

Sidney Police Searching For Information On Attempted Theft

By Jaymi Mozeak

In the early morning of Friday, Dec. 22, two individuals were seen outside a business in Sidney attempting to steal some copper wire.

They pulled up behind the business in a white four-door car. The wire they attempted to take was heavy gauge, and the potential thieves were unsuccessful in cutting any away. They did, however, cause significant damage to the wire and, as a result, could be facing charges of attempted theft

and criminal mischief.

Police Chief Mark Kraft said, "The Sidney Police Department is interested in hearing from anyone with information about copper wire or scrap metal theft in our area and, as always, the Sidney Police Department encourages the public to report any suspicious activity when they see it. If you see something, say something."

According to the Montana State legislative website, www.leg.mt.gov, a person convicted of criminal mischief can be fined up to

\$1,500, incarcerated up to six months in the county jail, or both unless they caused more than that in damages, injured a domesticated hooved animal, or caused a substantial disruption in public services. In that case the punishment could be much worse.

Anyone with information concerning this event is requested to contact the Sidney Police Department at 406-433-2210 or Richland County, Montana Crime Stoppers at 406-433-6666.



Two individuals were filmed attempting to steal high gauge copper wiring from a local business. The Sidney Police Department is asking for individuals with any information on this or any other copper wiring or scrap metal thefts to contact them at 406-433-2210 or Richland County Crime Stoppers at 406-433-6666. (Photo from Sidney Police Department Facebook page)



Les Schwab Tire Center To Open Store In Sidney, New Store Helps Create Jobs

Submitted by Riane Welch, Les Schwab

Sidney residents will now have a one-stop shop to ensure their vehicles are safely equipped to transport them wherever they need to go. The newest Les Schwab Tire Center will open on Wednesday, Jan. 10, at 600 N Central Ave., in front of Candlewood Suites.

This will be Les Schwab's first Sidney location and its 21st store in Montana. Les Schwab's offerings will include brake services, alignment, shocks, oil changes, snow chains, accessories, and more; a robust range of services compared to other tire shops. The new Sidney store will feature seven service bays and offer online appointments. Customers will be able to take advantage of discounts on tire services with a direct mail postcard arriving to Sidney homes soon.

Store manager AJ McGarvey, who has been with the company 11 years, said he looks forward to bringing the company's world-class customer service to the community. "Our customers count on us to look them in the eye, shake their hands, and do what we say we'll do," he said. "We know we can make a positive difference for the people of Sidney. And our commitment to service extends beyond customers. We're also dedicated to supporting our employees and communities, and we look forward to doing that here in Sidney."

This new location will employ nine full time people from our local community. Les Schwab offers a competitive pay and benefits package designed to reward employees' hard work. It also offers growth opportunities for everyone through comprehensive training programs and support.

MNAXLP

LYIP Continues Fight Over Maintenance Costs Of Fish Bypass

By Dianne Swanson

In November 2023, a delegation from the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project visited Washington, DC, to personally advocate for the preservation of our local communities, including farmers in the Yellowstone Valley, and nationwide. Making the trip were LYIP general manager James Brower and his wife, Stacey; Mark Iverson, Montana Irrigation District president; and Todd Cayko, North Dakota Irrigation District vice-president.

The issue at hand is the cost of maintaining the newly constructed fish bypass, which is not owned by the irrigation district but is in need of massive repairs, and will always need maintenance. LYIP has always had to repay the cost of the irrigation infrastructure, including the initial construction of the irrigation facilities. The bypass, however, is not a part of the irrigation infrastructure and does not affect irrigation in any way.

It was built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to help mitigate the effects of their dams on the Missouri River and comply with preserving the pallid sturgeon under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). It is located on Bureau of Reclamation land, not private land, and was built without an agreement from LYIP. The irrigation project predates the bypass by almost 120 years, and the ESA is not retroactive. LYIP has neither the equipment, nor the dollars, required to maintain the fish bypass, nor is it their responsibility.

The irrigation project is lobbying Congress to ensure the fish bypass is correctly classified as a separate endangered species project or that Congress make a permanent determination

that any dollars spent on the Federal Endangered Species Fish Bypass are not reimbursable by the irrigation districts.

With the invaluable assistance of Drew Lesofski, LYIP's lobbyist in DC, the group attained access to various wings of the capitol and were safely escorted in and out, something that was difficult due to ongoing demonstrations and parts of the building being sealed off from the public. They were also able to meet with all of the Montana representatives and their staffers, as well as, staffers from North Dakota Senators Cramer and Hoven and Representative Armstrong.

Meetings started off with Montana Coffee with Senators Tester and Daines, Representatives Rosendale and Zinke, and their staff. "It's open to everyone from Montana," Brower stated. "It was really great. We were able to get contact information and actually visit with the Montana representatives and their staffers, who are hugely important, in a casual atmosphere."

Individual meetings followed, starting with Senator Daines and his staff. Both were very helpful according to Brower. Representative Rosendale was next. He had actually drafted language in a bill through the Natural Resources committee to have the Corps provide funding for Fish Bypass maintenance. However, that language was removed since it required money and it was determined that it was not germane to the Natural Resources bill being considered in the House at the time. The proposed bill will be going through the Senate and, with the full support of Senator Tester who is a senior legislator



The Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project delegation to Washington, DC was welcomed by Montana's Congressmen. Pictured (L-R) are: Senator Jon Tester, Representative Ryan Zinke, Stacey Brower, James Brower, Mark Iverson, Todd Cayko, Senator Steve Daines and Representative Matt Rosendale. (Photo submitted)

and on the powerful Appropriations Committee, the bill should pass. Without House support, however, neither a determination on responsibility nor funding for bypass maintenance has been resolved.

The following day, important meetings with Senator Tester and his staff as well as the Western Caucus and the Senate Appropriations Committee staff took place. Most senators were headed home for the weekend by that time but Brower said the group was very pleased that Senator Tester made time to visit with them before they left. He said Senator Tester and Representative Rosendale were very supportive, as were all the congressmen they met with.

Brower explained that the Western Caucus meeting was critical since it is a bipartisan group of senators from all the western states. LYIP was able to explain the importance of the irrigation

project, not just to farmers; but also to cities, towns, and businesses.

Everyone they met seemed excited to meet actual real people from Montana, especially those who live along the Yellowstone, and treated them very well according to Brower. The presence of Stacey Brower was also valuable as she was able to represent the Montana families the delegates are sworn to protect and present a woman's point of view. Making personal connections with staffers was important since they would be the ones drafting actual legislation. Brower was impressed with how attentive those staffers were, asking detailed questions, and paying attention to the issues that were being discussed.

