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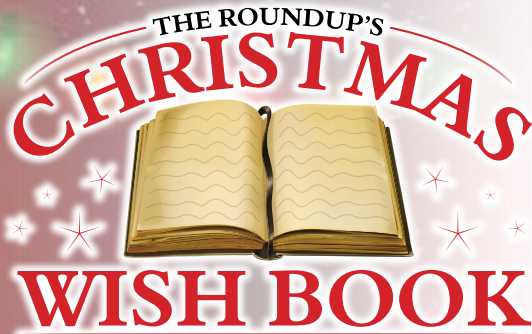
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Wednesday, November 22, 2023

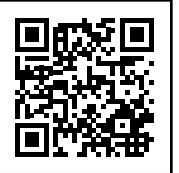
Volume 49 • Number 42

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

*Need gift ideas this holiday season?
Check out pages 10 & 12!*



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The Long X Visitor Center Brings Art & Culture To Christmas Season

By Katelyn Sponheim

On Dec. 2, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Pioneer Gifts and Books, located at the Long X Visitor Center, Watford City, will host "Making it Merry," a cozy holiday event inviting the community to shop and enjoy samplings of their North Dakota made products. Most will be from their Pride of the Dakotas line, with Jan Dodge, Long X Visitor Center and Pioneer Books & Gifts manager, planning on having a soup mix and bread mix to share with visitors, jellies and candies to sample, traditional Scandinavian food, and hot coffee from Dakota Dirt and Wild Calf coffee companies. The store offers a wide variety of North Dakota based goods for holiday shoppers to peruse, and between now and Dec. 31, is host to Trish Stevenson and Doug Engberg's artwork, also for sale for those looking for something extremely special.

Part of the North Dakota Art Gallery Association and Art in Businesses pop-up shows, the Long X Art Gallery has two artists in house through the end of the year.

Trish Stevenson is known for her paintings of the West and has been featured in magazines and museums throughout United States.

Doug Engberg's journey into the art world is younger and was cut short with his passing on Oct. 10 of this year. His work, however, is one of a kind and has a lifetime of experimentation and love of art built into it. Doug was born and raised in Williston, spent 30 years of his life working in the oilfield on drilling rigs, and his passion for drawing lifelong. As

a child, he used brown paper bags, and in third grade the school had him build the background for the Christmas play out of cardboard and crayons. Though Doug experimented with wood burning, watercolor, oil paint, pencil, chalk, and other mediums, he found his niche in combining leather as a canvas with a wood-burning tool. Leather lacked any grain to argue with, unlike wood, and though he initially found it hard to stretch well to create a canvas, gluing it to wood proved to be an

effective replacement. Later he added acrylic paint to help his creations come to life further.

The North Dakota wildlife and landscapes Doug brought to life on leather were often inspired by photographs from the internet and magazines, juxtaposed to create an original vision. When Doug decided to offer some to the public, he reached out to Linda Beard, Castle Framing, Williston. Linda was so impressed by Doug's work; she encouraged him to go on tour with

the North Dakota Art Gallery Association. Without Linda, Doug wouldn't have pursued the venture. Unfortunately, Linda passed away Dec. 18, 2022 and Doug chose to dedicate his continued works to her. Each of his paintings has an inscription honoring Linda and their mutual love for each other. With Doug and Linda both passed, the North Dakota Art Gallery Association and the Long X Art Gallery are working with Doug's family to continue his legacy of art, and this will be his first show

post-humous.

One more addition to the Long X Visitors Center's "Making It Merry" event is an art class taught by Jess Newman. Participants will be glazing a vintage Christmas tree, complete with lighting kit, in their choice of color and design, and the center will fire the pieces to finish. If interested in the class, please register at longxarts.com.

Beane Charged Murder-AA Felony

Submitted by McKenzie County Sheriff's Office

On Sept. 12, the McKenzie County Sheriff's Office responded to a residence south of Watford City, ND, for a report of a fire at a residence. Upon arrival of law enforcement, a deceased female was located inside of the residence with injuries sustained from the fire. The main entry into the residence was locked at which time law enforcement made entry and located Scott Beane, Watford City, inside a bathroom. Beane was detained without incident and later charged with N.D.C.C. 62.1-02-01-Possession of Firearm by Convicted Felon.

McKenzie County Sheriff's Office Investigations Division conducted the primary investigation into the death of the female. It was determined the decedent was the mother of Beane. The remains of the victim were sent to the North Dakota Medical Examiner's Office where an autopsy was conducted. The autopsy ruled the victim's manner of death a homicide due to acute thermal and inhalational injuries. Further investigation with assistance from the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives determined the fire was not accidental in nature and deemed to be a set fire. This was determined to be an isolated event and there is currently no imminent threat to the public at this time.

As of Nov. 16, Beane has been charged in North-west Judicial Court for N.D.C.C. 12.1-16-01- Murder-AA Felony. On Nov. 17, Beane was given a bond of \$5,000,000. Beane is presumed innocent until proven guilty. There is no further information to be released at this time.

The McKenzie County Sheriff's Office would like to thank the North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, North Dakota State Fire Marshal's Office, and the North Dakota Medical Examiner's Office for their assistance during the course of this investigation.

MNAXLP



The Doug Engberg Exhibit in the basement of the Long X Visitor Center, Watford City.

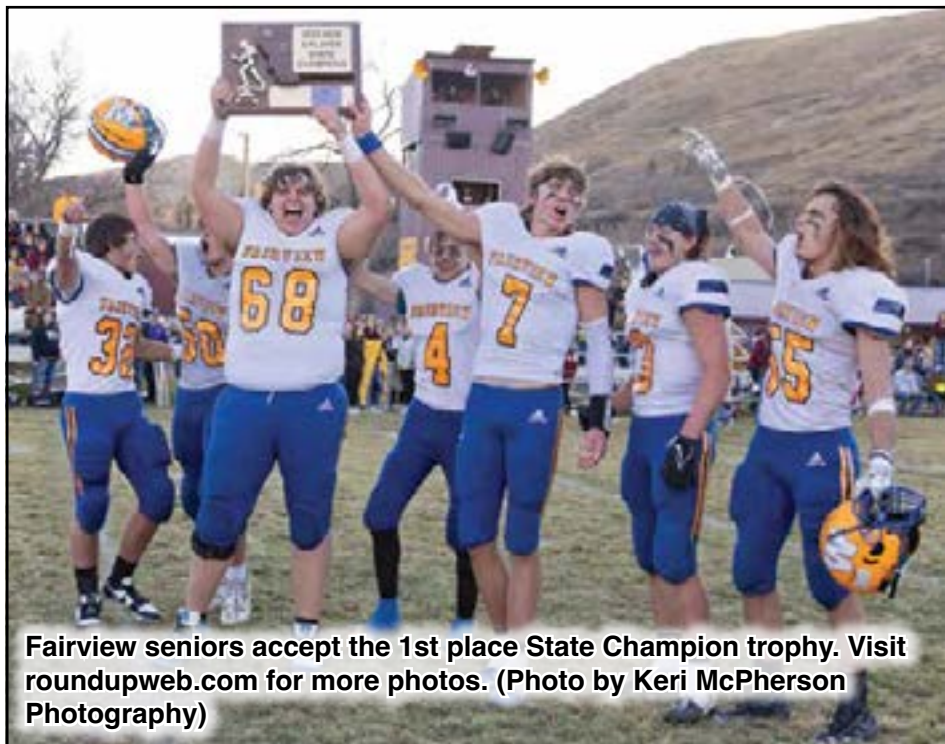
Fairview Warriors 2023 8-Player State Champions

Submitted

The Fairview Warriors are the 2023 Class C 8-Player State Champions. The championship game was played at Belt on a beautiful Saturday afternoon pitting the top two teams against each other. Fairview struck first on a one-yard run by Jeff Tjelde. The Warrior defense was tough in the first quarter causing two Belt turnovers, a fumble forced by Gavin Serafini and recovered by Tjelde and a Tjelde interception in the end zone. The Belt offense got rolling in the second quarter, scoring twice to take a 14-7 lead with only 49 seconds left before halftime. Brock Schlothauer broke off a quick 11-yard burst, Tjelde hit Tyler Loan for 22 yards, Jaxon Vitt for 9 yards, and Serafini for 12 yards setting up the Warriors at the 9-yard line with 12 seconds left. Tjelde dropped back to pass one last time, instead finding a seam up the middle and bulling his way over two defenders for a tying touchdown going into halftime.

Fairview received the

second half kick and got a great return from Loan giving them excellent field position. Unfortunately, Belt made a good play and intercepted Tjelde's pass. Belt used the momentum to finish that drive with a score making the score 22-14. The Warriors answered quickly with a 63-yard scamper by Loan but they missed the conversion bringing the score to 22-20. After a Wyatt McPherson interception, the Warrior's high-octane offense responded with a 59-yard run by Schlothauer putting them ahead 26-22 going into the fourth quarter. Loan ran a quarterback keeper into the end zone from 6-yards out to make the score 33-22. Belt struck back quickly closing the gap to 33-28 with five minutes left. Once again, Schlothauer proved to be too much for the Huskies as he burst through a huge hole created by a workhorse offensive line from 43-yards out pushing the lead up to 40-28. The Warrior defense held strong while the offense was able to run out the clock making the Fairview War-



Fairview seniors accept the 1st place State Champion trophy. Visit roundupweb.com for more photos. (Photo by Keri McPherson Photography)

riors the state champions. Offensively, the Warrior run game churned out 332 yards on 37 carries behind the blocking of Rowan Bushnell, Landen Thompson, and Brody Bushnell. Schlothauer was the biggest beneficiary rushing 19 times for 200 yards and two touchdowns.

