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Skills Center Celebrates Grand Opening



North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum congratulates McKenzie County Public Schools along with their many partnerships and donors at the Grand Opening of the Bakken Area Skills Center in Watford City. The Career and Technical Education facility is the first one several facilities to open in North Dakota. The BASC

opened in January offering technical education and training for high school students and citizens throughout the Bakken Region. The mission of the Bakken Area Skills Center is to empower individuals through career and technical education, fostering a skilled workforce that meets the evolving needs of

the region. The goal is to provide accessible, high-quality education and training programs that fuel personal growth, economic development; creating a sustainable future for the Bakken region.

(Photo by Kathy Taylor)

City OKs Agreement For Pool

By Bill Vander Weele

The Sidney City Council unanimously approved an agreement with Sidney's TBID in order to approve the Svarre swimming pool environment during its meeting on April 15.

TBID is willing to provide a \$10,000 grant for deck furniture, umbrellas and lap lane ropes at the pool. TBID's bylaws, however, are that the city needed to match the grant.

City clerk/treasurer Jessica Chamberlin said there's \$5,000 in the city's budget for the project, but not the \$10,000 needed to match the TBID's amount.

In lieu of the extra \$5,000, the agreement made between the city and TBID is that the city will provide 100 day swim passes for each hotel for the next four summers. The program would then be re-evaluated.

City officials feel it will be a positive to bring visitors to the pool.

"I think it's a good idea," Mayor Rick Norby said.

The council also approved a memorandum of understanding with the drug task force. There were no changes from the MOU from last fiscal year, but the agreement just needed to be renewed.

Heather Cotter was appointed to the library board to replace Terry Sivertson.

A variance was approved for building a garage at a residence near Lincoln Avenue. Council member Tami Christensen was the lone vote against the request.

Two change orders were approved for the Sidney City Hall building project.

Norby feels that the next city council meeting could take place in the new chambers.

Sidney LVA Announces Changes In Leadership

By Bill Vander Weele

The Learning Volunteers for Adults program is still going strong and offering services in Richland County.

Linette Miller has been serving as the program's director since late summer after Bernie Braden retired from the position after 11 years.

"I was really happy especially working with a lot of students," Braden said of her tenure. "I loved being busy."

The main instruction provided by LVA include tutoring to earn a high school diploma (HiSet), English as a second language and citizenship test.

Marlin Alcazar is a great example of the difference that the program can make. Alcazar, originally from Columbia, kept taking more and more classes from LVA. She went on to pass her citizenship test "with flying colors"

in Helena.

She explained that she sought to improve her education in order to obtain a quality job. After her commitment, Alcazar is now the administrative assist at The Lodge.

"We had a hand in moving her forward," Braden, now a LVA board member, said.

Another example is a 70-year-old woman who wanted to finally earn her GED because she couldn't finish high school when she was younger.

"That's why we always need to keep a program in Sidney, it offers people opportunities," Braden said.

Miller added, "The program is here, alive and viable."

The program is for learners from age 16 and up. For more information, call 406-480-1971.



(From left) Linette Miller, Bernie Braden and Marlin Alcazar want the public to know the services that LVA offers. (Photo by Bill Vander Weele)

State Candidates Share Views During Republican Dinner

By Bill Vander Weele

A packed house at the Richland County Lincoln-Reagan dinner organized by the Richland County Republican Central Committee heard directly from five of the eight candidates for the U.S. House 2 position on Thursday night.

Elsie Arntzen, who is the current Superintendent of Public Instruction, told audience members that she is a fourth generation Montanan and a practicing Christian. The House candidate said that most importantly she is a conservative and has fought for values in her position as superintendent. Arntzen asked, "Do you all agree that government doesn't control our children?" She said the nation's largest problem is protecting the Southern Border.

Candidate Kyle Austin's background includes owning a farm and being a pharmacist. He started Pharm406 during the pandemic.

He noted that Montana needs a representative who has an agriculture, health and business background.

Austin expressed concern about reports that Canada will limit fertilizer imports into the United States. He suggested that Sidney should open a fertilizer plant. "United we stand, united we can," Austin said.

Ric Holden has farmed and ranched in Dawson County for 33 years. He was a state senator for eight years. Holden said Montana's base is agriculture, and the U.S. representative should have an agriculture background.

Holden feels the Southern Border must be shut down. He said he would be a representative who understands the positives of oil and coal production.

Joel Krautter, a lawyer in Sidney, says the country is experiencing a sense of discouragement. He mentioned the unsecured border

and record inflation.

Krautter said it's up to citizens to get the ship back safely to harbor by sending the right people to Washington, D.C. "We need a new generation of leadership to bring the nation back to stability," he said.

Stacy Zinn's experience includes a 23-year tenure with the DEA. She spent her career tackling cartels and terrorists as a private security expert. She described herself as a conservative and a fighter.

Zinn mentioned key issues being the Southern Border, foreign policy, the national debt and energy sources. She said that conservatives are losing their country and need someone to make tough decisions.

Candidate Troy Downing didn't attend the event, but he was represented by a campaign staff member. Downing was described as a battle-tested conservative who has built successful busi-



Members of Sidney High School's jazz band entertain prior to the meal on Thursday. (Photo by Bill Vander Weele)

nesses.

Other state ballot candidates at the dinner included governor candidate Tanner Smith, superintendent of public instruction

candidates Sharyl Allen and Susie Hedalen, and clerk of supreme court candidate Bowen Greenwood.



Representatives from the Sidney Chamber, Richland Economic Development and the City of Sidney took part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Les Schwab Tires on Friday. (Photo by Bill Vander Weele)

Your Montana Senate Voice SD17

MIKE NEWTON

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Zoning Board Approves Changes In Sidney

By Bill Vander Weele
The City of Sidney's Zoning Board approved zoning code changes during a public meeting held at City Hall on Wednesday. The recommendations now head to the city council for final approval.

City planner Forest Sanderson explained that the main reason for these amendments is the 2023 legislative session when several land use bills were considered and then signed into law. The major changes are intended to increase availability of housing options in residential and commercial districts, data mining center within industrial districts and a reduction of required parking for residential uses.

State mandated changes include reducing required

off street parking for residential uses to one space per dwelling unit and reducing the required off street parking for day care home to two spaces. A day care home is now defined as a private residence or other structure in which day care services are provided to three to 15 children or adults. The maximum of 15 individuals is an increase. Sanderson said that the day care services changes are a result of state legislators using a broad paint brush for what might be good for larger cities and applying it to the entire state. He said the change could create problems, but the city must follow it.

"I don't think any of the state legislators would like to have a 15-child day care next to their house," zoning board member Terry Meldahl

said. The motion approved by the board included recommending that the city council has the parking commission research whether the city could require off-street parking for residential use in the central business district. For example, Meldahl said such a rule could be beneficial if a downtown business decides to add apartments.

City initiated zone code changes include the elimination of required off-street parking in the central business zone, the elimination of Xeriscaping requirements from the regulations and to allow retail sales and services by conditional use in the B-2 zoning district. Sanderson said the change would add more flexibility for land developers. The current code had the potential of

causing issues between land developers and neighboring homeowners.

Scootfest Scheduled For Saturday

The Lower Yellowstone A.B.A.T.E. Chapter Bike Show will take place from 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Saturday, April 27, at the Richland Ranger Arena, Sidney, promising Rock & Roll, food and beverages and door prizes.

Multiple booths and vendors will be on hand and, of course, there will be lots of great bikes to check out and fun stories to share. Admission is \$5 for ages 13 and

up, free for 12 and under.

Registration is \$25 if paid by April 25, \$35 on April 26 or 27. Call 406-939-0183 to have a registration form sent to you. Winners of the Top 10 and People's Choice Awards will receive cash prizes. A true family event, the show will feature a Motorcycle and Bicycle Rodeo during the bike show, with a Poker Walk afterwards. Purchase a raffle ticket for

a chance to win a motorcycle dolly. There will be four drawings for bicycles for kids 12 and under and CMA Badlands Faith Bikers are hosting a booth just for the kids.

Finish the day off at the Bikers Ball featuring music by The Relics at the Cattle-Ac beginning at 9 p.m. Designated drivers are available. Call Dawn Guenzi at 406-939-0183 for details.

CANAL NOTICE

Live updates on the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project Facebook page

Dependent on weather, barring any unforeseen circumstances, the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project will start **Filling and flushing the Main Canal**

Wednesday, April 24 at 6am

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OBITUARIES

George and Doris Swenson, Sidney, MT

Celebration of Life Services for George and Doris Swenson will be Saturday, April 27, 2024, at 2 p.m., at Peoples Congregational Church, Sidney, with Pastor Tim Sharp 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.

Doris was the fourth child of Beulah and John Obergfell, arriving in Sidney on Dec. 22, 1927, after her oldest brother, Gussie, took her and Beulah, via a horse drawn stone-boat, on a cold ride across town to the home of John's sister, Annie Williams, to be delivered. Mom weighed slightly over three pounds at birth and was placed on the kitchen woodstove oven for warmth.

