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Wednesday, March 11, 2015

Volume 41 • Number 4

Nationally Recognized Speaker To Present At 7th Annual Richland County Conference

Submitted by Judy LaPan, Richland County Health Department

Sidney, MT – Nationally recognized professional speaker, Karen McNenny, to present at the community Conference at the St. Matthew's Parish Center in Sidney, MT on March 19 and 20.

There are two opportunities to participate and learn more about the community development projects in Richland County. Thursday evening, March 19 5:00-7:30 and Friday all day, March 20, 8:00-4:00.

The Community Engagement Rally will take place on Thursday, March 19. An open house will begin at 5:00. There will be information stations highlighting what the community action teams have accomplished recently. Participants can chat with individuals, groups and organizations that are supporting change and progress in our community. Appetizers will be served. McNenny will present an inspiring and educational Key Note address titled: Community is the CURE.

The Community Planning Forum will take place on Friday, March 20, 8-4:00. The County Commissioners will address the community about past successes and future ideas on how to sustain Richland County as a vibrant, safe and viable community, even in the face of change. McNenny will facilitate round table discussions around the topics of Health, Education, Recreation and Safety. These small group discussions will lead to action in the areas of strategic concern based on the above assessment and lead to the development of action groups (networks) to develop and implement plans as well as evaluate the results. This work is started at Friday's meeting and continued through out the year using the steering committee to keep the momentum going, provide an opportunity for networking between action groups and clearinghouse for action group results.

Richland County will host opportunities to see McNenny

speak at the 7th Annual Richland County Conference. McNenny will also act as facilitator as community members gather to discuss current changes and ideas for improvement. Karen McNenny is a Montana native and the founder of Made You Think Consulting. She works throughout the country as a professional speaker, group facilitator and business coach. Before starting her own business, she worked as a master trainer & facilitator for the largest healthcare system in the Northwest. Prior to that, she enjoyed several years as the Program Director for Camp Make-A-Dream, a medically supervised retreat center for youth and adults diagnosed with cancer.

Karen's areas of expertise include employee engagement, leadership development, and transforming workplace culture. Her clients have included: Department of Public Health and Human

Services, Montana Department of Labor, Spokane International Airport, and Roosevelt Medical Center in Culbertson. She is skilled at developing high-functioning, healthy work environments through establishing a service-focused and employee-centered culture.

Karen has had a diverse career path stretching from the stage to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally. She earned a B.A. in Media and Theater Arts from Montana State University

where she also studied business marketing. As a Rotary International Scholar, she did her graduate work in the field of Integrative Art Therapy & Group Facilitation at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London, England. Growing her knowledge base through attending professional conferences and continuing education classes — including training with the Disney Institute, The Studer Group, Baptist Hospital Leadership Institute, Kauffman Foundation for Entrepreneurs, and the Center for Ethical Leadership — keeps Karen's presentations current, fresh, and dynamic. Not only will she educate and inspire; Karen will MAKE YOU THINK. Learn more: www.KarenMcNenny.com

Please RSVP by Thursday, March 12 by registering on line at richland.org and click on the puzzle piece or call the Health Department at 433-2207. You may also register the day of the event.



Land Reclamation: Developing Your Plan Workshop March 13th In Watford City

By Tie Shank

The North Dakota State University Extension Service is holding a workshop on Friday, March 13 to assist producers with land reclamation challenges.

The agenda includes:

- * Development of a pre-plan for reclamation through a baseline inventory checklist - Dr. Kevin Sedivec, NDSU Extension Service rangeland management specialist

- * Recommendations for surface use agreement, easements and surface issues - David Saxowsky, associate professor, NDSU Agriculture and Applied Economics Departments

- * Suggested methods of communication with partners, neighbors and other entities involved in reclamation - Jodi Bruns, NDSU Extension Service community vitality specialist

- * A panel of local land-owners and NDSU Extension Service specialists will also discuss what they have learned so far about reclamation issues

This workshop will be held on Friday, March 13 from 10 AM to 3 PM CT in the ballroom in the lower level of Outlaw's Restaurant in Watford City. Lunch will be provided courtesy of First International Bank and Trust.

Registration is required by contacting the McKenzie County Extension Office at 701-444-3451 by March 10.

Staffanson Awarded MHSA Class "A" Speech Team Coach of the Year



Submitted by Ross Hall

Friday Evening, Sidney High School Speech Coach Gail Staffanson was awarded a plaque recognizing her as the MHSA Class "A" Speech Team Coach of the Year. Congratulations, Coach Staffanson on your honor and for your work with the Sidney High School Speech and Drama team!

Gail Staffanson

2015 Economic Outlook Seminar - Sidney March 17

Submitted by Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture

Bill Whitsitt, retired Devon Energy Executive Vice President, keynotes the 40th Economic Outlook Seminar series, "The New American Energy Revolution: Reshaping Montana." The series begins in Missoula Friday, January 23, 2015 and concludes in Miles City March 18.

The half-day seminars will highlight economic trends for local, state and national economies. UM Bureau of Business and Economic Research economists Patrick Barkey and Paul Polzin will present economic forecasts for each seminar city, and industry experts will provide the outlook for Montana's important sectors: energy, nonresident travel, health care, agriculture, real estate, manufacturing and forest products.

Registration of \$85 includes lunch, BBER's forecast publication, a bound copy of the presentations, and a one-year subscription to Montana Business Quarterly, BBER's award-winning business journal.

To register, visit BBER.umd.edu or call 406-243-5113.

Call the Sidney Chamber for more information at 406-433-1916

Building Dreams For The Boys & Girls Club

Building Dreams is this year's theme for the Boys & Girls Club Annual Event. The event will take place on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at the Richland County Fair Event Center. Building on the tradition of the annual sports memorabilia auction and dinner, the event has evolved to include more. A special addition this year is the attendees chance to see the plans and progress of the new Boys & Girls Clubhouse. Special guest & architect Lindsay Saboe Schack, 1996 Sidney High School graduate, will give a tour of the new Clubhouse, virtually that is. Attendees will also have the opportunity to support the Club by purchasing auction items and packages, or claiming a piece of the building—or program within it—to support.

Sponsors of this year's Building Dreams event are The Dayton Foundation, The Groskinsky Foundation, The Svarre Foundation, MonDak API, Tri-County Implement and XTO Energy.

The Boys & Girls Club of Richland County has helped build dreams for nearly 1,000 Club kids and their families since its inception in 2004. Over the last 11 years the Club has struggled to gain its footing

in a stable location. When the thought of purchasing an empty school building vanished, building a new Clubhouse became the best option for the Club. Meanwhile, through the generosity of the Sidney School District, Central Elementary hosts the BGC's after-school program. The Club has served a total of 140 Club members this school year and daily attendance regularly surpasses 100 members. While the program serves Club kids in spite of not having its own home, the lack of space currently prevents far more youth from participating in the Club's strong programming. The new Clubhouse will serve up to 300 Club kids at any given time, including summers.

Thus, the Building Dreams event will seek to raise funds for the new Clubhouse and the programs that Club kids and parents have come to expect. A sneak preview of auction items will begin via the BGC website & on Facebook the week of March 8.

A Buy-It-Now option on most Silent Auction items will be available for bidders who can't wait for their favorite item or who don't want to chance being out-bid. Bidders will be allowed to reserve their favorite item or package for

retail price plus 10%. Contact Mary Hernandez for additional details at (406) 690-2967.

Master of Ceremonies Jessie Nesper will guide us through the evening's schedule of:

5pm: Doors open & social hour begins with drinks, hors d'oeuvres by Kountry Catering, raffles, grab bags.

6:45 Silent Auction sections begin to close.

7pm Special Program & Announcements

7:30 Heads or Tails

8pm Live Auction with Dan Goss

8:55 Final sections of Silent Auction close

Fun Wrap-up with MC Jessie Nesper

Special guest & Architect Lindsay Saboe Schack will be on hand throughout the evening to answer questions about the new Clubhouse.

Tickets for this fun event are \$50 per person and are available at the Chamber of Commerce, the Sidney Herald and on-line at www.richlandbgc.org.

Reserve your tickets today!

For information please contact Mary Hernandez, the Club's Interim Director, at (406) 690-2967.

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Roy Olson, 86, Sidney, MT

Funeral services for Roy R. Olson, 86, of Sidney, MT were held Saturday, March 7, 2015, at Fulkerson Memorial Chapel in Sidney with Pastor Alton Hillesland officiating. Interment was in the Sidney Cemetery, Sidney, MT under the direction of Fulkerson Funeral Home of Sidney. Remembrances, condolences and pictures can be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

Roy died on Tuesday morning, March 3, 2015 at his residence in Sidney.

Nels Boe, 84, Circle, MT

Graveside services for Nels Boe, 84, of Circle, MT will be held Thursday, March 12th at 1:00 p.m. (MST) at the Nameless Cemetery in Cartwright, ND. Family will receive friends on Wednesday, March 11, 2015 from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Stevenson and Sons Funeral Home in Circle, MT.

Nels died on March 6th, 2015 at his home in Circle, MT.

Joseph Lester, 73, Fairview, MT

Memorial services for Joseph Lester, 73, of Miles City, MT (formerly of Fairview, MT) will be at 2:00 p.m., Friday, March 6, 2015 at Fairview Alliance Church with Pastor Kelly Sloan officiating. Inurnment will take place in Yellowstone Point Cemetery, Cartwright, ND, at a later date under the direction of Fulkerson Funeral Home. Remembrances, condolences and pictures can be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

Joseph died on Sunday, February 22, 2015 at the VA Nursing Home in Miles City, MT.

