

# The Roundup

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Wednesday, July 19, 2023

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**MID-SUMMER**  
special section  
see pages 9-12



Roundup  
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## Sunset Fest Is On The Horizon In Sidney

By Hunter Simmons

The Sidney Chamber of Commerce is warming up for the annual Sunset Fest. This year's festival will be held this coming Saturday, July 22 at Veterans Memorial Park off Central Avenue.

Each year, the Sidney Chamber of Commerce selects a local artist to be featured at the event alongside various other vendors. This year's featured artist is the owner and operator of JC Wild and Untamed, Charley Pelvit-Ehmsen. Her small business creates one-of-a-kind useful and artistic pieces from quality materials. From fine leather backpacks and satchels to cutlery and kitchen utensils made with antlers, Pelvit-Ehmsen does it all. The name represents her two daughters and herself.

Sunset Fest aims to connect artists, crafts people, vendors, and authors with both shoppers and enthusiasts.

Vendors will have tents set up to peruse at 4 p.m. Business by Kids, where kids age five and up are encouraged to explore the ways of entrepreneurship by creating and selling their own goods, will be set up from 4-6 p.m. These young entrepreneurs will be critiqued by a panel of judges based on sales pitches, creativity, customer service, and money made.



Bluebelly Junction. (Photo submitted)

There will be a quick draw auction of four local artists' live paintings benefiting the MonDak Heritage Center. Daphne Clark, Penny Filler, Yin Yu, and Lacey

Holman will begin painting at 5 p.m. After an hour's time, attendees will be able to bid on their pieces. Live music starts at 7 p.m. with the home-grown rock-n-roll band, "Bluebelly Junction". This high-energy power trio brings "spicy originals, mind-blowing mash-

ups, and top-shelf covers". Food trucks and a beer garden will be open for refreshments throughout. The event ends at midnight.

Come out to enjoy the festivities and support local artists!

## Searches Ongoing For Missing Woman, Renee Arcand

By Meagan Dotson

Searches are ongoing for 36-year-old Renee Arcand who went missing from Intake Fishing Access Site at the Intake Diversion Dam, 15 miles north of Glendive, MT, along the Yellowstone River. Arcand is a Wisconsin native who was traveling from her home state to Oregon, with plans to camp in Montana for five days. She was last seen the night of Monday, June 26 and was reported missing the morning of Friday, June 30 by her companion. She has been officially missing since June 27.

Arcand is 5'5" tall and weighs 150 lbs., with brown hair and hazel eyes. She has tattoos of a heart and vines on her leg, script reading "this too shall pass" on her wrist, and a large Gemini twins tattoo. Arcand's companion spent the 27th looking for her near the campsite. On Thursday, June 29 he drove her vehicle to Buffalo Gap where they had met thinking that maybe she had gotten a ride back; along the way he stopped with her two dogs to let them out for a pit stop, and both dogs took off. A gray chihuahua mix named Bean is still missing, and the other dog was found 15 miles east of Glendive on July 1 and is now with Arcand's family.

Searches began as soon as she was reported missing by both the Dawson County Sheriff's Department and the Richland County Sheriff's Department.

"We are very grateful for the Richland County Sheriff's Department," said Dawson County Sheriff Ross Canen. "They jumped right in with their search efforts."

Land searches have been conducted in Dawson County, utilizing two search and rescue dogs, and one cadaver dog was taken out on a search and rescue boat.

There have been daily searches in Richland County, which is down river from Intake Fishing Access Site, including helicopter coverage and drone searches. On June 8 and 9 two boats conducted searches in Richland County. Officials have notified downstream communities and have searched the Yellowstone River from Intake Fishing Access Site to the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers, a distance of approximately 70 miles. Badlands Search and Rescue, Watford City, ND, has also recently joined the efforts to locate the missing woman. However, the river is very high and the water is muddy, making water efforts difficult.

"We are still searching, but we're at Mother Nature's mercy," commented Sheriff Canen. "We have been doing a lot of behind the scenes work to retrace her last three days and we have a good handle on the timeline."

Canen added that although they do not have any eyewitnesses that saw Arcand go into the water, it is their best guess that is what happened.

If the public has any information, they are encouraged to call the Dawson County Sheriff's Department at 406-377-5291.



Renee Arcand (Photo provided by Arcand family)



## Veteran's Memorial Park Ribbon Cutting

George Hayden, the oldest living McKenzie County Veteran of WWII, has the honors of cutting the ribbon during the dedication of the Veteran's Memorial Park, Watford City, over the Homefest weekend. (Photo by Kathy Taylor)

## German Exchange Wrestling Dual, Aug 2

By Jaymi Mozeak

Right before the fair on Aug. 2 a team of wrestlers composed of student wrestlers and alumni from Sidney, Poplar, and Circle will be able to compete in a wrestling duel against the German Exchange wrestling team.

This friendly competition has been going on since 1991. It started with a friendship between a wrestling coach in Billings and a wrestling coach in Germany, a 14-day tour of Montana and eight duels, which lead to a yearly competition.

Because of 911 and



Team Germany 2019 swimming in the Yellowstone River.

COVID they lost a few years in the exchange, according to Shane Gorder, but every other year the German National Team comes and tours Montana, having a wrestling duel with teams in different cities around the state. In the alternate years, a team

comprised of Montana wrestlers does the same in Germany.

The German team will be hosted by five towns: Billings, Miles City, Sidney, Kalispell, and Missoula. They will compete with the local wrestling team in each



The German team poses with the Sidney team during the dual held at the Richland County Fair July 31, 2019. (Photos submitted)

town. This will be the fourth time Sidney has been on the schedule of their tour and they will be spending three days in Sidney to take in the fair.

This is the first year

the team, composed of two coaches and 17 athletes ages 16-24, will have two female wrestlers.

This year's Sidney dual will be held at Sidney High School at 5:30 p.m. Shane

Gorder said, "We'd like to hold it outside but that is dependent on the temperature and weather."

For more information, contact Shane Gorder at 406-489-1983.

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# Montana PSC MDU Rate Increase Listening Session July 25

Submitted by Brad Tschida,  
MT PSC Executive Director

Helena, MT - The Montana Public Service Commission ("Commission") will host a listening session in Sidney, allowing interested members of the public to comment on a recent request from Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. ("MDU") to raise its electric service rates.

Montana Public Service Commission will host a public listening session to receive public comment on MDU's proposed rates.

The listening session will be held on July 25, at 6 p.m. at the MSU Extension Richland County Office, 1499 N. Central Ave. to provide interested members of the public an opportunity to comment on MDU's proposed electric rate increases, including the proposed settlement agreement between MDU, the Montana Consumer Counsel, and Denbury Onshore, LLC.

Comments at the session may be provided in-person, by telephone, or by connecting by videoconference. Commissioner Randy Pinocci will chair the Sidney listening session, with other Commissioners potentially participating in person, or by videoconference. To maximize public input, commissioners and commission staff will not be able to take questions at the listening session.

Commenters participating by telephone or videoconference must sign up to receive participation instructions. To sign up, please contact the commission at 1-800-646-6150 or pschelp@mt.gov by 5 p.m. on July 24, 2023.

RCTS is taking a day trip to the Medora Musical

July 23rd  
Bus leaves at 3:15  
Show starts at 5:30



Call 406-433-7433 to reserve your ride  
Cost (transportation only) \$15

Sidney • Fairview • Savage • Lambert

## 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**  
2190 W Holly St., 406-433-3701; the last full Wed., 1-4 p.m.; 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 Recovery Support group, First Lutheran Church music room, Watford City.  
**7 p.m.** - Live Free Narcotics Anonymous, Church of God., 814 6th St. NE, Sidney, MT.  
**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.  
**7 p.m.** - Live Free Narcotics Anonymous, Church of God., 814 6th St. NE, Sidney, MT.

**WEDNESDAYS:**  
**7 p.m.** - Live Free Narcotics Anonymous, Church of God., 814 6th St. NE, Sidney, MT.

**THURSDAYS:**  
**7 p.m.** - Live Free Narcotics Anonymous, Church of God., 814 6th St. NE, Sidney, MT.  
**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.** - Live Free Narcotics Anonymous, Church of God., 814 6th St. NE, Sidney, MT.  
**7 p.m.** - AA Welcome Home Group, Sunny's Family Restaurant, 102 E. Main St., Sidney, MT, Central Avenue Entrance.

**SATURDAYS:**  
**7 p.m.** - Live Free Narcotics Anonymous, Church of God., 814 6th St. NE, Sidney, MT.  
**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.** - Live Free Narcotics Anonymous, Church of God., 814 6th St. NE, Sidney, MT.  
**7 p.m.** - AA Welcome Home Group, Sunny's Family Restaurant, 102 E. Main St., Sidney, MT, Central Avenue Entrance.

# MonDak Heritage Center Announces New July Classes

Submitted by Nikki Bailey, MonDak Heritage Center Executive Director

The MonDak Heritage Center is excited to host new classes in July! Each of these workshops will be fun, unique and tailored to each participant's creativity level.

Join us on July 20, at 6 p.m., to create your own plant ID stakes in a two-part clay class taught by guest instructor Jazmine Sommerfeld. These unique stakes can be used to mark pots with plant variety names or handcrafted to include more creative sayings such as "I be-leaf in you" or "Not dead, just dramatic". This class is \$30 for members and \$40 for not yet members. Craft your stakes in the first class on July 20 and then glaze them one week later on July 26. These stakes are a great way to decorate your favorite planters or make great handmade gifts for a plant lover!

Have you ever wished that you could spruce up on your dance skills or learn to dance? Are you looking for something unique to try for the next date night? The MonDak Heritage Center has the answer for you with "Dance Night at the MonDak" on Friday, July 21, at 7 p.m. Join us for "Dance Night at the MonDak" for dance lessons and a dance social in the MDHC south gallery. The first part of the evening will feature country swing and country two step dance lessons from Williston's Allan Dance Studio and the rest of the evening will leave room for fun dance practice and social dancing. This fun workshop is \$10 for members and \$15 for not yet members and is for both beginners and those with dancing experience.

The final class of the month will be Pinch Pot Animal Planters. In this two-part class, learn to form your own animal planter out of clay in the first class. All you have to do is come with an idea of what kind of creature you would like to create! In the second class, you will glaze your creation to add colors bringing your design to life! These planters are perfect for succulents and the class is for all ages from youth to adult! Class fee is \$20 for members and \$30 for not yet members.

Call the MonDak Heritage Center at 406-433-3500, stop in, or check out our website <https://mondakheritagecenter.org> to sign up for these classes.

The MonDak Heritage Center is located at 120 3rd Ave SE, Sidney and is open Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday 1-4 p.m. Admission to the MonDak Heritage Center is free. For more information call 406-433-3500 or e-mail mdhc@richland.org.

# Red Cross Blood Drive Aug. 15 Sidney

There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, Aug. 15, from 12-6 p.m. at St. Matthew's Parish Center, 310 7th St. SE, Sidney.

Advance appointments are strongly recommended. Please call 406-868-0911 or 1-800-733-2767 or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to make an appointment to donate blood.