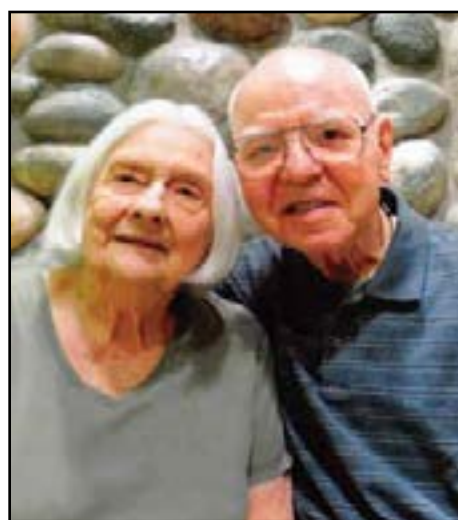
George, the second child of Oscar and Iva (Sando) Swenson, was born on Feb. 22, 1928, in Audubon, MN., and began his tenure in the Sidney area when his family moved there in the summer of 1936. Dad signed up for his Social Security card in 1937 and started setting pins at the Sidney Bowling Center at the age of 9, establishing his strong work ethic.

George and Doris knew each other from an early age, yet dad did not ask her out until after they graduated. Doris graduated high school in 1945 and George in 1946. Even when warned by a friend of dad's not to go out with him, mom still did, and the rest was history. Dad enrolled in the School of Engineering at Montana State University in the fall of '47. Missing Mom, he returned home, and they were united in marriage at Peoples Congregational Church on Sept. 20, 1947. Their family was completed with the births of their two daughters: Jeri Dee and Blinda Zoon.

During her school years, Doris worked at the Princess and Roxy theaters as an usher and after graduation started her clerical career in the bookkeeping department of the Richland National Bank, followed by stints at Holly Sugar Corporation and the Sidney Livestock. Mom loved working in her yard and tending to her flowers. Most days in the summer you would find her working on her flower beds to make them perfect.

In 1947 George started at Holly Sugar, spending most of his years in the accounting department after completing an accounting home study course. During the school year, dad officiated basketball throughout the area and played second base for the Sidney baseball team in the summertime. In 1962, George became the business manager for the Eastern Montana Clinic and the local representative for Blue Shield of Montana. He and his brother Oscar "Doc" started a boat and travel business, Swenson's Marine, in 1965, and venturing out on his own in 1969, he started Action Auto Inc., a retail Chrysler, New Holland-Versatile dealership he operated until 1985. George continued as the local representative for Blue Cross Blue Shield until his retirement in 2004 at the age of 76.

Dad enjoyed serving his community, being on the city council when the new City Hall was built and when the new sewer main was rerouted and installed. He was on the building committee for the building of the new Peoples Congregational Church, on the board of directors during the building of



Crestwood Inn and served on the SHC Clinic Board. George belonged to many service organizations including Richland Economic Development, Kiwanis, Masons, Shriners, Elks Lodge and Toastmasters. Doris belonged to Cowbells and the Peoples Church Women's Guild and taught Sunday School.

George and Doris were lifetime members of Peoples Congregational Church, Sidney Moose Lodge, and the MonDak Historical Center and you could find them always willing to lend a hand. Both enjoyed building, whether for themselves or their community and during their days together they built, remodeled and added onto many homes and investment properties. Dad and Mom dearly cherished the complexity of the landscape in Northeastern Montana and loved roaming the backroads, finding treasures, especially rocks. The biggest one Dad found for Mom took a boom truck to deliver and set it in the backyard.

Now they are where they want to be, TOGETHER, again. And we know how blessed we ARE to have had parents, who instilled in us the importance of heritage, a good work ethic, and a circle of strength and love that is family. Both had grown up with big extended families around and stayed close with all their brothers and sisters. So, Mom and Dad were overjoyed when their daughters' families were able to grow up in Sidney with that big loving circle of great-grandparents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces and lots of cousins all around. THANKS MOM AND DAD

They are survived by daughters Jeri (Rick) Stone and Blinda (Erik) Larsen, both of Sidney, grandchildren Mike (Shannon) Stone, Highlands Ranch, CO., Chris Stone, Mendota Heights, MN., Bruce (Heather) Larsen, Houston, TX, and Pete (Melissa) Larsen, Katy, TX; great-grandchildren Connor, Alex, Ashlyn and Jaclyn Stone, and Nate, Zach, Sidney, Jenna, and Taylor Larsen; Sisters-in-law Joann Swenson, Kalispell, Nancy Obergfell, Sidney, and numerous nieces and nephews.

They are preceded in death by their parents John and Beulah Obergfell and Oscar and Iva Swenson; brothers and sisters Gussie Obergfell, Jerry Obergfell, Agnes (Obergfell) Haugen, and Peggy (Obergfell) Zadow, and Marvin Swenson, Oscar "Doc" Swenson, and Joan (Swenson) Kringen; all their brothers-in-law, most of their sisters-in-law, and one niece and four nephews.

Nancy Lee Obergfell, 91 Sidney, MT

Funeral services for Nancy Lee Obergfell were Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 11 a.m. at the Peoples Congregational Church, Sidney, with Pastor Richard Evans officiating. A luncheon followed the services for a time of fellowship and sharing. Nancy was laid to rest at the Newlon Cemetery in Sidney. Visitation was Friday, April 19, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fulkerson Stevenson Memorial Chapel, Sidney, MT. Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT, assisted the family. Remembrances, condolences and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

Nancy Lee (Putnam) Obergfell was born on Feb. 22, 1933, to Lester and Lucy (Coon) Putnam, sharing her birthday with her father and George Washington. She joined a sister, Clara Grace, growing up on their grandfather Bert Coon's homestead in the original log cabin which is on the list of historic homes. Nancy and Clara went to the McBride and Brorson Country Schools riding on horseback. After finishing the eighth grade, Nancy went to high school in Sidney. She lived with Ervin and Joyce Johnson during the week through her high school years, earning her lodging by doing housekeeping chores.

After graduating from Sidney High School in 1951, she was united in marriage to Jerry Paul Obergfell on June 2, 1951, at the Coon Homestead. They rented and lived on Charley Thompson's place until they built a house next to her parents in 1955. Three children were born to this union: Paula in 1952, Rocky in 1956, and John in 1957.

In 1968, they purchased the family farm from Nancy's parents. She worked doing chores and as a farmhand alongside Jerry until he retired in 1992. They moved to town due to Jerry's failing health. After Jerry's death on April 11, 2009, Nancy began to enjoy social events and along with Clara, they formed a quilting group. Nancy shared her quilting talents by making all her great grandkids recycled jeans or t-shirt quilts. She was thrilled beyond words when her namesake, Gwendolyn Nancy was born. Nancy enjoyed camping and fishing and

following her grandkids in their activities and sporting events. Jerry and Nancy experienced a once in a lifetime trip to Australia which was Nancy's first plane ride. She travelled to Alaska, South Dakota, and western Montana numerous times to see grandkids. Nancy joined the computer era and kept up with family and friends on Facebook, made her own greeting cards, and printed photos that she took of birds and special events.

She was a member of the Peoples Congregational Church, Mayflower Circle, 4-H member and leader, Homemakers Group, Cowbells, and Lambert Saddle Club. She and Jerry participated in many parades riding their horses and saddle club rodeo events keeping that cowboy era alive.

Nancy peacefully passed away on Friday evening, April 12, 2024, at the Sidney Health Center Extended Care with family by her side.

Nancy is survived by her daughter, Paula (Keith) Bostrom and son, Rocky (Kathy) Obergfell, all of Sidney; daughter-in-law, Maxine Obergfell, Jerome, ID; eight grandchildren, Dustin Bostrom, Shawn Obergfell, Jason (Julie) Obergfell, Mindee (Chad) Riedel, Keela (Dan) Heavrin, Joshua Obergfell, Dallas (Noelle) Obergfell, and Zane (Paige) Obergfell; 17 great-grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Nancy was preceded in death by her parents; husband Jerry; sister Clara Cundiff; brother-in-law Gussie, sisters-in-law Agnes Haugen, Doris Swenson, and Peggy Zadow; and son, John Lester.

We love you and miss you so much.



Kaden Lee Olsen, 23 Alexandria, Va.

Kaden Lee Olsen, 23, tragically passed away in a motorcycle accident on April 9, 2024, in Alexandria, Va. The loss of our son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin, and friend is absolutely devastating for all who knew him. He will be and already is greatly missed. Kaden was larger than life and lived a full and happy life that he built and created for himself. He passed doing what he loved, riding his motorcycle. He overcame and accomplished so much in his 23 years.

Kaden was born on July 29, 2000, in Price, UT. He loved playing with his siblings, cousins, and friends in Wellington and Price. He enjoyed swimming, video games, Lord of the Rings, and most of all, riding dirt bikes. He lived in Trinidad, CO., and Sidney during his teen years where he enjoyed playing football and working on his gold 2000 Ford Mustang.

After an early graduation from high school, he fulfilled his childhood dream of joining the Marine Corps. He served at the prestigious Marine Barracks 8th & I in Washington, D.C. He was selected and trained for the firing party where he performed the 21 gun salute and fired the final shots for countless fallen Marines as they were laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery. He also escorted the president to the White House during the inauguration ceremonies. Kaden was a leader to his entire platoon. He embodied the values of a Marine: Honor, Courage, and Commitment. He was honorably discharged in January 2023.