Janice Inge Elvsaas, 93, Froid, MT

Janice Inge Elvsaas, a true pioneer Froid resident, passed away March 1, 2015 at the Sheridan Memorial Hospital after a very brief stay. Janice was born July 29, 1921 at the family home east of Froid to Nels I. and Clara Nelsen. Janice attended rural schools through the eighth grade and graduated from Froid High School in 1940. Janice was unique even then, as many rural students could not attend high school; but she was determined to get a high school education so she cleaned for room and board and worked various jobs in Froid. Janice married Art Elvsaas on June 5, 1941 and they moved a granary to the location where the original Elvsaas homestead was located. Art and Janice slowly made the humble abode livable, as she put her precise touch to everything. A neighbor once said that even though Janice had just returned from milking, slopping the pigs, and picking eggs, she still looked neat as a pin and well dressed! She and Art moved into their newly built home with their two children in 1957, and she always said that was the happiest day of her life. Of course, the house was designed to her specifications and always well maintained. Although sometimes impressing people as being somewhat brusque and negative, to those who truly knew her, she was very kind and caring. Janice was an avid gardener and took great pride in her produce and beautiful flowers and trees. She said her most serene moments were spent tending her garden in the early morning sun and listening to numerous birds singing. Janice was an accomplished, self-taught seamstress and once again, her perfectionist characteristic showed to anyone who viewed her work. Her hardanger and cross-stitch pieces that she gave to people are cherished by many. During a time when people didn't venture to town often, Janice always had her hair set weekly at the Froid Beauty Shop. She spent many years playing penny poker with her "poker ladies" and enjoyed this getaway and relaxation. Janice was always concerned about her grandchildren and always wanted the best for them. In recent years, her great-grandchildren brought her much joy and love. Janice was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Art, her daughter Laura, brothers Delbert, Clayton (Bud), and Alton. Also preceding her were sisters Evelyn (Abby), Donna, and an infant. She is survived by a son Donn (Rosann) Elvsaas of Froid, a sister, Gayle (Don) Ferderer of Sundance WY. Also surviving are 4 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren, Juli (Dan Patton) Naylor and daughter Laramie of Newcastle, WY; Shawn (Melissa) Elvsaas, and children Makaylee and Addison of Froid; Craig Elvsaas of Billings; Erica (Jason) Anderson, and children Macie and Buckley of Froid. As strongly requested by Janice, cremation has taken place with no services being held. Please remember Janice as an earnest, caring person who will be surely missed. Fulkerson Funeral Home of Plentywood has charge of arrangements: Read and print the obituary, post remembrances, and send cards and flowers online at www.fulkersonsplentywood.com.

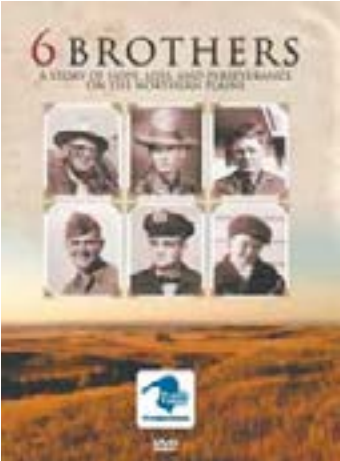


Janice Inge Elvsaas

6 Brothers Film Screening March 15 at MDHC

The MonDak Heritage Center will host a screening of 6 Brothers, a story of hope, loss and perseverance on the Northern Plains on Sunday, March 15 at 2pm. The screening is free and open to the public. 6 Brothers is an hour-long, Emmy-nominated documentary by McKenzie County native Daniel Stenberg. It focuses on the experiences of his grandfather's family as homesteaders in McKenzie County. Weaving together interviews, archival footage, and letters, the film shows how this ordinary family survived the Great Depression, became deeply involved in World War II, and experienced many other joys and challenges of life during one of America's most intriguing time periods. Further, it touches on how their lives and experiences have helped to shape future generations. 6 Brothers has been screened at five college campuses throughout North and South Dakota, the North Dakota Heritage Center and shown on Prairie Public Television. At this screening Daniel Stenberg will be in attendance to give background about the film, answer questions, and display some of the material (e.g. old letters, country school memorabilia, military records and farm documents) that helped in his research for the film.

For more information please contact Kim at the MonDak Heritage Center, mdhc@richland.org.



EVENTS

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

RICHLAND COUNTY

Events in Sidney unless otherwise listed. MT Zone.

Fri., March 13th
11:30 a.m. - Richland Red Hatters luncheon, Sidney Country Club. RSVP by March 11 to Sylvia 798-3882.
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Sidney Knights of Columbus Fish Fry. Fridays during Lent at the St. Matthew's Parish Center, 310 7th St. SE. Cost is \$9 per person.

Sat., March 14th
1 p.m. - 3 p.m. - BPA Spring Carnival at the Sidney High School Gym. Free Easter Egg Hunt for ages 1-4 starting at 1:30 pm and for ages 5-10 at 2:30. Join us for lots of games and prizes! There will be face painting, bouncy house, football toss, photos with the Easter Bunny, cotton candy.

Sun., March 15th
2:00 p.m. - Free screening of the Emmy-nominated documentary '6 Brothers' by McKenzine County native, Daniel Stenberg. The hour-long movie focuses on the experiences of his grandfather's family as homesteaders in McKenzie County. Held at the MonDak Heritage Center, 120 3rd Ave SE, Sidney, MT.

Thurs., March 26th
7:00 p.m. - Big Sky Concert Series presents Alex Zerbe "The Zaniac" at the MonDak Heritage Center. A self-described 'human cartoon', his show isn't just for the kids in the family. Don't miss the finale of the Big Sky Concert Series! Tickets can be purchased at the door, for additional details contact Candy Markwald, 406-488-4155, Jill Hill 406-489-4304, or Karen Boehler 406-433-4375.

Senior Commodities Distribution
Fri., March 27th, 9 am - 12 pm
Senior commodities distribution will be March 27th from 9 am till noon at the back door of the Nutter Building located at 123 W. Main. Message phone is 406-433-4345.

McKENZIE COUNTY
Events in Watford City unless otherwise listed. CT Zone.

Sun., March 29th
9:30 am - Pancake benefit for Jeremy & Ashley (Liebel) Wedge. Civic Center in Watford City. Silent auction & bake sale. An account has also been set up at First International Bank in Watford City for donations.

WILLIAMS COUNTY
Events in Williston unless otherwise listed. CT Zone.

March 11th & 12th
Job Service Spring Job Fair in Williston, ND. First day will be only oilfield, second day will be all industry jobs. Sponsored by Job Service North Dakota, Williston Economic Development, Grand Williston Hotel, Williston Herald, and Williston Area Chamber of Commerce.

Sun., March 15th
3:00 p.m. - Concert at the Confluence. Enjoy a wonderful concert featuring ChokeCherry Jam at the Confluence while overlooking one of North Dakota's most beautiful natural sights. Free refreshments. Held at the Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretative Center. 701-572-9034.

Thurs., March 19th
7:00 p.m. - Fort Buford History Book Club. Join other history buffs in an interesting discussion of this month's selected book. Free refreshments. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center. Please call in advance, 701-572-9034.

Fri., March 20th - 21st
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Join the Confluence Quilters for their monthly meeting at the Confluence. All experience levels invited and instruction provided. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Center, 701-572-9034.

MNAXLP


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

Join Us In Celebration!

Verda Pederson's
90th Birthday!

Please join us as we celebrate Verda Pederson's 90th birthday on Saturday, March 14th from 2-4pm at the Sidney VFW! No gifts please.

Sat, Mar 14th • 2-4pm at the Sidney VFW





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AREA RECOVERY GROUPS

MONDAYS:
Noon — AA Group Trinity Lutheran Church Ed. bldg., 214 S. Lincoln Ave, Sidney.
6 p.m. — Al-Anon, Trinity Lutheran Church Ed. bldg., 214 S. Lincoln Ave, Sidney.
7 p.m. — Fairview Alive and Kicking at Faith Alliance Church, 704 S. Western Ave.
8 p.m. — AA Group, Northern Pump & Compression, Watford City. Call 770-3603 or 770-2675 for directions or ride.

TUESDAYS:
7 p.m. — AA Group Trinity Lutheran Church Ed. bldg., 214 S. Lincoln Ave, Sidney.

WEDNESDAYS:
5:00 p.m. — Sober Life Young People's NAAA 12- step recovery group, 25 yr. old & younger, Trinity Lutheran Church Ed. bldg., 214 S. Lincoln Ave, Sidney.
8 p.m. — Al-Anon, Sanford Room, McKenzie Co. Public Library, Watford City.

THURSDAYS:
7 p.m. — NA meeting, MonDak Trucking office Bldg., 725 W. Holly, Sidney.
8 p.m. — AA Group, Northern Pump & Compression, Watford City. Call 770-3603 or 770-2675 for directions or ride.

FRIDAYS:
noon — AA, Trinity Lutheran Church Ed. bldg., 214 S. Lincoln Ave, Sidney.
6:30 - 7:30 p.m. - 5 Stones faith based recovery meeting, Sidney Nazarene, 606 9th St. SW, Back door is open.
7 p.m. — Fairview Alive and Kicking at Faith Alliance Church, 704 S. Western Ave.
7 p.m. — **Watford City area Celebrate Recovery**, Assembly of God, 2117 S. Main. For help call Robert 417-296-2809 or Stephanie 417-296-2810.
8 p.m. — AA meetings, Trinity Lutheran Church Ed. Bldg, Sidney.

SATURDAYS:
7P.M. — AA 24 hour group, Northern Pump & Compression, Watford City. Call 770-3603 or 770-2675 for directions or ride.
9 a.m. & 7 p.m. — AA Group Trinity Lutheran Church Education bldg., 214 S. Lincoln Ave, Sidney.

SUNDAYS:
7 p.m. — AA Group Trinity Lutheran Church Ed. bldg., 214 S. Lincoln Ave, Sidney

STATISTICS

LAKE WATER LEVEL REPORT
Sakakawea

Current Elevation.....	1838.4
Last Week's Elev.	1838.8
One Year Ago	1831.5
Release For Day (C.F.S.)	21,600

SIDNEY WEATHER DATA

Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

Date	High	Low	Precip.
March 2.....	43.....	7.....	0.00
March 3.....	18.....	3.....	0.00
March 4.....	15.....	-6.....	0.00
March 5.....	46.....	3.....	0.00
March 6.....	54.....	21.....	0.00
March 7.....	46.....	30.....	0.00
March 8.....	57.....	24.....	0.00
Total YTD Precipitation.....			0.57

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Prevost Retires After 45 Years

Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative (LYREC) announces the retirement of Don Prevost. Don began his career at Lower Yellowstone as the office manager in 1970. After 27 years of fulfilling his role as office manager, Don was promoted to general manager/CEO in 1997.

Throughout Don's years with LYREC, he has donated time to numerous cooperative affiliates such as the Montana Electric Cooperatives' Association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, to name a few. Don also filled in as the interim manager at Upper Missouri Power Cooperative for several months, in addition to his duties as general manager of LYREC.

Don has not only been a dedicated employee, but he has also been involved in several community groups, including the school board, the Sidney swim team board, the Sidney Jaycees, Sidney Lions Club, St. Matthew's Parish council, Knights of Columbus, Moose Lodge, Sidney girls softball coach, and Richland County economic development.

