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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

### Big Sky State Hockey Games

pages 8 & 9



## Efforts Underway To Preserve Iconic J.K. Ralston Painting



Efforts are underway to preserve the J.K. Ralston painting, 'General Sully at the Yellowstone' which is in the Nutter Building, downtown Sidney. (Photo by Nikki Bailey-Will)

By Dianne Swanson

The J.K. Ralston Preservation Committee is actively working to protect the iconic J.K. Ralston painting "General Sully at the Yellowstone" which is currently in the Nutter Building in downtown Sidney. Formerly the U.S. Post Office, the building is owned by Richland County and has housed multiple county entities over the years. It is now scheduled for some remodeling and potential new tenants.

Believing the arts were an important facet of life, the U.S. Department of the Treasury under President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Treasury Section of Fine Arts under the Federal Arts Project to create art for federally owned structures such as post offices and U.S. Department of Interior headquarters in Washington, DC.

"General Sully at the Yellowstone" is one of two works Ralston created under the Federal Arts Project. "The Fate of the Mail Carrier" which he painted first, is at the main post office in Stur-

gis, SD. Ralston painted the Sidney piece in 1942, depicting a scene from the General Alfred Sully Expedition into Dakota Territory in 1864. As in all his art, the scenes were historically accurate accounts of real life events.

Ralston is one of Montana's greatest treasures. According to his grand daughter A'Lisa Scott, he was born near the family ranch near Choteau where his grandfather had settled in the 1800s, a place now called Ralston Gap. In the early 1900s, when he was about nine years old, his father homesteaded at Charlie Creek in eastern Montana. He grew up during the open range days and was part of the Pot Hound Pool, a group of four or more ranches which would band together to round up their cattle from a 250 square mile area. He had an incredible memory and soaked in all the stories told around the campfires.

Ralston was always an artist, painting in oils by the age of eight or nine. He was also a historian, painting real life events and activities. He

met his wife Willo in Miles City and they were married in 1923. They lived on the west coast for a few years where Ralston worked as a graphic artist but soon moved back to Montana. The family, now including two young children, moved back to the Charlie Creek ranch for a few years to help out when his father was ill. Imagine four adults and two children all living in a sod home in Eastern Montana! Scott's mother, Willo Marjorie (Margie) had strong memories of Charlie Creek and always said that's where she was from. The young family also lived in Fairview with Willo's family, the Arthauds, for three years during which time Ralston painted signs all over Eastern Montana for the Yale Oil Company.

In 1936, Ralston and his wife made the decision to dedicate their lives to his art and the family moved to Billings. He and his son built the log cabin which served as living and studio space in 1946. It is now part of the Western Heritage

Center. According to Scott, they were, at times, 'poor as church mice' and sold illustrated greeting cards with poems to survive. From those humble beginnings grew an artist and historian beloved throughout the country. Ralston was inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in 1978 and the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2012. He died in 1987 at the age of 91.

Scott is passionate about preserving not just her grandfather's work, but the history of Montana which it represents. She believes we all need to be stewards of our communities and that our history needs to be recorded, learned and heard. The tragic loss of the 33 foot long Ralston painting during the fire at the Jordan Inn in Glendive in 2023 was devastating to Scott and the art world. The J.K. Ralston Preservation Committee had just begun talks with the owners about preserving the painting.

She is honored and

grateful that the Richland County Commissioners want to preserve the painting in the Nutter building. The commissioners are in phase I and, so far, have budgeted \$3600 for Nikki Bailey-Will, MonDak Heritage Center director, and member of the J. K. Ralston Preservation Committee, to work with a conservator in Colorado to evaluate the possibility of extraction of the painting. If feasible, the project is estimated to cost approximately \$100,000. Bailey-Will is also working with the J.K. Ralston Preservation Committee to locate grants to help pay for the project.

The commissioners also removed the 1931 Ralston painting "Buffalo Crossing the Missouri" from the courthouse during its remodel and relocated it to the MonDak Heritage Center for preservation. Having evolved from the original J.K. Ralston Museum, the MonDak has the largest public collection of Ralston art in the country according to Scott.

## Bares & Broncs Rodeo Kicks Off March 23 At McKenzie Co. Ag Expo

By Katelyn Sponheim

In the new McKenzie County Ag Expo Indoor Arena, Watford City, Stan Headings will be hosting the sixth annual Bares and Broncs Rodeo, March 23 at 7 p.m. Its the second year of being a PRCA sanctioned event. The rough stock rodeo features the best horses of five different stock contracting companies to be competed on by some of the best PRCA cowboys in the business.

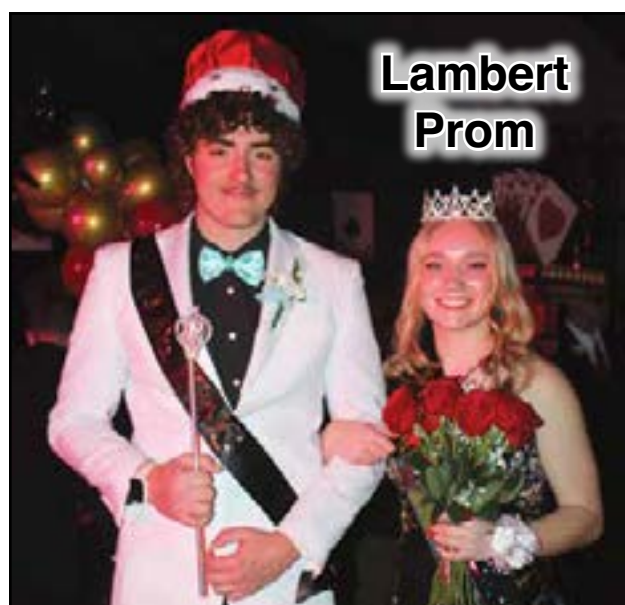
This year, Stace Smith Pro Rodeo (Malakoff, TX), Burch Pro Rodeo (Gillette, WY), Brookman Pro Rodeo (Sidney, MT), J Bar J (Brockway, MT), and Outlaw Buckers Rodeo Corp. (Wainright, AB) will attend with 10-15 of their top horses, giving every cowboy a shot at a great ride on a top horse. Each contestant will get one horse, with the top 4 advancing to a short round. Thirty saddle bronc riders and thirty bareback riders, over half having been to the National Finals Rodeo and past world champions included, will thrill the crowd as they compete for the payout of over \$40,000.