With sheer grit and determination, he accomplished all he set out to do, achieving many awards and honors along the way. He stood tall and firm in his beliefs. Kaden was large in stature. His passion was going to the gym and building a strong body. He enjoyed working as a project manager in Maryland and was looking forward to furthering his education in cyber security. His mom was his best friend and she loves him fiercely. All

who knew K a d e n loved him. He will be g r e a t l y missed. We love you, Kaden. He leaves to mourn: His m o t h e r, Erin Owens, dad Dennis Owens, stepmom Shauna (Jeremiah) Cooke, and Ricky Olsen. Siblings: Camron Owens, Derek Owens, Peyton Olsen, Hadlee Adams. Best friends and brothers: James Widenmann and Nic Springer. Siblings by choice: Jordan and Dillon King. Grandparents: Christy Johnson Lewis, Jim (LeAnna) Kulow Jr., Brenda (Jason) Chambers, Lisa Olsen, Royce Axtell, Max and Kim Moosman. Great-grandparents: Jim Kulow Sr. (Vicki), Alice Olsen. Aunts and Uncles: Brooke (Jeremy) Jensen, Chad (Andrea) Kulow, Megan (Casey) Spillman, Caitlin (Eric) Spears, Kristen (Randon) Timothy, Rachelle Olsen, Courtney Olsen, Heidi Howe. His dogs: Thor, Luna, and Cooper. And so many of the sweetest cousins who love and look up to him like a big brother, who Kaden loved and protected. Kaden adored his girlfriend. He loved and was loved by many close friends and family.

He was preceded in death by: grandparents: Rick Olsen, Sonny Olsen, Kay (Jimmy) Copfer, Gary (Papa) and Dorothy (Nana) Johnson, Cheryl Axtell, uncles: Cody Olsen, Ty Moosman.

Some have asked how to help Kaden's family. In Lieu of Flowers, A GoFundMe has been set up to help cover the funeral costs and give some relief and time for grieving to his family. <https://bit.ly/kadenolsenmemorial>



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223 Promotions at 605-840-1033 or Aaron Roesler at 605-354-5593

Arnold Niels Conradsen, 80 Savage, MT

Funeral services will be Wednesday April 24, 2024, at 10 a.m. at the First Lutheran Church, Savage, with Pastor Tim Tharp officiating. A luncheon will follow the service for a time of fellowship. Arnold will be laid to rest in the Riverview

Cemetery, Savage, MT. Visitation will be Tuesday, April 23, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Fulkerson Stevenson Memorial Chapel, Sidney, MT. Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT., is assisting the family. Remembrances, con-

dolences, and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com. Arnold Niels Conradsen, 80 peacefully passed away on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at his home in Savage with family by his side.



Fairview's prom royalty included (from left) Hannah Hurley, Tia Johnson, Kallee Hopes, Queen Britta Poulsen, King Jeffrey Tjelde, Brock Schlothauer, Gordon Knapp and Bridger Free. Princess is Wynter Biddinger and Prince is Kolt Hurley. (Photo by Keri McPherson)

Additional Entertainment Announced For Fair

By Katelyn Sponheim
While general admission tickets for the Richland County Fair & Rodeo Concert featuring Rodney Atkins with Special Guest Jerrod Niemann are available for purchase now. The fair will have several other entertainers available for just the cost of gate admission to the fair. Cowtown offers a pet-

ting zoo and pony rides, along with an agricultural educational experience. Cow-milking demonstrations, and possible even participation by children in the crowd, will be part of their offering. Leapin' Louie performs lasso tricks, whip-cracking, juggling, and other stunts. He'll present three shows

per day throughout the fair. Stilt-walker Rollo will be strolling the fairgrounds as he has in previous years. General admission tickets to the concert are available now at www.richlandcountyfairandrodeo.com, with reserve tickets and packages, as well as carnival and rodeo tickets, available soon.

Opening Mic Programs Offered In Williston

The James Memorial Art Center and Williston Music Intensive are partnering to bring the Williston Community a new all-inclusive open mic opportunity that celebrates and challenges young artists. The first event is scheduled for Monday, April 29, at 6 p.m. Spotlight will be held monthly on Friday evenings moving forward. Spotlight was an idea born by Williston Music Intensive's Alma Cook to provide an all-ages music

venue that invites musicians to exercise their artistry and to fill in the time between WMI events and keep the community alive. All genres of music will be welcome and a featured performer or band will play in the second half of the evening (April 29 will feature Alina Aminova). In addition to the public performances each month, supplemental studio hours on off-weeks will also be provided to help performers hone skills. According to Cook, the

James was chosen as a partnering venue for several reasons: The James is an all-ages space where parents will feel good about letting their teens hang out, there's an overlap in vision: share art & culture with the community of Williston, and many young people expressed that the venue is more "vibey" than other options. Williston Music Intensive (WMI) was founded in 2022: a multi-day workshop to inspire, edify and unite the disparate Williston music scenes (club players, church players, high schoolers). For more information about WMI or Spotlight, please contact Alma Cook at info@hearalma.com or team@willistonmusic.com. The James Memorial Art Center is located at 621 First Ave. West, Williston. Gallery hours are Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.-2 p.m. and Friday 1-5 p.m. September - April. The gallery is open on Sundays from 1-5 p.m. It is closed on major holidays. Exhibitions, receptions, and other regularly scheduled events are free and open to the public.



King and queen for Savage's prom were Connor Lyons and Jaidyn Alvstad. (Photo by Bill Vander Weele)



Savage's Mya Jorgensen and Keagen Smith participate in the grand march during Savage's prom on Friday. (Photo by Bill Vander Weele)

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School Reports Incident

Alexander Public School reported an incident that occurred at the school last week. Officials said that there wasn't a threat to students, faculty or staff at any time. Local law enforcement was contacted as a precaution.

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Paid for by Rhonda Knudsen for MT, PO Box 734, Culbertson MT 59218, Republican

Births

Jayce Russell Shahin
Jayce Russell Shahin was born on March 19, 2024, to McKensie and Keith Shahin, Williston. Jayce weighed 8 lbs, 2 oz. Maternal grandparent is Lynda Schultz, Williston. Parental grandparents are Joy Shahin, Jamestown, ND, and Russell Shahin, Williston. Jayce joins a sister, Amara.

Gabriella Joy Gordon
Gabriella Joy Gordon was born on March 19, 2024, to Kelsey Perez and Caloune Gordon, Sidney. She weighed 8 lbs, 3 oz. Gabriella joins brothers Issac and Micah.

Chett Kaare Gaustad
Chett Kaare Gaustad was born on March 21, 2024, to Jamie and Dakota Gaus-

tad, Scobey. Chett weighed 5 lbs, 14 oz. Maternal grandparents are Wally Hitchcock and Chris Carpenter, Great Falls. Paternal grandparents are Kaare and Pam Gaustad, Scobey.

Waylon Otto Weaver
Waylon Otto Weaver was born on March 24, 2024, to Amy and Jeff Weaver Jr., Sidney. Waylon weighed 5 lbs, 12.7 oz. Maternal grandparents are Ron and Nina Jore, Shepherd. Paternal grandparent is Jeff Weaver, Atlanta, MI.

Arlo Vern Olson
Arlo Vern Olson was born on March 25, 2024, to Lexi and Brady Olson of Westby. Arlo weighed 8 lbs, 0 oz. Maternal grandparents

are Dan and Monica Cayko, Fairview. Paternal grandparents are Kelly and Shari Olson, Westby. Arlo joins a brother, Odin.

Zylah Jean Smith
Zylah Jean Smith was born on March 26, 2024, to Sara Chapin and Tristin Smith, Sidney. Zylah weighed 8 lbs, 2.2 oz. Maternal grandparent is Shelly Phipps, Ely, Nev. Paternal grandparents are Rayelle Green and Jed Smith of Rock Springs, Wyo.

Everleigh Jacklynn Scott
Everleigh Jacklynn Scott was born on March 29, 2024, to Sara Apperson and Darian Scott of Sidney. Everleigh weighed 7 lbs, 13 oz. Maternal grandparent is Brenda Apperson.

Women's Wellness Collective Scheduled May 10

The Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture is hosting a Women's Wellness Collective Saturday, May 10, from 1-9 p.m. at Yellowstone Mercantile, Sidney. All ages are welcome until 5 p.m., but the remaining hours are for those 21 and over. The event is free to the public. This special event aimed at women includes vendors showcasing a vast variety of wellness-oriented businesses with offerings that can improve the quality of life for women. There will also be 15-minute TED talks every hour on the hour featuring topics such as financial planning, medically supervised weight loss, hormone bal-

ancing and more. Sign up now for fun classes such as DIY Wild Yam Oil, Candle Pouring, Tulip Sip & Paint, Mothers Day Floral Centerpiece making, Beer & Barre and Wine

& Yoga. You must pre-register for these classes and there is a charge. Visit sidneymt.com to register and for more information on this entertaining and informative event.

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Local Candidates Discuss Strengths

By Bill Vander Wee
 Republican candidates campaigning to represent area districts were among the speakers at Richland County's Lincoln-Reagan Dinner on Thursday.

