi (Jen) Morlock, Jonathan (Jennifer) Morlock, Monica Morlock, Angelo Perez, Olivia Perez, Larissa (Chris) Sattler, Andrew Quale, Megan (Kory) Lassey, and Alesia Quale; five great-grandchildren: Shelby Morlock, Lexi Morlock, Tyler Sattler, Ashlyn Sattler, and Braelyn Sattler; four nephews: David, Jeff, Ron and Todd Linker; and one niece Patti (Linker) Cayko.

Preceding her in death are her parents William and Mollie; sister Ruthie Olson and brother-in-law Ole Olson; brother Bob Linker and sister-in-law June Linker; and grandson Joshua Morlock.

2023 Election Precinct Redistricting

Submitted by Richland County Clerk & Recorder
New precinct boundaries have been established for Richland County after the adoption of the 2023 Legislative Districting Plan. Section 13-3-102 (1), MCA, requires that precinct boundaries conform to legislative boundaries following the adoption of a districting and apportionment plan under Article V, Section 14 of the Montana Constitution.
The Legislative redistricting plan was determined by the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission. The new plan divided Richland into two House and two Senate Districts. The division mainly follows along Highway 200 and the Yellowstone River, with some variations closer to the Sidney area. The redistricting split Precinct 7 (Lambert area) into Precinct 7A & Precinct 7B.
House District 30 and Senate District 15 is mostly north of Highway 200 & Highway 23, this includes Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 12, 17, 19, 22, 23, and Precinct 7A.
House District 33 and Senate District 17 is mostly south of Highway 200 and Highway 23 and east of the Yellowstone River, this includes Precincts 5, 9, and Precinct 7B.
The new precinct map is available on the Richland County website, Richland.org/elections.
To look up your voter information go to the Montana Voter Portal at <http://voterportal.mt.gov>.

Winter Watering Evergreens

By Marley Voll,
MSU Richland County Extension Agent
The area has been experiencing dry winter weather without much snow cover, and moderate daily temperatures, making it beneficial to continue watering your evergreen trees and shrubs.
Evergreens lose moisture all winter long and watering them can reduce the chance of winter injury and desiccation. Water the trees mid-day to ensure the water will soak into the ground and when daytime temperatures are about 40°F. Younger and newly planted trees experience more water-stress compared to established trees, making it even more important to water them during these dry periods. When watering, make sure to water trees around the drip line and shrubs at the base.
Making sure trees are not water-stressed during these warmer periods can make the difference between having a healthy or unhealthy tree next spring.

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RICHLAND COUNTY

Events in Sidney unless otherwise listed. MT.
Now Through Jan. 31
Sidney High School Leadership Class Shoe Drive
- Four members of the Leadership Class are collecting shoes for those in need. If you would like to donate a pair of shoes there is a drop box at the main entry of the Sidney High School. For more info or to schedule a pickup for shoes no longer needed or wanted call 406-599-5143.
Wed., Dec. 27
10 a.m. - **Sabrina Ramey “Made of Prairie” and Miniature Art Show** - through Jan. 13. - **Communities West V** - through Feb. 2 - **Thriving In The MonDak Chill Exhibit** - through Feb. 3 - MonDak Heritage Center, 120 3rd Ave. SE. **Closed: Dec. 30; Jan. 2-5 & 8-13.** Reg. Hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. For more info call 406-433-3500, or visit <https://mondakheritagecenter.org/>.
Mon., Jan. 1
2024 Winter Reading Challenge Kick Off - Register early on READsquared and get a koala-ty head start on your 2024 reading goal. For more info call the Sidney-Richland County Library at 406-433-1917 or message them on Facebook.
Wed., Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31
10 a.m. - **Storytime** - Ages 4-5, but all ages welcome. Focuses on kindergarten readiness and includes songs, fingerplays, stories & a craft. Sidney-Richland County Library, 121 3rd Ave NW.
Sat., Jan. 6
1-4 p.m. - **Family Fun Day** - Glaze your own ceramics coin bank or cup. \$15 per piece. MonDak Heritage Center, 120 3rd Ave. SE.
Mon., Jan. 8, 22 & 29
4 p.m. - **Lego Club** - Children in grade Kindergarten-5 can stop by for this drop-in activity. Sidney-Richland County Library, 121 3rd Ave NW.
Fri., Jan. 12
10 a.m. - **Bilingual Storytime** - (German & English) Ages 4-5, but all ages welcome. Focuses on kindergarten readiness and includes songs, fingerplays, stories & a craft. Sidney-Richland County Library, 121 3rd Ave NW.
Thurs., Jan. 18
6 p.m. - **Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce & Richland Economic Development Meeting & Cocktail Reception** - New Business Showcase Pre-Social 6 p.m., Annual Meeting 6:30 p.m. Hosting Gov. Greg Gianforte. Fun presentations showcasing businesses & awardees. Performance by Sidney High School Band. Yellowstone Mercantile, 102 Central Ave.
Sat., Jan. 20
1 p.m. - **Pastel Landscapes** - All skill levels welcome to create beautiful landscapes with pastel paints with guest instructor Belinda O'Dell. MonDak Heritage Center, 120 3rd Ave. SE. Members \$25; Not Yet Members \$35. Call 406-433-3500 or email mdhc@richland.org to reserve your spot.

McKENZIE COUNTY

Events in Watford City unless otherwise listed. CT.
Sun., Dec. 31
7 p.m.-1 a.m. - **Leather & Lace** - Bull riding, women's bronc riding & bull fighting event followed by live music and dancing! Afterwards ring in the New Year with “32 Below”. Tickets, \$40 presale. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/leather-lace-tickets-763959813367> McKenzie Co. Ag Expo, 12880 25th St. NW.
Fri., Jan. 5 (First Friday of each month through April)
6-8 p.m. - **Wintering Well Classes** - Free, supplies will be needed. Reconnect with creative arts such as crocheting, knitting, sourdough, embroidery & more. Feel free to bring your own projects. McKenzie County Heritage Park & ND Oil Museum, 904 2nd Ave. SW.
7 p.m. - **Worship Night In Watford** - Everyone welcome, free event. Start out 2024 praising & in worship. Watford City Civic Center Gym, 213 2nd St. NE.
Sat., Jan. 13
1-5 p.m. - **Nerf Wars** - Ages 6 & up. Bring you own Nerf gun, ammo will be provided. (Limited quantity of Nerf guns can be provided) \$5 a person. Rough Rider Center, 2209 Wolves Den Pkwy. For more info email Matt, mattg@roughridercenter.com.
Wed., Jan. 17
7 p.m. - **WCHC FFA Donkey Basketball** - Watch games of 'Donkey Basketball' between school staff, first responders, & FFA members. Win cash in the Rocket-A-Donkey contest. Free donkey rides during intermission for children 12 & under. Watford City High School, 2313 Wolves Den Parkway.
Fri., Jan. 26
5 p.m. - **McKenzie County Soil Conservation District 11th Annual Cowgirls 'n Conservation** - The Quilting Bee. 5 p.m. Social, 6 p.m. Dinner. McKenzie County Ag Expo, 12880 25th St. NW. For more info or to register go to eventbrite.com.