"The whole purpose of the trip was to point out that the Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps never got any agreement from the irrigation district to maintain

or be financially responsible for the fish bypass. The bypass has nothing to do with irrigation; it is not inside the irrigation district boundaries, but on Bureau land. Without maintenance, the bypass will stop passing endangered species. It will erode wider and become shallower, it will become a swamp instead of a safe passage for the fish. Or it could wash out and the river could move away from the dam, the head works, and the canal; drying up the entire valley," Brower stated emphatically. "The irrigation district does not have any equipment large enough to maintain the bypass, the Corps does," he added.

LYIP strongly encourages everyone to contact their congressmen and urge them to pass language that maintenance and repair costs will not be reimbursable by the irrigators. That language does not require appropriations, making that bill easier

(Continued on page 2A)



Early Christmas Eve morning, a company work truck was stolen from the Holiday Convenience store on 8th Ave. in Watford City. (Photo from Watford City Police Department's Facebook page.)

Company Work Truck Stolen In Watford City On Christmas Eve

By Jaymi Mozeak

Sunday, Dec. 24, at 4:11 a.m., a company-owned work truck was reported stolen from the Holiday gas station on 8th Ave., Watford City. It has since been recovered.

Before the vehicle was stolen, just before 4:10 a.m., the suspect's image and face were captured by cameras taking images both inside and outside

the building. The Watford City Police Department released the image of the suspect on Facebook, requesting information from the community, and the truck was recovered at 4:53 a.m., less than an hour after. It was found on the 200 block of 2nd Ave. NW, not even a mile away, unoccupied, but still running. The suspect was not in custody, as of Dec. 29, but the

investigation is ongoing.

Watford City Police Chief Jesse Wellen said, "I guess the main message from this should be even with cold weather upon us, keep your vehicles locked. If you want to have it running, utilize the remote start so people are not able to just jump in and drive away."

Happy

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Senior Center Events

Congregate Meals:

Fairview: Mon. & Wed., 11:30 a.m., 217 5th St. West, 406-742-5050

Sidney: Tues. & Fri., 11:30 a.m., 813 3rd St. NE, 406-433-8077

Savage: Thurs., 12 p.m., 178 E Main St., 406-776-9980

Lambert: Tues., 12 p.m., Fox Lake Sr. Center, 406-774-3439

Activities/Cards

Fairview: Men/Cards, Mon.-Fri. daily at 12:30 p.m.; Women’s Cards: Wed. at 12:30 p.m.; 217 5th St. West, 406-742-5050

Sidney: Cards Thurs., 1 p.m.; 813 3rd St. NE, 406-433-8077

Lambert: Cards, Tues., 1 p.m.; Fox Lake Sr. Center, 406-774-3439

Senior Commodity Distribution (Change)

2190 W Holly St., 406-433-3701; the last full Thurs., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; & Fri., 9 a.m.-12 p.m. of each month

AREA RECOVERY GROUPS

MONDAYS:

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, First Lutheran Church music room, Watford City.

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 Entrance.

7 p.m. – 24-hour Women’s AA group meeting, Northern Pump & Compression, Watford City. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663.

THURSDAYS:

7 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 - p.m.- 5 Stones - Faith Based Recovery meeting, Sidney First Church of the Nazarene, 606 9th St. SW Back door is open.

7 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 Entrance.

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

Sakakawea

Current Elevation.....1839.2

Last Week’s Elev.1839.1

One Year Ago1831.1

Release For Day (C.F.S.)17,000

SIDNEY WEATHER DATA

Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Dec. 25.....	29	6	0.000
Dec. 26.....	31	10	0.000
Dec. 27.....	38	11	0.000
Dec. 28	41	13	0.000
Total 2023 YTD Precipitation.....	13.644		

LYIP Continues Fight...

(Continued from page 1A)

to pass with bi-partisan support. It was suggested by the Senate Appropriations staff that the 2024 Water Resource Development bill they are currently working on would probably be the best place to insert language like ‘Fish bypass expenses are not reimbursable by the irrigation districts’. This language would protect not just LYIP irrigators, but all the drinking wells in our valley including the cities’ wells.

In Montana, contact Senators Tester and Daines and Representatives Rosendale and Zinke. In North Dakota, contact Senators Cramer and Hoeven and Representatives Armstrong to ask for their active support of the LYIP amendment.

Thank You

The Lower Yellowstone Chapter of A.B.A.T.E. would like to extend our deepest appreciation and THANK YOU to the following businesses and the people of this wonderful caring community. Without your help and generosity, we could not have helped to brighten the Holiday season for hundreds of children in Richland County. The toy drive was held in conjunction with “Gifts From The Heart”, which we helped to distribute the gifts to parents.

Ace Hardware, API, Armstrong Law, Action Auto, B&B Builders, Big Sky Embroidery, Big Sky Siding and Windows, Blue Rock, Border Steel, CW Molloy Trucking, Cellular Plus Verizon, The Coffee Stop, Craig’s Meat, Frontier Heating, Gem City Motors, Eagle Country Ford, High Plains Veterinary Clinic, Jerry Z Repairs, Johnson Hardware & Furniture, KB Bubbles, Ken’s Heating & Sheet Metal, Lee’s Tire & Services Center, Lower Yellowstone REC, M3 Meats, Montana State A.B.A.T.E., Montana Bare Cave, Prairie Electric, Prewitt & Company, Ranger Lounge, Ribbon & Rail, Richland Pump & Supply, The Rush, Sidney Body Shop, State Farm Insurance-Mike Morasko, Stockman Bank, Sunny’s Family Restaurant, TNT Well Service, Tractor Supply, Tri-County Implement, Westmoreland, White Drug, VFW, Q2 Artificial Lift Service, Pat & Dee Hamburg, BCI, JP Grills, Sidney Eye Care, Olson Plumbing, Sidney Carburetor & Electric, Tom & Jeane Barnhart, Zackari & Alyssa Myers, Becky Zueger, Shannon Miller, Candy Markwald, Gary Moy, Americorp Member, Beth Iken, Don & Missy Smiles, Jack & Jacklyn Damm, Lesley Thiessen, Brandon & Stephanie Ler, Fran & Kathy Helmuth, Kirby & Kelly Feldman, Jay & Heidi Maron, Rolf & Rita Jacobson, and Hodge Cleaning Service. We also want to thank everyone who donated toys to the drop boxes, brought us gifts, or bought from our chili stand. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Winter Is Bear-Able At The Sidney-Richland County Library

Submitted by Miranda Evenson

Sidney-Richland County Library is bringing back the Winter Reading Challenge! A twist on SRCL’s Summer Reading Program, the Winter Reading Challenge aims to keep reading skills strong while also being fun and entertaining. From Jan. 1-31, patrons of all ages can register and participate through READsquared.

The 2024 Winter Reading Challenge theme is “Winter is Bear-able.” The annual program challenges patrons to track their progress as they read, attend library events, and complete weekly missions in READsquared. Examples of missions include “Check out an item from our Library of Things”, “Make a snow angel”, “Read with a stuffed animal” and many more.