Greg Hunter and Rhonda Knudsen are seeking the Senate District 15 position. The district features most of northeastern Montana including from Sidney to Glasgow.

Hunter, a rancher in the Glasgow area, said this is his first jump into seeking an elected government position. His concerns include rural health care, a strong education system and strong law enforcement.

His experience includes 25 years in the agriculture industry and 15 years in telecommunications. He has served as an EMT for 36

years and his wife is a nurse.

Hunter notes that he is for property tax reform, limited government and is pro Second Amendment.

Knudsen has been the representative for House District 34 for the last six years. The Culbertson resident was elected to the leadership position of Speaker Pro Tempore last session.

Knudsen mentioned that in her role she read each of the 1,000 bills and made sure they were sent to the proper committee. She stressed that she understands the process.

She said she decided to move over to the Senate because the legislature needs her experience. She described herself as committed and a conservative.

Kathy Hoiland and Brandon Ler are seeking the

House District 33 position. The district includes all of Dawson County and some of Richland County including Savage.

Hoiland said she is running because she loves and believes in the state. She feels residents deserve real representation from someone who cares the most about Montana. She questioned why legislators banned books and TikTok.

Hoiland stressed that freedoms must be preserved. She said legislators shouldn't make the precedent of removing laws which they did during the last session. She added that she has a proven record as a community leader both in Richland County and Dawson County.

"Real legislators work together to put Montana

first," Hoiland said.

Ler has served as the representative for House District 35, but now he is seeking the House 33 spot because of redistricting. He said he votes for parents to have more control over their children and he votes against more regulations in the state.

Ler said he works hard to protect Second Amendment rights and to build natural resources. He is concerned about judges legislating from the bench.

Ler wants to continue working to support more localized government.

Other state Senate/ House candidates included Mike Newton For Senate District 17 and Morgan Thiel for House District 30.

The primary election is June 4.

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Celebrating 50 Years Of WIC, Employee Excellence

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children. WIC was created in 1974 to help families and young children during a critical time of growth and development. Half a century ago, the first WIC clinic opened its doors in Pineville, Ky., to a full waiting room—some who had come from almost 300 miles away—and local news stations eager to document the unveiling of this groundbreaking support program for women, infants, and children.

"WIC is a critical program to feed prenatal and postpartum women and young kids, but our support to families doesn't stop there," said Lesley Thiessen, WIC CPA. "We help families

learn about nutrition and healthy food, we provide breastfeeding education and connect people to other health and social services they may need in Richland and Sheridan Counties."

Thiessen is the Richland County Health Department's Employee Spotlight for her years of service to the WIC program. She stepped up in August, 2011 to become the coordinator for our Women, Infants and Children (WIC) supplement nutrition program.

Of her WIC position, Lesley said, "It's rewarding to see families engaged in improving how they feed their families, and it's nice to help someone out of a tough spot when they are struggling. Plus, I get to hold babies!"

She has recently participated in the WIC Shopping Improvement project to improve participants' experi-

ence at our local grocery stores. "Lesley has grown in her leadership skills and knowledge of WIC over the past year, especially through her participation in the WIC Shopping Improvement project," said Kathy Helmuth, Health Assurance Nurse director. "Lesley is an excellent WIC nurse. She cares deeply about her participants and strives to meet their needs while following the guidelines of the WIC program. She goes above and beyond in her WIC role, including flexible scheduling, referrals to other services and establishing rapport with our local grocery stores. Thank you Lesley for all you do for families in our counties!"

In Montana, WIC includes 34 local agencies and over 80 clinic sites serving all 56 counties and seven tribal reservations. Nearly 14,000 women, infants, and

children are enrolled across the state. However, only 55% of eligible families are signed up.

WIC eligibility requires participants to be pregnant, postpartum, breastfeeding, or have a child younger than five. Participants must also meet income requirements—making less than 185% of the Federal Poverty Level or qualify for Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, or free/reduced school meal program. Specific WIC eligibility guidelines can be found on the DPHHS website.

The Richland County WIC office is located at 1201 West Holly St Suite 1 and can be reached at 406-433-2207. To learn more about WIC or find out if you are eligible, go to www.dphhs.mt.gov/ecfsd/wic/index. The state WIC office may be reached at 1-800-433-4298 or emailed at montanawicprogram@mt.gov.



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Health Department Offers Boosters

The Richland County Health Department is now offering spring COVID-19 boosters by appointment at regular vaccine clinics. The updated vaccine covers the COVID-19 variant that has caused most infections in 2023. The vaccine protects against COVID-19 only, and does not contain flu vaccine or any other vaccine.

To be eligible for the new vaccine, you must be aged 65 or older, or 6 months or older and immunocompromised. You must also wait at least four months after the last COVID-19 vaccine. Spring boosters are not recommended for those under age 65 who are not immunocompromised.

The Health Department carries Moderna vaccine. The vaccine is largely covered by insurance, though it is the client's responsibility to contact their insurance to determine coverage.

Both Medicare and Medicaid will cover the vaccine. The cost of the vaccine is \$190. The Health Department is a Bridge Access Program provider, which may provide vaccine to adults who are uninsured.

The Vaccines for Children Program provides vaccine to uninsured children. To locate providers of other brands of COVID-19 vaccine, visit www.vaccines.gov.

The Health Department

currently offers COVID-19 vaccine during regular vaccination clinic hours, which are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by appointment, as well as the second Wednesday of each month until 6 p.m., and the third Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m.. All times are MST.

For questions or to make an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccine or other vaccinations, call the Health Department at 406-433-2207.

The Health Department is located in the Community Services Building, 1201 West Holly, Suite 1, Sidney.

Sunrise City Slam Coming To Sidney

By Dianne Swanson
 Sidney will be buzzing Saturday and Sunday, April 27-28 as 57 teams from third-eighth grade converge on the city for a weekend of great basketball. The second annual Sunrise City Slam benefits The Sunrise

Women's Clinic, the Boys and Girls Club of the Mondak - Richland Unit, Sidney Public Schools and the Sidney Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, with profits divided equally. Chamber director Kali Godfrey said teams are expected from about a four-hour radius of town, including as far away as Regina, Saskatchewan.

Games will be played at Central School, the Middle School and High School from about 7 a.m.-9 p.m., depending on how many teams participate. Each game will feature a MOA (certified Montana official) as well as

a student athlete referee. Godfrey gave a big shout out to local referees Nate Creek and Lonnie Swigart without whom she said the tournament could not happen. She said the referee pool is really innovative and noted that they are actively trying to recruit more refs.

Major sponsors of the event are Sidney TBID, Ranger Lounge, Casino and Eatery, Saloon 27 and Mid-Rivers Communications. Countless other sponsors and volunteers are crucial to the success of the tournament.

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Lonski Qualifies For Recognition

Edward Jones financial advisor Nick Lonski recently qualified for the Edward Jones recognition conference, Pinnacle, which celebrates the contributions and achievements of the 205 top financial advisors (or 1%) from the firm's more than 19,000.

Qualifiers met multiple criteria including the success of their branch and client feedback. The event is April 23-26 in Orlando, FL., and includes financial advisors from both the U.S. and Canada.

Pinnacle is reserved for those who have achieved the highest level of firm recognition. Attendees will have the opportunity to closely

interact with firm leaders and one another, sharing ideas and feedback on how the firm can continue to grow its impact for its clients, colleagues and the communities it serves.

"I'm incredibly honored to be attending the firm's Pinnacle conference, and I anticipate great things from the learning and networking opportunity it offers," Lonski said. "There's nothing like connecting one on one with some of the most talented people at Edward Jones who bring their experiences and best practices from all across North America. I'll be looking for new ideas that I can carry back to my team and our clients."



Sidney's Jarret Averett (left) and Kevin Hutzenbiler get out of the blocks during the 100-meter dash at the Sidney Invitational on Saturday. (Photo by Bill Vander Weele)



Richey/Lambert's freshman Jolee Klempel cruises to a first-place finish in the 100-meter hurdles' race. (Photo by Bill Vander Weele)

Track Athletes Place At Sidney Invitational

By Bill Vander Weele

Richland County track athletes enjoyed success during the Sidney Invitational, which featured more than 600 students, on Saturday.

Sidney's boys placed fourth in the team standings with 42 points while Sidney's girls tied for seventh place with 23 points. Williston won both the boys' and girls' titles.

Sidney's Daniel Stevens cleared 13-6 for top honors in the boys' pole vault.

Chace Waters had a solid meet as the senior placed second in the shot put at 44-10 and fifth in the discus at 133-6.

The boys' 400-meter relay team featuring Joseph Yadon, Aren Larson, Jarret Averett and Xander Schlothauer finished in third place at 46.54 seconds.

Carter Heggem earned



Fairview's Brailey Anderson and Brooklyn Anderson run in the 3200-mile race. (Photo by Bill Vander Weele)

fourth in the 3200 at 10:08.18 and sixth in the 1600 at 4:47.13. Yadon placed fifth in the 200 with a time of 24.93 seconds and sixth in

the long jump at 19-10.

Kevin Hutzenbiler had a mark of 40-0 to earn fifth place in the triple jump.

