

Sidney Graduate Returns Home To Become Betania Ristorante Italiano Chef

A Sidney woman has returned home to pursue her career as a chef. Abby Hermanson, valedictorian of the Sidney High School Class of 2010, has been named the head chef at Betania Ristorante Italiano here.

"We feel very lucky to have Abby running the kitchen and food services," restaurant owner Russ Wells said. "She picked up on our entrees in just a few days and has made several improvements already. She has a love for food, always cooking with our customers her top priority."

Abby has begun creating some of her own Italian dishes for the restaurant. Her latest creation is "Snappy Shrimp", featuring fresh sugar snap peas, zucchini, fresh basil, large steamed shrimp and several other ingredients. Diners can enjoy one of her chef's specials every Friday evening.

Abby was born in Williston and grew up in Sidney. Her dad, Todd, has operated Hermanson Fencing for 18 years. Her mom,

Tammy, is a grade school teacher. Besides being the top student at Sidney High School, Abby was active in basketball, cross county, track, Key Club, Skills USA

and National Honor Society.

She started college at NDSU studying architecture. She soon decided, "This is not for me." She transferred to Wahpeton, still not know-

ing what she what she wanted to do.

While working part time at a family-owned bar and grill she got excited about the food industry and got into the

chef management and training program at school.

Besides work opportunities, her return to Sidney was motivated by wanting to be with her boyfriend, Dylan Wyman. She also wanted to

be near her family. "I knew there were places to work here, the money was here and I could be with my friends and family."

She has worked at Betania's for over a month.



Abby Hermanson

Hunter Safety Registration Feb. 1

Registration for the spring 2012 hunter safety class will be held Feb. 1 at 6 p.m. in the Sidney-Richland Library basement. All students 12 years of age or older or that will turn 12 years old during the coming hunting season may sign up.

A parent or legal guardian must accompany the student at the sign-up as both the student and parent or guardian have to sign the application. Textbooks will be handed out with homework assignments to be done prior to the first class. Please bring a pen to sign up.

The class schedule is as follows: Feb. 6, 6-9 p.m.; Feb. 7, 6-9 p.m.; Feb. 8, 6-9 p.m.; and Feb. 9, 6-9 p.m.

Due to problems in the past there will be no early or late sign-ups.

If you have any questions contact the following: Greg Mohr, 433-2815 (day), 488-1166 (evenings); Ron Sorenson, 488-7664 (evening) or Tom Lorenz, 482-2536.

Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture Annual Award Winners



The Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture held their annual meeting Monday night at the Richland County Fair Event Center. Pictured are back row (L to R): Justin and Tressa Rau, Rau Designs, Horizon Award, sponsored by the Sidney Health Center; Yvonne Gebhardt, Sidney High School math teacher, Educator of the Year Award, sponsored by DTF Educational Consulting; Anissa Gillespie, Sunny's Family Restaurant, Entrepreneur's Award, sponsored by Richland Federal Credit Union. Front row (L to R): Richland County Commissioners Shane Gorder, Loren Young and Don Stepler, Agriculture Award, sponsored by the Ag Roundup; Robert and Don Byer, B&B Builders, Sunrise Spirit Award, sponsored by the Sidney Herald.

Custom Compliance & Consulting Opens In Sidney

Marilyn Bail, after 27 years as a truck driver and compliance officer, has opened Custom Compliance and Consulting in the Yellowstone Marketplace Mall 102 N Central Ave., Sidney.

Bail came to Sidney from western Montana after spending two years in Williston.

The new company offers all DOT compliances both federal and state, hours of service, a collection site for DOT and non-DOT drug screens, pro rate permits and fuel taxes. They are first responders in regards to truck accidents and post-accident drug screens. They also offer complete startups for new truck companies, insurance filings, backgrounds on all new hires for any companies. They offer Fed Ex pickup and delivery. Truckers can also drop off paperwork for out of the area employers. They will do billing, invoices and payroll for any company.

"We also can contract to do new hire screenings for any company and do mock audits for companies to make sure they are in compliance," states Bail.

Melissa Dickson is the new operations manager for the company. Dickson has previous experience in safety and compliance. She moved to Sidney from Ohio two years ago.

"This is a highly needed company in this area," quotes one of their many customers.

Coming soon will be OSHA, H2S and fit testing.

Custom Compliance and Consulting will be holding a grand opening Feb. 1-4. The office is open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. You may reach them at 406-433-8230.



Custom Compliance & Consulting Staff

Shown front is Melissa Dickson, Custom Compliance and Consulting operations manager, and back Marilyn Bail, owner. Custom Compliance and Consulting opened Jan. 16 in the Yellowstone Marketplace Mall.



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Watford City Girls Basketball

Watford City's Amanda Mogen goes up for two points against Divide County. The Wolves defeated the Maroons 52-44. (Photo by Kathy Taylor)

Retirement & Estate Planning Seminars Offered Locally Or On-Line

Montana State University Extension is offering a free financial education series webinar resuming Jan. 26. The spring "Solid Finances" series consists of four sessions on retirement

planning and four sessions on estate planning. The program is taught by MSU Extension Family Economics Specialist Marsha Goetting and MSU Extension Economics Asso-

ciate Specialist Joel Schumacher. Participants can attend a single session or all sessions. There are two ways to participate: several host locations offer classroom space (Broadus, MSU-Billings, Cut Bank, Glasgow, Great Falls, Havre, Livingston, Missoula, Sidney and White Sulphur Springs.); or participate as an individual online in the webinar series. Sidney's location is at the Richland County Extension Office, 1499 N. Central Ave. All webinar sessions are from noon to 1 p.m. Further information on dates of future webinars or to watch archived recordings on money management and investment can be found at www.msuextension.org/solidfinances. If you have questions contact Richland County Extension at 406-433-1206 or Joel Schumacher, MSU at 406-994-6637.

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Rugged West Relay For Life Meeting Scheduled For January 30

By Myra Anderson

A meeting to discuss the Rugged West Relay for Life will be held on Monday, Jan. 30 at 7 p.m. at the Watford City Masonic Temple. We are asking that anyone interested in being on the organizing committee or in having a team at the Relay attend this very important meeting.

The Rugged West Relay for Life is a 12-hour event which is part of the American Cancer Society. The money raised through corporate sponsorships and by the participating teams goes to help fund cancer research, services for those fighting cancer and education. The event also recognizes local cancer survivors with a survivor walk which starts the event. And the heart of the Relay is always the luminaria ceremony where the candles in the luminarias are lit as the names are read of the cancer survivors and those loved ones we have lost to this disease.

The Rugged West Relay for Life began in 2002 and for the past ten years we have had one of the strongest Relays in our 12-state region. We have raised over \$585,000 and have upwards of 15 teams at the Relay and have lined the track with over 30,000 luminarias over the 10 years. This event has been one of the area's signature events that showed our concern for our friends, neighbors and loved ones who have battled cancer.

The event takes planning and work. There has been a dedicated group who has worked on this event throughout the years. This year, we need new blood in the organizing committee and your help to put together a Rugged West Relay for Life for 2012. Those of us who have been on the committee are still here, but we need more help. If you are interested in being on the organizing committee or if you plan on having a team at the Relay please attend the meeting on Jan. 30 or give either Myra Anderson, 701-675-2267, or Joy Brew, 701-842-2164, a call before the meeting.

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MDT Proposes Intersection Improvements In Fairview

The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) would like to notify the public and seek comments on a proposal regarding the following intersection improvements:

- Install a traffic signal at the intersection of MT 200 (Ellery Ave) and 6th Street.
- The curb radii at the intersection of MT 200 (Ellery Ave) and S-201 (1st Street) will be modified to accommodate trucks turning to and from S-201. All-way-stop control with an overhead flasher will be added to this intersection as well.
- The existing school crosswalk at MT 200 (9th St) and Pleasant Avenue will be relocated one block to the east to Western Avenue and a high intensity rapid-flashing beacon will be installed with this crossing.

At these three intersections, listed above, new ADA ramps will be installed.

The existing school crosswalks, along with the overhead signs at 5th Street and 4th Street, will be removed and replaced with standard crosswalks and signing.

This project is planned for construction in the summer of 2012.

New right-of-way will be required for this project, as well as, some tree trimming may be required at the intersection of MT 200 (Ellery Ave) and S-201 (1st Street).

At this time, utility relocations are anticipated. Staff will contact landowners prior to construction regarding property acquisition and temporary construction permits.

For more information, please contact Glendive District Administrator Shane Mintz at 406-345-8212, or Project Design Engineer LeRoy Wosoba at 406-444-1280. For the hearing impaired, the TTY number is 406-444-7696 or 1-800-335-7592 or call the Montana Relay at 711. People may submit written comments to the Montana Department of Transportation Glendive office, PO Box 890, Glendive, MT 59330-890 or online at www.mdt.mt.gov/mdt/comment_form.shtml.

Governor Schweitzer To Host Remembrance Ceremony For Former Governor Nutter

On Wednesday, Jan. 25, at Montana's Capitol, Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer will commemorate the tragedy that took the lives of former Montana Governor Donald G. Nutter and five others fifty years ago. The public event will be held on Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the Governor's Reception Room. The event is open to the public.

Then Lieutenant Governor Tim Babcock who was sworn in as Governor following the confirmation of Governor Nutter's death, along with former First Lady Betty Babcock will join Governor Schweitzer at the event. Major General John Walsh, Montana National Guard adjutant general, will also participate in the event along with leadership and members of the Montana Air National Guard, still based at Gore Hill, Great Falls.

"We are humbled and privileged to honor these fine men who perished on that cold January day 50 years ago and to commend their commitment to public service," said Governor Schweitzer.

On Jan. 25, 1962, a Montana Air National Guard C-47 aircraft departed Helena for Cut Bank. On board in addition to Governor Nutter, were his executive secretary Dennis Gordon, State Agriculture Commissioner Edward Wren, Montana National Guardsmen, Major Joseph R. Devine, Major Clifford E. Hanson and Crew Chief MSgt. Charles "Chico" Ballard. The Governor was scheduled to speak to three groups in Cut Bank that day.

Radio communication from the plane to the Gore Hill tower indicated that the Governor wanted to take a closer look at the projected new Interstate 15 highway route and that several passes would be flown over the Wolf Creek area. Such a flight was not unusual and was well with the operational limits of the C-47. When the plane was reported overdue for its scheduled arrival in Cut Bank and efforts to communicate with the plane failed, efforts to locate the plane began.

The crash was first reported by loggers working in the Wolf Creek area and the crash site was confirmed within hours by the local sheriff's office and National Guard personnel to be that of the missing plane. The investigation concluded the right wing of the aircraft sheared off, perhaps partly due to hurricane strength winds reported at in the area at the time. All on board the C-47 were killed in the accident.

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OBITUARIES

Mary McCarthy Farr, Roundup, MT

Mary McCarthy Farr passed away Jan. 16, 2012. She was born and raised in Bantry, County Cork, Ireland to Jeremiah and Mary McCarthy, and was the third of ten children.

Mary immigrated to the United States in 1949 and vividly remembered having to land in Boston due to the airport in New York City being fogged in. After being bused back to New York City, Mary worked for a family in the city. This job eventually led to a job in Cody, WY, where she met her husband, Shelton Farr.

Married in 1951, Mary and Shelton ranched in Cody for 17 years. There they raised five children. Mary became a U.S. citizen in 1964.

The family moved to Billings, MT, in 1968 and over the years Mary worked as a nurses' aide, did daycare in her home, and worked as a housekeeper.

She worked throughout her life to make life better for her children and her family overseas. A deep faith, hard work, integrity and a commitment to family were her hallmark.