Last winter, 86 Richland County residents participated in the program. The Library’s goal for 2024 is to have 100 participants. Patrons who log 400 minutes and complete the challenge will be entered into a prize drawing. Another way to earn a prize entry is to complete three of the four missions. There are six food-themed prizes!

Studies show the benefits of reading can include reducing stress and increasing quality of sleep, slowing down the onset of dementia. The benefits of regularly putting time aside to lose ourselves in a good book are far-reaching and, in some cases, life-changing.

For more information on the Sidney-Richland County’s Winter Reading Challenge, visit the Library, call them at 406-433-1917, or check out their Facebook page.

2023 Election Precinct Redistricting

Submitted by Richland County Clerk & Recorder

New precinct boundaries have been established for Richland County after the adoption of the 2023 Legislative Districting Plan. Section 13-3-102 (1), MCA, requires that precinct boundaries conform to legislative boundaries following the adoption of a districting and apportionment plan under Article V, Section 14 of the Montana Constitution.

The Legislative redistricting plan was determined by the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission. The new plan divided Richland into two House and two Senate Districts. The division mainly follows along Highway 200 and the Yellowstone River, with some variations closer to the Sidney area. The redistricting split Precinct 7 (Lambert area) into Precinct 7A & Precinct 7B.

House District 30 and Senate District 15 is mostly north of Highway 200 & Highway 23, this includes Precincts 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 12, 17, 19, 22, 23, and Precinct 7A.

House District 33 and Senate District 17 is mostly south of Highway 200 and Highway 23 and east of the Yellowstone River, this includes Precincts 5, 9, and Precinct 7B.

The new precinct map is available on the Richland County website, Richland.org/elections.

To look up your voter information go to the Montana Voter Portal at <http://voterportal.mt.gov>.

Correction

In the Dec. 27 issue of the Roundup on the front page in the article Lower Yellowstone Lodge #90 Hosts “Gifts From The Heart”, it should have said Lower Yellowstone Chapter of ABATE not ABATE Motorcycle Club. The Lower Yellowstone Chapter of ABATE is a non-profit organization that bought eight bicycles for this event and is also a major donor of the “Gifts from the Heart” program.

EVENTS

SEND US YOUR EVENTS!

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

RICHLAND COUNTY

Events in Sidney unless otherwise listed. MT.

Now Through Jan. 31

Sidney High School Leadership Class Shoe Drive

- Four members of the Leadership Class are collecting shoes for those in need. If you would like to donate a pair of shoes there is a drop box at the main entry of the Sidney High School. For more info or to schedule a pickup for shoes call 406-599-5143.

Wed., Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

10 a.m. - Storytime - Ages 4-5, but all ages welcome. Focuses on kindergarten readiness and includes songs, fingerplays, stories & a craft. Sidney-Richland County Library, 121 3rd Ave NW.

Fri., Jan. 5

7:30 p.m. - Volleyball Sports Night - Come bring your family & have a great time, 1215 5th St. SE. For more info call 701-317-2309.

Sat., Jan. 6

1-4 p.m. - Family Fun Day - Glaze your own ceramics coin bank or cup. \$15 per piece. MonDak Heritage Center, 120 3rd Ave. SE.

7 p.m. - Basketball Sports Night - Come bring your family & have a great time, 1215 5th St. SE. For more info call 701-317-2309.

Mon., Jan. 8, 22 & 29

4 p.m. - Lego Club - Children in grade Kindergarten-5 can stop by for this drop-in activity. Sidney-Richland County Library, 121 3rd Ave NW.

Wed., Jan. 10, 17, 24 & 31

5:30 p.m. - 4 Week Session of Line Dancing - Learn to line dance step by step, no experience necessary. \$50 for four 45-minute sessions. Cutting Edge Dance Studio, 121 2nd Ave NE, 406-480-2669.

Thurs., Jan. 11

11:30 a.m. - Richland Red Hatters Lunch Meeting

- Gullivers. To RSVP call Paula, 406-489-2843 or Margaret, 406-489-1535.

Fri., Jan. 12

10 a.m. - Bilingual Storytime - (German & English) Ages 4-5, but all ages welcome. Focuses on kindergarten readiness & includes songs, fingerplays, stories & a craft. Sidney-Richland County Library, 121 3rd Ave NW.

Sun., Jan. 14

12-3:30 p.m. - First Lutheran Church of Savage Annual Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner - \$20 adults, \$5 children 12 & under, 298 4th Ave.

Tues., Jan. 16

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Communities West V Exhibit - through Feb. 2 - Thriving In The MonDak Chill Exhibit - through Feb. 3 - MonDak Heritage Center, 120 3rd Ave. SE. Closed: Jan. 3-5 & 8-13. Reg. Hours: Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. For more info call 406-433-3500, or visit <https://mondakheritagecenter.org/>.

Thurs., Jan. 18

6 p.m. - Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce & Richland Economic Development Meeting & Cocktail Reception - New Business Showcase Pre-Social 6 p.m., Annual Meeting 6:30 p.m. Hosting Gov. Greg Gianforte. Fun presentations showcasing businesses & awardees. Performance by Sidney High School Band. Sidney Yellowstone Mercantile, 102 Central Ave.

Sat., Jan. 20

1 p.m. - Pastel Landscapes - All skill levels welcome to create beautiful landscapes with pastel paints with guest instructor Belinda O'Dell. MonDak Heritage Center, 120 3rd Ave. SE. Members \$25; Not Yet Members \$35. Call 406-433-3500 or email mdhc@richland.org to reserve your spot.

McKENZIE COUNTY

Events in Watford City unless otherwise listed. CT.

Fri., Jan. 5 (First Friday of each month through April)

6-8 p.m. - Wintering Well Classes - Free, supplies will be needed. Reconnect with creative arts such as crocheting, knitting, sourdough, embroidery & more. Feel free to bring your own projects. McKenzie County Heritage Park & ND Oil Museum, 904 2nd Ave. SW.

7 p.m. - Worship Night In Watford - Everyone welcome, free event. Start out 2024 praising & in worship. Watford City Civic Center Gym, 213 2nd St. NE.

Sat., Jan. 13

1-5 p.m. - Nerf Wars - Ages 6 & up. Bring you own Nerf gun, ammo will be provided. (Limited quantity of Nerf guns can be provided) \$5 a person. Rough Rider Center, 2209 Wolves Den Pkwy. For more info email Matt, mattg@roughridercenter.com.

Wed., Jan. 17

7 p.m. - WCHC FFA Donkey Basketball - Watch games of 'Donkey Basketball' between school staff, first responders, & FFA members. Win cash in the Rocket-A-Donkey contest. Free donkey rides during intermission for children 12 & under. Watford City High School, 2313 Wolves Den Parkway.

Fri., Jan. 26

5 p.m. - McKenzie County Soil Conservation District 11th Annual Cowgirls 'n Conservation - The Quilting Bee. 5 p.m. Social, 6 p.m. Dinner. McKenzie County Ag Expo, 12880 25th St. NW. For more info or to register go to eventbrite.com.

