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Wednesday, March 3, 2021

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2021 MonDak Ag Days To Be Held In Hybrid Format This Week

By Anna Dragseth

MonDak Ag Days is an annual event sponsored by Sidney Chamber Ag Committee. It provides educational opportunities for MonDak area farmers and ranchers and showcases the latest in agriculture related equipment and technology.

This event is traditionally held in person, but due to circumstances related to COVID-19, it will be offered in a hybrid virtual/in person format. To attend virtually, attendees can use this link: <https://montana.webex.com/montana/j.php?MTID=md8774804e41f4d6b696fba54eade53c>.

"This year's event will be very different from the "traditional" MonDak Ag Days and Trade Show. We will not be having the banquet or the trade show but will still have educational sessions," explained MSU

Richland County Extension Agent Tim Fine.

The educational sessions will focus on weed identification; a 2021 spring weather outlook; the importance of using the correct amount of water in pesticide applications; small grain disease identification and management; are seed treatments effective/economical; comparing and contrasting liquid vs. dry fertilizer applications; alfalfa weevil ID, scouting, and control; why is wheat stem sawfly becoming a bigger issue; grasshopper problems experienced in 2020 and an outlook for 2021.

Speakers at this event include Paul Detloff and Eric Snodgrass, Nutrien Ag Solutions; Dr. Tatyana Rand and Dr. Dave Branson, USDA/ARS; Dr. Brian Jenks, NDSU and Uta McKelvy, MSU Extension.

Although this event will be very different from previous years, Fine is excited that they are able to offer this event in a hybrid format. "I'm excited that we're going to be able to at least have some semblance of normal with the hybrid virtual/in person sessions. Currently we are restricted to approximately 25 people that can attend the event in person so hopefully there will be somewhat of a crowd."

Attendees will have the chance to earn MT Pesticide Credit at the event. Pre-registration for this event is highly encouraged - to sign up individuals can contact the Richland County Extension Office. For more information on the event, visit the MonDak Ag Days Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mondakagdays.



Dr. Brian Jenks, NDSU weed scientist, will provide training on how to identify weeds that are likely to be present in the MonDak area on Friday, March 5, at 9:30 a.m. MST.

Vantis Holds Informational Meeting in Watford City

Representatives from the Northern Plains UAS Test Site and Vantis held an informational meeting with local pilots at the Rough Rider Center, Watford City on Feb. 24. Company representatives shared their upcoming plans and discussed typical flight activity in western North Dakota.

The Northern Plains UAS Test Site is one of seven Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) UAS test sites in the nation. The mission of the NPUASTS is to collaborate with FAA and industry partners to develop systems, rules and procedures to safely integrate unmanned aircraft into the National Airspace System without negatively impacting existing general or commercial aviation.

Vantis is North Dakota's statewide, unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) network, the first of its kind in the nation. Created by North Dakota with an initial investment in 2019, Vantis provides turnkey support to commercial and public UAS operators through infrastructure and regulatory approvals allowing applications and usability over a variety of industries.

Vantis and the Northern Plains UAS Test Site is the first BVLOS (Beyond Visual Line of Sight) network in the nation. The company, based in Grand Forks, has chosen the Watford City and Williston area as the



Above: The Volansi VOLY C10. (Photo submitted)

starting point for testing the new network. The state has invested \$28 million and infrastructure toward the new venture. On Nov 18, 2020 Northern Plains UAS held test flights in Williston. They have already begun installing towers for communication and navigation of UAS drones in both Watford City and Williston. Once the proper safety procedures & protocols are in place, the project will expand to the rest of the state and eventually the entire country.

The goal is to support a variety of UAS operations to assist both corporations and the local government. Infrastructure inspections

Project Manager James Cieplak speaks to area pilots at the Rough Rider Center on Feb. 24.



of both roads and pipelines will be a possible use as well as a search and rescue. Another possible use in the

future could be package and medical deliveries.

Visit VantisUAS.com for more information.

Phase 1B COVID-19 Vaccine Available In Richland County

Submitted by Stephanie Ler, RS, MPH Environmental Health Director, Richland County Health Department

The Richland County Health Department continues to take names for Phase 1B COVID-19 vaccines. The Department offers the Moderna two-dose vaccine.

Phase 1B includes community members who are aged 70 years and older, as well as individuals 18-69 who have high-risk medical conditions who may have an elevated risk of COVID-19 complications. This may include but is not limited to: cancer (current or previous diagnoses); kidney or liver disease; COPD, asthma, or other lung tissue damage; heart conditions such as failure or coronary artery disease; high blood pressure; lung disease or damage; autoimmune disorders and HIV; severe obesity; Type I and II diabetes; and neurologic conditions including dementia. This phase also includes American Indians and other people of color who may be at elevated risk of complications. To add your name to our list for a Phase 1B COVID-19 vaccine at the Richland County Health Department, please call 406-433-6947.

ND State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest/Quiz Bowl March 6-7

By Anna Dragseth

For the first time ever, the North Dakota State 4-H Livestock Judging will take place in western North Dakota. On Saturday, March 6, the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest is set to take place in Watford City at McKenzie County Fairgrounds and Rough Rider Center. Following this, on Sunday, March 7, the North Dakota State Livestock Quiz Bowl Contest will be at the Rough Rider Center.

Devan Leo, NDSU Extension Ag and Natural Resource Agent explained that she is excited to have the contest take place in Watford City. She said, "This opens up a whole new window of opportunities for the western side of the state to be able to host these state competitions. We are just excited to be involved this way."

The livestock-judging contest will have three classes of the three main species, which include beef, sheep, swine and one class of goats. The contest consists of carefully analyzing a group of animals and measuring them against a standard that is commonly accepted as being ideal. "Livestock judging teaches kids communication skills, because even if they judged the class wrong, they have to give their set of reasons and defend them. It is a really good skill building opportunity and even kids that don't have livestock or have ever been around livestock can participate," said Leo.

The livestock quiz bowl allows 4-H members to demonstrate their knowledge on animal species including beef, dairy, swine, goat (dairy/meat), sheep, poultry and rabbit.

The McKenzie County Extension Office is looking for volunteers to help with this event the evening of March 5 and all day March 6. If you have interest in helping with the event, you can contact Devan Leo at the McKenzie County Extension Office, 701-444-3451.

Searching For Leprechauns Plus A Pot Of Gold, Lewis & Clark State Park, March 13

On Saturday, March 13 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. MST get ready to search for Leprechauns and a pot of gold at Lewis and Clark State Park, 4904 119th Rd NW, Epping, ND. This event will be for families of all ages and be sure to bring your hiking boots and camera for this fun adventure.

Test your luck and get ready for a fun filled afternoon searching for Clover

the Leprechaun and his seven friends. Clover and comrades will be hidden along the Prairie Nature Trail at Lewis and Clark State Park. On your journey keep your eye out for the bonus pot of gold that was hidden by Clover. If you find all of the leprechauns or the pot of gold, a prize awaits you.

After you finish searching for Clover and friends, the fun doesn't end. The

next part of your journey will include taking part in the creation of your own leprechaun name, and enjoy free hot cocoa and music.

Trader's Bay Visitor's Center will be open for general purchasing from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. NDSU 2021 annual passes will be for sale.

All park visitors will be asked to follow the CDC's recommendations on social distancing and personal hy-

giene while visiting the park.

The event is free of charge and open to the public. Vehicle passes are required for park entrance \$7/day or \$35/year.

For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/4904-119th-rd-nw-epping-nd-58843-9747-united-states/looking-for-leprechauns/168718391467872/>.



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SIDNEY EAGLE

WRESTLER OF THE WEEK



RILEY WATERS: 205#

Riley is a 2x state champion and is undefeated this year with a record of 29-0. He pinned all of his opponents in the first period this week at divisionals, earning him the Judd Beck Quick Pin award.

Congratulations, Riley.

You are the Sidney Eagle Wrestler of the week!

This week sponsored by Frontier Heating & Cooling

STATISTICS

LAKE WATER LEVEL REPORT

Sakakawea

Current Elevation.....	1836.8
Last Week's Elev.	1837.5
One Year Ago	1837.9
Release For Day (C.F.S.)	22,000

SIDNEY WEATHER DATA

Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

Date	High	Low	Precip.
February 22.....	52	33	0.001
February 23.....	41	24	0.033
February 24.....	35	19	0.000
February 25.....	46	17	0.000
February 26.....	47	21	0.000
February 27.....	27	6	0.000
February 28.....	44	3	0.000
Total 2021 YTD Precipitation.....	0.288		

Douglas “Doug” Kummer, 70, Keene, ND

Funeral services for Doug Kummer, 70, Keene, ND were held at 1 p.m. CST, Friday, Feb. 26, 2021, at First Lutheran Church, Keene, ND with Pastors Rob Schmidt and Jason Gressman officiating.

Visitation was 12-6 p.m. CST, Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021 at Fulkerson-Stevenson Memorial Chapel, Watford City, ND.

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

Doug passed away Friday, Feb. 19, 2021, at his home in Keene, ND.

Timothy Harold Wold, 64 Watford City, ND

Funeral services for Timothy Harold Wold, 64, Watford City, ND were held at 10 a.m. CST, Friday, Feb. 26, 2021 at Fulkerson-Stevenson Memorial Chapel, Watford City, ND with Rob Favorite officiating.

Interment was in Schafer Cemetery, Watford City, ND under the care of Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home, Watford City, ND.

Visitation was 9-10 a.m., Friday, Feb. 26, 2021 at the funeral home.

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

Timothy passed away on Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021, at his home in Watford City, ND.

Deanna Stambaugh, 79 Sidney, MT

A memorial service for Deanna Stambaugh, 79, Sidney, MT will be held later this spring. Remembrances, condolences and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com. Deanna passed away on Saturday Feb. 20, 2021 at St. Vincent's Hospital, Billings, MT.