Aren Larson cleared

5-8 for fourth place in the high jump and finished sixth in the 100 at 11.91 seconds.

Ryan Unruh placed sixth in the 110-meter hurdles with a time of 18.59 seconds.

In the girls' division, Morgan Kindopp cleared 10-6 for first place in the pole vault.

Audree Deming earned second place in the discus at 102-9. Ave' Norby placed sixth in the event at 94-1.

Sidney's girls' 400-meter relay team consisting of Jori Horsburgh, Kindopp, Lily Tranquill and Myah Hughes placed fourth at 53.69 seconds.

Fairview's boys took 13th place with 12 points at the meet. Fairview's Deacon Gackle captured first place in the discus with a best of 142-8. Tyler Loan finished fifth in the 100 with a time of 11.86 seconds.

Richey/Lambert took

13th in the girls' standings with 13.4 points.

Jolee Klempel, a freshman, ran to top honors in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 16.37 seconds.

Klempel cleared 4-8 in the high jump for fourth place. Klempel finished fifth in the 200 at 28.15 seconds.

The 400-meter relay team of Jade Boese-Robbins, Brooke Lien, Brynne Hill and Klempel took seventh place.

Sidney Wins Two Of Three Baseball Games

By Robyn Heck

The Sidney Eagles baseball team defeated the Williston JV-1 team with a score of 13-1 on April 16, in Williston.

The Eagles scored two in the second inning after a Williston error scored one run and Kayson Radke grounded out, scoring one run. They added two more runs in the third after Gradin Sukut and Kason Radke got RBIs due to errors.

There were eight hits and five runs in the sixth inning. Ty Schepens hit his second home run of the season, scoring two runs, Treyce Bower singled, scoring another run, and Cooper McNally singled to score two runs.

Sukut earned the win on the mound for Sidney. He gave up three hits in one run (zero earned) over four innings, striking out six and walking two. McNally was the relief pitcher. He gave up zero hits, struck out one and walked none in two innings.

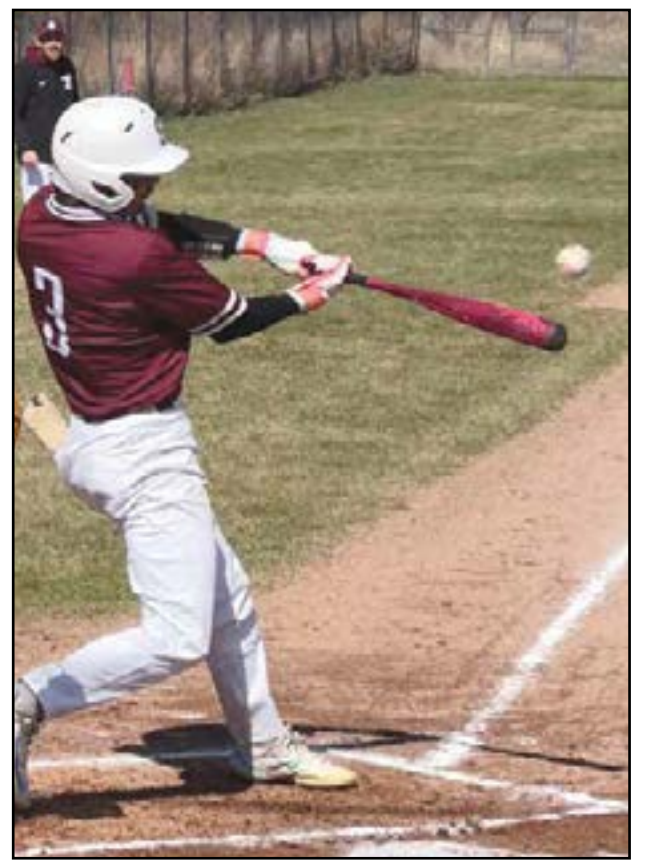
The Eagles had 12 hits in the game. McNally, Hansen, Bower, and Heck each had two hits. McNally led the team with four runs batted in. Hansen stole two bases. The Eagles didn't commit a single error in the field.

The Sidney Eagles had one conference victory and one conference loss when they traveled to Livingston on Saturday.

First, the Eagles beat the Park Rangers 10-6. The Eagles scored two in the third inning after Ty Schepens singled and Cooper McNally grounded it out.

The Park Rangers tied the game in the sixth inning, and the Eagles took back the lead in the seventh. Treyce Bower singled to bring the score to 6-5.

The Rangers tied the game in the bottom of the seventh, but the Eagles brought the score back to



Ryder Hansen had three hits in five at bats during the Eagles' conference victory over the Park Rangers. (Photo by Robyn Heck)

their favor, 10-6, in the ninth inning. Runs were scored after Hansen singled, Sukut and Schepens walked, and Park committed an error.

Cayden Heck earned the win for Sidney while pitching. He gave up four hits and one run over three innings, striking out two and walking one. Hansen pitched the first six innings of the game. He gave up seven hits and five runs (zero earned), striking out six and walking five.

Hansen had a great game at bat with three hits. He singled in the fourth inning, tripled in the eighth, and singled in the ninth. Bower also collected three hits. Radke had two hits. Sukut, Radke, Johnson, and Heck each had two walks. Sukut stole two bases.

The next game against the Lone Peak Big Horns

didn't come out in the Eagles favor. The Eagles lost 2-5.

The game was tied 1-1 in the first inning after Schepens singled. Sukut, Radke, and Schepens each had one head for Sidney. Sukut had a hit that was a few feet short of the 350-foot home run on the Livingston field. It would've been a home run at Sidney's Moose Park, as our fences at right field are at 305 feet.

Radke and Schepens drove in one run each for the Eagles. Sukut earned three walks. Hansen and Sukut stole multiple bases during the game.

This weekend, the Eagles have their final home games for the season. On Friday the Eagles take on Belgrade and Saturday (senior night) they play the Watford City Wolves.

Eagles Drop Game Against Glendive

By Bill Vander Weele

Sidney's softball squad put up a good fight, but the Eagles lost at home against conference foe Glendive, 14-6, on April 16.

The pitching of junior Amiya Steinbeisser kept Sidney close as the Eagles trailed by only a 3-0 margin after three innings of play.

After Glendive increased its lead to 7-0 in the top of the fourth, the Eagles responded with five runs of their own in the bottom of the fourth to cut the margin to 7-5.

Sidney's Aiyana Kirn singled and Steinbeisser reached on an error to open the bottom of the fourth. Amaiya Kirn then connected for a single to bring home her younger sister. Steinbeisser scored on a double-steal play for a 7-2 game.

Lambert student Keira Rains, a junior, belted a three-run homer to pull the Eagles to 7-5.

Glendive added four runs in the top of the fifth inning. Sidney's Aiyana Kirn



Amiya Steinbeisser throws a pitch during the home game against Glendive. (Photo by Bill Vander Weele)

singled and later scored on a wild pitch for an 11-6 margin.

The Red Devils, however, tallied three more runs, including a two-run homer by winning pitcher Jaelin Jimison, in the top of the seventh for the 14-6 final.

The Eagles then lost conference home games against Havre and Lewistown on Saturday.

Havre defeated Sidney by a 12-2 final. The Blue Ponies scored six of their runs in the fourth inning.

Scoring in the contest for the Eagles were Amaiya Kirn and Izabella Baisch.

Lewistown downed Sidney by a 17-0 final.

The Eagles will host Watford City Thursday and Miles City on Friday.



Sidney's Izabella Baisch takes a swing during the game against Lewistown. (Photo by Bill Vander Weele) Sidney will host Watford City and Miles

FWP Reminds Hunters Of Deadlines

The drawings for Montana deer and elk permits and for nonresident combination licenses are complete and applicants can check their results online. This is the fourth year of the new online application process, which allows Fish, Wildlife & Parks to complete the drawing much faster than in years past.

There are a few ways to get your drawing results.

Visit fwp.mt.gov, click on MyFWP Login in the upper righthand corner, then click on Lookup Draw Results, Register for Lists tab on the left-hand menu, or login to your MyFWP account. You may also sign up for an account at myfwp.mt.gov. Applicants may also call any FWP Regional office or the licensing office at 406-444-2950.

Deadline reminders:

The deadline to apply for moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goat and bison is Wednesday, May 1; the deadline to apply for elk B, deer B, and antelope is Saturday, June 1. All applications must be completed online or at an FWP office. Most FWP offices with license sales are open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Eagles Name New Football Coach

Sidney High School announces the appointment of Jace Schillinger as the new head football coach, pending final board approval. An Eastern Montana native with a decorated playing career and well-rounded coaching record, Schillinger brings a wealth of knowledge and a love for the game to the Sidney sideline.

A highly decorated and record setting playing career at Baker High School (2000) and Dickinson State University (2005) is where football started for Schillinger. In his first year of teaching and coaching at Billings Central, Schillinger was the head track coach and an assistant for football and basketball. He then returned to Dickin-

son State where he served as the defensive line football coach and assistant track coach. He then went back to the high school gridiron for one season as the head coach at Park High School in Livingston.

Schillinger returned to college coaching as the running backs coach at the University of North Dakota, the offensive coordinator and head track coach at DSU, and most recently the tight ends coach at the University of Montana.