Mary was preceded in death by her son Fredrick, and her husband, Shelton Farr. She is survived by her sons, Francis (Connie Mackay), Bozeman; Jerry (Brenda), Boise, ID, and Daniel (Lynette), Sidney, MT; a daughter, Mary Ann (Gordon) Gildroy, Roundup, MT; and seven grandchildren, Nick and Nolan Farr, Sara, Bridget and Ashley Farr, and Heather and Heidi Gildroy.

In honor of Mom's request, a private family service will be held. Please send memorials to Rimrock Humane Society, PO Box 834, Roundup, MT 59072.

This wild Irish lass is now jiggling in Heaven. Arrangements are in the care of Dokken-Nelson Funeral Service. www.dokkennelson.com.



Mary McCarthy Farr

Louella Fischer, 86, Sidney, MT

Mass of the Christian Burial for Louella Fischer, 86, Sidney, MT, is at 10 a.m., Friday, Jan. 27, 2012 at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, Sidney, with Father Jim O'Neil officiating.

Interment will be in the Sidney Cemetery under the direction of Fulkerson Funeral Home, Sidney. Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

Louella died on Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012 at the Sidney Health Center Extended Care Facility, Sidney.

Robert "Bob" Rehbein, 91 Sidney, MT

Mass of the Christian Burial for Robert "Bob" Rehbein, 91, Sidney, MT, was Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2012 at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, Sidney, with Father Jim O'Neil and Father Ned Shinnick presiding.

Interment was in the Sidney Cemetery under the direction of Fulkerson Funeral Home, Sidney.

Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

Robert died on Friday, Jan. 20, 2012 at the Sidney Health Center Extended Care in Sidney.

STATISTICS

Lake Water Level Reports

	Fort Peck	Sakakawea
Current Elevation	2235.1	1838.6
Last Week's Elev.	2235.6	1839.1
One Year Ago	2235.6	1840.3
Release For Day (C.F.S.)	12,000	21,000

Watford City Weather Data

Source: North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network			
Date	High	Low	Precip.
Jan. 16	34	23	-0-
Jan. 17	10	-3	.T
Jan. 18	5	-10	.T
Jan. 19	-10	-17	-0-
Jan. 20	0	13	-0-
Jan. 21	10	0	-0-
Jan. 22	27	6	-0-

Sidney Weather Data

Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center			
Date	High	Low	Precip.
Jan. 16	18	-3	-0-
Jan. 17	4	-9	.01
Jan. 18	6	-16	-0-
Jan. 19	2	-13	-0-
Jan. 20	8	0	.T
Jan. 21	25	7	-0-
Jan. 22	32	19	-0-
Average YTD Precipitation34
2012 YTD Precipitation10

Celebrating Chocolate At MonDak Heritage Center Feb. 4

The MonDak Heritage Center, 120 3rd Ave. SE, Sidney, is pleased to announce the annual Celebrating Chocolate fundraiser Saturday, Feb. 4 from 7-9 p.m.

The imaginative creations of over a dozen chocolatiers will be the centerpiece of the event. Wine, stout, coffee, cold milk and savory treats will also be served. Live music by Glendive musician Charlie Denison will round out the evening. Take home boxes will also be available again this year.

Tickets for members of the MonDak are on sale for \$20. Anyone can join at this time to take advantage of special pricing. Tickets are also on sale to the public for \$25. If you can't stop by, we'll be happy to process your tickets over the phone at 406-433-3500.

A silent auction will also take place with contributions from area artists and local businesses. Proceeds from this fundraiser will bring history, art and live music events to the MonDak region.

This special event is made possible by Stockman Bank and the membership of the MonDak Heritage Center.

For More information please contact Leann at the MonDak Heritage Center, mdhc@richland.org.

Governor Appoints Redman To Board Of Outfitters

Governor Brian Schweitzer has appointed John Redman, Sidney, to the Board of Outfitters.

Redman is a public representative and a retired rancher who has a bachelor's degree in general agriculture from Montana State University.

EVENTS

SEND US YOUR EVENTS!

THE ROUNDUP: PO Box 1207, 111 West Main, Sidney, MT 59270
406-433-3306, Fax: 406-433-4114
Email: classads@esidney.com

Richland County

Events in Sidney unless otherwise listed. MT Zone.

Wed., Jan. 25

7 p.m. — Gambler's Anonymous, Millers' Corner back room.

Thurs., Jan. 26

5 p.m. — TOPS, Crestwood NW entrance, Weigh-ins 5-5:30 p.m., meeting 5:30-6 p.m.

6:30 p.m. — Pinochle, Moose Lodge.

8 p.m. — NA meeting, Millers' Corner banquet room.

Sat., Jan. 28

9 a.m. & 7 p.m.— AA meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church Education bldg., 214 S. Lincoln.

Sun., Jan. 29

7 p.m. — AA meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church Education bldg., 214 S. Lincoln.

Mon., Jan. 30

12 p.m. — AA meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church education bldg., 214 S. Lincoln.

6:45 p.m. — Bingo, St. Matthew's Parish Center multi purpose room.

Tues., Jan. 24

7 p.m. — AA meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church education bldg.

McKenzie County

Events in Watford City unless otherwise listed. CST Zone.

Wed., Jan. 25

8 p.m. — Al-Anon, Sanford Room, McKenzie Co. Public Library.

Thurs., Jan. 26

Noon-1 p.m. — Active Parenting Now, Courthouse.

2 p.m. — Pioneer Museum Annual Meeting, 100 2nd Ave. SW.

8 p.m. — AA Group, Northern Pump & Compression. Call 770-3603 or 770-2675 for directions or ride.

Mon., Jan. 30

8 p.m. — AA Group, Northern Pump & Compression. Call 770-3603 or 770-2675 for directions or ride.

6-9 p.m. — Active Parenting for Step Families, Courthouse.

6:30 p.m. — Tri Township Zoning Commission Meeting, Alexander School Library.

Tues., Jan. 31

4-6 p.m. & 6:30-8:30 p.m. — Livestock Judging Workout, Courthouse

59th National Hard Spring Wheat Show Set For Feb 6-8

By Lois Kerr

This year's 59th Annual National Hard Spring Wheat Show will once again offer an outstanding informative event that will provide important, timely information to area Ag producers. This year's educational portion of the show, scheduled for Feb. 7-8 at the Williston Airport International Inn, will offer attendees information and updates on a wide variety of topics, including market information, precision farming, soil health and ecology, cropping practices, and best management practices. People who attend this year's show will have the opportunity to hear three keynote speakers: nationally renowned speaker Danny Klinefelter, James Hoorman and Mike Krueger.

"This year we are intensifying our information on farm business management and soil health as we believe these topics are becoming more and more important for success in the farming operation," says Warren Froelich, Williams County Extension agent. "The Wheat Show committee has identified these areas as high priority issues for producers."

He continues, "We have three keynote speakers this year to cover these topics. Danny Klinefelter was scheduled to speak last year, but because of a snowstorm he was unable to get here, so we have invited him back this year. He will discuss the 12 best management practices, and being prepared to borrow in a risk management environment. Our second keynote speaker, James Hoorman, Ohio State University, has conducted extensive research in the areas of soil health and water quality. He will focus on agricultural cropping systems that mimic the natural world and how these systems tend to be more efficient and profitable. Our third keynote speaker, Mike Krueger, The Money Farm founder and president, will share information about commodity markets."

The educational portion of the Wheat Show begins on Tuesday, Feb. 7 with a 7:30 a.m. breakfast. Attendees will hear a talk on the challenges of change for local governments.

At 9 a.m., keynote speaker Danny Klinefelter will present his 12 best management practices. Following an 11:30 a.m. lunch, Klinefelter will continue his presentation with a discussion on being prepared to borrow in a risk management environment.

After a 2 p.m. break, sessions continue with a presentation by Jim Peterson on U.S. wheat exports, the challenges and opportunities. At 3:30 p.m., keynote speaker Mike Krueger will discuss the new market volatility and what causes it and what it means. At 5 p.m., attendees can enjoy a deli buffet and social, and at 6 p.m. listen to a talk on precision farming presented by Frontier Equipment and Gooseneck Implement, Williston. This discussion will end the Tuesday presentations.

Educational discussions begin again on Wednesday morning, Feb. 8 at 7:30 a.m. at the Williston Airport International Inn, when Tanja Fransen, National Weather Service, Glasgow will give a 2012 growing season weather outlook.

At 9 a.m., sessions resume with keynote speaker James Hoorman discussing soil ecology and nutrient recycling. At 9:45 a.m., representatives from several malt companies, beer breweries, and a researcher in the barley field will present a panel discussion on barley cropping systems in western North Dakota.

James Hoorman returns at 10:40 a.m. with a discussion on the impact of soil compaction and organic matter on soil water storage.

The noon recognition luncheon featuring Coty Black begins at 11:30 a.m.. Black will present an entertaining talk on how to return greater yields in our own lives rather than in our wheat fields.

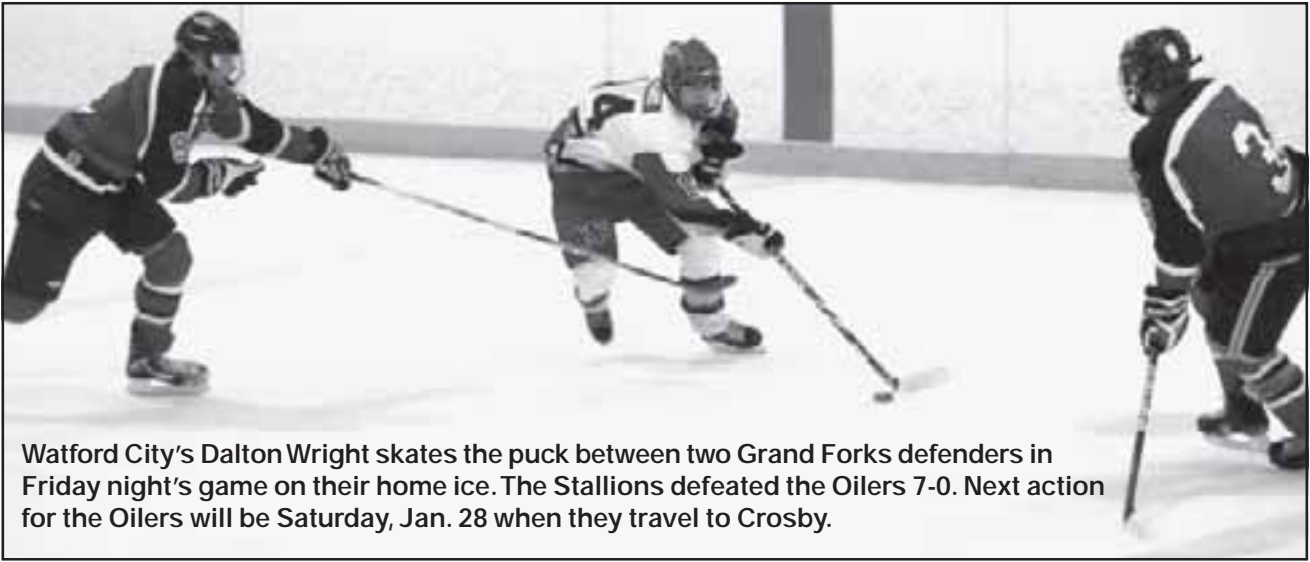
Following the luncheon, James Hoorman returns for the third and last time to talk about home grown nitrogen. At 2:30 p.m., attendees will hear a report from the U.S. Durum Growers, at 3 p.m. Jeremy Pederson, UDSU area extension cropping specialist will provide a small grain variety update, and at 3:30 p.m., Tom Scherer, NDSU agricultural engineer, will wrap up the proceedings with a discussion on using tile to control salinity and the water table in agricultural fields.

This year's wheat show should provide attendees with excellent, useful information that will help them improve their farming practices.