The cowboys won't be the only World Champions in the building. Several horses who have graced the National Finals Rodeo and hold world titles will be filling the chutes at the Expo center, in its first time hosting at the new facility.

In between sets, Dusty Dickerson, Illinois, will entertain with her Roman riding performance as she has multiple times at the National Finals Rodeo. Tate Rhoads will be the rodeo clown for the evening and present the "fan of the night" moment, and crowd giveaways. Jesse Knudson will be coming from Wisconsin to announce and has performed the sound and music for the steer tripping event at the National Finals Rodeo. A concessions and bar will be offered, and there will be a VIP area for sponsors to enjoy the show.

Immediately following the rodeo, a live band featuring John Scalia and the Dirty Word will perform for those not quite ready to call it a night. Admission to all the evening's entertainment is \$30 for adults, and children 10 and under attend for free. For any questions, Stan Headings can be reached at 620-874-1526.

MNAXLP



Lambert Prom

Lambert High School held their prom Friday, March 15. Shown are prom king Austin Lien and prom queen Shaelyn Williams. (Submitted photo)



## Sidney Prom

Sidney High School held their prom on Saturday, March 16. The prom king and queen were seniors, Braden Harris and Avery Averett. The junior prince and princess were Ruby Reidle and Jackson Wick. See page 6A for more.

Pictured left: Sidney Prom King Braden Harris and Queen Avery Averett. (Photo by Robyn Heck)



# CELEBRATE EASTER • SAT, MARCH 30



## FREE EASTER BREAKFAST

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10am - 2pm

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8:30-11am.  
Bring your camera.

# Watford City Roughrider Fund Announces 2024 Enhancement Grant Awards – Opens Second Round To Close May 17

Submitted by  
**Vawnta Best**

Watford City - The Watford City Roughrider Fund is a one and a half cent city sales tax missioned with enhancing Watford City. In recent history, the fund supported the construction and expansion of large community facilities including the McKenzie Health Medical Complex, the Rough Rider

Center and the Watford City Municipal Airport.

Each year, the fund supports organizations that create vibrancy in our community through events and programming in and around Watford City. This year, the fund committed \$100,000 to its Community Enhancement Grant program to support vibrancy efforts. At the February City Council

meeting, the fund awarded \$52,500 to the following organizations for programming and events:

- Save the Maah Daah Hey to support volunteer efforts during the annual Big Push event
- Friday Night Lights to support school wide activity passes and student back packs
- Trap, Neuter, Rescue Foundation (AKA Angels Wish) to support operations
- Badlands Gymnastics to support the annual Blast In the Badlands youth gymnastics meet
- Long X Arts Foundation to support Wild West Days at the 2024 North Dakota Rodeo Associations Finals
- Long X Arts Foundation to support Art in the Park 2024 during Watford City's Homefest Celebration weekend

• Watford City Golf Club to support the Welcome Back Scramble, Money Mayhem Tournament, Couples' Scramble, and Superintendent's Challenge

• Bakken Classic Jr. Livestock Show to support their annual North Dakota Junior Point & Beyond the Ring sanctioned youth show

• Feed My Starving Children to support the Watford City Mobile Pack event

• McKenzie County Heritage Park & ND Oil Museum to support youth programs such as Tator Tots, Teddy's Kids Camp, Dino Dig, Heritage Day and monthly old fashion creative arts at Wintering Well

• Watford City Chamber of Commerce to support Homefest weekend activities

• Watford City Chamber of Commerce to support Ribfest

• Watford City Chamber of Commerce to support Fall & Winter events such as Trail of Treats, Turkey Bingo and Parade of Lights

• Bakken Oil Rush Ministry to support the Bilingual Play Group

• Bakken Oil Rush Ministry to support the Annual School Supply Giveaway

• McKenzie County Tourism to support Visit-

WatfordCity.com 2024 Main Street Summit downtown activities

• Watford City Park District to support the 2024 North Dakota Parks Association State Conference at the

Rough Rider Center

• Watford City Park District to support the 2024 12 U Cal Ripken Baseball Tournament

• Arnegard Park Board to support Spudfest

The program has an additional \$47,500 available for 2024 events and programs in McKenzie County that support community vibrancy. Please find the application here: [https://www.cityofwatfordcity.com/usfiles/cp/Community\\_Enhancement\\_Grant\\_Application\\_12.11.2023\(Fillable\).pdf](https://www.cityofwatfordcity.com/usfiles/cp/Community_Enhancement_Grant_Application_12.11.2023(Fillable).pdf) or by scanning the QR code.



The Roughrider Fund committee and City Council thank all community members for shopping local. Your support of local businesses generates the sales tax dollars that in turn support the GREAT organizations in our community whose programs and events make Watford City a vibrant and exciting community to live in. The committee also encourages community members to check out [WatfordCityEvents.com](http://WatfordCityEvents.com) to always know what opportunities for events and programming are being offered



## Boys & Girls Club Of The MonDak Announces Feb. Youth Of The Month

Boys & Girls Clubs of the MonDak is proud to announce Avalynn Peterson and Natalie Koosey as our February Youth of the Month winners.

Avalynn is in Mrs. Papineau's 4th grade class and is the daughter of Paitan Twigg and Casey and Malorie Peterson. She has one sibling and is in the Blue group at the Club. Avalynn likes drawing and painting while at the Club and her favorite subject in school is art. Avalynn wants to be a fashion designer when she grows up.