"Don has gained the respect of his peers, not only in the co-op world, but also in the community," Operations Manager Chris Hillesland remarks.

"I have valued the opportunity to get to work with Don the past 10 years. He genuinely cares about those he works with, and I am saddened to be losing him as a member of our work family," says Member Services Coordinator Jami Propp.

Although Don will be missed by his cooperative family, the employees of LYREC feel fortunate that Don will get to spend more time with his wife, Julie, their four daughters, Andrea, Rachelle, Deedra and Stephanie and, of course, their four adorable grandchildren. Don plans to spend his retirement years fishing, helping his nephew on the farm, traveling, spoiling his grandkids and just enjoying life.

Throughout his 45 years at the cooperative, Don has faced a variety of challenges in his career, and has had to make some difficult decisions.

"Don has always put everything into doing what he has felt is the best for Lower Yellowstone and the co-op in general," Hillesland says. Don has been innovative in dealing with the problems that arise in a co-op, whether it be rising power costs, a downturn in the economy or the growth experienced in the last 10 years.

"Don has been a mentor to me, and numerous others, showing us how to be exceptional cooperative employees," says Assistant Manager Jason Brothen.

Board Chairman Allen Thiessen notes, "Some of the things that stand out when I think about Don retiring are congratulations and thank you. First, congratulations on completing a very fine career at Lower Yellowstone. Forty-five years is a remarkable achievement. Second, thank you ever so much for everything you've done along the way and for having our cooperative in top shape as we make the transition to new management. Speaking on behalf of the current and former board members, I can say that it has been a real pleasure to work with Don as we tackled our ever-changing environment. Don was always ready to deal with new challenges and took them on as readily in the later years as he did when he first began as manager. Lower Yellowstone will benefit from many of Don's actions for years to come."

"Don has always been very fair and a pleasure to work with all of these years," says Mechanic Mike Eberling.

"We certainly are going to miss Don and we wish him a wonderful, relaxing retirement. In the meantime, I would encourage as many as can to stop by the office before April 1 to thank him and wish him the best," Thiessen adds.



Don Prevost

St. Patrick's Day Party Supplies

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- Irish Flasks
- Shamrock Glasses
- Beads
- Party Hats
- Lots More!

March Madness CRAZY Sales!

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Spring Fling! Friday, March 20th

Serving Lobster, Steak, Shrimp & More!

Salad Bar & Homemade Fry Bread Included.

Reservations Are Appreciated

Catering At The Elks Lodge
123 3rd St. SW, Sidney
Call 406-433-5005 For Reservations

Live Music By "The Relics" Beginning At 7:30pm

Lonsdale United Methodist Church to Hold Prom Drive

By Meagan Dotson

The Free Store at the Lonsdale United Methodist Church in Sidney, MT is taking donations for their Prom-drive, a second year event where those with a need for prom attire can come and shop for free. Items such as prom dresses, tuxedos, shoes, purses, hair accessories, and specialty undergarments such as

strapless corsets will be made available and there are no income requirements.

"If you need a prom dress or tuxedo, come and get one," said Reverend Vicki Waddington who discussed the limited availability of formal wear in town. With cost being a factor for some families, traveling to purchase items for Prom can also be an inconvenience.

Saturday, March 14 the Free Store will hold a shopping day specifically for those who are looking for prom attire from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm; dresses and tuxedos will be displayed in the church parlor. All items may be tried on to insure proper fit and all clothing and accessories can be donated back to the Free Store to be offered as Spring Fling attire or for next year's Prom-Drive.

The Free Store is requesting that all donations be in to them by March 13 so that items can be displayed. The church office is open from 9:00am to 12:00pm Monday through Friday and donations can be dropped off at the back door; there is a coat rack just inside on which clothing can be hung. The Free Store is also taking donated gift certificates from individuals and businesses for hair, nails and dinner and these will be given out based on availability. The Free Store is looking to borrow a full length mirror for their specialty shopping day on March 14. Anyone looking for more information on donating or anyone interested in volunteering their time during the Prom-Drive shopping event can call the church office at 406-433-3110.

MNAXLP



Happy St. Patrick's

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7th Annual RICHLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY CONFERENCE

Embracing Change Together March 19 & 20, 2015

Help Build the Vision for Richland County's Future

ST. MATTHEWS PARISH CENTER

310 7TH ST SE • SIDNEY, MT

<p>THURSDAY – March 19th</p> <p>5:30-7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Community Engagement RALLY</p> <p>FREE to the public. Look forward to Networking, Appetizers & Keynote Message DOORS OPEN AT 5:00</p>	<p>FRIDAY – March 20th</p> <p>8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.</p> <p>Community Planning FORUM</p> <p>FREE to the public. Includes LUNCH, Discussion & Education. WE NEED YOUR VOICE</p>
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KAREN McNENNY

- Keynote Speaker and Facilitator -

DYNAMIC - INFORMATIVE - RELEVANT
Nationally recognized professional speaker and master facilitator, Montana-native Karen McNenny will guide a civic-minded discussion with community members. Karen will also present content that is unique and relevant to our needs. Karen will inspire, educate and entertain.
www.KarenMcNenny.com

For information and to register please contact:
Richland County Health Department
www.richland.org 406-433-2207 Facebook.com/RichlandCCF

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St. Patrick's Day Feed

Saturday, March 14th • 5 pm

Serving Corn Beef & Cabbage
Live Music By The Relics at 7 pm

Free Will Donations
Proceeds go to the
Fairview Boxing Club

406-742-5224

Water Hole #3

Fairview, Montana



Friday, March 13th, Live Music By The Wench at 9 pm



Eaglettes and Mini-Eaglettes Hold Dance Extravanganza

The Eaglettes performing are clockwise from front center: Katlyn Winter, Brianna Reid, Emily Swenson, Chantel Wilcoxon, Tayler Fischer, Mateya Coffman, Autumn Larson, Tessa Dahl and Taylor Thiessen.



The fifth graders performing are (L-R) Christiana Wall and Karly Volk





Grace Klempel and Jazmyn Sletvold perform at the extravaganza. Photos by Pam Dahl.

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Embracing Change Together At The 7th Annual Community Conference

By Dianne Swanson

Change is inevitable. The only issue is how we respond to it. The theme of the 7th annual community conference is "Embracing change together". Committee chair Les Anderson elaborates, "Together we need to embrace change and move forward through it."

Concerns of Richland County residents were heard through responses to a survey sent last fall with tax statements. The conference is a way of responding to the efforts of over 600 individuals who took the time to complete the survey.

"We are trying to be really responsive to community members and act on what they said," Anderson stated. "We invite all members of the community to be a part of the process and to build the future of Richland County."

The primary areas of concern identified from the surveys were education, safety, health and recreation. Those topics will be addressed at the conference. The focus of each conference has reflected the concerns of the moment and progress has been made in areas such as housing.

The conference takes place Thursday and Friday, March 19 and 20 at St. Matthews Parish Center, 301 7th St. SE, Sidney. Thursday's agenda, which begins at 5 pm with an open house and hors d'oeuvres, will focus on what has been accomplished, while Friday's focus will be on moving forward, embracing

change and being a part of the process. Friday's activities begin at 8am and go until 4pm.

Registration forms are available at the Richland County Health Department, 1201 W. Holly or register online at richland.org and click on the puzzle piece. Pre-registration is encouraged. However, you may also register the day of the event.

Photo Voice Deadline Extended To March 16

Community members are encouraged to snap pictures of what change looks like in Richland County. Conference committee member Judy LaPan emphasized that photos of all aspects of change, good and bad, are encouraged. "Sometimes we see more in an image than can be explained verbally," added Anderson. Before and after pictures are welcome as well, perhaps showing the change in a specific place. "This is a credible way of assessing the community," LaPan said.

Drop off your pictures at the Richland County Health Department or the MonDak Heritage Center or email them to health@richland.org by Monday, March 16. The photos will be displayed at the conference.

Founder Of Direct Sales Company 'Mialisia' Coming To Sidney March 19th

By Hannah Whiteman

Local Designers, Hannah Whiteman & Niki Rettke are excited to welcome Annelise Brown, Founder and CEO of Mialisia to Sidney on Thursday, March 19th at 6 p.m. at the Richland County Event Center and invite the public to attend this Spring Fling Fashion Event!

Mialisia is a unique new jewelry company offering a brand new concept in the fashion industry! This patent pending design is changing the way women wear jewelry and is impacting styles everywhere.

Annelise started out by hand crafting her jewelry and selling at local vendor shows. One night, an idea came to her to add hooks to her jewelry instead of the traditional clasps. This idea allows for infinite possibilities with each piece of jewelry. It lets women design their own look and style. She called it VersaStyle! After adding the hooks to the jewelry, her business exploded and not being able to keep up with the demand on her own the Direct Sales business was established and Mialisia opened their doors in the summer of 2013.

Mialisia is more than just jewelry to Annelise though

and she shares this message "As women, we tend to be so hard on ourselves. We spend so much of our time focusing on our weaknesses or comparing ourselves to others. When we do this, we forget just how truly amazing we are. I feel a personal responsibility to help women realize their infinite worth. I take this very seriously and believe that by connecting with others, we can serve them and bless their lives. VersaStyle jewelry is the vehicle that allows us to make these connections."

We invite you to come and see the VersaStyle concept in action and hear more

of Annelise's story on March 19th. This event is open to the public free of charge. Bring a friend and enjoy a relaxing evening with giveaways, entertainment and fun!

For more information or to reserve a table (reservations not required, but appreciated), contact Hannah Whiteman, 406-488-4860. www.hannahw.mialisia.com, www.facebook.com/youhaveinfinetworth

Every woman has the right to change her look and her style. For some of us, that happens multiple times a day. We need jewelry that changes as fast as our schedules. - Annelise Brown

Miles City Job Fair 2015

Submitted by Cheryl Peterson, Sidney Job Service

Employers And Resource Agencies Are Invited To The Attend Miles City Job Fair 2015

Thursday, April 9 from Noon to 4 p.m. MCC Centra, 2715 Dickinson Street, Miles City. Cost for the event is \$50.

Our event provides you the opportunity to interview job seekers for employment and available programs as well as build an applicant pool. It also provides job seekers of all ages the opportunity to contact employers and community resources.

To participate, complete the attached Registration form, enclose your payment of \$50 (plus \$20 more if you requested electricity) and return it to: Guy Lund, Miles Community College, 2715 Dickinson St., Miles City, MT 59301. It's that simple!