# Williams County Injury Crash

On July 13 at approximately 8:07 p.m. CT there was a single vehicle injury crash at the Intersection of 65th St. E. and 2nd Ave. E., Williston

A 2012 Club Car golf cart was traveling westbound on 65th St E., Williston, when it attempted to make a left turn onto 2nd Ave. E. The driver, Dustin Dahlberg, was traveling too fast for the turn and two occupants were ejected, Cody Jeannotte and Adam Engh. Dahlberg, and the third passenger, David Moore, remained in the golf cart during the turn and were uninjured. The two ejected parties landed on the pavement and sustained serious injuries. Jeannotte was transported by Williston Ambulance to CHI St. Alexius hospital, Williston. Engh sustained life threatening injuries and was transported via ambulance to CHI St. Alexius, Williston, before being flown to Trinity Health, Minot, due to his injuries.

On scene investigation revealed that Dahlberg was potentially under the influence of alcohol. After sobriety testing, Dahlberg was placed under arrest for criminal vehicular injury (DUI). Dahlberg was also later charged with reckless endangerment in addition to the original criminal Vehicular Injury charge.

At the time of the crash the road conditions were dry and the weather conditions were clear.

The agencies who responded to the crash were NDHP, Williston Police Department, Williston Fire Department and Williston Ambulance

The crash remains under investigation by the North Dakota Highway Patrol.

# EVENTS

SEND US YOUR EVENTS!

THE ROUNDUP: PO Box 1207 • 111 West Main • Sidney, MT  
406-433-3306 • Fax: 406-433-4114 • Email: [classesads@esidney.com](mailto:classesads@esidney.com)

## RICHLAND COUNTY

Events in Sidney unless otherwise listed. MT.

**Wed., July 19**  
10 a.m.-4 p.m. - **Carol Hartman's "Courage Enough" Exhibition** - Runs through July 29. - **Pat Olding "Montana Fabric" Exhibition** - Runs through Aug. 26. - **"Montana By Food" Exhibit** - Runs through Aug. 26. - MonDak Heritage Center, Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. For more info, 406-433-3500, or mdhc@richland.org.

**Thurs., July 20 & Wed., July 26** (2-part class)  
6 p.m. - **Clay Plant ID Stakes at MonDak Heritage Center** - Guest instructor Jazmine Sommerfeld. Member: \$30; Not Yet Member: \$40. To sign up call 406-433-3500, stop in, or check out the website <https://mondakheritagecenter.org>.

**Fri., July 21**  
7 p.m. - **Dance Night At The MonDak Heritage Center** - Dance lessons & social. Two step, country swing & more. Members: \$10; Not Yet Members: \$15. To register call 406-433-3500, stop in, or check out the website <https://mondakheritagecenter.org>.

**Sat., July 22 (Every Sat. through Oct. 14)**  
7:30 a.m.-12 p.m. - **Richland County Farmers Market** - Richland County Courthouse parking lot, corner of 2nd St. NW & 2nd Ave. NW.  
**Sat., July 22, 4 p.m.-12 a.m. - Sunset Festival** Live concert by "Bluebelly Junction", Kids Corner, beer garden, food trucks, Business By Kids & Quick Draw & Auction. Veterans Memorial Park. For more info call the Sidney Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, 406-433-1916. - 4-6 p.m. - **Business By Kids** - For kids ages 5 & up who love to make, bake or create things, can explore the ways of entrepreneurship. Free registration. All booth supplies, tables, tent, etc. must be provided by participant. Prizes will be awarded for Most Money Made; Best Sale Pitch; Most Creative Product & Best Customer Service. For more info or to register call the Sidney Chamber, 406-433-1916. - 5 p.m. - **Quick Draw & 6 p.m. - Auction** - Veterans Memorial Park. Viewers can watch art be created right before their eyes. 5 featured artists will create a gallery-ready piece from a blank canvas in 1 hour. 6 p.m. Each completed piece will be auctioned to the highest bidder. Money raised will help fund MonDak Heritage Center's art programs.

**Mon., July 24-Thurs, July 27**  
9 a.m.-4 p.m. **Sidney Public Schools Back-To-School Registration** - Registration for all grades K-12 will take place at Sidney High School, 1012 4th Ave. SE.

**Tues., July 25**  
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. - **Connecting Communities Free BBQ** - Summer BBQ party with giveaways & much more. Open to the public, live radio broadcast. Veterans Memorial Park.

**Thurs., July 27 & Aug. 10**  
6 p.m. - **Pinch Pot Animal Planters** - Come design your Pinch Pot Planter in this 2-part class. Members: \$20; Not Yet Members: \$30. MonDak Heritage Center. To reserve your spot call 406-433-3500, stop in, or check out our website <https://mondakheritagecenter.org>.

**Sat., July 29**  
10 a.m. - **Backpack Giveaway** - Stop by the Verizon Store, 323 S. Central Ave., to receive your free backpack. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**Tues., Aug. 15**  
12-6 p.m. - **Red Cross Blood Drive** - St. Matthew's Parish Center, 310 7th St. SE. To make an advance call 406-868-0911 or 1-800-733-2767 or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) to make an appointment to donate blood.

## McKENZIE COUNTY

Events in Watford City unless otherwise listed. CT.

**Sat., July 22 (Saturdays July & Aug.)**  
1-3:30 p.m. - **Kids .22 Shoot at McKenzie County Sportsman's Club** - Ammo provided by the club for under 16. 16+ \$5 box. Parental supervision a must.

**Sat., July 29**  
9 a.m. - **Maah Daah Hey Trailrun Series** - Experience the unique challenge of running on North Dakota's Maah Daah Hey Trail. Watford City to Medora, ND. For more info contact Grazi Indvik, [grazi@experienceland.org](mailto:grazi@experienceland.org), 701-391-5717.

**Mon., Aug. 7**  
7-8:30 p.m. - **Watford City Chamber of Commerce Summer Series: Conversations With Nikki** - 3rd Session: Trauma: What it looks & feels like to live with as a 40 something year old woman - Nikki will leave participants with improved positivity, ideas, & tools to COPE (Concentrate On Positive Energy). Rough Rider Center.

**Fri., Aug. 11**  
10 a.m. - 11 p.m. - **Best of the West Ribfest** - Ribs, car show, kids zone, cornhole tournament, food, great music & more. Watford City's Main Street. For more info visit the Facebook page.

## WILLIAMS COUNTY

Events in Williston unless otherwise listed. CT.

**Thurs., July 20**  
5-9 p.m. - **Summer Nights On Main "Uptown"** - Live music, amazing food, drinks, kids activities & more. Downtown Williston.

**Sun., July 22**  
9 a.m.-2 p.m. - **9th Annual Lemonade Day** - Watch for lemonade stands set up all across Williston. For more info visit <https://lemonadeday.org/williston>.  
4:30-7 p.m. - **Lemonade Day BBQ** - Free BBQ & activities for Lemonade Day participants, friends & family members. Davidson Park, 11th St. & 9th Ave. W.

**Sun., July 23**  
2 p.m. - **History and Nature Lecture Series** - Daphne Clark presents "Nature Journaling", which is used for relaxation & therapeutic purposes. Hear how Lewis & Clark, Prince Maximilian, & others have used this method for scientific studies. Bring a notebook or journal to participate. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center. For more info call Yvette 701-572-9034.

**Thurs., July 27**  
5-9 p.m. - **Summer Nights On Main "Rock Creek Revival"** - Live music, amazing food, drinks, kids activities & more. Downtown Williston.

**Sat., Aug. 5 & Sun., Aug. 6**  
10 a.m.-5 p.m. - **Indian Arts Festival** - Cowesses First Nation drumming & dancing group; Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers; Indigenous Games Society, games demonstration & participation; Lissa Yellow Bird Chase, Matt Schanandore traditional native American flutist; Laine Thom, modern & historical trade blankets; Debbie & Willie Lemere, flintknapping & beadwork; & more. All events free to the public. Fort Union Trading Post, 13330 Hwy. 1804, Williston.

## DAWSON COUNTY

Events in Glendive unless otherwise listed. MT

**Sat., July 22**  
8:30 a.m. - **Dip N Twist Richey's Annual Car Show** - Fireman's Breakfast, 8:30-10:30 a.m.; Registration 10 a.m., Voting 12 p.m. \$15 day of car show. 1st prize awards for cars, pickups, motorcycles, rat rods announced at 3:15 p.m. Car show will be held July 23 if rain occurs.

**Wed., July 26**, Gates open 3 p.m.; **Thurs., July 27**, Gates Open 11 a.m., **Fri., July 28**, Gates Open 10 a.m. & **Sat., July 29**, Gates Open 10 a.m.

**Dawson County Fair - July 26:** Open Horse Show 8 a.m. - **July 27:** 4-H, FFA Events; Ranch Rodeo - **July 28** - 4-H, FFA Events, EVE 6 with Rehab Concert; Street Dance - **July 29:** 4-H Livestock Sale; PRCR Rodeo, Street Dance. Rock Wall Zip Line, Inflatables, Bungee Jump, daily entertainment. Dawson County Fairgrounds. For more info visit <https://dawsonfair.com/>

# STATISTICS

## LAKE WATER LEVEL REPORT

Sakakawea

Current Elevation.....1841.9  
Last Week's Elev. ....1840.7  
One Year Ago .....1838.0  
Release For Day (C.F.S.) .....22,000

## SIDNEY WEATHER DATA

Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

Date	High	Low	Precip.
July 10.....	80	54	0.000
July 11.....	66	54	0.300
July 12.....	78	51	0.000
July 13.....	82	57	0.020
July 14.....	78	59	0.060
July 15.....	74	49	0.000
July 16.....	76	53	0.000
Total 2023 YTD Precipitation.....	6.594		

## Professional Workshops Scheduled For July, Aug. & Sept.

By Meagan Dotson

Richland Economic Development Corporation is excited to be partnering with the Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, Great Northern Corporation and the Small Business Development Center to bring important workshops to Sidney and the surrounding area.

Exit Strategy will be the first workshop, scheduled for Thursday, July 27, at the Richland County Extension Office, 1499 N Central Ave., Sidney, from 8-10 a.m. The class will shed light on the long-term planning process of transferring ownership of a business, also known as succession planning.

The following course is Fraud Security being presented by the State Auditor's Office and will address fraudulent activity and scams, what to be on the lookout for, and how to handle those situations. Speaking at the only workshop independently brought in, will be Investor Education and Public Outreach Coordinator Blair Stapleton with the State Auditor's Office and State Auditor and Commissioner of Securities and Insurance Troy Downing who will be here as part of his eastern Montana tour. This workshop will be held from 9-10 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 23.

Girl Geek will be presented by Miranda Gilbert, Girl Geek Communications owner and founder, Thursday, Aug. 31. This all-day social media workshop will teach participants how to create a digital marketing campaign.

The final workshop in this line-up is the in-demand Quickbooks Class slated for Wednesday, Sept. 20. This presentation will be covering Online Quickbooks and will be held from 9 a.m.-noon; that afternoon participants can schedule one-on-one consultations to work on their own books.

There will be more information to come about locations and cost. Anyone interested in these valuable resources that are being brought to the area can contact Richland Economic Development Corporation at 406-482-4679 or the Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture at 406-433-1916.

## Vision Of Hope Scholarship Awarded to Avery Iversen

Submitted by Jen Vaira

Emmaus House, Sidney, is pleased to announce Avery Iversen as this year's recipient of the Vision of Hope Scholarship.

Avery is a 2023 graduate of Sidney High School where she participated in volleyball, FCCLA, and choir.

She also competed on the Sidney Tiger Sharks swim team, qualifying for state the past three years, and worked as a junior coach for the swim team. Avery volunteers for VBS and is active in her church youth group. She will be attending Minot State University this fall.

