

Boys and Girls Club of Richland County Annual Dinner & Auction Saturday



Submitted by Sarah Sifers

The Boys and Girls Club of Richland County Annual Dinner & Auction has been set for 5:00 pm on Saturday, March 16th at The Richland County Fair Event Center. Last year the club raised over \$40,000 thanks to the generosity of this community. Some of the items that have already been secured for this year's auction include Autographed Photos of: Adrian Peterson - the Minnesota Vikings, 2012 NFL MVP, Cam Newton - Carolina Panthers, Drew Brees - New Orleans Saints, Matt Ryan - Atlanta Falcons, Percy Harvin - Minnesota Vikings, Joe Thiesmann - Notre Dame Fighting Irish, Jerome Bettis - Pittsburgh Steelers, Arnold Palmer and Phil Mickelson. Also an autographed Football from Kevin Williams - Minnesota Vikings, and Laser Autographed Football from the 2008 Dallas Cowboys. In addition we will feature NFL team hats autographed by Michele Tafoya!

Additionally we will have a variety of beauty products from everyone at Mark Anthony & Co., an iPad 2 from Electric Land, a Rock Star bike from Blue Rock, a large stuffed pony from Wells Fargo, a Women's Makeover including a \$300 Gift Certificate to the Lucky Buckle and a Facial by Glow (Nikki Carda) and 2 tickets to 10 nights of the NFR December 5-14 from the Richland County Fair Board. More information will follow as other items are donated to the event.

This year's theme is "St. Patrick's Day" and guests arriving in costume or wearing green will be entered into a special raffle.

Fairview Public Forum Being Held March 14

The Fairview Schools will be holding a public forum on Thursday, March 14th at 6 pm in the cafeteria. The public forum will discuss the possibility of switching to a 4-day school week starting next fall. The school board will make their final decision April 9th so any issues or concerns should be conveyed prior to then.

The dinner will be catered by The Ranger Lounge, Casino, & Eatery and will be buffet style, featuring Mike's famous chicken fried steak and roast beef. Special appetizers will also be available starting at 5:00 pm. Tickets for the event are \$25.00 each. If you have any collectibles, game tickets, or general merchandise that you would like to donate please contact Sarah Sifers at 433-6763. We truly appreciate all of the support that the community has provided to help the Boys and Girls Club provide a positive place for our local young people to go and to help fulfill the mission of the club "To inspire and enable all young people to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens."

Richland County 5th Annual Community-Wide Conference Open House

March 18th & 19th, A Free Event Held at the Richland County Fair Event Center.

Monday, March 18th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Open House with meal at 5:30 p.m. and Tuesday, March 19th from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Open House at 8:30 a.m. with light breakfast and lunch. We are asking Richland County community members, community service groups, businesses, policy makers and those vested in our community to all come together to ensure Quality of Life in Richland County.

To register or for more information go to www.richland.org or contact Mary or Suzzanne at the Richland County Health Department 406-433-2207. Please register by March 12, 2013. This is a free event but we encourage your registration to supply adequate food.

Outlaws Music Night Celebrates Local Musicians Friday

Featuring Jessie Veeder,
The Dirty Dogs and
Lonesome Willy

Celebrate local talent in a fun and relaxed atmosphere at Outlaws Music Night, Friday, March 15 in the Outlaws' Bar and Grill Ballroom. The music starts at 7:00 pm and will continue throughout the night with appetizers and a cash bar.

Outlaws Music Night will feature the music of Jessie Veeder, a Watford City based singer/songwriter and author of the internationally recognized song "Boomtown."

"The Dirty Dogs," an acoustic duo featuring Adam Taylor and Jeff Meyer will kick off the evening with harmonies, original music and fun favorites. Taylor and Veeder are also members of the local band "Lonesome Willy," who, along with Gene Veeder, Mike Endrud, Kelly Hanna and Jim Christensen have a fun, laid back Americana sound that will have you tapping your toes on into the night. Together the members of "Lonesome Willy" have years of experience playing music to crowds across the country.

"We just love to play music together," said Jessie, who recorded a live album with the members of "Lonesome Willy" in 2008 and released her fourth album "Nothing's Forever" in October. Together Jessie and the members of "Lonesome Willy" have years of experience playing music to crowds across the country. Taylor, Veeder and Endrud are featured musicians on Jessie's newest release and she's excited to perform material from the album during the event. "This night is all about having fun and giving people a place to kick back and listen to some of the great talent we have right here in Watford City."

Jessie is working with community members to form an organization with the goal of bringing music and other cultural events to the Watford City area. This event will give the public a chance to volunteer to participate in the efforts and provide insight into what type of entertainment they'd like to see come to their community.

Outlaws Music Night is sponsored by Outlaws Bar and Grill, Meyer's Department Store and Jessie Veeder Music. For more information on the event contact:

Jessie Veeder Music at jessieveedermusic@gmail.com or visit www.jessieveedermusic.com.



Pictured (L-R) Gene Veeder, Jessie Veeder & Mike Endrud.

Montana Law Enforcement Continues To Investigate Missing Persons Case

Requests Assistance From Media And Public In Montana And North Dakota

Submitted by Richland County Sheriff's Office
Nearly three weeks after the disappearance of Montana resident Nicole Waller law enforcement officials from several jurisdictions continue to work together to aggressively investigate the case and pursue all leads. To date, Ms. Waller

remains a missing person and Montana law enforcement officials are requesting media organizations in Montana and North Dakota to publicize this case along with a telephone number for the public to report tips.
As with any investigation it is possible that a member of the public saw or heard

something that may assist detectives, and any individual who believes they may have information pertinent to the case is encouraged to report the information to authorities. A hotline established in Richland County to field tips from the public can be reached at 406-433-4027. Crime Stoppers of

Richland County can be reached by texting the code "CSRC" plus your message to: 274637 (CRIMES). Remember: As with all Crime Stoppers tips, the calls are not recorded and the caller will remain confidential.
Waller was last known to be in Fairview, Montana, during the early morning hours

of February 14, 2013. Waller is 5'0" in height and weighs 165 pounds.
The last known contact with Nicole Waller occurred when she spoke to a family member by telephone on 02/14/2013 during the early morning hours.
Nicole's vehicle, a 1999 maroon Ford Expedition,



Nicole Waller

was first observed a b a n - doned off Hwy 2 west of Poplar, Montana later in the day on 02-14-2013.

Agencies involved in the investigation are: Fort Peck Tribes Criminal Investigations Flathead, Richland and Roosevelt County Sheriff's Offices; Sidney and Fairview, Montana, Police Departments; State of Montana's Department of Criminal Investigation; and the FBI.

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Saturday, March 23, 10am - 8pm
Sunday, March 24, Noon - 5pm

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East Fairview Elementary Receives Arts in Education Grant

In support of their efforts to promote community arts, East Fairview School applied for and was awarded a \$1,800 Artist-in-Residence grant by the North Dakota Council on the Arts (NDCA). East Fairview School was among 16 recipients of the most recent Artist-in-Residence grants awarded by the NDCA. This state-funded program is designed to give students and teach-

ers an understanding of quality art and an appreciation for cultural traditions through hands-on workshops and experiences. A total of \$29,420 was awarded. The grant will help to provide funds to East Fairview School for their students and staff to work with Jane Kalmbach from Kenmare, North Dakota during the week of March 11-15.

As an artist and teacher, Jane brings her knowledge and love of art to the classroom. Her goal is to provide a comfortable and inspiring workshop that will encourage students in their artistic growth, build their self-confidence, and nurture the artist in all of them. During her residency, she will combine math with art in a program that will meet the needs and interests of the students and teachers

in grades K-8. An art show for the students to share their projects with the community will be held on Friday, March 15 from 1:30 – 2:30 in the lunchroom. "We feel very fortunate to receive this grant. Living in a rural area many of our students have little exposure to the arts" says Rhonda Cayko, classroom teacher. "We hope they gain new skills and an appreciation for the arts through this experience."

The deadline for the next round of Artist-in-Residence grants is April 1, 2013. For more information, contact the Council on the Arts at 701-328-7593 or visit www.nd.gov/arts.



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Eastern MT Impact Coalition Hosting Input Session

By Ashley Harris
The Eastern MT Impact Coalition is hosting a regional input session for all 16 NE MT Counties at Miles City Community College, this Thursday and Friday, March 14-15. The event provides the opportunity to discuss the impacts of energy development to Eastern Montana as well as document any concerns. The objective is to seek planning and development input to integrate into this impact study. The information and data that is gathered will be utilized to assist in securing funding opportunities that will address infrastructure development, housing, planning, emergency services and community development. There will be three sessions, starting with 'The Big

Picture' and 'Understanding the Issues' from 9 am until 4 pm on Thursday, March 14. On Friday, March 15 from 9 am until 12 pm they will wrap up with the final session, 'Embracing the Growth'. All City and County council members, public works directors, planners, economic development, chamber of commerce and residents are invited to participate in this outreach event. PBS in Miles City will be filming the forum as a documentary, because the coalition is unique and no one else in the United States is doing the same collaboration. Please RSVP to Leslie Messer at 406-482-4679 or lmredc@midrivers.com as soon as possible.

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3rd Annual Pool Tournament March 30

Register at 10am, tournament starts at 11:30am
Limited team slots available. Call now to reserve your spot!

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Dakota West Credit Union's 72nd Annual Meeting

Thursday, March 21
Watford City High School Commons Area

**6 p.m. - Dinner
Kids' Party**

**6:45 p.m. - Jessie Veeder
Gene Veeder**

7:15 p.m. - Business



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Richland County Extension Office at 406-433-1206

STATISTICS

Lake Water Level Report

	Sakakawea	Fort Peck
Current Elevation.....	1827.3.....	2222.3
Last Week's Elev.	1827.4.....	2222.2
One Year Ago.....	1837.8.....	2234.59
Release For Day (C.F.S.).....	19,800.....	6,300

Watford City Weather Data

Source: North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Mar. 4	39	19	0.52
Mar. 5	21	10	0.10
Mar. 6	22	13	0
Mar. 7	26	14	0
Mar. 8	34	11	0
Mar. 9	31	21	T
Mar. 10	28	8	0

Sidney Weather Data

Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Mar. 4	32	13	0.00
Mar. 5	25	11	3.00
Mar. 6	31	10	0.00
Mar. 7	33	20	0.00
Mar. 8	29	14	0.00
Mar. 9	32	15	0.00
Mar. 10	40	9	0.00
Average YTD Precipitation.....			1.36

OBITUARIES

John Walker, 59, Cartwright, ND

Funeral service for John Walker, 59, of Cartwright, ND was at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, March 9, 2013 at the Zion Lutheran Church in Fairview, MT with Pastor Charlane Lines officiating. Interment was in Yellowstone Point Cemetery, Cartwright, ND under the direction of the Fulkerson Funeral Home of Sidney. Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com. John died at his home in Cartwright on Monday, March 4, 2013.