Loan had 6 carries for 79 yards and two touchdowns and Tjelde ran 4 times for 19 yards and 2 touchdowns. McPherson added 8 carries for 34 yards. The players

were welcomed back to Fairview Saturday night with a fire truck-led parade through town. Congratulations to the Fairview Warriors on their perfect season!

Sidney's Christmas Stroll To Be Held Nov. 24

By Jaymi Mozeak

With Thanksgiving just around the bend and Christmas not too much further, one of the Sunrise city's most anticipated events is coming up soon. Sidney's Christmas Stroll marks the beginning of the Christmas season for residents of the small town and brings with it a lot of festive fun Nov. 24.

The stroll only spans half the day and begins with the Polar Plunge at 1 p.m. at

city hall. Ribbon and Rail will be running the trains in their basement from 1 or 2 p.m. until the Parade of Lights reaches Main St. (Usually 7 p.m.) Skating with Santa will be from 2-3:30 p.m., at the Richland Rangers Hockey Arena. There will be a free showing of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" at Centre Theatre starting at 4 p.m.

The floats for the Parade of Lights will start to line up at the old Shopko parking

lot at 5:30 p.m. The parade starts at 6:30 p.m. and will go up Central Ave. The day ends at Centre Theatre with another free showing. The second movie will be "Santa Clause" and will start at 8 p.m.

Events and times may change. Contact the Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce at 406-433-1916 or visit their Facebook page for updates.

Watford City Parade Of Lights Set For Nov. 24

By Jaymi Mozeak

Watford City Chamber of Commerce's Annual Parade of Lights will be lighting up the city Friday, Nov. 24 at 6:30 p.m. This year, the parade will start at the old fairgrounds then turn west onto 4th and then turn onto Main St. The parade will end on Park Ave. and Main with fireworks.

There will no longer be candy thrown from the floats. Mary Gumke, Watford City chamber executive director said, "We want to make it safe for the kids." The panel of three judges is back to judge the floats and the prize will be a traveling trophy and \$150 to the winners in two categories; overall outstanding entry presenting and illustrating the parade theme, "Make It Merry" and overall outstanding entry presenting the best use of lights.

Gumke said, "My thought on the theme is whatever makes your holiday season merry."

Thank You

We would like to thank our family and friends for helping us celebrate our 50th anniversary.

A thank you to those who helped with the meal and cake. It was all delicious and so appreciated.

A big thank you to our kids for hosting a wonderful Surprise Party.

– Ron and Billie Buxbaum

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Thank You

As I reach the end of my successful battle against cancer, I wish to thank everyone who has helped me along the way: the doctors and nurses at SHC Cancer Center, my therapists; my neighbors Shirley Cayer, Sonny and Donna Anvik and Jace Buxbaum for taking care of my yard and snow removal; Dave and Deb Nees for driving me to treatment appointments; and all my friends and family for their encouragement all along the way.

I would like to thank the VFW for hosting the benefit for me, Betty Williams for organizing the event and all the wonderful helpers, as well as all the individuals, organizations and businesses that donated items for the silent and live auctions. And thank you to all who attended and gave so generously.

It's wonderful to live in such a generous and caring community!

I am continuing with therapy to swallow, and to improve my speech. My goal is to be able to eat Thanksgiving dinner!

– Randy Davis

HIGH TEA AT HERITAGE PARK

SATURDAY, DEC 9TH • 5PM

Join us for an enchanting afternoon of indulgence at the *High Tea at the Heritage Park* event! Get ready to be transported to a world of elegance and sophistication as you savor the finest teas and delectable treats.

Bring your own cup and saucer or borrow one for the night.

Wintering Well

Starting Friday Dec. 1st
Continues throughout the winter on the first Friday of the month 6-8pm, more details to come

- Crocheting • Knitting
- Sourdough • Cozy Soups
- Embroidery
- Puzzle Competition





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STATISTICS

LAKE WATER LEVEL REPORT

Sakakawea

Current Elevation.....	1840.2
Last Week's Elev.	1840.2
One Year Ago	1832.9
Release For Day (C.F.S.)	17,000

SIDNEY WEATHER DATA

Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Nov. 13	53	23	0.000
Nov. 14	53	23	0.000
Nov. 15	60	21	0.000
Nov. 16	42	22	0.000
Nov. 17	56	25	0.000
Nov. 18	56	23	0.000
Nov. 19	56	23	0.000
Total 2023 YTD Precipitation.....	13.454		

Farmer’s Choice Hosts First Annual Sidney Grower Meeting

By Katelyn Sponheim

Farmer’s Choice, Sidney, invites irrigated and dryland growers, along with cattle producers, to attend their first annual Sidney, MT grower meeting this Nov. 29, starting at 9 a.m. A lunch comprised of Enogen fed beef, mashed potatoes, cream corn, and salad will be provided. The meeting will be held at the Eastern Ag Research Center located at 1501 N. Central Ave, Sidney, MT. Speakers will cover the “full gamut” of agricultural concerns according to Steve Knorr, Farmer’s Choice co-owner, president, and CEO.

Six speaker teams will answer eight major questions facing our area’s farmers and cattle producers on how to improve their crop or animals’ performance. Increasing yield of corn and soybeans, improving drought resiliency, reducing irrigation bills, and improving nutrient uptake will be among the topics discussed. Beyond product, part of the meeting will present how to build relationships in the commodity business and fully explore your operations potential.

One of the companies with representatives speaking, JGL Commodities, who will be represented by Robbie Schatzer and Gary Mummaw, had this to say about their company. “JGL Commodities is a full-service feed ingredient supplier including merchandising, distribution and administration. Our experienced team brings a strong background of agriculture mixed with expertise in economic trends, market fluctuations and unique opportunities for growers that are not readily available through a traditional line company or elevator. JGL’s diverse and collaborative team of merchandisers ensures that farmers and end users get fair market value on their commodity sales and purchases. Our vast network of livestock feed yards across western Canada allows JGL to procure corn, barley, and feed wheat in Montana and North Dakota to export north. JGL continues to grow the food industry as well, by procuring durum and canola in your areas to supply North American food companies. Our in-house logistics team allows JGL to ship from the farmgate in a timely manner, taking your hard work from the bin to the bank. Our JGL family welcomes the opportunity to serve you and your family to the best of our ability.”

Josh Messer, BW Fusion & Agronomy 365, will speak on biologicals and the ability to measure what is happening in your soils. Adam Arestad, Golden Harvest agronomist, will cover “the do’s and don’ts of raising corn and soybeans.” Todd Axtell, Enogen, will be sharing how they reached a 5% feed efficiency gain in cattle through their feed; as mentioned above, beef raised on Enogen feed will be offered during the provided lunch, giving attendants a chance to experience the difference. Paul Eckebrecht, AgConcepts, will be speaking on soil resiliency and how to build it. Lastly, Steve Knorr and Emily Schlafmann, AgVision Max, will share their “scripted playbook” for reduced up front fertilizer while improving soil aggregation, nutrient cycling, and nutrient uptake.

Duane Peters, Sidney Farmer’s Choice agronomist, can be reached at 406-488-1010 with any questions, and looks forward to serving our area’s agricultural producers.

Festival Of Trees & Wreaths Nov. 25 In Fairview

By Dianne Swanson

Make your holiday decorating easier this year with a fully decorated tree or wreath from the Fairview Community Foundation’s annual Festival of Trees & Wreaths on Saturday, Nov. 25 at the Waterhole #3.

It’s fun for all ages, starting with pictures with Santa and the Grinch from 3-5 p.m. The two will also be giving out treats! A homemade Soup and Bread bar will warm you up from the inside out.

Great gift ideas, or something special for yourself, can be found among all the terrific Silent Auction items from 3-6 p.m.

It’s Ugly Sweater time again! Judging will be held at 6:15 p.m. with the winner receiving a Powder Keg gift card. The evening will close with the Live Auction beginning at 7 p.m. Anyone wishing to donate an auction item can call Marsha at 406-480-0349 or Laurie at 406-489-1094.

The Fairview Community Foundation supports a wide variety of projects in the Fairview area with all the money raised from the festival going towards local needs and scholarships, so be sure to attend this fun-filled event.

MonDak Area Stockgrowers Association Annual Meeting & Dinner, Nov. 30

By Marley Voll, Secretary/Treasurer

The MonDak Area Stockgrowers Association is an affiliate association of both the Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) and the North Dakota Stockman’s Association (NDSA). The association serves cattle producers in Dawson, Richland, Roosevelt, and Wibaux County, MT, Golden Valley, McKenzie, and Williams County, ND. Our organization annually provides scholarships to four students that will have a positive future impact on the agriculture industry. Additionally, we annually provide a scholarship steer to an area 4-H youth who is interested in participating in their first market beef project, along with other community projects. Through membership in our association, you can have a voice in the cattle industry by being connected to our state associations and learn about current issues facing our industry.