Now, with a renewed energy, a commitment to excellence and a focus on student athletes' development, Schillinger is looking to lead the Eagles back to prominence on the football

field. "We are very excited to welcome Schillinger and his family to Sidney," said activities director Chris Lee. "His coaching resume, vast experience, and passion for the game make him the ideal fit to lead our football program. We are looking forward to the positive and lasting impact he will have in the storied history of Sidney Eagle football."

Schillinger is currently the head track and field coach at Sentinel High School in Missoula. When that spring season wraps up, the Schillinger family will make their way to Sidney. He will continue in his role as a sales professional for BSN Sports in Montana.



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Spring Special Section

See Pages 11-16

Sidney's Parks, Recreation Offer Something For Everyone

Sidney's Parks and Recreation Offer Something for Everyone

Life under the Big Sky definitely lends itself to outdoor recreation, and the Sidney community provides a variety of outdoor recreation during the warmer months.

The City of Sidney has spent considerable time and energy upgrading Water Tower Park, Quilling's Park, Lalonde Park, Johnson Park, Kling Park, Lyndale Park and the South Meadow Softball Complex in recent years.

Water Tower Park received new fencing with

funds that Sidney Park Superintendent Stephanie Ridl received from a Richland County recreation grant. Additionally, Sidney Public Works provided new dug-outs and the girls slow pitch softball league donated new bases.

Quilling's Park has been equipped with new ADA compliant playground equipment with funds Ridl received from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant, which includes an agility-based gym for ages 2-12, new swings, two spring-ride surfers, and the popular climbing wall

called the Matterhorn. ADA compliant ground cover was also put in which makes the playground more accessible to wheelchairs and strollers and benches that give parents and caregivers a place to sit near the playground. While there were a lot of changes to the local park, some equipment remains the same such as the stage-coach and small play gym.

Lalonde Park received new swings, a Tenspin, and play gym, donated by the Kringen family in memory of Randy Kringen. Sidney Public Works Department installed the equipment and

funded the ADA compliant ground cover, border system and wheelchair ramp. As a result of this partnership, Lalonde Park was the first of Sidney's parks to be 100 percent ADA compliant. In 2017, Girl Scout Troop #2338 and #2358 installed reclaimed bench seating to

the playground as part of their Bronze Award project.

Continued efforts to improve the amenities at Veterans Memorial Park funded through Ridl's Take Part in Our Park project have raised enough money to cover the cost of an ADA compliant ramp up to

the Anderson Pavilion amphitheater, as well as the installation of a concrete pad for the donated benches and new garbage can surrounds. Any additional donations will help facilitate the completion of the seating area as well as the addition of **(Continued on page 12)**



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Paddlefishing Seasons Near Start In North Dakota, Montana

North Dakota's paddlefish season will open May 1, and is scheduled to continue through May 21. However, depending on the overall harvest, an early in-season closure may occur with a 24-hour notice issued by the North Dakota Game and Fish Department.

Paddlefish snagging is legal only from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. (central time) during each day of the paddlefish snagging season. The open area includes the Yellowstone River in North Dakota, and the Missouri River west of the U.S. Highway 85 bridge to the Montana border, excluding that portion from the pipeline crossing (river mile 1,577) downstream to the upper end of the Lewis and Clark WMA (river mile 1,565).

Paddlefish tags are available for purchase online at gf.nd.gov, at license vendors and during business

hours at Game and Fish Department offices in Williston, Bismarck, Dickinson, Jamestown, Devils Lake and Lonetree. Snaggers buying tags online have the option to have the tag mailed or can stop at a district office and pick it up during business hours. Those purchasing a tag at a vendor or having it mailed should plan accordingly and allow for a few days for delivery.

All paddlefish snaggers must possess a paddlefish tag, in addition to a valid fishing license for anyone 16 and older. Cost of a paddlefish tag is \$10 for residents and \$25.50 for nonresidents. Lost or destroyed tags will not be replaced.

The Game and Fish Department will allow camping during the open paddlefish season at Lewis and Clark Wildlife Management Area Pump House and at Neu's Point WMA. However, no

roads or gates will be open at Neu's Point, therefore camping is allowed in the small Neu's Point parking lot, and the rest of the WMA for walk-in access. Outdoor enthusiasts are urged to be aware of the current fire index.

Montana

Regional fisheries manager Mike Backes for Region 7 said paddlefishing in Montana will start on Wednesday, May 15. A catch-and-release day is scheduled for Thursday, May 16, at Intake.

If the last two seasons of open passage at Intake are an indication, Backes says he anticipates reduced concentration at first at Intake. That should mean for the full season to take place and not finish until the end of June.

"People should be able to plan for a full season," Backes said.

He said a fish cleaner

will be available at Intake again this season.

The most success early in the season is anticipated to happen from Intake downstream to the stateline early.

Backes said residents should be aware of proposed changes regarding paddlefishing starting in 2025-2026. Proposals can be read at https://fwp.mt.gov/binaries/content/assets/fwp/aboutfwp/public-comments/2025-26-fishing-regs/scoping_2025-26-fishing-regs.pdf

The department will use this public input to develop a regulations proposal package to present to the

Fish and Wildlife Commission in fall 2024. An additional comment period will occur before the final regulations package is presented to the commission; this comment period is expected to occur late August.



Jody Wells with this nice sized female paddlefish caught near Sidney Bridge on May 27, 2023.

Sidney Offers Many Recreation Opportunities In Spring, Summer

(Continued from page 11)

new sidewalks and concrete paths. Thanks to an Eagle Scout project, the archway along Central Avenue was also constructed and the city plans to complete the archway this year.

Renovations at the South Meadow softball complex were completed just in time for Sidney to host the 2017 State Softball Tournament. Some of the projects included reconfiguring the layout of field #1 and #2, building new dugouts, installing new fencing as well as a flagpole.

In the fall of 2018, Kling Park's playground equipment was removed and the installation of the new toddler park structures as well as a regulation size basketball court commenced. These upgrades were completed in April 2019. Ridl received funding from the Montana Accessible Playground Grant, a donation from the Sunrise Child Care Association along with funds from the city to complete this much needed renovation. The new playground equipment focuses on children ages 2-5 and consists of

a play gym, new swings including the Generation Swing, and free play climbing boulders (appropriate for 2-5-year-olds). The playground area hosts a new border system, ADA compliant ground cover and a wheelchair ramp.

Johnson Park received much needed upgrades to the children's playground in 2022 and 2023. The installation of new swings, cube structure, ADA compliant ground cover and border system, and a new slide donated by Kraken Oil, have been well received. Also

in Johnson Park, the introduction of the Elevate Adult Fitness Course in 2020 has provided a fun new twist to playground equipment. Currently, 8 of the 12-piece course is installed. Funds for the equipment have been generated from City funds as well as grants Ridl received from Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Trust, Foundation for Community Care and ONEOK. As additional funds are raised, the remaining pieces of equipment will be installed.

In the fall of 2023, city employees were busy

installing a playground structure donated by the Adult Softball League, at the South Meadow Softball Complex. ADA compliant ground cover and border system was also installed and a fence surrounding the playground will be installed in spring of 2024.

The renovation of Lynedale playground was underway late in 2023, to replace the swings and old metal play structure, as well as introduce ADA compliant ground cover and border system. These upgrades will be completed in the spring

of 2024 and will include new swings and a slide.

The final phase of the Sherry Arnold Fitness Trail has been completed. This trail lies over an irrigation lateral that runs through town connecting West Side Elementary School and Sidney High School (a distance of 2.1 miles/3.38 kilometers), along with several Sidney attractions such as the downtown business district, the recently renovated tennis court facility, Hunter Dehner Memorial Skate Park, Svarre Municipal Pool, (Continued on page 13)

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Con's Weed Control Provides Quality Services In Area

By Bill Vander Weele

It's that time of year when area residents should make a call to Con's Weed Control Service in order to guarantee having a top-notch lawn.

Con Donovan, owner, has run the business since 1990. He said his crews cover about a 70-mile radius including all of Richland County, some of McKenzie County and the eastern side of Roosevelt County.

It's a family business with Con's wife, Lynn, and their grown children Michael, Matthew and Kerri all playing roles in the company's success. Valuable employees include John Reynolds, Kylee Lambert, Jerry Wznick, Bill Nankivel and Ben Wenzel.

"We need two or three more seasonal helpers," Con said.

The company's lawn service includes fertilization and weed control with each spray application. Timely applications are available to keep your lawn thick, green and healthy.

The business is licensed in ornamental and



Con Donovan and Kylee Lambert enjoy having the support of company's mascot, Oscar. The company's lawn service includes fertilization and weed control with each spray application. (Photo by Bill Vander Weele)

turf, special utility, right of way, school integrated pest management and structural pest control.

Donvan noted that core aeration has many benefits including reducing soil compaction, improving fer-

tilizer and water uptake, enhancing seeding results, reducing water runoff and standing water, improving air exchange between soil and atmosphere and encouraging stronger turf grass root development.

He said that germination blankets for new lawns are the less expensive alternative to sod. The blankets increase seed germination, increase rate of growth by keeping seedlings moist, reduce run off and work great on hilly terrain.