Joseph Trzinski, 55, Savage, MT

Mass of the Christian Burial for Joseph “Joe” Trzinski, 55, of Savage, MT was 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at St. Matthew’s Catholic Church with Father Ned Shinnick and Father Jim O’Neil presiding. Cremation followed the services and interment will be at a later date. Wake services were at 6:00 p.m., Monday, March 11, 2013 at the Fulkerson Funeral Memorial Chapel in Sidney. Fulkerson Funeral Home of Sidney was assisting the family with arrangements. A memorial celebration will be held in Stevens Point, Wisconsin on Saturday, March 16th. Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com. Joe died on March 7, 2013 at his home in Savage.

Maxine Hutchens, 83, Sidney, MT

Memorial service for Maxine Hutchens, 83, of Sidney, MT is at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, March 14, 2013 at the Fulkerson Memorial Chapel in Sidney, MT. Interment of cremains will be in the Evergreen Cemetery, Woods, SD. Fulkerson Funeral Home of Sidney is in care of the arrangements. Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com. Maxine died on Friday, March 8, 2013 at her home in Sidney, MT.

SEA Scholarship Due April 12

SEA Scholarship is due in the Guidance Office by April 12, 2013.

The SEA Scholarship will be awarded to at least one high school senior entering the field of education. The SEA has also decided to open up the scholarship to at least one current college sophomore or junior who is a Sidney graduate and enrolled in the field of education.

Current seniors and college students, who are interested, please contact Thom Barnhart at Sidney High School or his website for application forms. These applications are due by April 12.

Remove Permanent Fish Houses Soon

State law requires permanent fish houses to be removed from North Dakota waters by midnight March 15.

Nancy Boldt, water safety coordinator for the State Game and Fish Department, said anglers should exercise caution because mild weather conditions can quickly result in unstable ice conditions.

“It is always important to check ice thickness, as warm temperatures with a high sun will rapidly deteriorate ice conditions this time of the year,” Boldt said.

In addition, Boldt said anglers should be aware of the amount of snow on the ice. “The pressure from the weight of the snow and ice cause water to seep around shore, as well as through cracks and fishing holes,” she added. “The bottom line is that several inches of slush under fresh snow make traveling difficult because vehicles drop through the top layer and end up stuck.”

Fish houses may be used after March 15 if they are removed daily.

EVENTS

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Richland County

Events in Sidney unless otherwise listed. MT Zone.

- Thurs., Mar. 14**
12 p.m.— The Sidney Kiwanis Club meets every Thursday at noon at the Elks Lodge.
12 p.m.— Savage Senior Center will host a meal.
12:45 - 1:45 p.m. — Sidney Senior Citizen Center will be having a potluck lunch and cards. For more info. call 406-433-8077.
5 p.m. — TOPS, Crestwood NW entrance, Weigh-ins 5-5:30 p.m., Meeting 5:30-6 p.m.
6:30p.m.— Sidney Moose Lodge Pinocle games.
7 p.m. — Interfaith Community Outreach will host a Coffee Hour at the LDS Church, 1215 5th St SW.
7 p.m. — An Evening With Theodore Roosevelt at the MonDak Heritage Center. Free and open to the public.
8 p.m. — NA meeting, Millers’ Corner banquet room.
- Fri., Mar. 15**
11:30 a.m. — Sidney Senior Citizen Center will be hosting a meal. For more info call 406-433-8077.
5 p.m. - 7 p.m. — Sidney Knights of Columbus Council #3002 Fish Fry at the St. Matthew’s Parish Center, 310 7th St. S.E. The cost for adults is \$9.00.
- Sat., Mar. 16**
9 a.m. & 7p.m. — AA Group Trinity Lutheran Church Education bldg.
10 a.m. — Adult watercolor painting, \$35 to RSVP, all supplies included. Very limited space. Sign up early as spots are filling up.
10 a.m. — Gamblers Anonymous at Millers’ Corner.
- Sun., Mar. 17**
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. — Adult watercolor class at the MonDak Heritage Center. \$35 to RSVP. Sign up early as spots are filling up.
1 p.m. — Savage Senior Center will be hosting cards, coffee, and potluck at 1pm.
6:45 p.m.— Early Bird Bingo at the Moose Lodge regular bingo at 7 p.m.
7 p.m. — AA Group Trinity Lutheran Church Education bldg.
- Mon., Mar. 18**
11:30 a.m. — Sidney Senior Citizen Center will be hosting a meal. For more info call 406-433-8077.
Noon — AA Group Trinity Lutheran Church Education bldg.
5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. — Richland County Open House at the Richland County Events Center.
- Tues. Mar. 19**
7 p.m. — AA Group Trinity Lutheran Church Education bldg.
8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. — Richland County Open House (continued) at the Richland County Events Center.
- Wed., Mar. 20**
11:30a.m. - 1p.m. —The Sidney Women of the Moose will serve soup until gone.
6 p.m. - 8p.m. — Interfaith Community Outreach will host a free meal and get acquainted at the Assembly of God Church, 414 E. Main St.
7 p.m. – Beginners Square Dancing at Sidney High School, come as you are.
- McKENZIE COUNTY**
- Events in Watford City unless otherwise listed. CT Zone.
- Wed., Mar. 23**
5 p.m. - 7 p.m. — Wine Tasting at The Watford, \$10 per ticket. Located in the lobby of the hotel, 810 3rd Ave. S.W.
8 p.m.— Al-Anon, Sanford Room, McKenzie Co. Public Library.
- Thurs., Mar. 14**
8 p.m.— AA Group, Northern Pump & Compression. Call 770-3603 or 770-2675 for directions or ride.
- OTHER SURROUNDING COUNTIES**
- Thurs., Mar. 14**
7:30 p.m. — Book Club at The Missouri Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center.
- Fri., Mar. 15 & Sat., Mar. 16**
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. — Quilting at The Missouri Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center. Friday is UFO day and Saturday is Jelly Roll Race. *Jelly roll is 40 stripes at 2.5” wide fabric. Saturday is the potluck.
- Sun., Mar. 17**
3 p.m. - 5 p.m. — Concert at The Missouri Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center with D.W. Grothe who is a singer-songwriter cowboy poet, from Bainville, MT.

View all monthly events on our calendar at www.roundupweb.com.

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A Little Bit Country Corn Growers to Have New Herbicide

By Warren Froelich, NDSU Extension Agent

In recent years North Dakota crop producers have been offered at least one new active ingredient per year for weed control. For 2011 it was saflufenacil, commonly known as Sharpen. It has become a popular herbicide for use in chickpeas, field pea, small grains and other crops. Sunflower growers can use it as a harvest aid/desiccant. In 2012 Bayer released thienencarbazone. It is a relative of flucarbazone (Everest 2.0) and propoxycarbazone which is contained in Olympus and Rimfire Max. Thienencarbazone is not a stand-alone product. For wheat it was combined with bromoxynil and pyrasulfotrate giving excellent grass and broadleaf weed control.

For 2013, corn producers will have pyroxasulfone by Kumiai. It has the same mode of action as Dual and Outlook. It is a soil applied herbicide so it can be applied in the fall, early pre-plant, and pre-emergence. It will have some early post application for residential weed control. It controls many grass and broadleaf weed using less product than Dual and Outlook. The key value of this product is that it provides 6 to 10 weeks of activity. Three different companies will market pyroxasulfone. BASF will offer it under the name Zidua. Valent will market it as Fierce which will also contain Valor. FMC's product is named Anthem and also contains Cadet. Registration of pyroxasulfone is pending on soybeans but has been completed for use on corn.

Pyroxasulfone has good control on foxtails, Japanese Brome, wild oat, pigweed, lambsquarter, nightshade, velvetleaf, waterhemp, kochia, buckwheat and Russian thistle. It is weak on broadleaf weeds that have large seeds like ragweed, cocklebur, wild sunflower and marshelder.

There are some carryover restrictions. It will be okay to plant corn or soybeans the following year but there will be a

month restriction for all other crops. Once pyroxasulfone is cleared for registration on soybeans, which is expected later this year, crop rotation restrictions will be modified to be less restrictive on sugarbeets, canola, and possibly others.

Researchers at NDSU, over a 7 year period, have used rates ranging from 2 to 7 ounces of pyroxasulfone active ingredient (AI) per acre. The label on commercial products listed above will state a maximum of 4.25 ounces AI per acre so Rich Zollinger, NDSU Extension Weed Control Specialist, recommends using the highest rate allowed by the label for good, consistent control.

A downside of pyroxasulfone, anyway for western North Dakota, is the need for substantial rain to activate the herbicide. Zollinger has found multiple rain events will increase the activation. One inch or more rainfall is preferred. Zollinger indicates we could see pyroxasulfone registered on other crops including sunflower, safflower, pulses and potato.

Another new herbicide for 2013 is aminochlopyrachlor. It will be added to the previously popular herbicide named Glean. This new combination will be named Perspective. However, its registration will be for non-cropland only to control noxious and invasive weeds including leafy spurge.

USDA Encourages Producers to Enroll in Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program by March 15th

Submitted by Dan Janes

Aaron Krauter, State Executive Director of North Dakota's USDA Farm Service Agency reminds producers to purchase FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program coverage for non-insurable crops. "Crop insurance is an important risk management tool for farmers, but it's not available for all crops. That's why NAP is so important," said Krauter.

NAP is a federally funded program that provides coverage to producers for non-insurable crops when low yields, loss of inventory or prevented planting occurs due to natural

disasters. Crops eligible for NAP coverage are those for which crop insurance is not available, including fruits and vegetables, aquaculture, turf grass and forage crops.

"Producers must apply for coverage before a disaster strikes," continued Krauter. "Like regular crop insurance, once an application period closes, the opportunity to obtain coverage is passed." The application closing date for spring planted crops is March 15, 2013. In order to enroll, producers need to contact the local FSA Office where they farm.

More information about NAP and where to find your local USDA Service Center can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov.

An Evening With Theodore Roosevelt Thursday at MHC

Submitted by Benjamin L. Clark

Thursday March 14, the MonDak Heritage Center is proud to host "An Evening with Theodore Roosevelt" featuring Arch Ellwein. This event is FREE and open to the public. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

Arch Ellwein will share some of his experiences, performing as Theodore Roosevelt over the past 17 years. He will go in and out of character to discuss the 26th President of the United States and Roughrider. Memorabilia and historic TR items will be displayed and commented upon.

"... [Mr Ellwein] knows that accurate historical portrayal goes far beyond wearing the proper clothes and knowing the history - he must be able to be that person in movement, talk, gesture and feeling. Doubtlessly, there are numerous scholars who can conduct the research. Additionally, there are numerous actors who, if handed a proper script, could portray a historical figure. However, the combination of superior research and excellent acting skills is rare indeed - Arch possesses that unique combination." Mark Sundlov (former site supervisor at the Confluence).

The MonDak Heritage Center is located at 120 3rd Ave SE in Sidney, Montana. If you have further questions, please call us at (406) 433-3500.