WILLIAMS COUNTY

Events in Williston unless otherwise listed. CT.
Now Through-Sun., Dec. 31
5:30-9:30 p.m. - **2023 Spring Lake Park Holiday Lights Drive** - Take & go kids crafts, interactive exhibits, elf on the shelf bingo, photo stations & 1000s of twinkling lights. \$5 per car.
Fri., Jan. 12
6-8 p.m. - **Pastel Landscapes** - Learn to draw different landscapes with soft pastels in this beginner class. Choose a meadow, a seascape, or let your creativity run wild! \$30 members, \$35 not yet members. James Memorial Art Center, 621 1st Ave. W. Space limited, preregister at thejamesmemorial.org.
Sat., Jan. 13
11 a.m.-1 p.m. - **Lemon University Kickoff** - Fantastic time of free pizza & one game of bowling. Family friendly event, that will be kick starting the year by signing up kids for Lemon University & Lemonade Day App. Strikezone, 1804 2nd Ave. W.
Fri., Jan. 26
5:30 p.m. - **Williston Area Chamber of Commerce Presents “Stars of Williston”** - Awards, appreciation & auction. The Grand Williston Hotel & Conference Center, 3601 2nd Ave. W. For tickets visit www.willistonchamber.com/annual-awards.

DAWSON COUNTY

Events in Glendive unless otherwise listed. MT.
Sat., Jan. 6
8 a.m.-4 p.m. - **Forensics Meet** - Dawson County High School will be hosting this speech & debate competition. For more info contact Dawson County High School at 406-377-5265.
Wed., Jan. 10
5:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m. - **LifeStyle Balance** - Nutrition & exercise program aimed at preventing type 2 diabetes. Glendive Medical Center. For more info contact Penny Maher, 406-345-3309 or Email: pmaher@gmc.org Registration deadline Jan. 5.
Tues., Jan. 16
7:30-8:30 p.m. - **DCHS Winter Band Concert** - Dawson County High School.

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GREETINGS

From Tim Ritter And
The Ritter Brothers Family

After 50 years I am retiring, I have had the opportunity to make jewelry, heirlooms and memories with generations of great friends and families, throughout the regional trade area, due only to your generosity, loyalty and friendship, I have only appreciation and respect for each & every one of you. My capable and schooled sons Ethan and Evan will continue to operate Ritter Brothers and the tradition of fine jewelry and gifts, custom designs, expert jewelry repair and outstanding customer service.

I will still be available by appointment.
My sincere thanks and gratitude for all the years at Ritter Brothers Diamond Cutters
Warmest Regards,

Tim Ritter

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OBITUARIES

Daniela Hartle, 67
Sidney, MT

Celebrations of Life Services for Daniela Hartle, 67, Sidney, MT, are being planned for a later date. Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT, is assisting the family. Remembrances, condolences, and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

Daniela Hartle, born to Loan and Raveca Sav on Aug. 6, 1956, in the small village of Lipova, Romania, passed away from cancer on Dec. 16, 2023, in the late afternoon at Sidney Health Center with her husband Wade of 31 years by her side. They had no children but Daniela believed everyone is a child of God and deserved to be treated with respect and admonished when they were doing wrong.

She was living under a Communist rule as an Orthodox Christian until the Romanian revolution in December 1989. She had been converted to Pentecostal by the Holy Spirit the day before the revolution. She met her future husband when she was helping feed visitors from America that were trying to help orphans get adopted in May 1990. She didn't want to come to America and leave her family but accepted Wade's proposal after several years of correspondence and visits and came to Sidney in March 1992. They were married in the Assembly of God Church on June 20, 1992, by Pastor Terry even though they didn't go through the required counseling because he could see her commitment to the Lord and Wade.

They lived in town where Daniela became fast friends with Wade's father Roy because she fed him every day on his mail route when he delivered to their house. She also babysat for her sister-in-law and she especially loved Montana and Allie who were Wendy's girls. She asked Wade to buy cattle for the property that he owned because her parents had lost their farm to the Communists even though neither of them had ever had cattle so it was quite a learning experience. They were blessed with two sets of twin calves the first year and she took that as a sign to donate the proceeds from the extra calves, which she did for many years.

Daniela was a dear lady. Although she didn't have biological children, she considered herself mama of many. She touched the heart of co-workers, community members, and her sisters and brothers in faith. She was well known for her strong Romanian accent and her homemade salsa and her tomatoes at the farmer's market.

She worked at Sidney Sugars for 28 years in many different areas. She finished her career in the lab as an assistant chemist. She was part of the A-team as the girls called it. Everyone knew stuff was not good when they heard her on the radio calling the warehouse more than once.

She had a big heart and was always saying a prayer for those who needed it and even for those who didn't know they needed it. She had a strong belief in her faith and loved to share the word with everyone that would take even a moment to listen and if they didn't, she would still pray for them. She was a hard worker and expected you to try your best, and she felt that she could be a teacher of many things from gardening, crocheting, canning, sewing, and the Bible.

She was very vocal and when she was quiet you knew you might be in trouble or she wasn't happy with your language that you had used or you did something that was against the grain of life.

Daniela was always making stocking caps and stockings and would gift them to people for the holidays. In the late summer she tried to always have something for the Farmer's Market-selling peppers, cucumbers, salsa, and her famous tomatoes (she loved being known as the Tomato Lady).

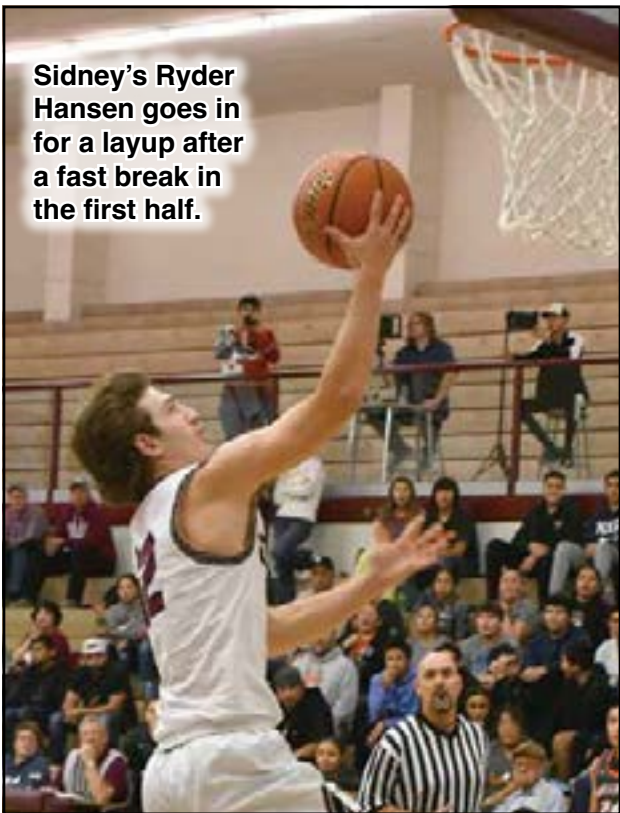
Fridays at work the girls could talk her into making cabbage rolls which everyone wanted. Boy, did they hit the spot!! Yummy!!