WILLIAMS COUNTY

Events in Williston unless otherwise listed. CT.

Fri., Jan. 12

6-8 p.m. - Pastel Landscapes - Learn to draw different landscapes with soft pastels in this beginner class. Choose a meadow, a seascape, or let your creativity run wild! \$30 members, \$35 not yet members. James Memorial Art Center, 621 1st Ave. W. Space limited, preregister at thejamesmemorial.org.

Sat., Jan. 13

11 a.m.-1 p.m. - Lemon University Kickoff - Fantastic time of free pizza & one game of bowling. Family friendly event, that will be kick starting the year by signing up kids for Lemon University & Lemonade Day App. Strikezone, 1804 2nd Ave. W.

7 p.m.-midnight - Game Night - Free & open to the public. Bring your favorite games & snacks. (2nd & 4th Sat. of each month) James Memorial Art Center, 621 1st Ave. W.

Fri., Jan. 26

5:30 p.m. - Williston Area Chamber of Commerce Presents “Stars of Williston” - Awards, appreciation & auction. The Grand Williston Hotel & Conference Center, 3601 2nd Ave. W. For tickets visit willistonchamber.com/annual-awards.

DAWSON COUNTY

Events in Glendive unless otherwise listed. MT.

Sat., Jan. 6

8 a.m.-4 p.m. - Forensics Meet - Dawson County High School will be hosting this speech & debate competition. For more info contact Dawson County High School at 406-377-5265.

Wed., Jan. 10

5:15 p.m.-6:15 p.m. - LifeStyle Balance -Nutrition & exercise program aimed at preventing type 2 diabetes. Glendive Medical Center. For more info contact Penny Maher, 406-345-3309 or Email: pmaher@gmc.org Registration deadline Jan. 5.

Tues., Jan. 16

7:30-8:30 p.m. - DCHS Winter Band Concert - Dawson County High School.

Bergman Honored With Irrigation Excellence Award



Mid-Rivers is a telecommunications cooperative serving a 30,000-square-mile area of eastern Montana.

Retired joint supervisor of the Williston Research Extension Center and Eastern Ag Research Center, Jerald "Jerry" Bergman, was honored by the North Dakota Irrigation Association (NDIA) with the Irrigation Excellence Award. (Photo submitted)

Save the Date for the 11th Annual Cattlemen's Ball

If you would like to be a sponsor of this event please call Kristin Larson at 406-480-5139



Funk Named Director Of NDSU Williston Research Extension Center

"I am excited about the mission we have to con-



The center will continue its role in improving crop varieties available to match cropping systems in the re-

"Collaborating with farmers, ranchers and stakeholders to address needs with applied research and economics is a professional calling," adds Funk. "I look forward to working with my colleagues to develop Extension content with effective solutions."

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OBITUARIES

Eva V. Sanford, 88 Watford City, ND

The family held a private service for Eva at 11a.m., CST on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023, at the Fulkerson-Stevenson Memorial Chapel, Watford City, ND, with Chaplin Rob Favorite officiating. Inurnment of Eva's remains will be in the Schafer Cemetery, Watford City, ND. Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home, Watford City, ND, is assisting the family. Remembrances, condolences, and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com. God Bless You All.

Eva Vera (Thomas) Sanford, age 88, a loving mother, grandmother, and great grandmother, passed away peacefully on Dec. 23, 2023, in Watford City.

Eva was born on Aug. 17, 1935, in Watford City, ND, to George O. Thomas, Sr. and Lilly Griebel Thomas as the second youngest in a family of 13 children.

Eva attended high school in Watford City and graduated in 1953. She married LeRoy Sanford on July 9, 1953. She and LeRoy were blessed with 4 children. They divorced in 1963. Her proudest accomplishment was raising her children and seeing them all graduate from high school and college. She often bragged that all of her kids were State Champions. Eva later married Garth Johnson (May 1990-divorced 2000) and enjoyed traveling to every state in the U.S. and camping.

Eva worked at Piggly Wiggly/Jack & Jill for over 28 years. She loved to dance and often enjoyed an evening of dancing at the American Legion Club following a long week of work. Eva's best friend was Henry Skjelvik, and some of her most enjoyable years were those she spent as a Real Estate Salesperson selling real estate with Henry.

Eva's house was spotless. She had the cleanest



Eva V. Sanford

windows and driveway in town. She loved to plant moss roses, and enjoyed seeing her tiger lilies bloom each year. She also loved to fuss over her lawn, and wasn't bashful about re-seeding parts of it every year if it wasn't up to her standards. She was the worst enemy a dandelion could ever have. She especially enjoyed the visits of neighbors stopping by to see her.

Eva loved to read, especially James Patterson books, and never had an overdue book at the library. She often times would use a pencil to write her initials in the back of the book so she could tell if she'd read it or not. (But don't tell anyone!)

Eva always had an extra special place in her heart for her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, and enjoyed watching them participate in sports. Her Family was truly her pride and joy in life. She loved to send big musical birthday cards to her grandchildren and great grandchildren (even if they required extra postage) and usually followed up with a call on their special day.

She loved all visits from the little ones and the candy dish was always full.

For many, many years, Eva commonly made pancakes for all who stopped by to visit on Sunday mornings, and enjoyed watching "those miserable Vikings" on Sunday afternoons. In her later years, she reserved early Sunday mornings for tuning in to her favorite evangelists, David Jeremiah, and Dr. Charles Stanley. Her strong faith in God gives us all peace.

Eva is survived by her son, Duane Sanford, Watford City; her son, Ken (Carol), Watford City; her son, Ron (Janet), New Town; and her daughter, Linda (Gary)Melland, Watford City. She is also survived by 8 grandchildren; Amy (Nick) Polivka, Melony (James)Douglas, Rory (Lisa)Sanford, Brad (Amber) Sanford, Kayla (Peter) Lardakis, Kevin Sanford, Ross (Sarah) Melland, and Shawn (Savana) Melland, and 21 great grandchildren; Trey, Camden, Blake, and Weston Polivka; Zooey Douglas, Kooper, Tucker, and Croy Sanford; Cody, Jack, and Carson Sanford; Sia and William Lardakis; Sonny Sanford; Luke, Reece, and Olivia Melland; Lauren, Colt, Raigen, and Rush Melland. One great-great grandson Jaxson Polivka (Trey). She is survived by one sister Barb Jorgenson, Watford City, and numerous nieces and nephews (42 on Thomas side "by Our count at last gathering").

Eva was preceded in death by her parents, her sisters; Florence Johnson, Hazel Johnson, Clara Johnson, Lillian Knight, Vivian Beckman, and Esther Stewart; her brothers; George O. Thomas, Jr., Floyd Thomas, Marvin Thomas, Roy Thomas, and Ralph Thomas; and Grandson's spouse, Stephanie Sanford.

