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Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Volume 46 • Number 43

CHRISTMAS WISH BOOK

See pages 7 & 10

Sidney Salvation Army Seeking Volunteers For Ring The Bells

By Anna Dragseth

Starting on Tuesday, Dec. 1, volunteers will be needed to ring bells, hold red kettles, and collect donations at Reynolds Market and Reese and Ray's IGA, Sidney. The Salvation Army is looking for volunteers to hold 2-hour shifts from Dec. 1-23. Volunteers would be needed from 4-6 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturdays.

This year in particular, due to COVID-19 health concerns, the Salvation Army will need more volunteers than ever. "Of course, this year is making things different for us. We realize that people who have volunteered with us before may not want to volunteer this year due to health concerns. So, we are looking for anyone who is willing to volunteer and take a few shifts," said Bob Burnison, Sidney Salvation Army volunteer.

He explained that due to health concerns, they will be taking extra precautions to make sure that everyone can safely participate. "We will make sure that the kettle is cleaned and disinfected. We will also require volunteers to wear masks and winter gloves. We hope that these precautions can maintain the health of everyone involved." stated Burnison.

He also said that if people are not comfortable making donations, in person, then they will have the opportunity to mail in a donation to The Sidney Salvation Army, PO Box 76, Sidney, MT, 59270.

Burnison explained that 90% of the funds raised go directly to helping those in need in Sidney and 10% of the funds go to The Salvation Army in Denver, CO. "The funds that are generated in the red kettle are used to help those in need during the upcoming year. It helps assist them in rent/utilities or housing needs, sometimes the funds even help take care of lodging and things of that nature," added Burnison.

"We hope to continue doing this ringing of the bell tradition so that we are able to continue supporting those in need around our community. "

Individuals, who are interested in volunteering, should contact the Richland County Health Department at 406-433-2207 and ask for Rita Jacobson, the RSVP Lead Volunteer Coordinator.

Art In Business In Watford City Through Dec. 24

Kortney Beth Art and Chad Ziemendorf Photography will be at Door 204. (Photo submitted)

Submitted by Jessie Veeder

The Long X Arts Foundation is combining the arts with small business this holiday season as it hosts its first ever Art in business Event.

The foundation has partnered with area Watford City Main Street Businesses as well as local artists to make shopping local, unique gifts and art easy and fun.

Through Dec. 24, eight local artists will have their work on display and for sale in five different retail locations in Watford City.

"With the pandemic taking away so many opportunities for our local artists, we thought this would be a great way to get local artists in bricks-and-mortar stores without the rush a big art show would bring," said Jessie Veeder Scofield, Long X Arts Foundation director. "The local businesses have been so gracious to host these artists and the hope is that it will help bring more traffic through their stores as well. Shopping local is more important than ever this year."

Some of those businesses are also hosting special events based around the artist's visit.

The Long X Visitor Center and Pioneer Museum will be hosting a "Meet the Artist" open house with renowned western painter Trish Stevenson on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The museum will be providing refreshments; a special gift and Trish will also be doing a live painting throughout the day.

Trish Stevenson will be showing her work at the Pioneer Museum along with Sidney area sketch artist Rhonda Whited.

"We've had success in hosting Trish and other artists here in the past and we're looking forward to showcasing these talented women," said Jan Dodge at the Pioneer Museum. "We also hope people will take time to browse our gift shop for North Dakota made gifts and treats."

Other participating artists and businesses include Afton Ray-Rossol Art and Cheyanne Thompson's Leather work, Hang it on the Line at Meyer's Department Store. Kortney Beth Art and Chad Ziemendorf Photography will be at Door 204. Shipping Crate Pottery, Arnegard will be for sale at Rhianna's Boutique and Maria Borkowski's work, We 3Bs Photography will be at Hometown Homemade.

To help keep people creative during these uncertain times, the Long X Arts Foundation is also offering take home art kits for children as well as adults.

Find out more at longxarts.com or contact them at longxart@gmail.com or 701-770-8659.

Area Parades of Lights Held Nov. 27

The brightly light float by the McKenzie County Hockey Club won the float competition in the best use of lights category. (Photo by Kathy Taylor)

Mr. & Mrs. Claus ended the Parade of Lights in Sidney riding on David McMullen's Diamond T antique truck.

Nuverra Environmental Solutions was the "Christmas Bliss" theme winner in this years Parade of lights in Watford City. (Photo by Kathy Taylor)

Tuff & Natilynn Williams enjoy riding on the Gem City Towing float in the Sidney Parade of Lights.