For more information, call Cindy Erickson at 232-8349, or Guy Lund at 874-6215. Hope to see you there!

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Camp Mak-A-Dream Honored By The Montana Legislature

Camp Mak-A-Dream, located in Gold Creek Montana, will be recognized for its 20th Anniversary in 2015, by the Montana Legislature on March 6, 2015 in the House Chambers with a Joint Proclamation of the Montana Legislature.

A JOINT PROCLAMATION OF THE MONTANA LEGISLATURE

WHEREAS, Since opening its doors in Gold Creek, Mon-

tana in 1995, Camp Mak-A-Dream has provided a "Montana Experience" to children and adults diagnosed with cancer and their families; and

WHEREAS, Camp Mak-A-Dream has strong partnerships with hospitals across the Country including

St. Jude Children's Hospital, Seattle Children's Hospital, Cook Children's Medical Center and Hershey Medical Center, among others; and

WHEREAS, Camp Mak-A-Dream has served over 6,000 participants from 49 states and 8 foreign countries with 11 camp and retreat programs per year, with 50 campers each session; and

WHEREAS, Camp Mak-A-Dream is one of only a few oncology camps that serves a national and international

population who are currently in the midst of treatment;

WHEREAS, Since 1998, 100 campers, volunteers and staff have the opportunity each year to participate in the Shooting Star float trip down the Clark Fork, Missouri or Blackfoot rivers, founded by Chuck Mazurek and funded by individuals and businesses in the Butte, Helena, Great Falls and Missoula areas; and

WHEREAS; 2015 marks the 20-year anniversary of Camp Mak-A-Dream, complete with a Health Center facility and a new Wellness Center; and

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Legislature of the State of Montana recognizes and commends Camp Mak-A-Dream for their kindness, care and compassion in enhancing the lives of cancer patients by fulfilling their "dream" with a memorable Montana Experience for the past 20 years.

Contact: Camp Mak-A-Dream, Children's Oncology Camp Foundation, Laura Bianco-Hanna, P.O. Box 1450, Missoula, MT 59806, 406-549-5987, <http://www.campdream.org/>.

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Public Meeting To Focus On Needs Of People With Disabilities

The Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) announced today a public meeting focusing on the needs of people with disabilities is scheduled for Friday, March 20, 2015 from 3 to 4:15 p.m. via videoconference in nine Montana cities.

The meeting is sponsored by the Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services Program and the Statewide Independent Living Council.

"The purpose of the forum allows people with disabilities to share their comments and suggestions regarding the vocational rehabilitation and independent living services provided by the state," said DPHHS Vocational Rehabilitation program manager Mike Hermanson. "The comments help both programs evaluate their services in an effort to best meet the needs of their consumers."

The program is particularly interested in ideas related to:

- What needs to be done to assist Montanans with disabilities get and keep employment?
- What barriers are there to getting effective services from the Vocational Rehabilitation and Blind Services Program or Independent Living ?
- What groups of Montanans with disabilities aren't served adequately by the Vocational Rehabilitation And Blind Services Program Or Independent Living

The meeting will be held simultaneously at the nine video conference sites:

Billings: MSU-Billings, 1500 University Drive, Education Building, Room 158

Bozeman: Montana State University, Eng. Phys. Science Building-South 7th and Grant, Rm. 126

Butte: Montana Tech, 1300 West Park Street, English Lab ELC Room 202

Great Falls: Great Falls College of Technology, 2100

16th Avenue South, Room B-133

Havre: MSU-Northern, 300 11th Street West, Hagner Science Center Room 202

Helena: Helena College, 1115 N. Roberts Street, Room DON 002-005

Kalispell: Flathead Valley Com. College, 777 Grandview Dr., Learning Resource Ctr., Rm. 120

Miles City: Miles City Community College, 2715 Dickenson Street, Room 313

Missoula: University of Montana, corner of Arthur and Eddy, Gallagher Building, Room 104

Anyone unable to attend the meeting is encouraged to

call in using this number:

Call-in number: 406-449-7478. Conference ID#: 66976.

The call in number will only be active during the time of the meeting.

In addition, written comments can be sent to Mike Hermanson, Program Manager, Montana Vocational Rehabilitation Program, PO Box 4210, Helena, MT 59604, or to mhermanson@mt.gov. The deadline for written comments is April 1, 2015, and they will be given the same consideration as comments made in person.

For additional information contact Hermanson at 406-444-3833.

Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Committee Scholarship

Submitted By Nicole Hackley

The Montana Farm Bureau Federation will present two \$1,000.00 scholarships made available through special efforts of the MFB Women's Leadership Committee and the county Farm Bureaus. The scholarships are available to both males and females. The winner will be selected on the following criteria: 1) Must be an incoming college freshman. 2) Scholarship must be used the year it is awarded. 3)Must be a current paid Montana Farm Bureau member, or an immediate member of a current paid Montana Farm Bureau family. 4) Will be judged in order of importance: a. Scholastic achievement (high school grades) b. Goals—regarding college courses and activities c. Community activities d. School activities.

All scholarship applications must be sent to and approved by the county Farm Bureau and signed by the county Farm Bureau president, Don Steinbeisser Jr. If the applicant has any questions regarding the scholarship or scholarship application, call Alena Standley at 406-799-9955. Applications must be submitted to the county Farm Bureau no later than April1, 2015, at 302 W. Main, Sidney, MT 59270. For a copy of the application, contact Nicole Hackley at (406) 480-5385, or applications are available online at www.mfbf.org/member-services/scholarships/.

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1ST GRADE & YOUNGER (TOTS, BANTAMS)

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2ND - 4TH GRADE (BANTAMS, MIDGETS)

Front (L-R): Reece Graves, Paul Gonzalez, Christian Gonzalez, Tyler Loan, Kale Houchen, Ryker Wise, Gavin Skoy, Beau Rindahl, Deion Taylor, Brandon Becker. **Middle (L-R):** Nathan Carlsen, Brian Allen, Amen Powell, Kaiden Savik, Samuel Sutherland, Kaleb Kutzler, Lily Waltner, Kaden Wise, Cameron Mikesell. **Back (L-R):** Jameson Crane, Kaleb Kleinke, Tyler Brost, Keegan Brost, Ben Carlsen, Nathan Romo, Dillon Skoy, Shane Waltner, Chace Waters, Corben Holler, Brendyn Batty.



5TH - 8TH GRADE (NOVICE, SCHOOLBOY, CADET)

Front (L-R): Paul Whitaker, Tucker Nevins, Aden Graves, Zander Dean, Colten Reidel, Owen Lonski, Zander Burnison, Kolby Hutzenbiler, Jed Escobedo. **Middle (L-R):** Shanti Taylor, Kade Rindahl, Christian Dean, Kade Graves, Kaiden Cline, Brodey Skogen, Kolten Reid, Grady Nelson, Matt Hansen, Jordan Darby. **Back (L-R):** Easton Hopes, Ammon Hutson, Cash Cundiff, Jaret Aisenbrey, Trevor Dean, Trey Schepens, Everett Jensen, Jett Jones, AJ Ullmer, Jace Winter

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Area Sports Action

Sidney Gymnastics Club Results



Photos by Keri McPherson

Results from SGC Sade Warren Memorial Meet in Minot on March 7th

Sidney Gymnastics Club Level 3 Team took 1st with 110.700 points, and Level 4 team took 2nd with 101.700 points.

Level 3 Individual Placers- Vault: Hailey Hasvold, 5th. Uneven Bars: Taylor McPherson, 2nd • Allison Axtman, 3rd • Lacie Selting, 4th • Makyya Beyer, 9th • Kambre Kloker, 9th • Zoe Thom, 9th. Balance Beam: Taylor McPherson, 1st • Allison Axtman, 3rd • Riley Jimison, 7th • Zoe Thom, 7th. Floor Exercise: Makyya Beyer, 1st • Allison Axtman, 2nd • Taylor McPherson, 4th • Riley Jimison, 8th. All Around: Taylor McPherson, 1st • Allison Axtman, 1st • Makyya Beyer, 7th • Hailey Hasvold, 10th. Also competing for Level 3: Ella Jordan, Kenzie Gaffield, Allison Thiel, Macy Tjelde.

Level 4 Individual Placers- Vault: Codi Hasvold, 4th • Lorraine Coronato, 5th. Uneven Bars: Lorraine Coronato, 1st • Codi Hasvold, 6th. Balance Beam: Suttyn Barnhart, 1st • Lorraine Coronato, 3rd. Floor Exercise: Suttyn Barnhart, 2nd • Lorraine Coronato, 4th • Codi Hasvold, 5th.

Mens Team Competitors: Jeffery Tjelde & Taten Bright.



Results For Saturday, March 7th Sidney Invitational

Tot 35: Barrett McLain, 2nd • Breydon Dutton, 3rd; Tot 40A: Kade Kutzler, 5th • Seth Hussey, 7th; Tot 40B: Brodie Bright, 1st • Eli Engstrom, 2nd; Tot 45A: Aldo Gonzalez, 1st • Jaxon Burger, 2nd • Jesse Clifton, 5th; Tot 45B: Brenner Mullin, 1st • Aiden Rudie, 3rd • Toryn Gonzalez, 5th • Levi Grimes, 6th; Tot 45C: Rueger Sheehan, 2nd • Ethan Eide, 4th • Jude Waltner 6th; Tot 50A: Silas Wichman, 2nd; Tot 55A: Koope Lester, 4th; Tot 55B: Shay Severson, 3rd; Tot HWT: Collin Ross, 3rd.

Bantam 40: Dawson Baltrusch, 1st • Bantam 50: Tyler Loan, 1st • RJ Engstrom, 4th • Maliek Taylor, 6th; Bantam 55: Bryan Allen, 5th; Bantam 60: Ryker Wise, 3rd; Bantam 70: Parker Verhaselt, 6th; Bantam 85+: Kaleb Kutzler, 1st; Bantam 95+: Jordan Lorenz, 3rd.

Midget 50: Resse Graves, 1st; Midget 55: Beau Rindahl, 5th • Paul Gonzalez, 7th; Midget 60: Kale Houchen, 6th; Midget 70: Zander Dean, 1st; Midget 75: Sam Sutherland, 8th; Midget 90: Dillon Skoy, 3rd; Midget 95: Tyler Brost, 4th.