This year’s annual meeting will be on Thursday, Nov. 30, at the Elk’s Lodge, Sidney, MT. The social will be at 5:30 p.m. and the dinner and meeting will begin at 6 p.m. The agenda for the evening includes industry updates from both MSGA and NDSA, a guest speaker, and officer and director elections. Prime rib dinner will be served at \$15 per person. Join us for an evening of information, fellowship, and some entertainment – you won’t want to miss the horse races following the meeting. Please RSVP via our Facebook event or email mondakareastockgrowers@outlook.com by Nov. 24 so we have a head count for the meal. If you are interested in joining our association, please join us at our annual meeting on Nov. 30.

EVENTS

SEND US YOUR EVENTS!

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

RICHLAND COUNTY

Events in Sidney unless otherwise listed. MT.

Thurs., Nov. 23
2-5 p.m. - **Sidney First Church of the Nazarene Annual Thanksgiving Dinner** - Free food, football, fellowship & fun, 606 9th St SW. For more info call 406-488-1956 or 406-480-5634.

Fri., Nov. 24 - Downtown Sidney Happenings
1 p.m. - **Polar Plunge**; 2-3:30 p.m. - **Skating with Santa**; 4 p.m. - **“How the Grinch Stole Christmas”** Centre Theatre; 6:30 p.m. - **Parade of Lights** - 8 p.m. - **“Santa Clause”** Centre Theatre.

Sat., Nov. 25
3 p.m. - **Fairview Festival of Trees & Wreaths** – Homemade soup & bread bar, pictures with Santa & the Grinch. Cookies 3-5 p.m. Silent auction 3-6 p.m. Ugly sweater contest 6:15 p.m. Live auction 7 p.m. Waterhole #3, 416 S Ellery Ave., Fairview.
6 p.m. - **Holiday Gala Music on Main** - Featuring dueling pianos. Cocktail hour 6 p.m., show starts 7 p.m. Historical Yellowstone Mercantile building, Yellowstone Perc., 102 N. Central Ave.

Tues., Nov. 28
5:30 p.m. - **Board of Directors of Learning Volunteers for Adults-Richland County Annual Meeting** - Regular board meeting will follow at 6:30 p.m. Meadowlark Brewing upstairs, 117 S. Central Ave.

Thursday, Nov. 30
Taxes due by 5 p.m. - **Richland Co. Treasurer Taxes Due Reminder** - 1st payment of the 2023 Real Property taxes & 2nd payment of the 2023 Mobile Home taxes are due. Payments may be mailed or brought to the Richland Co. Treasurer, 201 W. Main, Sidney, MT 59270. Office hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Fri. A payment drop box is in the alley behind the Old Courthouse & credit card payments are accepted online at richland.org. Any late payments will be assessed penalty & interest charges. For more info call 406-433-1707.

6 p.m. - **It Takes A Community Fundraising Gala** - Speaker Jonathan Evans. Free admission. Meal at 6:30 p.m. Richland Co. Event Center, 2118 W. Holly St. This event benefits Sunrise Women’s Clinic.

Fri., Dec. 1, 4-8 p.m.; **& Sat., Dec. 2**, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **St. Matthew’s Holiday Bazaar** - Lunch available. 310 7th St. SE. For more info call Kelly, 406-489-1059, evenings.

Sat., Dec. 2
9-11 a.m. - **Children’s Christmas Shoppe & Breakfast with Santa** - Area youth through age 12 can come & shop for their family for only \$5. Free will breakfast with Santa. Small gifts for moms, dads & kids of all ages are needed. Donations can be dropped off at the Richland Co. Boys & Girls Club, 205 3rd Ave. SE, Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For more info visit Richland Co. Boys & Girls Club Facebook page.

Sat., Dec. 9
10 a.m. - **8th Annual “Santa Fun Run”** - 5K course & 1-mile route for families, 414 N. Central Ave. Registration fee \$25, register online. Run as Santa, one of the elves or wear an ugly sweater. A portion of the proceeds will benefit “Gifts from the Heart.” Sponsors of this run are Reynolds Market, Run the World Run Club and High Caliber Sports.

McKENZIE COUNTY

Events in Watford City unless otherwise listed. CT.

Fri., Nov. 24
6:30 p.m. - **Watford City Parade of Lights “Make It Merry”** - Parade followed by fireworks.

Sat., Nov. 25 - 4:30 p.m. Calcutta, 6 p.m. Rodeo **2023 Coy Hepper Memorial Invitational** - Top PRCA cowboys & cowgirls as well as HS & JH division. McKenzie Co. Ag Expo Indoor Arena, 12880 25th St. NW.

Fri., Dec. 1 - 5 p.m. check in; 5:30 p.m. race starts **Jingle Bell Jog** - Holiday fun run, holiday costumes encouraged, registration fee \$30. Rough Rider Center, 2209 Wolves Den Parkway.

Tues., Dec. 5
9 a.m.-5 p.m. - **Western Beef Summit** - Ag Expo building, 12880 25th St NW. \$30 pre-registration by Dec. 1; \$40 at the door. For more info visit <https://www.mcagexpo.com/events>.

Mon., Dec. 6
4-6:15 p.m. - **Christmas Baking** - Grades 6-8, fee \$25. Rough Rider Center. To register visit www.watfordcityparks.com or call 701-842-3665.

Thurs., Dec. 7
5 p.m. - **Alexander 3rd Annual Christmas Stroll** - Downtown Alexander. Christmas shopping with local vendors, food options, hot cocoa & pictures with Santa. Hosted by Alexander Activities Club.

Fri., Dec. 8, 4-8 p.m.; **Sat., Dec. 9**, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; **& Sun., Dec. 10**, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Gun Show - Buy, sell, trade, look. Admission \$10 per day. McKenzie Co. Sportsman’s Club, 2306-121X Ave. NW, 5 miles S. on CR 37, big blue building on left. For more info contact Heather Stabler, 701-651-2585 or 701-978-8129.

Sat., Dec. 9
10 a.m.-3 p.m. - **2023 Christmas Fest** - Photos with Santa, shopping, Christmas crafts, swimming, food, fun & more. Rough Rider Center, 2209 Wolves Den Parkway. For more info visit roughridercenter.com.

5-7 p.m. - **High Tea at Heritage Park** - Enjoy an evening filled with laughter, good company & tea. Bring your own cup & saucer or borrow one for the night. 904 2nd Ave. SW.

WILLIAMS COUNTY

Events in Williston unless otherwise listed. CT.

Thurs., Nov. 23
8 a.m. - **Turkey Trot Fun Run** - 5K or 1 mile, costumes encouraged. Pre-registration online at www.willistonparks.com. Registration fee \$10, ages 4 & under free. Starts at the ARC, 822 18th St E. One-half of all proceeds will go to Christmas For Kids. For more info email michele@wprd.us.

Thurs., Nov. 23 - 6-7:30 p.m. with Rhonda & 8-9:30 p.m. with Emily - **Pedal for Pie** - A 90 minute ride designed to challenge your endurance & increase cardiovascular health. \$20 per rider, 2 different rides offered! 21+ only. Williston ARC, 822 18th St. E. Preregister at www.willistonparks.com

Fri., Nov. 24
6 p.m. - **“Holiday Rocks” - Holiday Lights Parade** - From US Bank to Harmon Park. Post parade warm up at James Memorial Art Center, hot chocolate & cider, pictures with Santa, musical guests.

Sat., Nov. 25-Sun., Dec. 31
5:30-9:30 p.m. - **2023 Spring Lake Park Holiday Lights Drive** - Take & go kids crafts, interactive exhibits, elf on the shelf bingo, photo stations & 1000s of twinkling lights. \$5 per car.

Mon., Nov. 27 & Dec. 4
7 p.m. - **Active Parenting First Five Years** - Video based discussion on ages, strategies & ways to encourage early learning. Free of charge to ND residents. Williston Community Library, 1302 Davidson Dr. For more info contact Blanche Waggoner, 701-577-4595, blanche.waggoner@ndsu.edu.

Fri., Dec. 1
5:30-7:30 p.m. - **Festival of Trees Reindeer Games Family Fun Night** - Crafts, games, caroling, pictures with Santa, hot chocolate and cookies. Free event. Williston ARC, 822 18th St. E.

DAWSON COUNTY

Events in Glendive unless otherwise listed. MT.

Sat., Dec. 9, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. **& Sun., Dec. 10**, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Santa’s Big Stop - All vendors craft show - Santa will be there, and food provided for both days. EPEC, 313 S. Merrill Ave. For more info call 701-770-1904 or 406-989-2983.