We are going to miss you, and we love you!
She is survived by her husband, Wade Hartle; brother Dan Sav and his children and her sister in the Lord Mariana Brait from Romania; brother-in-law Dana and Trudy Hartle; sister-in-law Tami and Craig Dozier; sister-in-law Wendy and Jeff Hodges; and sister-in-law Shanna Hartle and their children.

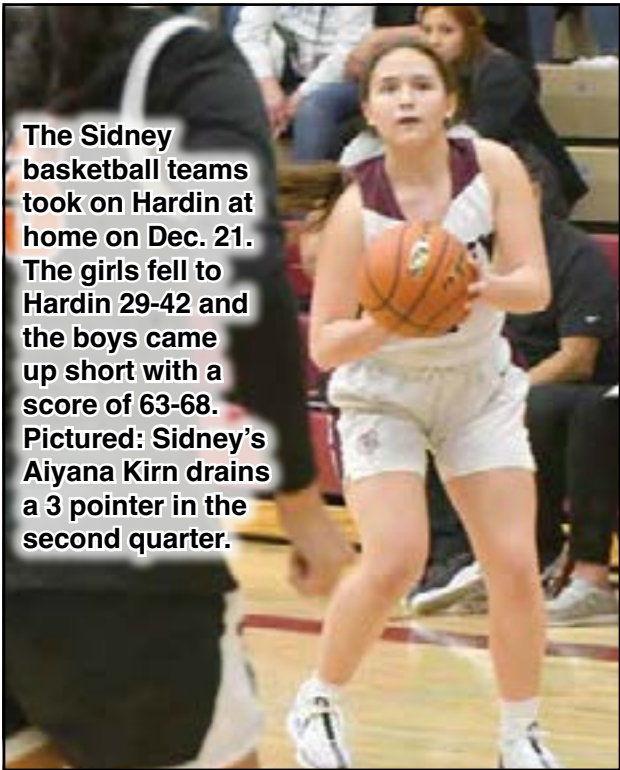


Daniela Hartle

Sidney Basketball vs. Hardin



Sidney's Ryder Hansen goes in for a layup after a fast break in the first half.



The Sidney basketball teams took on Hardin at home on Dec. 21. The girls fell to Hardin 29-42 and the boys came up short with a score of 63-68. Pictured: Sidney's Aiyana Kirn drains a 3 pointer in the second quarter.

Individual/Family Open Enrollment
FINAL DAYS!
 November 1st - December 15th : Effective January 1st
 December 16th - January 15th : Effective February 1st
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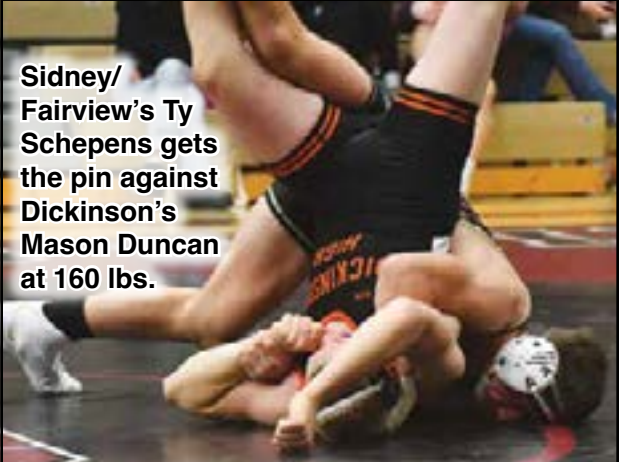
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Sidney/Fairview Wrestlers Hold Mix & Match Duals

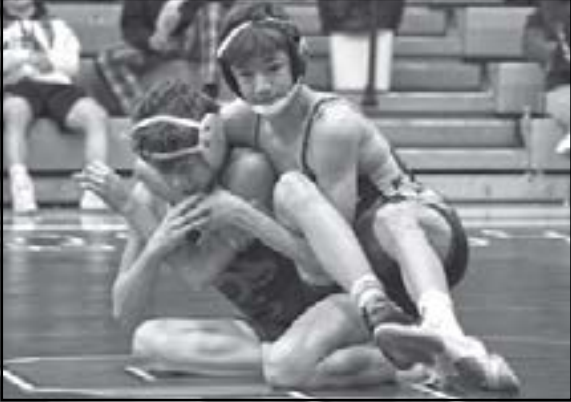
The Sidney/Fairview wrestling team hosted Dickinson and Baker on Dec. 22. The team was 2 and 1 with wins against Dickinson JV (69-6) and Baker (54-12). They came up short against Dickinson varsity (25-41).



Sidney/Fairview's Ty Schepens gets the pin against Dickinson's Mason Duncan at 160 lbs.



Sidney/Fairview's Jason Sorteberg finishes a take down against Dickinson's Nolan Thorson. Sorteberg won by pin at 152 lbs.

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SIDNEY'S TOP STORIES OF 2023

Sidney Chamber Holiday Gala Happened Nov. 25

By Jaymi Mozeak

With the holidays getting closer, the Sidney Chamber of Commerce decided to hold a Holiday Gala Saturday, Nov. 25, in an effort to up the festivities around town for the holidays.

Dueling Pianos, Denver, CO, played on the street-level floor of the Sidney Yellowstone Mercantile Saturday, Nov. 25. Serena Krigen, the owner of the building and Yellowstone Perc, had a vision for this event in her new venue space. It turned out so elegant that the chamber was motivated to make it happen sooner than later. Besides the show and drinks, there was a prime rib dinner and a dessert auction.

According to “offthegwagonrocks.com”, a dueling piano show is a musical feast for the senses; two piano players face each other and take turns singing. It’s a battle to the entertainment of the crowd. According to Dueling Piano’s website, www.duelingpianosroadshow.com, “Dueling Pianos Road Show” and its affiliates and subsidiaries, have been in continuous business since 1991 in the Denver area, have presences in the Las Vegas and Seattle/Portland areas since 2006, and perform across the U.S. Their interactive all-request shows are known nationwide and attract corporate, college, nonprofit, and private parties alike. Their signature 7’ White Grand Pianos and nationally known entertainers have played at Sing Sing, Wild Ivories, The Reef, Pat O’Brien’s, Howl at the Moon, Cruise Ships, and NYYN. Exclusively, they put on an organic and traditional request-driven interactive Dueling Pianos show with comedy and audience participation.” Lisa Gorder, chamber director of projects had a connection to the company this dueling pianos group plays for and she was able to get them to town on short notice.

The gala was a fundraiser for the Chamber. Specifically, to help fund a downtown renewal master plan project they have going. It will also benefit a few other



Holiday Gala

The Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture held their first ever Holiday Gala in the newly remodeled Yellowstone building in Sidney. Dueling Pianos entertained the crowd throughout the night. Pictured above are Dueling Pianos performers (L-R) Jeff Wilson and Cat Ackermann.

area nonprofits that help them out with volunteers. The Sidney Wrestling Club provided a valet service.



Construction is to continue in Sidney with the possibility of temporary road closures and other disruptions over the summer, but it will all be for the benefit of Sidney’s residents.

Construction In Sidney To Continue Into 2024, Throughout The Summer

By Jaymi Mozeak

At the end of 2023, the construction that was scheduled in Sidney to go from April through the end of July 2023 is still not done. According to Jeffrey Hintz, public works director, City of Sidney, the water mains are done but there is street work yet to be completed and more projects still needing to be done.