Novice 60: Drew Shirman, 2nd; Novice 70: Kaden Wise, 1st; Novice 75: Kolby Hutzenbiler, 2nd • Camerson Mikesell, 7th; Novice 80: Tucker Nevins, 1st • Shane Waltner, 4th; Novice 85: Nathan Romo, 2nd • Grady Nelson, 3rd; Novice 90: Kolter Savik, 3rd; Novice 95: Colten Reidel, 1st • Mason Shirman, 3rd.

Schoolboy 80: Kaiden Cline, 2nd; Schoolboy 90: Kade Rindahl, 2nd; Schoolboy 95: Matthew Hanen, 2nd; Schoolboy 110: Easton Hopes, 3rd; Schoolboy 115+ Ammon Huston, 1st; Schoolboy 180: Trey Schepens, 1st.

Cadet 150-160: Keelan Geiser, 2nd.



Jett Jones scores a pin. Jones placed 4th at the tournament in Lewistown. (Photos by Kari Jones)



Kade Graves pins his opponent at the Middle School tourney in Lewistown. Graves placed third at the State Tournament.

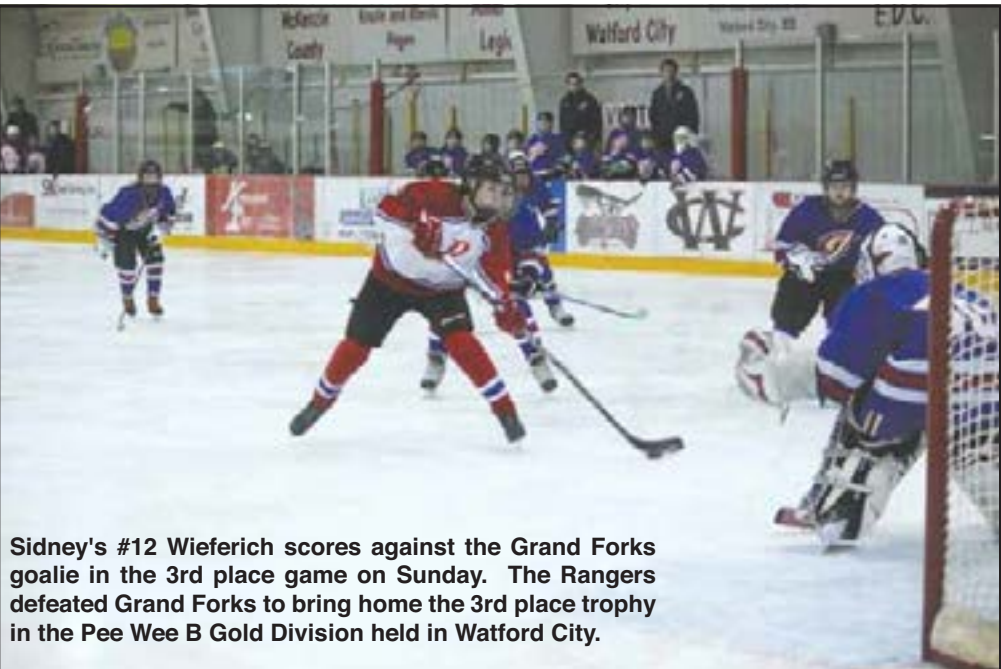
Watford City Pee Wees Claim "Back to Back" State Championships.



Front row: Cooper Johnson, Evan Tepsa, Kyle Carlson, Billy Elliot, Kairan Olson, Dakota Wollan and Preston Larson. Back: Coaches Joey Olson and Alex Hansen, Matt Roles, Fox Dodds, Tayson Grotte, Jackson Dodds, Jaden Quale, Blake Zimmerman and Head Coach Chaz Mosby.



Watford City's Fox Dodds slips the puck past West Fargo's Goalie in the Championship game of the State Pee Wee B Gold Tournament held in Watford City over the Weekend. The Oilers defeated West Fargo 4-3, to claim the title of back to back State Champions.



Sidney's #12 Wieferich scores against the Grand Forks goalie in the 3rd place game on Sunday. The Rangers defeated Grand Forks to bring home the 3rd place trophy in the Pee Wee B Gold Division held in Watford City.



The Sidney Wrestling Middle School boys attended the State Middle School tourney in Lewistown this Saturday. The team took 1st at the tournament.

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Must be 15 or older and have current LGI and CPR. Applications available at City Hall, Mon-Fri. 8 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Send resume: c/o of Pool Mgr 115 2nd St. SE Sidney, MT 59270. Applications close on April 30th.

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4H Seamstresses

The 4H seamstresses got together for a class in February to continue learning how to sew. This month's project was an appliqué envelope pillow. They learned several new techniques and had a lot of fun making this pillow with their initial. Shown are Maret Schieber, Sienna Boehler and Kendyl Wacha. (Submitted by Leslie McMillen)



DUI Patrols Increase For St. Patrick's Partiers. Extra Patrols Around The State; Added Focus On Butte Travelers

Helena – One of Montana's most high-spirited celebrations comes along this time of year. Law enforcement agencies around the state are mindful of the tendency to honor St. Paddy by hoisting a few glasses. Local police and county sheriffs throughout the state will be on alert for drivers who are impaired.

The team of Montana Highway Patrol troopers who specialize in high-risk impaired driving enforcement, the Safety Enforcement Traffic Team (SETT), will be deployed in the region around Butte. The Montana Highway Patrol will coordinate with the Butte Silver Bow Law Enforcement to saturate streets and highways during one of the biggest drinking weekends of the year.

"The high-risk period starts on Friday and goes through the holiday," said Sgt. Derek Brown, spokesman for the SETT troopers. The highly-trained DUI team expects to see an influx of motorists from Missoula and Bozeman as well as other parts of the state. Thousands of visitors normally come to Butte for the annual celebration that also commemorates the Irish heritage of the community.

"With all the additional travelers, we feel a heavy responsibility to get unsafe drivers off the road before they hurt someone," said Sgt. Brown. "If you are going to be drinking, plan ahead for a sober ride," he stated.

Communities throughout Montana will also be getting their green on for the Irish holiday. Billings will host a parade and Celtic Street Fair. Parades are scheduled for several towns and cities, such as Great Falls and Anaconda. Miles City will kick off a Fun Run and other communities will enjoy a dance or a St. Patrick's Day dinner, like the one in Lewistown.

"It's not the corned beef we're worried about," said Sgt. Brown. "Many of these celebrations are family-oriented, and we need to keep travel safe for those families," he said. "Even a couple drinks can make someone a threat to everyone else on the road if

that person chooses to get behind the wheel," Brown added.

The public can help law enforcement by calling 9-1-1 to report an impaired driver.

Extra patrols are funded by the Montana Department of Transportation as one of several strategic partnerships to reduce impaired driving in the state. More than twenty agencies are participating in increased enforcement periods. Strict enforcement of the state's traffic laws is critical for Montana's Vision Zero goal to eliminate deaths and serious injuries on Montana's roads. For more information, visit plan2live.mt.gov or #VisionZeroMT.

Youth Grant Application Deadline

Submitted by ND Game & Fish Department

Wildlife, shooting, fraternal and nonprofit civil organizations are urged to submit an application for the Encouraging Tomorrow's Hunters program, a State Game and Fish Department grant program developed to assist recruitment of the next generation of hunters and shooters. The maximum grant allowed is \$3,000. The program currently helps fund approximately 40 club and organizational events and projects, with an average grant of \$1,550. Grant funds help cover event expenses, including promotional printing; event memorabilia such as shirts, caps or vests; ammunition and targets, and eye and ear protection. Past funding has enabled several groups to conduct youth pheasant and waterfowl hunts, while others have sponsored trap and other shooting events, including archery and rifle shooting. Any club or organization interested in conducting a youth hunting or shooting event can get more information, including a grant application, from the Game and Fish Department website, gf.nd.gov, or by contacting outreach biologist Pat Lothspeich at 701-328-6332. The deadline to apply for a 2015 grant is April 19.



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Fraud Foresight

By Alana Listoe, Montana Credit Union Network

Having easier access to information, especially online, has many positive implications, but it also means the risks of getting scammed, having your identity stolen, or being a victim of fraud are at an all-time high. Some financial and economic columnists go so far as to say it's not if, but when each of us will get hacked.

Scammers are smart and have one goal: tricking their victims. Imposters call and say you've won a prize; misrepresent themselves as an official with a financial institution (or the IRS); or claim a relative needs help and phish for account details.

Montana's credit unions are committed to providing a variety of relevant and timely consumer education resources. The first week of March is designated National Consumer Protection Week and an opportunity to encourage consumers to take full advantage of their rights and make better informed decisions. Tax scams are more prevalent this time of year than others. Seniors who depend on others to assist and children are often seen as easy targets for financial exploitation. And, there are many cases where unethical businesses overcharge and take advantage of diligent

bill-payers.

The Montana Office of Consumer Protection, which is under the umbrella of the Department of Justice, works to protect your rights. Investigator Ryan Sullivan fields calls and e-mails from consumers about scams and bad business practices.

"We try to answer them to the best of our knowledge and steer (consumers) in the right direction," he says, adding that many times it just takes some communication. "We look to help consumers and businesses get on the same page and work for a fair resolution."

Sullivan says a communication break-down is often behind a consumer's complaint. The first step for the consumer is to contact the business. "Businesses are typically more than willing to work it out given the chance," he said. "But when that doesn't work out, we can step in and play the moderator."

But, it's not always about bad communication. Sometimes it's fraud.

Recent attempts to scam consumers involves those using a computer with Microsoft OS. The scammer calls and claims there is an identified computer issue in an attempt to gain access to install an anti-virus. But, Sullivan says the anti-virus is actually a program that tracks keystrokes,

allowing the culprit to replicate passwords and steal personal information. If consumers have unwittingly allowed access to their computer, Sullivan advises that they should completely unplug all power sources and Internet connections and notify his office for further assistance and guidance.

The best advice is to be proactive. Pay close attention to financial statements, receipts, and credit activity. If a credit card is stolen, contact the issuer immediately and monitor the account activity online, never waiting for monthly statements. When fraudulent activity is identified, put a freeze on credit with all three reporting bureaus. It's also a good idea to get your free annual credit report at www.annualcreditreport.com

"The more proactive you stay, the less damage that can happen," says Sullivan. "If you ever wonder if something is legitimate, don't hesitate to call because our office is a gateway to help people get through the battle. People should never be embarrassed, because there is nothing we haven't heard."

To reach the Office of Consumer Protection toll-free call 1-800-481-6896. Throughout this month visit www.montanacreditunions.coop for weekly posts on preventing scams and fraud.