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National Girl Scout Week

March 10-16



(L-R) Sarah T, Kaitlyn T, Shelby R



Girl Scout Junior Troop 2462: Leaders are Jody Christensen and Nicole Davidson. (L-R) Shyanne Nice, Aidan Wiese, Mo O'Mara (EMS), Christine Turek, Autumn Davidson and Hailey Christensen.



(L-R) Amy Rassier and Kayla Lake.



2nd Grade Brownie Troop 2347: Back (L-R) Aubrie Watson, KaiLeigh LaRoche, Kassadee Olson, Kendyl Wacha, Brooke Tiesen. Front (L-R) Piper Carter, Jayden Bower, Anna Allen, Emma Cundiff, Emma Doty, Lilian Jones, Stella Bush, Lily Wick. Not pictured SheaLi Seitz.

Daisy Troop 2358: (L-R) Troop Leader - Danyelle Wieland, Tacy Borg, Kinley Wieland, Madison Majeska, Rylee Mickelsen, Troop Leader - Jenna Donahue. Not pictured Caitlynn Carter, Eva Srygley, Allie Schumacher, Theresa Wick.



Amanda Herbst



Troop 2433 Cadettes



Troop 2338

Girl Scout Troop 2433 Cadettes, Front (L-R) Ariana Isaakson, Lauryn Barnhart, Danni Carpender. Back (L-R) leader Rhonda Folstad, Jocce Cundiff, Mindy Browe, and leader Jeana Barnhart. Not pictured Kiana Uran & Shamber Cohenour.

(L-R) Aurora Baker, Maci Nelson, Paityne Everett, Kara Nay, Jazmyn Sletvold, Abby Schilling.

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Montana Legislative Roundup – Week 9

By Amy R. Sisk,
Community News Service,
UM School of Journalism

A panel of lawmakers is set to vote on the state's budget this week after three days of public testimony on the best way to spend more than \$9 billion over the next two years.

"I think that we've made great progress," Dan Villa, the governor's budget director, told the House Appropriations Committee last week. "I don't think I've ever seen an executive and legislative branch be this close this quickly in the process."

At the moment, the governor's requested budget and House Bill 2, the Republican-led appropriation subcommittees' proposal, differ by about 1 percent.

The money in HB 2 comes from many sources, including \$3.6 billion from the state's discretionary cashbox: the general fund. It does not include all spending, though. Such things as potential raises for state employees or money to fund construction projects at colleges across Montana are contained in other bills.

There's still plenty of opportunity to make changes, and the budget isn't likely to be adopted until the session's end. Meanwhile, expect debates over restoring federal money to family planning programs and additional funding for a universal enrollment system and improved veterans' services on college campuses.

After clearing the appropriations committee, HB 2 goes to the House floor. The budget must then pass the Senate – and any differences nailed out in a conference committee – before reaching the governor's desk for his signature.

Here's a look back at other highlights from the ninth week of the Legislature:

Fees and taxes in the Bakken

Lawmakers have one more proposal to consider as they juggle a number of bills aimed at addressing infrastructure needs in cities affected by the oil boom.

House Bill 452, sponsored by Rep. Rob Cook, R-Conrad, would allow cities to impose a \$5-per-night fee on lodging, to be used to deal with impacts of the boom.

Glendive Mayor Jerry Jimison said his city plans to spend more than \$33 million over the next few years on sewage treatment and upgrades to a water plant. He added that other community services have also felt the effects of an ever-increasing population, including the courts, which have seen a 45 percent jump in cases over the past two years.

He urged legislators to pass several of the Bakken-related bills, not just HB 452.

"It's not the final solution by any means," Jimison said. "This would be one step forward of many that we would have to take in order to provide all of the services and infrastructure that is needed."

Members of the Montana Lodging and Hospitality Association opposed the bill, saying it fails to consider that travelers spend most of their money in retail, gas and restaurants.

"You can call it a fee, you can call it an assessment, but you are imposing a new tax on the small business lodging properties of this state," said Sandra Johnson Thares, who heads the group's board of directors.

In other Bakken news, the Senate Taxation Committee heard testimony on Senate Bill 295. The proposal, sponsored by Rep. Christine Kaufmann, D-Helena, would end the 12- to 18-month tax holiday on oil production. Half the new revenue would support communities affected by the boom, and the remainder would go to a renewable resources trust fund.

Petroleum industry lobbyists opposed the bill, arguing that it would discourage drilling in Montana and isolate oil exploration efforts to North Dakota.

Health care

A bill to create a health care database has passed an initial vote in the House.

The House last week endorsed House Bill 489, sponsored by House Minority Leader Chuck Hunter, D-Helena, on a 54-46 vote. The measure was referred to a committee for further study before returning to the floor for a final vote.

Hunter said his bill would provide transparency regarding health care costs and could even result in lower prices. The database

would collect claims information and other data determined by a board of directors.

Legislators who voted against the measure cited privacy concerns over data collection and suggested that private businesses are best equipped to create the database, not the government.

Lawmakers in the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee also heard testimony on another health care measure. House Bill 280, sponsored by Rep. Cary Smith, R-Billings, would allow out-of-state health insurance providers to offer coverage in Montana.

Smith argued that the bill would reduce health care costs and give individuals greater flexibility in choosing insurance plans that meet their needs. He said the state requires that insurance policies cover a number of services like certain cancer screenings or autism treatments, which might not apply to everyone with that plan. Those people should have other options, he said.

Opponents from the Montana Nurses Association argued that by allowing people to choose plans without those state-imposed mandates, the Legislature would effectively be removing provisions it had already deemed necessary for quality care. The Montana Women's Lobby said that could open the floodgates to unequal coverage of men and women.

Parks and rec

The state's Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission oversees Montana's parks and recreation areas, but that could change under a bill before the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

House Bill 24, sponsored by Rep. Duane Ankney, R-Colstrip, would establish a separate five-person state parks and recreation board. Ankney said bison and wolf management take up most of the commission's time, and a separate board could better address parks and recreation issues.

One person spoke in opposition to the bill, citing concern over the availability of money to fund a separate board.

Raw milk

Small dairy farmers from around the state drove to the Capitol last week to support a bill that would allow small farmers to sell raw milk.

House Bill 574, sponsored by Rep. Champ Edmunds, would allow mem-

bers of the public to reap health benefits from raw milk, argued the measure's supporters. Under current law, farmers can consume raw milk from their own cows but they cannot sell it to others.

Opponents said raw milk could lead to food-borne

illnesses, and the state's entire dairy industry could suffer should an outbreak occur.

Reporter Amy Sisk can be reached at amy.sisk@umontana.edu. Follow @amysisk on Twitter for the latest from the Capitol.

Become an Energy Corps Host Site

Submitted by Kaleena Miller

Is your organization working on sustainability issues, and does it need help reaching out to clients and other community members? Energy Corps may be part of the solution. It is a national program developed and managed by the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) that uses AmeriCorps members to provide hands-on energy assistance, energy education, and community recycling and other sustainability planning, to help communities.

Host site opportunities are available in Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Pennsylvania and Texas. Energy Corps members can work on a wide range of energy and sustainability projects for Community Action Agencies, NGOs, and local and state governments.

Serving as an Energy Corps AmeriCorps host site provides a unique opportunity to improve organizational and community capacity to address local energy needs. The Energy Corps also provides members with hands-on training and skills development to pursue a career in a green-collar workforce.

"We tackle the energy needs of low-income, senior, minority and other disadvantaged groups at the grassroots level. The program promotes sustainable energy consumption and education, fosters community sustainability and helps to mitigate the effects of global climate change," said Kaleena Miller, NCAT staff member and Energy Corps Project Director. "Energy Corps members serve for a year with their host organizations, and are energetic, committed and passionate

about changing the world. They get things done."

Energy Corps members can assist organizations by providing hands-on assistance, including weatherization and conservation activities; energy assessments, audits and consultations, and alternative and renewable energy activities. Members can also conduct educational presentations, and offer events and trainings in energy efficient and environmentally conscious practices.

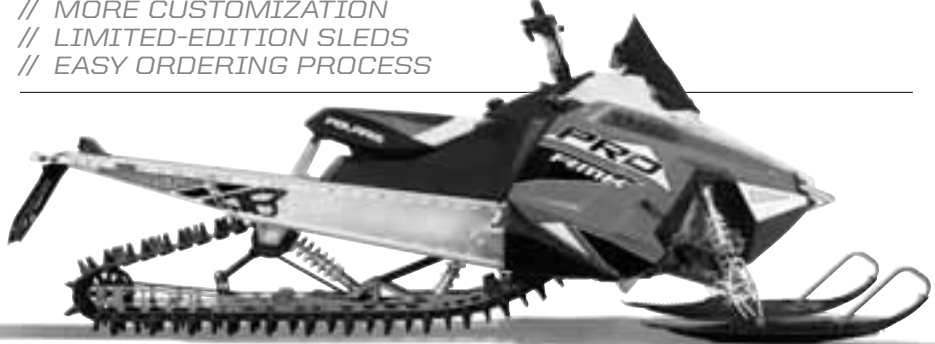
Since the program's inception in 2009, more than 5,200 individuals have received hands-on energy efficiency assistance from members, and members have educated more than 18,000 individuals about energy and sustainability. Ninety-eight individuals have served as Energy Corps AmeriCorps members over the past three years.

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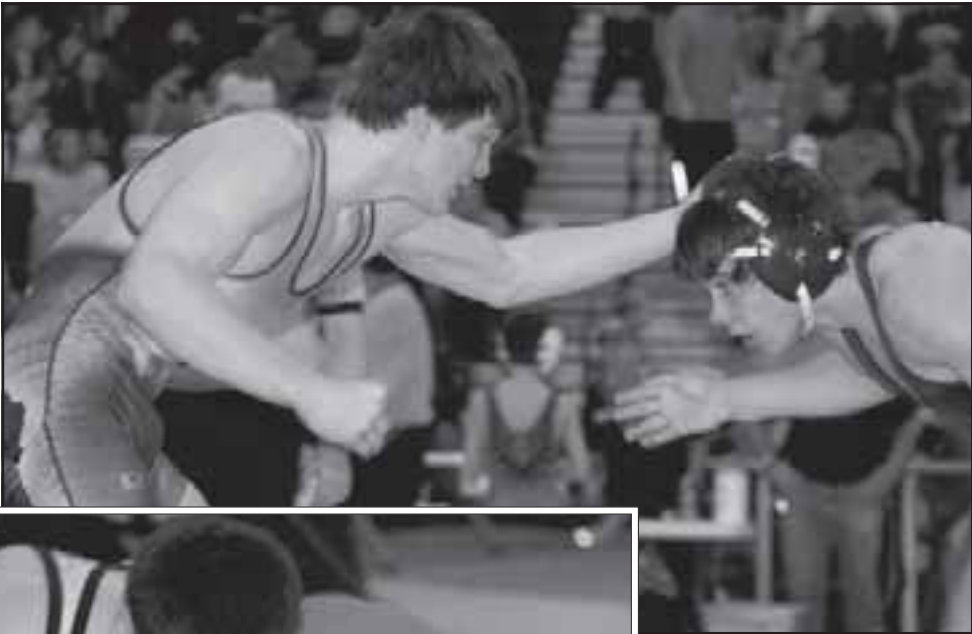
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Sidney Wrestling Action

Right: Sidney wrestler Cody Christian (left) looks for a take down during Sunday's wrestling action.