Natalie Koosey is the Youth of the Month at the Base and is in Mrs. Brannan's 5th grade class. She is the daughter of Stephanie and Richard Tremblay and has one sibling. She enjoys



**Avalynn Peterson**  
(Photo submitted)



**Natalie Koosey**  
(Photo submitted)

going ice skating while at the Club and her favorite subject in school is P.E. Natalie would like to be a nurse when she grows up.

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

Congratulations to both



## Spring Classes Open For Registration

For details and to register, visit [handyandynursery.com](http://handyandynursery.com) or our Facebook page

March 23 ..... Amazing Air Plants  
April 6 ..... Carnivorous Plants  
April 13 ..... Staghorn Mount



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# REDC, Richland County Commissioners Seeking Funds To Hire Consultant

By Dianne Swanson

On behalf of the Richland County Commissioners, REDC Executive Director Leslie Messer applied for, and the county was approved for, a \$45,000 grant from the Big Sky Economic Development arm of the Montana Coal Tax Fund.

The Big Sky Development Fund was established in 2005 to fund qualified economic development projects. The fund receives 25% (12.5%) total of the remaining coal severance tax revenue after deposits in the coal tax bond fund. It provides grants and loans to local governments for economic development projects and certified regional development corporations for the purpose of creating good paying jobs for Montana residents, promoting long-term, stable economic growth, encouraging local economic development organizations and retaining or expanding local businesses.

Messer said she had been aware of the board and grants for many years but thought there had to be direct impact in order to apply. With all the recent changes in Richland County such as the loss of Sidney Sugars, half the coal mine, and power generation, now was the time to apply.

"The money will be used

to hire a consultant who will go to every community in Richland County and determine what they would like to see in terms of development. Maybe a tech firm, maybe an ag processing company? "We want to get an accurate pulse of where the citizens of today would like to focus new development priorities," Messer explained.

The Coal Board dollars were just the first part of Messer's big plan. She said that when MDU was closing the power generating plant, they kept asking what they could do to help the community transition. Nothing was asked for at the time but Messer recently asked for, and received, \$5000 to help pay for the consultant.

The next step is an application into the Economic Development Administration for a \$100,000 grant. REDC will be competing with ten other states for \$9 million in disaster relief funds. Richland County was declared a disaster after devastating straight line winds in 2020-21 but never received any assistance. The money is to be used for diversification and economic development strategies.

If fully funded by the EDA and MDU, Messer said REDC would seek requests for proposals the beginning of June, award the contract

in July, and complete the project by December 2024.

Messer said she is learning from her colleagues who are dealing with various devastating changes to their economies. She said her inspiration for the consultant came from her colleague Jim Atchison in Colstrip and his actions after the coal-fired generators, 1 & 2 were shut down. His actions have resulted in a possible hydrogen project for the area.

REDC works hard to pair potential business with resources and contacts in the area and encourage economic growth. Visit them at 609 S. Central Ave., Sidney or call 406-482-4679.

# Application Deadline For 2024 Paddlefish Tags On Upper Missouri River Is March 22

Snag-and-release licenses can be purchased

By MT FWP

Glasgow - Paddlefish anglers planning to harvest a fish in the Upper Missouri River (between Fort Peck Dam and Fort Benton) need to apply for an Upper Missouri River paddlefish tag by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 22.

For 2024, a total of 1,000 tags are available for the drawing. A 2024 fishing license is necessary before applying, and applications can be submitted online at fwp.mt.gov or at an FWP office. Anglers have the option to apply individually or as a party (up to five people) and have the option to purchase a bonus point at the time of application. There is not an E-Tag available for this license, so it cannot be used with the MyFWP app.

Successful applicants may harvest a fish anytime

during the season, which runs from May 1 through June 15. Those anglers not successful in drawing a harvest tag will be issued a snag-and-release license for the Upper Missouri and will not be eligible to purchase any other paddlefish tag. Drawing results will be available in early April.

Additionally, anglers who did not participate in the drawing but would like to participate in snag-and-release, can purchase an Upper Missouri River paddlefish snag-and-release license at any FWP office, online or at any license provider throughout the season.

Anglers may select only one area to fish for paddlefish: Upper Missouri River (White Harvest Tag - 1,000 tags available through the drawing) from May 1 to June

15, Yellowstone River and Missouri River downstream of Fort Peck Dam (Yellow Harvest Tag - 1,000 fish quota) from May 15 to June 30, and the Fort Peck Dredge Cut archery-only season (Blue Harvest Tag) from July 1 to Aug. 31.

All harvested paddlefish must be immediately tagged and reported within 48 hours. Reporting options include: onsite check points where fish was harvested (such as Intake Fishing Access Site), self-reporting stations on the Upper Missouri and Fort Peck Dredge Cuts, calling 1-877-FWP-WILD or 406-444-0356, or online at MyFWP at fwp.mt.gov.

Download the MyFWP mobile app to access your hunting and fishing licenses right on your phone!

# Preliminary Proposals For 2025-2026 Fishing Regulations Available For Review

Paddlefishing Regulations to be Addressed

Submitted by MT FWP

Helena - If you're interested in providing input on how Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is crafting fishing regulations for the next two years, now is your chance. FWP is taking public comment and asking for ideas on initial proposals for the 2025-2026 Fishing Regulations.

The initial 64 proposals are online now and available for review and comment. Just go to fwp.mt.gov/aboutfwp/public-comment-opportunities/fishing-regulations.

FWP is also looking for ideas for regulation changes that aren't captured in these initial proposals. To answer questions and get feedback on fishing regulations, FWP is hosting public meetings around the state. Staff will use the input to refine the

regulation proposals that will go before the Fish and Wildlife Commission in October. The fishing regulations proposals that will be considered by commission will be available for public comment in August. The commission will adopt, amend or reject the proposals at its October meeting.

Montana's fishing regulations are split into three districts - west, central and east. Each district has standard regulations. Many of the proposals remove exceptions to district standards that are no longer biologically relevant. Others are intended to increase fishing opportunity, enhance conservation efforts for some species, reduce confusion or improve enforceability. All regulation changes are

based on criteria or objectives outlined in the Statewide Fisheries Management Plan.