Each year, Emmaus House, through the Vision of Hope scholarship fund, presents a scholarship award based on an application process. The scholarship is open to young adults in the Richland County area who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. To learn more about Emmaus House and Vision of Hope, to apply for the

scholarship, or donate to the scholarship fund, please see [www.emmaushouse.co](http://www.emmaushouse.co).

Please watch for more information regarding the annual Emmaus House fundraiser to be held on Oct. 7 at the Elks Club, Sidney. This promises to be an evening of fun with music, food, and many items to be auctioned!



Pictured (L-R) is Sr. Regina Murray, Avery Iversen and Sr. Rita Rauschendorfer. (Photo submitted)

## Saitta Received 2023 Janae Moore Memorial MVP Award July 6



Adessa Saitta, center, was presented the 2023 Janae Moore Memorial MVP Award by Terri and Jozi Moore, mother and sister of Janae. (Photo submitted by Terri Moore)

Submitted By Terri Moore

The Sidney Summer Girls Fastpitch League, ages 10-16, held its end-of-the-year banquet on Thursday, July 6.

Adessa Saitta was presented the 2023 Janae Moore Memorial MVP Award by Terri and Jozi Moore, mother and sister of Janae. This award is given yearly to the player who leads the team throughout the season, motivates the team with their drive to win, and has a positive attitude to everyone on and off the field. Adessa has all these traits and so much more. She has non-stop communication on the field and in the dugout during games and total game awareness of always knowing where the next play will be. Adessa is an accomplished pitcher and also plays 1st base. She is the daughter of Jason Saitta and Sally Hinkley.

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*Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture Presents:*

## SUNSET FEST

**SATURDAY, JULY 22**  
**4PM - MIDNIGHT**  
**VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK**

**BLUEBELLY JUNCTION BAND**  
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# Richland County Fair & Rodeo Has An Extravaganza Of Entertainers For 2023

**By Meagan Dotson**

Get ready to be entertained at the 2023 Richland County Fair & Rodeo, happening Aug. 2-5.

Country artist Kip Moore will be headlining this year's concert on Saturday night. He recently released two new singles and his album "Damn Love" which dropped April 28.

Neo-traditional country singer and songwriter Chancey Williams will be opening. The Wyoming native was named iHeartRadio's 2022 Rocky Mountain Country Music Awards Entertainer of the Year. Williams also won Songwriter of the Year for "The Saint", and Album of the Year for "3rd Street", produced with country hitmaker, Trent Wilmon. The performance will include songs from his most recent album, "One of These Days".

Of course, there will be rodeos Thursday and Friday nights, with Friday being 'Tough Enough to Wear Pink' in which attendants will wear pink to show their support and raise funds for cancer awareness.

Wednesday, Aug. 2, 406 FMX will be wowing the crowd with their freestyle motocross show in the arena and tickets are just \$15. It will be 90 minutes of adrenaline as the crowd watches motorcycle jumps, snowmobile jumps, and a back-flipping UTV.

"It really should be an

awesome show," said Fair Manager Pam Shelmidine of the Montana based 406 FMX entertainers. "It is always great to get local talent to showcase in our arena."

Free entertainment will be held every day with a rotating schedule that will be posted on the Richland County Fair & Rodeo website and Facebook page in June.

Strolling acts include Pippi the Clown and Buster the Baby T-Rex. Buster and his handler will be roaming around the fairgrounds for an hour at a time, three times a day.

Additionally, there will be The Magic Bean, which is an agricultural education show for kids, explaining to them in fun fashion how a little bean seed becomes food on the table. There will also be a pedal tractor pull for the kids that will happen three times each day of the fair. These acts will be set up in the grassy area behind the fair office and there will be signs set up to make sure everyone knows where to go to take in these fun events.

Don't forget to swing into the carnival and check out the more than 100 vendors that will be set up in and outside the event center. Get your grub on for a good cause and sample some delicious fair food while supporting a variety of nonprofits that raise a bulk of funds for their organizations



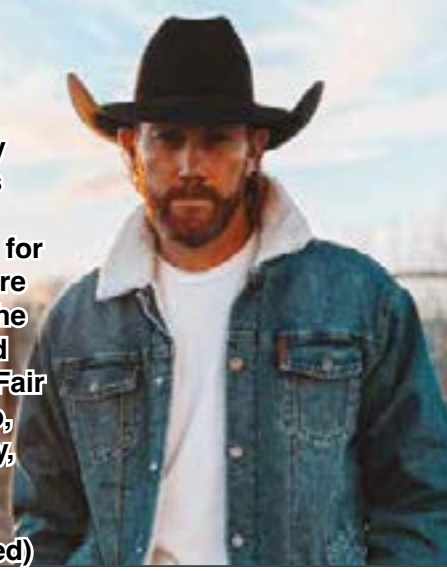
Kip Moore will be headlining the Saturday night concert at this year's Richland County Fair & Rodeo. (Photo by PJ Brown)

feeding hungry fair-goers. Remember the reason for this particular season is to showcase some of Richland County's finest via awesome fair exhibits. Baking, photography, sewing, seed pictures, school exhibits, 4-H exhibits and so much more will be proudly displayed. The 4-H schedule will be

available on the fair website by the end of the week. Fair buttons, concert tickets and rodeo tickets will be available May 30 at the fair office; buttons will also be available at local banks.

Get geared up for Stars, Stripes, & Summer Nights at the Richland County Fair & Rodeo!

Chancey Williams will be opening for Kip Moore during the Richland County Fair & Rodeo, Saturday, Aug. 5. (Photo submitted)



## 2023 Richland County 20 Under 40 Award Winners

The Sidney Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture sponsored a 20 Under 40 to acknowledge the next generation of innovative leaders in Richland County at the 1035 Brewing on July 11. Shown back row (L to R): Juan Cruz Aguitar, Kaleb Dasinger, LaShell Sheehan, Curtis MacGrady, Ryan Kopp, Kristy Prewitt, Jennifer Moore, Michelle Lane and Anya Chamberlain. Front row (L to R): Vanessa Pooch, Hunter Gordon, Kayla Anderson, Katrina Wortman, Jennifer Lear, Dawn Rehbein, Larysa Hurst and Megan Garza. Not pictured: Kyle Welnel, Katie Turnbull and Ashley Fields.

## Richland County Farmers Market Through Oct. 14

By Marley Manoukian, MSU Richland County Extension Agent

The Richland County Farmers Market will once again be in Sidney this summer. The market will be held the second Saturday of July through the second Saturday of October, July 8-Oct. 14. The farmers market will again be located at the Richland County Courthouse parking lot, on the corner of 2nd St. NW and 2nd Ave. NW and will be open from 7:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

There will be a variety of handmade items and crafts, produce, and food products available at the market. Individuals interested in becoming a vendor at the Richland County Farmers Market can contact the Richland County Extension Office at 406-433-1206.

Stop by the Richland County Farmers Market on Saturdays starting July 8 to take in the variety of produce, food products, and handmade items that the vendors in our community have to offer.

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# OBITUARIES

## Tim Spaabeck, 57 Fairview, MT

Timothy James Spaabeck was born to Olga "Dolly" (Brekke) and Anker M. Spaabeck on Dec. 12, 1965 in Polson, MT. He attended schools in Culbertson, MT, and Froid, MT. He graduated from Froid High School in 1984. Tim participated in and did well in cross country his senior year remembering the experience fondly from time to time.

Tim had deep roots and hated moving. As an adult he lived in Froid and Homestead before making his final home south of Fairview, MT, from September 1991 to present.

Tim held various jobs from constructing steel grain bins, farm work, assisting his brother with his windshield and satellite businesses, logging in western Montana, and the sugar campaigns at Holly Sugar from 1989-1996 until he settled in with Nabors Drilling Inc. in March 1996 where he worked until the present time.

Tim enjoyed cooking for his family. Everyone looked forward to eating his massive pots of 'Papa's bad ass chili', ham and bean soup and chicken noodle soup, not to mention the racks of ribs and other savory pieces of meat that came off his Traeger grill.

Tim had a witty way with words known as "Tim-isms" and managed to find a nickname for nearly everyone he met. He didn't like being in a crowd but loved spending time with his family. He made himself available to care for his grandchildren, even going so far as to rearrange his work schedule (and his co-workers') so that his shift hours coincided with their daycare needs.

Hunting and fishing were two sports Tim truly enjoyed. He took meticulous care of his guns especially his favorite the 22-250 varmint rifle. He enjoyed riding his Yamaha Raptor 4-wheeler on his property and the back roads and trails between his home and Fairview. He only ended up "upside down in the rhubarb" once, except it was his wife's stone lined flower bed! Ouch! There was nothing he enjoyed more than working around his yard and irrigating from the ditch. Mowing the lawn with his Dixon was a job that he NEVER allowed anyone else to do. He was quite possessive of his vehicles, tools and work shed, going so far as to hide the keys and carry them with him whenever he left the yard.

A more recent favorite pastime was surfing YouTube to find all his favorite bands reliving his youth through the lyrics and melodies of his time. He favored '70s-'90s rock over any other music genre. If he could have had the job of his dreams, he would have been a 'Roadie' accompanying and setting up for all his favorite bands. He shared a love of video games with his children and the anime series Dragon Ball Z. He followed WWF wrestling since the early days when they were known as the WWE. He got a kick out of cheering on his favorite wrestlers.

In August 1993, Tim and Wanda were married at Faith Farm Christian Fellowship, Froid, MT. They established their home outside Fairview, MT, where they raised their children: Travis, Chance, Laken, Haelee and Chelby. He was so very proud of all his children and grandchildren. He made room in his heart and in his home for many of their friends (you all know who you are).

Tim's favorite place was home and his favorite people, family and friends.

Tim passed away suddenly at his home on July 3, 2023.

Tim is survived by his wife Wanda (Ereth) Spaabeck; sisters: Jeanne (Don) Reuter, Marilee Spaabeck, Judy Linde; brother Pete (Marlene) Spaabeck; children: Travis Jenson, Chance (Megan) Spaabeck, Laken (Chris) Nygaard, Haelee Spaabeck, and Chelby (Steven) Messer; grandchildren: Shaylene Jenson, Kirby Iszler, Adyn Spaabeck, Hadley, Banks and Baker Nygaard, Hudson, Bentley and Savone Messer and McKenzee Bundy; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Tim is preceded in death by his mother, Olga "Dolly" (Brekke) Spaabeck and his father, Anker M. Spaabeck.

If Tim had something he would say to all of us, it could be found in the words of this song:

Fight the Good Fight - Triumph  
Days grew shorter and the nights are getting long  
Feels like we're running out of time  
Every day it seems much harder to tell right from wrong  
You've got to read between the lines  
Don't get discouraged, don't be afraid  
You can make it through another day  
Make it worth the price we pay  
The Good Book says it's better to give than to receive  
I do my best to do my part  
Nothing in my pockets and there's nothing up my sleeves  
I keep my magic in my heart  
Keep up your spirit. Keep up your faith, baby  
I am counting on you  
You know what you've got to do  
Fight the good fight every moment  
Every minute every day



Timothy James Spaabeck

Fight the good fight every moment  
It's your only way  
All your life you've been waiting for your chance  
Where you'll fit into the plan  
But you're the master of your own destiny  
So give and take the best that you can  
You think a little more money will buy your soul some rest

You'd better think something else instead  
You're so afraid of being honest with yourself  
You'd better look inside your head  
Nothing is easy, nothing good is free  
But I can tell you where to start  
Take a look inside your heart  
There's an answer in your heart  
Fight the good fight every moment  
Every minute every day  
Fight the good fight every moment  
Make it worth the price we pay  
Every moment of your lifetime  
Every minute every day  
Fight the good fight every moment  
Make it worth the price we pay

A quote that would make Tim agree with a grin: "Beer is living proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy." Benjamin Franklin, MT,

## Sharon Sax, 85 Federal Way, WA, formerly of Sidney, MT

Sharon Alice Sax, 85, Federal Way, WA, passed away on June 22, 2023. Sharon was the loving wife of the late Loren Dale Sax. They shared 42 years of marriage and created a close family together. She is survived by their children Dana L. Sax and Lesley J. (Doug H.) Salvon and a grandchild, Blake A. Salvon. Sharon also leaves behind a sister-in-law, Lorene (Sax) Wood, a brother-in-law, James Wood and many wonderful nieces and nephews.