USDA Employee Recognized for His Service to Montana

Bozeman, Feb. 3, 2014 – USDA Rural Development Montana is proud to announce that Montana Rural Water Systems has presented Steve Troendle, Community Programs Director USDA Rural Development Montana with their 2014 Distinguished Service Award.

Co-workers have described him as a super hard worker with a great sense of humor. A genuinely caring person who treats everyone fairly and with respect, and who cares about doing the right thing, the practical thing, the sensible thing. A former supervisor nicknamed him "Velcro Man," because if there was ever a problem or a challenge it would stick to him like he was Velcro.

It is these traits and more that have served Steve Troendle well in his more than 32 years of service which he began in 1982 with the Farmers Home Administration as an Agricultural Management Specialist. Steve has moved around a few times in his

career, starting in Minnesota then Oregon and Washington State, finally settling in Montana in 2007 where he became the Director of Community Programs overseeing the Water and Environmental and Community Facilities Programs.

Since becoming Director of Community Programs Steve has overseen more than \$190,000,000 in funding to Montana's water systems. That is an average of \$23,750,000 a year!

"The funding Rural Development has been able to provide to Montana is not due to one man," Steve was quick to say. "There is a staff of 8 very hard working

people in Water and Environmental! This award is just as much theirs!"

Rural Development Montana is excited that Steve and the hard work of his staff bringing clean drinking water along with efficient and safe waste disposal to the communities of Montana is being recognized.



Sen. Steve Daines - MT presents Steve Troendle, USDA RD MT with the MRWS 2014 Distinguished Service Award. (Photo Courtesy of USDA RD MT)

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Salute To Agriculture

National Ag Week March 15-21, 2015



Honoring American Agriculture On March 18

(NAPS)—“In no other country do so few people produce so much food, to feed so many, at such reasonable prices.”—President Dwight D. Eisenhower

President Eisenhower’s words ring as true today as they did more than 60 years ago.

That’s why on March 18, the country will celebrate National Ag Day, and formally recognize the efforts of nearly 2 million hardworking family farmers and ranchers who produce much of the food and fiber on which the world depends.

This year’s National Ag Day theme is Agriculture: Sustaining Future Generations. It showcases the role that farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses play in providing a safe, nutritious and affordable food supply for

nearly 7.3 billion people worldwide today and the 9 billion people expected by 2050.

More important, today’s producers use less water, land and other resources than ever before. Not only are they producing more with less, they are using modern, sustainable practices that help put wholesome and affordable food on tables around the world, every day, without fail.

According to the Agriculture Council of America, the national organization behind National Ag Day, it’s important that consumers understand where their food comes from and how farmers use the latest technologies and agricultural innovations to make it all possible. In fact, history has shown that the vitality and wellbeing of future

generations hinges on the ingenuity and productivity of its agricultural industry.

When President Eisenhower spoke about America’s farmers, the world population was 3 billion and each farmer produced enough for 25 other people. Today, each farmer produces enough for more than 144 people. This demonstrates the tremendous productivity and efficiency of these food producers and the dedication of thousands of agribusiness companies that support them.

Learn More

To find out more about National Ag Day on March 18 and learn about the accomplishments of American agriculture, visit www.agday.org

Agriculture: Sustaining Future Generations.

National Ag Week March 15-21



Agriculture has always been, and continues to be, the #1 industry in Richland County.
We appreciate everyone involved in providing the best food supply in the world.

Richland County Commissioners

Shane Gorder, Loren Young, Duane Mitchell

Appreciating Agriculture One Bite At A Time

By Lois Stephens
I really like to eat. I am not fussy, I enjoy a great slice of bread slathered with peanut butter and honey; I also appre-

ciate steaks and chops of all sorts, and of course I delight in my vegetables, salads, fruits, cheeses, wines, hot chocolate, and other assorted tasty food

that keeps me well-nourished and content.
I often take the food bounty this country enjoys for granted, and rarely take the time to

consider how fortunate I am that we do have an abundant food supply. I have all this goodness thanks to agriculture and the efforts of those who practice agriculture and who have spent their lives providing me with sustenance. I'd have a tough time foraging for enough to eat and for the means to make my clothing without those in agriculture, so today I want to take this opportunity to thank my friends, neighbors, and people everywhere who do the work required to ensure I have a good selection of healthy, nourishing food to eat.

Agriculture in one form or another predates all other industry; it literally has existed nearly as long as the human species. For millennia, farmers, ranchers, and other agriculturists have made things grow and thrive, whether that production provided grains for flour products, livestock for animal protein and the hides for clothing, honey for sweetening, or resulted in other edibles that ensured people had food and fiber to live. Growing and producing food and fiber occurred long before humans learned how to smelt metal, make fancy pottery, suck oil out of the ground, or engage in any other manufacturing activity.

We in Montana understand the importance of agriculture and what this vital industry does for the nation and the world so I am preaching to the choir here, but hey, it never hurts to thank these men and women who feed us and let them know how much we appreciate their efforts. The agricultural sector works hard to ensure a safe, consistent food supply, from animal protein of all sorts to grains, honey, and other specialty crops, and we would be in a

world of hurt without them.
Agriculture remains Montana's leading industry and for good reason. The state encompasses 93 million acres, and 66% of those 93 million acres are classified as farmland or agricultural acres. Cattle outnumber people in Montana, which makes me chuckle when I read news stories about how big bad cattle produce methane and foul the air. People emit methane gas as well, which makes me wonder which state has the cleaner air, Montana with more cows than people, or New Jersey with more people than cows? Which state would you prefer to live in?

Both ends of the State of Montana do their fair share in maintaining agricultural production. Eastern Montana enjoys a longer, warmer growing season than does the western portion of the state, with 120 to 150 frost free growing days as compared to western Montana's 50 to 100 frost free days. The west has milder winters and cooler summers and it suffers a lot less from harsh winds than its eastern counterpart. Eastern Montana, as we all know, sees a lot of blustery days.

Montana grows a huge variety of crops and produces all sorts of agricultural commodities. Cow/calves head the list for top agricultural revenue, followed next by wheat, barley, hay and sugarbeets. Montana placed second nationwide in 2009 for safflower production and fourth for honey production. Honey production and pollinating have become a multi-million dollar industry in Montana.

Montana grain farmers ship bulk grain all over the world. In 2013 more than 30% of Montana business centered

on the shipping of the state's bulk grain to all parts of the globe. Also in 2013, Montana led the nation in pea production and produced more barley than any of the other 49 states.

Not only do our farmers and ranchers produce an enormous variety of crops, but many of them have expanded their efforts to include value added businesses such as growing specialty crops for wineries, microbreweries, specialty meat shops, pasta companies, confectioneries, and other businesses that rely on Montana grown crops. Consider the growing number of farmers' markets across the state. Without farmers, ranchers, and great gardeners, these markets would not enjoy the success that they do.

Wheat Montana near Three Forks epitomizes the value added concept. Three generations of farmers have grown and milled wheat from this farm, and they now have a popular bakery and deli open for business. People can purchase Wheat Montana bread all across the state, and their flour, cereals, and grains can be found nationwide.

Wheat Montana, at 5000 feet above sea level, can boast that this farm grows wheat at the highest elevation in North America. The owners credit this high elevation as part of the reason for the success of their farming operation.

Montana needs all of its many industries, but we need to remember how vital agriculture is to each and every one of us, and we need to support agriculture in any way that we can.

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Montana FSA: Montana Farmers & Ranchers Reminded Of Important March 16 Deadline For 2015 NAP Coverage

Submitted by Tammy Lake, Richland County Farm & Service Agency
BOZEMAN, Mont. – USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director Bruce Nelson reminds Montana farmers and ranchers that Monday, March 16th is the sales closing deadline for most non-insurable 2015 spring planted crops.
The application deadline for the 2015 Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for all non-insurable crops except for honey, perennial forage crops intended for hay and grazing, fall seeded annual crops, and value loss crops is March 16, 2015. The 2015 sales closing dates for basic NAP coverage and buy-up level of NAP coverage have already ended for perennial forage crops intended for hay

and grazing and fall seeded annual crops (Sept. 30, 2014), honey (Dec. 1, 2014) and value-loss crops (Sept. 1, 2014).
Eligible producers can apply for coverage at their local FSA office using form CCC-471, Application for Coverage. Producers must file the application and pay the applicable service fee on or before the application closing date for the applicable crop. The service fee is the lesser of \$250 per crop or \$750 per producer per administrative county, not to exceed a total of \$1,875 for a producer with farming interests in multiple counties.
NAP provides financial assistance to eligible producers when natural disasters cause catastrophic loss of production (low yield) or prevented planting of an eligible noninsurable crop by providing coverage equivalent to the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance. In the event of a natural disaster, NAP provides catastrophic level (CAT) coverage based on the amount of loss that exceeds 50 percent of expected production at 55 percent of the average market price for the crop. The 2014 Farm Bill authorized additional coverage levels ranging from 50 to 65 percent of production, in 5 percent increments, at 100 percent of the average market price. This additional "buy-up" coverage must be elected by

a producer by the application closing date. Producers who elect additional coverage must pay a premium in addition to the service fee. Crops intended for grazing are not eligible for additional coverage.
Beginning farmers or ranchers, limited resource producers, and traditionally underserved farmers, including minorities and women, are eligible for a waiver of the service fee and a 50 percent premium reduction when they file form CCC-860, "Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource and Beginning Farmer or Rancher Certification." If you have questions regarding beginning, limited resource, and traditionally underserved farmer definitions and eligibility, please contact your local FSA office.
NAP is available on commercially-produced agricultural commodity crops for which the catastrophic risk protection level of crop insurance is not available. If the Risk Management Agency (RMA) offers coverage for a specific crop and intended use in the county, then NAP coverage is not available for that crop.
A copy of a Montana NAP factsheet is available at: http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/15_mtnap.pdf. For more information on NAP and other FSA programs, contact your local FSA office and visit us online at www.fsa.usda.gov/mt.