Lincoln Avenue will need to be overlaid from 4th St. S. to Central Avenue as well as 6th St. SW from Lincoln Avenue to Central Avenue. Work on the water tower has already started with a geotechnical investigation to make sure the soil in the park can support a newer, heavier water tower and will continue through mid-January 2024. In late October, the remodeling of city hall began and is expected to continue until sometime in April. Phase 4 of the wastewater treatment facility will need to start and there are a few streets separate from the Lincoln Avenue project that have been recently overlaid and need to be chip-sealed.

The old wastewater treatment facility lagoon pond had to be chemically treated to help reduce the amount of sludge on the floor of the pond. This treatment took approximately two years to complete. During the summer of 2023, the city crews drained the pond into the new treatment facility cell and allowed the pond floor area to dry. The remaining sludge is scheduled to be removed from the old pond in mid-summer of 2024 and applied to area farm fields nearby.


With winter and subzero temperatures just around the corner, most of the work will have to wait for spring or summer. Hopefully, the old lagoon pond will be dried enough by July to allow heavy equipment to enter the pond floor to clean up and properly dispose of the leftover sludge. Overlaying and chip sealing will require the high temperatures of summer to set properly so these projects will not even start again until after school ends.

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SIDNEY'S TOP STORIES OF 2023

ElectricLand Inc. Has New Owners

By Dianne Swanson

The excellent service and top quality products we have all come to expect from ElectricLand Inc. in Sidney will continue under the new ownership of Tom and Chrissy Quigley. The couple purchased the business Jan. 1, 2023 and have plans to relocate and expand. In 2011, Tom moved to Sidney from Rochester, NY with his now wife, Chrissy, who is a Sidney native. With over 20 years' experience as an installation technician, he immediately started work at ElectricLand, providing design, bidding, and completion of low voltage systems including audio, video, security, fire systems and more.

March 1, Quigleys will be relocating the business just down the block to the former Fastenal building at 205 2nd Ave. NE where they plan to expand the retail space and products. ElectricLand is your local source for TVs, computers, laptops, home stereo systems, portable speakers, cell phones boosters, and all the essentials such as batteries and cables. They also handle Dish Network. Low voltage systems, security cameras, access controls and monitored security, sales and installation will also be a top priority.

Raleigh Peck opened ElectricLand in the current Lin-Care building July 10, 2000 after he purchased the Radio Shack portion from Leif Anderson. He then moved the business to the Village Square Mall for nine years, the Shops at Fox Run for 5 years and finally the current location for four years. He has seen a lot of changes over the years. "That's

electronics," he said referring to the enormous changes the industry has seen. He started with great ambitions of selling VCRs and tube TVs and ended up with flat screens, DVRs and streaming. He also experienced the evolution from bag phones to cell phones and analog to digital among many others. ElectricLand in little old Sidney, MT was in the Top 5 Radio Shack dealers in the country before Radio Shack went bankrupt. When that happened, Peck found new suppliers and kept on selling and servicing the products his customers needed and wanted. Initially focused heavily on retail, Raleigh gradually shifted the focus more to custom installation with Quigley as his lead installation tech. "He's the perfect fit to take over," Peck stated. ElectricLand still has everything it ever had, except cell phones.

Peck expressed his deepest gratitude to all his loyal customers and assures everyone that Tom and Chrissy will take good care of them with the same great attention ElectricLand is famous for. Peck isn't leaving the area and will still be around to help when needed.

Peck has no big plans for his retirement but is taking a well-deserved vacation soon! Knowing that he was going to sell the business, Peck accepted the position of second vice district governor of the Sidney Lions Club and will keep busy visiting other clubs in his area. "It's a whole new learning experience," he explained. Pecks also have kids and grandkids scattered throughout the country and are looking forward to having more time to enjoy them.



Raleigh Peck, left, congratulates Tom and Chrissy Quigley, the new owners of ElectricLand Inc., Sidney. (Photo by Dainne Swanson)

ElectricLand is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at 225 2nd Ave. NE, Sidney. They will be closed Feb. 25 -28 to make the move to 205 2nd Ave. NE and reopen there March 1. Stop by or call 406-433-4370; Tom and Chrissy will be delighted to serve you.

Farmer's Choice Expands to Sidney Area

By Katelyn Sponheim

With the Sidney and surrounding communities bereaved of their sugar beet industry, many farmers have looked to corn and soybeans to fill the gap. To soften the learning curve, Farmer's Choice, McClusky, ND, has bought their expertise in those products to Sidney.

Duane Peters, Sidney, former Sidney Sugars agronomist, will represent Farmer's Choice in Sidney. He wants local farmers to know that "we are here to help". They have purchased the former Trans-Systems building at 1120 E. Main St. Farmer's Choice is owned by farmers and the seed and products are tested at irrigated farms in North Dakota. Their motto, "We trust it in ours, you can trust it in yours". is something founder Steve Knorr is passionate about. He started Farmer's Choice five years ago with

the goal of offering products that were tested and had proven results in the state, rather than continuing a cycle of trying untested products offered by sales staff to experiment in his, and others, crops.

Since starting Farmer's Choice, Knorr has rapidly expanded the business. They offer a range of goods and services. Seed, biologicals, enzymes, sugars, nutritional, chemical, fertilizer, and expertise in their application to different operations available at their storefront in Sidney. The seed they offer comes from one of the four seed breeding companies left in the world, with Golden Harvest being their most popular brand. As a 5th generation farmer, he brings over 20 years of experience with irrigated corn



and beans in North Dakota to the table, and has staffed his company with farmers and agronomists just as dedicated to serving farmers as he is. They are currently seeking to hire several more agronomists for the Sidney location, and look forward to adding their expertise to our agricultural community.



Sunrise Women's Clinic Ribbon Cutting

The Sidney Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture and Sunrise Women's Clinic held a ribbon cutting in Sidney Oct. 19. Pictured: Several Sunrise Women's Clinic staff, board members, and supporters gathered at the clinic's new location, 203 14th St. SE, for tours, snacks, prizes, and fellowship. (Photo by Jaymi Mozeak)



Wheeler, Bieber & Associates, PC

Formerly Smith, Lange, & Halley, the firm has been operating in its current offices since 1988. Cory Wheeler bought out former owner Duane Smith, Amy Bieber then bought out Teresa Halley, and Richard Lange has since retired. Pictured is (L-R) Cory Wheeler and Amy Bieber at their business after hours on July 13.

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SIDNEY'S TOP STORIES OF 2023



Sam Rush, Multiple Impressions owner artist, poses with the mural she did on the north face of Pizza House. (Photo from Multiple Impressions Facebook page)

Sidney's Newest Mural At Pizza House

By Jaymi Mozeak
On Wednesday, Aug. 30, a brand-new mural was completed on the north exterior wall of Pizza House, Sidney.

Local artist, Sam Rush, Multiple Impressions, began painting the mural Monday, Aug. 21. She was assigned the mural back in July.

Rush often offers painting classes in Williston and is known for painting windows for businesses.

This was the third new mural that Sidney's Tourism and Business Improvement District commissioned in town. The TBID is a part of the Sidney Chamber and supports tourism, promotion and marketing for any activity happening within the Sidney district.