The family would like to express their most sincere Thank You to all of the staff at McKenzie County Health, and the excellent staff at the Good Shepherd Home for their kind and loving care. A special thank you to Dr. Gary Ramage for his many years of care.

Joy Buxbaum, 89 Sidney, MT

Funeral services for Joy Buxbaum, 89, Sidney, MT, were held Saturday, Dec. 30, 2023, 2 p.m. at the Limitless Church, Sidney, MT, with Pastor Dustin Morgan officiating. A luncheon followed the graveside service. Visitation was Friday, Dec. 29, 2023, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fulkerson-Stevenson Memorial Chapel, Sidney, MT. A family receiving friends service was Friday, Dec. 29, 2023, 6:30 p.m. at the Limitless Church, Sidney, MT. Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT is assisting the family. Remembrances, condolences, and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

Joy passed away at her home on Friday, Dec. 15, 2023, after a long battle with cancer.

The fourth of seven children, Joy was born to John and Martha (Hackley) McGinnis on May 24, 1934, in Sidney, MT. Her family lived at Sioux Pass before moving to Crane. Growing up, Joy and Tiny had mutual friends, but it was their mothers who decided they should be properly



Joy Buxbaum

introduced. They began dating in 1952 and married on Sept. 19, 1953. Tiny and Joy attended the Assembly of God Church.

Joy and Tiny made their first home south of Sidney. They had four children: Yvonne, Rodney, Donald, and Penny. In 1963 they moved to the ranch southeast of Sidney where they resided until their deaths.

Joy took pride in being a rancher's wife. She was a fantastic cook and baked the best apple pie. She always had a pot of coffee on and food ready for anyone who stopped by. Joy was always trying to feed you something... she never wanted anyone to go away hungry!

She spent a lot of time in the kitchen – for years she would pack a hot lunch and

take it to the fields where the men were working. Usually, a roast beef dinner complete with mashed potatoes and gravy, all in the trunk of her car. She had to be sure that Tiny was eating!

Joy had her chickens and milk cows and would name her favorites. She sold cream and eggs and butchered chickens. She eventually gave up on the chores and decided to clean homes for the elderly as her act of service. She enjoyed the time spent with them.

Always keeping busy, Joy loved to can tomatoes and put-up chokecherry jelly. She didn't like to sit for long! When she was 87, she became a certified mail carrier for USPS. She would meet Von and get her neighbors' mail and deliver it on her way back home. She loved doing that as it got her out and occasionally, she got to visit with a neighbor.

Spending time with her family was very important to Joy. She loved having her family around her and felt blessed to have them nearby. Since Tiny passed, her companions became her beloved kitties who comforted her and kept her company as well as Cooper, her dog. She said they were her therapy.

Joy attended the Assembly of God Church her entire life. The past year was the only time she missed church due to her illness.

Always willing to help others any way she could, she was a kind, giving person. She showed her love not only with a meal, but with encouragement and faith that tomorrow would be a better day. She showed us how to live our lives by her example, and you could be sure she was praying for us all!

Joy is survived by her three remaining children: Yvonne (Sherman) DeTienne, Sidney; Rodney (Marie Krum), Sidney; and Penny (Scott) McRae, Kalispell; two sisters, Beverly Pust, Whittier, CA; and Sharon Gerding, Lake Havasu, AZ; and seven grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Joy is preceded in death by her husband Tiny (Wilmer) Buxbaum, son Donald Buxbaum, parents John and Martha McGinnis, great-granddaughter Angel Faith Emly, sisters, Ellen Wyman and Carrie Fischer, and brothers, Leo and Tom McGinnis.

Joy loved and treasured her family and friends and they loved and treasured her in return. She will be missed terribly. Joy loved her Lord Jesus Christ and it is comforting to know she is with him now.

Amy Marie Fugate, 48 Fairview, MT

Funeral services for Amy Marie Fugate, Fairview, MT, were at 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023, at the Fairview Fire Hall, Fairview, MT, with Pastor Tim O'Shields officiating. Visitation was Friday, Dec. 1, 2023, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the funeral home and one hour before service at the fire hall. Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT assisted the family. Remembrances, condolences, and pictures were shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com. In lieu of flowers memorials were given in Amy's name to: Relay for Life, Breast Cancer Awareness, or Out of the Darkness for Suicide Prevention.

Amy Marie Fugate, beloved wife, mother, sister, family, and friend- who was once our angel on Earth, has now risen to be our angel in Heaven as of Nov. 25, 2023.

She was born on Feb. 8, 1975, alongside her twin brother Travis Haugen in Helena, MT to their mother, Joyce Taylor (Haugen), and Jeff Haugen. They moved to Sidney in October 1986 and began a life there where both Amy and Travis attended Sidney Public Schools. Amy enjoyed being with her friends, playing volleyball, and all her animals growing up. She also loved her time spent in Central Montana on the Taylor farm and ranch where her mother, Joyce, grew up; and was able to spend time with her Grandma Emily, uncles, and cousins.

Amy soon found a guy that could handle her fierce, yet awesome love for life- Lloyd Fugate, and they married Aug. 22, 1995. They bought a home in Fairview, MT, where they began to grow their beautiful family, with son, Donald (10/26/1996), and a few years later, a daughter, Justina (3/28/1999). Donald and Justina were her pride and joy, giving them every opportunity to grow into the amazing adults they are now. Amy also had a powerful love for animals of all types, especially her many dogs and cats who were just as much family as anyone.

Amy's presence was felt throughout her community, where she meant so much to so many. She loved hard, cared deeply, and will leave a deep hole in all of our hearts but we know she is celebrating with her mother once again. We love you, Amy, "so much it hurts".

Amy is survived by her husband Lloyd Fugate; children, Donald and Justina; brother Travis Haugen; mother-in-law, Carol Fugate; Uncles Robert (Betty), Donald (Pauline), and Ken (Leslie) Taylor; step sister April (David) Duffner; step brother Michael (Bobby Wolf) Peterman; many cousins, her special friend Mary Norgard; and also multiple "extra" nieces, nephews, sons, and daughters all over her community.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Joyce Taylor (Haugen), biological father Wayne VanDerSande, Grandma and Grandpa Robert & Emily Taylor, Aunt Polly Taylor, Aunt Leslie Taylor, Cousin Nathan Taylor, and brother-in-law, Jimmy Fugate. (Also, her many pups that have crossed the rainbow bridge.)