Oilers Hockey Action

Watford City Oilers' Carson Voll carries the puck with determination with Cody Reeves on his trail in termite hockey action Friday evening. (Photos by Kathy Taylor)



Watford City's Dalton Wright skates the puck between two Grand Forks defenders in Friday night's game on their home ice. The Stallions defeated the Oilers 7-0. Next action for the Oilers will be Saturday, Jan. 28 when they travel to Crosby.



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Thank You

The family of June Whiteman would like to thank Dr. Pierce, his staff and Extended Care who sincerely cared for mom. We genuinely thank Minister Richard Eggar and Church of Christ members for their loving visits and heartfelt funeral service; the ladies of the church who served a delicious meal after the burial of our Sweet Mother, and S&L Services, Inc. for their meal donation. We appreciate all the prayers, flowers, cards, food, visits and phone calls. We thank Fulkerson Funeral Home for their compassionate service.

Sincerely,
Family of June Whiteman

DEQ Holding Subdivision & Water Supply Meetings In Eastern Montana

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will be holding three public meetings in eastern Montana to discuss permitting requirements and procedures for subdivisions and public water supplies in response to increasing demand for housing in areas of oil and gas development.

Department staff will be discussing the Sanitation in Subdivisions Act, creating new lots, recreational vehicle camps, trailer courts, and the submittal and review process. Montana Public Water Supply Laws will also be discussed including how

public water supply systems are defined, options for water supply and wastewater treatment and the steps to permitting. Additional discussion will include licensing by the Department of Public Health and Human Services and local (county) permitting. The discussion will be followed by a question and answer session.

The meetings will be held in Glendive, Jan. 31 at 6 p.m. at CC's Family Café con-

ference room, 1902 N. Merrill Ave.; Sidney, Feb. 1 at 2 p.m. at the Richland County Health Department, 1201 W Holly #1; Culbertson, Feb. 2 at 2 p.m. at the Roosevelt County Complex, 307 Broadway.

The DEQ is also planning to set up a permitting office in Sidney, staffed one day each month to be available for site visits, to answer questions, and to review potential submittals. DEQ staff

tentatively plans to be in the office on Feb. 14 and the second Tuesday of the month thereafter.

For more information visit the DEQ website at www.deq.mt.gov or call Matt Waite at 406-247-4455. The DEQ will make reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities that wish to take part in this meeting. If you need an accommodation please contact the DEQ at the number above.



Sidney Speech and Drama Team Places 3rd at Divisionals

The Sidney Eagles Speech and Drama Team competed at divisionals in Billings last weekend, finishing 3rd in Speech and 3rd in Drama. The team will be going to Polson for the state meet on Wednesday. Front row (L to R): Kelsey Halvorson, Tori Hill, Ashley Utgaard, Lexie Brunsvold, Arianna Gaskin, Emily Schaff, Lizzy Gangstad and Drama Coach Christy Pierce. Back row (L to R): Amy Schaffer, Katie Saffanson, Ciara Parks, Taylor Fay, Carl Redman, Kyle Smith, Deserae Wirth, Michaela Lofthus, Jesse Staffanson, John Elmore, Brant Pewonka, Kalen Hance and Speech Coach Gail Staffanson.

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Sidney Gymnastics Results



(L-R) Hannah Hasvold, Coach Pat McWilliams and Codi Hasvold

Bozeman Blizzard at Shroyer Gymnasium hosted by Lone Mountain Gymnastics January 14, 2012

Codi Hasvold, level 4, vault 9.0, bars 7.7, beam 6.875, floor 7.85, all round score 31.425

Hannah Hasvold, level 5, vault 7.8, bars 5.05, beam 7.625, floor 7.0, all around score 27.475

The girls did great in a tough competition.

The Search Is On For Mrs. Sidney 2012

Sheree Lynch, Mrs. Montana Pageant state executive director, has announced the pageant is seeking applicants for the title of Mrs. Sidney. Once selected, the lucky lady will advance on to represent her community in the Mrs. Montana Pageant to be held on April 7 at the Petro Theater, Billings.

Local titleholders will compete to win a prize package valued at over \$8,000, including an all-expenses paid trip to the national Mrs. America Pageant. Applicants must be at least 18 years old (no age limit), married at the time of competition and a Montana resident; no performing talent required.

Going into its 36th year, the Mrs. America Pageant is the only nationally televised pageant dedicated to recognizing the one person who contributes so much to modern family life...America's Married Woman!

To request the official application or for information, call Sheree at the Mrs. Montana Pageant, 970-674-0944 or visit www.mrsnmontanaamerica.com.

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Food Stamp Controversy

By Jerome Kessler
 Is President Obama, as Newt Gingrich claims, the biggest “food stamp president” of all time? You be the judge... There are now about 46 million people on food stamps. That compares to 29 million in 2009, at the beginning of Obama’s term, and 17 million in 2001, at the beginning of George W. Bush’s term. The economic recession of 2007-2009 caused a doubling of our unemployment rate. That undoubtedly led to an increase in applications for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

benefits, which is what Food Stamps are now called.
 The Food Stamp Program (FSP) is an example of how our attempts to help people sometimes backfire. The first FSP (from 1939 to 1943) helped 20 million people at a cost of \$262 million. A similar program was started by John F. Kennedy in 1961. The “Food Stamp Act” of 1964 established (by President Lyndon B. Johnson) the FSP as a *permanent* anti-poverty program. The program cost \$75 million in its first year of existence, and it provided food

stamps to about one million people. It was estimated at the time that this program would expand to a maximum of **\$360 million** per year. That estimate is far less than the **\$73 billion** that it cost to run the program in 2011.
 The FSP has seen many ups and downs over the years. It was expanded in 1985, 1993, 2002 and 2008. Attempts were made to curtail it in the early 1970s, the early 1980s, and again in the late 1990s. The cost of running the program is now 5% of our Gross National Product. Many people are concerned that it is now too

easy to *get on* food stamps, and also too easy to *stay on* these benefits indefinitely.
 Newt Gingrich is an outspoken critic of President Barack Obama. He says that Obama has created a country where people would rather collect food stamps (and other government benefits) than get a job. The *Wall Street Journal*, for example, recently reported that half of all Americans are now living in a household that is receiving government benefits. Gingrich wants to put an end to this “entitlement” society. He promises that if he is elected then anyone who wants will be able to trade in their food stamp check for a job paycheck.
 Newt Gingrich was in the

U.S. House of Representatives for 22 years. He was Speaker of the House from 1995-1999. During his tenure as Speaker, he was a co-author and architect of the “Contract with America” program. He helped pass legislation that reformed welfare, cut taxes, and balanced the budget. *Time* magazine named him the “Man of the Year” in 1995.
 Gingrich is now running for the presidency. His campaign has been on a roller coaster ride. He surged in the polls before the Iowa Caucus. He was then subjected to a barrage of negative TV commercials, and did poorly in the Iowa and New Hampshire elections. His campaign was thought to be

dead in the water. Last week, however, he won the South Carolina Primary. He did this by having two terrific debate performances, and by contrasting his conservatism to Mitt Romney’s tendency to “flip flop” on the issues. Gingrich also effectively attacked the liberal media and Obama’s failed presidential policies.
 Many people think Gingrich is the smartest man running for presidency. He also knows how to use “catch phrases” to differentiate himself from the other candidates. Calling Obama the “food stamp president” is one slogan that seems to have caught on, so don’t be surprised if you hear it a million more times. Like many things in politics, there is a bit of truth to this label – along with a bit of deception. This is politics, after all, and we should prepare ourselves for nine more months of verbal warfare.

Building 5,000 Homes In 24 Months – Bakken Housing Summit Announced

The Bakken Housing Summit will be held May 16-17 in Williston.
 The challenge is to build 5,000 homes in western North Dakota in the next 24 months.
 The Williston Basin extends throughout western North Dakota and presents one of the largest economic opportunities in the country. The energy industry is spending more than \$4 billion in 18 months on capital investments including oil exploration, gas plants, pipeline infrastructure and rail facilities.
 In November 2011, North Dakota had an unemployment rate of 2.9% with

19,627 job openings. The lack of housing thwarts the ability to hire workers and is threatening the continued growth and development of the Bakken shale play.
 Information will be provided at the summit about the economic environment, infrastructure, construction environment, and financial perspectives.
 Key stakeholders will gather at the summit to share information, discuss ideas and develop plans to meet the challenge. Those expected or invited to attend include: state and local leaders, state agencies, municipal leaders, landowners, developers, home builders, lo-

cal and national lenders, private equity and capital markets and oil and gas industry representatives
 Developers, builders and investors can seize this opportunity to develop land, build homes, provide financing, and participate in one of the greatest economic opportunities in America today. Visit the website to sign up for information updates or submit proposals to present at the summit.
 Contact: Bakken Housing Summit, Jeff Zarling, 701-577-1100 summit@BakkenHousingSummit.com <http://www.BakkenHousingSummit.com>

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Colton Jore, Watford City, scores a pin against Josh Synder, Beulah, in 1:45 at the Levi Wisness Classic Wrestling Tournament held in Watford City on Saturday. (Photo by Kathy Taylor)

Watford City Wrestling Action



Josh Johnson, Watford City, pins Jordan Evanoff, Des Lacs-Burlington, in 3:22 at the Levi Wisness Class Wrestling Tournament held in Watford City last Saturday. (Photo by Kathy Taylor)

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Trevor Kalberer, Watford City, rolls Chandler Meiers, Stanley-Powers Lake-Tioga-Ray, over for a pin in 3:11 at the Levi Wisness Classic Wrestling Tournament held in Watford City on Saturday. (Photo by Kathy Taylor)

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Jan. 22, 1973-Jan. 22, 2012

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DID YOU KNOW?

Commercial Drivers License (CDL) Laws



By Richland County Injury Prevention Coalition
Persons holding a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) are held to higher standards than those who hold a Class D drivers license. Even when a CDL holder is driving their personal vehicle their driving habits reflect onto their CDL.

There is a great deal more knowledge required for driving a commercial vehicle due to size, environment, loads and, of course public safety. No one under the age of 18 can apply for a CDL and depending on the age of the licensee your renewal term could be one year or up to 5 years. CDL holders are required to take additional tests and qualify for driving trucks over a certain weight, more than one trailer, or if they are carrying hazardous material and additional testing is required if they are transporting passengers.

There are higher medical standards for commercial drivers than for other drivers because the work environment is more physically and mentally demanding and because of the increased risk to public safety. Driving conditions make it difficult for these drivers to adequately provide for any special medical, diet, exercise, or rest needs associated with a medical condition or physical impairment. Therefore, issuance of a commercial license is generally denied to drivers who do not meet the federal medical standards. All CDL holders must carry a Medical Examiner Certificate commonly known as a DOT Medical Card with them at all times and it has to be renewed by a physician upon expiration determined by medical fitness, but at least every two years.

Random “drug and alcohol” testing is done on all CDL drivers...and several companies also do additional “drug and alcohol” testing on their commercial drivers. Several companies within Richland County do additional required driver safety training for their commercial drivers. Bryan Gartner, Hi-Line Trucking, Sidney, provides additional internal safety programs for his CDL drivers. There are no requirements for class “D” drivers to be “drug and alcohol” tested or seek national driver safety training...unless required by law following a serious traffic violation.

According to Montana’s DOT the Department of Justice may not renew, upgrade or transfer a CDL with a hazardous materials endorsement until it receives notice from the Federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA) that the driver has passed a security background check. Commercial drivers, who renew a CDL with a hazardous materials

endorsement, transfer their out-of-state CDL with a hazardous materials endorsement, or who want to add a hazardous materials endorsement to an existing CDL must:

- Complete a separate TSA hazprint security application required under federal law
- Have their fingerprints taken
- Pass a hazardous materials knowledge test
- The TSA security threat assessment (background check) must be completed prior to applying for the renewal of a Montana CDL, transferring an out-of-state CDL, or adding a hazardous materials endorsement.