Below: Sidney's Ethan Graves battles his opponent at the Montana AAU state folkstyle tournament.



The Sidney Wrestling Club attended the 2013 Montana AAU State Folkstyle Wrestling Tournament last weekend. Wrestling action began on Friday, March 8th and concluded on March 10th. The Sidney wrestlers earned 1st place in the medium team. (Photos by Lisa Gorder)



Sidney's Brady Gorder works during the semi-finals match. Gorder placed 3rd at the State Folkstyle.



Gresh Jones gets control of Landon Bailey of Helena. Jones took 1st, winning the title of 2013 Montana AAU State Folkstyle Champion.



Sidney's Zander Dean gets a pin. Dean placed 2nd at the AAU State Folkstyle tournament.



Sidney's Waylon VanBuren (top) works to turn his opponent.

State AAU Folkstyle Results

The Sidney Wrestling Club traveled to Great Falls this weekend for the State AAU Folkstyle Tournament. The team had 43 wrestlers compete and 19 placers. The team won the Medium Team trophy with 109 points followed by Colstrip with 92. The following wrestlers placed:
Bantam 55 - Zander Dean 2nd, Bantam 75 - Chace Waters 3rd, Novice 85 - Jett Jones 5th, Novice 140 - Keelen Geiser 3rd, SchoolBoy 90 - Jace Winters 4th
SchoolBoy 110 - Waylon Van Buren 3rd & Jace Johnson 5th, Cadet 113 - Trace Jones 2nd, Cadet 120 - Ethan Graves 2nd, Cadet 126 - Brady Gorder 3rd, Cadet 145 - Ryan Chatterton 2nd, Cadet 152 - Cody Johnson 1st, Cadet 170 - Cody Christian 1st, Cadet 182 - Garret Leland 6th, Elite 126 - Gresh Jones 1st, Elite 152 - Braydn Rooks 5th, Jordan Stevens 6th Injury default, Elite 182 - Dace Fisher 1st , Elite HWT - Cristain Gomez 1st

TRENTON INDIAN SERVICE AREA GENERAL ELECTION April 2, 2013

The 2013 General Election for one Chairperson-at-Large with term expiring in April 2017 and one District Candidate in each of Districts I, II and III with terms expiring April 2017 will be held on April 2, 2013. There will also be a referendum ballot to vote on issues pertaining to the members of Trenton Indian Service Area. The polls will open at 10:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. (local time).

POLLING PLACES:

District I	Williams County Courthouse—Williston
District II	Trenton Indian Service Area—Trenton
District III	VFW Hall—Bainville

CANDIDATES:

<u>Chairperson</u>	<u>District I</u>	<u>District II</u>	<u>District III</u>
Henry "Chig" LaDue Tony Moran, Sr.	Rose Wright Bill Falcon	Shane Moran Lester "Chum" LaDue Gordon Falcon David McKenzie	Kaye Tufton Duane Rabbe

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST:

Those voters unable or temporary absent for the Special Election may request an Absentee Ballot in writing. The deadline date to request an Absentee ballot is March 22, 2013. This is being done to give "...the voter sufficient time to permit the voter to execute and return the absentee ballot through the US Postal Service on or before the date of the election." All absentee ballots will be counted after all other ballots have been counted after polls close. To request an Absentee Ballot, please write to:
Cheryl Donovan
P.O. Box 302
Trenton, North Dakota 58853

CANDIDATE WATCHERS:

Deadline for candidates to submit a list of watchers to the Election Board is March 22, 2013. This will ensure a fair and orderly election pursuant to the Election Code "...Each candidate shall be entitled to have a watcher at the polls and the tallying, but such watcher shall in no way interfere with the conduct of the election." The counting of ballots will be held in the TISA Boardroom after all polls close. The Election Board, Administrative Counsel, and Candidate Watchers will be present at counting. The public will be invited for the certification of the Election after the counting.

ELECTION BOARD MEMBERS:

Chairman	Cheryl Donovan
District I Inspector	Rhonda Grimmer
District II Inspector	Corrine Johnson
District III Inspector	Connie Erickson

Knights of Columbus Fish Dinner



Each Lent, Knights of Columbus Council #3002 serves fish dinners on Fridays at St. Matthew's multi-purpose room from 5 to 7 PM. An average of 200 people are served as the community gathers for a tasty meal and fellowship. Pictured are (L-R) K of C cooks Steve Schwindt, Richard Fink, Joshua LaRoche and Mark Brodhead. (Submitted by Janet Martineau)



The ladies of Catholic Daughter Court Mother Cabrini #1766 assist by cleaning tables and serving beverages. Pictured (L-R) are: Janet Martineau, Marlene Reitz, Tammy Lake, Carolyn Hammer, Deb Mayers-Rassier and Colleen Haralson.

Sidney High School Winter Sports 2013 Academic All-State

Each of the following letter winning student/athletes at Sidney High School maintained a minimum 3.5 grade point average during the recently completed winter sports season.

Freshmen

Cade Strasheim-BBB, LaTasha Wieferich-GBB

Sophomores

Brady Bell-BBB, Kory Halvorson-BBB, Adam Lake-BBB, Kortney Mayer-GBB, Hailey Steinbeisser-GBB, Logan Thiel-BBB

Juniors

Paul Brannan-BBB, Dace Fisher-Wrestling, Luke Montgomery-BBB, Colin Moran-BBB, Rylee Peterson-BBB, Lexi Prevost-GBB

Seniors

Colton Moran-BBB, Ryder Peterson-Wrestling, Krista Steinbeisser-GBB, Morgan Thiel-GBB

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Sidney Level 8 Gymnast Competes in Missoula

Sidney Gymnastics Level 8, Amanda Deegan competed at the Miso Magical Meet, March 9th, in Missoula. Amanda's scores are as follows: Vault 8.350, Bars 8.7, Beam 9.275, Floor 8.9, All Around 35.225. Amanda placed 1st on bars & beam, 3rd on vault & floor and 1st place all around. Amanda also took Grand Champion with her 9.275 beam routine.

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New ROI Sensory Room

Jamey Weber is seated in the sensory room at ROI's Peer Group Home. A sensory room is used to explore and develop senses and skills by having many sensory items within close proximity. This room is dedicated in memory of Jamey's brother, Marcus Weber, and was funded by memorial donations given to Richland Opportunities, Inc. The room is a celebration of Marcus' life and used by Jamey and roommates. ROI is thankful for Marcus and Jamey's parents, Mike and Rosemary, and those who donated for the sensory room. (Photo courtesy of Cindy Eleson)



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Sidney Ballers Finish 1st

Pictured here is the Sidney – Seitz Insurance team that finished 1st place and were the champions of the 7th grade boys division at this past weekend's Mikoshika (Glendive) Basketball Tournament. Front Row (Left to right): Garrison Hughes, Trent Desjarlais, Kolby Watterson. Back Row (Left to right): Dan Peters (coach), Alec Lovegren, Max Peters, Conner Larson, Jerry Hughes (coach). (Submitted by Dan Peters)

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Time to Schedule Your Annual Water Well Checkup

Submitted by Rebecca Colnar

Just as you check your furnace or smoke detector batteries seasonally, spring is a good season to have an annual water well checkup before the peak water use season begins, according to the National Ground Water Association. NGWA calls attention to the need for annual well water checkups during Groundwater Awareness Week (March 10-16).

An annual checkup by a qualified water well contractor is the best way to ensure problem-free service and

quality water.

Preventative maintenance usually is less costly than emergency maintenance, and good well maintenance like good car maintenance can prolong the life of your well and related equipment. NGWA further recommends you test your water whenever there is a change in taste, odor, or appearance, or when the system is serviced.

“Montana Farm Bureau follows all water issues closely and having clean groundwater and well water is essential for everyone,”

says John Youngberg, MFBF’s water policy expert. “Many of our members live in rural areas and depend on well water for all of their water needs. It’s critical that they play a part in keeping their water source clean and have their wells checked regularly for bacteria or harmful minerals.”

Wells can provide high-quality drinking water, and about half the U.S. population receives its drinking water from wells. But with well ownership comes the responsibility of keeping the water well in good working order. A check of your well by a qualified water well contractor may include:

A flow test to determine system output, along with a check of the water level before and during pumping (if possible), pump motor performance (check amp load, grounding and line voltage), pressure tank and pressure switch contact and general water quality (odor, cloudiness, etc.).

A well equipment inspection to assure it’s sani-

tary and meets local code.

A test of your water for coliform bacteria and nitrates, and anything else of local concern. Other typical additional tests are those for iron, manganese, water hardness, sulfides and other water constituents that cause problems with plumbing, staining, water appearance and odor.

It is also recommended that well owners:

Keep hazardous chemicals, such as paint, fertilizer, pesticides and motor oil far away from wells, and maintain a “clean” zone of at least 50 feet between your well and any kennels and live-

stock operations.

Maintain proper separation between your well and buildings, waste systems and chemical storage areas.

Periodically check the well cover or well cap on top of the casing (well) to ensure it is in good repair and securely attached. Its seal should keep out insects and rodents.

Keep your well records in a safe place. These include the construction report, and annual water well system maintenance and water testing results.

Visit www.ngwa.org or www.wellowner.org for more information.

Antibiotics Remain Important for Animal and Public Health

Submitted by Rebecca Colnar

The American Farm Bureau Federation and other members of the Coalition for Animal Health hosted an educational briefing for congressional staff on meat production, public health and the importance of antibiotics. The briefing focused on helping legislators understand how and why farmers and ranchers use antibiotics.

Presenters included Dr. Scott Hurd, a veterinarian and epidemiologist at Iowa State University; Dr. Christine Hoang with the American Veterinary Medical Association; and Dr. Rich Carnevale from the Animal Health Institute.

The risk to humans is negligible due to on-farm antibiotic use, Hurd said, citing numerous peer-reviewed scientific assessments that have failed to demonstrate any detectable risk treatment failure in humans caused by on-farm antibiotic use in animals. Failure to prevent or treat illness causes unnecessary animal suffering and death, Hurd pointed out.

Montana Farm Bureau Federation Animal Health Committee Chair Beth Blevins, DVM, explains, “On the farm, antibiotics are primarily given to animals that are sick or for the prevention of sickness. Farmers can’t afford to treat animals unnecessarily. Research conducted before the antibiotic is for sale determines how long the antibiotic is in the meat and milk. Farmers follow that information, not selling an animal for consumption until it is past the withdrawal time, which is the amount of time for the antibiotic to be out of the animal’s system as determined by careful research. Drugs are licensed for use in this country only after the methods are carefully examined and approved. After the withdrawal time, the antibiotic is gone from the animal’s system. Farmers must sign a paper at the auction yard where animals are sold stating the farmer will only sell animals that have gone through the withdrawal time if any drugs were given.”