Specific statewide proposals include improving definitions of different types of hooks and adjusting regulations for cleaning and transporting fish.

For the Eastern Fishing District, proposals include clarification of paddlefish regulations because of the new fish bypass channel at Intake, the addition of a tag for paddlefish snagging opportunities in the Missouri River below Fort Peck Dam, regulations to conserve shortnose gar, and conservative crappie limits on Tongue River Reservoir.

Fishing regulations are now under a process like hunting regulations, going

through a comprehensive public review every two years. Fishing regulations are printed during odd numbered years.

The meeting schedule is as follows:

Region 2: April 10, 6:30 p.m., Missoula, 201 Spurgin Road

Region 3: March 28, 6 p.m., Bozeman, 1400 South 19th St.

Region 4: April 4, 6 p.m., Great Falls, 4600 Giant Springs Road

Region 7: March 21, 6:30 p.m., Miles City, 352 I-94 Business Loop

FWP will be collecting comments through April 26. The department will also host at least one virtual meeting during this comment period.

# DPHHS Urges Consumers To Discard & Not Purchase Recalled Cinnamon Products

Montanans advised to check their homes, discard recalled products

Submitted by DPHHS

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is advising consumers to throw away and not purchase specific ground cinnamon products because samples of these products were found to contain levels of lead that may be unsafe.

One of these products, Supreme Tradition ground cinnamon, has been distributed at Family Dollar and Dollar Tree stores in Montana. These stores currently operate in the fol-

lowing counties: Beaverhead, Big Horn, Broadwater, Carbon, Custer, Dawson, Deer Lodge, Fallon, Fergus, Flathead, Gallatin, Glacier, Great Falls, Hill, Jefferson, Lake, Lewis & Clark, Lincoln, Madison, McCone, Musselshell, Missoula, Ravalli, Richland, Roosevelt, Sanders, Silver Bow, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Teton, Toole, and Yellowstone.

The FDA initiated a targeted survey of ground cinnamon products from discount retail stores and analyzed the samples for lead and chromium following the October 2023 recall of cinnamon apple puree and applesauce products due to elevated lead levels linked to the cinnamon in those products and the concern for lead

toxicity in children. Based on FDA's assessment, consuming these products could contribute to harmful levels of lead in the blood.

Montana state health officials said exposure to lead in the diet could contribute to adverse health effects, particularly for the portion of the population that may already have exposure to lead from other sources. Most people have no obvious immediate symptoms of lead exposure.

Children are more vulnerable to the health effects of heavy metal exposure than adults because they are still developing, making it especially important to avoid exposure.

"If you are concerned that you or anyone in your

family may have been exposed to lead, the FDA recommends you contact your healthcare provider who may recommend testing your blood for lead," said Dr. Maggie Cook-Shimaneck, Public Health Physician for the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

There is no safe level of lead exposure, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) uses a marker of 3.5 micrograms per deciliter to identify children with blood lead levels higher than most. For more information, see the March 6, 2024 FDA Alert Concerning Certain Cinnamon Products Due to Presence of Elevated Levels of Lead.

# Burgum Issues Statement On Passing Of Former North Dakota First Lady Grace Link

Bismarck - Gov. Doug Burgum today released the following statement regarding the passing of former First Lady Grace Link, who died Tuesday at age 105. The wife of former Gov. Art Link, Grace Link served alongside her husband through his entire political career spanning terms in the North Dakota House of Representatives (1946-70) including serving as speaker of the House (1964-70), the U.S. House of Representatives (1971-73) and as the 27th governor of North Dakota (1973-81). Art Link died in 2010.

"A partner to Gov. Art Link in every sense of the word, Grace Link was a dedicated and passionate public servant to both the state of North Dakota and our nation," Burgum said. "Her strong belief in preserving and promoting the history of North Dakota continues to benefit our residents to this day in facilities such as the North Dakota Heritage Center and the Former Governors' Mansion State Historic Site. As Gov. Link's partner and political confidant, her time as first lady was impactful, driven by compassion and commit-

ment to the citizens of North Dakota and the Bismarck community in which she lived. Those who had the good fortune of meeting her were always touched by her genuine kindness, warm smile and innate toughness from her upbringing as a farmer's daughter during the Great Depression. Kathryn and I extend our deepest condolences and prayers to the Link family and all the friends and former colleagues of Grace and Art Link - one of North Dakota's truly legendary couples."

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# City of Sidney Solid Waste Department Battles Garbage Disposal Issues

**Submitted**

The City of Sidney Solid Waste Department has been experiencing several cases of misuse and abuse of residential and commercial garbage disposal over the past few years. The following are a few bullet points of what residents and businesses need to know about proper disposal of their solid waste.

Garbage containers are for HOUSEHOLD REFUSE ONLY! Construction and landscaping debris are not to be placed in these containers. Homeowners and businesses are required to remove and transport this type of debris to the landfill themselves.

Residents who use "roll out" containers and have curb side pick-up need to place the container at the edge of the roadway by 7 a.m. and removed the container by 6 p.m. All roll out and large alley or commercial containers are to be left with the lids facing the alley or street. Homemade or makeshift containers are not allowed.

Extra containers are not allowed unless approved by the Public Works Department.

Residents who use "roll out" container should track your container by the serial number found on each container. If the wind blows your container away, it is not the city's responsibility to find it!

Containers are to be placed well away from parked vehicles, mailboxes, or other objects with minimum of 3.0' clearance on ANY side of container. If more than one container is used, they must be separated by a minimum of 3.0' apart from each other.

Do not place items in containers that stick out above the lid. Flatten or cut cardboard boxes before placing in the container and keep the lids closed.

Animal, food, and ALL HOUSEHOLD WASTE shall

be wrapped in plastic bags before placing in containers.

Paint cans are acceptable if the contents of the can have been dried to solid form.