Tree care provided by Con's includes tree and shrub sprayings, disease control, tree and shrub fertilization, tree consultation and

deep root treatment.

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ment or for more information, call 406-488-7422.

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Swimming Pool Offers Lessons, Open Swim

Continued from page 12) Moose Park baseball field, Veterans Memorial Park, Sidney's Arboretum, and Johnson Park. Additionally, in 2013, Richland County continued this vital trail onto county property that extends access to the Richland County Fairgrounds and Sidney Country Club (a distance of 0.57 miles/0.92 kilometers).

Sidney's Park system has much to offer, with more than 50 acres of park area that include baseball facilities at Lyndale and Moose parks, softball at Water Tower and South Meadow Softball Complex, as well as other sports related amenities such as volleyball and basketball courts, recently renovated horseshoe pits, a four-court tennis complex, skateboard park, soccer and outdoor ice skating



The playground equipment at Quilling's Park. (Photo by Bill Vander Weele)

when weather is permitting. Tennis courts are located on 2nd Ave. SE across the street from Hunter Dehner Memorial Skate Park and next to the Arboretum.

Svarre Municipal Pool is another fixture of the community offering swimming lessons, open swim,

adult swim, canoeing, life-guard training, snorkeling, aqua aerobics when available, a splash deck, and waterslides. The pool is also equipped with an ADA compliant lift and approved steps. The pool is located on the corner of 7th Ave. SW and 6th St. SW, Sidney.

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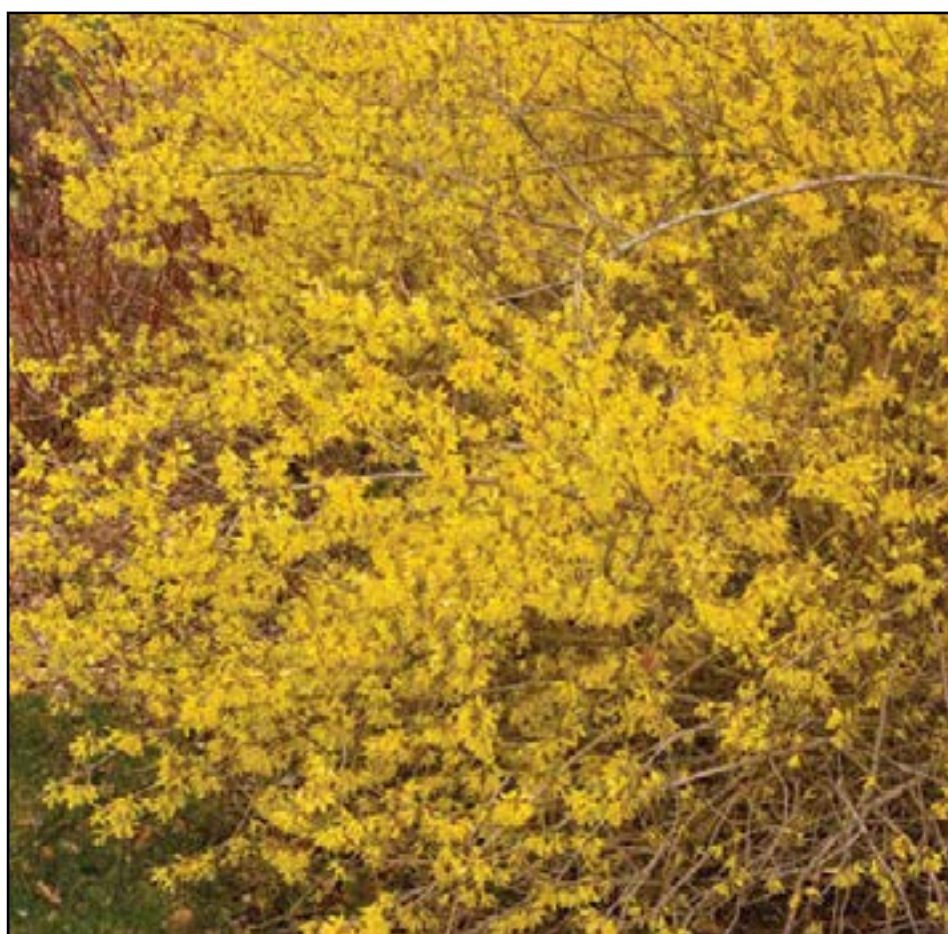
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Handy Andy's Nursery

Among my favorite spring shrub choices is that of Forsythia. These stunning "light barked" shrubs can make a great specimen for a hedge or visual privacy.

Achieving a height of between six and 10 feet with rich green foliage all summer perhaps the most interesting thing about Forsythia is that they flower BEFORE they leaf out! Bright yellow buds followed by yellow petals adorn this shrub sometimes as early as mid-April. The blooms give way as I mentioned to lush green foliage. The Forsythia responds well to pruning and can be shaped into a formal hedge if desired.

Another of my favorite shrubs is some varieties of Viburnum. There are many varieties of these tremendously hardy shrubs. The various choices mean as you might imagine various habits of growth also. Most bloom white and are clustered flowers. I think of the Snowball Viburnum which achieves a height like that of the Common Lilac. There are those of a more compact habit also with heights closer to five or six feet. Often confused with Hydrangea, nearly all viburnum bloom in the spring. Many hydran-



The Forsythia responds well to pruning and can be shaped into a formal hedge if desired.

geas they are confused with are fall bloomers.

If you want to add something blooming with

an opportunity for something edible, the Serviceberry, or Juneberry is a great choice. Gray-green oblong foliage usually arrives in late April or early May. These leaves are followed by dainty white flowers that mature as blue-colored fruits great for pies or baking. With an average height of four to six feet, these shrubs can also make a great hedge or visual barrier. If you desire to harvest this fruit you will want to make provisions to keep birds and other wildlife away from this shrub.

An increasing number of cultivar choices await you from the Dogwood or Cornus genus. These shrubs have attractive young bark (often red) with various leaf colors. It used to be just green and variegated foliage choices were available but the introduction of the Neon Burst has opened up yellow or chartreuse as a possibility. The common Red Twigg



The common Red Twigg Dogwood often produces showy flowers in spring, then occasionally throughout the summer.



A favorite shrub is some varieties of Viburnum. There are many varieties of these tremendously hardy shrubs.

showy flowers in spring, then occasionally throughout the summer. Most of the other hybrid cultivars are much smaller plants, topping out at around six feet.

Last and possibly the most requested in spring are Lilac shrubs. Many love the smell of Lilac and can confidently say that spring has arrived when Lilac flowers are in bloom. What you may not know is that in addition to the Common Lilac, which usually blooms around Mother's Day. There are other Lilac varieties whose blooms ar-

rive even later than Mother's Day. The Donald Wyman hybrid lilac responds well to pruning and usually blooms closer to Father's Day. This extends your Lilac show into early summer!

We hope you find time to get outdoors and observe the world around you. If you are looking to make any improvements to your landscape or have questions or concerns regarding something going on, we're here to help! Until then, good luck, and happy growing!

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Sidney City Cleanup Set For May 10

Sidney residents are proud of their community but a winter's accumulation of trash can diminish that pride and be unsightly to visitors.

In an effort to clean up as much of the town as possible, the current Sidney Chamber of Commerce leadership class has organized a Sunrise City Cleanup for Friday, May 10 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Participants are asked to meet at Veterans Park where they will receive supplies and a map of their specific area to clean. All volunteers will receive a drink token from The Rush, courtesy of this year's sponsor Proactive Tech Wiz.

Prizes will be awarded in three categories with a

special trophy and recognition in the media. Categories are: Most volunteers – business or group, biggest trash pile, and most youth volunteers. Show off what you accomplished! Take a picture of your group and the pile of trash you collected and send it to the Chamber.

The group is also challenging businesses to spring clean their store fronts and the block around their business.

To register for this fun and rewarding event, visit the Sidney Chamber office, 909 S. Central Ave., or text the word 'volunteer' to 406-206-7988. For more details, please call the Chamber at 406-433-1916.

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Rough Rider Center Lists Schedule Of Upcoming Events

The Rough Rider Center in Watford City announces its schedule of events for this spring and summer.

May 1, Switcholio Cornhole Tournament, \$15/ person, Ages 21+ BYOB, Cash Prizes, Rough Rider Center Convention Hall. Day of registration only. 5:30-6 p.m. - Day of Registration. Tournament starts at 6 p.m. Switcholio Cornhole Tournament uses the Scoreholio App. Download it at the App Store and create a profile. You will be randomly drawn partners to play some round robin games and then will be placed with a partner for a tournament.

May 3, Cinco De Mayo, Come and join us for a Cinco De Mayo celebration at the Rough Rider Center.

Enjoy some yummy food, music, and more for the whole family. Mark your calendars, and we'll see you then!