This latest of the murals to beautify Sidney, is located at 710 S. Central Ave.

For more information on the artist, look up Multiple Impressions on Facebook.

To learn more about the TBID, the murals it is funding, or the other projects it is funding contact the Sidney Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture at 406-433-1916 or check out their website at www.sidneymt.com.

Ace Hardware Is Now Open

By Jaymi Mozeak
Sidney's own Ace Hardware opened on May 22. It was a soft opening, but means the store was open in time for the start of the growing season.

Manager Reece Gairrett, Owner Skip King, and all of the local Ace Hardware employees worked hard through the month of May to get everything ready for opening day. Gairrett said,

"We are very close to fully staffed, close enough to open the doors." The store is not yet fully stocked either. There are a few shelves that are still waiting for vendors' deliveries and they are not going to have a Garden Center until the 2024 planting season. Gairrett said, Sidney's Ace Hardware is now open 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sundays.

There are not any sales in the rest of May except the in-store specials, but there will be a regular sale flyer in the papers starting in June. They plan on having a grand opening in August.

Sidney's Ace Hardware is now open for business and able to bring several quality brands of tools, hardware, and outdoor goods to Sidney.



Sidney Ace Hardware Holds Board Cutting Grand Opening Ceremony

The new Sidney ACE Hardware store held its grand opening with a board cutting demonstration on Friday, Aug. 25. The ACE store has taken over the old Shopco north space on North Central Ave. Shown (L to R) are Bob Sheldon, Skip King, Sam Simard, Reece Gairrett, store manager; Mike Welinski, ACE Corp., Oakbrook, IL; Jeff Smith, ACE Corp.; Phil Kuylen and Robyn Brennan.

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SIDNEY'S TOP STORIES OF 2023

Sidney Boys Baseball Inaugural Game, Columbus, March 24

By Robyn Heck

Sidney High School made history last spring. On March 24, the Sidney High School Boys Baseball team took the field for the first time, traveling to Columbus, MT. They were planning to spend the night and play two games on Saturday, March 25, but Mother Nature and snow had other plans.

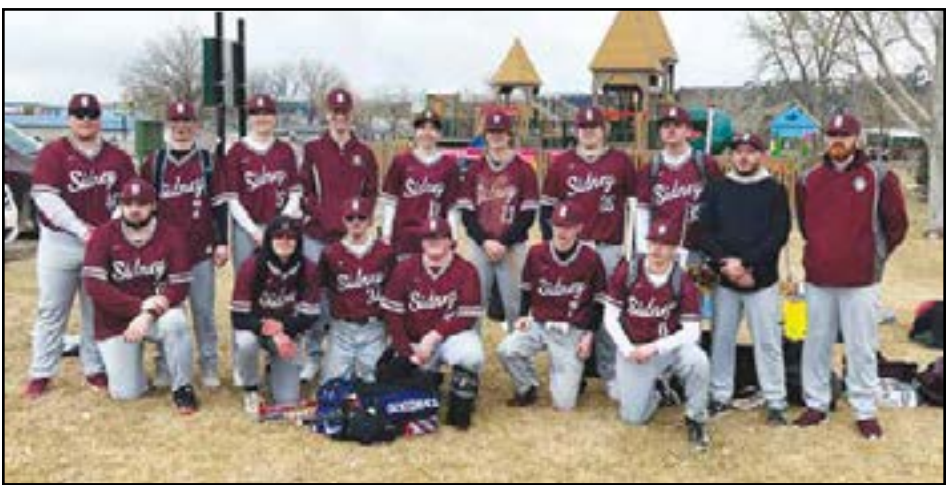
Quite a few people came out to support Sidney in their first game. Kelly Bower said, "I am super excited to be at the first baseball game! I think it is great. I'm optimistic. I'm excited to see how our boys will be able to compete against teams we have never played before. I can't wait!"

Chris Schaubel who grew up in Sidney took the afternoon off to attend this historic event. He has been an assistant to the A level Cardinals youth team, Billings, and has coached for about 25 years and this year he will be there to help. Schaubel played through the Babe Ruth level in Sidney. He tried out for the Montana State University club team, Bozeman and played outfield. "I think there is a good synergy between Legion and high school baseball, and I think it is great that Sidney now has the opportunity for both." Chris is the son of Sidney residents Eva and Charles Schaubel.

Dane McCollum, son of Michael McCollum was also in attendance. "I grew up right across the street from Moose Park, Sidney. I played Little League all the way up through legion, and I think it is great that Sidney High School is bringing boys baseball in as a school sport. I know that teams are spread out across the state

right now, since it is new, but any opportunity to play this game, I'm all for it. Any time they get to get on the field and play this game, it's great. They learn a lot of life lessons through baseball; including how to win and lose, with dignity.

Unfortunately, the Eagles lost their first game 0-15, but coach Hunter Gordon is optimistic for growth this season. "Today is the first time we have been outside on a baseball field. Our practices have been in the gym because our field is covered in snow. We knew starting this, that the weather in Montana was going to be a factor, but we will play whenever we can. Weather is a challenge for all baseball and softball teams in our area. Columbus is



Inaugural Baseball Game, Columbus, MT, March 24. (Photo by Robyn Heck)

our closest trip, but we are prepared for travel. We go to Belgrade and Butte, but they come to Sidney too."

Gordon says their team is a mix of experience levels. "Some of our players are also Legion Baseball players. Sidney just started their summer Legion team back last year, so we do have some players with experience. We did have some players out today in which this was their first time on a field as a team. They did well considering the circumstances. Hopefully the weather cooperates and we can work through things on the practice field at home."

Sidney Area Chamber Of Commerce Welcomes New Financial Advisor



Submitted by Kali Godfrey, Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture Executive Director

The Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce welcomed a new Edward Jones Financial Advisor to Sidney. Jace Johnson will work alongside Lauren Sukut for two years then will continue serving investors throughout the area from his branch office. Johnson recently returned to Sidney after obtaining his Bachelor of Business Administration degree with majors in finance and accounting along with an Accounting Technician Certificate from Dickinson State University.

Along with his education, Johnson comes with experience from working within the Edward Jones corporation prior to becoming a financial advisor.

As a financial advisor, Johnson states his mission is to partner with clients to build personally tailored strategies to fit their unique financial needs and goals. "Understanding what is important to clients," Johnson says, helps me utilize different strategies to help clients toward their retirement, protection, or legacy goals.

Johnson is a lifetime local and is happy to be back in Sidney with his wife Kylee and their dog, Archer.

Jace Johnson, Edward Jones Financial Advisor can be located at 141 7th St. SW, Sidney or by phone at 406-433-7980.