According to the American Trucking Associations: As of Jan. 2, 2012, the Federal Motor Carrier Association and the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration published a joint final rule prohibiting the use of hand-held cell phones by CMV interstate truck drivers and intrastate hazmat truck drivers. CDL drivers are prohibited from holding, dialing, or reaching for a hand-held cell phone, this includes all “push-to-talk” functions.

Drivers who hold a CDL are also held at a higher standard when it comes to drinking and driving. The legal BAC limit for a person holding a CDL is .04% not the .08% BAC for non-commercial drivers. If a CDL driver is convicted of a DUI they will lose their license for one year with no probationary CDL allowed and two years if they hold a hazardous materials endorsement. Second or subsequent offense is a minimum of 10 years and possibly suspended for life.

A CDL can be suspended for serious traffic violations which can include but are not limited to: Speeding in excess of 15 mph over the limit, reckless driving, improper or erratic traffic lane changes or following too closely.

Those individuals holding a CDL are trained and licensed with “Public Safety” in mind...We as a community need to remember to respect the size of their vehicle and the reaction time of their vehicle. All drivers should renew their knowledge of traffic laws, safe driving habits and remember to drive defensively... Buckle up and drive un-distracted.

University of Mary in Bismarck Announces Fall Dean’s List

Area residents are among 654 students named to the Fall Semester Dean's List at the University of Mary, America's Leadership University, Bismarck. This number includes students in U-Mary's undergraduate program and in the Centers of Accelerated and Distance Education (C.A.D.E.).

To qualify for the honor, traditional undergraduate students must earn a 3.50 or better grade point average while carrying at least 12 credit hours.

Students enrolled in U-Mary's Centers of Accelerated and Distance Education (C.A.D.E.) program must earn a 3.50 or better grade point average while at a full-time adult learner status.

Local area students include Trevor Waagen, Culbertson; Kaitlyn Hardy, Fairview; Kristin Norgaard, Sidney; Shae Helling, Alexander; Paige Anderson, Ashley Foli, Casey Jore and Jason Shipman, Watford City.

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Adult Hunter Safety Registration Feb. 1

Due to recent inquiries there will be an adult hunter safety course offered that will meet the requirements of those individuals interested in obtaining concealed weapons permits.

Sign-up will be Feb. 1 in the Sidney-Richland Library basement at 7 p.m. The class will be set at that time contingent on the number of applicants.

If you have any questions contact Greg Mohr at 433-2815 (day) 488-1166 (evenings) or Ron Sorenson at 488-7664 (evenings).

Watford City High School Wrestling Results

2012 Levi Wisness Classic Wrestling Tournament – Jan. 21

106# Jacob Beardsley (Des Lacs-Burlington) pinned Jade Hepper(WC)	2:32
Jade Hepper pinned Seth Hanenberg (DLB)	5:38
Jade Hepper dec. Gade Reep (Stanley-Powers Lake-Tioga-Ray)	8-6
Dalton Brown (SPLTR) pinned Dakota Garmann (WC)	3:37
Jeremy Leintz (Beulah-Hazen) dec. Dakota Garmann (WC) ..	9-2
Logan Gumke (WC) pinned Tyrel Mellmer (Beulah-Hazen)	4:26
Cole Peterson (DLB) dec. Logan Gumke (WC)	5-2
Logan Gumke (WC) dec. Jaden Iverson (SPLTR)	7-4
113# Coleton Jore (WC) pinned Tanner Brierley (DLB)	1:49
Coleton Jore (WC) pinned Justin Smith (SPLTR)	1:00
Coleton Jore(WC) pinned Joshua Synder (B-H)	1:45
Bradley Ladwig (SPLTR) maj. dec. Coleton Jore (WC)	11-3
126# Hunter Eslinger (B-H) pinned Clay Jorgenson (WC) ..	1:15
Clay Jorgenson (WC) pinned Jared Olonia (DLB)	1:37
Clay Jorgenson (WC) pinned Bryce Smith (Dickinson)	5:05
Justin Thomas (DLB) pinned Clay Jorgenson (WC)	1:22
132# Josh Johnson (WC) pinned Bailey Branesky (SPLTR)	4:57
Josh Johnson (WC) pinned Jordan Evanoff (DLB)	3:22
Alex Krebs (B-H) pinned Josh Johnson (WC)	4:50
138# Gus Nelson (WC) pinned Braxton Avery (SPLTR)	3:51
Gus Nelson (WC) pinned Jake Ruby (DLB)	1:11
Gus Nelson (WC) dec. Logan Eisenbeis (B-H)	8-2
145# Trevor Kalberer (WC) pinned Sonny Herczeg (B-H) ..	1:18
Trevor Kalberer (WC) pinned Chandler Meiers (SPLTR)	3:11
Trevor Kalberer (WC) pinned Jacob Shypkowski (D)	3:25
152# Austin Garmann (WC) pinned Rafael Lopez (D)	:28
..... Austin Garmann (WC) pinned Joe Nelson (WC)	3:55
..... Austin Garmann (WC) dec. JD Woodbury (SPLTR) ..	15-5
Rafael Lopez (D) dec. Joe Nelson (WC)	9-2
JD Woodbury (SPLTR) maj. dec. Joe Nelson (WC)	10-2
160# Kegan Thompson (WC) default over Robert Logan (SPLTR)	
Josh Rockeman (WC) pinned Robert Logan (SPLTR)	:33
Kegan Thompson (WC) maj. dec. Josh Rockeman (WC)	14-1
285# Garrett Hoelscher, Garrett (SPLTR) pinned Kye Bolken (WC)	
.....	1:57
Nicholas Munnell (DLB) pinned Kye Bolken (WC)	:37

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WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Basketball

Thursday, Jan. 26
Watford City vs New Town at Watford City, Boys 7:15 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 27
Bainville vs Savage at Bainville, Girls at 6 p.m., Boys at 7:30
Culbertson vs Brockton at Brockton, Girls at 6 p.m., Boys at 7:30
Fairview vs Froid/Lake at Fairview, Girls at 6 p.m., Boys at 7:30
R&L vs Circle at Circle, Girls at 6 p.m., Boys at 7:30
Sidney vs Wolf Point, Boys at Sidney at 7:30 p.m., Girls at Wolf Point at 7:30 p.m.
Watford City vs Stanley at Watford City, Girls, 5 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 28
Bainville vs Culbertson at Culbertson, Girls at 6 p.m., Boys at 7:30
Fairview vs Westby/Grenora at Fairview, Girls at 6 p.m., Boys at 7:30
Froid/Lake vs Brockton at Brockton, Girls at 6 p.m., Boys at 7:30
R&L vs Nashua at Nashua, Girls at 6 p.m., Boys at 7:30
Savage vs Circle at Savage, Girls at 6 p.m., Boys at 7:30
Sidney Boys & Girls vs Hardin at Sidney, 2:30 p.m.
Watford City vs Trenton at Trenton, Boys at 7:30 p.m.
Watford City vs Killdeer at Watford City, Girls at 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 31
Watford City vs Parshall at Watford City, Boys, 7:15 p.m.

Speech & Drama
Friday & Saturday, Jan. 28 & 29
Sidney at State in Polson

Wrestling
Thursday, Jan. 26
Sidney at Glendive, 6:30 p.m.
Watford City vs Hettinger at Hettinger, 7:30 p.m.

Hockey
Friday & Saturday, Jan. 27 & 28
Watford City at New Salem Tourney
Saturday, Jan. 28
Baker at Sidney, noon

Hockey
Friday - Sunday, Jan. 27-29
Squirts at Williston Tourney
Friday, Jan. 27
Sidney Girls U12 vs Williston at Sidney, 7 p.m.
Sidney Bantam vs Mandan at Mandan, 6:15 p.m.
Watford City Girls vs Miles City at Watford City, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 28
Sidney Girls U19 vs Bismarck at Sidney, 11 a.m.
Sidney Mites/Termites Cross Ice Games, 8 a.m.
Sidney Peewee vs Minot Wolves Gold at Sidney, 1:30 p.m.
Sidney Bantam vs Bismarck Americans at Bismarck, 11:30 a.m.
Watford City Mites vs Crosby at Crosby, 1 p.m.
Watford City Squirts vs Crosby at Watford City, 3 p.m.
Watford City Peewee vs Crosby at Watford City, 11 a.m.
Watford City Bantam vs Mandan at Mandan, 4:30 p.m.
Watford City Jr Gold vs Crosby at Crosby, 7 p.m.
Watford City Girls vs Crosby at Crosby, 5 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 29
Sidney Girls U19 vs Crosby at Sidney, 4 p.m.
Sidney Girls 12U v Minot Wolves at Sidney, 12 p.m.
Sidney Peewee vs Minot Wolves Maroon at Sidney, 2 p.m.
Sidney Bantam vs Bismarck Governors at Bismarck, 9 a.m.
Watford City Bantam vs Bismarck Americans at Bismarck, 1:30 p.m.
Watford City Girls vs Glasgow at Watford City, Noon

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Postal Service Changes Mailing & Shipping Services Prices

Penny Increase in Price of Forever Stamps First Since May 2009

Beginning Jan. 22 it costs just a penny more to mail letters to any location in the United States. It will be the first price change for first-class mail stamps (Forever stamps) in more than two and a half years.

The new single-piece first-class mail pricing, effective Jan. 22, 2012, include:

Letters (1 oz.) – \$.01 increase to \$.45

Letters additional ounces – unchanged at \$.20

Postcards – \$.03 increase to \$.32

Letters to Canada or Mexico (1 oz.) – \$.05 increase to \$.85

Letters to other international destinations – \$.07 increase to \$1.05

Prices also changed for other mailing services, including standard mail, periodicals, package services and extra services. While actual percentage price increases for various products and services varies, the overall average price increase across all mailing services is capped by law at 2.1%, the rate of inflation calculated based on the Consumer Price Index.

New for all customers is a three-month pricing option

to rent post office boxes, perfect for people on the move and others who need a post office box for a short time period.

“The overall price increase is small and is needed to help address our current financial crisis,” said Lien.

The price of shipping services also changed on Jan. 22. The overall price change for all shipping services is 4.6%, with priority mail prices increasing an average of 3.1% and Express Mail prices increasing an average of 3.4%.

The new mailing and shipping services prices are available at www.usps.com/new-prices.htm.

On Jan. 22, the Postal Service introduced a new express mail flat rate box. Customers can ship the box for overnight delivery anywhere in the country for one price regardless of weight (up to 70 lbs.). The new flat-rate box is priced at \$39.95. Other express mail changes include lower retail prices for 1½ lb. packages and commercial packages to local and close-in areas.

Priority mail pricing will offer an average 6.8 percent

discount off retail prices for customers using online and other authorized postage payment methods. For commercial and online customers, a new, larger regional rate box C (12"x12"x15") will be added to the existing two sizes.

Also new for 2012 is package intercept for commercial mailers, available through a customer interface on business customer gateway. For \$10.95 plus priority mail postage, customers can request mail be intercepted before final delivery is attempted to the initial delivery address. The shipment can be returned to sender, held for pickup at a post office, or redirected to an alternate address. Intercepted packages are shipped using priority mail.

Prices will also be adjusted for other shipping services products and services, including parcel select, parcel return service, international mail, premium forwarding service and post office box services.

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operation expenses and relies on the sales of postage products and services to fund its operations.

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Ice Anglers Urged To Use Caution

It's that time of year when ice anglers begin appearing on Montana's waters for the ice fishing season.

While there is some fishable ice in some areas, it will take continued stable, cold weather for conditions to improve on larger water bodies. While the first ice of the year often offers some of the best fishing, it also can be

quite variable from location to location and from day to day.