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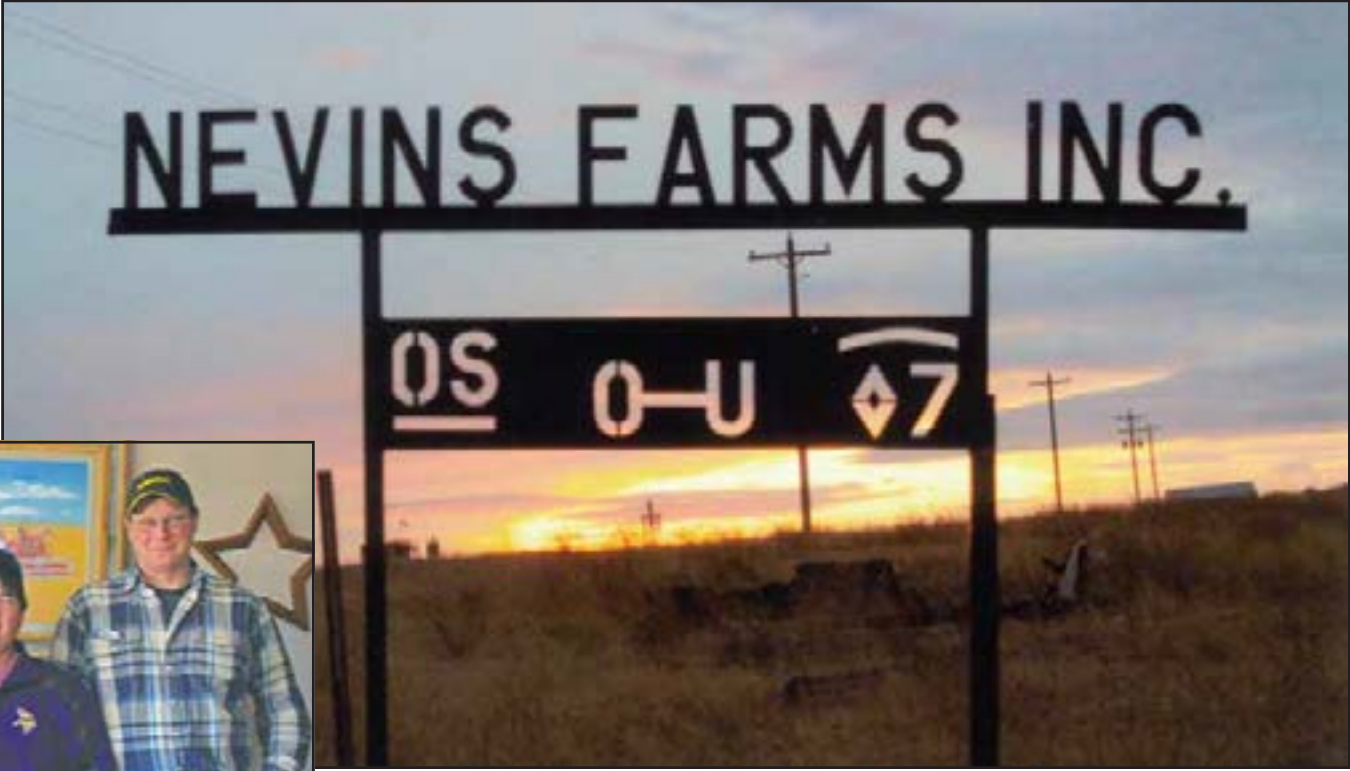
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Nevins Family Carries on the Farming Legacy






Above: The Nevins property. Middle: The Nevins Family from L-R Heather Nevins, CJ Nevins, Kolton Nevins, and Chuck Nevins. Right: The Nevins Farms Inc. sign with the family brands. (L to R) Chuck Nevins brother's brand, the farm brand, and Chuck Nevins brand.



By Meagan Dotson
Chuck and Heather Nevins have been farming and ranching their entire lives and through it they are instilling a way of life, appreciation, and work ethic in their sons Kolton and CJ Nevins. The main homestead that Chuck grew up on has been in his family since 1910 and the land that they currently live on was an addition bought in 1996. Each person contributes including the boys who help with branding, fencing, operating some of the farm equipment, and harvesting wheat, barley, and oats.
"Growing up out here has taught our boys to be self-sufficient and they have a lot of freedom. They are very considerate and always ask if we need their help before they do anything else; they love the animals and know a lot about the herd," said Chuck and Heather of their sons.
Teaching their boys to lend a helping hand and be involved isn't something that only applies to their life at home, but extends into everything they do. Leading by example, Chuck is dedicated to all the hard work that goes into caring for their cattle and planting, tending to, and harvesting the crops. Heather,

who works at the Health Department and graduated from Rocky Mountain College in Billings, MT with a Bachelors of Art Degree in K-8 education, is involved with organizing the Bra Auction for the Cancer Coalition. Her mother, who is a breast cancer survivor, rallies the grandkids and together they make a bra to donate to the auction. Heather is also on the Brorson School Board where her youngest son, CJ still attends.
"There are so many opportunities in the community," said Heather, discussing the organization and scheduling that it takes to make everything run smoothly. "Staying busy is normal for us."
As a family they have participated in the Relay for Life and the Ribbon Walk which takes place in June and raises funds for local cancer treatment. The family attends the Shepherd of the Valley Church in Sidney, MT and Kolton and CJ are both involved with the church's Youth Group. They recently got back from a Youth skiing trip in Bottineau, ND.
Kolton, a junior at Sidney High School, has been on the Junior Varsity and Varsity Football Teams as well as the manager of the girls Varsity Basketball Team his fresh-

man and sophomore years. Sixth grader CJ Nevins plays soccer, was on the sixth grade traveling basketball team, and played on the fifth and sixth grade football team who took first at state last year.
The two of them are active in the Brorson Farm Hands 4-H Club and Heather volunteers as the Organizational Leader for the club. Both boys have taken an interest in leather craft, woodworking, shooting sports, and raising and showing steers. Kolton is a Junior Leader and has taken an interest in welding and become proficient in leather craft. CJ is interested in veterinary science and is on the livestock judging team and in 2014 was awarded a County Trophy for sheep judging.
"We want the boys to be a part of the community and not just simply live in it; we want them to know how great our community is and that there is a lot to gain from being involved," added Heather.
The Nevins family is one who makes everything they do count, who seize the opportunity to be involved and lend a helping hand whether on their farm and ranch, at their schools or church, or in the community they call home.




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Chuck Nevins and his son CJ work in the field.

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CJ Nevins on the farm with his 4-H steer.



Kolton Nevins with his 4-H steer.



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April 6 & 7
April 12 & 13
April 19 & 20

save our food

Safety

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By Montana Farm Bureau Federation

Across the country, county and state Farm Bureaus are making safety a priority through the Agricultural Safety Awareness Program. March 1-7 has been designated as Agricultural Safety Awareness Week with this year's theme being "Ride Like a Pro Whenever You Go."

During this week and throughout the year, Farm Bureau is encouraging farmers to emphasize all-terrain vehicle helmet safety. Farmers and ranchers, as well as their family members and employees, should make it a habit to always wear a helmet when operating an ATV.

An ATV is valued on the farm and ranch for a wide range of chores – from fixing fences to fetching lost calves

and everything in between. ATVs weigh up to 600 pounds and can reach speeds of 75 mph. Always making safety a priority on the farm can save both lives and resources by preventing accidents, injuries and lost time.

Jim Larson, Montana Ag Safety Program leader, rattles off the sad facts for 2013 regarding ATV fatalities: 21 deaths, with 18 from agriculture and 16 of those working cows. "We don't record the injuries, but the industry standard across the country is for every fatality there are 1,000 injuries," Larson says.

"The biggest contributor is too much speed and not knowing the terrain," explains Larson. "These vehicles were designed simply to go from one place to another, but now we are loading them up with sprayers, fencing materials and shovels. We have made them into a tool but they are not really made for that, especially on uneven terrain."

Larson adds the reason for deaths while working livestock is just that. "When you work livestock on an ATV, you are adding another element and are no longer concentrating on where you are driving," he says. "That's why we are always preaching 'Slow down and pay attention to your surroundings.'"

Too often, ATVs are at fault in deaths and injuries to kids. About 29,000 children under the age of 16 are treated in emergency rooms for ATV-related injuries each year.

Cascade County Farm Bureau recently held an ATV safety training during the MAGIE in Great Falls. Members explained about issues such as choosing correct ATV size, safety equipment, terrain concerns and the no extra rider rule.

"Just a few days after Cascade County hosted the ATV training, a young person who had taken our training was with his brother who had an ATV accident. Because of that, he knew not to try to move

the injured brother until help arrived," explains Alena Standley, western regional manager for Montana Farm Bureau. "It's good to hear these safety seminars can help educate people of all ages about ATV safety."

Gallatin County Farm Bureau has an ATV safety station for kids every year at the Gallatin Valley Farm Fair. Other county Farm Bureaus, such as Mussellshell, Park, Chouteau and Custer-Fallon host ATV safety seminars.

Ensure ATV safety with these simple, inexpensive tips:

- Always wear a DOT-approved helmet with face protection and protective gear
- Helmets decrease the fatality risk by 50 percent and the chance of a non-fatal head injury by 80 percent.
- Select the right size ATV
- 95 percent of child deaths occurred when children were riding an adult-sized ATV – too large for them to handle.
- Never carry multiple riders
- 75 percent of ATV-related deaths for children under 6 involved multiple riders on a single ATV.
- Keep ATVs for off-road use only.

More than 60 percent of ATV-related youth deaths occurred while children or teens were riding on paved roads.

Inspect your ATV before each ride. Visit the National Ag Safety Database for a checklist - <http://nasdonline.org/> Agricultural Safety Awareness Program is a part of the Farm Bureau Safety and Health Network of professionals who share an interest in identifying and decreasing risks. For more information and resources, visit the Montana Farm Bureau's Facebook page, the American Farm Bureau Federation's Health & Safety page, the ASAP Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AgSafety> or AFBF's Pinterest board, <http://www.pinterest.com/fbpin600/agricultural-safety-awareness-program/>.

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Public Hearing Notice for Corn Check-off Research & Production Education March 17 from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m.in Miles City

Submitted by Jayson O'Neill, Montana Department of Agriculture Public Information Specialist/Special Projects
Helena, Mont., Montana's Corn Advisory Committee will be holding a public hearing to receive relevant input from growers, producers, and first purchasers regarding the creation of a proposed corn check-off program to support corn research and production education in Montana.

The department of agriculture has received a petition containing more than 25 signatures from corn growers throughout the state proposing a corn check-off program to advance corn research and production education in the state.

The committee and representatives from the department of agriculture will be accepting public comments regarding the proposed check-off at a public hearing on March 17, 2015 from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m. at the Fort Keogh Livestock and Reach Research Laboratory, 243 Fort Keogh Road, Miles City, MT 59301.

