

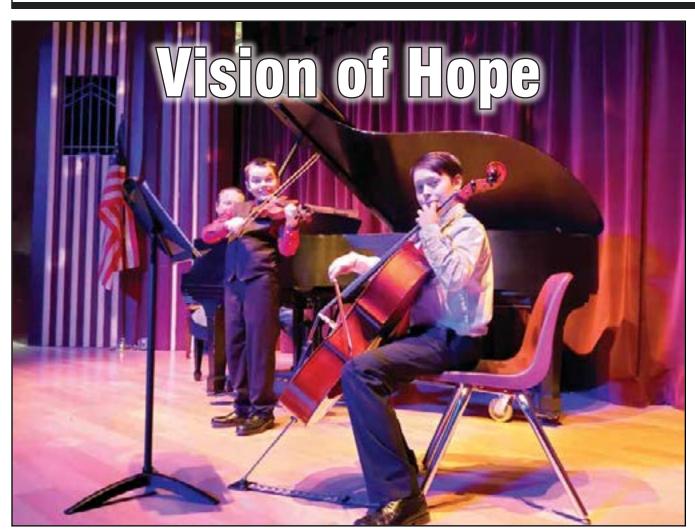
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The Roundup

ECRWSS
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Wednesday, October 30, 2019

Volume 45 • Number 38



Bengochea and Company Entertain at Emmaus House / Vision of Hope Fundraiser

By Dianne Swanson

The Middle School auditorium in Sidney rang with music and song Sunday, October 27 as Emmaus House held its annual fundraiser to support their mission and Vision of Hope, which provides scholarships to high school students and young adults diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Performers for the event were internationally renowned opera star and musician Christopher Bengochea on the piano, nine year old Felixe Becker on the violin and 11 year old Jean Elazar Bengochea on the cello. Christopher is originally from

the Charley Creek area and now lives with his family, including Elazar, in California where he is a resident artist of Opera San Jose. Elazar began studying the cello at the age of three and has won many accolades. He is also a member of the "Crazy Cello Kids," a trio of best friends that plays for parties, concerts, churches and other events. Felixe lives on the family farm in northwestern Richland County and belongs to St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Charley Creek. He has earned high honors in competitions over the last year and performed in "Peter Pan" at the Fort Peck Theatre this summer.

Northeastern Arts Network Presents Creole Music, November 7, Sidney

The Northeastern Arts Network presents the Dennis Stroughmatt et L'Esprit Creole Trio on November 7. Passionate ambassadors of Creole music and traditions, expanding interest and excitement in a region that has been ignored by the history books. This medley of music, language, stories, and culture secreted away in the Missouri and southern Illinois Ozarks now has a voice in the tapestry of this world. With the blessing of the Creole people of the Midwest, Dennis Stroughmatt et l'Esprit Creole work to expand interest and excitement in a region that has been, in many ways, forgotten by the march of time. Through the work of Dennis Stroughmatt et L'Esprit Creole, the music and culture of "Old Upper Louisiana" is in good hands. It'll make your soul jump, your head spin, and your heart glad to know that it is still here.

Originally from southeastern Illinois, Dennis Stroughmatt was taught to play fiddle by Missouri Creole fiddlers Roy Boyer and Charlie Pashia in the tradition of their fathers. He became an adopted son of the French Midwest Creoles who settled near St Louis, playing at weekly house parties or "bouillons." As a result of physical journeys that also included French studies in Louisiana and Quebec, Dennis finds himself in a unique position as one who can speak knowledgeably and play in a variety of French styles.

Through performances at The Smithsonian, The Library of Congress, The Kennedy Center, Festivals Acadiens, The New



Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and appearances on NPR, PBS and RFDtv, Dennis Stroughmatt along with L'Esprit Creole

have been honored to perform for audiences of thousands. This performance will be held at the MonDak Heritage Center at 7 p.m. Tickets can also be purchased at the door \$15/Adults, \$13/Sr. and \$10/students. For additional concert information contact Candy Markwald 406-488-4155, Jill Hill 406-489-4304 or Leann Pelvit at 433-3500.

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

Montana Voters Have One Week Left to Hand-Deliver Ballots For November 5 Election BIPA in Effect and Enforced for Ballots Delivered on another Voter's Behalf

Helena, MT – The Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders (MACR) and the Commissioner of Political Practices (COPP) want to remind voters that all hand-delivered ballots must be delivered by November 5 and that any person who delivers a ballot on behalf of another voter must comply with BIPA (Ballot Interference Prevention Act) regulations. Voters have until 8 p.m. on Election Day, November 5,

to deliver ballots. The instructions mailed with the ballot will list locations where ballots may be returned.

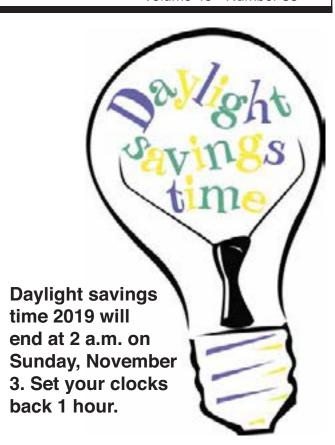
list locations where ballots may be returned.

BIPA, which was passed by 63% of Montana voters in the 2018 general election, specifically impacts absentee

ballots and hand-delivered mail-only ballots.

"For some Montana voters, this is the first election

Continued on page 5A



Take A Bite Out Of Palmer Amaranth.... Literally

Free Workshop Nov. 5 in Sidney

Sidney, MT - A free workshop on Palmer Amaranth, one of the most dangerous weeds facing American Agriculture, is set for Tuesday, November 5 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at the Richland County Extension Office Conference Room in Sidney, MT. The goal of the event is to provide producers with the tools needed for early detection and removal of this dangerous weed, including not only what needs to be done but also what to avoid doing.

However, the event also has a lighter tone when it comes to refreshments where producers will be able to literally take a bite out of Palmer Amaranth! Dr. John Gaskin, a molecular botanist with the USDA-ARS Northern Plains Agricultural Research Laboratory, and a presenter at the event, is going to be cooking up Palmer Amaranth "porridge" with grain made from the plant for workshop participants to sample. It turns out, Palmer amaranth and other pigweed species were a common food source for early Native Americans in the southwest and the grain from the weed and related species is still available on grocery shelves today.

But while the plant may be edible, it remains a very serious weed for agriculture, Gaskin noted. "This weed can be devastating to crop production as evidenced elsewhere across the country," he said. "We definitely don't want to see it here, which is why we are putting on this workshop. We just included the porridge as a fun addition, but it should in no way lead anyone to think the weed is not a very serious threat to agriculture production in Montana."

Palmer Amaranth is a pigweed relative, rapidly growing (2-3 inches a day to reach a height of up to 6 feet) and is one of the most adaptable and dangerously resistant weeds in the country. Populations of this pest have developed resistance to nearly all herbicides (and modes of action) commonly available to producers for weed management. The hundreds of thousands of tiny seeds from a single plant are easily transportable in equipment or through grain, seed or feed contamination, accounting for its spread from its native Southwest though the Southeast, on up to the Midwest, and now into the northern Great Plains. It emerges throughout the growing season and competes aggressively in crops. Farmers and ranchers across Montana need to take immediate action to identify and prevent establishment here, weed scientists warn, and this workshop is designed to provide participants the necessary tools to do that.