The variability of ice conditions cannot be overestimated, and the safest ice anglers are those who are particular about their ice and who pay as much attention to the condition of the ice as they do the fishing conditions. Dressing to help prevent

frostbite and hypothermia is also a basic rule, as is knowledge of ice safety and ice rescue.

Anglers should be familiar with the water body they plan to fish, or go with someone who is and knows how ice tends to form and change in that particular area.

Other common ice-safety reminders to keep in

mind include:

Check in with a local sport shop or bait shop before you set out for a trip. They may have up-to-date information to share about the places you plan to fish.

Check out ice conditions before you go. Ask other anglers or local sources and take into account changes in the weather during the past 24 hours.

If you have even the slightest doubt about the safety of the ice—stay off it. No fish is ever worth a fall into frigid water.

It's OK to wear a life jacket (PFD) or carry a throwable floatation device while out on the ice — safe ice-anglers do it all the time.

Wear a warm hat that covers your ears. In cold

weather, 75-80% of heat loss from the body occurs from an uncovered head.

Wear mittens — they are warmer than gloves and reduce the chance of finger frostbite.

Before you head from home, tell someone where you plan to fish and when you plan to return.

Carry a pair of long spikes on a heavy string around your neck. That way, if you break through the ice, you can use the spikes to grip the ice and pull yourself out of the water. And when on the ice, remember:

Blue ice is usually hard. Watch out for opaque, gray, dark or porous spots in the ice that could be weak, soft areas. Ice also tends to thin more quickly at the shore-

lines.

Watch for pressure ridges. These are areas of open water or thin ice where the ice has cracked and heaved due to expansion from freezing.

Test the ice ahead of you with an ice spud bar or an auger.

Don't leave children unsupervised on the ice.

Lakes and ponds do not freeze at the same thickness all over.

Moving water—rivers, streams and springs— weaken ice by wearing it away from underneath. Avoid ice on rivers and streams, or where a river or stream enters a lake, pond or reservoir.

The least safe ice usually occurs early and late in the season, when the weather is warmer.

College Goal MT: Don't Miss Out On Essential Financial Aid For School

Postsecondary education doesn't come cheap, so students and parents should explore every avenue to acquire the funds they need — that effort begins with completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

In Montana, Student Assistance Foundation works with financial aid professionals and volunteers to provide free, one-on-one assistance filling out this important form at 16 communities throughout the state on Feb. 8 and/or Feb. 12 through the College Goal Montana program. Check SmartAboutCollege.org for locations and times, or call 877-COLG4ME.

"Everyone who wants to attend college next fall should complete the FAFSA," said Rhonda Safford, College Goal Montana statewide coordinator. "Statistics show that 28% didn't know that help to pay for school was available, or they didn't think they'd qualify. We don't want anyone to miss out on this valuable aid resource."

In addition, numerous communities will host virtual College Goal Montana sites on various dates at which students and their parents can listen to a 30-minute presentation about the FAFSA, log on to fafsa.gov and complete the form. Help from site hosts and subject matter experts via telephone will be available. Check SmartAboutCollege.org for locations and times, or call 877-COLG4ME.

In addition to receiving FAFSA completion help, attendees at any event who complete event evaluations at any of the College Goal Montana locations will be entered to win a \$500 scholarship.

2012 will mark the eighth year that SAF has coordinated this event. To date, more than 10,000 Montanans have been served through the program.

Don't forget to "like" Student Assistance Foundation on Facebook to receive reminders and tips about how to prepare for College Goal Montana and more.

College Goal Montana is affiliated with College Goal Sunday — a national program that was originally created by the Indiana Student Financial Aid Association with funding from Lilly Endowment, Inc. and with supplemental support from Lumina Foundation for Education.

Student Assistance Foundation is a 501(c)(3)

nonprofit Montana corporation that provides students with knowledge and tools to pursue and fund their postsecondary education. Funds generated by SAF are returned to Montanans in the

form of education grants and public benefit programs — to date more than \$22.4 million. For more information, visit www.safmt.org or www.SmartAboutCollege.org.

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Lunch Menus

Richey Schools

Wed., Jan. 25: Super salad bar.
Thurs., Jan. 26: Tater tot casserole, corn, peaches, bread.
Fri., Jan. 27: Pizza & salad bar.
Mon., Jan. 30: Slushburgers, chips, peas.
Tues., Jan. 31: Lasagna, green beans, pears, bread.

Sidney School

Wed., Jan. 25: Spaghetti, bread sticks, tossed salad, peaches.
Thurs., Jan. 26: Waffle sticks, sausage patties, applesauce.
Fri., Jan. 27: Cheeseburgers, french fries, fruit cups.
Mon., Jan. 30: Hot dogs, oven wedges, mandarin oranges.
Tues., Jan. 31: Sloppy Joes, potato gems, orange wedges.

Rau School

Wed., Jan. 25: Italian dunkers, corn, applesauce, cake.
Thurs., Jan. 26: Egg rolls, rice, salad, pineapple.
Fri., Jan. 27: Soup/sandwich, fruit.
Mon., Jan. 30: Crispito's, rice, salad, fruit.
Tues., Jan. 31: Tater tot hotdish, peas, peaches, bread.

E. Fairview School

Wed., Jan. 25: Chili, apples, fresh veggies, cinnamon roll.
Thurs., Jan. 26: Hamburger gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, oranges, bun.
Fri., Jan. 27: Chicken patty, mac-n-cheese, green beans, strawberry cup.
Mon., Jan. 30: Fish burger, roasted potatoes, lettuce salad, mixed veggies, cookie, bun.
Tues., Jan. 31: Chicken fajitas, rice, corn, grapes, bun.

Fairview School

Wed., Jan. 25: Soup & sandwich, fruit, pudding.
Thurs., Jan. 26: Super nachos, tossed salad, fruit, dessert.
Fri., Jan. 27: Chicken fajitas, raw veggies, fruit, jello.
Mon., Jan. 30: Beef pot pie, corn, fruit, bun.
Tues., Jan. 31: Spaghetti, tossed salad, fruit, breadstick.

Culbertson School

Wed., Jan. 25: Pork roast, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, pears.
Thurs., Jan. 26: Corn dog, hashbrowns, cherry cheesecake.
Fri., Jan. 27: Egg rolls, rice, stir fry, pineapple, cookie.
Mon., Jan. 30: Tater tot casserole, applesauce, brownie.
Tues., Jan. 31: Sloppy Joes, chips, carrots, peaches.

Bainville School

Wed., Jan. 25: Roast beef, potatoes, gravy, corn, roll.
Thurs., Jan. 26: Super potato oles', taco bar, fruit.
Fri., Jan. 27: Chicken tetrazzini, peas & carrots, garlic bread sticks.
Mon., Jan. 30: Mac-n-cheese w/ polish, broccoli, bread.
Tues., Jan. 31: Pigs-in-a-blanket, potato, peas, pears.

Lambert School

Wed., Jan. 25: Chalupas, fresh veggies, cookies.
Thurs., Jan. 26: Tater tot hotdish, salad, buns, fruit.
Fri., Jan. 27: Slushburger, green beans, carrots/celery, cake.
Mon., Jan. 30: Italian dunkers, corn, pineapple.
Tues., Jan. 31: Hamburgers, fries, fruit.

Froid School

Wed., Jan. 25: Oven-fried chicken, mashed potatoes, buttered corn, apple crisp, buns.
Thurs., Jan. 26: Pacos, Nachos with cheese, relishes, grapes.
Fri., Jan. 27: Baked cod, parsleyed potatoes, peas & carrots, fruit cocktail, buns.
Mon., Jan. 30: Chicken nuggets, salad bar, banana bread.
Tues., Jan. 31: Burritos, lettuce salad, peaches.

Savage School

Wed., Jan. 25: Sub sandwiches, chicken noodle soup, peaches.
Thurs., Jan. 26: Turkey pot pie, apricots, bread.
Fri., Jan. 27: Super nachos, green beans, mandarin oranges.
Mon., Jan. 30: Beef strips, potatoes, peas, mandarin oranges.
Tues., Jan. 31: Spaghetti w/meat sauce, corn, cottage cheese, pears, bread.

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Top five growers (50-246 acres) are front row (L to R): 1st- Tveit Land and Cattle Co. (Nolan and Larry Tveit Jr.), Sidney and Culbertson; 2nd- Gary and Duane Lapp, Miles City; 3rd- James Bieber, Fairview; 4th- KAR Inc. (Miles Knudsen), Culbertson; 5th- Carol and Allen Lachenmaier, Miles City. Top five growers (greater than 246 acres) are back row (L to R): 1st- 6J Farms (Terry Cayko and Toby Miller), East Fairview; 2nd-Payette Farms Inc. (Kent and Jantz Payette), Fairview; 3rd- Country Lane Farms (Bud and Ron Norby), East Fairview, Justin and Anita Karst (Justin Karst, East Fairview); 5th- Scott and Donna Flynn (Scott Flynn), Cartwright.

Top Ten Growers Harvest Great Crop Despite Tough Year

By Lois Kerr

Sidney Sugars Incorporated held its annual Top Ten Grower award luncheon on Wednesday, Jan. 18 to honor those growers who brought in an outstanding crop. Russ Fullmer, Sidney Sugars agriculture manager, congratulated the top ten growers and pointed out that they, along with the rest of the Valley, faced a lot of challenges this year.

“Last year, we came off a bad winter to start the growing season,” Fullmer noted at the luncheon. “We had a huge amount of snow, then spring came and it rained and rained, so growers struggled to get out and plant their crop.”

Some growers managed to get started by the end of April, but many acres remained unplanted until late May. Then the warmer air finally melted the remainder of the snow, bringing with it massive flooding. “It kept raining and still the snow hadn’t melted,” Fullmer commented. “Then it began

melting, and everyone with low fields got hit. Growers lost about 1000 acres throughout the Valley to flooding.”

After months of endless moisture, the rains stopped abruptly. Sunshine returned to the Valley, a fact that enabled many fields to begin growing good strong beets. “The spigots got turned off, and away we went,” Fullmer commented. “Growers had a lot of weed control to contend with because of all the moisture, but the Roundup Ready beets came up, we had good stands, and beets grew very well.”

Growers in all of the area enjoyed great growth with the exception of Savage. Savage growers experienced the wrath of four hailstorms in four weeks, one of which demolished crops in several fields and left other fields stunted and badly damaged. “There was a real whiz-bang storm in Savage,” Fullmer said. “Nothing was left and a few fields were totally stripped. Growers in the area had an average loss of 7-8

tons per acre in some fields.”

Harvest time finally arrived, bringing unseasonably warm temperatures that put a temporary halt to the harvest process. However, with the return of cooler weather, harvest proceeded quite smoothly. “We started harvest at Sugar Valley in Fairview and at the factory yard on schedule, but it got hot so we delayed harvest for a week,” Fullmer said. “Once we got going again, though, everything went well. Growers brought in clean beets and overall harvest continued without interruptions.”

Growers averaged 25.2 tons per acre, with an average sugar content of 17.5%.

The open winter has aided storage and the factory has seen minimal pile losses. At press time, only Sugar Valley and the factory yard had beets left for processing. The factory should finish the slice by the end of the month.

We're proud to be associated with an incredible group of top growers this year!

Sidney Sugars
INCORPORATED

**Congratulations To Our
Top 10 Growers For 2011**

Tveit Land & Cattle Co. #1 In Sidney Sugars Top Ten

By Lois Kerr

The Tveit Land and Cattle Company, Culbertson and Fairview, has earned top honors this year in the Sidney Sugars Incorporated annual Top Ten growers list. Brothers Larry and Nolan Tveit brought in an outstanding sugarbeet crop this year which earned them the number 1 ranking in the 50-246 acre category.

The Tveits, farming together since they both graduated from high school, have an irrigated farm in Culbertson and a dryland farm between Sidney and Culbertson. With the exception of a two-year hiatus, the Tveits have grown sugarbeets for the past two decades and in that 20 years, the brothers have made the top ten list five times and earned the top spot this year for the second time.