Residents are encouraged to bring lawn clippings, leaves and garden vegetation to the city's mulch pile located at 300 10th Ave. NE next to the city yard. NO TREES, BRANCHES OR KINDLING.

Homeowners and businesses are responsible for keeping the containers clean. The city departments will not clean the container for you.

Residents shall make special arrangements with the Department to have appliances picked up if the resident is unable to complete this task themselves.

**UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS:** fireplace or stove ashes; un-rinsed pesticide and herbicide containers; hazardous waste; flammables (solvents, oil, paints, fuels); corrosives (acids and alkalines); large amounts of cooking oil; car batteries; car, truck or vehicle parts, bodies, engines, fuel tanks, engine oil(s), grease, wheels or tires; Animal hides or carcasses; trees, limbs or branches; metal or iron items, bed frames etc..

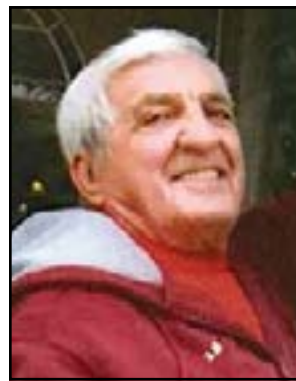
If you have questions regarding acceptable wastes or container usage or to report someone for misuse, please contact the Department of Public Works at 406-433-2809. Our business hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The continued misuse of the garbage disposal service will only create more rules and add higher taxes for all Sidney residents. Cooperation on your part creates a cleaner environment, a better community and a safer work environment for the service people who handle your garbage daily.

# OBITUARIES

## Stephen Paladichuk, 92 Sidney, MT

Celebration of Life Services will be Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 10 a.m. at Shepherd of the Valley Church, Sidney, MT, with Pastor David Huskamp officiating. Steve and June will be laid to rest at the Sidney Cemetery, Sidney, MT. There will be a luncheon following services for a time of fellowship and sharing. Military funeral honors will be presented by the VFW Post 4099 and representatives for the U.S. Army Funeral Guard. 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).



Stephen Paladichuk

After spending 92 years making this world a little more beautiful, Stephen "Steve" Paladichuk transitioned to the eternal garden in Heaven on Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

Steve was born on Nov. 24, 1931, in Dickinson, ND. He attended school through the eighth grade in Savage and Sidney.

Sports, especially basketball, was always a love for Steve, but his greatest love blossomed one night at a high school game in Sidney. He saw June (Vickstrom) across the gym and knew that was the beauty he needed most in his life. Their bond flourished into a remarkable 67-year marriage, cherished through countless shared moments as holiday hosts for family and friends throughout those wonderful years. Steve and June were married on Aug. 31, 1953.

Steve's first job was for the city of Sidney as a garbage truck employee. He was then drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean War and headed to California. His time included serving as a cook overseas in Alaska.

Upon his return to eastern Montana, Steve found employment in a series of jobs until finding fulfillment as a custodian at the Sidney Middle School. He looked forward to visiting with students, especially when he was fortunate enough to have his own daughter and grandchildren at the school.

He was a founding member of the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church and was also a member of the Sidney VFW.

His reverence for nature was evident in his daily life. He fed pheasants around the Paladichuk house so well they struggled to take flight due to their hearty meals. Steve also enjoyed feeding squirrels and rabbits, but just about any animal had a warm place in his heart.

Fishing, including many trips to the river when his grandson Shaun was a child, and agate hunts with his nephew Francie held special places in his heart.

Steve enjoyed making his corner of the world more beautiful by spending countless hours in his yard and garden. Working in the dirt was a labor of love for him. His time at the Lodge was brightened by the presence of his own little garden, a source of immense joy.

The Christmas season was another time Steve loved to share beauty with others as he would spend hours outside decorating the house with elaborate light displays to spread some Christmas cheer.

Yet, amidst the flowers and the Christmas lights, nothing rivaled the beauty of his bond with June. There's been a great emptiness for Steve these past few years, and we celebrate that he is now back with her, and they both are reunited with daughter Lana.

They loved raising their four daughters and time

spent with all the grandchildren. Steve often said the good Lord knew what He was doing by giving him all daughters, since Steve displayed the most patience with girls.

Survivors are daughters Linda (Jay) Reed and their sons Josh Reed and Jamie (Malisa) Reed; Laurie Paladichuk and her daughter Jaylee (Peter) Guerra; Libby (Randy) Berndt and their children Sara and Kelly (Kallie) Berndt; grandchildren Shaun (Michelle) Jensen, Kory (fiancée Marta) Jensen and Kelsey (Corby) Storer; his 10 loving great-grandchildren; brother John (Wilma); best friend Jerry Wznick; and cherished loved ones Amrei Finke, exchange student from Germany, Shannon and Cody Paulsen, Robin and Robert Hernandez and their children Vickie, Kristi and Michelle.

Steve was preceded in death by his wife, June; daughter Lana Jensen; parents Fred and Anna Paladichuk; parents-in-law Bert and Sara Vickstrom; brothers Sam, Mike, George, and Jim; sisters Katie Berry, Marge Denham, Rose Cobb, and Joyce Callen; an infant granddaughter and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Sidney, MT, or Prairie to Peaks Animal Assistance Foundation ([priarietopeaks@gmail.com](mailto:priarietopeaks@gmail.com)) Cynthia Misner, founder, 513 28th Ave. NW, Sidney, MT 59270.

## Richland Federal Credit Union Declares/Distributes Special Dividend

The Richland Federal Credit Union (RFCU) Board of Directors has declared a Special Dividend of \$300,000 to be distributed in mid-March to its share account holders equaling a 0.50% interest payment on 2023 average share account (savings) balances. While direct payments to members are relatively rare in the financial industry, this is the second time in the last five years that RFCU, a financial cooperative, has distributed a dividend to its member owners. The previous distribution of \$250,000 was made for fiscal year 2018.