Farmers and veterinarians are working together to manage potential hazards, with the goal of producing a safe and wholesome food supply, protecting public health and preserving antibiotics for use by future generations.

Commenting on several bacteria of concern to the Infectious Disease Society, Hurd said most, including Staphylococcus (MRSA), Streptococcus pneumoniae and drug-resistant tuberculosis, are not foodborne infections or related in any way to food-producing animals.

“Concern over resistance in bacteria being passed from food animals to people is a conjecture,” says Blevins. “No research has been done demonstrating how this happens. The demonstrable methods of encouraging antibiotic resistance is either people taking antibiotics for viral infections (viruses are not affected by antibiotics) or people taking only part of an antibiotic prescription instead of the entire course, meaning the bacteria left when the person stopped taking the antibiotics are those bacteria with the resistance to the antibiotic. Those bacteria quickly multiply and may spread the resistance they had to the other bacteria.”

“Responsible antibiotic use is often the best choice to treat sick animals, as well as to prevent animals from getting sick or suffering. Montana Farm Bureau supports science-based, peer reviewed programs that are designed and monitored by veterinarians and animal care experts,” Blevins concluded.

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Annual meeting to commence at 6:30

The board positions of Phil Fink and Jeff Johnson are up. Anyone is eligible to run regardless of what district you reside in. Phil has decided not to run for reelection. Russ Larson and Craig Johnson are on the nominating committee so please contact them if you are interested in these positions.

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Session Watchers Predict Battles Over Tax Cuts, Schools, Medicaid

By Amy R. Sisk, Community News Service, UM School of Journalist

Although he's no longer Speaker of the House, former Montana Republican legislator Mike Milburn pays close attention to what's happening in the statehouse from his farm near Cascade.

So far, he has noticed a lot of talk about fiscal responsibility. Contentious debates over issues like workers' compensation, nullifying federal laws and medical marijuana were commonplace in the Capitol two years ago.

"Last session, we were a little more policy driven," Milburn said. "What they are looking at (this session) is balancing the budget, keeping taxes low and keeping regulations low."

Both the House and Senate have passed bills to reduce the property tax on equipment for small businesses. During the remainder of the session, lawmakers must decide the best way to move forward on the two proposals.

Legislators have also looked at several ideas to reduce the tax burden on property owners. After having cleared the House, the Senate will now consider a measure to lower property taxes by more than \$50 million per year statewide.

Carol Williams, a Democrat from Missoula who served as last session's Senate Minority Leader, agrees that the focus in 2013 is on fiscal affairs. Moving forward, she anticipates debates over the state's budget.

With a more than \$400 million surplus this session, she said arguments for cuts to health care, social service and education programs hold less validity than they did during the 2011 Legislature. She's watching to see where spending priorities fall this time.

"We have money in the bank, and I'm going to be interested to see if the Republicans are going to fund infrastructure issues in eastern Montana," Williams said.

The mayor of Sidney has already seen several proposals fall by the wayside, so he's hoping lawmakers will give a green light to other ideas, including redirecting federal mineral royalties to towns in the Bakken, establishing a tax on beds in motels and man camps, and providing a direct allocation

in the state budget to towns affected by oil activity.

That money would help cover new water and sewage systems, but Mayor Bret Smelser said his city also needs funding for more police officers and equipment to fight fires.

"I'm pretty positive we will get some kind of results," Smelser said. "But will they be enough, and will they be timely enough?"

As lawmakers discuss what to do about infrastructure, they will also debate other spending measures, including state employee pay, construction projects at colleges, expanding Medicaid and funding public education.

Eric Feaver, president of the MEA-MFT teacher's union, called the Senate's approval of a major education funding bill "a very positive sign," but he expects a tough battle in the House over the \$120 million in additional money it proposes to send to schools.

The bill, sponsored by a Republican senator, drew votes from both parties, including all Democrats and 12 Republicans. Feaver said the vote showed the divide between Republican leaders in the Senate, who voted against the measure, and more moderate members of

their party.

"This bill did not cause the divide," he said. "This just happens to be the biggest bill that has hit the floor."

He expects to see the split reveal itself again during the second half of the session as the Senate debates the state's budget and other fiscal measures.

Williams said the divide could help ensure that other moderate Republican ideas supported by Democrats pass out of the Senate.

Despite the attention on fiscal affairs, advocates for social issues continue to debate bills on school choice, guns, abortion and gay rights.

"The social issues actually drive the fiscal issues," said Jeff Laszloffy, president of the Montana Family Foundation. "Whenever you have anything on the social side that leads to a weakening or a breaking down of family structure (it) always shows up on the fiscal side in terms of welfare, incarceration rates or medical expenses."

Many of the bills his organization supports have received approval from either the House or Senate. Those include measures to provide tax credits to families whose children attend private school, to require parental consent for minors seeking

abortions and to criminalize assaults on pregnant women that result in the death of an unborn child.

Laszloffy hopes the governor will sign those bills. If that doesn't happen, he said he will support efforts to send some of those measures directly to voters.

On issues like gay rights, Montana Human Rights Network lobbyist Jamee Greer said the rhetoric this session is less hateful than two years ago. Even so, he said he feels there hasn't been ample time devoted to hearings on measures like House Bill 481, which would prohibit discrimination on the basis of

gender identity and sexual orientation. The bill failed after a brief hearing in the House Judiciary Committee.

"We know that not every bill is going to get five hours," Greer said. "But when you're talking about basic human rights, 15 minutes is a little extreme."

With the second half of the session here, Greer said much of his work will focus on the budget and effort to expand Medicaid coverage to low-income Montanans.

Lobbyists and lawmakers alike are gearing up for battles over fiscal matters before the Legislature adjourns on April 27.

Milburn, for one, awaits

the push on those issues from the governor's office.

Williams predicted that Republicans will be able to work with the new governor, although ideological differences will likely show themselves toward the end of the session.

One thing's for certain as the session heats up: Just like those who walk the halls of the statehouse every day, people from Missoula to Sidney know what's at stake, and they're keeping a close eye on Helena.

Reporter Amy Sisk can be reached at amy.sisk@umontana.edu. Follow @amysisk on Twitter for the latest from the Capitol.

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Workshop On Managing Urban Insects Set For March 19

Submitted by Linnea Skoglund

A one-day workshop on managing insect pests in urban landscapes will be held Tuesday, March 19, in Bozeman.

Organized by the Montana State University Urban IPM program, the workshop will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express, 2305 Catron St. Cost is \$60, which covers lunch and snacks.

Participants will learn about beneficial insects, such as bees and wasps, natural enemies, and pesticides along with how gardening practices influence insects. Featured speaker will be Whitney Cranshaw, professor of entomology at Colorado State University and author of "Insects and Diseases of Woody Plants," "Pests of the West" and hundreds of articles in scientific journals and the popular press.

The program is designed for landscape professionals and those interested in insects and mites affecting landscapes and small acreage. Continuing education credits will be available for Certified Urban IPM Practitioners and commercial pesticide applicators. Participants in the Urban IPM Certification Program may register on the web at <http://www.urbanipm.org>

Pre-registration is required since the class is limited to 60 participants. Checks should be made out to Montana State University and sent to Linnea Skoglund, 121 Plant BioScience Building, Bozeman, MT 59717-3150.

Classy Deadline 12 p.m. Monday
Hours: Mon. - Fri.
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Tues., Mar. 19: Waffles, sausage links, hashbrowns, applesauce.

Wed., Mar. 20: Hamburger gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, peaches, hot rolls.

Richey Schools

Thurs., Mar. 14: BBQ pork nuggets, green beans, fruit cocktail.

Fri., Mar. 15: Hot pockets and salad bar.

Mon., Mar. 18: Egg rolls, sweet & sour chicken, chinese veggies, oranges.

Tues., Mar. 19: Pork riblet, potato wedges, corn & peaches.

Wed., Mar. 20: Super salad bar.

E. Fairview School

Thurs., Mar. 14: Baked chicken, rice, carrots, peaches, bun.

Fri., Mar. 15: Fish patty, potato wedges, green beans, cantaloupe, bun.

Mon., Mar. 18: Chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, carrots, pears, bun.

Tues., Mar. 19: Hot ham & cheese, buttered pasta, salad, grapes.

Wed., Mar. 20: Turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, strawberry/banana.

Fairview School

Thurs., Mar. 14: Hot dogs, chips, carrots, mixed.

Fri., Mar. 15: Taco burger, potato, raw veggies, apples.

Mon., Mar. 18: Cheeseburger, potato, green beans, pears.

Tues., Mar. 19: Baked potato bar, cream corn, oranges, bun.

Wed., Mar. 20: Cowboy beans, carrots, mixed fruit, bread.

Savage School

Thurs., Mar. 14: Chicken strips, calico fries, jello, peaches.

Fri., Mar. 15: Chicken pot pie, mandarin oranges, fresh veggies, bread.

Mon., Mar. 18: Beef fritters, mac & cheese, fresh veggies, peaches.

Tues., Mar. 19: Chicken alfredo, broccoli/peas, pears, dessert.

Wed., Mar. 20: Taco soup, cheese sticks, breadsticks, pineapple.

Lambert School

Thurs., Mar. 14: Hot ham & cheese, chips, fresh fruit.

Fri., Mar. 15: Soup day

Mon., Mar. 18: Chicken pot pie, salad, buns, apricots.

Tues., Mar. 19: Egg rolls, rice, stir-fry veggies, pineapple, fortune cookie.

Wed., Mar. 20: Chicken ala King, salad, peaches.

Culbertson School

Thurs., Mar. 14: Chicken strips, french fries, pears.

Fri., Mar. 15: Pizza, lettuce salad, pineapple tidbits.

Mon., Mar. 18: Shephard's pie, biscuits, fruit cocktail.

Tues., Mar. 19: Chicken Cordon Bleu, french fries, peaches.

Wed., Mar. 20: Taco salad in a bowl, corn salsa, apricots.

Bainville School

Thurs., Mar. 14: Homeade beef burritos, chuckwagon corn, grapes.

Fri., Mar. 15: Tuna salad croissant or PB&J, chips, fruit cup.

Mon., Mar. 18: Fish, potatoes, green beans, peach cup.

Tues., Mar. 19: Cheeseburger chowder, soup, bread, PB&J, fruit.

Wed., Mar. 20: Easter Dinner

Rau School

Thurs., Mar. 14: Tuna casserole, peas & carrots, applesauce, bread.

Fri., Mar. 15: PB&J, veggies, fruit.

Mon., Mar. 18: Chicken sandwich, scalloped potatoes, mixed veggies, fruit.

Tues., Mar. 19: Beef stroganoff, green beans, peaches, breadstick.

Wed., Mar. 20: Cook's choice



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Words: Holy Things and Deception

Submitted by Pastor Jay Reinke
Concordia Lutheran Church, Williston

Words. They're a God thing. And they're a human thing. Think about it. How did God create the world? By the power of His word. He spoke, "Let there be," and there was. And what is the one biological creature He created that has the ability to speak words? Only human beings.