The brothers enjoy growing sugarbeets, but they stopped planting the crop in 2007 due to seemingly insurmountable weed issues, but in 2009 they once again began growing beets, thanks to Roundup Ready varieties. "Kochia is the number 1 weed problem for us, and because of weed populations, we didn't grow beets for two years" says Larry Tveit. "Roundup Ready beets allowed us to control weeds. Sugarbeets are a viable crop now because of the price of sugar, so we started growing them again in 2009. If we can grow a crop that brings a return, we will do it."

The Tveits have an established rotation, and this year, because of the massive flooding experienced by so many growers, luck played a role in their success. "We have land under flood irrigation and land under pivots," Larry remarks. "We hit the right year in our rotations for sugarbeets as this was the year we planted them on the flood irrigated fields. The land we have under pivots we couldn't plant this year because it was under water."

The brothers do not feel they do anything unusual to produce an outstanding crop. They do agree, however, that although Mother Nature, of course dictates the weather, sound management practices do make a difference in success rate. "Any grower can be in the top ten in any given year," says Larry. "Mother Nature is key; we cannot control the weather we get. However, management is important."

"Timing is very important," adds Nolan. "Timing is more crucial in a sugarbeet crop than it is in many other crops. Paying attention to detail is required. If the crop needs sprayed on Sunday, spray on Sunday, not on Saturday or Monday."

Harvest brings its own set of challenges, from finding help to adverse weather conditions. The Tveits find farming in Culbertson, particularly when harvest time rolls around, slightly different than farming a few miles further south, as those few miles often mean a change in weather conditions and may require a change of harvest plans. "There are different conditions in Culbertson," says Larry. "It generally gets colder earlier, but this year it was too warm and we were shut

down for a week, which caused problems with our harvest crew. However, it is in everyone's best interest for beets to store well, and we see more pile loss when beets are brought in too hot, so we understood the delay."

Another key factor in a successful harvest lies in the abilities of the harvest crew. "Having the proper employees is important," Larry remarks. "A good harvest crew gives you an edge, and it also makes it easier and a little less stressful. If you have good weather, a good crop, and a good crew, it really helps."

Nolan adds, "It's getting harder to find people to help. Harvest is always stressful, but it can be fun, too, when the weather cooperates. I think this year, after the heat delay, we had a nearly perfect harvest. This let us get the beets out more quickly with a short crew. The crew made it possible."

The Tveits do not plan to make any significant changes for next year. They also expect to see sugarbeet crops continue to improve, thanks to better seed. "We'll follow our normal rotation," Larry

concludes. "The sugarbeet companies are coming out with new and better seed and with more disease-resistant packages. This will help everyone have better crops."

Congratulations to the Tveits for bringing in a super crop.



Nolan (left) and Larry Tveit.

Congratulations Top 10!

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6J Farms Garnerers Top Spot In 246+ Acre Category

By Lois Kerr
6J Farms, Terry and Vicky Cayko, with essential help from Toby Miller and Cayko families Jacquelyn and Chris Free and Jessica Cayko and her two boys, East Fairview, earned top spot this year in the 246+ acre category of Sidney Sugars Incorporated's annual top ten recognition awards.



Toby Miller, hired hand, and Terry and Vicky Cayko, 6J Farms, Fairview, were the winners this year in the Top Ten 246+ acre category.

Cayko, who has farmed all his life, has been in the Top Ten six times, and has earned top spot twice.
Cayko admits the year looked dismal at the start, but as the season progressed, his crop responded to sun and moisture and produced extremely well. "A lot of my acres got flooded," Cayko says, "but what survived really produced

well. We had 87 sugarbeet acres totally gone from flooding, but as the season progressed I knew I had a good crop and everything just fell into place."
Cayko believes that knowing the land and matching that soil type to the correct seed variety plays a key role in success. "Knowing your ground is essential," he remarks. "Seed companies have different varieties, all of which are good, but you have to know your ground and your disease pressures and choose accordingly. The Valley has been in sugarbeets a long time, and there are a lot of diseases around, so you've got to be careful and choose the variety that best fits your soil type and the prevalent diseases. We've found our ground does best with BetaSeed."
He adds, "We've also learned not to over irrigate early, especially in a wet spring."

Cayko used 100% Roundup Ready beet varieties this year. He appreciates what Roundup Ready beets allow him to do, and he feels confident seed companies will continue to improve the ability of these varieties to produce more sugar. "We can do a great job on weed control with Roundup Ready beets," Cayko remarks. "The sugar this year didn't reach average levels, but we're seeing a climate change around here and it is staying warm longer into the fall. This contributes to lower sugar content as beets need cooler temperatures to signal them to start producing sugar. However, varieties are getting better all the time and seed companies can offer varieties with better disease packages and with better sugar producing abilities."

He adds, "It's all a learning process with Roundup Ready beets, but we have a good group of growers and they will adapt."

Cayko credits a lot of his success to his hired man, Toby Miller. "My right hand man is a God-send," he comments. "He's had so much experience farming on his own, and this really helps. If I have to go somewhere, Toby takes over and I know everything will be done correctly."

Cayko enjoyed a good harvest this year, with his only delay due to warm temperatures in early October. "We started hauling to Sugar Valley and worked one day before we were shut down because of heat," Cayko says. "We know we need to wait and let temperatures cool down because we can't afford to put warm beets into the pile. This only hurts all of us as warm beets do not store well, so it was a good decision by Sidney Sugars to delay harvest for a week. We were then blessed that the weather held. This was one of the best harvest years we've had. The beets grew during that extra week, so everyone won."

Cayko expects to continue farming for as long as he is able. "I love growing sugarbeets," he concludes. "I watch that tiny seed grow bigger and bigger all summer. With Roundup Ready beets, there are no weeds, so I'm proud to look out and see the beets grow to maturity. That makes it all worthwhile."

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How The Beet Makes Sugar

Sugars and starches form the basic building blocks of life. With the appearance of the first leaves, all green-leaved plants begin to manufacture their own food by converting the sun's energy into chemical energy. Plants do this by combining air molecules and water molecules with the energy they receive from the sun to produce simple sugars. This process, called photosynthesis, enables the plants to make these simple sugars.

Some green-leaved plants produce more than simple sugars. The sugarbeet, one of these plants, goes all out to produce more sugar than the plant requires. Sugarbeets produce sugar in their leaves and then transfer this sugar to the roots.

To accomplish this, sugarbeets suck up water, a combination of hydrogen and oxygen, from the soil through the root system. This

moisture moves through the plant to the leaves.

Meanwhile, carbon dioxide from the air enters the plant through the leaves. The sugarbeet now has carbon, taken from the carbon dioxide in the air, and hydrogen and oxygen, obtained from the water. Sunlight provides the energy catalyst that sets the chemical sugar producing process in motion.

The green pigment in leaves, called chlorophyll, transforms the sun's energy to a usable form. In the presence of sunlight, sugarbeets produce a compound formed of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen, otherwise known as sugar.

Many plants make a simple six-carbon sugar called glucose. However, glucose is just the starting point for sugarbeets. Scientists call glucose a monosaccharide. When two of these molecules join together, they form a disaccharide, called sucrose, or common table sugar.

Sugarbeets naturally manufacture this disaccharide table sugar. Both sugarbeets and sugar cane produce pure sucrose. Sugarbeets manufacture this crystallized air and sunshine in their leaves and then transfer the pure sugar to the root system for storage.

The rate at which the photosynthetic process takes place and the resulting amount of sugar produced by the beets depends on various factors. Temperatures play a big role; the amount of water at critical times plays a part, as does the amount of available sunshine throughout the growing season.

Because the beet produces sucrose, all sugar extraction plants extract pure table sugar from the beet root. This extraction process requires a series of boiling, evaporation and filtration processes to remove the sugar from the root. The resulting sugar is naturally pure white.

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Payette Farm Inc.	351	29.5	18.20	25	32.70
Country Lane Farms Inc..	436	29.5	17.97	27	32.43
Justin & Anita Karst.....	460	29.3	17.45	28	31.84
Scott & Donna Flynn	430	27.7	18.08	24	31.71

50 - 246 Acres

Grower	Acres	TPA	Sugar %	Brei N	Quality Rating
Tveit Land & Cattle Co. ...	130	31.9	18.24	34	33.85
Gary & Duane Lapp	63	29.1	18.45	24	32.75
James Bieber	66	31.2	17.32	25	32.68
KAR Inc.	200	30.0	17.91	25	32.67
Allen & Carol					
Lachenmaier	202	27.8	17.95	18	31.69

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Pesticide Website Offers New Tools For Gardeners, Homeowners, Applicators

By MSU News Service

The Montana State University Pesticide Education Program has created a new website for homeowners and applicators across the state.

The "Pesticide Contamination Around the Home and Garden" website was built in response to the MSU Schutter Diagnostic Laboratory receiving over 112 garden samples which showed symptoms consistent with pesticide exposure from a class of chemicals known as "growth regulator herbicides" in 2009 and 2010.

The website links tools from MSU, the University of Arizona, University of Minnesota and Washington State University to help applicators and educators properly diagnose pesticide drift or soil contamination. The tools include photographs, online guides and 2009 presentations from WSU.

By asking themselves a few questions available on the website, homeowners or educators might reach solutions without additional support. They could also decide to contact the Montana Department of Agriculture for enforcement action, county Extension agents for further diagnosis or the MSU Pesticide Education Program for questions about pesticide product labels and action modes.

Homeowners or applicators can find directions, too, for conducting their own soil bioassays, links to determine their pesticides' environmental characteristics, and additional reference materials including the MSU MontGuide titled "Minimizing Pesticide Contaminated Soil around the Home and Garden," and the new DOW Agro "Aminopyralid Stewardship" brochure.

MSU Pesticide Education Specialist Cecil Tharp said applicators should be especially cautious if they are using

pyridine carboxylic acid herbicides, such as aminocyclopyrachlor, clopyralid, picloram, fluroxypyr, triclopyr and aminopyralid. These active ingredients can persist for years in grass clippings, compost or manure. Vendors and homeowners should confirm previous pesticide applications on incoming manure, compost and/or grass clippings prior to use or further distribution. Applicators should give homeowners or other client's written or verbal warnings as to the restrictions related to grass clippings or manure collected from treated locations.

For more information, homeowners and applicators can contact their county Extension agent or go to <http://www.pesticides.montana.edu> and select the "Non-Target Plant Toxicity around the Home and Garden" link. They can also contact the MSU Pesticide Education Program at 406-994-5067 or ctharp@montana.edu.

The Art of Farming WIFE Calendar Art Contest Rules

In recognition of National Agriculture week (National Agriculture Day March 8, 2012), WIFE (Montana Women Involved in Farm Economics) invites Montana's school children to express their ideas on farm life by participating in WIFE's 26th statewide calendar art contest. Winning entries grades K-8 will be awarded a cash prize at the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place levels in each grade's division. Winners whose pictures are used will also receive a calendar.

All entries are to be done horizontally on 8 ½ x 11" white paper with dark, black lead pencil or black ink. Any aspect of agriculture that is of interest to the students may be drawn. Any depiction of alcohol or tobacco will not be accepted. Student's name, grade, school, address, town and zip code should be clearly printed on the back of their picture.

No entries can be returned, but WIFE may display or use student's artwork for various WIFE projects throughout the state. Entries must be postmarked on or before April 15, 2012. Artwork will be judged on the basis of originality.

Please send all entries to: Gladys Walling, PO Box 55, Winifred, MT 59489, 406-462-5330 for more information.



Sugar Beet History: Mexican Nationals thinning and hoeing beets, 1943.