Watford City Pee Wee A Team 2nd at Winter Classic Tournament



(Front Row) Chasen Samuelson, Zane Hungerford, Cotton Maxwell, Jett Taylor, Deagan Liedtke, Luke Brown (Back Row) Coach, Corey Samuelson, Easton Samuelson, Hockey Director/assistant coach, Tom Wahlen, Everett Robinson, Jaxon Junker, Karson Kendrick, Easton Ralph, Maxwell Thornock, Trytin Helfrich, Coaches Wade Robinson and Scott Samuelson are all proud of their 2nd place finish at the Watford City Pee Wee tournament. (Submitted Photo)

By Kathy Taylor
Watford City Pee Wee A team finished 2nd in the Watford City Winter Classic tournament in Watford City over the weekend. The Oilers were 3-0 in pool play defeating the Williston Flyers A, Bismarck Red Capitals B1 and Bismarck Capitals A. In the Championship game the Oilers were defeated by a tough Estevan AA team.
There were 6 teams in the Pee Wee B1/A division and 12 teams in the Pee Wee B division



Watford City Oilers, Chasen Samuelson #20, Cotton Maxwell #8 and Deagan Liedtke #22 team up for a goal in their pool play game against the Bismarck Capitals A team. The Oilers defeated the Capitals 8-2. (Photo by Kathy Taylor)

Fairview Holds Silver Bells, Craft Show & Bridging Lighting Fireworks Nov. 18



Fairview High School Gymnasium was the center for the annual Silver Bells and Craft Show Saturday, Nov. 18, concluding with the Bridge Lighting event at Sundheim Park.
Several local crafters set up tables with their yearly projects in the gymnasium. Artwork, natural oils, cookies, pumpkin bread and pumpkin cookies, antler horn kitchen tools, Pampered Chef, just to name a few.
After the show everyone set out to Sundheim Park along the river bridge. This event had a new feature. A preview to the lighting this year was the appearance of a model train coming through the tunnel with its own passengers. The train proceeded down to the park where free train rides were given throughout the evening. Santa was on the train and talked to several children waiting in the park.
Friends of the Fairview Bridge would like to extend a huge and heartfelt thank you to Kraken Resources for their generous donation towards the Lighting of the Bridge.

Christmas Toys For All Ages!

Prices Range From \$4 to \$600,000

Big or Small!

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FRI, NOV 24TH
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— OR —

Any Single Item From \$251-\$500 **20%** off

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18 East 2nd ST • Culbertson, MT | 406-787-5890 | Mon-Fri: 9am - 3pm
www.richlandfederalcreditunion.com

AgCountry Farm Credit Services Awards McKenzie Health Benefit Fund \$25,000



(Pictured L-R) Pete Edis, McKenzie Health CEO; Jan Dodge, Benefit Fund Board; David Hokanson, AgCountry Farm Credit Services; Mark Ihringer, AgCountry Farm Credit Services; Scott Merkle, McKenzie Health CFO; and Lynn Welker-Fevold, Benefit Fund Chief Development Officer. (Submitted Photo)

Submitted by Teresa Kjellberg, AgCountry

AgCountry Farm Credit Services is proud to announce that it has awarded the benefit fund of McKenzie Health \$25,000 as a recipient of the Rural Community Grant Fund (RCGF). The grant funds will go towards purchasing mammography equipment.

Lynn Welker-Fevold, Benefit Fund of McKenzie Health, is pleased to accept the check and utilize the grant funds towards the

purchase.

"AgCountry Farm Credit Services is proud to present grant funds that will go towards purchasing Contrast Enhanced Mammography (CEM) technology providing additional imaging options for breast cancer screening and evaluation," says David Hokanson, AgCountry Farm Credit Services VP branch manager. CEM would provide patients the opportunity to have state-of-the-art technology and exams performed locally to

save them time and money as well as additional stress and anxiety of waiting to receive important medical information. "The CEM can also be used as a guide for surgery biopsy. Now they will have this important technology for improved patient care closer to home in their local community," Hokanson adds. AgCountry Farm Credit Services believes it's important to give back to the community.

AgCountry Farm Credit Services, Farm Credit

Services of Mandan, and AgriBank, established the Rural Community Grant Fund to assist in the implementation and development of projects and programs in communities and rural areas in western North Dakota, which have been impacted by mineral exploration.

The Rural Community Grant Fund is currently accepting applications for future funding requests. Interested parties can apply at www.AgCountry.com.

Sidney Moose Lodge 856 Receives "Heart of Community" Award



Shawn Dahl, Sidney Moose Lodge president, accepted the bronze medallion plaque from Daniel Humphreys, Mooseheart Board member. (Submitted Photo)

Submitted by Rita Rehbein, Administrator Sidney Moose Lodge

Sidney Moose Lodge 856 received a bronze medallion for its "Heart of the Community" contributions, last year (May 1, 2022-April 30, 2023), at the Annual Montana Moose Association Convention in Great Falls, MT. Sidney Moose Lodge continues to receive a superior quarterly rating from Moose International. Our current goal is to receive the silver or gold medallion this year. There are 14 Moose Lodges in Montana. The Great Falls Moose Lodge also received a bronze medallion.

The Moose organization is a fraternal organization with three missions. They are Mooseheart, Moosehaven, and our Community. Mooseheart Child City & School is located approximately 40 miles west of Chicago. This is a residential and educational childcare facility. Moosehaven City of Contentment is located in Orange Park, FL on 70 acres on the banks of the St. John River. A private 5 star rated retirement community for Moose members. The final mission is to our communities to make them a better place to live.

If you would like more information on the Moose fraternity call the Sidney Moose Lodge at 406-433-3017.

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Alexander School Board PUBLIC MEETING

(At the school, 601 Delaney Street, and via Zoom)

December 5th..... 7pm

- The expansion plan will be available for public view
- A Tax Impact Calculator will be available at the meeting and is on the school website
- Information on the Special Election for a \$9M Bond Referendum

Special Election Tues, Dec 19th

8am - 8pm | Alexander School

- Absentee Ballots can be obtained from the Business Manager's Office or by calling 701-828-3335
- Absentee Ballots must be postmarked no later than 11:59pm Monday, December 18, 2023

CANDY BAR Savings!

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Sidney Health Center Recognized For Performance Leadership By Chartis Center For Rural Health

Sidney – As part of National Rural Health Day, Sidney Health Center announced it has been recognized with a 2023 Performance Leadership Award for excellence in outcomes. Compiled by the Chartis Center for Rural Health, the Performance Leadership Awards honor top quartile performance (i.e., 75th percentile or above) among rural hospitals in quality, outcomes, and/or patient perspective.

Sidney Health Center was one of the eight hospitals in Montana that was recognized in the top quartile nationwide in the outcomes index as measured by the Chartis Center for Rural Health.

"I am honored to accept the Performance Leadership



Award in Outcomes on behalf of our incredible team. This recognition is a testament to the commitment and hard work of our dedicated team members," stated Jennifer Doty, Sidney Health Center CEO, "This award is not just a celebration of our past achievements but a reaffirmation of our dedication to shaping a healthier and more resilient future for our community."

The Performance Leadership Awards are based on the results of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX®, the industry's most comprehensive and objective assessment of rural hospital performance. INDEX data is relied upon by rural hospitals, health systems with rural footprints, hospital associations and state offices of rural health around the country to measure and monitor performance across several areas impacting hospital operations and finance.

"Wherever we go in rural America, we witness first-hand the commitment, determination, and compassion with which rural hospitals serve their communities. Rural healthcare truly is mission-driven," said Michael Topchik, The Chartis Center for Rural Health National Leader. "This National Rural Health Day, let us recognize the efforts of this year's Performance Leadership Award winners and all those driven to deliver high quality care throughout rural communities."

Local Edward Jones Financial Advisor Attends Forbes 2023 Top Advisor Summit

Submitted by Lana Watson, Edward Jones Senior Branch Office Administrator

Jerry Hughes, Edward Jones financial advisor, Sidney, recently attended the 2023 Forbes/SHOOK Top Advisor Summit held Oct. 2-5 in Las Vegas.

The Top Advisor Summit gathers highly successful financial advisors from across the U.S. for three days of learning, sharing, and idea-generating, designed to elevate thinking about client needs and forward-looking practices. The three-day agenda includes sessions on technology, leadership, tax efficiencies, market outlook, wealth transfer, operating efficiencies and more. Best Ideas from leading industry experts were woven throughout the conference.

Edward Jones is a leading financial services firm in the U.S. and, through its affiliate, in Canada. The firm's more than 19,000 financial advisors serve more than 8 million clients with a total of \$1.8 trillion in client assets

under care at the end of June 2023. Edward Jones' purpose is to partner for positive impact to improve the lives of its clients and colleagues, and together, better our communities, and society. Through the dedication of the firm's approximately 52,000 associates and our branch presence in 68% of U.S. counties, the firm is committed to helping more people achieve financially what is most important to them. The Edward Jones website is at edwardjones.com, and its recruiting website is careers.edwardjones.com. Member SIPC.



Jerry Hughes (Submitted Photo)

Guardian Flight Serves Up Safety Tips For Thanksgiving

Submitted by GMR Media Relations

Sidney — While the Thanksgiving holiday is synonymous with gathering with friends and family, it also brings an increased focus on the kitchen and cooking. Food-borne illness can become an issue if proper precautions aren't followed when preparing a holiday feast. This Thanksgiving, the first responders at Guardian Flight are serving comprehensive safety tips to ensure this Thanksgiving is memorable and safe.

"No one wants to spend their holiday in urgent care being treated by a health-care provider for a case of food poisoning," said Robert Miller, Guardian Flight regional director. "With a few simple precautions, you can host a worry-free feast for all those you are most thankful for."