Amy Marie Fugate




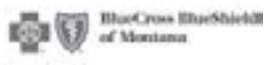





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2023 NDSU Corn Hybrid Variety Trial Results Now Available

By NDSU Agriculture Communication
The 2023 North Dakota State University Variety Trial Results and Selection Guide for Corn (A793) is now available online and in print. The guide can be accessed online at ndsu.ag/cornvt23.
"The corn hybrid guide is a good source of information for farmers and agronomists looking for variety performance data from around the state," says Clair Keene, NDSU Extension small grains and corn agronomist. "We appreciate our industry partners who participate in these trials and make this

work possible."
Printed copies are available through your NDSU Extension county office or nearest NDSU Research Extension Center (REC).
"Like North Dakota farmers, we had high variability in the yields of our 2023 corn trials," says Keene. "We had a trial average of 244 bushels per acre at our Lisbon site in Ransom County, but only 171 bushels at the Abercrombie site in Richland County, both in our southern testing zone. We had some locations that struggled with dry conditions but others that did quite

well."
Keene adds, "Another factor to keep in mind when comparing corn hybrids is moisture at harvest. Because drying down wet corn can considerably add to your cost of production, it's important to look for varieties that mature reliably in your area in addition to having high yield. When comparing two or more varieties of interest, be sure to take a look at the moisture at harvest as a hybrid that dries down more quickly may offer a savings in terms of drying cost."

DPHHS Urges Consumers To Dispose Of Recalled Quaker Oats Products

Submitted by Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services

State health officials have said the Quaker Oats Company has announced a recall of several types of granola bars and granola cereals because they may be contaminated with *Salmonella*.

The recalled product was for sale at several Montana retail locations including grocery stores, gas stations, and in vending machines.

The recalled product was sold in packages, singles, and in snack boxes with other brands. A complete list of recalled products can be found at www.fda.gov.

Salmonella is a type of bacteria that can cause diarrheal illness if eaten. Most people infected with *Salmonella* experience diarrhea, fever, and stomach cramps. Symptoms usually start six hours to six days after swallowing the bacteria, and most people recover without treatment in four to seven days.

Children younger than age five, adults 65 years and older, and people with weakened immune systems are at risk for more severe illness that could require medical treatment or hospitalization. If you believe you have an illness due to *Salmonella*, please contact your healthcare provider.

Consumers who have the recalled product should dispose of it. Contact Quaker Consumer Relations at 1-800-492-9322 or visit <http://www.quakergranolarecall.com> for additional information or product reimbursement.

As of Dec. 15, 2023, there have been no confirmed reports of illness associated with the recalled products in Montana or elsewhere in the United States.

Montana Transparency Project Announces Jan. 3 Launch

Submitted by Addie Slinger, Montana Transparency Project Communications Chair

Helena — Government transparency is getting another watchdog in Montana with the creation and launch of the Montana Transparency Project (MTP), a non-profit, non-partisan initiative dedicated to helping organizations and individuals prepare and keep track of public information requests, educating local governments and elected officials on the Right to Know, and ensuring the protection of this constitutional provision for all Montanans.

MTP is excited to announce its official launch date of Wednesday, Jan. 3. The organization is prepared to assist with information requests immediately.

Along with front-end help on requests, the Transparency Project is available to submit requests on its own behalf when doing so would be in the public interest. Additionally, MTP hopes to serve as a general resource and consulting body for all things Right to Know.

Its co-founders are Jacob Linfesty, MTP's president, Lauren Halverson, vice president, Lydia Dal Nogare, treasurer, Caroline Bullock, secretary, and Addie Slinger, communication

chair. The five are all deeply passionate about the Montana Constitution and are overwhelmingly excited to see MTP, a project on which they've been working for months, officially launch.

"Making the Right to Know more accessible to Montanans will foster a more responsive and open government that will better serve the needs of our state," says Linfesty. "It's exciting working with other young Montanans who care about our state constitution. We know that this is an area where we can make a real difference by serving everyday Montanans who want to get involved, but aren't sure how."

The organization was born after Linfesty, Bullock, and Dal Nogare connected in summer 2023 while working in Helena. The three had found themselves in Right to Know-adjacent spaces and commiserated over how convoluted, and at times frustratingly ineffective, the information request process was; despite the Right to Know being enshrined in the Montana Constitution. They envisioned an organization that could help walk people through the request process, assist with follow-ups and even submit requests on its own behalf. Halverson became involved with MTP

while working with Linfesty on a legal research project, and Slinger was introduced to the group via a mutual connection in the government transparency space.

Linfesty is from Billings, and is currently in his first year of law school at Harvard. Bullock, raised in Helena, is a senior at Claremont McKenna College majoring in politics, philosophy, and economics. Dal Nogare, from Kalispell, is in her final year of law school at the University of Wisconsin. Halverson, originally from Broomfield, CO, and Slinger, born and raised in Helena, both attend law school at the University of Montana.

With guidance, collaboration and support from the Montana Freedom of Information Hotline, an institutional giant in the state's Right to Know space, the MTP board is excited to take on the issue of state and local government transparency. The Hotline and MTP, working together closely in each organization's endeavors, hope to chart a path toward partnership in the future and look forward to working together on projects and goals.

"The Montana Transparency Project will complement the free services the Montana Freedom of

Information Hotline provides through Right to Know specialist Peter 'Mike' Meloy, a veteran Helena attorney," says Montana FOI Hotline Chairwoman Melody Martinsen. "MTP will provide another option for citizens, particularly, to receive free, non-attorney assistance in filing requests for public documents, which can be confusing and frustrating for people new to the process."

"The Montana FOI Hotline board believes that MTP's expansion of services will benefit Montana citizens by providing another resource to help obtain those records deemed public by the Montana Constitution," Martinsen continues. "The Montana FOI Hotline and MTP plan to collaborate on public education efforts during 2024. Together, the two organizations have the capacity to work proactively to educate citizens about their rights under Montana's Constitution. We are enthusiastic about the opportunity to work with the MTP board on these efforts."

Visit MTP's website starting Jan. 3, at montana-transparencyproject.org for more information or to get in touch for help with a public information request.



Williston Native Overcomes Challenges In Boxing Ring, Business & Life

Submitted by Barb Peterson, Williston Economic Development

Williston - Mike Palmer isn't afraid of getting knocked down in life or boxing. It's getting back up that's important.

Palmer, 66, began his illustrious career in the oilfield and boxing ring after graduating from Williston High School in 1975.

"I just remember, for whatever reason, I was infatuated with the oilfield and pursued it," said Palmer.

He started his journey in the family business, but eventually branched out on his own, starting Petroleum Services 20 years ago.

The business, which initially encompassed re-tipping drilling bits and hot shotting, expanded into various facets of the oilfield industry.

Palmer proudly shared, "The smartest thing I ever did, as far as the business is concerned, is putting a cross in Petroleum Services." Despite initial reservations about potential offense, he

recognized the symbolism and connection to a higher power, stating, "Without help from above, this place wouldn't exist."

What started as a solo venture has evolved into a thriving enterprise with a current staff of 35. Petroleum Services specializes in hotshots, trucking, float equipment, drilling bit rentals and sales.

"In the beginning, I was the best truck driver we had, because I was the only one," he humorously notes.

His wife, Sonia, is an integral part of the team while his two grown daughters reside in Minneapolis.

Beyond the oilfields and business meetings, Palmer's interests extend to a pheasant farm, shooting range, boxing, CrossFit, and playing the piano. As he navigates the complexities of life, including head injuries and a misguided youth, Palmer embraces activities like piano lessons, viewing them as preventative measures against conditions like dementia and Alzheimer's.