Sharon Alice Sax

Born in Lewistown, MT, on Nov. 3, 1937, to the late Howard and Alice (Syverson) Apple, she was raised by her paternal grandparents and aunt and uncle following her parents untimely deaths. Sharon graduated from Fergus High School and went on to attend Montana State College for two years where she was a member of the Chi Omega Sorority. She and Loren, the love of her life, were married in Lewistown, MT, on Aug. 25, 1957.

After Loren's discharge from the service, they lived in Billings, Great Falls and Glasgow, MT, before settling in Sidney, Loren's hometown. They owned the Coast to Coast Hardware store where Sharon also worked. Sharon was a proud member of the women's PEO organization for 50 years where she formed many close friends. She enjoyed playing bridge and golf and was a member of Lonsdale United Methodist Church where she sang in the choir. Sharon had a flair for fashion and an impeccable sense of style, always wearing just the right outfit and jewelry. She worked at two different clothing stores to support her vast wardrobe. Sharon was an excellent cook and baker and had a gift for decorating the home long before HGTV.

Following Loren's passing in 1999, Sharon divided 20 years between Billings, MT and Mesa, AZ where she enjoyed golfing, hiking and socializing with family and friends. She also loved watching football and attending Montana State Bobcat football games. Sharon maintained several lifelong friendships that endeared her to many with her sense of humor and quick wit. More than anything though, she valued spending time with her children and grandchild - once organizing a trip to Kauai. Her family will carry these memories forever in their hearts along with her beautiful smile. Sharon was a real firecracker and will always be known as "Saxy."

# MonDak Grace Fund Fundraiser July 22

By Robyn Heck

A fundraising walk will be held at Petersen Park by The Lodge, located at 1015 7th Ave SW, Sidney, MT, on Saturday, July 22 at 9 a.m.

This walk will be a fundraiser for the MonDak Grace Fund. The MonDak Grace Fund is similar to the Salvation Army. They provide gift cards for groceries, fuel, or to the community secondhand stores

It is the 2nd annual Depression Recovery Walk renamed the MonDak Grace Fund Walk.

Please join us. There is no registration fee. Just show up Saturday morning and join us for some exercise, visits, games and laughter.

## Louise Christensen, 80 Sidney, MT

Celebration of Life Services for Louise Christensen, 80, Sidney, MT, will be Wednesday July 19, 2023 at 10 a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, Fairview, MT, with Pastor Tim O'Shields officiating. A luncheon will follow the service and Louise will be laid to rest in Sidney Cemetery. Visitation was held on Tuesday July 18, 2023 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fulkerson-Stevenson Memorial Chapel, Sidney, MT. A friends and family service were held Tuesday July 18, 2023 at 5 p.m. at Fulkerson-Stevenson Memorial Chapel, 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](http://www.fulkersons.com).



Louise Christensen

Louise Christensen was born Feb. 24, 1943, to Art and Nell Rennie Dore, Fairview, MT. Sharing her birthday with Gramma Hazel Rennie was special. A grandchild of two pioneer families, she naturally was Art's "sidekick" with everything farming and ranching.

Louise was baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church, Fairview, MT. A 1961 Fairview High School graduate, she always remembered her classmates. Louise and Richard "Dick" Christensen were married at Zion Lutheran on Nov. 18, 1962.

Serving as Sidney, MT city clerk was perfect for Louise. Enjoying her work and meeting everyone in town was perfect. She also helped her mother with daycare, meeting all the children. As a people person, she remembered every name and how they were related. Just ask her!

Louise lost Dick to cancer on Feb. 6, 1991. She would never remarry as Dick was the love of her life. They were a team in his cycle business, farming, and life. Hosting a weekly card game with Louise putting on a "spread" of food in the Rennie clan tradition was a natural.

Louise loved the Lord and later in life accepted the call to become an ordained Reverend of the Montana Synod of the ELCA. She served as a pastor in eastern Montana until her health failed.

Louise supported many organizations. The Sidney Jaycees, Fairview Summer Festival, Cum Christo Ministry, a lifetime Moose member, and hospice were favorites.

She is survived by brother Bill Dore, nieces and nephews: Sheila Mortimer, Sabrina Steer, Charisse Fugate, Bill Gable, Susan Olds, Tracey Will and Doug Gable. Also, numerous cousins. Preceding her in death were her parents, sister Darlene and nephew Mike Dore.

Fourth of July 2023 in true Dore fashion; Louise "Cashed in her Chips" and met her Maker wearing the 2023 Fairview Festival button pinned to her gown. She had lived at Sidney Health Center since January 2021. The family expresses appreciation for everyone treating Louise as family.

## Donald LeeRoy Hillman, 79 Sidney, MT

Donald "Donnie" LeeRoy Hillman, 79, Sidney, MT, passed away at home in his sleep on July 5, 2023. Services are pending. Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT, is assisting the family.

Donnie was born in Fairview, MT, to Chester and Donian (DeBarthe) Hillman on Nov. 10, 1943. He attended high school in Fairview where he played trombone in the band and was a 4-H member with cattle projects. He lived on the farm in Fairview until 1967 when Hay Creek Farms, Inc. relocated their headquarters to Sidney, MT. Donnie loved working with the registered Angus cattle the family raised on their ranch which started with the combination of his grandfather and grandmother's homesteads west of Fairview in 1909. He continued working the ranch until 1996 when the family dispersed the herd after which he worked at a variety of jobs.

Donnie was always interested in people, and he loved laughter. He especially got a kick out of watching little kids give their mothers the run around. He was extremely generous with his resources however he could share them.

Donnie was a member of Community of Christ. His church was important to him, and he would attend church activities when and where it was possible for him to do so. In his later years as his health declined, he liked to listen to religious programs on TV.

He is survived by his siblings, Jeanne Rider, Independence, MO; Richard (Lois), Lee's Summit, MO; Rita Jordison (Dennis), Fort Dodge, IA; Charles, Sidney, MT; Melody Kluth (Roy), Liberty, MO, and Lee Tulberg (Marvin), Spokane, WA. He is also survived by four nieces, five nephews, five great nieces & one great nephew.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Chester and Donian; and his nephews, Brandon Kluth and Dyane Dennis Jordison.

## Ray Myers, 69 Raymond, WA, formerly of Sidney, MT

Private family only services for Ray Myers, 69, Raymond, WA formerly of Sidney, MT, will be held at the Sidney Cemetery, 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](http://www.fulkersons.com).

Ray Gene Myers passed away unexpectedly at his home on Sunday, April 16, 2023 in Raymond, WA.

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# Five Ways To Lower Montana's Residential Property Taxes

Startling reappraisal numbers have driven widespread concern among Montana homeowners. While initial tax estimates are probably too high, here are some ideas that could bring property taxes down in the long run.

By Eric Dietrich  
Montana Free Press

Homeowners across Montana received a nasty shock in the mail last month, coming in the form of state property reappraisal notices that generally indicated the 2023 valuations used to calculate property taxes have spiked over the two-year reappraisal cycle.

It's unlikely those valuation increases, 46% on median statewide, will translate into equivalent increases when country treasurers mail out actual property tax bills this fall. That's because the tax estimates included on the reappraisal notices don't account for how across-the-board value growth will let cities, counties and school districts fund their budgets with lower tax rates. Regardless, reappraisal sticker shock has driven widespread discussion about Montana's tax system as homeowners fret over their tax bills.

The Republican-controlled 2023 Legislature, which was informed about the looming reappraisal spike by a November memo from the Montana Department of Revenue, took some action on property tax policy this year. It modernized an assistance program for low-income taxpayers and spent a chunk of the state's historic budget surplus on a pair of one-time property tax rebates for homeowners, \$675 for each of 2022 and 2023.

Lawmakers also retooled a state-level tax levy that collects money to balance school funding between districts in different parts of Montana, redirecting some of the money collected there to lowering school taxes assessed at the local level.

While both majority Republicans and minority Democrats proposed other long-term property tax legislation, no significant property tax proposals beyond those garnered the support to make it to the desk of Gov. Greg Gianforte, a Republican. As reappraisal notices raise taxpayers' hackles, Democrats have sought to make politi-

cal hay over taxes in recent weeks, arguing Republicans failed to do enough on the issue and calling for a special session to consider further tax legislation.

While that special session call appears unlikely to garner traction with Republicans, some of the proposals discussed this year could well resurface as the Legislature meets in 2025. And local government leaders and tax activists have their own ideas for ways to reshape the state's tax system to lighten the load it places on residential properties.

Here's a sampling of what's in the mix:

#### Idea #1: Rebalance taxes between property classes

According to the revenue department, Montana residential property values typically grew much faster than commercial ones this reappraisal cycle — 46% versus 27% on median. Because property owners pay taxes proportionally to their share of their local tax base, that means the reappraisal will generally pull the tax burden onto homeowners from commercial and agricultural properties.

That's likely to be a significant shift — enough that taxes for many non-residential properties will actually go down even as homeowners pay more. A memo produced this week by the nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Division estimates that property taxes will collect an additional \$196.9 million from residential property in the 2023-24 fiscal year, while bringing in \$34.5 million less on other types of property.

Historically, the Legislature has tweaked the tax code following reappraisal cycles to prevent that sort of tax shift. The November memo from the revenue department, presented to the Legislature's Revenue Interim Committee as required by state law, laid out an explicit template for doing that again this year. Lawmakers, it suggested, could in effect shield a greater share of residential property values from taxation in order to counterbalance the tax shift produced by skyrocketing

home values.

As it turned out, neither Republican nor Democratic lawmakers introduced a rebalancing bill in this year's Legislature. In recent weeks, though, Democrats, including former Gov. Brian Schweitzer, have seized on the idea as they've agitated for a special session.

"I think something needs to be done," Sen. Shannon O'Brien, D-Missoula, said in an interview this week. "I think Montanans don't want to wait for another year and a half, or two years, for that to happen."

O'Brien also said that Democrats hadn't brought a rebalancing bill during this year's session because they were focused on advocating for other tax reform measures that were stymied by Republicans.

Senate Taxation Chair Greg Hertz, R-Polson, said in an interview this week that Republicans hadn't brought a rebalancing bill because they determined rebalancing was unnecessary since the state switched residential properties from a six-year to a two-year reappraisal cycle in 2015.

"Was that the right decision? Time will tell," Hertz said. "We'll have to revisit in 2025, particularly if we have another big increase, or maybe by that time we'll have a decrease in market values — who knows?"

House Appropriations Chair Llew Jones, R-Conrad, said in an interview this week that he didn't think it was good policy to put more tax burden on brick-and-mortar retail businesses that are in many cases struggling to compete with e-commerce businesses like Amazon.