In announcing the distribution, RFCU Board Chair Beth Redlin noted "It is a pleasure to once again be able to say 'Thank You' to our members for entrusting their money with us. Given the very modest returns depositors everywhere, whether at banks or financial cooperatives, have received on their money the past several years, it is especially gratifying to be able to again reward our members for investing in our cooperative and its future. This is a unique feature of financial cooperatives where earnings go to benefit our member owners, when conditions allow, through dividends paid directly to our member-owners, not to outside investors."

"Special circumstances create these opportunities in the Credit Union world and that is what we have here at RFCU again in 2023," Richland Federal CEO Korey Hagan noted. "We have very loyal members that throughout the year trust in our financial management and decision making and believe in our continual commitment to bringing value to our members today and those in the future."

## Fairview Chamber Adds Elementary Age Kids To Easter Egg Hunt

More eggs, more kids, more fun! The Fairview Chamber of Commerce is inviting kids from babies through 5th grade to its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Friday, March 22 at noon egg-xactly at Sharbono Park.

The area will be divided into two sections, one for K-5th grade and one for the younger kids. Featuring thousands of eggs, and some special prizes, this event is sure to be fun for all the little ones.

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Wapiti Consulting  
Yellowstone Bank  
Yellowstone Chiropractic  
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Sidney High School Prom Prince and Princess Jackson Wick and Ruby Reidle. (Photo by Robyn Heck)

## Letter to The Editor

### Sidney Post Prom Thank You

The Sidney post prom committee is comprised of a small volunteer group of junior and senior parents who seek to keep our community kids safe on prom night. This year's committee hosted a gathering from 11:30 p.m.-3:30 a.m. last Saturday night after the Sidney prom. The evening was held at the Richland County Event Center and consisted of pizza and snacks, a photo booth, a cornhole tournament, spike ball tournament, door prizes, bingo games, casino games: roulette, craps, blackjack and poker. Entertainment Explosion, a company traveling here from Dickinson, provided a DJ/MC, large inflatable obstacle course, Mario cart game, laser tag and a football toss for the students to enjoy. The finale of the evening was a Chinese style auction with many prizes donated by area businesses. The students had chances to win tickets throughout the night to place into the prizes that they wished to win. Many prizes were purchased through donations from area businesses, as well as businesses donating the actual prizes. We are blown away by the support of our community for this event. It was announced at the event that Amazon did NOT contribute to the prizes in any way and kids were encouraged to "shop local". Again, we want to express our gratitude to our local businesses in the community effort to keep our kids safe.

Bobbi Jo Lonski,  
post prom committee member



## Lambert Honor Roll 3rd Quarter

Lambert High School supports two honor roll awards. Students maintaining a 4.0-3.5 will earn an "A" honor roll status. Students with a 4.0 are indicated with an "\*\*\*". "B" honor roll status is for students earning a 3.0-3.49.

### A Honor Roll

Seniors:  
Gracelyn Gonsioroski, Lillian Herbst, Jerome Hughes, Austin Lien, Brie Mullin, Halley Mullin, Lauren Prevost, Sage Spinner, Shaelyn Williams.

Juniors: Malik Boufennara, Caitlyne Carter, Farah Haj Hasan, Jayla Huft, Robert Knotts, Keira Rains, Kristina Rozicova, Tsai-Yen Wu.

### Sophomores:

Addison Foss, Brynne Hill, Maziee Kirby, Beau Mullin, Brooke Spinner, Cade Verschoot.

### B Honor Roll

William Martin, Thomas Young, Izabella Carter, Jaysin Dolatta, Matthew Hill, Caedence Mavity.

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# MONTANA'S BIG SKY STATE GAMES

## SAT - SUN, MARCH 23-24 | RICHLAND RANGER HOCKEY ARENA

Saturday Concessions Side Schedule				Saturday Scoreboard Side Schedule			
Time	Team vs. Team		Concession Side 1	Division	Team vs. Team		Scoreboard Side 2
7:30am	Dickinson Bombers	Batman	High School		Bombtown Roughnecks	Puckhogs	Squirts
8:00am	Sidney Stingers	The Stokers	Bantam		Hat Trick - Pee wee	Team BDE	Pee wee
8:30am	Batman	BEEKO Selects	High School		Arctic Aces	Hat Trick - Squirts	Squirts
Ice Cut	30 minute-		Ice Cut				
9:30am	The Stokers	Dust N Flow	Bantam		Team BDE	Richland Aviators	Pee wee
10:00am	BEEKO Selects	Dickinson Bombers	High School		Dakota Ice Pirates	Boomtown Roughnecks	Squirts
10:30am	Dust N Flow	Sidney Stingers	Bantam		Richland Aviators	Hat Trick - Pee wee	Pee wee
Ice Cut	30 minute-		Ice Cut				
11:30am	Batman	Dickinson Bombers	High School		Hat Trick - Squirts	Willy Snipe Show	Squirts
12:00 PM	The Stokers	Sidney Stingers	Bantam		Team BDE	Hat Trick - Pee wee	Pee wee
12:30 PM	BEEKO Selects	Batman	High School		Puckhogs	Dakota Ice Pirates	Squirts
Ice Cut	30 minute-		Ice Cut				
1:30 PM	Dust N Flow	Sidney Stingers	Bantam		Richland Aviators	Team BDE	Pee wee
2:00pm	Dickinson Bombers	BEEKO Selects	High School		Willy Snipe Show	Arctic Aces	Squirts
2:30pm	The Stokers	Dust N Flow	Bantam		Hat Trick - Pee wee	Richland Aviators	Pee wee
Ice Cut	30 minute-		Ice Cut				
3:30pm	Golden Girls	The Money Drainers	Mite		Dakota Goon Squad	Bash Bros	Mite
4:00pm	Hat Trick - Mites	Dirty Dangers	Mite		Frozen Foxes	Williston Flyers	Mite
4:30pm	The Money Drainers	Bash Bros	Mite		Dakota Goon Squad	Golden Girls	Mite
Ice Cut	30 minute-		Ice Cut				
5:30 PM	Dirty Dangers	Williston Flyers	Mite		Hat Trick - Mites	Frozen Foxes	Mite
6:00pm	Bash Bros	Golden Girls	Mite		Dakota Good Squad	The Money Drainers	Mite
6:30pm	Hat Trick - Mites	Williston Flyers	Mite			Pee wee Bracket Game 1	PeeWee
Ice Cut	30 minute-		Ice Cut				
7:30pm	High School Bracket Game 1		High School	Bracket	Bantams Bracket Game 1		Bantams
8:00pm	Pee wee Bracket Game 2		Pee wee	Bracket	Frozen Foxes	Dirty Dangers	Mite
8:30pm	High School Bracket Game 2		High School	Bracket	Bantams Bracket Game 2		Bantams
Ice Cut	30 minute-		Ice Cut				