Deanna Joan Stambaugh was born in Orion, MI on Jan. 3, 1942. She was raised by Bertha (King) and Wilfred Wills in Ubly, MI where she graduated from high school.

Deanna dated her future husband, Don, throughout high school. They were married on May 10, 1960. They lived in a log cabin and worked their farm in Ubly. During that time they had four boys, Bruce, Orin, Bert, and Jeff. Deanna went to beauty school and became a hairstylist shortly after they were married. Through the years Deanna and Don moved to several different states, as he followed the oilfield. After settling in Sidney, MT in the early 1980s Deanna operated her hair salon out of Lalonde Hotel. And when Deanna and Don returned to Michigan in 1992 she reopened her salon there. Their family grew by one member, as they took in and raised their godson Patrick McGee. In 2005 Deanna retired as a hairstylist and returned to Sidney, MT to be with Don as he fought off cancer for a second time. Deanna, Don, and their family built their second log home at that time.

Throughout her life Deanna remained an active member of the Order Of The Eastern Stars, The Daughters Of The Nile, and was Adult Advisor to The International Order Of Rainbow For Girls. She enjoyed traveling and camping with Don, especially family reunions and their trip to Alaska. She loved spending time with her boys, grandchildren, and family.

Deanna dabbled in painting for many years. That artwork still hangs in her home and the homes of her family and friends. Some people may have seen her paintings displayed at Arts In The Park or as entries at the Richland County Fair. She participated in national horseshoe tournaments, enjoyed horseback riding, was a member of the bowling league, and volunteered at Caring Corner Gift Shop, Sidney Health Center.

Deanna was preceded in death by; her husband Donald Stambaugh, her parents Wilfred and Bertha (King) Wills, and her godson Patrick McGee.

Deanna is survived by; her sons Bruce, Orin (Tammy), Bert (Denise), and Jeff (Marcia) Stambaugh, her eight grandchildren, her brother Bud (Shirley) Hosner, her sister Ellie (Rusty) Schalin, her brother-in-law Gary (Sharon), and her brother-in-law Gene (Judy).

Deanna will be laid to rest next to her husband Don, in Sidney Cemetery, Sidney MT. The family will have a Memorial Celebration of Life at a later date. Memorials or donations in her memory may be made to Shriners' Hospital or The Foundation For Community Care at this time in lieu of flowers.

Luella Hafemann, 101 Sidney, MT

Funeral services for Luella Hafemann, 101, Sidney, MT were held at 2 p.m., Saturday Feb. 27, 2021 at Christian Missionary Alliance Church, Lambert, MT with Louie Reyna officiating. Interment was in Lambert Cemetery, Lambert, MT under the care of Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT. Visitation was on Friday Feb. 26, 2021 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the funeral home, Sidney, MT. Remembrances, condolences and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

Luella was born on May 6, 1919, on the farm in Lambert, MT the daughter of Gilbert and Mary (Holler) Sharbono. She grew up in Lambert and attended Sharbono School. Luella was united in marriage to Harold Hafemann, Sr., on Nov. 30, 1935, Savage, MT. After the marriage they made their home on the farm west of Crane. They spent their winters in Lambert, MT where her husband worked for John Deere. They permanently moved to the farm west of Crane in the early 50s and have been there ever since. Luella's husband, Harold, passed away on Dec. 8, 1986, and she remained on the farm.

Luella was a member of the Christian Missionary Alliance Church, Lambert, MT. She enjoyed crocheting, quilting and doing wordbooks. Luella loved working the farm and driving the tractors to do field work. Her husband had to put a big toolbox on her tractor so she could collect her agates. She was still doing field work and driving tractors into her 80s.

Luella passed away on Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021 at Sidney Health Center Extended Care, Sidney, MT.

Surviving her are: five daughters, Mary Gebhardt, Bridger, MT; Gloria (Wilbur) Stedman, Lolo, MT; Vivian Wilson, Missoula, MT; Patty (Bob) Fitzgerald and Lois (Pat) Goff both of Sidney, MT; four sons, Harvey (Lindy) Hafemann, Milwaukie, OR; Raymond (Mary Kate) Hafemann, Toledo, OH; Harold Hafemann, Jr and Philip Hafemann, both of Savage, MT; half-brother, Virgil Sharbono, Laurel, MT; Half-sisters, Edna (Bill) Mercier, Laurel, MT and Viola (Everett) Mitchell, Intake, MT; numerous, grandchildren, great grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, and a great-great-grandson.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband-Harold, Sr.; son, Ralph Hafemann; two brothers, Arthur and Richard Sharbono; half-brother, Irvin Sharbono; three grandsons and one great-grandson, and one great granddaughter.



Deanna Stambaugh



Luella Hafemann

EVENTS

SEND US YOUR EVENTS!

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RICHLAND COUNTY

Events in Sidney unless otherwise listed. MT Zone. Wed., March 3

10 a.m.-4 p.m. - **Joseph Garcia: Visual Interpretation of Natural History** - Showing through March 13. - **Cataclysm Exhibition** - A portfolio exchange curated in response to the current global political climate, featuring artists from around the country and Canada who were asked to create work based around their hopes and fears given the current global state of affairs. Showing through May 29. MonDak Heritage Center, Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. For more information call 406-433-3500, e-mail mdhc@richland.org or visit <https://mondakheritagecenter.org/>.

Fri., March 5, 12, 19, 26
5-7 p.m. - **Sidney Knights of Columbus 2021 Fish Fry** - \$10 per person, Ned Shinnick Hall, St. Matthew's Parish Center, 310 7th St. SE. All COVID-19 guidelines will be followed and mask or face covering use required for ages five and older.

Sat., March 6 & 20
10 a.m.-4 p.m. - **Open Studio Saturdays** - All participants must make an appointment call 406-433-3500 or email mdhc@richland.org. Adults 18+ years old only, masks required, other restrictions apply. Take home an Art to go Kit for your little ones. MonDak Heritage Center. If you are unable to make it during open studio hours set up an appointment with Jessica, 406-433-3500. For more information e-mail mdhc@richland.org or visit <https://mondakheritagecenter.org/>.

March 8 & 22
7 p.m. - **Snacks & Chats** - Anxiety & depression support group for teens ages 13-19. Board games, foosball, ping pong and treats. Pella Church, not church related.

Sat., March 13
5:30-7 p.m. - **Chili Dinner Fundraiser** - Free will offering, public invited. Sidney Moose Lodge. All proceeds collected donated to SHS Band & Choir.

Sun., March 14, 21
9 a.m.-noon - **Breakfast** - Open to the public. Sidney Moose Lodge.
1 p.m. - **Bingo** - Open to the public. Sidney Moose Lodge.

Mon., March 15, April 5, 19, May 3
6:30-8 p.m. - **Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) Meetings** - Open to all Moms with school aged children and younger. Sidney Lutheran Brethren Church, 1101 Madison Lane. No childcare provided. For more information call Stacy Abar, 406-672-1463.

Tues., March 16
12 p.m. - **Job Service Employers Committee Meeting (JSEC)** - Open to everyone. Reynolds Market conference room. For more information call Margie 406-433-1204 ext. 204.

12-6 p.m. - **Red Cross Blood Drive** - St. Matthew's Parish Center, 310 7th Street SE. Advance appointments strongly recommended. To make an appointment, 406-868-0911 or 1-800-733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org. Face masks are required.

Wed., March 17
10 a.m.-4 p.m. - **2021 Youth Art Show** - Featuring artwork of 7th-12th grade students from area schools. Showing through April 24. MonDak Heritage Center, Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. For more information call 406-433-3500.

Thurs., March 18
11:30 a.m. - **Richland Red Hatters Lunch Meeting** - Rod Iron RSVP by March 16. Call Sylvia, 798-3882 or Margaret, 488-4613.

Sat., March 20
11 a.m. - **Meet N Greet** - Public invited. Learn about the Moose organization and local Moose Lodge. All members who have not attended encouraged to do so. Sidney Moose Lodge.

Sat., March 27
5 p.m. - **Dick Davidson Medical Benefit** - Silent auction, 5-7 p.m.; free will donation meatball supper, 6 p.m.; live auction, 7 p.m.; cash bar. Richland County Event Center. For more information contact Travis Morrill, 406-480-9514. To make a donation for the silent or live auction contact Sheila Marker, 406-480-3442. If you are unable to attend but would like to make a donation an account is set up at Stockman Bank under "Dick Davidson Benefit". All proceeds will be used for medical expenses and supplies to aid in Dick's recovery.

McKENZIE COUNTY

Events in Watford City unless otherwise listed. CT Zone

Thurs., March 4, 11, 18, 25, April 1
4-5 p.m. - **After School Art-3rd-6th by Long X Arts Foundation** - Children will take home a different art project every day! \$15 a class. Rough Rider Center, 2209 Wolves Den Parkway. COVID-19 guidelines will be followed. For more information call Jessie, 701-770-8659 or email longxart@gmail.com.

Fri., March 5, 8 a.m. - Sun., March 7, 7 p.m.
3rd Annual Nodak Northern Lights Gymnastics Meet - Rough Rider Center. For more information visit the Nodak Northern Lights Facebook page.

Tues., March 9, 16, 23, 30
4-5 p.m. - **After School Art-K-2nd by Long X Arts Foundation** - Children will take home a different art project every day! \$15 a class. Rough Rider Center, 2209 Wolves Den Parkway. COVID-19 guidelines will be followed. For more information call Jessie, 701-770-8659 or email longxart@gmail.com.

Tues., March 9, 23
10 a.m. - 12 p.m. - **Percs & Rec Kids** - Free fun activities for children, crafts, story time, scavenger hunts, sport games, building blocks and more. McKenzie County Public Library.

Thurs., March 11, 25 & April 1
2-4 p.m. - **Food Giveaway with New Winter Hours** - First Presbyterian Church, 316 4th Ave. NE.