He also argued that the two-time property tax rebates and reductions from the school funding measure, which he sponsored, would come close to offsetting the extra tax burden expected to fall on residential properties over the next two years. The Legislative Fiscal Division memo, which was produced at Jones' request, estimates residential taxpayers will pay \$394 million over the next

two years while the state provides \$350 million in property tax rebates and reduces collections by another \$33 million as a result of the school shift.

"When you look at the tax rebates, they don't go to ag guys, they don't go to businesses," Jones said.

(Those rebates, which homeowners can apply for starting in August, also won't be available to renters, who typically pay their landlords' property taxes as part of their rent.)

#### Idea #2: Put income tax dollars toward property tax relief

State government, which is primarily funded by income tax collections, came into this year's legislative session with a historic \$2.5 billion budget surplus. The governor and legislative Republicans responded by cutting the state's top-bracket income tax rate and directing \$889 million of the surplus toward short-term income and property tax rebates.

Democrats, however, argued Montana would have been better served by foregoing the income tax cuts — which they saw as disproportionately favoring wealthy taxpayers — and instead directing money toward lowering the property taxes paid by low- and middle-income residents.

One proposal, House Bill 280, would have offered a state income tax credit to homeowners making up to \$130,000 a year to reimburse them for a portion of their property tax bill. It was voted down on the House floor in February with opposition from most Republicans.

Jones argued in an interview this week that leaning too hard on income tax is risky for the state because income tax collections tend to swing up and down with the economy. He said that means substituting income taxes for property taxes could set up schools and local governments for a budget crisis if income-based collections fall in a future recession.

"The discussion needs to be on spending. If you don't control spending, somebody has to pay," he said.

#### Idea #3: Limit or cut local government spending

Most Montana property tax collections flow directly or indirectly to local governments: schools, which consume a majority of Montana property tax dollars, as well as counties and cities. As such, many Republicans point the finger for property tax frustrations at local government leaders, blaming them for growing their budgets too quickly.

"The state did not create the property tax problem,

and it's not our job to fix the property tax problem," Rep. Jennifer Carlson, R-Manhattan, said during floor debate on HB 280.

Gianforte has also said he believes the responsibility for keeping property taxes in check primarily falls on local governments.

"While the governor's property tax rebate will help this year and next, Montanans have seen property taxes rise too much as some local governments grow their spending at alarming rates, driven in part by a series of voter-approved mill levies," Gianforte Press Secretary Kaitlin Price said in a statement Thursday. "The governor is committed to working with local partners and the legislature to make permanent reforms to provide homeowners with significant, long-term property tax relief."

Local government taxes are in theory capped by state law, which limits cities and counties to growing their property tax collections to half the average rate of inflation, excepting most taxes levied on new development and increases approved directly by voters. That statute is a perennial frustration for city and county leaders, who say setting a cap below the rate at which the cost of goods and services increases over time squeezes their budgets and prevents them from adequately funding their communities' needs.

Even so, many Republicans believe the current law has failed to keep property taxes in check, pointing to data they say shows local government budgets are rising faster than would be proportional to inflation and population growth.

Prominent Republicans, including the governor, backed a measure this year, Senate Bill 511, that would have reworked the tax cap, letting local governments grow their tax collections as much as 4.75% a year but strengthening collection limits in other ways.

SB 511 was opposed by local governments and public service advocates, who argued it would make it too difficult for cities and counties to fund police departments, build sewer lines and maintain roads.

One opponent, Montana Police Protective Association lobbyist Shelby DeMars, testified against the bill during a hearing March 23 before the Senate Taxation Committee, saying it would force cuts to law enforcement spending. Public safety spending composes the lion's share of many local government budgets, she testified, adding that many municipalities are already having a hard time equipping officers with equipment like

bulletproof vests and body cameras.

"There are a lot of folks in this room that want to back the blue. And it's really easy to say that and it's really easy to put a sign up in your yard. But when the rubber hits the road this is the sort of stuff that backs the blue," she said.

SB 511 ultimately failed narrowly, stalling on a 25-25 vote on the Senate floor in April.

#### Idea #4: Authorize more sales taxes

Montana is one of only five U.S. states without a statewide sales tax. That's both a source of civic pride for many Montanans and a perennial concern for some tax wonks who say it leaves the state and local governments too dependent on property and income taxes — especially given the decades-long decline of natural resource industries that have historically anchored Montana tax bases with sawmills, oil pipelines and coal-fired power plants.

Currently, small Montana resort communities like Whitefish and West Yellowstone have the ability to ask their voters to enact local-option sales taxes that allows them to pull revenue from visitors who use city services like parks and law enforcement but don't pay property taxes. Whitefish, for example, reported raising \$6.3 million with a 3% resort tax in fiscal year 2022, some of which it routed to local property tax relief.

Leaders in larger cities with significant tourism, like Bozeman, have long wanted the Legislature to give them similar authority. Proposals to amend state law to give larger communities that option have, however, consistently floundered at the Legislature.

While some Republican lawmakers say publicly that they believe Montana will eventually need to adopt a statewide sales tax to round out its tax system, that's widely seen as a politically unpopular option since the state's voters beat down a series of sales tax proposals in the 1970s, 80s and 90s.

The governor says he's also a firm opponent of a state sales tax.

"Montanans have spoken very clearly: They do not want a sales tax. So there is no plan that we're considering that includes a sales tax," Gianforte said at a press conference Feb. 2.

#### Idea #5: Enact a hard cap initiative

Another option for tax relief could come from beyond the walls of the Capitol, through a ballot initiative.

Lawmakers of both parties sought to whip support for their preferred property tax bills this year by raising

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## Five Ways To Lower Montana's Residential Property Taxes...

the specter that legislative inaction could spur frustrated voters to vote for a sledgehammer-style initiative that both lowers taxes and subjects the state's public institutions to blunt-force trauma.

Among them was Sen. Daniel Zolnikov, R-Billings, who sponsored the Republican tax cap bill and argued it was an important step toward heading off a poorly crafted initiative. "I'm talking about a ballot initiative that, who knows how well it's written," he said during the March Senate Taxation hearing. "The political steam is there to do something."

Anti-tax activists led by Bozeman attorney Matt Monforton made an unsuccessful attempt last year to get a proposal modeled on California's landmark Prop 13 on the Montana ballot. That push drew opposition, including litigation, from establishment advocacy organizations ranging from the Montana Federation of Public Employees to the Montana Association of Realtors. The anti-tax group ultimately failed to gather the signatures necessary to submit the proposal to voters.

Emboldened by the angst surrounding this year's property reappraisal notices, the group is now organizing to promote a similar initiative, which it hopes to qualify for the 2024 ballot. That proposal, Ballot Measure 2, is currently mired in litigation as its backers challenge an opinion issued by Attorney General Austin Knudsen declaring their proposed initiative language "legally insufficient." A decision by the Montana Supreme Court that could clear the initiative backers to begin signature gathering is forthcoming.

If backers can collect the 60,359 signatures necessary to qualify for the ballot and persuade a majority of voters to support the initiative, Ballot Measure 2 would cap property taxes for specific properties at 1% of their assessed value. It would also limit how fast the valuations used for tax purposes can grow unless properties are sold or remodeled, limiting growth to no more than a 2% annual increase relative to their 2020 value. Unlike last year's proposal, Constitutional Initiative 121, those caps would apply to all "real property" instead of just residential property.

An analysis produced by the governor's budget offices estimates Ballot Measure 2 would reduce property tax collections by \$1.5 billion a year — an 88% decrease.

Monforton said in an interview last month he believes the 88% figure is based on flawed assumptions about how the Legislature would adjust property tax law to implement the initiative if it passes. He and other supporters also say they believe schools and other local governments could reduce their spending without significant harm to the quality of services.

"The opponents of our initiative are trotting out the same parade of horrors as they do in every other state in which this property tax reform is enacted," Monforton said. "Those types of disasters never occur. Local governments learned to live within their means when they have to."

## Governor Gianforte Secures \$1,350 In Property Tax Rebates For Montanans

Montana homeowners eligible for \$675 rebates in both 2023 and 2024

Submitted by Kaitlin Price, Office of the Governor

Helena, MT – Joining Representative Tom Welch, R-Dillon, Gov. Greg Gianforte this week celebrated a new law which provides Montana homeowners up to \$1,350 in property tax rebates over the next two years.

"Property taxes are too high, which is why we prioritized and secured immediate property tax relief for Montanans this legislative session," Gov. Gianforte said. "Now, it's time to build on reforms to reduce the burden of property taxes over the long term."

At a local residence in Dillon, the governor ceremonially signed House Bill

222, carried by Rep. Welch, which provides a property tax rebate of up to \$675 in both 2023 and 2024 for Montana homeowners at their primary residence.

Joining the governor for the ceremony, Rep. Welch added, "This bill is the cornerstone of change going forward. We have a lot more work to do, but we've done a great job so far with what we've got going."

In addition to property tax rebates, the governor also emphasized the need for long-term reforms adding, "While our property tax rebate will help these next two years, we must make permanent reforms to provide homeowners with significant, long-term property tax relief."



Gov. Gianforte celebrating property tax relief for Montanans with Rep. Tom Welch, R-Dillon. (Submitted photo)

Last November, the governor proposed \$2,000 in property tax rebates for Montana homeowners at their primary residence in his Budget for Montana Families.

Montana homeowners may claim this year's rebate beginning Aug. 15, 2023. The claim must be filed by Oct. 1, 2023.

For more information, visit [getmyrebate.mt.gov](http://getmyrebate.mt.gov).

## North Dakota Chokecherry Festival Introduces New Sponsor Recognition Program

The Williston Convention & Visitors Bureau along with the North Dakota Chokecherry Festival Committee is excited to announce the dates of Aug. 11-12 for this year's event and invite the public to attend. The festival honors the accomplishments of youth, such as the successful petition of the state legislature by a group of sixth graders to name the state fruit, and it highlights the chokecherry's current and historical uses. The committee is introducing a new sponsorship program, with new opportunities for businesses to be represented at the festival.

Several of the 2023 out-of-state live acts (jump rope athletes with WeFlip Entertainment, electric violinist Austin Lightfoot and

magician/mentalist Kent Axell) are available to visit businesses who choose to support the North Dakota Chokecherry Festival at the "Chokecherry Entertainer" monetary level. Three of these sponsorships are available.

Another new recognition opportunity: sponsors at the "Chokecherry Bucket" monetary support level will be credited with sponsoring a specific activity at the North Dakota Chokecherry Festival and their logo will be displayed at that activity. There are 10 of these sponsorships available including:

Money Dig, Chokecherry Express Train, Cornhole Tourney, Pickleball Tourney, Mini Golf, Chokecherry Stroll, 5k Fun Run, Pit Spitting Contest, Ball Pit and the

Inflatable Jumper area.

Both groups of sponsors will also be acknowledged at the festival and on social media.

Festival Background:

Prior to 2007, North Dakota had not named a state fruit. Williston students in Nancy Selby's sixth grade class reached out to state lawmakers as part of a persuasive letter writing assignment, which in turn led to legislation designating the chokecherry as the State Fruit of North Dakota. Senator Stanley Lyson and Senator Nick Hacker sponsored Senate Bill 2145, and Governor John Hoeven signed the bill into law on March 29, 2007. Williston held the first North Dakota Chokecherry Festival Aug. 18, 2007. This August, the public is invited

to help celebrate the 17th anniversary of the event at Davidson Park.