Guardian Flight suggests that hosts follow these tips to help prevent food-related illness this Thanksgiving:

- Separate foods. Items like raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs should be stored separately from other foods in the refrigerator.
- Thoroughly cook food. Raw and undercooked meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs can carry germs that cause food poisoning. Use a food-safe thermometer to ensure that foods are cooked to a safe, internal temperature.
- Keep hot food hot and cold food cold. Bacteria can grow rapidly between 40°F and 140°F. Once the food is prepared, make sure to keep it at an appropriate temperature.
- Don't eat raw dough or batter. If making a dough or batter that contains eggs, do not consume it before it is fully cooked. Eggs can contain harmful germs like E. coli and Salmonella.
- Thaw frozen turkeys the right way. One can safely thaw a turkey 24-48 hours before cooking by placing it in a refrigerator. Or safely thaw a turkey in a sink of cold water by changing the water out every 30 minutes.
- Practice good hand hygiene. When in the kitchen preparing meals or before sitting down to dinner, make sure to wash hands with soap and water.

To learn more on preventing food-related illness this Thanksgiving, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/food-safety/communication/holidays.html>

Savage Food Drive For Richland County Food Bank

The VFW Post 4099, Auxiliary, and First Lutheran Church of Savage are sponsoring a food drive for the Richland County Food Bank.

Now through Dec. 11, items may be dropped off at the VFW Club, 124 2nd Ave. NE, First Lutheran Church, Savage, or to the Richland County Superintendent of Schools office at the courthouse. Monetary donations are always welcome so that the food bank can purchase fresh foods and other items they need.

The goal is to collect a combination of \$1,500 or 1500 lbs. of food, and with that they will apply for an additional \$1,500 through a matching grant from the VFW Foundation.

For more information contact VFW Auxiliary President Tim Sharp at 406-788-3168 or timtharpmt@gmail.com.

2023 Richland County Taxes Due Reminder, Nov. 30

Submitted by Richland County Treasurer's Office

The Richland County Treasurer would like to remind taxpayers that the first payment of the 2023 real property taxes and second payment of the 2023 mobile home taxes are due by 5 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 30. Payments and payment coupons may be mailed or brought to the Richland County Treasurer, 201 W. Main, Sidney, MT 59270. Office hours are 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

For your convenience, there is a payment drop box located in the alley behind the old courthouse and credit card payments are accepted online at richland.org. Any payments postmarked, dropped in the drop box, or paid online, after 5 p.m. on Nov. 30, will be assessed penalty and interest charges according to MCA 15-16-101. Please call 406-433-1707 with any questions.

"Hoodies For Hunger" Unites Watford City In Global Fight Against Malnutrition

Submitted by Angie Hartel, Coordinator, Watford City MobilePack Feed My Starving Children

Watford City – "Hoodies for Hunger", in collaboration with the Watford City MobilePack and Feed My Starving Children (FMSC), is proud to announce its 3-day fundraising campaign kicking off on Giving Tuesday, Nov. 28-30, dedicated to battling malnutrition in developing countries around the world. The campaign seeks to raise funds for the 5th Watford City MobilePack, where approximately 200,000 life-saving MannaPack meals will be packed at the Rough Rider Center on March 21-23, 2024.

In addition to financial support, "Hoodies for Hunger" plans to engage with local businesses for employee photo opportunities featuring super-sized "Hoodies for Hunger". These engaging photo sessions will serve as a creative way for businesses to promote their involvement in the campaign. Business sponsorship of the campaign or allowing employees to participate by wearing hoodies for three days, not only contributes to a worthy cause but also showcases their commitment to social responsibility.

"Hoodies for Hunger" encourages businesses of all sizes to join hands in this impactful initiative, emphasizing that even the smallest contributions can make a significant difference. By supporting this campaign, businesses not only enhance their community presence but also contribute to creating a lasting positive impact on those facing abject global poverty.

The MannaPack meals, specially formulated by FMSC, are designed to meet the nutritional needs of malnourished children. Once packed, these meals will be distributed to impoverished communities in developing countries, providing a vital source of nutrition to combat malnutrition and support the health and well being of vulnerable populations.

Feed My Starving Children, the organization behind the MannaPack meals, is a non-profit that has been dedicated to eradicating hunger since 1987. With a mission to feed God's starving children hungry in body and spirit, FMSC mobilizes volunteers to pack nutritious meals that are sent to partners in nearly 70 countries worldwide. These meals play a crucial role in addressing the immediate nutritional needs of children and families facing extreme poverty and food insecurity.

"Hoodies for Hunger" encourages individuals and businesses alike to support this effort to combat malnutrition by participating in the 3-day hoodie-wearing campaign. Contributions made during the campaign will directly contribute to funding the Watford City MobilePack, ultimately saving lives and making a positive impact on communities, worldwide.


For more information on how to get involved, become a sponsor, or participate in "Hoodies for Hunger", please email angiehartel7@gmail.com. Donations can be made online at give.fmsc.org/Watford or use the QR Code above:



Thank You

On Friday, Nov 03, 2023, the VFW post 4099 put on a benefit for Randy Davis to help with medical bills after going through chemo and radiation.

To every individual and business that donated, helped and supported Randy in any way at all, thank you! Because of you, the benefit was a huge success!



Everett Crum, quartermaster of post 4099 (right), and Betty Williams, bar manager (middle), present Randy (left) with the donations from his Benefit.

8th Annual "Santa Fun Run" Dec. 9, Sidney

There will be the 8th annual "Santa Fun Run" on Saturday, Dec. 9, starting at 10 a.m., at Fox Run, 414 N. Central Ave. There will be both a 5K course as well as a one-mile route for families. The registration fee is \$25 and ends Dec. 8 at 11:59 p.m. MST. Scan the QR code to register.

Run as Santa, one of his many elves or an ugly sweater. The real Santa will be there to kick off the run.

A portion of the proceeds from the run will benefit the local Christmas Coalition "Gifts from the Heart" event that is an annual gift distribution to those in need in the community.

This year's sponsors of the "Santa Fun Run" are Reynold's Market, Run the World Run Club and High Caliber Sports.



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"HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS" AT CENTRE THEATRE | 4PM
PARADE OF LIGHTS | 6:30PM
"SANTA CLAUSE" AT CENTRE THEATRE | 8PM

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Sidney Tendo | Popcorn Bar
Pizza House | Mulled Winte & Hot Chocolate
Orleans Crusine | Cajun & American Food



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Howard “Dick” Wedel, 85
Missoula, MT
formerly of Cartwright, ND

Funeral services were Tuesday Nov. 21, 2023 at 1 a.m. CT at St. Michael’s and All Angels Church, Cartwright, ND, with Pastor Kim Fox officiating. Military Honors were presented by the American Legion Post 114 and The United States Air Force Honor Guard. A luncheon followed the burial at the Cartwright Community Center, Cartwright, ND. He was laid to rest at the Yellowstone Point Cemetery, Cartwright, ND. Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT assisted the family. Remembrances, condolences, and pictures were shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

Howard Richard (Dick) Wedel was born to Howard and Hazel (Duffy) Wedel, in Hardin, MT on Nov. 8, 1938. He graduated from Polson High School with the class of 1956.

He married Diane Lucero. From this union had two children, Richard and Beverly. Later he married Delores Sauter and had his daughter, Kathleen.

Dick served in the Marines from 1955-1965. During this time, he was stationed in California (29 Palms and Camp Pendleton), Hawaii, Japan, and Billings, MT. Dick transferred to the Air Force and served from 1965 until his retirement in 1976. During his time in the Air Force, he and his family were stationed in Turkey, Colorado, Johnston Island, Montana, Utah, California, Taiwan, and Texas. Dick worked in Radio and Television Communications and as a recruiting officer.

Dick met the love of his life, Aone Sanderson and her children Aleta and Kirk, in Billings, MT. They got married on Nov. 1, 1969. Shortly after, Dick adopted Aleta and Kirk and they raised their three children.

After retiring from the military, Dick and his family settled in Missoula, MT. There he was the manager/insurance auditor and inspector for Jensen & Moore Insurance, which later brought another move, this time to Rapid City, SD. He also had a sideline business called the Sports Man’s Pub.

In 1983 they moved to Aone’s family farm in Cartwright, ND, where along with farming the land he maintained his job as an auditor having offices in Williston, ND, and Glendale, AZ. He also did crop adjusting, worked beets with the neighbors, and started D&A Steel Buildings. Dick also held positions in the Farmers Union.

Dick loved to golf, bowl, hunt, shoot pool, and spend time with his family. And, some of his favorite memories are from his travels to Arizona with Aone where they would spend the winter months.

In 2000, Aone was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. Dick became her primary caregiver. He showed compassion and unconditional love through all of their challenges, never skipping a beat. They were, and will forever be, partners, and soul mates through and through.

In 2010, Dick and Aone moved back to Missoula, MT, to be closer to their daughter Aleta and two of their grandchildren, Alishka and Brianna.

Dick was always cool, calm, and collected. His sense of humor could make anyone smile. The things he did for his loved ones were invaluable. He was truly the best husband, dad, and grandfather anyone could ask for. Dick’s last days were spent at home celebrating his 85th birthday with loved ones.