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Ag Researchers Test Pulse Seeds For Ascochyta

By MSU News Service

Researchers at Montana State University are seeing an increase in the number of samples of pulse crops containing significant amounts of the fungus blight Ascochyta over the past year.

The findings represent an increase compared to blight researchers found in the 2010 samples, particularly in the lentil crop. With pulse crops going into the ground soon, there is some confusion about the acceptable level of Ascochyta in a given crop.

Ascochyta is a potentially serious fungal disease in pulse crops, including lentils, peas and chickpea. The disease can defoliate plants and spread rapidly. One way to prevent Ascochyta blight is to plant fungus-free seed. Growers can test seed lots for Ascochyta, by sending a sample to the MSU Seed Lab.

The test takes 10 days after the seed is plated, as the fungus needs to grow out of the seeds before it can be identified. Send seed to the MSU Seed Lab now to leave plenty of time to receive the results and make management decisions before planting.

While there are no definitive acceptable levels of the fungus, there are guidelines:

There is a 0% tolerance for chickpea because it is very susceptible to Ascochyta blight.

Pea and lentil are more resistant, so MSU Plant Pathologist Mary Burrows recommends less than 2-5% Ascochyta in the seed for these crops.

There are no definitive thresholds for disease development: a higher number may indicate a greater risk for disease development because more fungus goes into the field, but it does not necessarily mean the disease will manifest. Conversely, a low/zero number does not mean the disease will not occur. The disease requires a susceptible crop, the pathogen and a conducive environment.

If the level of Ascochyta is above the threshold, Burrows recommends using LSP/Mertect fungicide at planting. This is the only seed treatment fungicide with good efficacy against Ascochyta blight according to MSU trials. This is applied in addition to seed treatment to control damping off and root rots.

Public Invited To Open House For Jerry Bergman

The Eastern Agricultural Research Center (EARC) invites the public to join them for an open house held in honor of Dr. Jerry Bergman. The event will run from 1-4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 27 at the new EARC facility, 1499 N. Central Ave.

Everyone is invited to stop in and wish Bergman well in his new endeavor as director of the Williston Research Center.

Dynasty (azoxystrobin) can also be effective for lentils, but is not registered for peas and not recommended for chickpea since it's a strobilurin.

The species of Ascochyta causing blight in chickpea in Montana and North Dakota is resistant to strobilurin fungicides. There are a number of fungicide options if disease develops in the field, but application soon after disease on-

Signup Begins For Direct & Counter Cyclical Programs

Signup for Farm Service Agency's Direct and Counter Cyclical Program and the Average Crop Revenue Election Program during the 2012 crop year began on Jan. 23. Signup for both programs will continue through June 1.

Aaron Krauter, North Dakota state FSA executive director, is encouraging producers to sign up early.

"We want to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to get in and sign up, and doing it before spring field work begins means one less thing a producer needs to worry about," Krauter said.

Producers who choose to participate in either the revenue-based ACRE safety net or the price-based DCP safety net must apply for the program each year. All owners and operators who will share in the DCP or ACRE payments on the farm must sign the enrollment form (CCC-509) by June 1. If a producer does not get the signed form in to their local office by June 1, they will not be enrolled in the program for the current year and will not receive benefits.

Producers who choose to participate in DCP or ACRE were allowed to choose between the two programs in 2009. A producer who initially chose to remain in DCP does have the option to switch to the ACRE program when they apply for the program before the June 1 deadline. However, producers who elected to enroll their farm in ACRE cannot switch back to DCP. Additionally, if a producer has a farm that is enrolled in ACRE and buys another farm that is enrolled in DCP, the two farms cannot be combined unless the DCP farm is changed to ACRE.

set is critical for the control of this rapidly spreading disease.

For specific directions, call the Seed Lab at 406-994-2141 or visit online at <http://plantsciences.montana.edu/seedlab>.

Fundraiser Set For All American Beef Battalion Feb. 1

By Lois Kerr

The MonDak Area Stockgrowers Association, in cooperation with the Yellowstone Livestock Company, 720 10th Ave. SE, Sidney, will host a fundraising event for the All American Beef Battalion, an organization dedicated to supporting our troops fighting the global war on terror. The fundraiser, scheduled for noon on Wednesday, Feb. 1 at the Yellowstone Livestock, will consist of auctioning off a calf to the highest bidder, then auctioning off that calf again and again and again for as many times as needed until everyone present who wishes to donate to the cause will have had ample opportunity to do so.

"We will auction off a calf as many times as we can sell it," says Keith Dynneson, MonDak Stockgrowers Association. "All of the money raised will go to support the All American Beef Battalion effort."

In December, this organization served over 100,000 troops. The organization, consisting of a group involved in the U.S. cattle industry, organizes and sponsors steak feeds, entertainment programs, meetings and projects with and for service members and their families. The organization hopes to foster an appreciation of and respect for our service members, and to honor our armed forces military service members as their sacrifices continue to ensure our freedoms.

Dynneson invites and encourages everyone to join in this fundraising effort.

"Everyone is welcome," he says. "Come and show your support for our troops and help us raise funds to support this worthwhile effort."

For more information, you may call Dynneson at 406-489-1994, or 406-798-3661. You may also visit the web site at www.steaksfortroops.com.

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DEQ Seeking Comments On 2012 Draft Water Quality Report

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is seeking public comment on Montana's 2012 Draft Water Quality Integrated Report. The 2012 draft list update is now available for review and comments will be accepted during a 60-day public comment period that

began Jan. 4 and extends through March 3, 2012. The report includes a list of Montana waterbodies that are impaired and in need of water quality restoration, the sub-set of impaired waters that require specific total maximum daily loads or TMDLs to be developed,

known as the 303(d) list, and a summary of state water quality information, known as the 305(b) report. The Draft 2012 report contains revisions to the list of impaired waters, changes in assessment information for waters already on the list, and the schedule for prepar-

ing TMDLs. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant that a waterbody may receive from all sources without exceeding water quality standards. The Draft 2012 report also identifies 857 waters that are impaired by pollution and/or pollutants in various categories. The DEQ will use comments it receives to prepare the final 2012 Integrated Report that will be submitted to the EPA by April 2012.

DEQ's report submittal to the EPA consists of the report document and appendices, an electronic database, and geo-referenced assessment unit files for mapping. The department provides access to the complete report data and information via its Clean Water Act Information Center web application: www.cwaic.mt.gov. Anyone experiencing problems accessing this site should contact the Montana Integrated Report Coordinator by

phone at 406-444-6763. Comments on the report or 303(d) list should be submitted electronically via the Public Comment page available at www.deq.mt.gov, or mailed to: Integrated Report Coordinator, Department of Environmental Quality, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901. The DEQ cannot guarantee that comments received after the March 3 closing date will be considered in developing the final report.

MFU Statement On Keystone XL Pipeline Status

The Montana Farmers Union (MFU) made the following statement concerning President Obama's recent Keystone XL Pipeline decision: "The Montana Farmers Union at its convention held in October 2011, passed a Special Order of Business that addressed the Keystone XL Pipeline, its safety needs and landowner protections. "The Special Order of Business pointed out that the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Keystone XL pipeline does not

include any additional requirements beyond those required for the Keystone 1 Pipeline, which has seen 14 leaks and numerous additional considerations required of TransCanada. "Given these circumstances, MFU members believe it is necessary to take appropriate safety precautions to protect Montanans, its farms, ranches, land, air and water from potential adverse impacts of this pipeline. "Specifically, MFU believes that consistent thick-

ness and quality of steel should be required for the entire pipeline, not just "high consequence" or urban areas. "We understand that President Obama did not pass judgment on the merits of the pipeline," said MFU President Alan Merrill. "As the evaluation process continues to move forward, as we believe it will, MFU will continue to work for appropriate and necessary safety changes and landowner-protections before support for the pipeline is possible."



Sugar Beet History: Beet harvesting machine invented by Hans Iverson, Sidney. With acute labor shortages, all possible methods were used to get the beets out, 1942.

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ASB&T salutes all area sugarbeet growers, and congratulates those named Top 10. Congratulations, and best wishes as you look forward to the 2012 growing season.



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A Little Bit Country Bright Outlook For Beef Markets

By Warren Froelich
NDSU Extension Agent
Williams County

With cattle prices at record levels, producers question the market's longevity. Prior to the BSE, (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, commonly known as mad-cow disease), scare in 2003 or even the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack, cattlemen could establish their production and marketing decisions based on a 10-year cycle. As prices peaked, cattle inventories increased to levels when supplies exceeded demand. When this occurred, producers then reduced herd inventory and converted land to other uses. It took about one decade to complete this cycle.

During the Bovine Connection held recently in Sidney, Jim Robb, Livestock Marketing Information Center director, based in Denver, told us the beef cattle market cycles were greatly dampened and the direction will be more difficult to identify. He identified three factors which will support cattle prices in the next few years. They are: 1) tight cattle numbers, 2) strong export markets (beef and beef by-products, and 3) rather tight domestic supplies of competing meats and poultry.

As of Jan. 1, 2011, the National Agricultural Statistics Service reported the U.S. total cattle and calf inventory at 92.6 million head. This was 1.4% below a year earlier and the smallest since 1958. U.S. cattle numbers peaked in 1975 at 132.0 million head. At the beginning of 2011, beef cows totaled 30.9 million head.

The liquidation of the U.S. beef cow herd continued in 2011 making last year the 13th time inventories were reduced during the last 15 years. Despite the record high calf value in 2011 beef cow numbers tumbled another 600,000 head. Much of this reduction was driven by the drought in the South and Southeast. Texas and Oklahoma rank first and second respectively in cow numbers and they are located in the heart of the worst drought the area has experienced. U.S. herd expansion is not expected until cattlemen in the South and Southeast experience more favorable growing conditions.

Global beef supplies are expected to decline for a fifth consecutive year in 2012 while global demand for U.S. beef continues to improve. Rising income in the Asian markets is the number one factor driving global meat consumption. Beef exports in 2012 are expected to grow by 10%. Brazil is increasing its ability to produce beef but its domestic demand has decreased exports by an estimated 20% in 2011.

Although pork production was up one percent in 2011, record exports more than offset the additional production. Like the beef producers, hog growers experienced record high prices in 2011. Pork production is expected to increase in 2012 but exports are also expected to increase, offsetting production gains.

Retail chicken prices have brought modest improvement in 2011 compared to beef and pork. High feed costs resulted in poor profit margins and some production declines. With reduced supplies and expected increases in exports, the

industry is looking toward improved chicken prices in 2012.


Besides the drought impacted states, Robb feels the beef cow herd numbers will likely continue to shrink in some Midwest states where more mixed cropping/cow operations will downsize or eliminate their beef enterprise. He also expects some Southeast states also will continue to switch to crop production at the expense of the more labor intensive cows.

For the next five to ten years, Robb expects the beef cattle industry will operate with the following: 1) supplies of feeder cattle will remain tight by historical standards, 2) price volatility (inputs and outputs) and market shocks will continue, 3) historically high feedstuffs cost range will continue, 4) export demand for animal protein and by-products will grow.

Cattlemen know very well it takes more money to operate in the current business environment. According to Cattle Fax, another Denver-based marketing information service, credit needs have increased 50% in three years and 100% in ten years.

Many years ago, a 'seasoned' animal husbandman told me that management mistakes are the most costly when prices are good. With that in mind, I remind myself that now is a good time to prepare for the next calving season making sure the newborn has the best chance of surviving and the cow will be ready to conceive in another 90 days or less. Dead calves and late-breeding cows have more to do with profit than any other expense items.