Tues., March 16
2-4 p.m. - **Food Pantry Handouts** - First Lutheran Church, 212 2nd St. NW. For more information call McKenzie County Extension Office, 701-444-3451 or visit McKenzie County Food Pantry Facebook page for dates, times and updates.

WILLIAMS COUNTY

Events in Williston unless otherwise listed. CT Zone.

Sat., March 13
11 a.m.-3 p.m. MST - **Looking For Leprechauns Epping, ND** - Bring your hiking boots and camera to search for Clover the leprechaun and his seven friends hidden along the Prairie Nature Trail at Lewis and Clark State Park, 4904 119th Rd NW, Epping, ND. Also keep an eye out for the pot of gold hidden by Clover. If you find all the leprechauns or pot of gold, a prize awaits you. Once you are done searching you can take part in the creation of your own leprechaun name. Free hot cocoa and music. This event is free of charge and open to the public. Vehicle passes are required for park entrance, \$7/day or \$35/year. Please follow the CDCs recommendations on social distancing and personal hygiene.

Sat., March 27
3-11 p.m. - **40th Annual API Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser** - Doors open to the public, 3 p.m.; live music by Judd Hoos, 4 p.m.; chili is served, 5 p.m. Raymond Family Community Center.

DAWSON COUNTY

Events in Glendive unless otherwise listed. CT Zone

Fri., March 5, 4-8 p.m.; Sat., March 6, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sun., March 7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Glendive Gun Show - Antiques, art, books, collectibles, coins, jewelry, western items, firearms and accessories. 170 tables, food and refreshments available. \$3 per day, \$6 for all 3 days. EPEC, 313 S. Merrill.

Wed., March 17
7:30-8:30 p.m. - **VietNam Veterans of America Chapter 234** - Glendive American Legion Hall, 105 N Merrill Ave.

Sat., March 20
12-5 p.m. MDT - **Badlands D&D March Game** - Free, Glendive Masonic Lodge #31.

Putting Economic Impacts On The PSC’s Plate

By Amanda Eggert,
Montana Free Press

House Bill 314 would make Montana’s utility regulation commission consider the community consequences of coal-fired closures.

The Legislature is considering a measure that would direct the Public Service Commission to weigh the economic impacts of coal-fired plant closures in its regulatory decision-making. Proponents say it can help coal-dependent communities remain viable, while opponents say it has the potential to hurt businesses and ratepayers by bucking regulatory norms.

House Bill 314 is a short and straightforward bill sponsored by Braxton Mitchell, R-Columbia Falls. If passed, it would add new language to existing law stating that the utility-regulating PSC “shall consider all economic impacts at the state and local level when evaluating the acquisition, sale, expansion or closure of a coal-fired generation plant.”

Mitchell said the recent closure of a coal-fired power plant in Sidney has brought into focus “the devastating reality of trickle-down economics,” and that his measure could help local schools, parks and libraries keep their doors open by giving the PSC the ability to consider the broader economic impacts of changes to baseload power generation.

During testimony before the House Energy, Technology, and Federal Relations Committee this week, bill proponents focused on the cascading economic losses to coal mines, coal-fired power plants and sugar-beet refineries wrought by recent closures.

Martha Potter, Savage School District superintendent, outlined how changes to the coal industry have impacted Savage, a small community near the North Dakota border with 118 K-12 students. She said Westmoreland Mining’s decision to close the coal mine in Savage has downstream impacts for other industries like transportation and sugar beet farming and refining. She said the local sugar beet refinery has been forced to pursue alternative energy sources, since the sugar refinery alone does not use enough coal-fired energy to keep the mine economically viable.

“Savage’s loss of Westmoreland Mining is not only going to hurt our school and community financially, it’s going to have a wide-ranging

effect on our entire region,” she said. She said Richland County’s budget is so tight due to revenue loss from the pending mine closure that it’s been unable to address drinking water issues.

Other proponents included Rep. Brandon Ler, R-Sidney; the Montana Association of Oil, Gas and Coal Counties; the Montana Coal Council; the mayor of Sidney; PSC Commissioner Randy Pinocci, who testified in a personal capacity; and former Sidney Schools Superintendent Daniel Farr, who spoke on behalf of 17 rural schools in northeast Montana.

Farr said his community has been suffering from Montana-Dakota Utilities’ recent decision to close the coal-fired Lewis & Clark Station. He said the economic and human impact of these decisions deserve more consideration than they’re currently getting.

“Only the community is left to live out the consequences of any decision,” he said. “Everybody else gets to walk away.”

Opponents took issue with the bill favoring coal-fired plants over other energy sources and its potential to saddle energy consumers with higher costs. The possibility that the measure could result in businesses being forced to operate at a financial loss was also flagged by both proponents and opponents.

“The city of Colstrip supports this bill, to the extent that it does what the title says,” said Bob Gilbert, who testified on behalf of the town. “I respect Commissioner Pinocci’s comment that [the PSC] has no authority to make a plant keep running, they have no authority to close down a plant, nor should we give it to them. Government shouldn’t be telling private businesses how to run their business and how long they have to keep running.”

Former PSC staffer Drew Zinecker said he became emotional when he was able to hold a draft of HB 314 in his hands after working for two years to make it happen. He said the bill puts the “public back into the Public Service Commission” by allowing commissioners to more fully consider the concerns of their constituents. He also said that in some cases residents have said they “will gladly pay higher utility rates to have this type of generating asset kept open.”

That idea didn’t find favor with everyone testify-



The Montana-Dakota Utilities Lewis & Clark power station on the Yellowstone River near Sidney. (Credit: Tim Evanson via Flickr)

ing before the committee. Speaking on behalf of Montana Consumer Counsel, Jason Brown said the measure represents a departure from the economic principles that normally guide ratemaking.

“We are concerned that this [requirement] could be used to justify higher rates for certain ratepayers than would otherwise be approved, especially if this bill were to be applied more broadly,” he said.

Another issue flagged for the committee centered on what would happen once the economic-impact analysis is complete.

“We’re in a bit of a quandary as to what the bill really does,” said Aimee Grmoljez, representing Montana-Dakota Utilities. “Where’s the remediation? I don’t see that language in the bill.”

Costs associated with preparing the economic analyses also found their way into the discussion. Speaking as an informational witness, PSC policy analyst Robin Arnold said the commission would need two to three full-time staffers or funding to contract the work in order to fulfill the bill’s mandate.

Mitchell noted that he is working with Rep. Bob Phalen, R-Glendive, on an amendment that would direct county commissioners to prepare economic impact analyses, which would circumvent the need to increase the PSC’s budget.

PSC commissioners appeared divided about how best to approach the bill during their Feb. 16 meeting.

Pinocci solicited the commission’s support for the measure. He said he thinks the bill has the potential to make it to the desk of Gov. Greg Gianforte, who, Pinocci said he’s heard, is favorably inclined. (An email to Gianforte’s office seeking clarification about the governor’s position on HB 314 was not immediately returned Tuesday.)

Vice Chair Brad Johnson expressed trepidation

toward the bill. He said the commission has been adamant in its refutation of cost shifting, and that he fears supporting HB 314 could run contrary to commission positions on other energy issues like net metering.

“I think there’s a real question of consistency with regard to policy here, and it’s important that that be communicated to the sponsor,” he said.

The PSC decided to continue monitoring the bill.

Pinocci requested that commissioners communicate their concerns to Mitchell before the House Energy, Technology, and Federal Relations Committee takes executive action on the bill.

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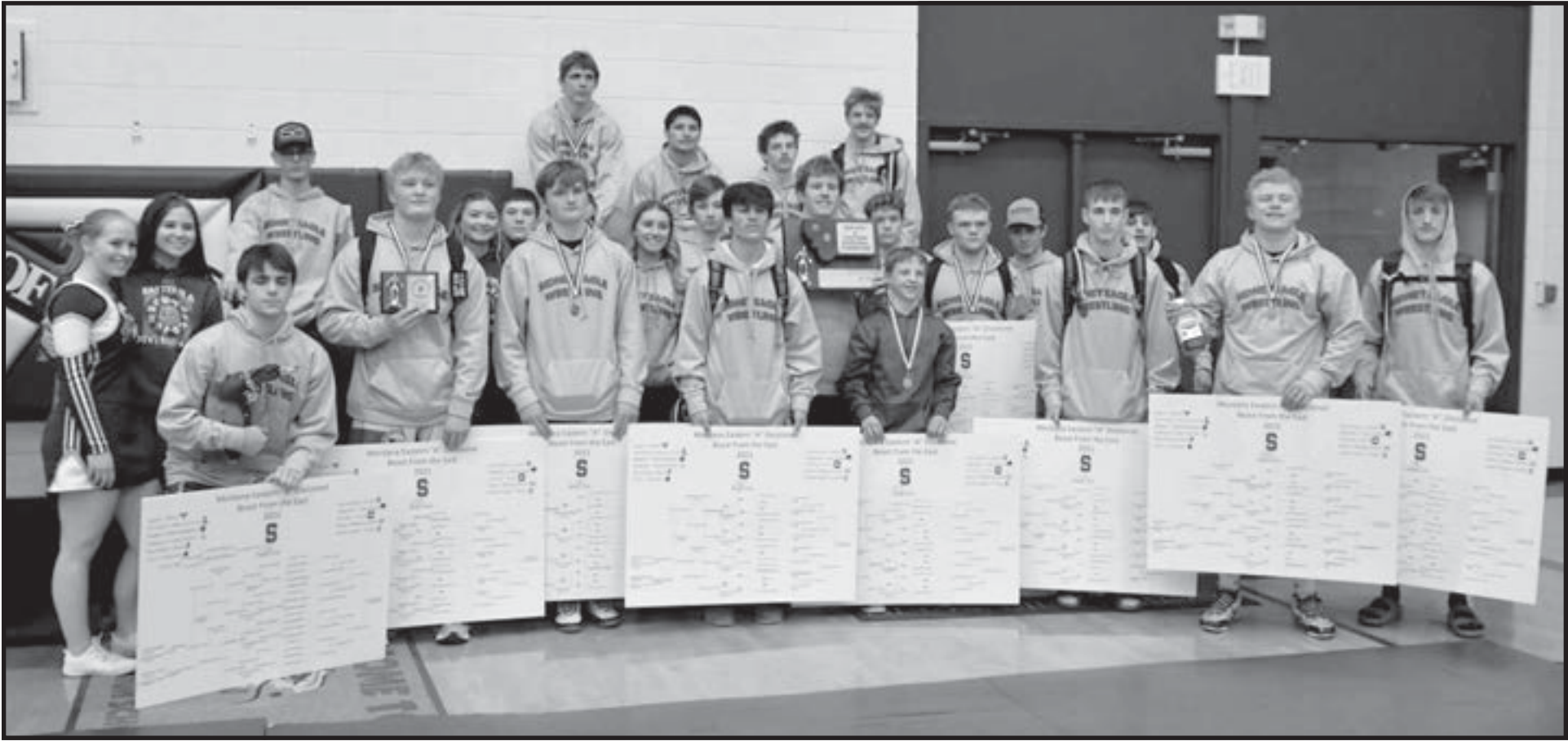
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MSU Researcher Aids Discovery Of New Wild Bee Virus