Watford City Rough Rider Center To Host Christmas Fest & Christmas Tree Auction Dec. 5

By Anna Dragseth

On Saturday, Dec. 5, the Watford City Rough Rider Center will be hosting its annual Christmas Fest. This event will start at 11 a.m. and wrap up around 4 p.m. There will be a vendor show, pictures with Santa, letters to Santa, Christmas crafts, games run by McKenzie County KidStop, face painting, swimming, and ice skating. "This is a great event and right now we all need something positive and upbeat," added Shelly Hopkins, Rough Rider Center event staff member.

The cost of entry is $5, and attendees will receive a ticket for a hoverboard giveaway with the cost of admission. There will be a food drive going on during the event, and participants who bring in a food shelf item will receive another ticket to enter into the drawing.

In addition to these fun activities, they will also be having a Christmas tree auction. This silent auction is a community donation fundraiser, where businesses or individuals can donate a decorated tree to display at the Rough Rider Center. The trees will have silent auction bidding sheets so that they can be bid on during the week preceding the Christmas Festival. "We will move the trees to the event venue downstairs to display and have the final opportunity to get more bids and 50% of the money raised will be donated to a charitable community organization. This is looking like it will be in conjunction with the toy drive going on, but no specific group has been named yet," stated Hopkins.

Due to COVID-19, this event will have social distancing elements implemented and facemasks will be required. "Precautions are being taken during this time so we can continue to have these types of events. Masks on staff, extra cleaning, and social distancing (even with Santa) will be implemented, "said Hopkins.

For more information on this event, visit the Rough Rider Center website at www.roughridercenter.com.

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Thank You

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who attended, helped plan, organize and donated to the benefit held for me at the Elks and for the organization of the meal train. Words cannot even express the love and gratitude I feel. This is a difficult journey no one wants to take, but the support and prayers from everyone makes it easier. Again, I thank everyone from the bottom of my heart.

– Debbi Hatter, Dalton and Gage

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STATISTICS

LAKE WATER LEVEL REPORT

	Sakakawea
Current Elevation	1839.0
Last Week's Elev.	1838.9
One Year Ago	1838.9
Release For Day (C.F.S.)	13,000

SIDNEY WEATHER DATA

Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

Date	High	Low	Precip.
November 23	39	15	0.000
November 24	35	15	0.000
November 25	43	25	0.000
November 26	39	18	0.000
November 27	53	17	0.000
November 28	52	25	0.000
November 29	39	15	0.000
Total 2020 YTD Precipitation			6.542

Gifts From The Heart Dec. 12 In Sidney

Submitted by Jakkie Waller

Gifts From the Heart season has blown in just like winter did, very quickly! Our selected date this year is Saturday, Dec. 12. We will continue to provide this free "store" at the Masonic Temple, W. Main, Sidney, across from the courthouse. This is a one-day only event! In past years the "open" hours were from 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Due to COVID-19, we are extending those hours this year. We will start at 7 a.m. and will close at 3 p.m.

There are a few more changes to follow the government mandates placed upon Montana. We strictly adhere to these temporary guidelines, with no exceptions, nor negotiations. A mask is REQUIRED to enter the building. Whatever your beliefs and/or feelings are on this issue, they have been taken into consideration. But in order to keep both shoppers and volunteers healthy for the holidays, we are mandating masks to enter the Masonic Temple on Saturday, Dec. 12. If you choose to come without a mask, one will be provided. If you refuse, we will unfortunately be unable to serve you. Hand sanitizer will be available as well. If you have symptoms of illness, we ask that you please stay home out of consideration for others.

Another change, no one will have to stand in line in the cold morning weather. We will be issuing a number on a first come first serve basis, serving in consecutive order, allowing us to serve maximum three people in the building at a time. Normally it takes approximately 20-30 minutes per family. Due to our responsibilities to adhere to the state mandates, we are requesting only one parent/guardian per household to shop, allowing us to assist each shopper in a 15-minute maximum experience. Please do not bring any children to this event – we want them to be surprised when they receive their gifts!

In past years this store has provided hundreds of local families a way to provide Christmas for their children and food on the table. Our motto "From the community, For the community, Back into the community" has enabled this non-profit organization to do just that! We have two stipulations to participate in Gifts From the Heart; the child(ren) must be 0-18 and reside with you in Richland County.

As many of you know, COVID-19 has hindered many things, and donations are among these. Due to this we are in extra need of donations including monetary contributions new toys, games, books, coats and clothing. Extra volunteers are always welcome, but especially this year with the added requirements that are being put in place. If you or your business would like to donate and/or volunteer this year, please contact Jakkie Waller, 406-480-9117.