After receiving public comment at the hearing, the committee, in consultation with the department of agriculture, will determine whether to hold a referendum on the issue. No check-off can be created without a positive vote through referendum of impacted growers and producers.

The five-member advisory committee was created at the request of corn producers to advance corn production within the state. For more information regarding the Corn Advisory Committee and the proposed corn check-off research and production education fund, contact Marty Earnheart at (406) 444-9126 or mearnheart@mt.gov.

The Montana Department of Agriculture's mission is to protect producers and consumers, and to enhance and develop agriculture and allied industries. For more information on the Montana Department of Agriculture, visit agr.mt.gov.

A Steak in Ag: A monthly report by R-CALF USA

R-CALF USA may be defined as a non-profit producer organization, but our work benefits anyone who eats meat and lives in an economy that includes agriculture. We're more than a producer organization; we're your organization!

The meatpacking lobby decided to abandon their anti-COOL lawsuit and the case was dismissed on February 9, 2015. The anti-COOL meatpacker lobby includes the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and its Canadian and Mexican counterparts, the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) and its Canadian counterpart, and four national and regional meatpacker trade groups, including the American Meat Institute (AMI) and the North American Meat Association (NAMA).

It is extremely frustrating to know that one of the main reasons the meatpacker lobby has such deep pockets with which to wage a multi-year fight against the economic interests of independent U.S. cattle producers is because several in their group are direct recipients of millions of mandatory checkoff dollars. Further, those members who are not direct recipients are nevertheless indirect beneficiaries of these dollars. As frustrating as this is it is equally disheartening to know that Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack refuses to do anything about it.

The meatpacker lobby first filed their COOL lawsuit in July 2013. R-CALF USA immediately joined forces with consumer group Food & Water Watch, affiliate South Dakota Stockgrowers Association, and the Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC) to intervene in the lawsuit to defend COOL, and it worked!

On February 13, 2015, Canada confirmed its 20th case of

bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or mad cow disease) in a native-born animal. Although Canada obtained confirmation of this latest case on February 11, it withheld information regarding the age of the cow until February 18, 2015.

At 71 months of age, this beef cow is the sixth youngest BSE-infected cow to be detected in Canada. Also, the cow was born and raised in the province of Alberta, which R-CALF USA refers to as a "BSE hotspot" because 75 percent of Canada's 20 BSE-positive, native-born cattle originated there. Canada's confirmation also establishes that the cow was infected with classical BSE, which is the strain many scientists believe is spread via the consumption of contaminated feed. In contrast, the atypical strain of BSE typically affects much older animals and is believed by some scientists to occur randomly or sporadically in nature.

R-CALF USA is encouraging congress and the public to ignore Canada's pompous posturing against COOL and instead work to demand that Canada be more responsible in its disease eradication efforts, particularly by implementing a mandatory testing program and strengthening its feed ban. We urge everyone to call their congressional members to tell them to continue supporting COOL so every consumer can make an informed choice about where they want their meat produced.

Mark your calendars for this year's annual convention: Aug. 14-15, 2015 in Denver, Colo.

R-CALF USA is solely funded by donations and membership dues. Please consider becoming a member or giving a donation. For more info or to join, go to www.r-calfusa.com, 406-252-2516.

"Roadmap Of Tomorrow" Is The Theme Of The Montana Nutrition Conference And Livestock Forum To Be Held April 28 And 29 In Bozeman.

BOZEMAN -- This year's Montana Nutrition Conference and Livestock Forum will be held April 28 and 29 at the GranTree Inn, 1325 N. 7th Ave., in Bozeman.

Speakers at the "Roadmap of Tomorrow" conference will cover a wide variety of topics, including the U.S. cattle cycle and cattle prices, hay production, impacts of maternal nutrition on offspring, weaning stress, veterinary feed directives for feed-grade antibiotics, vitamin/mineral nutrition, and considerations for replacement females in beef cattle herds.

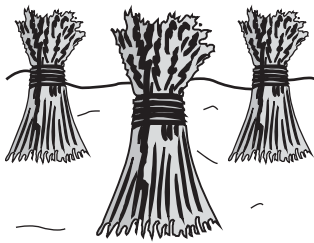
The evening program on April 28 will feature speaker Nevil Speer, vice president of U.S. operations for AgriClear. He will discuss "Food, Consumers and Their Influence on Agriculture." Two scholarships sponsored by the Montana Feed Association will also be awarded that evening.

The conference is organized by Montana State University Extension Beef Cattle Specialist Rachel Endecott in conjunction with the Montana Feed Association.

Cost to attend both days of the conference is \$115. Attendees can register online with a credit card at <https://www.montana.edu/nutrition/>. A conference brochure is available at <http://animalrange.montana.edu/conferences.htm>

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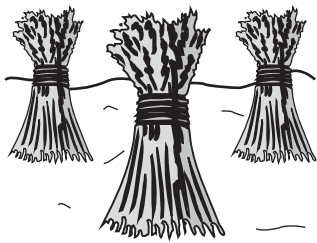
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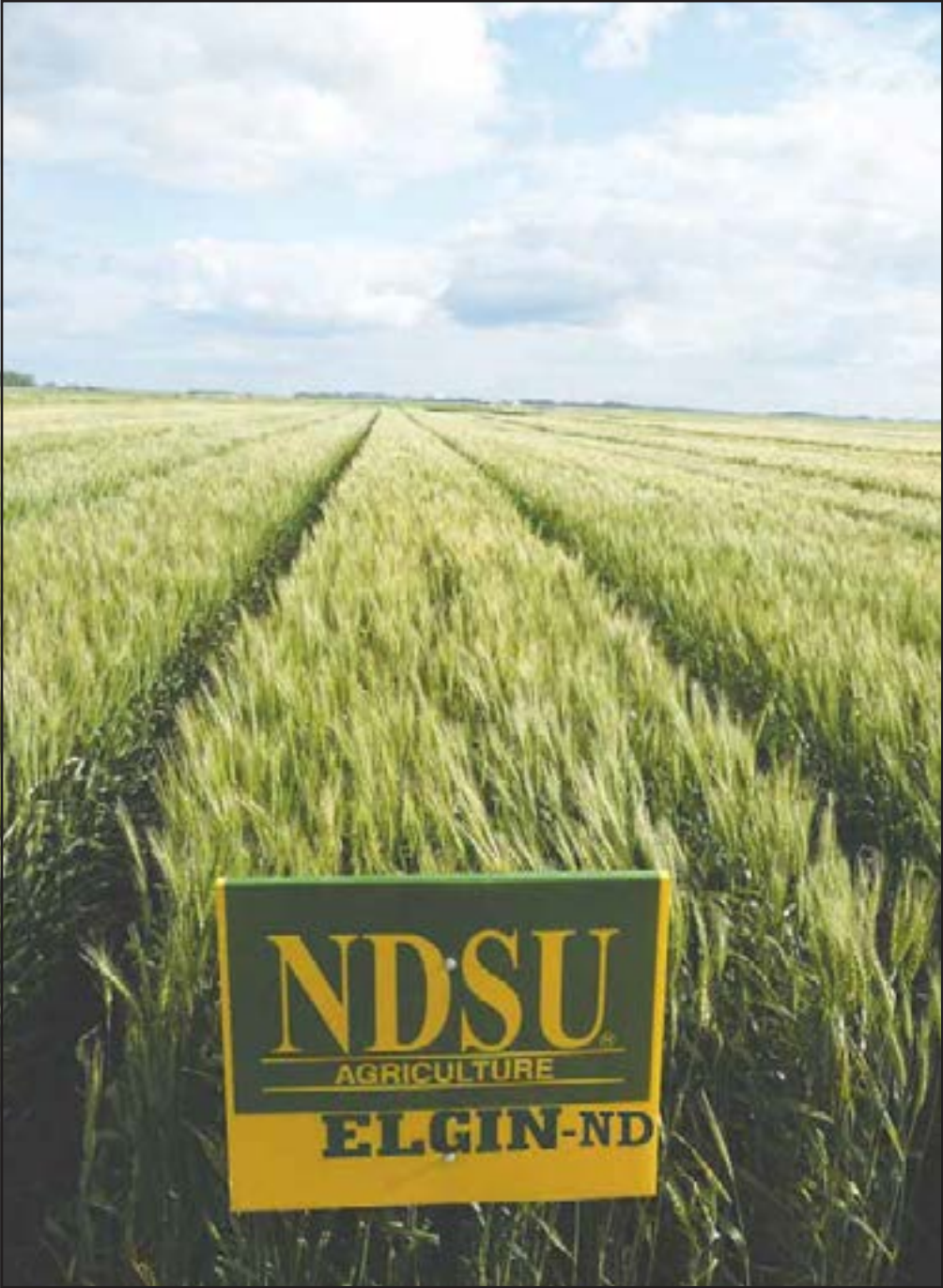
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Elgin-ND Hard Red Spring Wheat Available



Elgin-ND should do well in all regions of the state

By NDSU Agriculture Communication

Elgin-ND is the first North Dakota State University hard red spring wheat cultivar that combines high yield and good quality. Elgin-ND hard red spring wheat is available for general distribution to growers for the second year after its release by the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station.

Results from hard red spring wheat variety trials showed Elgin-ND had excellent performance. Elgin-ND's average yield from 2008 to 2014 was higher than Barlow, Glenn and SY Soren, three popular North Dakota varieties. Elgin-ND also outperformed the high-yielding varieties Prosper and Faller in western North Dakota.

"Elgin-ND is the first North Dakota State University hard red spring wheat cultivar that combines high yield and good quality," says Mohamed Mergoum, NDSU hard red spring wheat breeder. "Elgin-ND has a relatively high protein level, especially for a variety with strong yield potential. This variety also has a good disease-resistance package with intermediate resistance to scab and resistance to prevalent leaf and stem rusts, including some level of protection to the new leaf rust race Lr21. Most commercial varieties available do not have resistance to this new leaf rust race."

Elgin-ND was named after the city of Elgin in southwestern North Dakota.

"The name Elgin-ND should not give producers the impression that it is just for growers surrounding the Elgin area," says Joel Ransom, NDSU Extension Service agronomist. "Elgin-ND is one of the most widely adapted spring wheat varieties that has been released from NDSU in a long time, and it should do well in all regions of the state."

Elgin-ND is protected under the Plant Variety Protection Act with Title V. Only certified seed may be sold legally. Certified seed of Elgin-ND is available from most North Dakota county increase programs. Contact your local county NDSU Extension Service agent to ask about obtaining seed.



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