Sunday Concessions Side Schedule				Sunday Scoreboard Side Schedule			
Time	Team vs. Team		Concession Side 1	Division(s)	Team vs. Team		Scoreboard Side 2
7:30am	Squirts Bracket Game 1		Squirt		Mites Bracket Game 1		Mite
8:00am	Squirts Bracket Game 2		Squirt		Mites Bracket Game 2		Mite
8:30am	Squirts Bracket Game 3		Squirt		Mites Bracket Game 3		Mite
Ice Cut	30 minute-		Ice Cut				
9:30am	Squirts Bracket Game 4		Squirt		Mites Bracket Game 4		Mite
10:00am	Squirts Bracket Bonus Game 1		Squirt		Mites Bracket Bonus Game 1		Mite
10:30am	Squirts Bracket Game 5		Squirt		Mites Bracket Game 5		Mite
Ice Cut	30 minute-		Ice Cut				
11:30am	Squirts Bracket Bronze Medal		Squirt		Mites Bracket Game 6		Mite
12:00 PM	Mites Bracket Bonus Game 2		Mite		OPEN		
12:30 PM	Mites Bracket Bronze		Mite		Mites Bracket Game 7		Mite

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Ice Cut	30 minute-		Ice Cut				
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12:00 PM	Mites Bracket Bonus Game 2		Mite		OPEN		
12:30 PM	Mites Bracket Bronze		Mite		Mites Bracket Game 7		Mite


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## R&L VARSITY TRACK

Date	Location	Time
Mar. 29	Sidey Invite	10am
Apr. 13	Wolf Point, NE Invite	9am
Apr. 18	Sidney, Savage Invite	TBA
Apr. 20	Sidney Invite	10am
Apr. 25	Lambert, Home Invite	12:30pm
Apr. 26	Glendive, Shriner's Invite	10am
Apr. 30	Glasgow Top 10	3pm
May 2	Fairview Invite	1pm
May 7	Lambert Districts	10am
May 16	Wolf Point Divisionals	10am
May 23-25	Great Falls State	TBA

## FROID/LAKE VARSITY TRACK

Date	Location	Time
Mar. 23	Williston	9am
Mar. 29	Glasgow	10am
Apr. 6	Wibaux Invite	TBA
Apr. 18	Sidney	TBA
Apr. 20	Sidney Invite	10am
Apr. 23	Wolf Point	3pm
Apr. 25	Lambert	12:30pm
Apr. 30	Glasgow Top 10	3pm
May 2	Fairview Invite	1pm
May 3	Wolf Point	12pm
May 7	Lambert Districts	10am
May 16	Wolf Point Divisionals	10am
May 23-25	Great Falls State	TBA

## FAIRVIEW VARSITY TRACK

Date	Location	Time
Mar. 23	Williston	9am
Mar. 29	Glasgow	9am
Apr. 13	Baker	10am
Apr. 20	Sidney	10am
Apr. 25	Lambert	12:30pm
Apr. 30	Glasgow Top 10	3pm
May 2	Home	1pm
May 11	Wolf Point Districts	9am
May 17-18	Glasgow Divisionals	TBA
May 23-25	Laurel State	TBA

## CULBERTSON VARSITY TRACK

Date	Location	Time
Mar. 23	Williston	TBA
Mar. 29	Sidney	TBA
Apr. 13	Wolf Point, NE Invite	TBA
Apr. 18	Sidney	TBA
Apr. 20	Glasgow	TBA
Apr. 25	Lambert	TBA
Apr. 30	Glasgow Top 10	TBA
May 2	Fairview	TBA
May 3	Wolf Point	TBA
May 7	Lambert Districts	TBA
May 16	Wolf Point Divisionals	TBA
May 24-25	Great Falls State	TBA

## R&L VARSITY GOLF

Date	Location	Time
Apr. 18	Wolf Point Invite	10am
Apr. 22	Sidney, R&L Invite	TBA
Apr. 23	Sidney, Fairview Invite	TBA
Apr. 26	Glasgow Invite	9am
Apr. 27	Malta	9am
May 2	Wolf Point, Poplar Invite	10am
May 3	Plentywood Invite	10am
May 4	Plentywood, Froid/Lake Invite	TBA
May 6	Sidney Divisionals	TBA
May 14-15	Great Falls State	TBA

## FROID/LAKE VARSITY GOLF

Date	Location	Time
Apr. 16	Sidney	TBA
Apr. 18	Wolf Point Invite	10am
Apr. 23	Sidney	TBA
Apr. 26	Glasgow Invite	9am
May 2	Wolf Point	10am
May 3	Plentywood Invite	10am
May 4	Plentywood	TBA
May 6	Laurel Divisionals	TBA
May 14-15	Great Falls State	TBA

## FAIRVIEW VARSITY GOLF

Date	Location	Time
Mar. 29	Broadus Dual	TBA
Apr. 18	Pryor Creek, Huntley Invite	TBA
Apr. 22	Broadus Invite	TBA
Apr. 23	Home Invite	TBA