We truly appreciate the community's generous donations, whether they are monetary, gifts and/or time! You are the reason Gifts From the Heart can continue to help those in need. Thank you for making this a success every year. May you have a blessed year and holiday season!

Events Celebrating Cowboy Christmas Planned At Chateau De Morès Interpretive Center

Medora, ND - The public is invited to celebrate Medora's Old Fashioned Cowboy Christmas Dec. 4-5 at Chateau de Morès State Historic Site, Medora. Held in conjunction with events in the Medora community, visitors can participate in a gingerbread house competition and enjoy an open house. All event times are Mountain time. Masks are required and visitors are asked to follow state and local mandates and the CDC's recommendations on social distancing and personal hygiene.

The Interpretive Center will host an open house Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The 2020 Gingerbread House Competition viewing and voting for people's choice will be held in person and at facebook.com/ChateauDeMores both days. Contest winners will be announced 3:30 p.m., Dec. 5. Learn more about the gingerbread contest and how to enter on Facebook or call 701.623.4355.

The Chateau de Morès Interpretive Center near Medora is currently open by appointment only, by calling 701-623-4355. Find out about additional upcoming educational programs sponsored by the State Historical Society of North Dakota at history.nd.gov/events or call 701-328-2666.

CHI St. Alexius Health's Vaccination Program On Track Despite COVID Disruption

Submitted by Amanda Ventura Marketing Specialist CHI St. Alexius Health

Williston - CHI St. Alexius Health in partnership with a grant through The Alliance for Continuing Education in Health Professionals and Pfizer is providing crucial pneumococcal vaccine access to immune compromised cancer patients.

In Nov. 2019, CHI St. Alexius Health was a proud recipient of the Improving Pneumococcal Immunizations in

Immunocompromised patients grant and began the vaccination program with the goal of increasing immunization rates. This program provides a convenient means for cancer patients at the Leonard P. Nelson Cancer Center to receive a pneumococcal vaccine during their cancer care appointment.

"Pneumonia continues to be the ninth leading cause of death in ND." said Janna Lutz, foundation director. "The ability to provide this vaccine when and where our patients need it is one way we can improve access to care in our community and protect our most vulnerable."

To date, CHI St. Alexius Health has screened close to 300 patients and provided 143 pneumococcal vaccine–protecting 75% of those vulnerable to pneumonia, even reaching some with the second series of the vaccine. The program is on schedule to reach a goal of educating and screening 100% and successful vaccination of 85% of oncology patients by the end of March 2021.

EVENTS

SEND US YOUR EVENTS!

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

RICHLAND COUNTY

Events in Sidney unless otherwise listed. MT Zone.

Wed., Dec. 2

10 a.m.-4 p.m. - **Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project Exhibit** - showing through Jan. 2. **Ruth Kendig Photography Show**, showing through Jan. 2. - **Gordon McConnell: When The West Was Won** - showing through Jan. 2. - **30th Annual Miniature Art Show** - showing through Jan. 16. - **Opening Jan. 5 Jodi Lightner: Straight There and Back** - MonDak Heritage Center, Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat., 1-4 p.m. For more information call 406-433-3500, e-mail mdhc@richland.org or visit https://mondakheritagecenter.org/.

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. - **WOTM Soups** - Open to the public. Turkey noodle soup. Sidney Moose Lodge.

Sat., Dec. 5

8 a.m.-noon - **Boys & Girls Club of the MonDak Children's Christmas Shoppe** - $5 per child. Each child should bring an index card with parents and siblings names, gender and ages. Volunteers will help children shop and wrap gifts for parents and siblings. LYREC lower yard, 2900 W Holly St. Masks required, parents should accompany their child to the building and wait until a volunteer escorts them into the building.

10 a.m.-4 p.m. **- Open Studio Saturdays** - All participants must make an appointment, 406-433-3500, mdhc@richland.org. Participants limited to 7 maximum. Adults 18+ years old only, masks required. Take home an Art to go Kit for your little ones. MonDak Heritage Center. If you can't make it during open studio hours set up an appointment with Jessica, 406-433-3500.

5:30 p.m. - **Sidney Ducks Unlimited Sportsman's Dinner** - Richland County Fairgrounds. Tickets at sidneydu.org or 406-548-2569.

Wed., Dec. 9

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. - **WOTM Soups** - Open to the public. Knoephla soup. Sidney Moose Lodge.

Thurs., Dec. 10

11:30 a.m. - **Richland Red Hatters Christmas Lunch** - Sidney Country Club - RSVP by Dec. 8. Call Sylvia, 798-3882 or Margaret, 488-4613.