May 30-31, ND42 Basketball Camp for boys and girls entering grades 3-12. Fee is \$85/person Waiver: Please bring completed copy to first day of camp. For more information on the camp visit Noah Dahlman's website, www.noahdahlman42.com Noah Dahlman was born and raised in rural Minnesota to a family of educators with the rich tradition of basketball. His grandfather was a five time NBA Champion who coached the Minneapolis Lakers before they moved to Los Angeles. Noah has been a professional basketball player for 12 seasons in Europe and Asia. He was named an All-American during his time at Watford College. His desire is to bring the precise work ethic, dream, and opportunity to all. Noah's prerogative is that every attendee walks away from his experience armed with tools to breakthrough the mold and understand that everything is possible

June 1, Fishing Derby: Ages 13 and under, free. Session 1: 9-10:30 a.m. Session 2: 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Limit of 90 kids per session. Each Child will receive a fishing pole. Door prizes throughout the event. Lunch will be served from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Pre-Register to guarantee a spot.

June 5, Alumni Game (Baseball): Join us as we kick off the first night of the Doug Johnsrud Baseball Tournament with an alumni vs alumni game! Food, cash

bar, live music. There will be a free will donation supporting Watford City baseball.

June 5-9, Doug Johnsrud Baseball Invitational Tournament.

June 5, 8 p.m. Walleye Alumni vs Alumni Game

June 7-9, Food Truck Rodeo. Cinch up, we're riding into town for another go-round.

2024 is going to be full of more flavor and more fun. More family activities, more Food Trucks and non food vendors. Thanks to this year's host Rough Rider Center for adding to the excitement.

June 7, Touch A Truck, Does your child have a love for trucks and large vehicles? Then check out the Touch-A-Truck free, fun, family-friendly event where the young and young at heart will love to climb, sit in and even honk the horns of trucks and large vehicles seen throughout the county. Times are 1-4 p.m.

A special no horns time is scheduled from 1-2 pm for sensory-sensitive children at the high school parking lot.

June 26-28, Breakthrough Basketball Camp, Ball Handling and Scoring Skills Camp Ages: Grade 3-8, Boys and Girls Fee: \$245. Brad Shaw is coming to Watford City to run a three-day skill development camp. This is a youth and middle school camp for players looking to develop better scoring moves and better ball handling and playmaking ability. You improve your scoring, ball handling, shooting, passing, athleticism, footwork, decision-making, and 1-on-1 moves to take your game to the next level. For more information visit their website at https://www.breakthroughbasketball.com/camps/camp.asp?name=WatfordCityCamp

July 9, Jimmie Watford City Volleyball Day Camp, Features: Individual skills including Hitter/Setter/Libero Training, team skill development and competition, Age/Grade: Grades 7-12. Location is the Rough Rider Center. Fee is \$85/player. For more information and to register, visit jamestown-volleyball.org or contact Jon Hegerle at jhegerle@uj.edu

July 10-12, Jimmie volleyball team camp. Features: Individual skills training, position training, team practices, team competition

and tournament matches. Age/Grade: Varsity teams, Location is Rough Rider Center. Fee: \$125/player. The University of Jamestown Women's Volleyball Program is hosting a volleyball team camp in Watford City. Teams are responsible for own lodging. One coach attends for free of charge. Additional coaches pay same as players. For more information and to register, visit jamestownvolleyball.org or contact Jon Hegerle at jhegerle@uj.edu

July 13, Homefest Mud Volleyball, Co-Ed 4s, Tourist Park, Cash prizes. Team Check-In: 10 a.m. Tournament Start: 10:30 a.m., \$40 Pre-registration, \$50 Day Of Registration - Cash Only. Any questions, contact Nikki at nicoles@roughridercenter.com

July 13, Cornhole Tournament. Join us for a Doubles Cornhole Tournament on Main Street during Homefest! Fee: \$20/team, 3 p.m., tournament start. Cash prizes! Must pre-register. Registration deadline is July 10

July 13, Homefest 5K July 30-31, IPT Basket-



Oscar Terry (left) and Ryker Graham, both of Watford City, have a great time during last year's kids' fishing derby. This year's event is June 1. (Photo by Bethany Wells)

ball Camp. Days: Saturday, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.-noon (4th-8th grade) 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m. (9th-12th grade) Age/Grade: Boys and Girls Entering Grades 4-12, Rough Rid-

er Center Fee: \$125/person For more information on IPT Basketball, please visit their website, IPT -Watford City

What to Expect: Each day, kids in grades 3-6 will be introduced to a new outdoor adventure to promote

Summer Excursions

(Continued on page 15)

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Catch Various Events Offered

Continued from page 15) an active lifestyle and exercise while learning a little bit more about the outside world; all in a fun environment. Each child will be responsible for providing their own sunscreen, bug spray, water bottle and snack each trip. Age/Grade: Grades

3-6, Drop Off: 12:30 p.m. at the RRC Baseball Field, Pick Up: 5 p.m. at the RRC Baseball Field.
June Days
 June 5: Fort Union Tunnel
 June 12: Cartwright
 June 19: Heritage Park
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\$25 for all three days
 July Days
 July 10: Ranch Day
 July 17: Sandy Beach
 Swimming
 July 24: TRNP - North Unit
 Fee: \$10/excursion or \$25 for all three days
Medora Day
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 June 26, Grades: 3-8
 Drop Off: 9:30 a.m. at RRC Baseball Field
 Time: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
 Fee: \$50/kid



Sidney students prepare for the next round of "senior assassins." The game is running until May 16. (Photo submitted)

Sidney Senior Students Enjoying Fun With Game

By Bill Vander Weele
 Members of Sidney High School's Class of 2024 are having fun with the "senior assassins" game this spring.

Lexi Rang, administrator for the game in Sidney, says the game locally began March 19 and will run until May 19.

"It's a game that seniors are all doing across the country," Rang explained.

Through the game,

each participant is a target each week through an app. That person then attempts to hit his target by using a watergun sometime during that week. Students can use floaters, goggles and life jackets to be designated safe.

A video is needed to prove that a target was hit. After being approved, the video is placed on the group's instagram page.

It's a fun way for the

classmates to remember their time at the high school prior to graduation.

The game isn't allowed to be played at school or at sporting events, Rang said. When she notifies participants that it's a purge hour, safety items aren't recognized and any group member can be a target.

At this point, Abby Schilling stands in first-place for the standings.

Spring Fling Planned For May 11

The St. Matthew's Spring Fling will take place Saturday, May 11, from 7-11 p.m. for grades 6-8, and the dance open to all area youth.

This semi-formal dance will take place at St. Matthew's Parish Center, 310 Seventh St. SE, Sidney. This dance is a lock-in for safety.

Students will be allowed to leave early, only if picked up and signed out by a parent.

The admission is \$10 per person, and boys are asked to not wear blue jeans, shorts, T-shirts and no caps or hats.

The girls should not wear shorts or pants but

modest dresses are encouraged. Please take note that this dress code will be enforced.

There will be DJ music by Midnight Express.

For more information contact Colleen Haralson, 406-482-2680.

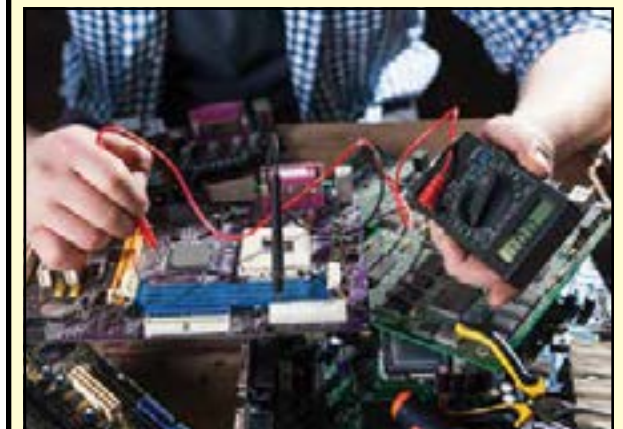
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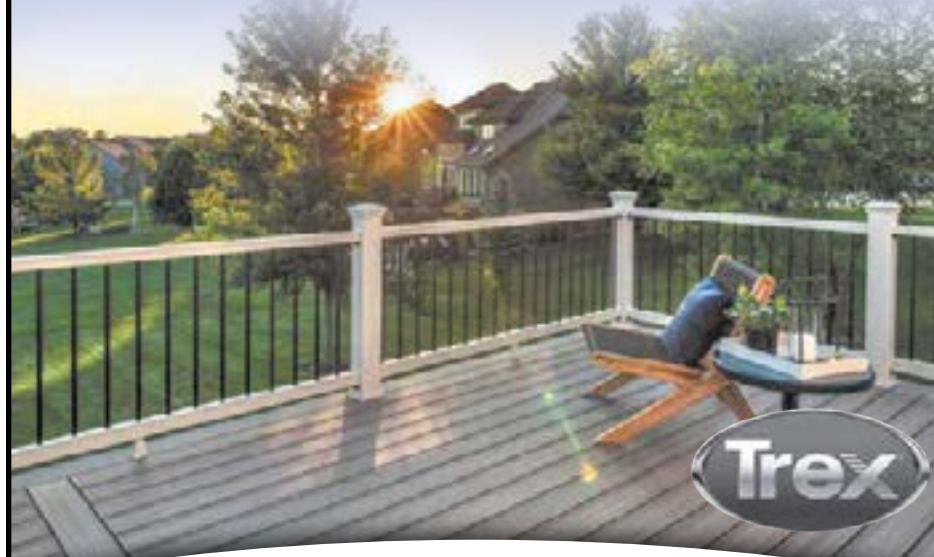


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