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SIDNEY'S TOP STORIES OF 2023

Richland County Sports Complex Moves To New Location



The Richland County Sports Complex sells advertising banners to help pay for building rental, equipment, daily operating costs, and camps. (Photo by Robyn Heck)

By Robyn Heck
The Richland County Sports Complex has moved to a new building! They are now located in the old Cenex garage, next to Cooperative Western Choice. Up until August, they had been located at the fairgrounds. "The reason for the move was because this building has heat, has no dirt floor, and we had room to add a pickle-ball court," said Chairman Terry Roth. "This gives an opportunity for more people to use our complex."
The RCSC hours for the month of October are Tuesday 5-7 p.m., Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 p.m. (pitch and catch for softball players), Thursday 5-7 p.m., and lessons and camps by appointment.
"Stop in during our open hours, or call me at 406-489-3285 with any questions. We also have a Facebook page," said Roth.
The fee to use the complex is \$5 a day, or \$30 a month. Currently they are having sign-ups for a pickle-ball league. The cost is \$30 per player for the season.
The RCSC is also accepting sign-ups for a softball hitting camp that will be in December and January. Deadline to sign up is Oct. 15.
The Legion Baseball organization is also planning some camps for the future.
"All of the camps are free to the students. We do fund raisers to cover the cost," said Roth. "The programs are going well, and we are thankful to our sponsors for their help."

Taphouse Bar & Grill Held Crawfish & Shrimp Boil Open House

By Jaymi Mozeak
The Taphouse Bar & Grill, located behind the Lone Tree Motor Inn, 900 S. Central Ave., Sidney, had an open house Saturday, June 17.
On Feb. 1, Ron Sorenson, his wife Sherry, their son Brent, and his wife Heather, Sidney, joined together and bought the Taphouse Bar & Grill.
The family-owned business had a crawfish and shrimp boil with corn on the cob, boiled potatoes, and assorted salads. There will also burgers and brats for those not up for shellfish. Along with the limited menu, the Taphouse had all their regular drinks.
The crawfish, shrimp, corn, and potatoes were cooked onsite, outside where patrons could watch.
On April 1 they were open to serve food, but wanted to wait until the weather got warmer before having the open house. Heather said, "This used to be a place we liked to come to once a week. We'd kinda like to see it go back to the way it was when we came." Sherry said, "We'd like to see it go back to like it was when it was the Regal Eagle. A place families can come to."
The Taphouse owners and staff are happy to see their regular patrons and maybe a few more. For more information visit the Taphouse Bar & Grill Facebook page or stop in at 900 ½ S. Central Ave., behind the Lone Tree Inn.



New owners (L-R) Ron and Sherry Sorenson, their daughter-in-law Heather, and son Brent Sorenson banded together to purchase the Taphouse Bar & Grill in February and they had their open house June 17 with a Crawfish & Shrimp Boil. (Photo by Jaymi Mozeak)

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Congratulations To All The Top Stories of 2023

SIDNEY'S TOP STORIES OF 2023

2023 Sidney Health Center Year In Review

Sidney, MT - 2023 proved to be a year of remarkable accomplishments and strides at Sidney Health Center. Throughout the year, dedicated efforts remained centered on enhancing patient and resident care. Overall, the organization successfully completed a couple major construction projects, unveiled new service lines, and proudly accepted accolades in recognition of its commitment to excellence.

ER Renovation:
In 2022, Sidney Health Center embarked on an ambitious journey to overhaul its Emergency Department that was originally built in 1983. In 2023, this vision became a reality as the renovation was revealed with a ribbon cutting and open house in October. The \$4.8 million transformation involved not just a facelift but a complete reimagination of how emergency care should be delivered. The result is a cutting-edge facility that aligns with modern emergency medicine practices, prioritizing patient comfort, safety, and efficient care delivery.

One of the most striking features of the renovated Emergency Department is the redesigned patient flow. The layout was methodically planned to ensure efficient movement of patients in and out of the ER, minimizing wait times and optimizing the delivery of medical care. Larger patient rooms offer comprehensive monitoring and treatment, regardless of the presenting condition, while soundproofing and privacy measures have been integrated to create a peaceful and confidential atmosphere for patients and their families.

In fiscal year 2023, the ER treated over 6,000 patients, the Richland County Ambulance Service did 538 runs throughout the county, and the Care Flight service provided 386 flights from Sidney Health Center and surrounding facilities.

Cancer Care Expansion:
In August 2022, Sidney Health Center began expanding the Cancer Care Center with a second vault. This addition was crucial to prevent disruption of radiation therapy services. Without it, removal of the original TomoTherapy machine could have disrupted services for three months.

The new radiation vault was completed in fall 2023, with the new unit installed and in operation. This expansion also includes space for a hyperbaric chamber.

Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy (HBOT) is a non-invasive treatment that involves breathing pure oxygen in a pressurized chamber. This therapy has shown remarkable benefits in various medical conditions, including wound healing, decompression sickness, carbon monoxide poisoning, and more.

Sidney Health Center treats people with different types of cancers from several counties in eastern Montana and western North Dakota. The most common types of cancer include breast, prostate, lung, colon, head and neck, and esophageal cancer diagnoses.

In Fiscal Year 2023, the facility had 3,444 medical oncology visits and 1,807 radiation therapy visits.

The expansion of the cancer care services to include radiation therapy in 2011 has proved to be a vital and necessary service, serving more than 600 area cancer patients in the first 10 years of operation. The infusion center, which includes chemotherapy, non-chemotherapy and injections have increased consistently by 25% per year.

5-Star Recognition:
In August, Sidney Health Center announced its designation as a 5-star hospital on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Hospital Care Compare website. The 5-star rating is a testament to the exceptional quality of care and commitment to patient well-being demonstrated by the hospital's dedicated team of physicians and staff.

The care team, spanning various departments like leadership, nursing, emergency department, medical staff, pharmacy, social services, respiratory, rehabilitation, care management, patient experience and more played a pivotal role in earning this accolade through their hard work and



Sidney Health Center celebrated the completion of the Emergency Department remodel with a ribbon cutting and open house event. Joining the ribbon cutting were Sidney Health Center leaders, board members, emergency department staff, EMS team members, contractors, and Sidney Chamber members. (Submitted photo)

dedication to excellence.

In December, Sidney Health Center Extended Care achieved the prestigious 5-star rating on Care Compare, as designated by CMS's Five-Star Quality Rating System! This system helps families compare nursing homes more easily, highlighting areas of excellence. The dedication to exceptional resident care reflects in the overall 5-star rating, which includes the scores in health inspections, staffing, and quality measures.

Additional recognitions during the year of 2023 included the Jeff Martin Leadership Award from the Yellowstone Insurance Exchange and the Quality Program of the Year Award from the Montana Rural Healthcare Performance Improvement Network. Both awards recognize the organization's efforts in improving patient safety and providing quality care to the communities served by Sidney Health Center.

About Sidney Health Center:
Sidney Health Center is a not-for-profit community based medical center that has been serving people in the MonDak region for more than 100 years. The passion for caring is shared by the doctors, nurses, and several hundred employees and volunteers. This commitment to service excellence is guided by Sidney Health Center's mission, "to help you achieve their highest level of health and well-being." For a complete listing of services, upcoming events, and job openings at Sidney Health Center, please visit our website at www.sidney-health.org.

Cundiff State Champion Dramatic Solo

Emma Cundiff placed 1st in dramatic solo at the Montana CClass A Speech, Debate and Drama State Meet on Jan. 27 and 28. The Debate and Drama rounds were held at Sidney Middle School while speech, finals, and awards ceremony were held at Sidney High School. Sidney Public Schools hosted the Montana Class A Speech, Debate and Drama State Meet for the first time since 1993.