The North Dakota Chokecherry Festival is supported by the Williston Convention & Visitors Bureau as well as many business and individual sponsors. Events like the North Dakota Chokecherry Festival could not happen without public support and sponsorship. If you are interested in being a festival supporter, contact the CVB. For more information, view the North Dakota Chokecherry Festival Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/chokecherryfestival](http://www.facebook.com/chokecherryfestival)) or contact the Williston Convention & Visitors Bureau at 701-774-9041.

# Energy Roundup

## DOE Announces Plans To Purchase Another 6 Million Barrels Of Oil For Strategic Petroleum Reserve Replenishment

A Total of 12 Million Barrels is Slated for Purchase by August 2023 Continuing the Biden-Harris Administration's Concerted Effort to Replenish Reserve at a Good Deal for American Taxpayers, Maintain the SPR's Operational Readiness, and Protect the Nation's Energy Security

WASHINGTON, D.C. —The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Petroleum Reserves announced that it plans to purchase about 6 million barrels of oil for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), with receipts scheduled for October and November 2023. This purchase is in continuation of the Biden-Harris Administration's replenishment plan and is the third solicitation that DOE has issued this year to repurchase oil for the

SPR. DOE will pursue additional repurchase opportunities as market conditions allow. The solicitation is for crude oil for delivery to the Big Hill SPR site. Bids for this solicitation must be received by DOE no later than 10:00 a.m. Central Time on July 19, 2023.

The announcement advances the President's replenishment strategy following his historic release from the SPR to address the significant global supply disruption caused by Putin's

war on Ukraine. Analysis from the Department of the Treasury indicates that SPR releases last year, along with coordinated releases from international partners, reduced gasoline prices by up to roughly \$ .40/gal. compared to what they would have been absent these drawdowns.

The Administration's replenishment strategy has secured a good deal for the American taxpayer. During the first two solicitations, for a total of 6.3 million barrels,

the average price paid was \$72.67 per barrel — much lower than the average of about \$95 per barrel that SPR crude was sold for in 2022.

The Administration's ongoing three-part replenishment strategy includes: (1) Direct purchases with revenues from emergency sales; (2) Exchange returns that include a premium to volume delivered; and (3) Securing legislative solutions that avoid unnecessary sales unrelated to

supply disruptions. DOE has already secured cancellation of 140 million barrels in congressionally mandated sales scheduled for Fiscal Years 2024 through 2027. This cancellation has led to significant progress toward replenishment.

The SPR continues to be the world's largest supply of emergency crude oil, and the federally owned oil stocks are stored in underground salt caverns at four sites in Texas and Louisiana. Through scheduled mainte-

nance periods and the Life Extension 2 program, DOE continues to prioritize the operational integrity of the SPR to ensure that the SPR can continue to meet its mission as a critical energy security asset. The SPR has a long history of protecting the economy and American livelihoods in times of emergency oil shortages.

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# Area Summer Event Highlights



## Homefest Entertainment

James Wedgewood entertained the crowd at Art in the Park with his comedy ventriloquist act during Watford City's Homefest Celebration July 15. (Photo by Kathy Taylor)



## King Arthur's Quest

Area youngsters performed in the Missoula Children's Theater production of "King Arthur's Quest". The production was held July 14 & 15 at Watford City High School Theater. (Photo by Kathy Taylor)



## Homefest Baby Pageant

The Baby Pageant is always one of the highlights during Homefest on July 15. This year's Little Miss Homefest is Mary Bell Barlow and Little Mr. Homefest is Calvin Collins. (Photos by Kathy Taylor)




## Fairview Old Timers Reunion and Summer Festival

Fairview held their annual Fairview Old Timers Reunion and Summer Festival July 14 & 15. Pictured (L-R) Brooks Johnson took his sister, Amaryliss, for a ride in the 2023 Fairview Old Timer's Festival Kiddie Parade in his John Deere tractor on July 15. (Photo by Jaymi Mozeak)



## Kiwanis Pie Social


The Sidney Kiwanis Club held their annual Pie Social July 14 at the Sidney Middle School and Veterans Memorial Park. Pictured (L-R) Bryan Allen, Kyle Humphries, Bree Shanks, and her son Killian Shanks were just a few of the Kiwanis volunteers that helped out at the 2023 Kiwanis Pie Social July 14. (Photo by Jaymi Mozeak)



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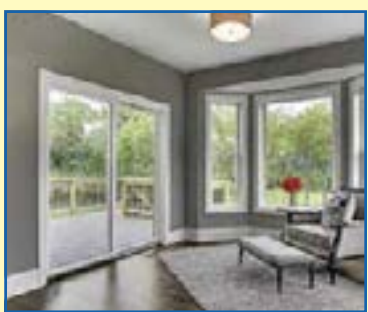
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# It's Time For A Picnic 10 Tips To Keep You Healthy And Safe

By Amelia Meier

It's finally summer, which means the sun is out, the grass is green, the days are long and your picnic supplies are begging to be utilized! You heard that right, it's picnic season! But what happens when food gets mixed with warm weather, bugs or a hot car? It becomes unsafe to eat, so we are going to help you make sure that your picnic experience is safe and without complications.

There are several important steps one must take to ensure their food is safe for consumption especially when transporting it to enjoy the outdoors. The following recommendations come from the American Cancer

Society and Tufts University.

- Wash your hands, produce and utensils before handling and preparing any food.
- If you plan to grill, pack all raw meats at the bottom of the cooler to prevent any contamination from leakage, or pack in a separate cooler altogether.
- Pack coolers completely with lots of ice packs and/or ice, as a full cooler will stay colder for longer.
- When packing your cooler wait to put any refrigerated items in until just before leaving to ensure they are staying below 40° F for as long as possible to discourage bacterial growth.
- Transport cooler in passenger or backseat in-

stead of the hot trunk, and never leave your cooler inside a hot car as that can increase the risk of bacterial growth.

- When choosing your perfect picnic spot choose a shaded spot to put your cooler or bring a blanket or umbrella to make a shady spot for it. Once food has been out for 2 hours, consider it unsafe (1 hour if it's over 90° F).
- It's time to throw away the food in your cooler if the ice has melted and/or if it smells or looks bad.
- If cooking meat or other foods it's important to keep those items hot/warm, as it is true that heat kills pathogens, but only if kept in a safe temperature range

after being cooked. While a food thermometer is not required, it is recommended to ensure the utmost safety.

- Idea: pack any drinks in a separate cooler, so the cooler with the food will not be opened continuously being exposed to outdoor temperatures.
- Reminder: The most

at risk for experiencing a foodborne illness are older adults, children, pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems, so take extra care when picnicking with any of these groups.

With all of the above in mind, enjoy the warm summer months, enjoy the

outdoors and enjoy picnic season!

For more tips on how to keep your picnic safe and fun please check out our Facebook page, Richland County Nutrition Coalition (<https://www.facebook.com/1rcnc1>) or check out our Pinterest page at [www.pinterest.com/1rcnc1](http://www.pinterest.com/1rcnc1).



## Trees Offer Benefits To Us & The Landscape

By Andy Kuester, Handy Andy's Nursery Manager

Few things add to the aesthetic of an outdoor environment more than trees. Trees offer numerous benefits to us and to the landscape. Unfortunately, in the climates of the western Dakotas and eastern Montana, we do not receive enough annual rainfall to support tree life natively. The annual rainfall needed to support tree life naturally is around 35 inches of annual precipitation. Here in western North Dakota, we come up short of that number by over half! That coupled with some of our soil challenges, it is no wonder we struggle with trees in our region.

From the benefits of producing oxygen that we breathe to the shade and cooling that they provide to the privacy and wind protection, there are many reasons for planting trees. In this article, I'll give you a few of my favorite "Shade Tree" choices for our region.

**Honeylocust:**  
Firstly, but not necessarily in any order, the Honeylocust. These stately trees have much to offer to the landscape. A medium tree, with a mature height of around 40 or 45 feet and a spread of between 25 and 30 feet, the modern cultivars of Honeylocust no longer have some of the characteristics and challenges of their predecessors. There used to be large thorns associated with these trees as well as long seed pods that matured a dark brown almost black. These things have been bred out of the modern types of Honeylocust. The Northern Acclaim is perhaps a favorite of mine. There are other hybrids also. Perhaps the best characteristic of these trees is their semi-open canopy. It is easy to grow a lawn under a Honeylocust as they do not pro-

duce a dense canopy that blocks out all-natural light.

**Linden:**  
The Linden is among the favorite trees we sell as there is not much to dislike about these trees. Linden, or Basswood, offers a medium growth rate and has attractive dark green spade-like foliage. In addition to their stunning foliage, they also have a yellow flower that opens in late June or early July. These flowers come at a time when little else is blooming in the landscape. Among my favorite cultivars of Linden is perhaps the Harvest Gold. That Mongolian Linden has a beautiful exfoliating bark that offers nice interest in the landscape as the tree gets older. Linden are an average shade tree with a height of between 40 and 50 feet and a spread of between 25 and 35 feet. These trees tend to be pyramidal-shaped when young and mature to a nice round shape when older.

**Hackberry:**  
Cousin to the Elm, the common Hackberry is another fun tree choice. Offering a large canopy when mature, the large leaves of the Hackberry offer a nice shade to the yard. One of the latest trees to emerge from winter the Hackberry can still be dormant even after Mother's Day. In some years I have seen them wait to break dormancy until Memorial Day weekend. This has its advantages as it means they are not subject to frost opportunities in the spring that other trees might be subject to. The distinct corky and gnarly bark of a Hackberry is also an attractive aspect of this tree. Achieving a height of between 50 and 75 feet and a width of between 40 and 50 feet, this tree is sure to provide nice shade for years to come.

**Elm:**  
The fear of Dutch Elm

disease has long kept people away from the idea of planting this tree. But no longer. Numerous breeding programs have now released several varieties of American Elm cultivars that boast a total resistance to Dutch Elm disease. From hybrid varieties like Accolade all the way to the pure "American Elm" cultivar Valley Forge there are many elms to choose from. I'm partial, of course, to the Prairie Expedition which is an NDSU introduction. There are many attributes to appreciate about Elm. With a moderate to fast growth rate, the American Elm can grow between 3 and 4 feet per year. At maturity, the American Elm can be between 50 feet and 60 feet in height and between 30 feet and 40 feet wide. The dark leathery green leaves have a serrated, sawtoothed edge to them. The American Elm turns a rich gold in the fall.

**Maple:**  
The genus of maple is home to MANY trees. A highly diverse genus, but among my favorite varieties of maple are those found in the group known as "Norway Maple". The Norway Maple, or Acer platanoides have large green leaves that are trilobed. Closely resembling the famous Sugar Maple, these leaves are tough and leathery. In addition to their tough foliage, one of the things I appreciate about Norway Maple are their nice "opposite" branching, a common characteristic of maple in general. The Norway Maple tends to spread out quickly in its habit and wait to get taller until later in life. This can be an attractive

(Continued on page 11A)

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# Trees Offer Benefits...

Top right: Common Hackberry - Foliage.  
Middle right: Emerald Lustre - Norway Maple.  
Bottom right: Harvest Gold Linden - Foliage.  
(Photos submitted)

(Continued from page 10A)

choice if shade is desired sooner. While items in the maple genus can struggle with nutrient deficiencies in our region the growth rate of the Norway is generally slow enough that chlorosis doesn't appear as often in this maple specie. Norway Maple are a medium tree, with heights between 35 and 45 feet tall and widths of between 30 and 40 feet.