By Reagan Colyer, MSU News Service

Bozeman - In an international collaborative effort, researchers at Montana State University co-discovered a virus that infects bees, including both native mining bees and honeybees. The new virus was named *Andrena* associated bee virus-1, or AnBV-1, since it was most prevalent in mining bees, part of the family *Andrena*.

Michelle Flenniken, Department of Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology associate professor in MSU's College of Agriculture, worked with researchers from Israel, who collected more than 1,300 bee specimens from 14 sites in the central part of that country. The two most abundant bee species collected were mining bees and honeybees.

"Most bee-associated viruses are known as 'honeybee viruses' in recognition of the host from which they were first discovered and described," write the authors of a paper, published February 12 in the journal *Viruses*, announcing the discovery. "Sequencing a greater variety of bee and other insect species indicates that many honeybee-infecting viruses have a broader host range that includes other bees, as well as other insects."

Mining bees, said Flenniken, can be found all over the world, including in the US. They are much smaller than honeybees or bumblebees and do not live in nests. Instead, they burrow in the ground, living alone or in small groups. They forage on a variety of flowering plants, whereas other species specialize on particular plants, like mustard or canola.

"It's not that surprising that we discovered a new virus, because bee virology is an under-explored area of research," said Flenniken, who co-discovered Lake Sinai virus 2, another bee-infecting virus, while doing postdoctoral research at the University of California San Francisco. "Viruses that affect bees have a wider host range than mammalian-infecting viruses, and this broader host range necessitates the study of multiple co-foraging bee species, because viruses can be transmitted between bee species via shared floral resources."

It is unclear what the impact of AnBV-1 is on bee health, but that is something Flenniken plans to study. In the meantime, she said, the new virus isn't cause for immediate concern. It is likely that insects have evolved alongside the virus, just as humans have the common cold. Like many bee-associated viruses, AnBV-1 doesn't have outwardly obvious symptoms and was identified through RNA sequencing of

samples taken from the bees collected in Israel. One of the most important impacts of the newly identified virus, Flenniken said, is the opportunity it presents for further study.

"Knowledge about the impact of a virus, even at the cellular level, could help lead to strategies that help mitigate colony losses that are associated with viruses," she said. "Virus-host interactions are natural, common and prevalent, and most of the time a healthy host can clear a viral infection easily. It is important to do research aimed at understanding naturally evolved bee antiviral defense mechanisms, so that we can understand other stressors that perturb the bees' natural ability to fight off virus infections."

Prevalence and transmission of viruses like AnBV-1 could also potentially be lessened by land management strategies that enhance floral diversity, write the authors of the paper. The greater variety and abundance of flowers available for pollinators, the lower the chance that they will encounter a flower that was recently visited by an infected bee.

"That could be an important reason to promote ecological diversity and, by extension, help promote bee health," said Flenniken.

Now that the virus has been identified, members of the Pollinator Health Center, which includes research scientists across multiple disciplines as well as graduate and undergraduate students, plan to further study its impacts on bee health at the cellular and individual levels. In collaboration with Charles Carey, Pollinator Health Center bioinfor-



(MSU photo by Kelly Gorham)

matics specialist and associate member, Flenniken and her collaborators will examine bee genetic sequence archives and frozen bee specimens to see if AnBV-1 is present in bees from other locations, including Montana.

"Further study will be more at the individual bee level, which is both interesting and important," Flenniken said. "It helps us narrow a little bit the actual real-life effects of this new virus."

Crop Insurance March 15 Deadline Nears in MT, ND, SD & WY

Producers Need to Make Insurance Decisions Soon

Billings - USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) reminds producers in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming that the final date to purchase or make changes to crop insurance on spring-planted crops in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming is March 15 for the 2021 crop year. Farmers also need to notify their agent if they have planted winter wheat in a county with only spring wheat coverage by this date.

Federal crop insurance is critical to the farm safety net. It helps producers and owners manage revenue risks and strengthen the rural economy. Producers may select from several coverage options, including yield coverage, revenue protection, and area risk policies.

Producers are encouraged to visit their crop insurance agent soon to learn specific details for the 2021 crop year. Agents can help producers determine what policy works best for their operation and review existing coverage to ensure the policy meets their needs.

RMA is authorizing additional flexibilities due to coronavirus while continuing to support producers, working through approved insurance providers (AIPs) to deliver services, including processing policies, claims and agreements. RMA staff are working with AIPs and other customers by phone, mail, and electronically to continue supporting crop insurance coverage for producers. Farmers with crop insurance questions or needs should continue to contact their insurance agents about conducting business remotely (by tele-

phone or email). More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

Crop insurance is sold and delivered solely through private crop insurance agents. A list of crop insurance agents is available at all USDA Service Centers and online at the RMA Agent Locator. Producers can use the RMA Cost Estimator to get a premium amount estimate of their insurance needs online. Learn more about crop insurance and the modern farm safety net at www.rma.usda.gov.

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Active Parenting Of Teens Class Available

By Carrie Krug

MSU Extension in Eastern Montana is offering Active Parenting Classes. The teen years of your child's life can present changes and challenges, for you as a parent and your child. Active Parenting is a program created by Dr. Michael Popkin who is a parenting expert. Active Parenting of Teens program is a six-session class designed to help parents learn about a variety of items such as what teens need to succeed, communication and cooperation, handling anger, courage and self-esteem, preventing risky behavior, and much more. Classes start Thursday March 18, 6-8 p.m., and are virtual. Classes are \$15, scholarships are available, and registrants will receive a hard copy of the books prior to class. To register for classes, contact Lori Mayr, 406-994-6969.

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GIRLS 14U

Back Row (L-R): Coach Dustin Haralson, Maddie Schieber, Landry Larson, RayElla Radke, Zoey Garsjo, Avia Leroy & Coach Randy Radke. **Middle Row (L-R):** Tia Trudell, Micah Haralson, Victoria Piazza, McKenna Haralson, Lauren Youngquist, Payton Bauer & Addison Everett. **Front Row (L-R):** Layla Petrik, Addison Steffan, Ainsleigh Moore & Leddy Larson.



GIRLS 19U

Back Row (L-R): Hadley Garsjo, Rebecca Aldrich & Jaylen Baxter. **Middle Row (L-R):** Marett Schieber, Kynlee Vitt, Whitney VanHook, Samara Hofer & Ashlynn Johnston. **Front Row (L-R):** Autumn Edd, Scout Hofer, Jori Horsburgh & Dylan Edd.



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Back Row (L-R): Coach Bryan McDowell, Hayden Conn, Parker Mindt, Justin Filler, Logan Boyer, Braden Kindopp, Tate Wieferich, Jaxson Franklin, Landon Schumacker & Coach Klayton Carroll. **Middle Row (L-R):** Kassadee Olson, Shandyn Gurney, Grady Larson, Casey Rehbein, Tristan Fink, Mason Kindopp & Graylin Martin.
Front Row (L-R): Mason Erath, Logan Schumacker, Gunner Kostecky & Wes Van Hook.



MITES

Coaches: Taryn Lee, Shane Schantz & Stephanie Carroll.
Back Row (L-R): Jett Reynolds, Emma Youngquist, Kroy Clausen, Jayson Franck, Kale Averett, Tristam Carroll & Maiah Goff. **Middle Row (L-R):** Bennett McDowell, Kamden Johnson, Landon Berg, Marrett Haralson, Gunnar Goff, Bristol Schantz, Avalynn Peterson, Braxlie Young & Abel Carroll. **Front Row (L-R):** Collin Coryell, Aiden Collins, Jamisen Moore, Tinley Hecker, Brystol Lee, Ronan Carroll & Aiden Carroll.



TERMITES

Coaches: Dawn Rehbein, Jake Urlacher, Erik Seigreid & Chris Nygaard. **Back Row (L-R):** Keltic, Teagan, Ryker, Hadley & Jace. **Middle Row (L-R):** Dax, Parker, Xander, Avenue, Kezlynn, Kate & Erik. **Front Row (L-R):** Carter, Liam, Kayson, Jude, Lucas & Alexander.

(Pee Wee and Squirts pictures not available.)

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7:30 pm..... MonDak vs. Scobey

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Back row (L-R) Manager Avery Johnson, Asst Coach Andy Dethman, Baylee Davidson, Dasani Nesbit, Sydney Dethman, Carolyne Christoffersen, Meg Ator, Coach Lance Brekke, Manager Lilly Johnson. Middle row (L-R) Zoey Ator, Addison Elvsas, Jaeleigh Davidson, Mara Salvendy, Brooklynn Nordwick, Alexa Nelson. Front row (L-R) Keira Stentoft, Jordyn Breuer.