Emma Cundiff 1st place dramatic solo. (Photo submitted)

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SIDNEY'S TOP STORIES OF 2023

Sidney McDonald's Fully Reopens After 6 Month Closure For Remodeling



Manager Susana Villa, left, and William Villa, right, hold the ribbon for McDonalds Franchise Owner Emmanuel Leon and his wife, Areli Leon, middle, for the Sidney McDonald's Ribbon Cutting, Wednesday, March 1. (Photo by Jaymi Mozeak)

By Jaymi Mozeak
McDonald's fans in Sidney got a scare in 2022. The longstanding business closed its doors for renovations and when the projected reopening date came around the restaurant remained closed. They did reopen and held an open house to celebrate on March 1, 2023.

On Aug. 22, 2022, Emmanuel Leon closed his Sidney McDonald's location for much-needed renovations. He has been the franchise owner of five McDonald's locations including Sidney's since 2021, but the Sidney location was the only one that needed to be modernized. His Sidney staff were

offered positions at his other locations until renovations could be completed. With help from Corporate McDonald's Leon attempted to use local businesses and contractors to complete the renovations but many were not able to do the work in the time frame he needed it done. He ended up going

through Ziva Contractors, a company out of Washington state, for general construction. Frontier Heating and Cooling, Sidney were hired to construct the new walk-in cooler for the location. Agri Industries, located just across Central Ave from the restaurant did the plumbing.

The projected completion date was originally in October but the store was not ready. Construction was finally complete enough to open the drive-thru on Dec. 12 but the lobby was still being worked on. Besides the new walk-in cooler, Sidney McDonalds now had a new McCafé production line, a state-of-the-art kitchen, new machines, plus a new condensed and optimized production line but the lobby was getting a 4 wall, floor-to-ceiling rebuild. It was going to take longer. Finally, on Feb. 17, renovations were completed and Sidney McDonald's was fully open. The lobby got a new decor package sporting an "Experience of the Future" theme. Besides a new paint job, flooring, furniture, and arraignment of stations; the restaurant now has online

order kiosks, two tabletop game stations, and a counter station just for mobile orders and pay for curbside. Leon said, "I'd like to thank the members of the community that were able to help us out with a special thanks to Frontier Heating and Cooling and Agri Industries." He also wanted to thank his team and local fans.

Sidney McDonald's is located at 1550 S. Central Ave. They are open from 6 a.m.-11 p.m. Customers can also order online at www.mcdonalds.com or through the mobile app.



Bargain Garage Ribbon Cutting Oct. 21

(Pictured L-R) Kali Godfrey, Sidney Chamber executive director; Don Crowe, Bargain Garage co-owner; Tyler Gross, Tianna Crowe, Bargain Garage co-owner; Dakota, Sierra Crowe, Bargain Garage co-owner; Cori Crowe Bargain Garage co-owner; and Jamie Larson, Sidney Chamber director, all gathered at the Bargain Garage on the south side of the truck route in Sidney for a ribbon cutting. (Photo by Jaymi Mozeak)

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A new building currently under construction at the Richland County Fairgrounds.

Artist render of completed building.

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SIDNEY'S TOP STORIES OF 2023

New Richland Federal Credit Union CEO Announced

By Beth Redlin
The Board of Directors of Richland Federal Credit Union (RFCU) is pleased to announce the appointment of Korey Hagan as the new chief executive officer at Richland Federal effective Jan. 23. A northeastern Montana native who grew up on the family ranch near Plentywood, Hagan holds an MBA in business administration from St. Thomas University, Minneapolis and a B.S. in agricultural, business management with an economics minor from Montana State University. He brings 20 years of progressive lending and management experience in the financial services industry and with farm cooperatives, most recently as the Chief Lending Officer at Dakota West Credit Union, Watford City.

In that position he was responsible for all lending functions and oversaw a loan portfolio incorporat-

ing consumer, residential mortgage, agricultural, commercial, and pooled and individual participation loans. Hagan and his team grew total loans by 23%, from \$115 million to \$141 million during his four-year tenure. Additional responsibilities included developing policies and procedures, regulation adherence, and leading project initiatives. He also originated and executed staff training and development programs.

"Korey brings a wealth of experience to our credit union," RFCU Board Chair Beth Redlin said. "His broad lending background, particularly in agricultural lending, is buttressed by his business management experience with farmer co-ops. We are looking forward to working with him to build our Credit Union for the future and continue to meet our members' ever evolving financial needs."

Hagan is also looking forward to stepping into the manager's post at RFCU. It is exciting to be back in Big Sky Country and so close to 'home'. The small towns and farms and ranches of eastern Montana have a special place with me. I can't imagine a better place to continue raising my family. It means that much more to be back promoting the benefits and value of a member-owned cooperative in RFCU; principles that I know to still be guiding RFCU today. I am eager to get started and hope our RFCU team can continue to grow its member base and member value while maintaining the strong balance sheet it has built.

Hagan is taking over for long-time RFCU manager Kevin Mayer who is retiring after an impressive 38-year career at the credit union, 24 of those years as manager. During that time, he oversaw

the growth of the credit union from \$14 million to \$108 million, supervised construction of a new facility, and directed numerous additions and improvements to member services for the digital age. Mayer has also served on many state and regional credit union boards over his tenure, most recently as the Montana representative to the Millennium Corporate Credit Union Board.

"Kevin has been an excellent manager for us over so many years, helping RFCU to expand and grow, even during some very tough times," Redlin said. "We are very sorry to see him go, but wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement."

As he prepares to hand over the reins, Mayer reflected on his long career with RFCU.

"It has been a very good run," Mayer said. "I never dreamed a 38-year career

would be the beginning for me in 1985. The credit union industry has brought many friendships to me and my family. I have been blessed with a great team to work with and I feel good that I am leaving a healthy and sound financial cooperative to Mr. Hagan."



Korey Hagan



Sorteberg State Vault Champion

Aspyn Sorteberg placed 1st in the level 3 vault at the Montana State Gymnastics held March 24-26, Helena. Pictured is Sidney Gymnastics level 3 vault awards: 1st Aspyn Sorteberg; 4th Paisley Obergfell; 6T Hallie Bergstedt. (Photo by S. Sorteberg)

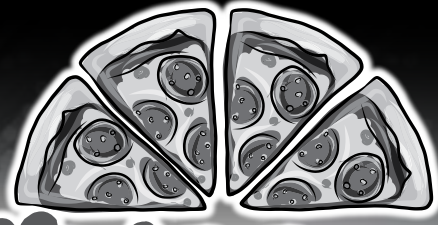
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SIDNEY'S TOP STORIES OF 2023

Awakened Wellness Grand Opening Held At New Location On Central

By Jaymi Mozeak
Awakened Wellness LLC will be having its Grand Opening Friday, July 21 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, July 22 from 2-6 p.m.

Awakened Wellness LLC is owned by Tanya Candee, who has been a registered nurse for over 20 years. Because of her own declining health and chronic pain, she was looking for solutions. That search led to Pulsed Electromagnetic Field therapy (PEMF). She could see the healing benefits right away; she invested in the training and equipment. For two years she offered PEMF sessions for pain management on horses and people from her home. In the fall of 2020, she obtained certification from The Wellness Way as a Restorative Health Coach, and Awakened Wellness LLC was brought to life. For two years, she worked out of the Yellowstone Chiropractic office. She quickly grew out of her little massage room and now has her store front at 215 S. Central Ave.