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A Little Bit Country North Dakota Wheat Has Huge Economic Power

By Warren Froelich
NDSU Extension Agent
Williams County

In its 2010-2011 Annual Report to Producers, the North Dakota Wheat Commission states that wheat producers can take pride in knowing the wheat industry continues to be one of the largest economic contributors to the North Dakota economy, agricultural or otherwise, accounting for nearly one third of all farm and ranch marketings. The direct cash value of the North Dakota wheat and durum crop is nearly \$2.4 billion, which generates an additional \$4.8 billion in commercial activity for a total positive economic impact of nearly \$7.2 billion in state economy.

Equally impressive is

the fact that North Dakota's increasingly diverse agriculture industry in total continues to contribute more than \$20 billion in economic activity in North Dakota in an average year and nearly \$30 billion in a very good year.

World durum production fell to 1.28 billion bushels in 2010, 15% less than 2009's record crop. Planted acres dropped to historical lows in Canada curtailing their production by nearly 50%. Production was also lower in North Africa. Production in the European Union (EU) was marginally higher and U.S. production stable.

Production of U.S. durum reached 107 million bushels in 2010, virtually unchanged from the 110 million produced in 2009. Increased

planted acres in North Dakota and above average yields pushed production higher. Desert durum production in California and Arizona fell by nearly one-third to 19.5 million bushels, but North Dakota and Montana increased by 10% to 87.5 million.

Demand for durum was paced by near record food use and a second straight year of strong exports. Domestic demand was estimated at 95 million bushels with 84 million in food use. Pasta remained a popular food choice, keeping sales strong, and the discount of durum to hard red spring wheat shifted a higher percent of all pasta to 100% durum. The 84 million bushels in food use was second only

to the 86 million reached in 2006.

Quality shortfalls in the U.S. crop challenged exports in some markets, but the attractive price for U.S. durum in the first half of the marketing year led to strong early season sales. Tunisia, the EU and Venezuela offset reduced demand from Algeria and Morocco.

Producer durum prices ranged from a low of \$4.58 per bushel in 2010 to a high of \$8.60 in April 2011. However, the durum market remained at a discount to 14% protein hard red spring wheat for most of the year. Declining world durum supplies and realization of significantly lower U.S. plantings in 2011 led to sharply higher durum prices by June 2011 with producer prices finally pushing above \$10 per bushel.

You can get the latest wheat market information during the Wheat Show on Tuesday, Feb. 7. Mike Krueger, The Money Farm founder and president, will share his thoughts regarding market volatility. In addition, Jim Peterson, North Dakota Wheat Commission marketing director, will discuss the challenges and opportunities existing in the U.S. wheat export market. He will also share his recent three-week travel to Asian countries to promote the quality of the 2011 crop.



Sugar Beet History: Home-made irrigation pump used by Earl Wilson and Marcus Sorenson.

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MSGA's 127th Annual Convention And Trade Show Draws 740 To Billings

The 127th Annual Montana Stockgrowers Association Convention and Trade Show, held at the Holiday Inn Grand Montana in Billings, Dec. 15-17, drew over 740 participants from across the state. Nearly 100 people participated in the Young Stockgrowers events, representing the largest showing of that group at any convention.

"It was great to see all the young people at our meeting learning about our association and policy process, and really getting involved," said Watty Taylor, MSGA's president. "Although 2011 hasn't been without its challenges, everyone seemed to be in high spirits thanks to the record high cattle market, the mild winter we've been having so far this year, and a chance to meet up with friends at convention time."

Here are some of the highlights:

Walter "Watty" Taylor, Kirby, was elected to his second one-year term as president; Tucker Hughes. Stanford, was elected to his second one-year term as 1st vice president; and Gene Curry, Valier, was elected to his second one-year term as 2nd vice president.

Leon LaSalle, Havre, was newly elected to the board of directors representing the North Central District, filling the seat vacated by Kraig Meeks, Geraldine. Jed Evjene, Two Dot, was also elected to the board representing the South Central District, filling the seat of Jason Camp, Belgrade. Fred Wacker, Miles City, was elected representing the Southeast District, filling the seat of Don Griffin, Ismay.

Mick Denowh, Sidney (Northeast District), and Heath Martinell, Dillon (Western District), were elected to their second two-year term on the board of directors.

Bill Donald, MSGA past president and current president of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), and current MSGA President, Watty Taylor, held a "town hall" discussion as the keynote presentation for the Opening General Session on Friday, Dec. 16. They discussed state and national issues facing the two associations and took questions from the crowd. Topics covered included the recently passed Free Trade Agreements, brucellosis, the Farm Bill, estate tax, GIPSA rule revisions, the child labor law proposal, and a recap of the 2011 Montana Legislature.

MSGA's policy process was especially robust this year, providing direction for MSGA officers and staff through 2012. Over 150 people attended the joint Animal Health/Land Use Committee which discussed the issue of bison management and bison relocation. Second reading of resolutions and MSGA's business meeting were well attended with 11 new, 19 revised, and 37 renewed policies passed through the process. Notable new policies address traceability, bison

management in Yellowstone National Park, bison relocation, brucellosis in elk, predator funding, state grazing fees, irrigation, the proposed changes to the child labor law, and the recent MF Global situation.

The Pfizer Cattlemen's Colleges held on Saturday, Dec. 17 featured Gary Brester, Montana State University agricultural economics professor, who conducted two economic workshops. Larry Gran, Pfizer Animal Health, talked about utilizing modern technology to help commercial cattlemen select bulls for their ranch. Brett Crosby, Custom Ag Solutions, Inc., presented "Managing Price Risk I: Contracting and Commodity Futures markets" and "Managing Price Risk II: Commodity Options and Livestock Risk Protection". Daniel Sullivan, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, presented an introduction to the Masters of Beef Advocacy program and "Engaging in the Beef Conversation: What to do now you are an MBA Graduate".

The Bold Ranch, owned and operated by Bob and Annette Bold, Winifred, was named winner of the 2012 Montana Environmental Stewardship Award sponsored by MSGA's Research, Education and Endowment Foundation. Bold Ranch is the 19th winner in the history of the award. MSGA will submit Bold Ranch for the regional and national Environmental Stewardship Award in early March.

Helen Hougen, Melstone, was named "Ranching Woman of the Year".

The Trade Show boasted over 90 booths, featuring animal health supplies, government agencies, insurance, lending firms, gift vendors, free boot shines, complimentary tote bags, beef dinner stations and "watering holes".

The highlight of the convention was the 2011 Ford Truck drawing. MSGA and Montana Ford Stores teamed up to give a 2011 Ford Super Duty truck to a lucky member who attended convention and the Grand Finale Banquet on Saturday, Dec. 17. The lucky winners were Gary and Phyllis Eliasson, Currant Creek Ranch, Roundup.

Convention photos can be seen on MSGA's Facebook Page.

Plans are already underway for MSGA's Mid-Year meeting which will be held in Glasgow, in June 2012.

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Empty Saddle Memorial Foundation Honoring Lost Horsemen With Scholarships & Donations

“Mend Them Teach Them” The Empty Saddle Memorial Foundation’s motto defines its focus on our youth. In the past three years, the ESMF has worked to

honor the lost horsemen of the area by helping out with the education and the medical needs of area youth with donations made to the foundation in memory of its honorees. Honorees for 2010 were Neal Hermanson and Levi Wisness and Richard Bahm, A.J. Franzen and Bud Sperry were honored for 2011.

ESMF honorees spent an important part of their lives in the lives of their horses.

This time shaped who they were. Honest and confident, these honorees knew humility, self-discipline, respect, trust and the responsibility of leadership. It is hoped that these admired character qualities will inspire young people to follow in our honorees’ footsteps.

Donated funds are used to award educational scholarships and provide medical assistance to youth in the area. To date, the foundation has given more than \$10,000 in scholarships and medical assistance. Donations can be awarded or given to recipients in the memory of the individual

honorees, or all honorees. The Empty Saddle Memorial Foundation is a 501 (C) (3) non profit corporation founded in April 2010. For information about scholarship applications, youth medical assistance, membership or donations, contact Nick Lonski at 701-565-2044.

LIP Application Deadline Approaching

Livestock producers who suffered losses in 2011 due to natural disasters and filed a notice of loss with their local Farm Service Agency office have until Jan. 30 to apply for payment through the Livestock Indemnity Program.

LIP pays eligible producers based on a national payment rate, which is 75% of the average fair market value of the livestock. Eligible livestock include cattle, poultry, swine and other animals including sheep, goats and horses.

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If you love to meet the public, answer questions, work hard & have fun this Administrative Assistant position with the Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture is for you. Computer proficiency in Quickbooks, Word, Publisher & Excel preferred. Experience in Dreamweaver a +. Contact the Sidney Job Service to apply. Salary DOE.

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In store help wanted. McKenzie Building Center, Watford City. 701-444-3665.

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Ranch Hand Offers Timely Beef Cattle Information

Many variables contribute to the successful management of a beef production enterprise. Adverse environmental conditions, fluctuating commodity markets and individual management decisions all have a dramatic impact on profitability.

"In order to proactively take advantage of available opportunities or to respond to situations as they develop, producers need pertinent educational materials delivered to them in a timely manner," says North Dakota State University Extension Service beef cattle specialist Carl Dahlen.

Each month, Dahlen and other NDSU Extension livestock specialists and researchers provide cost-reduction strategies and advice in the Ranch Hand newsletter. They also discuss other items of interest to the livestock industry, such as on-going livestock research at NDSU, artificial insemina-

tion, cattle health products, grazing issues, bull breeding soundness exams, dealing with flooded pastures, use and storage of coproducts, forage harvesting options, cattle market outlooks, early pregnancy checking, maximizing the calf crop and feed supplementation.

In addition, the Ranch Hand contains information on upcoming events and profiles of NDSU's Research Extension Centers.

"Today, beef cattle production is a complex business," says Dahlen, Ranch Hand's editor. "The Ranch Hand can be a valuable source of information for anyone wanting to succeed in the beef cattle industry."

To subscribe to the newsletter, email Dahlen at carl.dahlen@ndsu.edu. The Ranch Hand also just became available online at <http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/cattledocs/ranch-hand-newsletter.ndsu.edu>.

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Sidney High School FFA Places 3rd

The Junior Varsity Farm Business Management team for Sidney FFA for Jan. 16 was made up of Ethan Chamberlain, Emily Schaff and Marianne Gartner. This team tested for a 3rd place finish. Only three points separated the top three teams. First place team was Lambert FFA, followed by Plentywood FFA prior to Sidney's placing of third. Eleven teams from northeastern Montana participated. Individually, Ethan tied for 1st, Emily placed 7th and Marianne placed 17th out of 50 area FFA competitors. The next Career Development Event is Agriculture Mechanics on Feb. 20. Over 13 schools are expected to attend with over 140 volunteers, junior varsity or varsity contestants. Sidney is the host for the event and welcomes community support and volunteers for the day's event. Businesses are welcome to supply extra awards/prizes for top contestants. Please contact Gary Schaff at gschaff@sidney.k12.mt.us or call 433-2330 and leave a message.

Beginning Beekeeping Workshop Offered At MSU

MSU News Service
Montana State University will present a beginning beekeeping workshop on Saturday, Feb. 25. New beekeepers, including youth, can learn how to get started, first year management strategies and integrated pest management of honeybee pests and diseases. Participants will also learn about honeybee biology and beekeeping equipment.

Presenters are from MSU, Western Bee Supplies, Polson, and the Montana Department of Agriculture's Apiary Division.
The workshop runs from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and takes place at the Plant Bioscience Building room 108 on the MSU campus in Bozeman. The cost is \$20 for adults and \$15 for children 18 and under.
Registration is due by Feb. 18 and is limited to 50

people. Send payment made out to Montana Agricultural Experiment Station along with your name, address and phone number to: David Baumbauer, Plant Growth Center, PO Box 172060, MSU, Bozeman, MT 59717.
Workshop information is available at <http://ag.montana.edu/plantgrowth/> or contact David Baumbauer at 406-994-2231 or beekeeping@montana.edu.



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