SAVAGE



Front (L-R) Alexia Papka, Taryn Hagler, Raigan Smith. Middle (L-R) Teah Conradsen, Nycole Prince, Cambry Conradsen, Karley McPherson, Brooke Reuter. Back (L-R) Faith Reed, Taylor Conradsen, Jaidyn Alvstad. Coaches (not pictured) April McPherson, Todd Verhasselt (Assistant).

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Front (L-R) Destiny Thompson, Autumn Bergum, Haleigh Buck Elk, Alicyn Ator, Sarah Steinbrecher, Kale Windy Boy. Back (L-R) Mandy Red Eagle, Serenity Wilbanks, Megan Granbois, Makena Hauge, Perla Burciaga, Jazzmin Fugere.


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Badlands Gymnastics Competes at Jamestown Winter Escape Meet Feb. 6-7

Badlands Gymnastics Club is really starting to hit their stride, returning home from the Jamestown Winter Escape gymnastics meet with a first, second, and third place team award in the three divisions they entered.

Level 3 Team: Badlands "Fearsome Four-some" rookie Level 3 gymnasts swung their way to their first place team award of the year by a whopping 4 points.

1st Badlands 110.45; 2nd Dakota Star (Mandan) 106.95; 3rd Gymagic (Minot) 106.35; 4th Bismarck 105.15; 5th Western Edge (Dickinson) 104.35; 6th Acro Stars (Ray) 104.35; 7th Jamestown 102.60; 8th Carington 94.80

Level 3 Top Ten Placements:

Vault: 1st Brooklyn Spotten Bear 9.5; 2nd Tie Brooke Roscoe 9.4; 4th Emma Job 9.3; 10th tie Clara Wisness 9.0

Uneven Bars: Brooklyn Spotted Bear 1st Tie 9.0; Emma Job. 3rd Tie 8.95; 9th Clara Wisness 8.70

Balance Beam: Emma

Job 1st 9.55; Brooklyn 2nd 9.3; Brooke Roscoe 3rd Tie 9.05

Floor Exercise: Brooklyn Spotted Bear 1st 9.55; Brooke Roscoe 9th 9.10

All Around: Brooklyn Spotted Bear 1st 37.350; Emma Job 2nd 36.85; Brooke Roscoe 6th 35.35

Level 6 Top Three Placements:

Junior A: Skye Cutshall: Beam 9.400 3rd

Senior A: Annabelle Coughlin 3rd Vault 8.475; 2nd Bars 8.600; 2nd All Around 34.35

Also competing in Senior A were Sasha Stieg and Emma Job

Level 7 Top Three Placements:

Caroline Drefts: Bars 2nd 7.35; Bean 3rd 7.05

Bronze Xcel Team: Badlands Bronze Xcel was third, but only missed first place by 0.25!



First Place Level 3 Team from left, Emma Job, Clara Wisness, Brooke Roscoe and Brooklyn Spotted Bear. (Photo submitted)

1st Acro Star 112.200; 2nd American Gold (Fargo) 112.05; 3rd Badlands 111.95; 4th RRVA (Grand Forks) 110.0; 5th Western Edge 109.60; 6th Northern Lights (Beulah) 109.05

Bronze Xcel Top 5 Placements:

Junior A

Aria Job: Vault 2nd 9.1; Bars 5th 9.4; Beam 1st 9.6; Floor 3rd 9.3; All Around 2nd 37.4

Junior B

Madison Kelly: Vault 2nd 9.0; Bars 4th 9.30; Beam 2nd 9.35; Floor 3rd 9.3; All Around 2nd 36.95

Aubree Roerick: Vault 3rd 8.95; Bars 1st 9.6; Beam 4th 9.1; Floor 1st 9.50; All Around 1st 37.15

Also competing Age 9-11 Keagan Mell Senior A:

Tynlee Fahrman: Vault 1st 9.2; Bars 4th 9.25; Floor 1st 9.50; All Around 4th 36.3

Keagan Mell: Beam 3rd 8.9

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Energy Roundup

Increasing Penalties For Damaging Energy Infrastructure

House Bill 481 Would Carry Penalties Of Up To 30 Years In Prison And A \$150,000 Fine For Damaging, Defacing Or Tampering With Equipment On A Critical Infrastructure Facility

By Amanda Eggert, Montana Free Press

The House Judiciary Committee heard testimony this week on a bill that would create stiff penalties for defacing, damaging or tampering with oil and gas, mining, railway or telecommunications infrastructure.

House Bill 481 sponsor Rep. Steve Gunderson, R-Libby, said his bill protects the public's right to peacefully protest while imposing penalties for property damage.

"Once the realm of peaceful is left and there's burning, damage and rioting, HB 481 would kick in.

It sets forth enhanced fines and jail time for those who choose to become rioters rather than peaceful protesters," Gunderson said during his introduction of the bill Wednesday.

Under HB 481, someone who trespasses on property containing critical infrastructure could be subject to a \$1,500 fine and six months in jail. Damaging, defacing or tampering with equipment on a critical infrastructure facility would carry penalties of up to 30 years in prison and a \$150,000 fine. It would also subject "an organization found to be a conspirator" to fines up to 10

times the amount levied on the person who committed the crime.

Proponents of the measure included industry groups like the Montana Petroleum Association and Montana Association of Oil, Gas and Coal Counties and utility companies like North-Western Energy and Charter Spectrum. They said HB 481 protects the considerable investments of utility providers and private companies.

Montana Petroleum Association Executive Director Alan Olsen in testimony mentioned an individual's attempt to shut down a pipeline in Montana four years

ago by turning off a valve. He said that such acts can cause millions of dollars in damage and lost revenue, and put people at risk of injury or death. He said such acts should be punished appropriately.

Opponents of the measure said it would have a chilling effect on free speech and that the penalties proposed by HB 481 are disproportionate to the acts described. Opponents included Western Native Voice, Northern Plains Resource Council, the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes and the Montana Environmental Information

Center.

Several opponents noted that trespassing and vandalizing property are already illegal under Montana law, and maintained that the penalties proposed by HB 481 are too heavy-handed. Northern Plains Resource Council member Joan Kresich said that under Gunderson's proposal, a kid spray-painting equipment could be charged with defacing critical infrastructure, a crime that would be punishable by up to 30 years in prison.

"It's so important that we make sure that the penalties in our legal system really, truly fit," she said. "We don't need this."

The sponsor indicated that he's considering a number of amendments that have been proposed during testimony. Adam Haight with the Montana AFL-CIO said that if an amendment were included to protect worker rights pertaining to strikes and lockouts, his organization would withdraw its opposition to the bill.

Rancher Dick Iverson said he fears that under the proposal as it's currently written, a farmer who unintentionally damages a pipeline with farm equipment could be in violation of the law. He said he and Gunderson have discussed an amendment to address that concern.

In his closing remarks, Gunderson noted that laws similar to his proposal are already on the books in states North Dakota, Texas and Oklahoma.

There's significant overlap between Gunderson's proposal and a "protect critical infrastructure" model bill that's promoted by the American Legislative Exchange Council, or ALEC, a conservative nonprofit with backing from oil and gas companies including Koch Industries and ExxonMobil. The House Judiciary Committee did not take executive action on the measure Wednesday.

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Foundation Offers Scholarship Opportunities

Foundation For Community Care Accepting Applications

Submitted by Jaena Cotter Foundation Assistant

Sidney – Electronic applications are now available for two scholarship programs offered by the Foundation for Community Care for new and continuing college students in the 2021-2022 academic year.

The first program offered by the Foundation Board of Directors is the annual Healthcare Scholarship program. Richland County and surrounding area residents pursuing an education

in a healthcare field who intend to live and work in the area are encouraged to apply for funding. Applicants must have completed one year at a post-secondary university or college. The Healthcare Scholarship program is designed to help create a healthcare workforce for Sidney Health Center and the Richland County area.

The second is the Jessica and Nathan Vannatta Memorial Healthcare Scholarship opportunity,

which was created by their father, Greg Vannatta. The scholarship is awarded to a resident in Richland County and the surrounding area who is pursuing a degree in healthcare at a college or university. Both high school and college students are eligible to apply.

“Healthy, strong communities start with a great educational framework, and access to quality care,” Foundation board member and scholarship committee chair, Kristan Haugen said. “Rural communities across the country have been hit hard by the loss of healthcare providers. Through these healthcare scholarships, we can do our part to invest in a stronger community.”

Qualified applicants can apply online at www.foundationforcommunitycare.org. Application deadline is 4 p.m., April 30.

Design Your Session Plan Workshop Starts March 4 Watford City

Submitted by Marcia Hellandsaas, NDSU Extension Agent McKenzie County

This series of sessions to help farm and ranch families pass their businesses on to the next generation will start next week Thursday, March 4, Watford City, and will continue on March 11 and 18. Each of these meetings, of which attendance is highly encouraged, will be held from 5:30-8:30 p.m. CT at NDSU Extension/McKenzie County Office, 205 6th St. NW, Watford City.

“The program will prepare you to envision, communicate, plan, write and shape the legacy of your family farm or ranch business,” said Marcia Hellandsaas, McKenzie County Extension Agent.

Participants will receive a workbook to help them prepare important planning information and begin the transition process. Tools to help them improve communications with family will be included as well as how to choose and work with professionals such as attorneys, accountants, lenders and insurance agents.

For more information or to register for this series, please go to <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/succession>. You may also contact NDSU Extension in McKenzie County at 701-444-3451 or email marcia.hellandsaas@ndsu.edu.

Guest Opinion: Legislative Report

Greetings from Helena!

We are halfway through the legislative session. All the bills without money on them had to be transferred from the Senate to the House, and vice versa, so it has been kind of hectic this week.

In Fish and Game committee we had bills about wolves, bears and right of ways, which were all very emotional subjects. I think we need to eliminate some bears and some wolves and stand up for property rights. So that is how I voted.