Words are God's domain, and because He created us to bear His image, He has made words our domain. He has given us the capacity to speak. Words.

Enter Satan. Jesus describes Satan as "the father of lies." And what does a liar do? He uses words to do something God cannot do. A liar uses words to hide the truth.

Sometimes a liar is bold, and simply speaks a falsehood. But if he's clever, he lies by speaking old words to which he assigns new meanings. And if he repeats such error over and over again, he imbeds the lie in the hearts and minds of people who hear those words and don't even realize that they've come to believe a lie.

Lies aren't just about religious things. Lies are spoken all the time, even in non-religious discussions. If you're the new Miss America, for example, when you are asked about whether or not schools should provide armed guards to protect school children, you answer the question by misusing a word, thereby speaking a lie: "I don't think the proper way to fight violence is with violence."

People can disagree with school boards that permit teachers or school staff to carry guns in order to protect school children from danger, but to call such protection "violence" is to speak a lie. Police officers carry guns. They are not thereby being violent. They carry guns to serve and protect others. Parents who want teachers to carry concealed weapons are not advocates of violence. They merely want teachers equipped to serve and protect their children from violence.

Miss America wasn't trying to lie, but because she'd heard others mistakenly (but often deliberately) redefine an old word, "violence," by giving it a new meaning, "carrying a gun," her words actually hid the truth and perpetrated a lie.

But it gets worse. Words that lie aren't just spoken in our world. They are also spoken in the Church. Sometimes such lies are full-throttle, like "Evolution and the Bible are compatible." A lie.

But sometimes lies in the Church are subtle. Like Miss America, those who tell such lies do so unknowingly, using familiar Christian words with meanings that have been

changed. The Christian Church exists to confess the One who came from heaven, the One who gave Himself on a cross, on which He was declared to be sin by His Father and thereby bear the curse of sin—death—upon Himself. By speaking this word about Jesus, the Christian Church leads sinners to faith in Jesus Christ, through which God delivers those sinners from the kingdom of lies, Satan's domain, to God's own kingdom of truth and life.

Such a deliverance, where words of truth bring life to sinners, is an act of God's grace. But make no mistake. The Church's message, based on the testimony of the apostles and prophets, is that this grace is only delivered through faith in Jesus Christ.

And here is where Satan can work His ploy in the Church. The old "lets use old words with new meanings" father of lies whispers "Did God really say" in the Church.

When you hear a familiar phrase like "God's grace," is it defined as "God's mercy, given for the sake of the One who became sin for us on the cross," or is "grace" merely used to describe a kinder, more tolerant God? That change in the meaning of "grace" makes the old word a new lie.

When you hear the word "gospel," is it defined as "The good news of Christ's obedience to His Father, to receive sin's curse upon Himself on the cross for us," or is "gospel" defined as "Our commitment to serve God and to live for Him"? Though well-intended, such a change in the meaning redefines "gospel" to be a word about us, not about Christ, and makes the old word a new lie.

Words. They're a God thing. And they're a human thing. But be warned. They are also a Satan thing. Received from God, defined in Christ, His words bring life. Misused, that is, defined apart from Christ and His cross, those old words lie and hide the life Christ came to bring.

May you know His word, His words in Christ, today and forever. He is faithful. And His word is truth.

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DPHHS Encourages Montanans To Learn The Signs And Symptoms Of Cardiovascular Disease

Submitted by Jon Ebelt

The Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is encouraging Montanans to become vigilant about learning the signs and symptoms of heart attack and stroke during national Heart Health Month in February.

DPHHS officials say that taking steps to learn about cardiovascular disease and the need to take immediate action by calling 9-11 can save lives.

According to DPHHS Director Richard Oppen, cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in Montana. "Chances are you know someone who has been affected by cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke," Oppen said. "Awareness of this issue and its risk factors goes a long ways in possibly preventing a heart attack or stroke."

One major risk factor for cardiovascular disease is high blood pressure or hypertension. About 1 in 3 adults has high blood pressure. High blood pressure is called the 'silent killer' because often there are no warning signs or symptoms so people may not be aware they have it. "Once you're diagnosed with high blood pressure, staying active, eating a healthy diet, taking your medications as prescribed and checking your blood pressure regularly are important to help manage it," said Linda Krantz of the Cardiovascular Health Program.

A doctor or nurse can measure your blood pressure, or you can use a home monitoring device, Krantz advises. "Your worksite may have an automated cuff available for employees to check their blood pressure at work," Krantz said. In Helena, for example, there is an automated cuff available in the Capitol Rotunda year-round.

Tobacco use is also a major risk factor for heart disease, stroke and many other negative health outcomes. For help to quit, contact the Montana Quit Line at 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669). This service is free to Montanans.



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Salute To Agriculture

National Ag Week
March 17-23, 2013



March 19

**Special
Section**

"Generations Nourishing Generations"

By Ashley Harris

Founded in 1973, National Ag Day will celebrate its 40th anniversary this year. The country will celebrate Ag Week March 17-23, with Ag Day being held March 19th.

There are many different groups throughout America that join together to recognize and celebrate agriculture and all that it provides. In honor of the 40th anniversary, they are taking a look at the past of agriculture with the theme "Generations Nourishing Generations."

Ag Day encourages everyone to see the major role agriculture plays in maintaining a strong economy and providing safe, abundant and affordable products. If you

think about the basics of what things are made of, it comes back to agriculture. Too many people don't realize that agriculture provides almost everything they eat, use and wear in their daily lives, especially school aged children. Unlike in this area, many kids from around the country are not exposed to agriculture at all.

While promoting Ag Day, the Agriculture Council of America is "encouraging young people to consider career opportunities in agriculture."

Most people, when they think of a career in Ag, picture working on a farm or ranch, but in reality only 10% of Americans are involved in farming. Unlike agriculture

years ago, today there are more than 200 different related careers employing approximately 22 million people in the agricultural field.

According to agday.org, "Each American farmer feeds more than 144 people, a dramatic increase from 25 people in the 1960's." At that time, most Americans were involved in, or knew someone involved in agriculture. Today, however, that is not the case. As the population grows, the demand for food and fiber increases which makes agriculture more important than ever.

So on March 19th, let ag producers know you appreciate them. After all, they do supply you with the necessities, of life.

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David Hardy Wins Valley John Deere Gator

It's not quite the same as winning a new car, but it's pretty close. Valley Irrigation, whose products are sold at Agri-Industries in Sidney and Williston, recently had a promotion that would give away four new John Deere Gators. Every customer throughout the country was entered in once for each pivot they purchased.

David Hardy of Fairview was one of the lucky winners, even though there were thousands of entries. Until he got the phone call, he had no idea there was even a promotion going on. Hardy stated that he loves the John Deere Gators because the space between the tires "just happens to fit my row spacing."

Hardy started installing irrigation systems in his fields in 1991 and now has 2100 acres of pivot irrigation. Although he still has 850 acres of flood irrigation, he plans to eventually be totally mechanized.



Valley Irrigation Gave Away Four John Deere Gators

Above: Pictured from L to R include: Mike Boyd, North Central Manager for Valmont Irrigation; David Hardy, winner of the John Deere Gator; Lee Candee, Agri-Industries Sidney Manager; and Mike Ames, owner of Agri-Industries. Pictured top right: (L) Mike Boyd, North Central Manager for Valmont Irrigation, shakes hands with winner David Hardy after handing over the keys to the John Deere Gator. Bottom right: David Hardy checking out the John Deere Gator he won from Valley Irrigation during their recent promotion.



We salute our area Farmers & Ranchers

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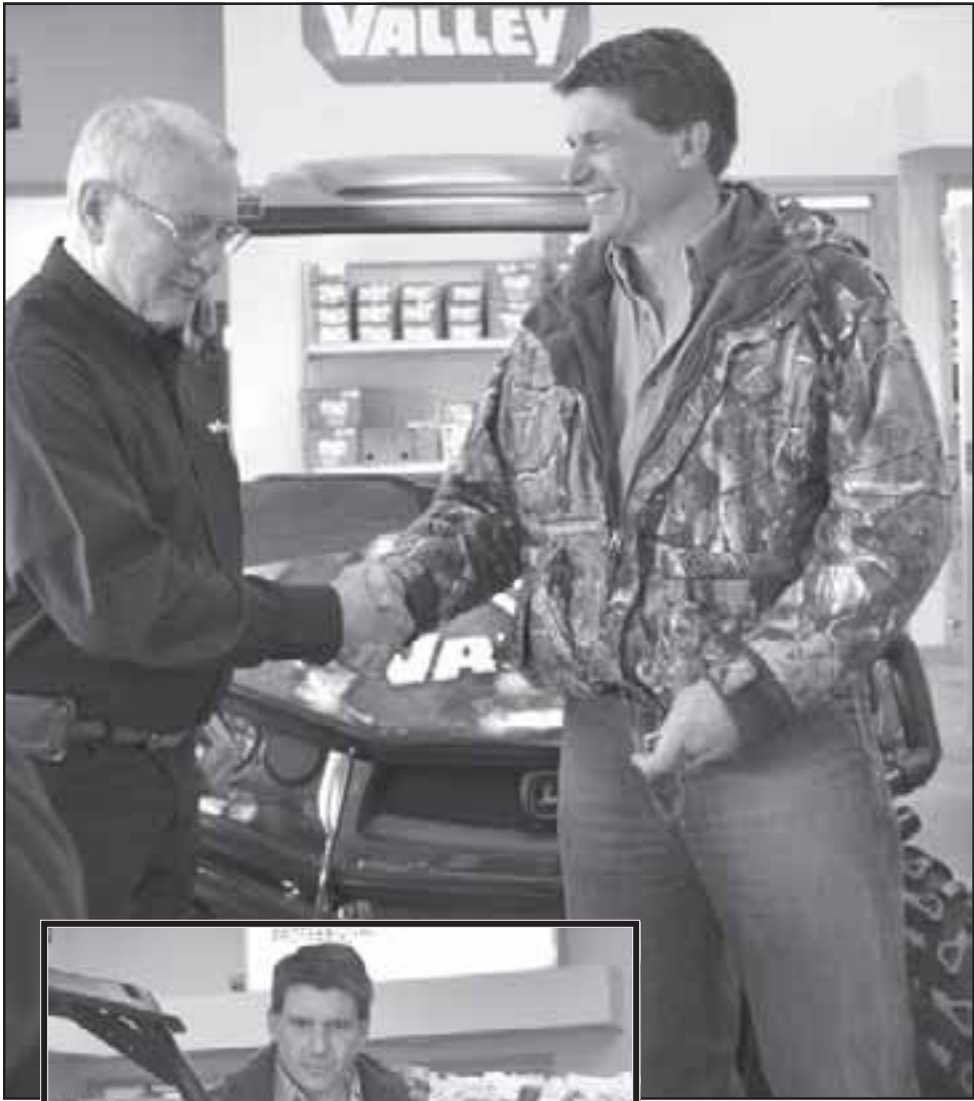
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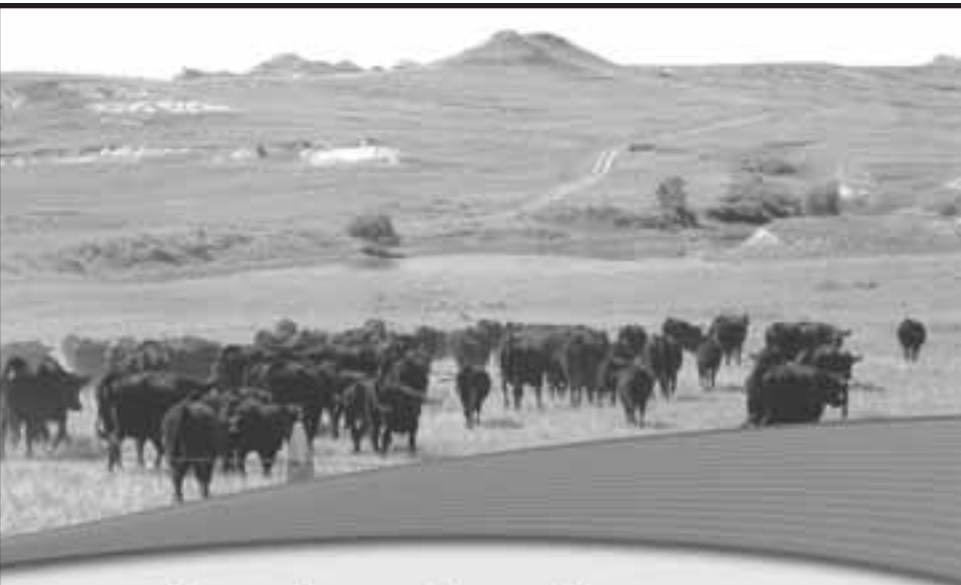