As with ALL plantings in our region, it is always wise to be sure you know WHAT your soil composition is where the tree will be planted. Directions on how to perform a Soil Composition Test can be found in the blog section of our website [www.HandyAndysNursery.com](http://www.HandyAndysNursery.com). I hope you've enjoyed this look at some fun tree varieties. As always if you're looking to improve your relationship with plants, we hope you'll pay us a visit. Until then, good luck, and happy growing!



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# Yellow Tag Paddlefish Closes Below Harvest Target

Submitted by Marla Prell, Communications & Education Program Manager Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Region 7

Miles City - The 2023 paddlefish season on the Yellowstone and Lower Missouri rivers is now over, with a total estimated harvest of 776 paddlefish.

After monitoring two paddlefish seasons (2022 and 2023) with open river passage at Intake Dam, the new normal appears to be a dispersed fishery between the state line to Tongue River confluence at Miles City, MT, and a full season length (May 15-June 30) without a need for an early in-season closure if anglers near the 1,000-fish harvest target. With a general perspective of how the fish and anglers respond to open river passage at Intake, some significant paddle fishing regulation changes will be proposed for the 2025 paddlefish season. Deadlines for proposed changes for the 2024 paddlefish season were due prior to the end of the 2023 paddlefish season, preventing submission of changes until the 2025

season.

The free paddlefish cleaning service at Intake was utilized by numerous paddlefish anglers in 2023. Despite only 79 paddlefish being harvested at Intake, an addition 253 fish (mostly from Sidney Bridge) were transported by anglers to the Intake station for cleaning. This service provides a significant amount of biological and harvest data to be collected at one location. Discussions will explore the ability to provide this service in 2024.

Region 7 Fisheries Manager Mike Backes thanks everyone who reported a harvested fish, submitted a jaw section for aging or jaw tag return, or assisted by providing harvest and creel data. Anglers who submitted a jaw tag return will receive a tag return letter from FWP this fall thanking them for the information and explaining known details about the tagged fish. Anglers who submitted a jaw section for aging at a self-reporting station or anglers requesting information for fish processed at Intake will also receive a letter about the fish's age. Provided the jaw samples

are usable for aging, these second letters will be sent when jaw aging is complete, normally December-February.

Following are additional details and information summarizing the 2023 yellow tag paddlefish season:

- Harvest location by number of fish and percentage of total: Missouri River 1 fish (0.2% of total), downstream of Intake Fishing Access Site 345 fish (55.1%), Intake FAS 79 fish (12.6%), and upstream of Intake 201 (32.1%).

Harvest reporting loca-

tion by percentage: Intake creel station 51.5%, roving creel 1.9%, angler self-reporting station 26.6%, or phone hotline and MyFWP 19.9%.

• Paddlefish jaw collected for aging: 323 at Intake station, 77 by anglers at self-reporting stations.

Fish caught with jaw tags: 196

• Percent females harvested: 55.2%

• Largest and smallest fish: 110 lbs. and 16 lbs.

• Total paddlefish tag sales: 2,176

# Fort Union Indian Arts Festival Set For Aug. 5-6

Join Fort Union staff and guests in celebrating Indian Arts and Culture at one of Upper Missouri's most important historic sites.

Submitted by Alice Hart, Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site Superintendent

Williston, ND - Get ready to experience a rich variety of Indian Arts and Culture at the much-anticipated Fort Union Indian Arts Festival.

The Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site is set to come alive with dancing, drumming, singing, music, games, demonstrations, and kids' activities. On Aug. 5-6, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. CT daily, visitors of all ages will have the opportunity to experience the vibrant culture of the tribes who played an essential role in the history of the Upper Missouri River Region.

New special headliners for 2023 include:

"The Ivan Flett Memorial Dancers" who wowed the judges on Canada's Got Talent

"The Indigenous Games Society" who will demonstrate and invite you to play Native games

"Matt Schanadore", a Traditional Native American flutist and flute maker

"Lissa Yellow Bird Chase", subject of the Pulitzer Prize Finalist book "Yellow Bird: Oil, Murder, and a Woman's Search for Justice in Indian Country"

"Shalie Sommer", Turtle Mountain/Lakota beadwork artist

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"Debbie and Willie Lemere", Shoshone beadwork and flintknapping artisans

Admission and parking are free.

Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site: Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site is a treasured National Historic Site managed by the National Park Service, 15550 Hwy. 1804 near Williston. Fort Union preserves one of the most important fur trade posts on the Upper Missouri River.

The site offers visitors an opportunity to explore the history and culture of the fur trade era through exhibits, demonstrations, and events like the Fort Union Rendezvous, Indian Arts Festival, and Living History Weekend. Find more information and the full schedule of events at: [go.nps.gov/IndianArtsFestival](http://go.nps.gov/IndianArtsFestival).

For more information about Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site, please visit our website at [www.nps.gov/fous](http://www.nps.gov/fous). The park is also on social media: <https://www.facebook.com/FortUnionTradingPostNHS>.

# Out Loud @ The James! Open Mic Night Outdoors

Submitted by Pam Elliott, JMPS Admin

The James Memorial Art Center, Williston, ND, is hosting their summer "Out Loud", an Open Mic Night on Friday, July 21, from 6-8 p.m. on the front lawn. Free Admission!

Calling all stage performers!! Bring your musical instruments, poems, magic tricks, songs, stories, jokes or any other talent you would like to share with a welcoming crowd! You don't need to preregister, just show up! Bring a lawn chair or spread out a blanket and enjoy the great talent that this area has to offer!

Check out the other happenings: Sidewalk Chalk Art Contest: Two youth age categories (3-7 and 8-12) will create sidewalk masterpieces to win prizes donated by some of our amazing community partners!

- Safari Trampoline
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Whether performing or simply enjoying the live entertainment and family atmosphere, join us for this summer party open mic night! This event is free and open to the public.

Call our office at 701-774-3601 for more info or check out our website EVENT page at [www.thejamesmemorial.org](http://www.thejamesmemorial.org) for details!



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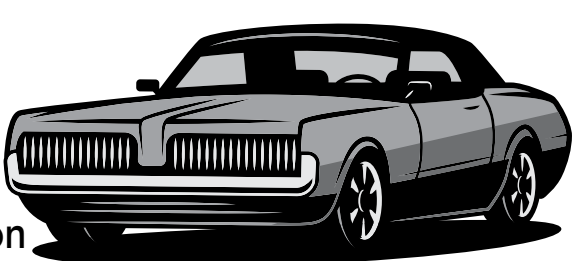


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# OUTDOORS

## 15th Annual Monster Catfish Roundup



The Montana Catfish Association held their 15th Annual Monster Catfish Roundup on July 15 at the Sidney Bridge. Pictured above are first place winners (L-R) Todd and JJ Lindsey. Todd is from Laurel and JJ is from Billings. Todd also had won both first and second in the Big Fish contest.

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## Monsters Cat Roundup Results July 15

**Submitted by Ashley Harris**  
 A total of 37 teams participated in the Monster Cat Roundup, July 15, on the Yellowstone River outside of Sidney. Some of the fishing teams included six husband and wife combos, eight father and son or daughter combos, three grandfather and grandkid combos. The tournament was run by the Montana Catfish Association and Steve and Ashley Harris.

Its total weight of five fish. The top ten teams and their hometowns are listed below.

1st Place Team 9: Todd Lindsay, and JJ Lindsay, both of Laurel, MT, 37.03 lbs.  
 2nd Place Team 5: Matt Reynolds and Carrie Niblock, both of Sidney, MT, 26.08 lbs.  
 3rd Place Team 20: Steve Norcutt and Allan Harrington, both of Glasgow, MT, 25.28 lbs.  
 4th Place Team 7: Eric Braunberger and Lukas Braunberger, both of Miles City, MT, 23.82 lbs.  
 5th Place Team 22: Garret Leuenberger, Sidney, MT; and Chase Hagler, Savage, MT, 21.74 lbs.  
 6th Place Team 6: Brenner Flaten, Glasgow, MT; and Jason Flaten, Elko, NV, 21.48 lbs.  
 7th Place Team 36: Justin Fisketjon and Grayson Fisketjon, Williston, ND, 18.36 lbs.  
 8th Place Team 23: Austin Bement, Sidney, MT; and Casey Nagel, Minot, ND, 18.15 lbs.  
 9th Place Team 4: Blake Gauer and Lindsey Gauer, both of Park City, MT, 17.01 lbs.  
 10th Place Team 11: Erik Volkman and Lacey Volkman, both of Sidney, MT, 15.46 lbs.

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# Montana State Ecologist To Examine Response Of Grassland Forage To Climate Variability

**By Reagan Cotton, MSU News Service**

Bozeman – For agricultural producers around the state, forage plants are a key element of cattle grazing as well as helping maintain soil nutrition, preventing erosion and providing a food source for wildlife. Now, funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Institute for Food and Agriculture, or NIFA, will let a Montana State University scientist begin exploring how those crops respond to changes in water availability.

Andrew Felton, College of Agriculture’s Department of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences assistant professor, plans to see how the timing of precipitation throughout the year influences the growth of forage crops, which include grasses, shrubs and flower species consumed by grazing animals. Alongside colleagues from the University of Nevada, Reno and Chapman University, he will analyze the water inside plant samples to determine when that water fell as rain or entered the ecosystem as snowmelt. In this way, the

team will trace the seasonal origin of water used by different forage species.

“There’s been a lot of research on the drivers of variation in forage growth from year to year. The common wisdom is that it’s primarily driven by variation in growing season rainfall,” said Felton. “But when you do that correlation, you see that there’s a ton of unexplained variation. It hasn’t really been mechanistically demonstrated where the water those plants are using originated.”

Felton’s project is one of 26 proposals nationwide funded through a competitive process by a NIFA program focused on sustainable agroecosystems. The work received nearly \$300,000 out of a total of \$12.7 million spread across the country. The work will include three broad sections, Felton said.

The first of those research sections involves field work at sites around Montana, Colorado, Nebraska and North Dakota to collect forage crop samples. Felton said that while the region is one of the largest intact grassland ecosystems

left in the world, this element of it is surprisingly understudied.

“There’s been a lot of focus on the tall grass prairie in the southern and central plains, but it seems to me that far less is known about the northern plains,” Felton said. “And that’s interesting because it’s so expansive and intact. There’s a lot of basic knowledge about this whole eco-region that we really know relatively little about.”

Once the field samples are collected, Felton will work with collaborators in Nevada and students in his own lab to conduct isotopic analysis on those samples. That process examines the chemical makeup of the water in the crops to identify when that water originally came into the ecosystem — whether through summer rain or spring snowmelt.

“The water in snow and the water in rain have different isotopic signatures,” said Felton. “You can analyze the water in the plant tissue and also in the soil itself to understand where that water originated. Once we analyze that data and understand

where the water is coming from, we’ll see if we can link that to larger patterns of drought sensitivity observed through remote sensing.”

Geospatial analysis and remote sensing make up the third element of the project. Because agencies like NASA have conducted global satellite observation for more than 30 years, Felton said, historical data on drought and forage cover in large areas like the Northern Great Plains are easily accessible. He hopes that comparing the chemical analysis of the forage samples with historic data about rain, snow and forage growth will provide a more nuanced look at the response of important forage crops to changes in precipitation patterns.

The study will also see whether plants experiencing drought stress can adapt and use other water sources instead of the ones they are used to. That flexibility in accessing water in a time of stress could help to identify which forage crops are best for Montana’s increasingly variable climate and precipitation patterns. If a particular

plant is less adaptable, it may not be a good option for producers.