In Health and Human Services, we saw some bills about vaccines and whether they should be mandatory or not. I trust that Montanans can figure this out for themselves without government mandates.

In Judiciary we again had a lot of bills to limit local, state, and federal government. It seems there is a lot of appetite in the legislature for that this year. It is hard to find people that want to be regulated more. One bill we heard, SB277, was to allow the Attorney General to put the President's executive orders to the Constitutional test before allowing them to be enforced in Montana. The President has issued more executive orders in the first 30 days in office than any other President, including FDR. Another bill, SB215, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, is a very important bill that we are hoping will get through the process. There were several in the LGBTQ community who testified against it.

I introduced a Senate Joint Resolution for the 67th Montana Legislature to send to the President and Congress to encourage them to allow the Keystone Pipeline to continue. With a projected \$63 million in property tax to the state of Montana, and thousands of jobs on the line, it looks like a no brainer to me. A bill that I carried, SB193, that has passed over to the house, makes it easier for counties to put property back into production. Another bill that I carried and has passed to the house, SB354, deals with easements and property owners.

If you are in Helena be sure to stop and see us. If you want to look up the text of a bill you can find it at <https://leg.mt.gov>.

For Freedom,
Senator Steve Hinebauch

Foundation For Community Care Now Accepting 2021 Healthcare Grant Applications

Submitted by Jaena Cotter Community Engagement Coordinator

Sidney – The Foundation for Community Care announces that healthcare grant applications are now available online. In May, the Foundation for Community Care's volunteer Board of Directors will provide financial support for local healthcare. Each year the Foundation is able to offer grants by distributing a portion of the earnings from its Endowment Fund.

To ensure access to excellent, lifelong healthcare services for our community is the mission of the Foundation for Community Care. “By continuing to provide community healthcare grants each year, we can achieve our mission,” stated Cami Skinner, board member. “We are lucky to have quality healthcare in our area, and we want to keep it that way.”

Organizations with an immediate need directly related to quality health or medical care (present and future) of Richland County and surrounding areas are encouraged to apply for a grant by applying online at www.foundationforcommunitycare.org.

Requests for funding must be related to a project or equipment that will benefit healthcare for a large number of residents in the Richland County and surrounding area, not medical funding for an individual. Applications must be received by the Foundation by 4 p.m., April 30 to be considered.

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TERMITES

(Photos by Rachel Dewhirst Photography. No team names were available at time of publication.)

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Your Boots On The Hill

Protecting Meat Processing Capacity & Private Property Rights

By Nicole Rolf and Rachel Cone, Montana Farm Bureau Federation

Montana legislators have heard more than 400 bills this week, which shows the staggering pace that comes on the eve of transmittal deadline. We'll cut straight to the chase here in week eight of the Montana Legislative Session, with a focus on meat processing bills and private property rights.

House Bill 336: Interstate cooperative meatpacking compact, sponsored by Rep. Brandon Ler (R), HD 35. Montana Farm Bureau member policy opposes.

The Interstate Compacting Bill sets up a framework to allow Montana to enter into agreement with other states to share our state-inspected meat across state lines. This bill aims to open up new markets for Montana ranchers, but unfortunately, the method it uses will actually do more harm than good for Montana's farmers, ranchers and meat processors.

First, some background: In Montana, we have 24 United States Department of Agriculture-Food Safety Inspection Service (USDA-FSIS)-inspected meat processing facilities. These plants are allowed to process meat for intrastate and interstate commerce (selling within the state and across the nation). Montana also has its own state meat inspection program, which operates under the authority of USDA-FSIS.

Under that program, Montana regulates and inspects state and custom exempt facilities. There are 35 state-inspected plants that are allowed to process meat for intrastate commerce. Only 27 states have state-inspection programs. Montana also has more than 100 custom exempt processing plants, which are allowed to process meat for the owner of the animal. While our state meat inspection program must abide by "at least equal to" standards for safety and sanitation, the state maintains control of the state-inspected programs, and the process for becoming a state-inspected or custom exempt plant is more easily attained than a USDA-inspected plant. All three types of processors are very important to our state and they each serve a different but significant purpose. A state inspection program greatly increases Montana's meat processing capacity.

Back to House Bill 336. Its intent is to allow Montana to sell state-inspected meat across state lines (interstate commerce). The FSIS branch chief stated in a letter to Montana's Department of Livestock, shared with legislators, that enactment of this legislation would violate federal law and jeopardize the "at least equal to" status of the Montana Meat and Poultry Inspection (MPI) program. Losing Montana's MPI program's "at least equal to" status would jeopardize state and custom exempt meat processors across the state, resulting in fewer outlets for Montana grown and raised livestock.

Enactment of House Bill 336 would also make Montana ineligible for the Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) program, a FSIS-approve framework that already exists to allow states with an "at least equal to" designation to ship meat in interstate commerce, providing market opportunities for local producers. Montana Farm Bureau urged legislators to consider using the existing framework rather than inventing a new one that risks putting us in violation of federal law.

After the hearing, HB 336 was amended with a contingent effective date based on a couple qualifiers, meaning it would not be implemented until one of the following happens: Congress ratifies the Interstate Cooperative Meatpacking Compact or a court determines the Interstate Cooperative Meatpacking Compact is not preempted by federal law. With that amendment, the bill was passed out of the House Agriculture Committee and will be heard on the House floor before the transmittal deadline.

Senate Bill 279: Revise laws related to meatpacking exemptions. Sponsored by Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R), SD 19. Montana Farm Bureau member policy opposes.

This bill concerns the third type of meat processing facility in Montana: custom exempt. As previously stated, these processing facilities are allowed to process meat for the owner of the animal. Montana is fortunate to have 128 of these custom-exempt plants operating in our state. Senate Bill 279 proposes allowing custom-exempt processors to

sell meat commercially.

Montana Farm Bureau members passed specific policy against this idea at our November convention, with good reason. First, our farming and ranching members care about protecting consumer safety and public health. Custom exempt plants are only inspected twice a year, and while many are just as sanitary and safe as any other state or USDA-inspected plant, there is a slightly elevated risk for pathogens or food-borne illness in these facilities.

Our next concern deals with displacing the purpose of these plants: to process animals for the owner of the livestock. We've all experienced the challenge of getting on a processor's calendar for harvest dates. Opening these plants up for commercial sales only makes it harder for ranchers to get their own beef processed. These plants are a vital part of a rancher's business.

Finally, the bottom line of this bill is that it, too, stands in violation of federal law and puts Montanans at risk of losing our state inspection program.

House Bill 554: Require legislative approval of national heritage areas, historic trails, sponsored by Rep. Joshua Kassmier (R), HD 27. Montana Farm Bureau member policy supports.

This bill holds special importance to our Farm Bureau members in Cascade and Chouteau counties, but it carried implications for all private property owners across Montana. House Bill 554 aims to require legislative approval of any National Heritage Areas before they are designated. A National Heritage Area is "designated by Congress for its unique nationally significant qualities and resources." When designated, these areas operate under a partnership with the National Parks Service.

Montana Farm Bureau members also passed specific policy on this subject, opposing the establishment of National Heritage Areas at our 2020 convention, with pointed opposition to the proposed Big Sky Country National Heritage Area, which would designate over 2 million acres of privately owned property in Cascade and Chouteau counties.

Management of the proposed BSCNHA would be vested in a private organization whose directors are not elected by or accountable to property owners within the boundaries. If a private citizen is unhappy with their decisions, he or she has no ability to vote them out. Establishing an NHA would add an unnecessary and duplicative layer of federal oversight through the National Park Service, on top of the local, state and federal regulations and programs already in place to promote the economy and preserve the history and heritage of Central Montana.

This bill would add a level of accountability through our elected state legislators before a National Heritage Area could be designated, and that's a win for our local communities and property owners. To learn more about this issue, visit www.mfbf.org and sign the Action Alert urging against the establishment of the Big Sky Country National Heritage Area.

Senate Bill 338: Revise civil liability laws, sponsored by Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17. Montana Farm Bureau member policy supports.

This straightforward bill clarifies that if someone is trespassing on private property, the landowner holds no liability in the case of injury, except in the case of willful or wanton misconduct. It's almost shocking this isn't already law, but the bill offers important clarification moving forward. The bill notes that, "a landowner owes a trespasser no duty of care with respect to the condition of the property," and, "A trespasser enters or remains on the trespassed property without any assurance that the property is safe for any purpose."

This is a good and important bill for all property owners, especially farmers and ranchers, to support.

Senate Bill 307: Revise liability limits for irrigation operators, sponsored by Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17. Montana Farm Bureau member policy supports.

Senate Bill 307 also offers important clarification on landowner liabilities, focused specifically on duties relating to irrigation ditches and structures. While irrigation districts and private owners are required to keep irrigation structures and infrastructure in good repair, Montana law already limits the liability of private ditch owners or irrigation districts in the case of personal injury or property damage concerning these water conveyances.

However, the current legal language may be interpreted to indicate that these liability limitations only apply to irrigation ditches, as the legal language only includes iterations of the word "ditch." This bill clarifies and specifically names all forms of conveyances, including diversions, aqueducts, canals, ditches, drains, flumes, headgates, siphons or other water conveyance structures or infrastructure connected to irrigation ditches. This ensures all irrigators are protected.

For more legislative updates and details on these issues, follow our Live with Your Lobbyist broadcast each Friday at noon on our Montana Farm Bureau Facebook Page.

Nicole Rolf is the Governmental Affairs senior director and a rancher from Miles City, MT. Nicole works closely with our Congressional delegation on national issues affecting Montana agriculture. Additionally, this is her seventh Montana Legislative Session, lobbying in Helena on behalf of MFBF members. She also works as the Eastern Montana Regional Manager. Nicole can be contacted at nicoler@mfbf.org.