Howard “Dick” Wedel

Dick is preceded in death by his wife Aone, his parents Howard and Hazel Wedel, his sister Carol, and brother David. He is survived by his stepsister, Sheelia Miller; children, Aleta Rae Link (Andy); Kathleen Rae Russell (Rick); Kirk Duane Wedel; Richard Wedel (Mavis); and Beverly Peterson (Hayward); and his numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Thomas Ochs, 75
Laurel, MT
formerly of Fairview, MT

Funeral services for Thomas Ochs, 75, Laurel, MT, formerly of Fairview, MT, were held at 1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, at Community Presbyterian Church, Fairview, MT, with Pastor Sam Samuelson officiating. Interment was in the Fairview Cemetery, Fairview, ND. Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT, is assisting the family with local arrangements. Remembrances, condolences, and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.



Thomas Ochs

Thomas Michael Ochs peacefully passed away on Nov. 8, 2023, at the age of 75 in Billings, MT. Despite having gone through several heart attacks and two strokes, he kept his will to live life to the fullest and his sense of humor up to his very last days.

Thomas was born on Sept. 28, 1948, to Edward and Dorothy Ochs at the Broadhead home, Fairview, MT. His family initially lived in the Fairview hills and in 1952 moved to the valley at the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers. He attended elementary school in Dore and East Fairview and graduated from Fairview High School.

As an adult he spent a few years in the National Guard but returned home to pursue his passion, farming. He met his wife Susan when she was hired to drive trucks for beet harvest. They married on Nov. 2, 1974, and later had two daughters, Katherine and Jennifer. He spent many years working in the oil and gas industry. In 2004, Thomas and his brother sold the land at the confluence, and it became Ochs Point. Tom and Susan moved to Williston, ND, for about 10 years and then to Laurel, MT, for another 10 years.

Thomas enjoyed restoring antique tractors and classic pickup trucks including a ‘58 Ford and a ‘67 Ford. He spent many winters with friends, ice fishing at the confluence, but those who knew him understood he was only there to play cribbage. Hunting was another favorite activity on the farm and hunters traveled long distances to hunt with Thomas. He was a talented, self-taught guitar player that played by ear and kept improving his abilities until the end of his life. He enjoyed making music with friends and played in a band when he lived in Williston, ND.

Surviving family members include his wife Susan (Hau-so) Ochs, Laurel, MT; daughter Katherine (Ochs) Gowan, Billings, MT; daughter Jennifer Ochs and son-in-law Erjon Beqo, Pinole, CA, grandchildren Sofia and Lukas Beqo,

brother Edward Ochs and sister-in-law Ann Ochs, Daytona Beach, FL. Thomas was blessed to have many cousins nieces and nephews as well.

He is preceded by his parents Edward and Dorothy (Huff) Ochs and sister Marie (Ochs) Finnicum.

Shirley Olson, 86
Williston, ND

Shirley Olson, 86 peacefully passed away Nov. 11, 2023 at CHI St Alexius Hospital, Williston, ND, with family by her side.

Shirley was born in Hebron, ND, to William and Agnes (Heinemeyer) Zimmiond March 15, 1937. She was one of ten children.

As a young woman, Shirley worked at Plainsman Hotel as a dishwasher and enjoyed her job because she loved interacting with people. She later married and had a son, Terry, whom she couldn’t raise and unselfishly gave him to her sister, Pearl, to be raised. She loved him dearly and he was always one of the highlights of her life when he would come and visit her!

Shirley then married Gerald Olson in 1979 and lived in Williston, ND. He passed in 2001 and at that time she moved to Prairie View apartments where she has resided since. She loved being there with all the friends she made there. She was considered the door greeter because she would sit by the door and always greet anyone who came in! She loved to watch old westerns with Charlie, her good friend there. Debbie would always watch out for Shirley in her last weeks of being sick. Her family, at the apartments, were all very important to her.

Shirley was very blessed to have so many people in her life that loved her! Summer, her great niece, and Marie Heller and Kimmee were so amazing taking care of her.

She had a very special love for her brothers and sisters. She and her twin sister, Sharon, had a very special bond. Whomever she loved, she loved with all her heart. Her sister, Pearl made sure she got out for coffee with Shirley and Pearl’s Dakota Farms family. That was always a highlight for her also.

She had a very special friend Jeff whom she loved dearly! We want to thank him for making her days so happy whenever he was there.

Shirley is preceded in death by her parents, William and Agnes Stompro Zimmiond; stepfathers, Melvin Rink and Duane Stompro; husband, Gerald Olson; brothers, Ernie Zimmiond, James Rink and Richie Rink; and sisters, Pearl (Paul) Haney and baby, JoAnne Rink.

She is survived by brothers, Delmer (Marcy) Rink, Huntley, MT, Leslie (Sandra) Rink, Keene, ND; twin sister, Sharon (Curtis) Anderson, Williston, ND and sister, Karen (Jake) Lambert, Williston, ND.

A private family and friends Celebration of Life will be held in the spring of 2024. Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home, Williston, ND, is assisting the family. Remembrances, condolences, and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.



Shirley Olson

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Ribbon & Rail's Trains To Run During Sidney's Christmas Stroll

By Jaymi Mozeak

During the Sidney Christmas Stroll, another time-honored tradition will be going on in the basement of Sidney's only in-town craft and hobby store, Ribbon N Rail. Russ Markwald, owner, and the rest of the Sugar Valley Rails model-railroading club will be running their trains on Friday, Nov. 24, to join in the Christmas Stroll.

Markwald has had the trains running for the Christmas Stroll ever since he has been running trains at Ribbon n Rail, but the tradition started a long time before that. The craft and hobby store owner said, "My father loved model trains and Dad always had something going around the Christmas tree, growing up." Time marched on and eventually, Markwald

found himself and partner, Rod Lorenz, running a handful of trains during Christmas at the Village Square Mall. The following year the train display graduated to the basements of Ben Franklin (currently Ribbon & Rail) when the owners of Ben Franklin sold out, Markwald bought the business and changed the name to Ribbon & Rail.

The Sugar Valley Rails model-railroading club meets on Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons in the basement of Ribbon & Rail to run their trains. They usually have their trains set up, running, and open to the public on Saturdays from 1-3 p.m.

In 2022, the Sidney Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture included the

store's train setup as an official part of the stroll. They did not make it in this year but they will still be running during the stroll from 1 p.m. to about the time the Parade of Lights gets to Main, usually 7 p.m. Besides their usual setup which may change, depending on the fancies of the club members, they also have a scavenger hunt.

Admission is free, al-

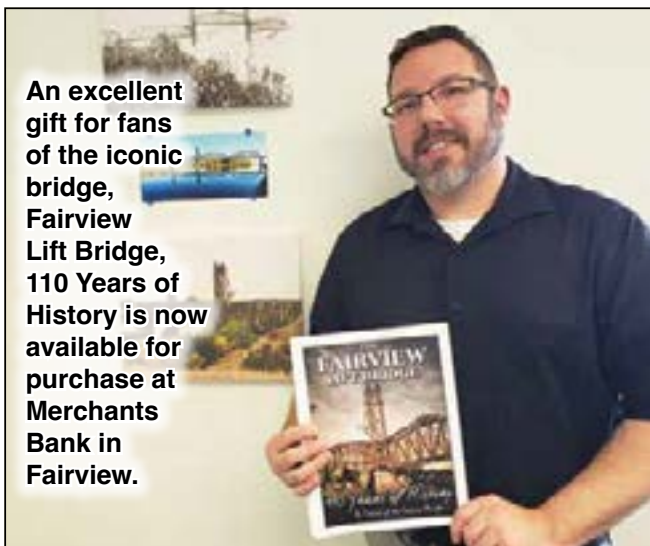
though Markwald and the rest of the club ask that you refrain from touching the trains, tracks, and rest of the displays. Donations are welcome to offset the cost of operating the trains. Ribbon n Rail is located at 110 E. Main St., Sidney, and their regular business hours are from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturdays.



Russ Markwald and Rod Lorenz have been running trains for the public to celebrate Christmas since before Ben Franklin became Ribbon & Rail. (Photo by Jaymi Mozeak)

Fairview Lift Bridge Booklets

An excellent gift for fans of the iconic bridge, Fairview Lift Bridge, 110 Years of History, is now available for only \$15 at Merchants Bank, 216 S. Ellery Ave., Fairview. Regular business hours are Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Call them at 406-742-5203 to reserve your copies. Booklets are also for sale at The Round-up, 111 W. Main, Sidney, during regular business hours, Monday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Their phone number is 406-433-3306.



An excellent gift for fans of the iconic bridge, Fairview Lift Bridge, 110 Years of History is now available for purchase at Merchants Bank in Fairview.

There are more than just trains in the model train displays that were built and kept up by the Sugar Valley Rails model-railroading club. Various scenes are scattered throughout the displays and are changed from time to time. (Photo by Jaymi Mozeak)



Right: The Sugar Valley Rails model-railroading club run their Lionel trains in the basement of Ribbon & Rail on Thursdays and Saturdays. They also run them on Back Friday (Mozeak)



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Somer Reidle	Jenna Rust	Bruce Prevost	Horizon Resources
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			701-844-5775

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Crate Montana Holds Ribbon Cutting

(Pictured L-R) Alli Nelson, Shay Steinbeisser, Gina McIntyre, Courtney McIntyre, Amber Taylor, and Megan Garza. (Photo by Robyn Heck)

By Robyn Heck
Crate Montana held their ribbon cutting and grand opening on Wednesday, Nov. 15. They are a discount store that sells a little bit of everything, including women's clothing size XS to 4X. Owner Gina McIntyre is to bring her business to

our community. Their entire inventory is either over stock, shelf pulls, discontinued, damaged box items, or returns. Most items are brand new. Crate Montana is located at 1055 S. Central Ave., next to The Rush Coffee Shop.