The Montana Wheat and Barely Committee and Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education sponsor the workshop. Featured speakers include: Dr. Jason Bond, the weed control in agronomics crop specialist from Mississippi State University Extension and a veteran in battling Palmer amaranth; Dr. Brian Jenks, weed scientist at the North Central Research Extension Center in Minot, ND who helped identify Palmer Amaranth's arrival in that state, and Dr. Tim Seipel, Montana State University Extension Cropland Specialist, who will discuss ways to combat herbicide resistance. Discussions on identification tips, scouting options and more are also planned, along with a question and answer session with a panel of the program's weed experts.

Pesticide points are pending for this workshop. The workshop will also be broadcast as a live webinar at participating County Extension Offices and MSU Research Centers across the state of Montana, where attendees there will also be eligible for pesticide points. Please contact the Richland County Extension Office with questions: Phone: 406-433-1206; E-mail: richland@montana.edu.



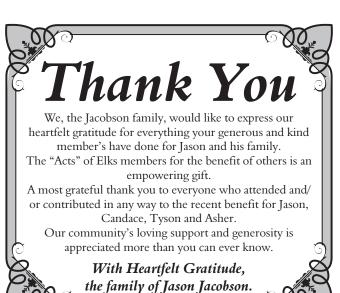
> Pickup And Delivery Dates:

Sidney: Wednesday Only Watford City: Tues, Thurs & Sat

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AREA RECOVERY GROUPS

- **12 p.m.** AA Monday Noon Group, Matthew House Office, 416 2nd St. NW, Sidney, MT.
- 1 p.m. 3 p.m. Grief Reovery Support group at First Lutheran Church in the music room, Watford City.
- 6 p.m. Al-Anon Family Group Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church Ed. bldg., 214 S. Lincoln Ave., Sidney.
- 8 p.m.— AA Group, Northern Pump & Compression, Watford City. Call 770-3603 or 770-2675 for directions or ride. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663.

TUESDAYS:

- **7 p.m.** AA Welcome Home Group, Sunny's Family Restaurant, 102 E. Main St., Sidney, MT, Central Avenue
- **7 p.m. –** 24-hour Women's AA group meeting, Northern Pump & Compression, Watford City. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663.

THURSDAYS:

- 7:30 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting, Presbyterian Church, 316 4th
- Ave. NE, Watford City, ND.
- 8 p.m. AA Group, Northern Pump & Compression, Watford City. Call 770-3603 or 770-2675 for directions or ride. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663.

FRIDAYS:

- 6:30 7:30 p.m.- 5 Stones Faith Based Recovery meeting, Sidney First Church of the Nazarene, 606 9th St. SW, Back door is open.
- 8 p.m. AA Welcome Home Group, Sunny's Family Restaurant, 102 E. Main St., Sidney, MT, Central Avenue Entrance.

SATURDAYS:

- 7 p.m. AA Welcome Home Group, Sunny's Family Restaurant, 102 E. Main St., Sidney, MT, Central Avenue
- 7 p.m. AA 24 group meeting, Northern Pump & Compression, Watford City. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663. SUNDAYS:
- **7 p.m.** AA Welcome Home Group, Sunny's Family Restaurant, 102 E. Main St., Sidney, MT, Central Avenue Entrance.

STATISTICS LAKE WATER LEVEL REPORT

<u> </u>		
	Sakakawe	
Current Elevation	1843.2	
Last Week's Elev.	1844.2	
One Year Ago	1842.8	
Release For Day (C.F.S.)		

SIDNEY WEATHER DATA

Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

Course: WCC Eastern righteditara ricocaron Contor					
Date		High	Low	Precip.	
October	21	50	21	0.00	
October	22	51	23	0.05	
October	23	43	28	0.11	
October	24	47	31	0.00	
October	25	64	33	0.00	
October	26	56	27	0.00	
October	27	28	14	0.00	
Total YTD	Precipita	ation	21.29		

OBITUARIES

Alyxandra McKinlee Hurley, 25, Glendale, AZ formerly of Fairview, MT

She made broken look beautiful and strong look in-

She walked with the universe on her shoulders and made it look like a pair of wings.

Mass of the Christian Burial for Alyx Hurley, 25 of Glendale, AZ formerly of Fairview, MT was held at 11 a.m., Friday, October 25 at St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Sidney with Father Jim O'Neil as presider. Remembrances, condolences and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.



Alyxandra McKinlee Hurley

Alyx passed away on Sunday, October 13 at her mother's

Alyx, Ali-Mac, Big Mac, Auntie Mac, AUN - T, was born on November 4, 1993 in Williston, ND and passed away due to complications from a stroke on October 13. Alyx's wish was to pass peacefully and comfortably. She did so at her mom's home in Glendale AZ, embraced by her husband, mom, dad, sisters, and surrounded by the comfort of many loved ones. Diagnosed with a life-long disease at the tender age of 15 months, Alyx struggled bravely and fiercely until her tired body gave out and her intrepid soul went home to live peacefully with Jesus.

Alyx lived an incredibly full life in her short time on earth. Although her body was tiny, Alyx exuded an over-abundance of spunk, personality, love, and a lightning quick humor usually directed at the ones she loved the most. One of Alyx's favorite pastimes was secretly filming her mom hoping to capture candid moments which she could later heckle her with on social media.

As a North Dakota born and bred girl, she loved farm life but also had a passion for all things beauty and fashion. Upon graduating from cosmetology school, Alyx was ecstatic to return to Fairview, MT, start a life with Timothy, and join the team at The Hair Force. She was a domestic diva and had an enduring love for home decorating, shopping and cooking, especially Grammy's secret recipes. Her piercing blue eyes, single dimple, and radiant smile lit up so many lives. People of all ages were drawn to her kindness and infectious giggle.

Her greatest joy in life was the day she married her loving and devoted husband, Timothy Lee Hurley. The two were friends from preschool through high school. The summer after graduation, their friendship grew into a deep love that lifted them through the joys and sorrows of the past five years. Nothing made them happier than snuggling with their two English bulldogs and caring for their nieces, nephews, and family whenever possible.

She leaves behind a vast network of family and friends who loved her deeply including her husband Timothy Hurley, her bulldog babies Dip and Dot, her parents David and Sherri Hardy, her sisters Hannah and Kaitlyn, her brother-in-law Matt Vitt, her nieces Iselyn and Scarlett, her nephew Ford, her god babies Rhett and Iselyn, her grandparents Jack and Sharon Gaughan, Boyd and Shirley Hardy, her in-laws Rodney and Melanie Hurley, Torrie Hurley, Ty, Katie, and Kolt Hurley, and Trisha, Ike, Aaliyah, and Cooper Hill.