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National Ag Day Poster Winner

Submitted by Jennifer Pickett

The Agriculture Council of America (ACA) and Successful Farming encouraged young artists to celebrate modern agriculture through the first ever National Ag Day Poster Art Contest. A winning original piece of art has been chosen as the Official National Ag Day poster.

Congratulations to April Fox, Wayne State University, for being selected the winner of the contest. Fox was selected among many young artists in the competition. The contest theme was *Generations Nourishing Generations*. Entries were screened by a nine member jury and finalists were judged through online voting to determine the winner.

In addition, her artwork and a profile of Fox will be prominently featured in Successful Farming magazine and Ag Day correspondence. She will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Successful Farming. Media releases will also be sent to all Ag Day sponsors and supporters. The artist

will receive a portion of the proceeds from limited edition prints and the original artwork will be on display in a public location.

National Ag Day is organized by the Agriculture Council of America. ACA is a nonprofit organization composed of leaders in the agricultural, food and fiber community, dedicating its efforts to increasing the public's awareness of agriculture's role in modern society.

The National Ag Day

program encourages every American to:


- Understand how food and fiber products are produced.
- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant and affordable products.
- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.
- Acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food and fiber industry.



The National Ag Week winning poster submitted by April Fox, from Wayne State University.

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The Importance of Agriculture

Submitted by Tim Fine.
Another year has passed and it is time to once again recognize our farmers and ranchers for all of the hard work and effort that they put into making sure that we have a wide selection of foods to choose from when we're sitting at a table and wondering what's for dinner. So, first and foremost, let me just say thank you to those of you who are reading this and are directly responsible for making sure that we are all getting fed.

In case you were not already aware, this week is Ag Week and specifically, March 19 is Ag Day. Ag Week and Ag Day are dates specifically set aside to recognize our dwindling agricultural population for all that they do for the rest of the world. We all like to eat and have clothes to wear and these tasks just would not be possible were it not for their efforts. Personally, I think there should more than a week set aside to recognize these hard-working individuals but most of them probably wouldn't care to be recognized at all because that is just the kind of humble, hard-working people that they are.

The problem with humble, hard-working people is that they just go about their jobs tending to their work and for the most part, let the problems of the rest of the world fall off of their backs while they are out trying to make a living. While

this practice was fine before the age of 24/7 news media and attention paid to anyone who is willing to speak up about anything (factual or not), that just is not the case in our society today. Unfortunately, if you just go about your work and choose not to get involved in the back and forth debates about your craft, you are seen as having something to hide or someone who simply does not care.

So someone must speak up for our hard-working, humble folks and I guess that is the reason that the national Ag Day and Ag Week were created, so that hopefully factual information about how our food is produced and the people who produce it can be proclaimed. So I want to take this opportunity to do my part and hopefully try and dispel some myths about our current agricultural production practices.

Probably the most misleading "facts" that are constantly being thrown around about agriculture production in the United States is that it is not a system built on sustainability. Opponents of the way we grow our food and textiles would tell you that we use way too many natural resources, we are not

good stewards of the land, and that we're not "green" enough. To those people, I would offer these facts.

1. If our farmers were using the same production practices to produce corn in 2008 as they used in 1931, we would need an additional 490 million more acres to produce the same amount. That is 120 million MORE acres than what is included in our largest state, Alaska.

2. In 1997, it took a beef animal 606 days to grow from birth to slaughter and in 2007 that number was down to 482 days, a savings of 124 days per animal. This means that each animal is eating 124 days less of feedstuffs, drinking 124 days less water, and taking 124 less days of waste off of the poop pile.

3. In 1960, one farmer fed about 26 people. Today, that same farmer will feed 155.

And these are just a few of the more interesting tidbits that I could find. So be sure that you say thank you to your local, humble, hard-working, sustainable food producer today. And really, you don't have to wait until Ag Day or Ag Week to do so, I'm sure he or she would appreciate the recognition any day or week of the year.



We Salute All Our Area Farmers & Ranchers during National Ag Week

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Steinbeisser Made an Impact on the Community

By Ashley Harris
As Ag Week is celebrated, we take a look at how agriculture got to where it is. It takes a lot of devoted and passionate individuals to keep everything going. The late Keith Steinbeisser, of Sidney, can be considered one of those ambassadors for agriculture. Steinbeisser's love for agriculture was evident and his devotion brought his passion out into the community. He worked alongside Keith Dynneson to organize and plan the annual livestock judging contest that was held in conjunction with MonDak Ag Days. Unfortunately, on October 14, 1998, he passed away at the age of 34 following a tragic farm accident. He left behind numerous family and friends including his wife Kathy, who was 7 months pregnant with their son Jared, and his daughters Krista (4) and Hailey (2). Steinbeisser thoroughly enjoyed spending time with his family as well as other hobbies including bowling and agate picking. He even had all the rock cutting and polishing equipment for his

agates, but his passion for agriculture trumped all. He was always involved in FFA and farming. Before the FFA program was what it is now in Sidney, there was talk of cutting the program. Steinbeisser, who was the president of the FFA alumni, rallied the alumni together and went door-to-door petitioning. There was going to be a public vote on whether or not to cut the FFA program. As the old saying goes, 'we fight for what we believe in.' He went out of his way to fight for what he believed in. Considering the passion and devotion that Steinbeisser had, it was only fitting that the livestock judging contest be named after him. So Steinbeisser Memorial Livestock Judging Contest will be held in Sidney.

The livestock judging has been held in his honor every year since then, although a few years were postponed due to bad weather as it is usually held in January. During the contest, the goal for the participants is to determine which animal appears to have the best quality and amount of meat. Participants are given 4 animals within the same class and are asked to rank them from best to worst, which is then scored according to how the officials ranked them. In some of the classes participants are asked to provide oral reasoning for placing them the way they did. They are then scored on how well they explained themselves. The 2013 Keith Steinbeisser Memorial Livestock Judging Contest will be held March 16 at the Sidney Livestock Market Center. Judging will begin at 9 am and conclude with awards around 1 pm.



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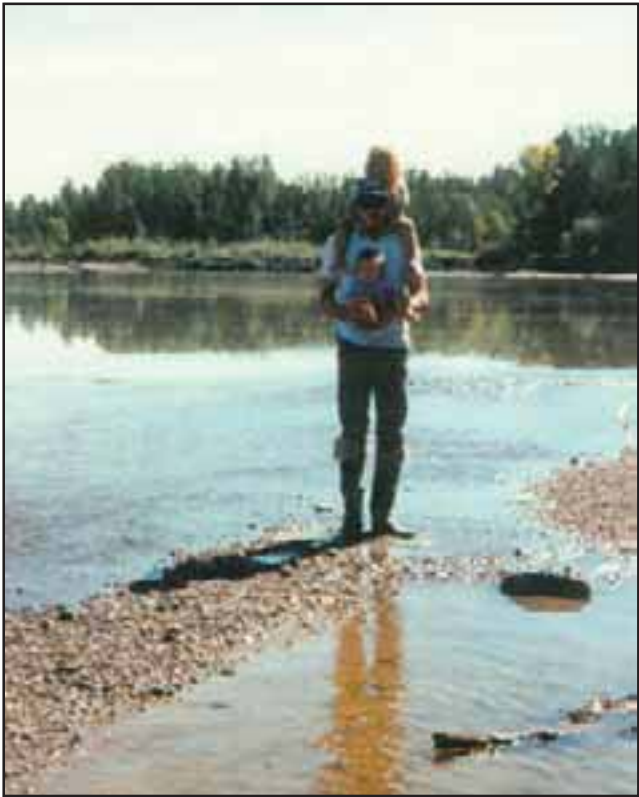


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Steinbeisser was involved in many different activities, as is evident in these photos.

Left: Keith knew farm chores, like milking, always had to get done.
Top: With a love for agriculture comes a little mud, especially during irrigation time. Keith is pictured here carrying irrigation tubes through the mud.
Middle: Out on the river with his girls, Krista on his shoulders and Hailey in his arms.
Below: Keith goes on a horse back ride with his girls. Krista gets to ride a horse, while Hailey rides on daddy's shoulders.



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Pipeline Reclamation Workshop Held

By Ashley Harris

As the oil industry increases so does the installation of pipelines. Following the installation is the task of reclamation, the act of restoring something to its previous natural state. Such was the topic of discussion at the Pipeline Reclamation Workshop that was held on March 5th in Sidney. Speakers from different angles, including science, oil industry, and ranching, gave information on the reclamation process.

The morning session included information provided by a number of scientists. Topics ranged from the initial planning and soil management to the seed mixes and methods of planting them. Information was given to advise the best options for reclaiming specific types of land.

The afternoon session started off with a presentation on

the reclamation process on ONEOK pipelines by Bill McCarthy with E3 Environmental LLC. McCarthy walked attendees through the process from planning to follow-up. The planning takes into consideration the existing infrastructure, future growth, and which route would be efficient for both the landowner and the construction. During construction the top soil is removed separate from the subsoil to return it in the same order to retain soil health. After filling in the trench, it is graded to the original contour of the land and seeded to landowner's specifications. Erosion prevention methods are often used to protect the seed during germination. Although they do what they can, things don't always go as planned. As Bill McCarthy stated, "challenges to reclamation can be as simple as mother nature."