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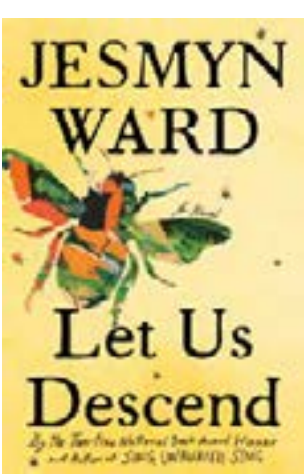
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City Of Williston To Host Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, Nov. 27

By Mitch Melberg
City of Williston
Communications Director

Williston – The community is invited to join the City of Williston in celebrating a treasured holiday tradition with the lighting of the Community Christmas Tree on Nov. 27.

The Christmas tree lighting continues the annual tradition that was re-introduced in 2014. Each year, a tree is chosen from the list of homeowners who have chosen to donate their tree.

This year's Community Christmas Tree comes from 801 24th St. E, donated by Jackie and Jason Peles.

A Colorado Spruce around 50 ft. tall and weighing about 8,000 lbs, the tree was moved on Tuesday, Nov. 14 to its holder on the corner of 26th St. W and 2nd Ave. W.

The Peles' were on hand to watch as the tree was harvested, joined by JoAnne Colebank and family, whose father originally planted the tree as a sapling in the early '80s. Before the tree came down, Colebank's adult children took one last picture in front of the tree, recreating a photo of them standing in front of it from when they were children.

"It's pretty exciting," Jason said of donating the tree. "Especially being able to meet the people that actually planted the tree. (JoAnne) actually knew my grandparents, so this has kind of brought us all together."

Colebank's husband, Wayne, said while it was bittersweet to watch the tree come down, they are honored to be able to share it with the community.

"It's really neat that everybody gets to see it and enjoy it," Wayne said. "We've got a lot of memories there, we watched that tree grow for 15 years. We were very happy when we heard."

With the tree in place, the community is invited to the 9th Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Monday, Nov. 27 at 5:30 p.m. There will be a bonfire, refreshments sponsored by Alliance Consulting, holiday music, and fireworks show sponsored by TNT Fireworks. After a brief ceremony with remarks from Mayor Howard Klug, Dallas Peles, 10, will officially light the tree.

This project was made possible by Dacotah West Crane Service, 11 Bravo Property Services, LLC., City of Williston Public Works, Alliance Consulting, TNT Fireworks, Williston police department, and Williston fire department. Drone footage will also be captured by Alliance Consulting.

In addition, the community is invited to participate in the third annual Community Christmas Tree Ornament Contest!

Individuals are encouraged to get creative and make their best ornament to hang on the tree for a chance to win a prize pack.

The contest is open to all ages with the following age groups:

- 6 and Under; • 7-10; • 11-14; • 15+.

Beginning Monday, Nov. 27, individuals can place their homemade ornaments on the tree. Contest participants have until Friday, Dec. 8 to place their ornaments.

To successfully enter the contest, individuals must:

- Take a picture of their ornament on the Community Christmas Tree OR a picture of them placing their ornament on the Community Christmas Tree
- Submit pictures via Facebook Messenger to the City of Williston (@city-ofwilliston) OR the Williston Community Library (@willistoncommunitylibrary) OR email to communications@ci.williston.nd.us
- Include their name and age AND a name for the ornament
- Place their ornament by Friday, Dec. 8

Two winners from each age group will be selected on Monday, Dec. 11 and announced that week. All submissions will be showcased on the City of Williston

Facebook and Instagram pages.

Participants are reminded that ornaments will be outside, so make sure they can withstand the elements if

you want them back. A future time frame will be provided for those who would like to retrieve their ornaments, if desired. The Community Christmas Tree will stay up

until the end of December.

Individuals are also invited to place ornaments on the tree without participating in the ornament contest.

For more information

on this story, please contact Mitch Melberg, Communications Director, at 701.713.3800 or mmelberg@ci.williston.nd.us.

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spend the holiday
with our families



Where's Jake!?

This holiday season, Jake's on a mission to promote #shoplocal and #shopsmall. Every Wednesday, he'll be in a new local business location.

Can you find him?

Last week I was at the Richland County Food Bank! -Jake

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 • Check out the lighted photo op spots throughout the park. If in use, be courteous! Wait for the other party to finish before approaching.
 • Plan to come often? Buy a book of 10 single use passes for \$40 (a \$10 savings) from the Visitors Center, 212 34th St W. or call us at 701-774-9041.
 • You can also fill up your Holiday Lights Drive punch card and get an additional night free.
 • Punch cards are available at the gate house while supplies last.
 Featured Nights At The Holiday Lights Drive:
 Tuesday, Nov. 28: Barbie Night - Join the fun! Stop and take each other's photos in the Barbie-pink photo booth. Take-home crafts will be distributed from the gate house for kids in the car while supplies last.
 Thursday, Nov. 30: Ninja Turtle Night - Weather permitting, costumed ninja turtles will be patrolling the park to-night! They also have a themed photo op spot on the east side of the park, and take-home crafts will be distributed from the gate house for kids in the car while supplies last.
 Monday, Dec. 4 and Wednesday, Dec. 6: Grinch Night - Someone green is out lurking around at the Lights Drive! Is he causing mischief or just out for a walk? See if you can spot

him! Take-home crafts will be distributed from the gate house for kids in the car while supplies last.
 Thursday, Dec. 7: Monsters, Inc - There are monsters loose in Spring Lake Park. Weather permitting, you might see Mike and Sully enjoying the holiday lights. There will also be a themed photo booth on the east side of the park and take-home crafts will be distributed from the gate house for kids in the car while supplies last.
 Monday, Dec. 11-Tuesday, Dec.12: Santa Nights - Santa is making an appearance for visits and photos for two nights at the Lights Drive from 6-8 p.m. in the keel boat building. Bring your own camera or phone to commemorate the visit! Take-home crafts will be distributed from the gate house for kids in the car while supplies last.
 Wednesday, Dec. 13-Thursday, Dec. 14: Unicorn Nights - Drive slowly so you don't miss our live unicorns hanging out in the keel boat parking lot! Take-home crafts will be distributed from the gate house for kids in the car while supplies last.
 Sunday, Dec. 17: Luminary Sunday - Traditionally held the Sunday before Christmas, the evening features hundreds of additional lights in luminary bags lighting up the park along the roadway. Don't miss this one-night event. Take-home crafts will be distributed from the gate house for kids in the car while supplies last.
 Monday, Dec. 18-Tuesday, Dec. 19: Reindeer Nights - The reindeer are visiting Williston! You can

find them in our drive by display in the keel boat parking lot. Take-home crafts will be distributed from the gate house for kids in the car while supplies last.
 Wednesday, Dec. 20: Bumble the Abominable Snowman Night - Can you spot the Abominable Snowmonster? Sometimes Bumble is hiding, but other times you might drive right by him! This themed night comes with a take-home craft for children in the vehicle while supplies last.
 Thursday, Dec. 21: Sledding - Bring your sled! Park in the amphitheater parking lot at the bottom of the first hill after the ticket booth. We plan to have extra lights on the sledding hill, and Salvation Army plans to be on hand to hand out hot cocoa. There will also be a take-home craft distributed from the gate house for kids in the car while supplies last.
 Satuday, Dec. 23: Cookie Decorating Kit - What would the holidays be without holiday treats? Individual cookie kits are available to kids in the car while supplies last!
 Tuesday, Dec. 26: The Great Elf Send Off - The Elf on the Shelf has been busy keeping an eye on you all month and deserves a party

before heading back to the North Pole! Visit the Lights Drive and see if you can find all the miniature elves partying around the park, visible from your car. This is also your last night to complete the Elf on the Shelf bingo card! Take home crafts will be distributed from the gate house for kids in the car while supplies last.
 Thursday, Dec. 28: Meet the First Responders - Follow the lights! Come meet Williston's 1st Responders at the Lights Drive, parked in the keel boat parking lot. Take-home crafts will be distributed from the gate house for kids in the car while supplies last.
 Saturday, Dec. 30: New Year's Eve Eve - Bring the kids for a spin through the Lights Drive to celebrate their own mini New Year's celebration, saving Dec. 31 for your own plans, if you have them! We will be handing out party favors at the gate house for kids in the car while supplies last.
 Other activities, weather permitting:
 Wednesday Night Hayrides with Ironhide: Hayrides are available on Nov. 29, Dec. 6 and Dec. 13 for up to 10 people or two families per ride, maximum (which-ever threshold is met first).

Check in with the driver in the parking lot of the keel boat to verify availability. Hayrides are first come, first served, 6-8 p.m.
 Elf On the Shelf Bingo: Play bingo with us! Every night through Dec. 26, our larger-than-life size Elf on the Shelf will be moved in the park. Find him and mark off the corresponding square with the date on your bingo card! Cards are available at the Lights Drive gate. Complete a row and return your winning card to the Williston Convention & Visitors Bureau for a prize!
 Self-Guided Photo Opportunities: Check out all the Holiday Lights Drive photo stops! Can you find them all?