Darrell C. Goebel, 86 Billings, MT formerly of Sidney, MT

Memorial services for Darrell C. Goebel, 86, of Billings, MT formerly of Sidney, MT were held at 1 p.m., Saturday, October 26 at Pella Lutheran Church, Sidney with Pastor Audrey Rydbom officiating.

Remembrances, condolences and pictures may be shared

with the family at www.fulkersons.com. Darrell passed away on Monday, October 21 in Billings, MT.

Lillian Vojacek, 89 Savage, MT

Funeral services for Lillian Vojacek, 89, of Savage, are at 10 a.m., Wednesday, October 30 at First Lutheran Church in Savage, with Pastor Tim Tharp officiating.

Interment will be in the Riverview Cemetery, Savage, MT under the care of Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home of Sidney. Visitation was held on Tuesday, October 29 from 10 a.m.

to 4 p.m. at the funeral home and one hour before services at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to First Lutheran

Church building fund or a charity of one's choice. Remembrances, condolences and pictures may be shared

with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

Lillian passed away on Wednesday, October 23 at Sidney Health Center, Sidney, MT.

Otis "Stanley" Water Jr, 89 Richey, MT

Funeral services for Otis "Stanley" Water, Jr, 89, of Richey are at 2 p.m., Friday, November 1 at Christian & Missionary Alliance Church in Richey with Pastor Paul Sponheim officiating. Interment will be in the Richey Cemetery, Richey, MT under

the care of Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home in Sidney. Remembrances, condolences and pictures may be shared

with the family at www.fulkresons.com. Stanley passed away on Tuesday morning, October 22

surrounded by his family at his home in Richey.

Signup For The Roundup

The Roundup offers free weekly mail delivery in Sidney, MT. If you have a Sidney mailing address and currently do not receive The Roundup newspaper at home (and would like to) sign up today! Stop by 111 West Main, call 406-433-3306 or send your name and address to us at either classads@esidney.com or PO Box 1207, Sidney, MT 59270.





RICHLAND COUNTY Events in Sidney unless otherwise listed. MT Zone. Tues., Oct. 29, Wed., Oct. 30 & Thurs., Oct. 31 6-12 p.m. - Halloween Mini Haunted House - Come if you

dare for a scary fun time. 501 2nd St. NE, Sidney, MT.

10 a.m.-4 p.m. - Laura Grace Barrett: State of Grace - This event continues through Jan. 4, 2020. - Beau Theige's **Guitars -** This event continues through Jan. 12, 2020. Viewing is free and open to the public. MonDak Heritage Center, Sidney, 406-433-3500. Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. Thurs., Oct. 31

5-8 p.m. - Trick or Treat in Sharbono Park - Lots of fun and activities for all. Sponsored by Fairview Community Foundation.

Sat., Nov. 2

Wed., Oct. 30

10 a.m.-4 p.m. - Open Studio Saturdays - Pricing ranges from \$10 to \$65 with all supplies included. For more information visit http://mondakheritagecenter.org/events/ open-studio-saturdays/. MonDak Heritage Center, 120 3rd St. SE, Sidney, 406-433-3500.

7-10 p.m. - Wine and Food Festival - Wine and food pairings highlighting local restaurants, silent auction, exclusive artwork and experiences. Admission \$50 per ticket. Tickets available for purchase at the Foundation for Community Care or by calling 406-488-2273. No tickets sold the night of the event. Richland County Event Center, Sidney. Proceeds benefit local healthcare. Sun., Nov. 3

11 a.m.-2 p.m. - St. Catherine Fall Dinner in Fairview -Free will offering for the meal, live entertainment. 317 W 7th St., Fairview. Carry out boxes available by calling 406-742-5293. For more information call AnnDee Taylor, 406-480-

2-4 p.m. - Community Forum on Economic Opportunities - Living in Fairview Public Housing? Currently or interested in working in Richland County? We want to hear your opinions on employment opportunities, barriers to employment, job assistance resources, accessible childcare and other resources you would like to see in the community. Fairview Senior Center. For more information contact Sam Boshoff, sboshoff@richland.org or 406-433-8538. Mon., Nov. 4

5:30 p.m. - Sidney Soccer Open Meeting - Seeking new board members, no soccer experience needed just a love of kids and promoting active lifestyle. If interested join the open meeting at Sidney Middle School, 1st floor room 125 (come in Verizon Side door) For more information text, call or email Shawna Karst, 406-478-4013, shawnakarst24@gmail.com. 6:30 p.m. - **Sidney City Council Meeting** - Public welcome. City Hall, 115 2nd St. SE, Sidney, MT. For more information call 406-433-2809.

Fri., Nov. 8 7-9:30 p.m. - Harvestfest At The MonDak - Dennis

Strougmatt et L'Esprit performing, beer, brats, wine and punch will be served. Tickets \$50 per person, \$40 for MDHC and NAN members. For tickets contact the MonDak Heritage Center, 406-433-3500. **Sat., Nov. 9**

9 a.m.-2 p.m. - Shepherd of the Valley Holiday Bazaar and **Bake Sale** -Cinnamon rolls, soup, sandwiches, pie, coffee, baked goods, gift baskets. 211 East Holly, Sidney. Proceeds go to Missions. Sun., Nov. 10

11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. - Savage Post-Harvest Community Dinner - Held at the Savage Community Hall. Free will offering meal of roast beef, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, mixed vegetables and desserts. Entertainment provided by Redneck Country and Sunrise Brass. Sponsored by Savage Sunrise Manor and Savage Community Hall. **Sat., Nov. 16**

9 a.m. - Maximizing Alternate Feeds Farm Field Day -Featuring guest speakers, Tim Fine and Evan Knutson. Meet at Wingate in Sidney at 9 a.m. Farm tour stops are Darrel Minow's and Lunderby's. Lunch provided. For more information call Hayley or Rachael, 406-488-1953. Thurs., Nov. 21

8-9 a.m. - Chamber Board of Directors Meeting - The meeting is open to the public. Sidney Chamber Office, 909 S. Central Ave. Sat., Nov. 23

8-10 a.m. - 2019 Annual Christmas Cookie Walk - Public event by Lonsdale United Methodist Church and Boys & Girls Clubs of the MonDak Richland Unit. 205 3rd Ave. SE,

ROOSEVELT COUNTY

Events in Froid unless otherwise listed. CT Zone Sat., Nov. 2

12 p.m. - 45th Annual Northeast Montana Land and Mineral Owners Association Meeting - Meal served at noon with meeting starting at 1 p.m. There will be an election of 2 directors. Meeting open to the public and anyone with oil or gas related questions welcome to attend. Froid Community Center, Froid, MT.

McKenzie County

Events in Watford City unless otherwise listed. CT Zone Thurs., Oct. 31

3 p.m. - Trail of Treats - Watford City's Main Street. Everyone welcome to participate.

5-8 p.m. - **Trunk or Treat** - An event the whole family can enjoy! Concessions available. Check in begins at 5 p.m. For more information and sign-up call 701-842-3640. 3410 5th Ave, NE, Watford City.