## CULBERTSON VARSITY GOLF

Date	Location	Time
Apr. 18	Wolf Point	TBA
Apr. 22	Sidney	TBA
Apr. 23	Sidney	TBA
Apr. 26	Glasgow	TBA
May 2	Wolf Point	TBA
May 3	Plentywood	TBA
May 4	Plentywood	TBA
May 6	Laurel Divisionals	TBA
May 14-15	Hamilton State	TBA

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Schedules are subject to change



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## SIDNEY VARSITY TRACK (MT)

Date	Location	Time
Mar. 29	Home Invite	10am
Apr. 5	Dickinson Invite	TBD
Apr. 9	Watford City Invite	10am
Apr. 13	Lockwood Invite	9am
Apr. 18	Home Invite	1:30pm
Apr. 20	Home Invite	10am
Apr. 26	Glendive Invite	9:30am
Apr. 27	Dickinson Invite	TBD
Apr. 30	Glasgow Top 10	3pm
May 2	Fairview Invite	1pm
May 3	Watford City Invite	TBD
May 7	Miles City Invite	10am
May 10	Glendive Invite	3pm
May 17 - May 18	Laurel Divisionals	3pm/9am
May 23 - May 25	Laurel State	10am/10am

## SIDNEY JV/V SOFTBALL (MT)

Date	Location	Time
Mar. 23	Billings Jamboree	TBD
Mar. 29	Home vs Custer Co	3/5pm
Apr. 5	Home vs Williston	3/5pm
Apr. 6	Watford City	1/3pm
Apr. 9	Glasgow	3:30/5:30pm
Apr. 12 - 13	Lewistown Invite	TBD
Apr. 16	Home vs Dawson Co	3/5pm
Apr. 19	Home vs Havre	3/5pm
Apr. 20	Home vs Fergus	1/3pm
Apr. 25	Home vs Watford City	3/5pm
Apr. 26	Miles City	3/5pm
Apr. 27	Williston	2/4pm
Apr. 30	Dawson Co	3/5pm
May 3	Havre	3/5pm
May 4	Lewistown	1/3pm
May 7	Home vs Glasgow	4/6pm
May 10 - 11	Butte Invite	TBD
May 17 - 18	Lewistown Divisionals	TBD
May 23 - 25	Billings State	TBD

## SIDNEY JV/V BASEBALL (MT)

Date	Location	Time
Mar. 22	Home vs Columbus	5/7pm
Mar. 23	Home vs Columbus	10am/12pm
Mar. 29	Home vs Park	5/7pm
Mar. 30	Home vs Park	(JV) 10am
Mar. 30	Home vs Stanley	(V) 2pm
Apr. 2	Watford City	3:30/5:30pm
Apr. 5	Belgrade	(V) 2/4pm
Apr. 6	Belgrade	(JV) 11am/1pm
Apr. 8	Stanley	(V) 3pm
Apr. 8	Stanley	(V) 5pm
Apr. 12	Home vs East Helena	5/7pm
Apr. 13	Home vs East Helena	(JV) 10am
Apr. 13	Home vs Williston	(V) 2pm
Apr. 16	Williston	3:30/5:30pm
Apr. 19	Livingston	TBD
Apr. 20	Livingston	TBD
Apr. 26	Home vs Belgrade	5/7pm
Apr. 27	Home vs Belgrade	(JV) 10am
Apr. 27	Home vs Watford City	(V) 2pm
May 3	Helena	3/5pm
May 4	Columbus	1/3pm
May 16 - 18	Missoula State	(V) TBD

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# A Sweet Sign Of Spring: Girl Scout Cookie Booths Begin Soon!

## Easily locate nearby Cookie Booths with your zip code

Billings-Girl Scout Cookie season is a highly anticipated time of year for Montana and Wyoming residents. During this annual event, Girl Scouts unbox their future through the world's largest entrepreneurial program for girls.

If you missed pre-ordering your favorite Girl Scout cookies, you can still indulge in your favorite treat by supporting girls at Cookie Booths beginning Friday, March 22. When you support Girl Scouts, you help girls flex their entrepreneurial muscles and acquire important life skills like goal setting, decision making, money managements, people skills, and business ethics.

From local grocery to large box stores, Girl Scout Troops will hold booth sales March 22 through April 14.

Customers can find exact locations, dates, and times by visiting [www.gsmw.org/findcookies](http://www.gsmw.org/findcookies). Simply enter your zip code to find a booth nearest to you.

Girl Scout Troops will feature up to nine varieties at their Cookie Booths this year: Thin Mints®, Caramel deLites®, Peanut Butter Patties, Peanut Butter Sandwich, Trefoils, Adventurefuls, Lemonades, Toast-Yay!, and gluten/allergen free Caramel Chocolate Chip. The Caramel Chocolate Chip may not be available at all booths. Cookies will sell for \$5 per package with the exception of the Caramel Chocolate Chip, which will sell for \$6 per package.

Customers may also participate in the Care to Share program. Purchase a package or two from your

local Girl Scout Troop and they will donate them to their local hometown heroes, food banks, service organizations, and much more.

If Cookie Booths are not available in your community, you can still support local Girl Scouts by purchasing online. Visit [www.gsmw.org/findcookies](http://www.gsmw.org/findcookies) to find a troop in your community, or support Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming's outreach troops, which benefit underserved girls.

All of the net revenue raised through the Girl Scout Cookie Program—every penny after the baker is paid—stays with the local council and troops. Girl Scout troops set goals for how to spend their proceeds on program-related activities including travel, camp, as well as investing back into

their community through service projects.

The Sidney Girl Scouts

Troop 2433 will be selling Girl Scout cookies from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. March 23 at

Reynolds' Market, Sidney; and 4-7 p.m., March 29 at The Market, Sidney.



## Watford City Oilers 12U/14U Hockey Team Takes ND State Championship

The Watford City Oilers 12U/14U hockey team skated their way to the North Dakota Amateur Hockey Association's state tournament in Mandan March 7-10. The team went into the tournament seeded No. 1 with a 26-4 season record. (Photo by McKenzie County Hockey Club)

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# SPRING

## It On

**March 26th • 5-7pm**

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