The final session for the day was some insight from local ranchers, Dick and Connie Iversen. Connie expressed that having a the pipeline put in is "just like opening your front door to everyone." She suggested to be out there watching to ensure pipeline is put in at the proper height. Dick, who is a member of the North East Montana Land and Mineral Owners Association, made many suggestions for owners to address concerning leases. When a pipeline is proposed, the landowner will want to know how many lines are proposed, the exact location, whether it will carry oil, gas, or water, and ensure it will be completely underground. Another point that should be discussed is the depth, to ensure that plowing will not cause any problems. During construction, check to make sure the depth is as requested. After construction, keep record of the current company operating the pipeline and drive the route a couple times a year to check for settling, washouts, and the condition of the plants.

Wrapping up the workshop, speakers answered questions that arose throughout the day. The workshop proved to be informational, and many contacts were made. Plans have been made to compile a publication of best practices in the near future.




Left: Local rancher Dick Iversen spoke during the Pipeline Reclamation Workshop about some of the concerns. Below: Despite the weather, the turnout for the workshop March 5th was still good.





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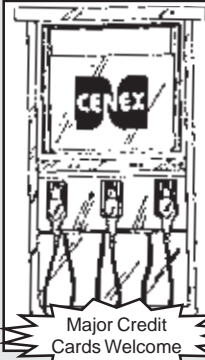


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KUMV-TV Farm & Ranch 27th Annual Show

By Ashley Harris

The 27th Annual KUMV-TV Farm & Ranch Show will be held March 12th and 13th at the Raymond Family Community Center in Williston, ND. With over 30,000 square feet of indoor exhibit space, there will be about 70 different exhibitors. So you can expect to see the latest in agricultural technology and equipment, along with all areas of farming. The exhibit will be open Tuesday from 9 am until 6 pm and Wednesday from 9 am until 5 pm. The Cattlewomen will once again be in charge of concessions, serving their famous barbecued beef!

Cliff Naylor, reporter with the Bismarck station, will start off Tuesday with his "Off the Beaten Path" presentation at 9:30 and 11 am. Naylor reports on stories throughout North Dakota that are "off the beaten path", which makes for some rather unique stories.

Wednesday morning will kick off with a free pancake and sausage breakfast in honor of National Ag Week from 7:30 am until 9 am. Following the breakfast, there will be a pesticide certification class for private applicators beginning at 9:30 am. Kevin Lawrence, meteorologist from the Bismarck sta-



tion, will give a 2013 weather outlook for the Northern Plains beginning at 1.

Admission is free, so come check out KUMV-TV's Farm & Ranch Show, get some information and register to win the use of a skid steer loader for 40 hours free through the Williston Bobcat dealer.

If you have any questions please contact Kathryn Kihle at 701-572-4676.

Taylor to Speak at KATQ's NE MT Ag Expo

By Ashley Harris

Ryan Taylor, fourth-generation rancher, writer, father, husband, and state senator, will be the guest speaker and entertainer at KATQ's NE MT Ag Expo in Plentywood, MT. This year's Expo will be held at the Sheridan County Civic Center on March 15-16.

Taylor, who writes about real life ranch stories in his 'Cowboy Logic' books, brings his books to life as he gives his presentation with some rope tricks.

Taylor ranches near Towner, ND with his wife, Nikki, and their three children, on the family ranch which was first homesteaded in 1903. According to his website

www.mycowboylogic.com, 'Ryan goes by many titles including freelance writer, syndicated columnist, book-peddling publisher, public relations man for a beef co-op, sales rep for an animal health company and a rope twirling after-dinner speaker and entertainer.'

The ranch, which is mostly native prairie and meadows like back in 1903, serves as Taylor's inspiration for his stories. Ryan began writing his 'Cowboy Logic' columns in 1994, which are brought together in his book, A Collection of Cowboy Logic. Other titles include the newer, Cowboy Logic Continues and Cowboy Logic Family Style.

Taylor, who has been a popular after dinner speaker and rope spinning entertainer for hundreds of audiences, will entertain during KATQ's NE MT Ag Expo Banquet. The prime rib or halibut banquet will be Friday evening, at the Plentywood High School multi-purpose room. The evening dinner, catered by Angel Light Catering, begins at 6 pm. Taylor's entertainment will follow dinner. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at Plentywood Rexall or KATQ studios.

For more information about Taylor or to purchase his books, please visit his website at: www.mycowboylogic.com.

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AgPartners, Delivering Individualized Products, Advice to Local Farmers

By Jaimee Green

In Northeast Montana, crop acreage can be as individualistic as the farmers that seed them. And because of that, special care has to be taken to ensure acreage is strategized and individualized to ensure the best fit for maximum growing potential.

Ag Partners LLC, of Wolf Point, is not only in the business of supplying area farmers with the needed fertilizers, chemicals and crop protection products they need to get their seedlings off to a robust start; they also want to provide the best advice on how to approach the next growing season from an individual perspective.

"With today's technology and precision agriculture, Ag Partners is dedicated to scientifically identifying the best fitting crop for each acre. The cropland in Sidney is not the same as the crop land in Brockton and other areas and we want to treat each farmer and farmland individually," said Luke Dighans, Agronomy Sales Manager.

Having well trained agronomists is just one of the

company's goals in helping ensure farmers receive both high yields and high profits through factual, evidence based advice.

"While we do sell products, we want to be advisers to the farmer. We want to be the Company that can help provide farmers with the information they need to ensure they receive the best return on their investment," Dighans said.

Currently, the plant is the largest retail fertilizer facility in the state with a 29,000 ton capacity for dry fertilizer and a 100 foot by 150 foot chemical warehouse. But, two other plants are in the process of being built in the Great falls area and will tout comparable sizes once operational.

Ag Partners is a joint venture created by two local businesses; CHS/Farmers Elevator, of Circle and AgLand Coop, of Wolf Point. It was constructed in March of 2012, and is located just off Highway 16 near the Macon Elevator. "Both local companies knew they had a need for an efficient, large capacity fertilizer plant in order to ensure supply to their growers but neither of them could afford such a costly investment

so they combined their agronomy assets to make the plant a reality," Dighans said. Both parent companies serve the local community selling fuels, feeds and other hardware.

Along with its variety of products that include dry and liquid fertilizer, multiple crop seed and protection products, they also exclusively specialize in Micro Essentials SZ, a granule consisting of phosphate, sulfur and zinc. Through a fusion process, Micro Essentials combines vital nutrients into one formulated, nutritionally balanced granule, creating a single source of crop nutrition.

Dighans said Ag Partners individually selects all of the products they sell. This way, they are able to bypass selling questionable products and instead focus on performance proven, science-backed products.

Ag Partners also provides a number of services including spray water analysis, custom spraying and spreading, tissue and soil sampling, crop consulting, budgeting and planning.

Another way they service customers is through variable rate technology. By taking a satellite image and looking at the different reflectance values, they can provide farmers with a computer chip that plugs directly into their computerized sprayer and apply product only where it is needed in the field. "It's a lot like how a doctor prescribes medicine to be directly applied to the site. We can show the farmer exactly where he needs to apply his product for the best results," Dighans said.

"Gone are the days of the 1950s when farmers would simply get in their tractor, put seed in the ground and wait. Today, we try to manage risks through technology," Dighans said.

AgPartners employs roughly 70 people at its 11 locations throughout Northeast Montana including, Wolf Point, Vida, Brockton, Nashua, Froid, Glasgow, Circle, Richey, Baker, Glendive and Miles City.

For Dighans, working with local farmers isn't just a job, it's a passion. Most of the company's employees have a farming background and understand the risks farmers take each year with their crops. Dighans grew up on a farm near Peerless and assists his dad with the family farm. He received his Bachelor's of Science Degree in Agronomy from the University of Minnesota, in Crookston.

Ag Partners services an area that extends north of Glasgow and south of Baker.

In the future, the company plans to continue expanding their products of seed. With many varieties of genetic seed potentially available for planting, Ag Partners is focused on providing the technology that allows for the continued expansion of newer crops to the area such as corn, canola and soybeans.

Like many area companies, it has been challenging to find and retain employees looking for high wages associated with the oil industry. Dighans said that while wages might not be as high as the oil industry provides, the benefits are some of the best the region has to offer and with the agricultural industry steady and growing every year, employees know their jobs are secure.

"This industry is challenging and it's ever changing. But I genuinely enjoy working with the local farming community and seeing how far we can push the envelope in getting farmers the biggest yields possible," Dighans said.



Luke Dighans, Sales Manager for AgPartners



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The Art of Farming, WIFE Calendar Art Contest Rules

Submitted by Gladys Walling

In recognition of National Agriculture Week (National Agriculture Day, March 19, 2013), WIFE (Montana Women Involved in Farm Economics) invites Montana's school district children to express their ideas on farm life by participating in WIFE's twenty-seventh statewide calendar art contest. Winning entries grades K through 8th will be awarded a cash prize at the 1st(\$30), 2nd(\$20), and 3rd(\$10), levels in each grade's division. Two Honorable Mention places in each grade will be awarded certificates. Only 25 pictures can be used on the calendar. Those winners who pictures are used will also receive a calendar.

All entries are to be done horizontally on 8 ½ x 11 inch white paper with dark, black lead pencil or black ink (no markers please). Any aspect of agriculture that is of

interest to the students may be drawn. Any depiction of alcohol or tobacco will no be accepted. Student's name, grade, school, address, town, zip, should be clearly printed in a corner on the back of their picture.

No entries can be returned, but WIFE may display or use student's artwork for various WIFE projects throughout the state. Entries must be postmarked on or before April 15, 2013.

Artwork will be judged on the basis of originality. Please send all art entries to Gladys Walling, P.O. Box 55, Winifred, MT 59489. Phone 406-462-5330 for more information.

Signup Begins for Direct and Counter Cyclical Programs

Submitted by Dan Janes

Signup for Farm Service Agency's Direct and Counter Cyclical Program and the Average Crop Revenue Election Program during the 2013 crop year began on February 19, 2013. The signup deadline for the 2013 ACRE program is June 3 and signup for the DCP program is August 2, 2013. Producers have a new election opportunity for the ACRE or DCP program. Farms enrolled in ACRE at the end of the 2012 crop year are allowed to make a new election between ACRE or DCP in 2013. Producers who choose to participate in either the revenue-based ACRE safety net or the price-based DCP safety net must apply for the program by the applicable deadline for each. All owners and operators who will share in the DCP or ACRE payments on the farm must sign the enrollment form (CCC-509) by the applicable deadline. If a producer does not get the signed form in to their local office by the deadline for the applicable program, they will not be enrolled in the program for the current year and will not receive benefits. The 2013 ACRE election, if taken, is a one year commitment. In addition, owners who cash lease their land out to operators are not required to agree to the ACRE election. Aaron Krauter, North Dakota State Executive Director for FSA, is encouraging producers to sign up early. "We want to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to get in and sign up, and doing it before spring field work begins means one less thing a producer needs to worry about," Krauter said.

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