Wed., Nov. 13

10 a.m.-12 p.m. - Art and Play by Long X Arts Foundation Make art while your kids play on the playground.
 Preregistration not necessary but helpful. Drop-ins welcome. \$5 recommended donation to Long X Arts Foundation. Second Wednesday of each month through April 8, 2020. Rough Rider Center, 2209 Wolves Den Parkway, Watford City, ND. For more information contact Jessie, 701-770-8659 or longxart@gmail.com. Fri., Nov. 15

7 p.m. - Taylor Mason Concert - Comedian, ventriloquist and musician. Watford City High School Theater Auditorium. For more information contact Jessie Scofield, 701-770-8659 or longxart@gmail.com or visit longxarts.com/concert-series. html.

Sun., Nov. 24

12-2:30 p.m. - Sons of Norway Lutefisk and Meatball Supper - Watford City Civic Center, 213 2nd St. NE, Watford

WILLIAMS COUNTY

Events in Williston unless otherwise listed. CT Zone. Thurs., Oct. 31

2:30-5:30 p.m. - Trail Of Treats - Downtown Williston. 5:30-8:30 p.m. - All City Halloween Party - Safe supervised evening for families to enjoy! Free event with games geared towards children preschool to 6th grade. Costume contest. Enter through the front door of the Williston ARC.

Sun., Nov. 10 2 p.m. - Community Connections 5th Anniversary Celebration and Fundraiser - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 2517 9th Ave. West, Williston. RSVP by calling 701 713-6783 or email commconnwill4@outlook.com.

Wed., Nov. 20 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. - Career Expo - Teach high school students about your career. Williston High School Gym, Williston, ND. For more information call 701-572-0967.

Dawson County

Events in Glendive unless otherwise listed. MT Zone Wed., Nov. 6

5-7 p.m. - Glendive Methodist Church Annual Roast Beef Dinner - 206 Towne Street, Glendive.
Fri., Nov. 8, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. & Sat., Nov. 9, 9 a.m.-4p.m.

Zonta Craft Show - EPEC Center, Glendive.

Sat., Nov. 16 7-8:30 p.m. - Glendive for Bennett: Meet & Greet - Sen. Bryce Bennett, Candidate for Secretary of State will talk about his plan to make our democracy accountable to the people of Montana. 306 Lyndale St., Glendive, MT.

Hunters Can Help Prevent Spread Of AIS

Hunters who use boats to access waterfowl or big game hunting areas can help prevent aquatic invasive species from infesting Montana's wetlands, rivers, and

The three steps of Clean, Drain, Dry greatly minimize the risk of spreading invasive species. Waterfowl hunters should clean gear that can unintentionally carry invasive plants or animals. Before hunting in a new area all hunters should:

- Clean aquatic plants, animals, and mud from boat, trailer, anchor, waders, boots, decoys, decoy lines, and
- · Drain water from decoys, boats, motors, and other hunting equipment.
 - · Brush hunting dogs and rinse off muddy paws.
- · Never move plants from one body of water to another. When using vegetation to construct blinds or conceal duck boats, use only what is available in the immediate hunting area.
 - A hunter's watercraft must be inspected if:
 - · You are coming into Montana from out of state.
- · You are traveling west over the Continental Divide into western Montana (the Columbia River Basin).
 - · You are coming off Tiber or Canyon Ferry reservoirs.
- You are launching anywhere within the Flathead Basin and your watercraft last launched on waters outside of the Flathead Basin.

Shepherd of the Valley Annual Fall Bazaar & Bake Sale, November 9, Sidney

Shepherd of the Valley is holding their annual fall bazaar and bake sale on Saturday November 9, 2019 beginning at 9 a.m. We are located at 211 East Holly Street in Sidney.

Bring a friend and come for a fresh baked cinnamon roll and coffee or just enjoy some shopping for that VIP in your life. Choose from our selection of specialty gift baskets, crafts and quilts.

Baked goods will also be available for sale. Soup and sandwiches, pie and coffee will also be available for purchase.



FWP reminds non-residents hunters planning to bring their watercraft into Montana that they must now purchase a Vessel AIS Prevention Pass (Vessel AISPP) before launching on state waters. The Vessel AISPP was initiated by the 2019 Montana Legislature to help fund the fight against aquatic invasive species. Non-residents can purchase the Vessel AISPP at any FWP office or online at fwp.mt.gov and click on the License: Buy/Apply tab. Boat owners must carry a paper or digital receipt as proof of purchase. The Vessel AISPP expires on Dec. 31 each year and is not transferable between vessels.

For more information or to find an inspection station, visit CleanDrainDryMT.com or contact the FWP fisheries office at 406-444-2440.

Boat Inspection Stations Close for Season, Inspections Still Required

Montana's watercraft inspection stations are closing for the season, but boaters can still obtain an inspection at FWP regional and area offices.

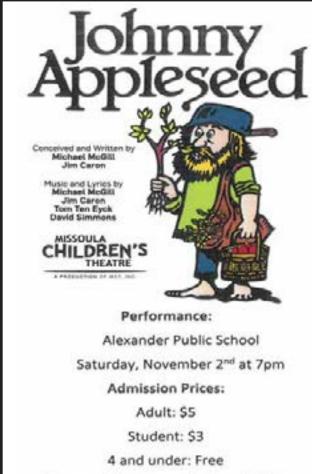
Late-season anglers and hunters utilizing boats for waterfowl or big game hunting need to follow the principles of clean, drain, dry to help protect our waters from invasive aquatic weeds. animals and diseases:

- · Clean all mud and debris from the watercraft, trailer, anchor, waders, decoys, and fishing equipment.
- Pull drain plugs and make sure all compartments, bilges and ballasts are drained.
- Dry out watercraft, including dry wells, storage areas, and compartments.

To learn more, go to CleanDrainDryMT.com.



Personal Injuries & Pain Conditions



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Palmer Amaranth

It's Coming! What YOU Need to Know

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Dr. Jason Bond

Crop Weed Specialist Mississippi State Univ. Ext. Stoneville, MS

Dr. Brian Jenks

Weed Scientist NDSU No. Central Research Ext. Center, Minot, ND

Dr. Tim Seipel

Cropland Weed Specialist MSU Extension, Bozeman, MT

Pesticide Points Pending

FREE Workshop! Tuesday, November 5, 2019 8:30 am-Noon (MT)

Richland County Extension Office, Sidney, MT

PROGRAM

- Evolution of a Driver Weed
- · What to Do When You Find It
- Combating Herbicide Resistance in MT
- Palmer Amaranth Identification
- Drones: A Scouting Tool?
- Other Emerging Weeds in the MonDak
- Expert Panel Q&A

Additional Speakers:

Drs. John Gaskin and Natalie West, USDA-ARS, Sidney, MT Tim Fine, Richland County Extension



Why Worry?

Palmer amaranth is a fast growing weed with a wide emergence window. It is easily spread, and populations have developed resistance to multiple herbicides, including glyphosate.