If another party is using the photo op, please wait until they finish to approach. If you are using the photo op spot and notice a vehicle waiting, please finish in a timely manner and return to your vehicle so others can see it. Refer to the map from the gate house for specific locations.
 Letters to Santa: Write your letter to Santa and leave it in the red mailbox at the keelboat. These are picked up daily and replied to, if a return address is provided! You can use the blank letter form you receive at the Lights Drive gate. Feel free to ask for more if you have multiple kids (or kids at heart) in the vehicle!

Ed Walker, Conservative Candidate For Congress, Visited Sidney

By Jaymi Mozeak

On Tuesday Nov. 14, an unfamiliar face was walking the streets of Sidney, stopping into businesses and the papers to introduce himself and make himself known. It is anticipated that Matt Rosendale will run for senate in 2024, but has not yet announced his intentions, and Ed Walker is campaigning for his seat at Congress.
 Ed or Eddie Walker is a small business owner from Billings. His family has roots as natural resource entrepreneurs dating back to the late 1800s. According to his website, vote.walkerformontana.com, Walker is a small business owner who worked in the energy industry. In 2010, Walker was elected to the Montana State Senate and served in Helena for four years, but now he is aiming for Washington, D.C.
 According to a flyer distributed by Walker, he wants to be a conservative fighter when it comes to tough issues like border security, responsible energy development, and out-of-control federal spending. He also wants to end the era of the career politicians who have spent the nation \$33 trillion into debt and the crisis on our southern border. He feels that Joe Biden's energy policy has been a total failure. He continued to paralyze U.S. energy production by shutting down pipelines and canceling oil and gas leases across America. He believes we must support our oil and gas economy, and we do that by investing in our infrastructure, creating good paying jobs producing safe, clean, and affordable American energy. Walker also believes we must get our national debt under control. He feels we need a balanced budget amendment and prioritize lowering our \$33 trillion national debt. He feels we need to secure our borders using the full resources of the federal government because fentanyl seizures have skyrocketed, almost 6 million people have illegally entered our country since Biden took office, and the threat of terrorists entering our country through our porous borders is real.
 Walker says in his brochure that he has always been an advocate for what he knows is right. He is running for Congress because he wants to be the conservative fighter Montana deserves.




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Diamond Cutter & Jeweler Tim Ritter Retiring After 50 Years

By Dianne Swanson

Tim Ritter, Williston, ND, has truly enjoyed his career as a diamond cutter and jeweler but after 50 years, he has decided it's time to relax at his cabin on Pouch Point, and play music. Fortunately, the business is being passed along to his two sons, Ethan and Evan, who will continue the excellence Ritter Brothers is known for.

After pursuing a music career for a few years, Tim and his brother Steve made the decision to become diamond cutters, starting with an apprenticeship in Nevada. While there, Tim also learned the art of silver smithing and jewelry making and followed up with classes at the Gemological Institute of America in Los Angeles.

Back in Williston, the brothers started Ritter Brothers Diamond Cutters in 1976 upstairs in the back of what is now the Cooks on Main building. Their father was a dentist who practiced in the front. Tim explained that a dental lab which made its own gold crowns and bridges, and a jewelry lab were almost identical since everything was done with a lost casting process. After about a year, the brothers opened a retail shop upstairs in the former MDU building next door, with Tim running between the two to assist customers, then back to the lab. "Steve and I worked together for decades and complimented each other," Tim said. "He was the hands-on bench jeweler, a

real craftsman, and I was the shop guy assisting customers." Ethan as the craftsman, and Evan expertly dealing with clientele, now fill those roles. Plus, Evan inherited his father's distinctive voice.

In 1978, the opportunity arose to buy their current location, prime real estate on Main Street. A.B. and Gertrude DeGree, DeGree Jewelers, had passed away and their daughter, Ann Barbara decided to sell about a year later, after having Eva Dwyer run the store. "It's a prime location, a super spot," Tim said. After a couple of years, remodeling started. "The flooring in front was blue and red lino tiles. It was pretty bad," Tim said, laughing. Then the oil boom really kicked in and business was booming. Steve left the business at that time, leaving Tim on his own, but returned once the oil boom ended.

Then the bust brought tough times for everyone, but Ritter Brothers continued to provide top quality merchandise, coupled with outstanding service, and survived. "It's been a high ever since," Tim said.

Trips to Antwerp and Amsterdam to purchase diamonds, as well as trips to Bankok to purchase the best sapphires and rubies in the world, were high points during Tim's long career. He was thrilled to meet the grandson of the man who cut the Cullinan diamond, the largest gem quality rough diamond ever found

in the world. The Cullinan II which is in the Imperial State Crown, is housed in the Tower of London. He was also able to see the mold that the man used to determine the cut. In all, nine diamonds were cut from that one stone. "That was exciting," he said.

"It's been a treat and a joy," Tim said of his long career. "We've served generations of the same family and it's been fun. Our trade area is Montana, North Dakota, Canada, and beyond. The sale has been an especially good time with old buddies stopping in to visit and shop. I love 'em all!"

"The customers are our backbone and we go the extra mile for them," Tim said. "Having a craftsman on hand has been the key to our success," he explained. "People from out of town don't have to wait, we can do repairs the same day. You must have an expert bench jeweler on the premises. It's a prerequisite to success."

For Tim, the past 50 years have flown by. He credits his incomparable staff for much of that. "They were the best, always, and super compatible with the clientele, both in Williston and Devils Lake. They are all part of the Ritter Brothers family."

"It's been a great career," he said. "I love music more but both have provided a great creative outlet. I've been able to work with the best merchandise in the best setting, with top-notch



Tim Ritter with his sons Ethan and Evan. (Photo by Dianne Swanson)

clientele. I've enjoyed it all. It's sad to see it come to an end but at 75, I'm tired and need to step back and slow down. The staff and the customers have made the whole rodeo worthwhile."

Tim is confident that his sons will continue the solid tradition of Ritter Brothers. "They're great kids, and top-notch jewelers," he said. "They are tradesmen and good craftsmen and can communicate well on any level, with any age group." Both attended New Approach Jewelers School, Franklin, TN, the best school in the country for the arts. Tim taught them everything he could with the technology he had, but technology has changed and improved dramatically and the young men have learned it all. "With the new technology, they are better jewelers than I ever was," Tim said proudly. Laser welding, which generates no heat, was a huge development, allowing jewelers to be more precise and work with any type of material including colored stones and silver. Electronic instruments to detect quality and type of stones as well as bullion have also made counterfeiting more difficult. "Counterfeiting is rampant in coins, gold bars, etc.," Tim explained. "We had to buy the new equipment."

As Ethan and Evan make the store their own in January, they plan to update some lines to reflect current trends and economics. "We'll be ordering in some more earthy lines which are popular right now, as well as keeping the classic lines," Ethan explained. "We want to cater to both our past and future clientele." Evan loves being part of the community and plans to continue the tradition of donating to virtually every cause that comes their way.

Ritter Brothers huge liquidation sale is on right now in both Williston and Devils Lake through Dec. 30 with the entire inventory up to 70% off. Merchandise including jewelry, clocks, Waterford crystal and more is being brought out from all parts of the store and new items are coming in as well. "We have an excellent selection," Tim stated. The store is not taking in repairs until after the sale. "All that will be done after the boys take over," he said. "That new Christmas ring will be expertly sized."

Tim will continue with his first love which is music. He still plays the guitar and sings for corporate gigs, weddings and funerals, often with fiddler Amanda Johnson who has been his partner for the last decade. "She sings beautifully and our style and voices blend." Catch Tim on a Friday evening at The Eleven restaurant or maybe jamming at Books on Broadway on a Saturday afternoon mostly during the winter months.

Congratulations on your retirement Tim. Enjoy!

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SHS Speech Drama and Debate Competed At Billings Central Tournament

Submitted by Christy Pierce, Sidney Public Schools Head Speech, Drama & Debate Coach

SHS Speech Drama and Debate competed in the

Billings Central tournament at MSUB over the weekend with over 300 competitors from across Montana. Sophomore Public Forum debate team Thaylan Fisher and

Aubrey Oprica placed 2nd. Speech Results: Original Oratory: 3rd Tytus Carter, 7th Cayla Hanson Extemporaneous Speaking: 8th Keaton Burke Drama Results: Pantomime: 5th Whisper Enriquez Humorous Solo: 6th Cedar Hovde Classical Theatre: 7th Brooke Watson, and Sophie Pust Dramatic Theatre: 5th Luca Verville, and Alyssa Batchelor The Team travels to Froid next.



2nd Place Public Forum. Audrey Oprica, and Thaylan Fisher (Submitted by Christy Pierce)

Mead Officiates Last Football Game



Sidney's Jeff Mead officiated his last football game on Saturday, Nov. 18, when Froid/Lake hosted Centerville in the six-man state championship game. He has officiated football for 39 years. His career included working 12 state championship games. Fans saluted him before the game on Saturday. Left, Mead talks to a coach from Centerville prior to the contest. (Submitted Photo)

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