Through Awakened Wellness, Candee offers many valuable services, products, and education to help clients identify and remove triggers that are deteriorating their health.

During the open house, there will be product deals that start on July 21, door prizes, free PEMF and red light demos, online savings, and Therasage demos.

Candee is expanding her inventory every week according to her growing clientele's needs. Recently, she added homeopathic remedies and products for moms and kids too. She will use a bio-energetic scanner to help make sure you spend your money on supplements, your body needs, not just off symptoms. She offers in-person and virtual 1:1 coaching and virtual group coaching, as well. She plans to expand her community involvement by providing free mini health fairs and educational talks for local businesses and small groups. Candee said, "When working with a client,

I always keep one simple principle in mind. 'When we remove from the body what is not of the Lord's design, and replace what is missing. The body will heal.'"

Awakened Wellness LLC can currently be found on YouTube, TicToc, and Facebook, as well as on its website, www.awakenwellnessllc.com. Candee said, "I just need people to know that I am here to offer them support, education, and a different perspective."

Awakened Wellness LLC's regular hours are Monday 12-6 p.m., Tuesday 12-6 p.m., Wednesday 8 a.m.-noon, Thursday 12-6 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday a.m. is lab draw day.

For more information visit her website, call, or text 406-290-8927.



Through Awakened Wellness, Candee offers many valuable services, products, and education to help clients identify and remove triggers that are deteriorating their health. (Photo by Jaymi Mozeak)



Sidney Sunrise City Coffee Ribbon Cutting

Sidney has a new business that's ready to serve the community. Sunrise City Coffee, 110 N. Central Ave., next to Magic Mirror Hair Salon. They held their ribbon-cutting on Saturday morning, Aug. 19. The owners are Sterling and Jackie Mullett. Sterling grew up in Bloomfield and Jackie is from Glendive. Sterling has lived in Sidney for the past 10 years. Jackie has worked in the coffee business for a long time. "We thought there was another side of coffee that we could bring to Sidney," said Sterling. "My wife is a painter and she has her art for sale. We also sell wood pieces from Stipek Station out of Glendive. We're excited to be here to help serve your coffee needs." Pictured (L-R) Lindsey Laurence, Sean Riordan, Keri Riordan, Jackie Mullett, Faith Mullett, Sterling Mullett, Liz Schmierer, Megan Garza, Shay Steinbeisser, Cambri Steinbeisser, Tatum Steinbeisser and Lonnie Swigart. (Photo by Robyn Heck)

Crate Montana Holds Ribbon Cutting



By Robyn Heck
Crate Montana held their ribbon cutting and grand opening on Wednesday, Nov. 15. They are a discount store that sells a little bit of everything, including women's clothing size XS to 4X. Owner Gina McIntyre is excited to bring

her business to our community. Their entire inventory is either over stock, shelf pulls, discontinued, damaged box items, or returns. Most items are brand new. Crate Montana is located at 1055 S. Central Ave., next to The Rush Coffee Shop.

(Pictured L-R) Alli Nelson, Shay Steinbeisser, Gina McIntyre, Courtney McIntyre, Amber Taylor, and Megan Garza. (Photo by Robyn Heck)

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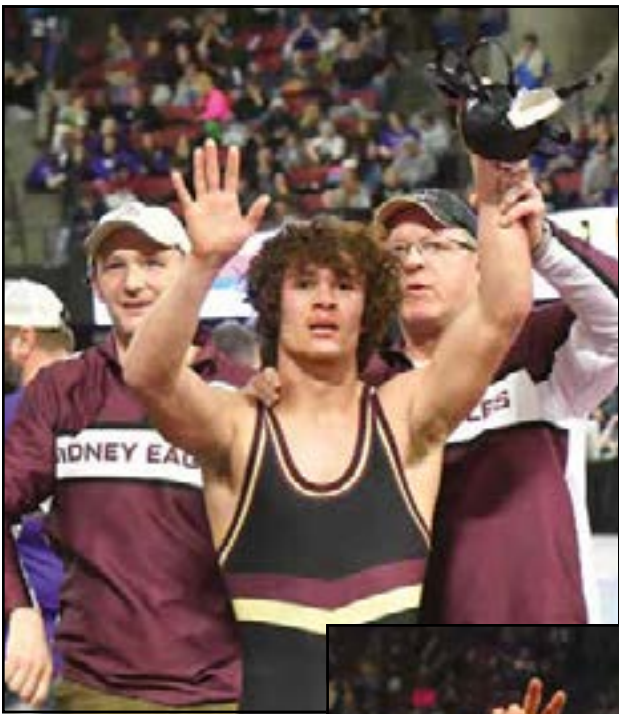
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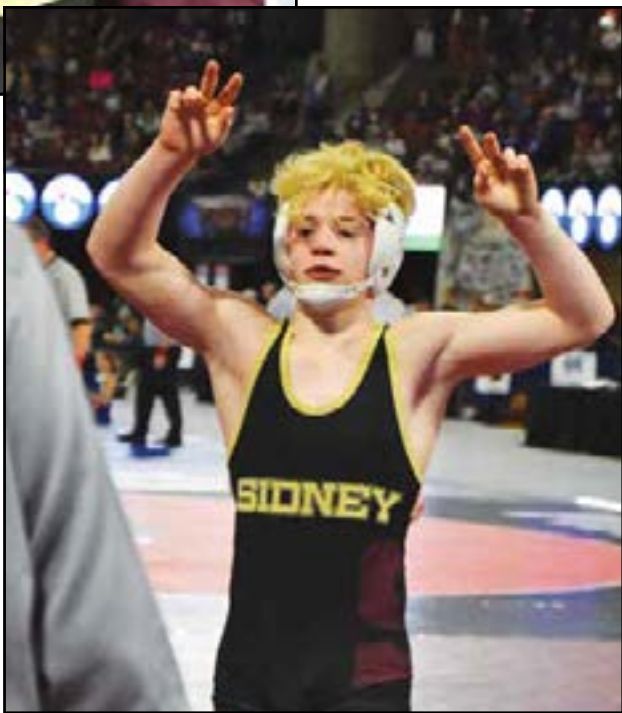
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SIDNEY'S TOP STORIES OF 2023

Dean and Graves State Champions



Left: Sidney's Zander Dean waves to the crowd after winning his 3rd consecutive state title at 145 lbs. in Billings. Dean won by decision over Tahj Wells (Browning) 8-3 in the finals match.



Right: Reece Graves won his 2nd consecutive state title at the MHSAA All Class State Wrestling Tournament at 132 lbs. Graves won by fall over Jesse Anson (Hamilton) in 5:24 in his championship match.

Sidney Tiger Sharks Claim Third Consecutive State Champion Swim Meet Victory July 30



Left: Girls 13-14 relay Kylee Rodgers, RayElla Radke, Morgan Kindopp and McKenna Haralson. (Submitted photo)



Left: Boys 15-19 Relay team Caleb Kleinke, Corben Holler, Ethan Erickson, and Hunter Sanders. (Submitted photo)



Morgan Kindopp Girls 13-14 High Point winner. (Submitted photo)



Cash Copple 8 and under boys high point winner. (Submitted photo)

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