For more info: Call 406-433-1206



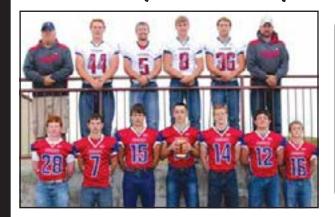
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1ST ROUND FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS

Saturday, Nov. 2 • 1 pm • Big Sandy High School







406-433-3120 www.gemcitymotors.com

R&L Football

Front (L-R): Nick Engesser, Nevin Kelly, Layne Herman, Grady Gonsioroski, Blaine Frisbie, Brett Mullin, Tiegan Cundiff.

Back (L-R): Assistant Coach Joe Day Rider, Colter Carda, Gabe Gonsioroski, Blake Lien, Hunter Watson, Head Coach Shawn Lien.

Not pictured: manager Austin Lien.





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(406) 488-8706 **David Williams** Cell (406) 489-8706 **Scott Ramus** Cell (406) 489-8707 1511 S Central Ave • Sidney

Aspiring Leaders Encouraged To Attend Nov. 12 Workshop, **Watford City**

Do you know how many taps of the gavel you need to make to restore order to a meeting? Do you know how to amend a motion? Is your organization subject to open meeting laws? Do you know the best method to deal with conflict in board meetings?

Answers to these questions and more information valuable to aspiring leaders, or elected or appointed leaders serving on a board, council or committee, will be provided at "Lead Local" set for 9 a.m. CT to 4 p.m. CT on Tuesday, November 12 at the Yellowstone Room in the McKenzie County Courthouse in Watford City.

Cost to attend is \$75. Lunch will be provided as well as workshop handouts and snacks. Scholarships are available for those interested in attending, but needing financial assistance. Please contact NDSU Extension/McKenzie County to request the financial assistance form.

This workshop will help attendees:

- Feel better prepared to serve in their leadership role
- Recognize the components of an effective meeting
- · Learn basic parliamentary procedure and how to use it Understand different personality styles and how they can
- work together effectively

· Use effective tools when dealing with conflict

"Lead Local" is being brought to you by NDSU Extension/ McKenzie County and McKenzie County Economic Develop-

For more information, please contact NDSU Extension/ McKenzie County at 701-444-3451 or McKenzie County Economic Development at 701-444-7419.











AUTO PARTS • HEAVY DUTY TRUCK PARTS • TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

Montana Voters.

Continued from page 1A.

with BIPA regulations. Our goal is to ensure that all Montana voters are educated about BIPA regulations so our elections and democracy can occur efficiently and with transparency, security, and confidence," said Bret Rutherford of the Montana Association of Clerk and Recorders.

The below tips can help fast-track delivery for Montanans who choose to deliver ballots:

- 1. BIPA does not apply for ballots returned by mail or for votes cast in-person at a polling site. Any person who will be delivering ballots must fill out a BIPA registry form (Voters do not need to fill out the form to deliver their own ballot).
- 2. A maximum of six ballots (in addition to a person's own ballot) can be delivered for the November 5th election.
- 3. To fast-track the delivery process, ballot collectors can print the BIPA registry form before collecting ballots.

"BIPA will impact individuals who return other person's ballots in person. Because the COPP oversees BIPA's compliance and enforcement, we are grateful to election administrators who are often the first point of contact in helping ensure voters are aware of and in compliance with BIPA regulations. Education is always the best compliance tool," said Commissioner Jeff Mangan.

Compliance and enforcement BIPA information is available at the COPP's website. Voters can also find resources to navigate voting in Montana at MACR's website.



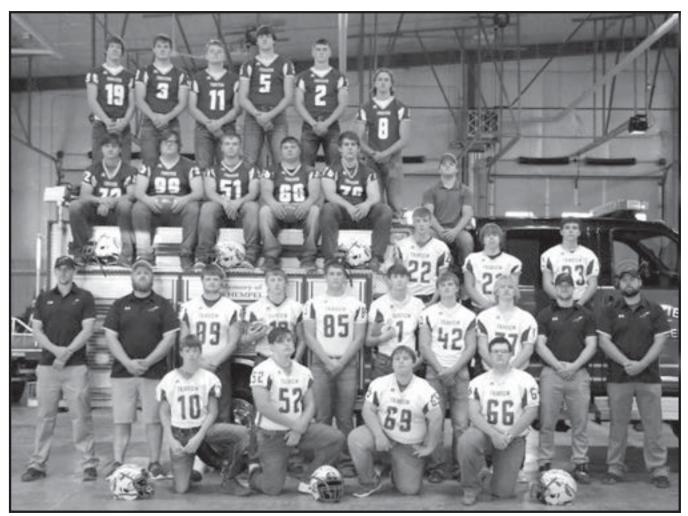
Harvest Carnival

The Roundup's annual Harvest Carnival was held in conjunction with the Sidney Chamber's Trail of Treats on October 26. Trick or treaters enjoyed a morning of candy and games outside the Yellowstone Marketplace in downtown Sidney. Pictured above are a few of the trick or treaters making their rounds.

All of us at Heritage Park would like to thank all of our many volunteers that help us throughout the season and for all the preparations they did for this year's Heritage Day. We'd also like to thank Barrett Pharmacy & Variety, Cornerstone Bank, Thrivent Financial and Meyers Department Store for sponsoring us this season.



FAIRVIEW WARRIORS VS CHOTEAU 1ST ROUND FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS Saturday, Nov. 2 • 1 pm • Fairview High School



Fairview Football

Left to right: Alex Schriver, Cody Asbeck, Gabe Schipman, Braiden Taylor, Jesse Selting, Josh Herron, Tom Neu, Will Smies, Ethan Neu, Hunter Whitmus, Dylan Elletson, Lak Kloker, Jace Vitt, Steve Rice, Martin Manuel, Coach Greg Taylor, Coach Keith Bieber, Paul Hardy, Brady Buxbaum, Hunter Sharbono, Kanyon Taylor, Easton Hopes, Dylan Lorenz, Coach Josh Taylor, Coach Levi Seitz, Jace Buxbaum, Riley Bushnell, Walker Whitmus Jack Smies









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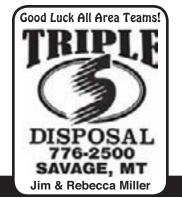
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Montana History Foundation Announces \$160,000 Of Funding Available For 2020

The Montana History Foundation will place \$160,000 throughout the state during its upcoming 2020 grant cycle, which opens November 1. The History Foundation will provide grants up to \$10,000 for projects that help preserve and protect Montana's history. Previously, the foundation provided grants

"These grants help preserve community history in Montana," says Montana History Foundation President/CEO Charlene Porsild. "We are excited at the prospect of what can be accomplished in our communities by doubling the amount of grant funding available in 2020."

Since 2012, The Montana History Foundation has given grants each year to organizations that are working to preserve Montana's historic legacy. So far, more than \$843,000 has been awarded. In an effort to invest \$1,000,000 statewide by 2020, MHF will fund \$160,000 in new projects this year.

"From dinosaur fossils to one-room schoolhouses, the Montana History Foundation funds the preservation of Montana history. We're looking forward to saving and sharing more of the past, with additional funds at our grantees fingertips," says Montana History Foundation Grants Manager Carissa Beckwith.