"When I was 21, Jack and Bruce Wegley started a boxing club here in town, and I jumped on that," said Palmer. Unfortunately, drugs and alcohol deterred him from a potentially promising career. He returned to the ring after getting sober at the age of 27 and was ranked as high as 9th in the U.S. among amateurs. While he made a lot of memories and earned a lot of trophies, there was only one piece of hardware that he treasured.

"I had over 100 amateur fights and I won a few of them, and you get a trophy every time you win one. I threw them all away. I only kept the one that I got from the Williston Boxing Club, and it said, 'To Mike Palmer - A true champion because he never quit.' That's the only one that ever meant anything to me."

One of Palmer's fondest memories of boxing was when his old sparring partner, Virgil Hill, invited him to be on Virgil's farewell fight card. During the fight, Palmer, 57, was dropped



Sonia, Mike, and the Petroleum Services team in front of Petroleum Services building. (Submitted Photo)

twice and got back on his feet, but the referee stopped the fight. Afterwards, boxing legend Evander Holyfield asked Palmer "Why he was still fighting when it gets to a point in a fighter's career when 'you can't see them coming'," reflected Palmer. Despite the loss, the fight did get Palmer into the Guinness Book of World Records at that time as the oldest active professional boxer.

Palmer's story is not just one of business success but of personal triumph and resilience. As he continues to juggle business responsibilities, sobriety, and personal pursuits, he leaves behind a legacy that reflects the spirit of Williston — a spirit defined by hard work, determination, and an unwavering faith in the Lord.

"I want to be ready for the closing bell. It is going

to ring, and I want to have that scorecard in my favor," he said.

In the words of Muhammad Ali, a mantra that resonates with Palmer's journey: "Inside of a ring, or out, ain't nothing wrong with going down. It's staying down that's wrong." Mike Palmer, a true testament to the indomitable spirit of the Williston community.

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NDSU Soybean & Dry Bean Variety Data Publications Available For 2024 Crop Production Decisions

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

NDSU's soybean and dry bean variety guides help farmers make crop variety selection decisions.

Farmers and crop advisers needing crop variety information to make decisions for the 2024 crop season now have available the North Dakota State University Extension 2023 soybean and dry bean variety guides. These publications can be accessed online at nds.u.edu/varietytrials. Printed copies are available at NDSU Extension County offices and Research Extension Centers.

"Crop variety selection is one of the most important crop management decisions to be made to optimize seed yield and quality," according to Greg Endres, NDSU Extension agronomist and lead author of the two variety guides.

Endres encourages farmers to spend adequate time doing their homework to select the very best variety choices for their fields. NDSU crop breeders, research agronomists and numerous support staff have devoted substantial resources to generate this data to aid in making decisions regarding variety use.

The soybean 2023 variety trial results and selection guide contain 33 tables



Crop variety selection is one of the most important crop management decisions to be made to optimize seed yield and quality. (NDSU photo)

of agronomic, and seed yield and quality data from 28 NDSU research sites across the state. The trial tables are identified based on the general categories of herbicide-resistant or conventional. The guide also provides an overview on soybean variety selection (besides seed yield), including plant maturity, tolerance to iron-deficiency chlorosis, resistance to disease, including phytophthora root and stem rot and soybean cyst nematode, and herbicide-resistance traits. In addition, a table in the guide lists the 26 seed companies that submitted varieties for NDSU testing and their websites to allow you to obtain details on their respective varieties.

The new dry bean variety trial results and selection guide provides the opportunity to view 20 variety trial tables from eight North Dakota and Minnesota research sites. The bulk of data is associated with performance of pinto bean varieties, but

variety data is also available from black, navy, great northern, pink, small red and cranberry market classes.

Besides an expansion of the number of data tables in this year's guide, a table has been added that indicates pinto bean direct-harvest ratings. In addition, the number of varieties listed and their sources (origin or owner) has increased compared to previous issues of the guide.

Agriculture Risk Coverage & Price Loss Coverage Programs Receive 2018 Farm Bill 1-Year Extension, Farmers Can Now Enroll For The 2024 Crop Year

Submitted by USDA in Montana

Washington - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that agricultural producers can now enroll in the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2024 crop year. Producers can enroll and make election changes for the 2024 crop year starting Dec. 18, 2023. The deadline to complete enrollment and any election change is March 15, 2024.

On Nov. 16, 2023, President Biden signed into law H.R. 6363, the "Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024" (Pub. L. 118-22), which extended the "Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018" (Pub. L. 115-334), more commonly known as the 2018 Farm Bill, through Sept. 30, 2024. This extension allows authorized programs, including ARC and PLC, to continue operating.

"Having the Farm Bill extension in place means business as usual for Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage program implementation for the 2024 crop year-nothing has changed from previous years," said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. "These programs provide critical financial protections against commodity market volatilities for many American farmers so don't delay enrollment. Avoid the rush and contact your local FSA office for an appointment because even if you are not changing your program election for 2024, you still need to sign a contract to enroll."

2024 Elections and Enrollment

Producers can elect coverage and enroll in ARC-County (ARC-CO) or PLC, which provide crop-by-crop protection, or ARC-Individual (ARC-IC), which protects the entire farm. Although election changes for 2024 are optional, producers must enroll through a signed contract each year. Also, if a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm it will continue for 2024 unless an election change is made.

If producers do not submit their election revision by the March 15, 2024, deadline, their election remains the same as their 2023 election for commodities on the farm. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the cropland.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

2022 Crop Year Payments

This fall, FSA issued payments totaling more than \$267 million to agricultural producers who enrolled in the 2022 ARC-CO option and the ARC ARC-IC option for covered commodities that triggered a payment. Payments through the PLC option did not trigger for the 2022 crop year.

ARC and PLC payments for a given crop year are paid out the following fall to allow actual county yields and the Market Year Average prices to be finalized. These payments help mitigate fluctuations in either revenue or prices for certain crops. Payments for crops that may trigger for the 2023 crop year will be issued in the fall of 2024.

Crop Insurance Considerations

ARC and PLC are part of a broader USDA safety net that also includes crop insurance and marketing assistance loans.

Producers are reminded that ARC and PLC elections and enrollments can impact eligibility for some crop insurance products.

Producers on farms with a PLC election can purchase Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO) through their Approved Insurance Provider; however, producers on farms where ARC is the election are ineligible for SCO on their planted acres for that crop on that farm.

Unlike SCO, the Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) is unaffected by an ARC election. Producers may add ECO regardless of the farm program election.

Upland cotton farmers who choose to enroll seed cotton base acres in ARC or PLC are ineligible for the stacked income protection plan (STAX) on their planted cotton acres for that farm.

Web-Based Decision Tools

Many universities offer web-based decision tools to help producers make informed, educated decisions using crop data specific to their respective farming operations.