Rachel Cone is the Montana Farm Bureau Federation Director of State Affairs. This is Rachel's first session lobbying on behalf of Montana Farm Bureau. Rachel is involved throughout the interim session to track how bills will come to the session. She also coordinates the MFBF Water Committee, the Resource Management, Environment and Technology Committee and the Livestock Committee in addition to being the Farm Bureau PAC treasurer. Rachel can be contacted at rachelc@mfbf.org.

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NoDak Northern Lights 3rd Annual Gymnastics Event Set for March 5-7

It is gymnasts time! This is the third annual NoDak Northern Lights Invitational Gymnastics event at the Roughrider Center, Watford City March 5-7.

Word spread like wildfire as this invitational has become a popular "destination" meet for some gyms.

This year there will be 530 athletes competing at this year's event from: Watford City, Williston, Dickinson, Minot, Bismarck, Carrington, Beulah, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Ray/Tioga, plus two gyms from Fargo, ND; Sidney, Billings, Miles City, and Circle, MT; Gillette, WY; Sturgis, SD.

What makes this year's event special in the venue at the Rough Rider Center is due to Covid-19 most competitions have been held in the hosts' actual gymnastics' gym with only one or two spectators allowed to watch, which meant not all members of a competitor's family were able to watch them participate. The Center has safe spaced seating available for 850 spectators, meaning gymnast's entire family can view the competitions.

NoDak has an incredible awards ceremony, handing out more awards including: t-shirts for scores of 9.5 and above; sweatshirts to the All Around champion at every level; "stick it" awards for stuck routines; a totally unique AA for every gymnast.-First year is

a hoodie, second year is a pair of Crocs. This year a "surprise " that will light up their lives. In addition, there will be "Celebration Booths" for the top five teams at each level receiving a celebratory pizza-sized cookie to share and team photos will be taken. There will be a gymnast "mini-mall" for them to shop. Also amenities such as hair braiding, professional massage therapist and photographers to take individual photos of every gymnast during the competition.

There will be two different categories of gymnastics athletes competing at this year's event. Junior Olympic, consisting of athletes training 1-10, levels one being the easiest while ten being the most difficult. Xcel levels are bronze, silver, gold, platinum and diamond. The difference between the two is the Junior Olympic levels train more hours per week, Xcel levels train fewer hours per week.

Competition times & days March 5, 6,7.

Fri. Session 1: 1:30 p.m., Level 8/9/10 Xcel Platinum/Xcel Diamond

Sat. Session 2: 6 p.m., Xcel Gold.

Sat. Session 3: 8:30 a.m., Level 3

Sat. Session 4: 1 p.m., Level 4

Sat. Session 5: 5:45 p.m., Level 4 & 5

Sun. Session 6: 8:45 a.m., Xcel Bronze

Sun. Session 7: 11:45 a.m., Xcel Silver

Sun. Session 8: 3:45 p.m., Level 6 & 7

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Big Sky State Games 3 on 3 Hockey Tournament Coming To Sidney March 19-21

Online Registration Deadline March 8

The Richland Rangers Arena will host the Big Sky State Games 3 on 3 tournament March 19-21 in Sidney. The deadline for registration is March 8. Roster changes are free until March 15. On site changes will cost \$20.

The Big Sky State Games is open to amateur athletes in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and Idaho. The ice hockey portion includes all age groups. Mites, termites, bantam, pee wee squirts and jr. gold divisions will participate. There is a limit of eight teams per age group.

The games will consist of two teams of three players. The rink is divided in half and two games are played simultaneously. There is a one period with a 30-minute runtime. There is no penalty box so all penalties will result in a free shot at the goal.

To register visit <https://bigskygames.org/sports/ice-hockey/>. Contact information for event coordinator Dawn Rehbein is also available on the website. Feel free to contact Rehbein with any questions.



Richland Ranger Squirts

The Richland Ranger Squirts had 4 games this past weekend. Friday, Feb. 26 they hosted Williston Gray at home winning 9 - 1. Saturday, Feb. 27 they traveled to Crosby and played 2 games against the Crosby Comets. Rangers were able to bring home two wins; winning game one 10 - 3 and game two 9 - 3. Sunday, Feb. 28 they hosted Williston's B1 black team at home and lost 5 - 10. Pictured above is Henry Maurer vs. Crosby, Feb. 28. (Photo by Brenda Filler)

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THURSDAY

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Back Row (L-R): Coach Eggert, Layne Herman, Grady Gonsioroski, Caleb Senner, Jayden Goosen, Austin Lien, Will Martin & Coach Triplett. Middle Row (L-R): Josh Sponheim, Ezra Leach, Wyatt Robbins, Brett Mullin & Trace Krenning. Front Row (L-R): Tiegien Cundiff, Toby Clinton, Nick Engesser, Damlan Pflughoft & Ryan Eggert.



Back row (L-R) volunteer coach Chase White, Colt Miller, Walker Ator, Jason Eylander, Javon Nesbit, Mason Dethman, Tyler Wivholm, Asst Coach Bryan Jacklitch, Head coach Josh Stentoft. Middle row (L-R) volunteer coach Don Delorme, manager Owen Logan, Cian Logan, Caden Kelm, Max Engelke, Sol Grainger, Brett Stentoft, Bode Miller, Jacob Martensen. Front row (L-R) manager Joseph Robertson, Nate Stentoft, Ashdyn Hobbs, Isaac Johnson, Laden Kelm, Daniel Forizs, Connor Huft.

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Eagle Basketball Action

The Eagles were at divisionals last week in Billings. The boys played Park on Wednesday and lost 53-56 and they played Custer County Thursday and lost 47-67 which ended their season. Right: Boston Peters dribbles the ball around a Custer County player. The girls played Hardin on Thursday and lost 37-72 and played Park on Friday and lost 45-50 in overtime which ended their season. Left: Jenna Anderson shoots a free throw against Park. (Photos by Tonya Schoepp)



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9 am.....Froid/Lake vs. Plentywood
11 am.....Fairview vs. North Country

FAIRVIEW



Back (L-R) Deacon Gackle, Dylan Lorenz, Garrett George, Kaden Skogas, Hunter Sharbono, Paul Hardy, Kanyon Taylor, Brady Buxbaum, Steve Rice, Elliot Thompson. Front (L-R) Jeff Tjelde, Landen Thompson, Jace Buxbaum, Martin Manuel, Caleb Baxter, Bridger Free, Evan Kalligher, Jaxon Vitt.

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The Roundup Newspaper is looking for a Freelance position for reporter to take photos & write stories at a weekly regional publication. Must have computer skills, valid driver's license and reliable automobile. Short distance travel may be necessary. Required testing for: spelling & grammar (basic), reading comprehension & Microsoft Word 2010 at Job Service. Call 433-1204 for testing. To apply, contact Sidney Job Service for a generic application.

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EVENTS
GLENDIVE GUN SHOW
The EPEC building, 313 S. Merrill, Friday, March 5, 4-8 p.m.; Saturday, March 6, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, March 7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Questions call Ernie, 406-377-3969. CDC guidelines followed.

AUCTION
GUNS PLUS AMMO AUCTION
189 guns plus ammo auction, Sunday, March 14 at 12 p.m. CT Hebron, ND, <http://www.midwestauctions.com/gandg> or online bidding at proxibid.com.

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MONTANA SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, RICHLAND COUNTY
PROBATE NO. DP-21-13 IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LOIS A. LANG, Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned have been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the

said deceased are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be mailed to DOUGLAS A. LANG, the Personal Representative, return receipt requested at The Savage Law Firm, PO Box 1105, Sidney, Montana 59270 or filed with the Clerk of the above-entitled Court. DATED this 1st day of March, 2021.
DOUGLAS A. LANG,
Personal Representative

(Publish March 3, 10 and 17, 2021.)

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Lunch Menus

Sidney School
Thurs., March 4: Chicken dorito casserole, black bean and corn salsa, strawberries, ice cream cup.
Fri., March 5: No school.
Mon., March 8: Chicken alfredo over pasta, steamed broccoli, apples.
Tues., March 9: Tater tot hotdish, green beans, fruit cocktail, hot rolls.
Wed., March 10: Meatloaf, potatoes, gravy, mixed veggies, orange wedges, dinner rolls.
Savage School
Thurs., March 4: Corn dogs, macaroni and cheese.
Fri., March 5: No school.
Rau School
Thurs., March 4: Chicken quesadillas, Spanish rice, refried beans, mandarin oranges.
Fri., March 5: No school.
Mon., March 8: Pork chops, potatoes, gravy, applesauce.
Tues., March 9: Chicken alfredo, mixed veggies, pears.
Wed., March 10: Taco haystack, carrots, peach cups.
Froid School
Thurs., March 4: Potato soup, bologna sandwiches, veggies, fruit.
Fri., March 5: No school.
Mon., March 8: French toast sticks, sausage links, scrambled eggs, blueberries.
Tues., March 9: Spanish rice, chips and cheese, veggies, fruit.
Wed., March 10: Roast ham, baby bakers, vegetable, buns, dessert.
Bainville School
Thurs., March 4: Chicken chili, cornbread, garden salad, bananas.
Fri., March 5: Pizza, carrot sticks, apples.
Mon., March 8: Super nacho hotdish, taco bar, pears.
Tues., March 9: Egg salad or tuna fish sandwiches, cheezits, apple jigglers, carrot sticks.
Wed., March 10: Cheese soup, dinner rolls, broccoli, pineapple.
Richey School
Thurs., March 4: Cheese-

burgers, tots, fruit.
Fri., March 5: Pizza, green salad, fruit.
Mon., March 8: Chicken tenders, corn, fruit.
Tues., March 9: Scalloped potatoes, ham, fruit.
Wed., March 10: Spaghetti bake, bread, fruit.
Culbertson School
Thurs., March 4: Taco in a bag, churros, mixed vegetables.
Fri., March 5: Macaroni and cheese, corn, peaches.
Mon., March 8: Corn dogs, smiles, applesauce.
Tues., March 9: Super nachos, refried beans, pears.
Wed., March 10: Hot ham and cheese sandwiches, bananas, waffle fries.
Lambert School
Thurs., March 4: Lasagna, green beans, garlic bread, fruit.
Fri., March 5: Chicken alfredo, broccoli, breadsticks, fruit.
Mon., March 8: Chili, cheese, crackers, buns, fruit.
Tues., March 9: Buffalo chicken bake, peas, fruit.
Wed., March 10: Tacos, fresh veggies, fruit.
Fairview School
Thurs., March 4: Chicken legs, fries, veggie, fruit.
Fri., March 5: No school.
Alexander School
Thurs., March 4: Build your own pizza.
Fri., March 5: No school.
Mon., March 8: Slushburgers, sun chips.
Tues., March 9: Meatball subs.
Wed., March 10: Roast turkey or ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans.
Watford City School
Thurs., March 4: Spaghetti and meatballs, Texas toast.
Fri., March 5: Ham and cheese hoagies, chips.
Mon., March 8: Pulled pork sandwiches with cheese, baked beans.
Tues., March 9: Quesadillas, potato rounds, freckle cake.
Wed., March 10: Bacon potato soup, crackers.