Tax-exempt organizations can apply for funds to preserve buildings and cemeteries, conserve and exhibit collections, collect oral histories and more. Funding details and the application link can be found at mthistory.org/criteria.

The grant cycle opens November 1 and applications are due by January 10, 2020.

For more information, please contact Community Outreach Coordinator Melissa Jensen at 406-449-3770 or email melissa@ mthistory.org.

Right: As an example of what is accomplished with the grant funding, in 2019 the MonDak Heritage Center received funding to preserve more than 36,000 pages of five Montana newspapers published between 1897 and 1960. All of those digitized pages are now freely available to the public on montananewspapers.org.



Kallem Active Volunteer in Sidney



Bv Dianne Swanson

On October 21, Sidney mayor Rick Norby again proclaimed November 1 as Extra Mile Day, a day dedicated to volunteerism. Sidney was the first town in Montana, besides the larger cities, to become a part of this national day. Norby said he wanted to recognize the many non-profits, boards and individuals who do so many great things in the community. No special events are planned, but Norby hopes that another organization will grab hold of the special day and do some events in the future. Of Nick Kallem, Norby said that he is a fine example of someone who is involved in everything.

Nick Kallem moved to Sidney from Laurel in 2016 and immediately became involved in the community as a volunteer. He had come here earlier with Town Pump and discovered a welcoming community for young people like himself. He left for awhile, and then returned to what he now considers home. He is the audio-visual coordinator and drives school bus for Sidney Public Schools. Kallem is currently enrolled at Bellevue University seeking a Bachelor's degree in Emergency Management.

Volunteering is certainly not new for Kallem. While in middle school, he volunteered for Help for Homeless Pets and was a Prudential Spirit of Community Volunteerism award winner. He was also a Junior Volunteer at St. Vincent's Healthcare and a Counselor in Training at the YMCA.

While staying with family in Wolf Point, Kallem traveled to Sidney to volunteer with the Richland County Ambulance Service. "I got great experience from this service. It's a cool ambulance crew," he stated. He is now a valuable EMT, helping people during critical moments in their lives.

This fall, Kallem became the advisor for Key Club, a very active community service organization at Sidney High School. His goal is to get the kids excited about community service.

After losing a brother eight years ago, Kallem and his family

Continued on next page.

THANK YOU TO ALL **AREA VOLUNTEERS!**



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Christmas Cash, Big Bucks, Sidney

The Christmas Cash campaign presented by ONEOK and the Big Bucks promotion will be available starting Friday, November 1, for shoppers in Sidney this holiday season.

Christmas Cash promotes "Shop Sidney First", by rewarding local shoppers with one red ticket for every \$20 spent at a participating Chamber business. Christmas Cash runs through the month of November. People can turn in their receipts at the Chamber office until 4 p.m. on December 6.

"Double ticket Saturday" will take place on Saturday, November 30, where shoppers will receive a double amount of tickets for their purchases. For example, a purchase of \$20 will result in receiving two tickets.

Chamber staff will host a live drawing of the red tickets for up to \$3,000 in Chamber Bucks on December 7, from 1-3 p.m. Attend in person, listen to Power 95 radio, or watch on the Sidney Chamber Facebook page to follow the live drawing.

Big Bucks holiday loans will be available at Richland Federal Credit Union, Yellowstone Bank and Stockman Bank for a fee of only \$15. Qualified applicants receive an interest-free loan for nine months for up to \$1,000. Participants can spend Big Bucks through December 24.

The Small Town Christmas including the Parade of Lights, presented by ONEOK, should be bigger than ever when Richland County kicks off the holiday season on Friday, November 29.

Continued from previous page.

became very active in suicide prevention. He and his mother serve on the board of the Montana Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Nick is chairman of the Out of the Darkness Walk in Sidney, while his mother is chair in Missoula. His sister and father also help in any way they can. "It's important to try to help prevent suicide so no one has to go through the loss my family had to go through," he explained of his dedication to that important cause. The group had its second walk this year with Montana having a really good year. "See you in 2020," Nick said.

As vice-president of the Eagle Foundation board, Kallem is involved in grants to the Sidney Schools which can cover costs when conventional school funding doesn't work. Examples of their projects include the bleachers and the new concession stand and restrooms on the north side of the football field.

Kallem loves Sidney and will continue volunteering in any way he can "It's nice to see how receptive people in the community are to supporting each other," he said.















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Service in Sidney.

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retirement, vacation, sick leave and holiday pay.

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Full-time communications officer/dispatcher position. Must

have good verbal and written communiction skills and skills in

operating computer systems. Will also be required within first

vear of employment to attend a public safety communicator

course at the MT Law Enforcement Academy.

Benefits include: health insurance, HRA of \$1200/year,

retirement, vacation, sick leave and holiday pay.

Sidney Schools

Fri., Nov. 1: Chicken noodle

soup, PB & J sandwich, man-

Tues., Nov. 5: Spaghetti,

tossed salad, cheesy bread,

Wed., Nov. 6: Soft shell taco,

Savage School

Thurs., Oct. 31: Chicken

Rau School

Thurs., Oct. 31: Tater tot

soup, PB&J sandwich, grapes.

Mon., Nov. 4: BBQ riblet,

cheesy potatoes, cantaloupe.

Tues., Nov. 5: Ravioli, green

Wed., Nov. 6: Sub sandwich,

Froid School

Thurs., Oct. 31: Warm blood

(tomato soup), zombie drool

sandwiches (grilled cheese

mix), maggot eggs (raisins).

Fri., Nov. 1: Corn dogs, maca-

roni and cheese, veggies, fruit.

Mon., Nov. 4: Taco soup with

Tues., Nov. 5: Chicken

mashed potato casserole,

Wed., Nov. 6: Spaghetti, garlic

bread, veggies, fruit, dessert.

Bainville School

beans, buns, fruit.

buns, veggies, fruit.

beans, strawberries.

vegetable soup, orange.

strawberry banana sauce.

Fri., Nov. 1: No school.

tater tots, orange juice.

darin oranges.

applesauce.

faiitas.

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Thurs., Oct. 31: Cheese "Booger" macaroni, shrunken trees, bloody berries, bait Thurs., Oct. 31: Halloween bucket.

Fri., Nov. 1: Lasagna rollup, California veggies, pineapple. Mon., Nov. 4: Taco tub, refried beans, taco bar with peaches and cream. Tues., Nov. 5: Chicken fried

steak, mashed potatoes,

country gravy, corn, apple

Thurs., Oct. 31: Corn dogs,

crisp. Wed., Nov. 6: Pork potstickers, fried rice, stir fry veggies, pineapple.

Menus

Richey School

Thurs., Oct. 31: Zombie cas-Mon., Nov. 4: Hot ham and serole, troll fingers, goblin cheese, cheesy potatoes, cookies.

Fri., Nov. 1: No school. Mon., Nov. 4: Pizza pockets, green beans, peaches. Tues., Nov. 5: Beef and noodles, mixed veggies, mandarin

oranges. Wed., Nov. 6: Burrito casserole, green beans, fruit cocktail.