Felton plans for this initial NIFA funding to establish a long-term research program at MSU involving graduate and undergraduate researchers, potentially leading to the creation of resources and recommendations for Montana producers who rely on forage crops to feed their livestock.

“The information this will produce could be of use to folks who are managing their systems within unpredictable and variable weather patterns,” he said. “Summers are expected to get drier, and if you know the types of vegetation that are most flexible and the types of water they use, you can select for using that vegetation when you’re grazing on forage.”

While the funding is new and Felton himself is a recent addition to MSU’s faculty — he arrived in fall 2022 — he can already see the potential for a far-reaching project to benefit students, scientists and agricultural producers around the state and region.



**Andrew Felton (Submitted photo)**

“The investment of the USDA in this grant will hopefully return dividends not only in the research but also in the training of new young scientists,” he said. “What I really like about the project is that it’s very integrative. It combines field, lab and remote sensing approaches. It’s facilitating these collaborations across the western U.S. and it’ll help me build my lab here at MSU. I’m really excited about the idea, and I think it will help facilitate a lot of wider success.”

## MSU-EARC Field Day



The MSU-EARC Field Day was held July 11 in Sidney. Pictured is Dr. Darrin Boss, MSU research centers department head, gave an update of the MSU research centers department at the MSU-EARC 42nd Annual Field Day, Sidney, MT. (Photo by Jaymi Mozeak)

## NDSU-WREC Field Day



The NDSU-WREC Dryland Field Day was held in conjunction with the Horticulture Field Day on July 12 in Williston. Pictured is Dr. Clair Keene in a soil test pit talking about Kernza as a new perennial, dual-use forage and grain crop for western North Dakota.

Dr. Chengci Chen, MSU-EARC Agronomy, spoke on soybeans, dry beans, mung beans and adzuki beans as rotational crops for irrigated production at the MSU-EARC 42nd Annual Field Day. (Photo by Jaymi Mozeak)



Andrew Friskop gave a report on Fusarium Head Blight (scab) management at the WREC Field Day July 12.



Charlie Lim gave a weed control update July 12 at the WREC Field Day.

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**LEGALS**  
**AUDIT PUBLICATION STATEMENT**

An Audit of the affairs of Rau School District No. 21, Richland County, Sidney, Montana 59270, has been conducted by Strom & Associates, PC. The audit covered the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. The audit also covered the Extracurricular Fund for pupil functions which is included in the financial statements of the District.

Section 2-7-521, MCA, requires that this publication concerning the audit report include a statement that such report is on file in its entirety and open to the public inspection at the School Clerk's office, and that the District will send a copy of the audit report to any interested person upon request.

MNAXLP  
(Publish July 19, 2023.)

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MONTANA**

In re the Application of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. for Authority to Establish Increased Rates for Electric Service  
Docket 2022.11.099  
July 13, 2023

**NOTICE OF LISTENING SESSION**

On November 4, 2022, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. ("MDU") filed with the Montana Public Service Commission ("Commission") its Application for Authority to Establish Increased Rates for Electric Service ("Application"). In the Application, MDU proposed to raise rates for electric service. MDU proposed a total increase of \$10,499,415, which would affect approximately 25,600 electric customers in Montana. The proposed rate change would increase the average residential customer's rates by 19.2%. MDU also requested interim rate relief in the amount of \$1,716,219, which became effective on February 1, 2023. The Montana Consumer Counsel and Denbury Onshore LLC intervened and opposed elements of MDU's request. On June 12, 2023, MDU, the Montana Consumer Counsel, and Denbury Onshore LLC filed a Stipulation Settlement Agreement ("Settlement"), which recommended the Commission approve a \$6.1 million increase in electric rates. The proposed rate change in the Settlement would increase the average residential customer's rates by 9.1%, relative to rates in effect before February 1, 2023. The Commission may approve or reject the settlement filed by the parties. If the Commission rejects the parties' settlement, all parties have reserved the right to present evidence and argument in favor of their original positions.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Commission will conduct a listening session on MDU's Application. The purpose of the listening session is to provide an opportunity for interested members of the public to

comment on MDU's proposed electric rate increases, including the proposed settlement agreement. The listening session will commence on July 25, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at the MSU Extension Richland County Office, located at 1499 N. Central Ave, in Sidney, Montana. The listening session will be live streamed on the Commission's website (<http://psc.mt.gov>). Comment at this session may be provided in-person, by telephone, or by videoconference. Commenters participating by telephone or videoconference must sign up to receive participation instructions. To sign up, please contact the Commission at 1-800-646-6150 or [pschelp@mt.gov](mailto:pschelp@mt.gov) by 5:00 p.m. on July 24, 2023.

A copy of the Application is publicly available at the following locations: the Commission's business office, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana; online at the Commission's website (<http://psc.mt.gov> under Docket No. 2022.11.099); and at the office of Montana Consumer Counsel, which represents consumer interests before the Commission, located at 111 North Last Chance Gulch, Suite 1B, Helena, Montana, (406) 444-2771. Interested parties can register on the Commission's website to receive notice of filings in this docket. Instructions for subscribing to notices of filings in contested cases are

available at [psc.mt.gov/reddi-help](http://psc.mt.gov/reddi-help).

Anyone needing accommodations in order to attend or participate in the listening session should contact the Commission at (406) 444-6170. The Commission will make every effort to assist in accommodations for individuals. The Commission's jurisdiction over this matter is provided in Title 69 and Title 2, Chapter 4 of the Montana Code Annotated, and Title 38, Chapters 2 and 5 of the Montana Administrative Rules, and any prior orders of the Commission relevant to the issues presented. DONE AND DATED this 13th day of July 2023, by the Montana Public Service Commission, through delegation to staff. JAMES BROWN, President JENNIFER FIELDER, Vice President TONY O'DONNELL, Commissioner RANDALL PINOCCI, Commissioner Dr. ANNIE BUKACEK, Commissioner

MNAXLP  
(Publish July 19, 2023.)



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## NOTICE OF TOWN OF FAIRVIEW'S PROPOSED WATER RATE INCREASE AND PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on June 14, 2023, the Town Council (the "Council") of the Town of Fairview, Montana (the "Town"), adopted its Resolution No. 559 of its Intention to Increase Rates and Charges for the Users of the Water System. The City currently owns and operates a municipal drinking water and distribution system (the "System") and imposes a monthly rate charge on all connections to the System (the "Monthly Rate Charge"). The costs of the System covered by the Monthly Rate Charge are the amount necessary to pay the costs of operating and maintaining the System, to pay the principal of and interest on any outstanding or authorized debt of the System and to establish and maintain any reserves and other debt service requirements.

The current Monthly Rate Charge for the System is as follows:

Size of Water Meter	EDU Multiplier	Monthly Base Rate	Water in Base Rate
3/4 inch	1	\$52.00	1,000
1 inch	1.7	\$88.40	1,700
1.5 inch	4	\$208.00	4,000
2 inch	7.1	\$369.20	7,100
2.5 inch	11.1	\$577.20	11,100
3 inch	16	\$832.00	16,000

The Town charges a rate of \$20.00 each month for fire protection on all improved properties within the Town that are neither hooked up nor using the Town water System where available. The Town proposes to not change this Fire Protection rate.

The proposed new Monthly Rate Charge for the System is proposed to be as follows:

Size of Water Meter	EDU Multiplier	Monthly Base Rate	Water in Base Rate
3/4 inch	1	\$64.00	1,000
1 inch	1.7	\$108.80	1,700
1.5 inch	4	\$256.00	4,000
2 inch	7.1	\$454.40	7,100
2.5 inch	11.1	\$710.40	11,100
3 inch	16	\$1,024.00	16,000

The reason for the proposed increase in rates is that the Town will need to borrow approximately \$675,000 (payable over 30 years at an interest rate of 2.5% per annum) as part of the Town's waterline replacement Project, and the costs of operating the Town's water system. The debt service coverage requirements for such loan repayment and reserves, as well debt service coverage on existing water debt, will be approximately \$149,513 per year and the expenses for that water system, including operation and maintenance are estimated at \$260,449 per year. These obligations, along with the increasing costs of operation and the need to maintain reasonable reserves, require a monthly base rate increase of \$12.00 per month per equivalent dwelling unit (EDU).

On August 9, 2023, at 7:00 PM at the Fairview Senior Center, located at 217 West 5th Street, Fairview, Montana, the Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed water rate increase. Comments may be given orally at the hearing or submitted in writing to the address below before 3:00 PM on the date of the hearing.

Further information about the proposed rate increases may be obtained by contacting Norma Faye Carlson, Town Clerk, P.O. Box 426, Fairview, Montana 59221, phone: (406) 742-5616.

Done by Order of the Council of the Town of Fairview, Montana, this 19th day of July, 2023.

Norma Faye Carlson, Town Clerk  
Publish: July 19th, July 26th, and August 2nd, 2023

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 (13) \_\_\_\_\_ (14) \_\_\_\_\_ (15) \_\_\_\_\_ (16) \_\_\_\_\_ (17) \_\_\_\_\_ (18) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (19) \_\_\_\_\_ (20) \_\_\_\_\_ (21) \_\_\_\_\_ (22) \_\_\_\_\_ (23) \_\_\_\_\_ (24) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (25) \_\_\_\_\_ (26) \_\_\_\_\_ (27) \_\_\_\_\_ (28) \_\_\_\_\_ (29) \_\_\_\_\_ (30) \_\_\_\_\_ (\$9.25)  
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# Sidney Tiger Sharks Glendive Swim Meet Results July 15-16



The Sidney Tiger Sharks team photo.



15-19 girls medley relay got the pool record Sunday morning.

The Sidney Tiger Sharks had another fantastic weekend of competing in Glendive. It was a cloudy slow starting Saturday so not a lot of time was cut, but the

Sharks rallied back to win the meet.

They had a few pool records broken by Toby Kleinke in the 100 free, Morgan Kindopp broke the

pool record in the 50 free and 100 breast, and Ryleigh Kleinke broke the record in the 100 free.

The 15-19 girls medley relay got the pool record Sunday morning. The medley was swam by Avé Norby (back), Amara Iverson (breast), Ella Norby (fly) and Ryleigh Kleinke (free).

Many Sharks took high points this meet, 11 total. Cash Copple 8 and under

boys, Brylee Moran 8 and under girls, Braya Radke and Paisley Obergfell tied for 9-10 Girls, Toby Kleinke 9-10 Boys, Addison Steffan 11-12 girls, Beckett Norby 11-12 boys, Morgan Kindopp 13-14 Girls, Ryleigh Kleinke 15-19 girls, Corben Holler and Ethan Erickson tied for 15-19 boys.

Next week the Sharks head to Chinook for the divisional meet.



High Point winners. (Photos submitted)

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## Dogs On The Deck

The Long X Liquor Store held their final Dogs On The Deck event for the year on July 13 in Watford City. Josey and the Whalers entertained the attendees. Pictured is a group of youngsters showing off their crafts they made at Dogs on the Deck. (Photo by Kathy Taylor)



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- ON-SITE INTERVIEWS
- NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY

10:30am-1:00pm mt  
Rough Rider Center  
Watford City, ND

**enerPLUS**

## Arch Ellwein Memorial Drama Camp Cancelled

**By Robyn Heck**  
The Arch Ellwein Memorial Drama camp has been cancelled due to lack of participants.

The MonDak Grace Fund would like to thank the MonDak Heritage Center, Yellowstone Bank, Johnson Hardware, and B & B Builders for their offers to assist with donations.

"We will try again next year." said organizer Karen Shaide.

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