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Next Presentation Of Eastern MT Business Webinars: Wed., March 10, 10 a.m.

By Bryan Bird, Supervisor, Job Service Helena, Bird will provide information on Job Order Process through The US National Labor Exchange (USNLx). Job Service offices across the state have been working with businesses to transition to the job posting platform, USNLx. We invite employers to attend this webinar presentation to gain a better understanding of USNLx, learn how to create an account in USNLx and learn how USNLx can assist businesses with:

- Posting job openings/career announcements
- Exporting job posting to State Job Banks, Google Jobs, CareerOneStop and other career sites.
- Edit, copy, repost and close jobs previously posted on USNLx
- Manage your company profile
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- Get increased visibility of your job postings on USNLx

Syndicate sites such as Veterans.gov, Apprenticeship.gov and other sites focusing on recruitment for veterans, women, minorities and Individuals with disabilities

There will be time at the end of the presentation for questions

Registration is required for each webinar. Employers wanting to register can call Job Service Sidney, 406-433-1204.

Eastern Montana Business Webinars is brought to you through a collaborative effort of job service offices in Glendive, Miles City, Sidney and Wolf Point. These educational sessions for employers take place via ZOOM the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 10 a.m.



The MonDak Heritage Center has recently added a temporary display of historical photos and artifacts from Sidney Sugars. The photos and artifacts date back to the beginning of the company in 1925. There is also a Power Point with approximately 100 photos and descriptions for the public to watch.

Above: Visitors discuss interesting details in photos displayed in the lobby of the MonDak Heritage Center.

Right: One of the artifacts on display is the Polarscope. Sugar syrup saw placed in the tube and a lens at the far left would be adjusted to check the quality of the syrup.



Reid and Lutz Sign with Dickinson State University



Two SHS wrestlers signed commitments to DSU on Feb. 24. Kolton Reid, Sidney will be wrestling at Dickinson State University. He has placed 3rd and 4th at the state level. He also plays football. Pictured (L-R) Jennifer Reid, Kolton Reid and Wayne Reid.



Dylan Lutz, Sidney is going to wrestle at Dickinson State University. He has placed 3rd and 4th at the state level. Pictured (L-R) William Lutz his brother, Dylan Lutz and his mom Sandra Lutz.

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Sidney/Fairview Wrestlers Win Big At Divisionals

The Sidney/Fairview wrestling team took first place at the Eastern A Divisional Wrestling Tournament held in Sidney last weekend. The Eagles finished with 387.5 points followed by Laurel with 225 and Fergus (Lewistown) with 213. The

team qualified all but one wrestler for the state tournament and had ten divisional champions.

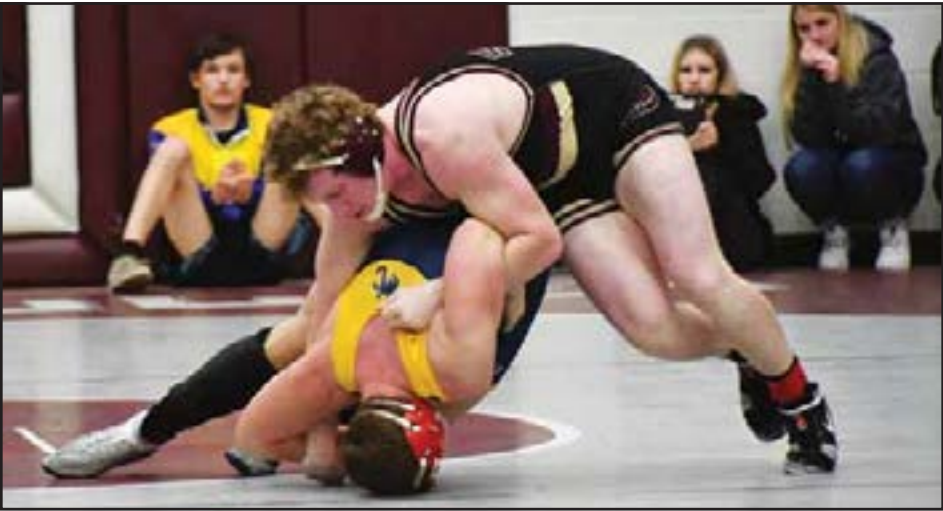
Taking first place were Gordon Knapp at 103#, Owen Lonski at 113#, Zander Dean at 126#, Jordan Darby at 138#, Aden Graves

at 152#, Kade Graves at 160#, Dylan Lutz at 170#, Easton Hopes at 182#, Riley Waters 205# and Brodey Skogen at 285#. Waters also took home the quick pin trophy. Also placing were Kolby Hutzenbiler 4th at 120#, Kolton Reid 2nd at

132#, Kade Rindahl 6th at 138#, Zander Burnison 2nd at 145#, Grady Nelson 3rd at 152# and Trey Schepens 3rd at 205#.

The Eagles will travel to Miles City for the MT Class A State Tournament March 5-6.

Sidney/Fairview 152 pounder Grady Nelson tilts Alex Kober, Livingston, in the consolation finals. Nelson beat Kober 8-3 to take 3rd place.



Sidney/Fairview 205 pounder Trey Schepens fights to turn Jackson Miller, Miles City in the consolation finals. Schepens beat Miller by fall in 3:46 to take 3rd place.

MHSA A Eastern Divisional Results For Sidney/Fairview Feb. 26-27, Sidney

103: Gordon Knapp (32-5) placed 1st and scored 30.0 team points.

1st Place Match - Gordon Knapp (S/F) 32-5 won by fall over Caleb Smith (CC (MC)) 19-5 (3:16)

113: Owen Lonski (37-0) placed 1st and scored 29.5 team points.

1st Place Match - Owen Lonski (S/F) 37-0 won by tech fall over Austin Berry (DC (G)) 13-3 (1.5 5:27 (16-0)

120: Kolby Hutzenbiler (31-6) placed 4th and scored 16.0 team points.

3rd Place Match - Ashton Ulschak (L) 18-3 won by medical forfeit over Kolby Hutzenbiler (S/F) 31-6

126: Zander Dean (25-2) placed 1st and scored 24.0 team points.

1st Place Match - Zander Dean (S/F) 25-2 won by decision over Kason Olson (F (L)) 30-6 (6-0)

132: Kolton Reid (31-3) placed 2nd and scored 22.0 team points.

1st Place Match - Cooper Birdwell (F (L)) 40-0 won by decision over Kolton Reid (S/F) 31-3 (10-3)

138: Kade Rindahl (19-15) placed 6th and scored 6.0 team points.

5th Place Match - Owen Younger (L) 17-7 won by fall over Kade Rindahl (S/F) 19-15 (2:43)

138: Jordan Darby (30-1) placed 1st and scored 26.0 team points.

1st Place Match - Jordan Darby (S/F) 30-1 won by fall over Hayden Azure (DC (G)) 19-2 (5:02)

145: Zander Burnison (31-5) placed 2nd and scored 22.0 team points.

1st Place Match - Damian Leidholt (CC (MC)) 20-4 won by decision over Zander Burnison (S/F) 31-5 (3-2)

152: Grady Nelson (30-6) placed 3rd and scored 18.5 team points.

3rd Place Match - Grady Nelson (S/F) 30-6 won by decision over Alex Kober (Park (L)/ SGC (BT)) 8-3 (7-4)

152: Aden Graves (30-1) placed 1st and scored 30.0 team points.

1st Place Match - Aden Graves (S/F) 30-1 won by fall over Tyler Emineth (L) 18-4 (0:27)

160: Kade Graves (32-1) placed 1st and scored 26.0 team points.

1st Place Match - Kade Graves (S/F) 32-1 won by decision over Camden Johnson (L) 17-5 (10-5)

170: Dylan Lutz (22-2) placed 1st and scored 26.0 team points.

1st Place Match - Dylan Lutz (S/F) 22-2 won by fall over Keaton Potter (F (L)) 31-6 (2:19)

182: Easton Hopes (32-3) placed 1st and scored 28.0 team points.

1st Place Match - Easton Hopes (S/F) 32-3 won by fall over Landon Farrar (F (L)) 29-2 (3:38)

205: Riley Waters (29-0) placed 1st and scored 30.0 team points.

1st Place Match - Riley Waters (S/F) 29-0 won by fall over Connor Ulschak (L) 18-5 (0:39)

205: Trey Schepens (28-6) placed 3rd and scored 22.0 team points.

3rd Place Match - Trey Schepens (S/F) 28-6 won by fall over Jackson Miller (CC (MC)) 15-8 (3:46)

285: Brodey Skogen (33-0) placed 1st and scored 25.5 team points.

1st Place Match - Brodey Skogen (S/F) 33-0 won by decision over Gabe Walker (CC (MC)) 17-8 (6-0)

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