Culbertson School Thurs., Oct. 31: Chili, caramel rolls, jello.

Lambert School Fri., Nov. 1: Chicken noodle Thurs., Oct. 31: Hamburger

cabbage pockets, fruit. Fri., Nov. 1: Egg rolls, rice, stir fry veggies, fruit. Mon., Nov. 4: Roast beef and swiss, chips, fruit. Tues., Nov. 5: Chicken mashed potatoes, gravy,

garlic bread, fruit. **Fairview School** sandwiches), compost (lettuce Thurs., Oct. 31: Chicken tenders, smiley fries, veggies,

Wed., Nov. 6: Lasagna, corn.

green beans, fruit.

fruit. Fri., Nov. 1: No school.

Watford City School Thurs., Oct. 31: Spaghetti and meat sauce, garlic bread. Fri., Nov. 1: Pepperoni pizza. Mon., Nov. 4: BBQ chicken, garlic red potatoes.

Tues., Nov. 5: Crispitos. Wed. Nov. 6: Tomato soup, grilled cheese. **Alexander School**

nuggets, smiley fries. Fri., Nov. 1: No school. Mon., Nov. 4: Pulled pork on a bun, wedges.

Tues., Nov. 5: Pizza. Wed., Nov. 6: Chicken drumstick, potato salad, baked beans, biscuit.

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USDA Encourages Affected Producers To Contact Agents For Delayed Harvest

Producers can file a Notice of Loss and request more time to harvest

Washington — The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) said today that producers who currently participate in Federal crop insurance and are experiencing a delay in harvesting their crop should contact their Approved Insurance Provider (AIP) to file a Notice of Loss and request more time to harvest.

Producers in several states, including Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming have been affected by extremely wet and snowy conditions early this fall.

"Farmers are having a hard time with weather this year, and this early fall snow is just another example of this year's weather challenges," said Martin Barbre, Administrator of USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA).

agent as soon as possible to determine what actions they can take.'

Producers must file a Notice of Loss and request more time to harvest before the end of the insurance period, so that Federal crop insurance claims are settled based on the amount of harvested production. The end of the insurance period for crops such as spring-planted wheat and barley is October 31 and for corn and soybeans is December 10.

AIPs may allow additional time to harvest, on a case-bycase basis, when all of these conditions are met:

· The producer gives timely notice of loss to his or her crop insurance agent.

• The AIP determines and documents that the delay in harvest was due to an insured cause of loss.

es, such as wet conditions preventing access to the field with equipment or that harvesting under such conditions would damage equipment.

 The delay in harvest was not because the producer did not have sufficient equipment or manpower

When an AIP authorizes additional time to harvest:

• The end of the insurance period is not extended. Rather, the producer is granted additional time to attempt to harvest the crop to settle any loss based on harvested production.

· Any additional damage to the insured crop during the extension period is covered provided it is due to an insurable cause of loss like excessive moisture.

· The producer's crop insurance policy will cover loss of quality (as specified in

· The cost of drying the harvested crop is not covered.

More information on re-

questing assistance due to delayed harvest is available on RMA's website. Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the RMA Agent Locator. Learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at rma. usda.gov.

St. Catherine's Fall Dinner in Fairview, **November 3**

Please come and join us for the always-delicious celebration of fall at St. Catherine's Fall Dinner on Sunday, November 3 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at 317 W 7th St, Fairview.

Enjoy turkey and dressing, roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, salads and homemade pies for dessert.

There will be live entertainment by Judd Burman, Alyson (Cayko) Schriver and Amy (Karst) Balcer.

Carry out boxes will be available by calling 406-742-5293. There will be a free will offering for the meal.

For more information contact AnnDee Taylor at 406-480-

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Sidney Tendo Tae Kwon Do Competes in Williston



On Saturday, October 26 six members of the Sidney Tendo Tae Kwon Do school participated the 2019 Williston Basin Tae Kwon Do and Judo Invitational. Pictured are Mike Bergh, Instructor; Ashleigh Davidson, Caleb Baxter, Hailey Joslin, Adilynn Baxter, Brielle Baxter, Lisa Sharp and Jerrold Baxter, Instructor.

2019 Williston Basin Tae Kwon Do and Judo Invitational Championships, Sidney Results October 26

Six members of the Sidney Tendo Tae Kwon Do School traveled to Williston, ND on Saturday, October 26 to participate in the 2019 Williston Basin Tae Kwon Do and Judo Invitational Championships.

This tournament was held at the Williston Area Recreation Center and hosted by the Williston Tae Kwon Do and Judo Academy.

Sidney competitions and their results are as follows:

Hailey Joslin in the 6 to 8 year old Yellow Belt division placed 3rd in forms, 3rd in sparring and 1st in belt tie competitions.

Adalynn Baxter in the 9 to 10 year old Blue Belt division placed 3rd in forms and 3rd in

Brielle Baxter in the 11 to 14 year old Blue Belt division

placed 1st in forms and 3rd in sparring.

Ashleigh Davidson in the 15 to 17 year old blue belt division placed 3rd in forms, 1st in sparring and 1st in belt tie competition.

Caleb Baxter in the 16 thru adult Brown Belt and Black Belt division placed 2nd in forms and 1st in sparring.

Lisa Sharp in the 16 thru adult Brown Belt and Black Belt division placed 1st in forms and 3rd in sparring.

Energy Roundup

Abraxas Announces Broader **Engagement with Petrie Partners**

NESS WIRE) -- Oct. 14, 2019-- Abraxas Petroleum Corporation ("Abraxas" or the "Company") (NASDAQ:AX-AS) today announced Petrie Partners has been engaged to assist Abraxas with exploration of opportunities related to its interests in the Williston Basin of North Dakota. The Company has sold certain non-operated interests in the Bakken and continues to explore alternatives with regard to its remaining Williston Basin

The Board of Directors

gagement with Petrie Partners to include a more thorough review of the Company's current business and strategic plans, competitive positioning and potential alternative transactions that might further enhance shareholder value. The Board believes Petrie Partners is in an excellent position to assist the Company in this regard, having known and worked with Abraxas for some time. Petrie's expanded mandate to assess options for Abraxas is a broad one, which

might include sales of assets,

actions, additional financing alternatives or other strategic transactions. Petrie's Jon Hughes will lead the engage-

ment for Abraxas. "Petrie has been a great partner for Abraxas in the past," said Robert Watson, Abraxas CEO. "No firm knows the energy industry community better than Petrie, and we look forward to working with them on a broader basis in furtherance of shareholder interests."

Abraxas Petroleum Corporation is a San Antonio based crude oil and natural tion company with operations across the Rocky Mountain, Permian Basin and South Texas regions of the United States.