Producers are encouraged to use the tool of their choice to support their ARC and PLC elections.

More Information

For more information on ARC and PLC, producers can visit the ARC and PLC webpage or contact their local USDA Service Center. Producers can also make elections and complete enrollment online with level 2 eAuth.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. In the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate-smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit usda.gov.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Richland County intends to permit a new gravel pit location named the "Edam Pit". This gravel will be used solely for Richland County's purpose of road reconstruction/maintenance. This permit will allow for the removal of up to one million cubic yards of material to be mined. Gravel will be screened, crushed, and stockpiled within the pit boundaries. This pit is proposed to be 116 acres and is planned to be mined over a period of 30 years. The pit is located in Section 14, Township 21 North, Range 57 East. The pit will be located on the west half from said section from Richland County Road 340. If you would like a map of the proposed pit, please call Interstate Engineering at 406-433-5617 or send an email to McKade.Mahlen@interstateeng.com. Richland County Public Work's address is 2140 West Holly Street, Sidney, MT 59270. Their phone number is 406-433-2407. If you have any comments or concerns, please feel free to contact them at any time.

MNAXLP
(Publish December 27, 2023 and January 3 2024)

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SCAN ME

Lunch Menus!

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

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



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Reaching over 10,889 Households in Western North Dakota and Eastern Montana Every Week

(1) (Please Print)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
(17)	(18)	(19)	(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)
(25)	(26)	(27)	(28)	(29)	(30) (\$9.50)	(31) (\$9.60)	(32) (\$9.70)
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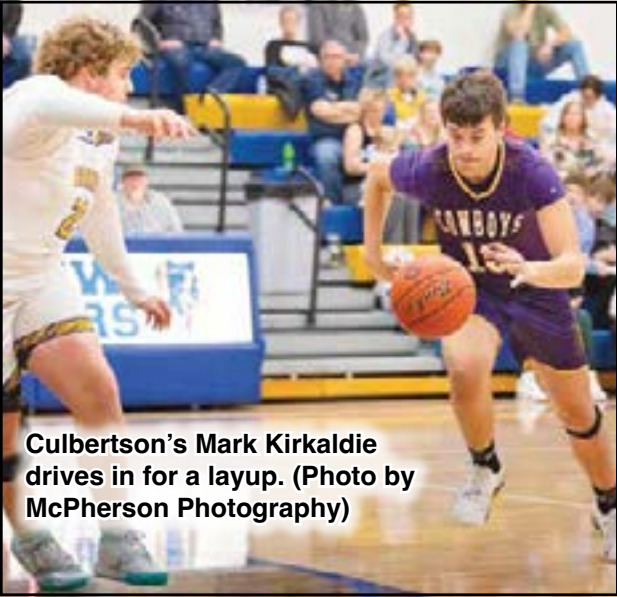


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Culbertson's Mark Kirkaldie drives in for a layup. (Photo by McPherson Photography)



(Photo by McPherson Photography)

Fairview played Culbertson on Dec. 19 at home. Fairview girls came out on top 47-32 and the boys bested Culbertson 66-54. Pictured: Fairview's Landen Thompson goes up strong to make the layup against Culbertson's Gavin Deen.



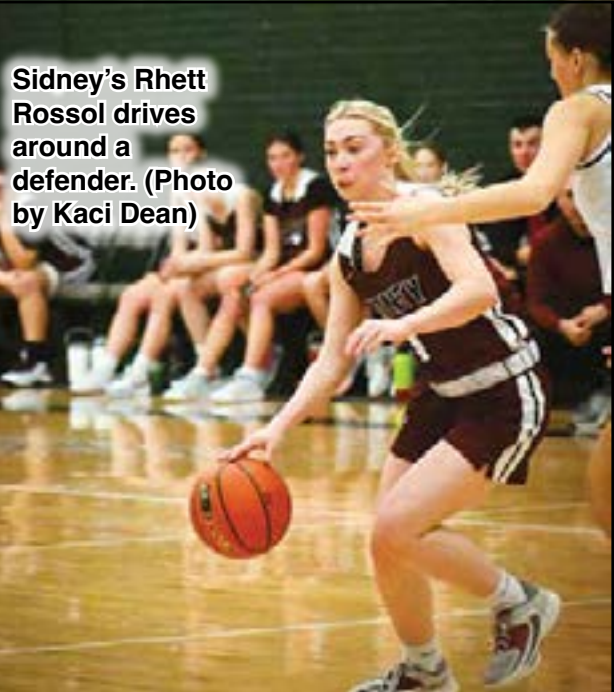
Fairview's Carly Buxbaum works hard to stop Culbertson's Destiny Thompson. (Photo by McPherson Photography)



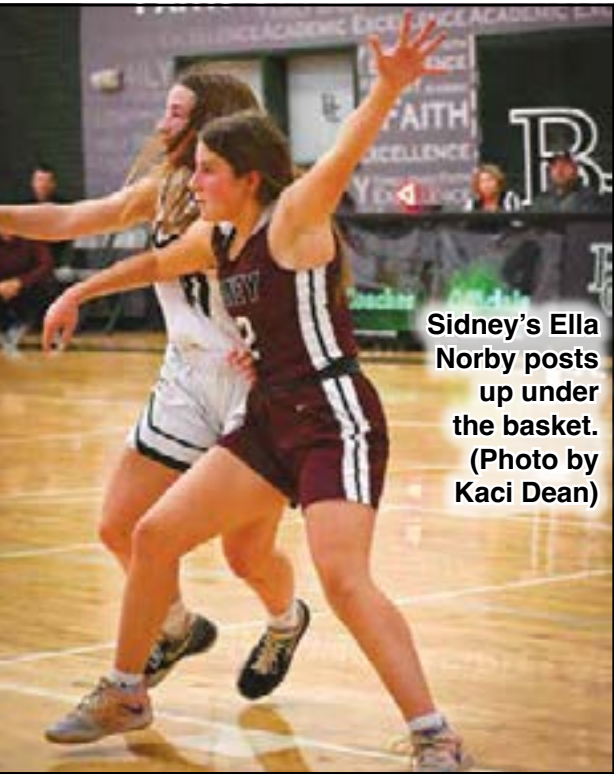
Culbertson's Payton Labatte works the ball away from Fairview's Allison Jensen. (Photo by McPherson Photography)

Area Basketball Action

The Sidney Eagles basketball teams had a tough losses Friday, Dec. 22 at Billings Central Catholic High School. The final score for the boys was 77-41 and the girls fell 8-63.



Sidney's Rhett Rossol drives around a defender. (Photo by Kaci Dean)



Sidney's Ella Norby posts up under the basket. (Photo by Kaci Dean)



Sidney's Kevin Hutzenbiler drives around a defender. (Photo by Kaci Dean)



Sidney freshman, Gradin Sukut is getting some major playing time in his 2nd year on the varsity team. (Photo by Robyn Heck)

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