Safe Harbor for forward-looking statements: Statements in this release looking forward in time involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties, which may cause Abraxas' actual results in future periods to be materially different from any future performance suggested in this release. Such factors may include, but may not be

SAN ANTONIO--(BUSI- determined to broaden the en- merger or acquisition trans- gas exploration and produc- necessarily limited to, chang- volatile and may be influenced es in the prices received by Abraxas for crude oil and natural gas. In addition, Abraxas' future crude oil and natural gas production is highly dependent upon Abraxas' level of success in acquiring or finding additional reserves. Further, Abraxas operates in an industry sector where the

by economic and other factors beyond Abraxas' control. In the context of forward-looking information provided for in this release, reference is made to the discussion of risk factors detailed in Abraxas' filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission during the past 12 months.





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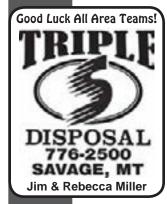
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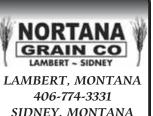
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North Country vs Bainville @ multi

4:30 pm.....Froid/Lake vs Nashua/Opheim @ gym R&L vs Lustre @ multi

6:00 pm...... Fairview vs winner of North Country/Bainville game @ multi

Back Row (L-R) Haylie Conradsen, Raigan Smith, Teah Conradsen, and Reghan Prevost. Middle Row: Alexia Papka, Belle Schow, and Shayanne Castro. Front Row (L-R) Torey Ingvalson and Taryn Hagler.



CULBERTSON VOLLEYBALL

Back (L-R) Alicyn Ator, Kenadee Kempton, Makena Hauge, Perla Burciaga. 3rd row (L-R) Elise Rattling Thunder, Brooklyn Lambert, Morgan Lucas. 2nd row (L-R) Faith Bowland, Cody Larsen, Anissa Bengochea, McKenzie Justice, Kylie Portra. Front (L-R) Kelsie Williams, Ashtyn Ator, Fallon Sun Rhodes, Mariah Cathey.



R&L FUSION VOLLEYBALL

Front Row (L-R) Baylee Ligon, Piper Carter, Aigerim Tolekova, Courtney Hofman, Amira Kasymova. Middle Row (L-R) Isabelle Fatzinger, Jaylyn Klempel, Manager Kodi Bireley, Shawna Eggert, Rhiannon Reichel, Courtney Herman. Back Row (L-R) Head Coach Shasta Senner, Makyya Beyer, Laurel Sponheim, Lauren Krenning, Sarah Helmuth, Paige Carda, Assistant Coach Alexis Kunzer. Not pictured: Manager Peyton Sodt.

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Front Row (L-R) Kodi Bilquist, Kiylee Kellis, Karisa Goebel,

Kailin Pippenger, Coach Kallie Clarke, Natalie Stokke, Katie

South. Back Row (L-R) Matti Woodward, Gianna Boyd, Lakyn Rabbe, Micah Anderson, Kaitlyn Adkins, Gwendolyn Norton.

MED LAKE VOLLEYBALL

Front (L-R) Manager Halle Vareberg, Jennifer Guzman, Kayla

Kidder, Taylor Neeley, Manager Kash Ator. Middle Row (L-

R) Meg Ator, Elise Logan, Kennedy Ereth, Makaylee Elvsaas,

Emma Barrick, Aleah Johnson. Back Row (L-R) Asst Coach Rebecca Laird, Alyssa Nordlund, Carolyne Christoffersen, Sydney Dethman, Sydney Labatte, Bailey Davidson, Kinsey Rasmussen, Sandi Hicks, Head Coach Kiah Smith.

Back row (L-R) Coach Kara, Madyson Lopez, Dani Berry,

Logan Kjos, Piper Hurley, Scout Hopes, Kenzy Lopez, Aubree

Johnson, Coach Balcer. Middle Row (L-R) Morgan Slade,

Montana Zevenbergen, Jadyn Gackle, Hanna Skov, Macy

Seadeek, Megan Asbeck, Emily Sundheim. Front row (L-R)

Hannah Sundheim, Taylor McPherson, Teigan Taylor, Avery

Seadeek, Allison Axtman, Tanasia Harris.

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Harvest Season Puts Focus On Rural Broadband Gap, Solutions

By John Youngberg, Executive Vice President of the Montana Farm Bureau Federation

Early autumn means the start of harvest season for thousands of farmers across Montana. But for many, their ability to compete in an increasingly challenging and globalized agriculture market is hampered by a lack of broadband connectivity.

Without adequate access to the internet at broadband speeds, too many Montana farmers and agricultural communities across the state can't access the same basic tools and advanced precision agriculture technologies that are available in connected areas.

These new tools have the power to dramatically increase yields and conserve resources. These advancements can secure the competitiveness of Montana's agricultural producers for generations to come.

But many of these cutting-edge technologies require broadband connectivity to function — meaning farmers stuck behind the broadband gap are put at a competitive disadvantage in the global market. Not only does the digital divide impact the competitiveness of Montana farmers, but it also holds back the rural communities where they live, work, raise their families, and retire.

According to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), roughly 238,000 Montanans lack access to broadband internet. Some of those folks may have broadband access available but choose not to purchase it—however, there is broad, bipartisan agreement the scale of the problem is far greater than what the FCC's current methodology demonstrates.

Wherever the true scale of the problem falls, it's clear

that determining the true need for increased access to broadband is significant. The rural broadband gap holds agricultural producers back from capitalizing on technology, reduces economic opportunity in rural communities, and can limit access to telehealth solutions.

As the state's largest agriculture association, we see firsthand the impact the broadband gap has on producers and the communities they support. Montana's rural broadband providers have done an excellent job in expanding service for Montanans on the front lines of bridging the digital divide—they've laid out over 25,000 miles of fiber optic cables and invest over \$100 million each year to expand broadband capability. They have a tough job. To arm providers and innovators with the tools needed to completely eliminate the rural broadband gap, we need policymakers to embrace an all-of-the-above

That's why the Montana Farm Bureau Federation advocates for policymakers in Washington to make bridging the digital divide by following a mixed-technology approach a top priority and is a member of coalition called Connect Americans Now (CAN).

Connect Americans Now is a broad-based coalition of over 200 organizations, representing established voices in agriculture, healthcare, small business, education, local government, and more – committed to eliminating the digital divide by employing a mixed-technology model.

Recently, the Montana Farm Bureau joined with CAN and 24 other organizations, including the American Farm Bureau Federation, to petition the FCC to support innovative technologies that can help



John Youngberg

bridge the digital divide.

This petition outlines the ways the commission can clear regulatory hurdles holding back TV white space technology, an innovative wireless solution for broadband deployment that can supplement traditional technologies in rural areas.

Expanding the deployability of solutions like TVWS could help bring broadband to farms, homes and communities in the "last mile" – the most rural areas that are most difficult to connect.

The FCC has made commendable strides to clear regulatory barriers to innovations like TVWS, including a decision to ensure sufficient spectrum for the technology earlier this year.

We also applaud Senators Daines and Tester for making this a priority and for putting forward solutions to expand connectivity.

We encourage Montana's lawmakers in Washington to continue working with the commission to clear regulatory barriers to innovation and to pursue every solution to bring broadband connectivity to our communities.

Montana's farmers and agricultural communities are counting on their success.

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