Sat., Dec. 12

7 a.m.-3 p.m. - **Gifts From The Heart Free Store** - Masonic Temple, W Main Street across from courthouse. Masks are required no exceptions. One parent/guardian per household to shop, no children, 15 minutes minimum, only 3 people in building at one time. Gifts must be for children 0-18 and reside in Richland County. If you or your business wishes to donate or volunteer contact Jakkie Waller, 406-480-9117.

10 a.m. - **Santa Fun 5 K** - 11 a.m. - **Santa Fun 1 Mile** - **5th Annual Santa Fun Run**, 414 N Central Ave, $25. Gather outside Reynolds to promote social distancing. Run as Santa himself, one of his many elves or maybe in a ugly sweater. Santa will be there to kick off the run but no pictures after the run. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the local Christmas Coalition. For more information or to sign up visit https://runsignup.com/Race/MT/Sidney/SantaFunRun2016.

Sun., Dec. 13

5:30 p.m. - **Sidney Moose Lodge Christmas Dinner** - All members and family invited. Bring an item for the Richland County Food Bank. Santa Claus at 6:30 p.m. Lodge provides entrée meal, members bring salad or dessert.

Mon., Dec. 14

7 p.m. - **Snacks & Chats** - Anxiety & depression support group for teens ages 13-19. Board games, foosball, ping pong and treats. Meetings on 2nd and 4th Mondays each month, Pella Church, not church related.

Mon., Dec. 14, Jan. 4, 18, Feb. 1, 15

6:30-8 p.m. - **Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) Meetings** - Open to all Moms with school aged children and younger, including Moms who are expecting. Appetizers, desserts, guest speakers, videos, discussions and crafts. Sidney Lutheran Brethren Church, 1101 Madison Lane. No childcare provided. For more information call Stacy Abar, 406-672-1463.

Tues., Dec. 15

12 p.m. - **Job Service Employers Committee Meeting (JSEC)** - Open to everyone. Reynolds Market conference room. Meetings every third Tues. of the month. For more information call Margie 406-433-1204 ext. 204..

Wed., Dec. 16

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. - **WOTM Soups** - Open to the public. Taco soup. Sidney Moose Lodge.

Sun., Dec. 20

9 a.m.-noon - **Breakfast** - Open to the public. Sidney Moose Lodge.

1 p.m. - **Bingo** - Open to the public. Sidney Moose Lodge.

MCKENZIE COUNTY

Events in Watford City unless otherwise listed. CT Zone

Wed., Dec. 2-Fri., Jan. 1, 2021

2nd Annual Candy Cane Lane Drive Thur Event - Displays will be set up at the McKenzie County Fairgrounds. For more information contact make a Wish Volunteers, Carolyn Levang, 701-770-6938 or Chris Kubal, 701-307-0516. All proceeds will be given to North Dakota Make A Wish Foundation.

Sat., Dec. 5

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. - **Christmas Fest** - Entry fee $5. Vendor show, pictures with Santa, letters to Santa, Christmas crafts, games, face painting, swimming, ice skating and Christmas tree auction, a community donation fundraiser. Rough Rider Center. Facemasks and social distancing will be implemented.

Thurs., Dec. 10, 17, 31

2-4 p.m. - **Food Giveaway with New Winter Hours** - First Presbyterian Church, 316 4th Ave. NE.

Sat., Dec. 12

5-8 p.m. - **Dan Brown Benefit** - Enjoy great food, music and a silent auction. Watford City Eagles Club, 1904 Main St. All money raised will help Dan and LeeAnn Brown with medical and travel expenses.

Tues., Dec. 15

2-5 p.m. - **Food Pantry Handouts With Time Change** - First Lutheran Church, 212 2nd St. NW. For more information call McKenzie County Extension Office, 701-444-3451 or visit McKenzie County Food Pantry Facebook page for dates, times and updates.

WILLIAMS COUNTY

Events in Williston unless otherwise listed. CT Zone.

Wed., Dec. 2 - Thurs., Dec. 31

5:30-9:30 p.m. - **2020 Spring Lake Park Holiday Lights Drive** - The park will be filled with lighted displays. $5 per car. Gate passes will be available, get a book of 10 for $40. For more information contact the CVB at 701-774-9041 or stop at Visitors Center, 212 Airport Road to purchase your book of passes.

Wed., Dec. 9 - Sat., Dec. 12

Holiday Stroll Downtown Williston - Take pictures with the new photo opportunities, Santa and his elves at City Hall Courtyard, family of snowmen on Hedderich's lot, Mr. Penguin at Renaissance Station Park and festive photo spot at Castle Framing. Watch for the Christmas pickle ornaments and receive a prize; keep an eye out for Santa; purchase raffle tickets at Castle Framing for the Winemas raffle, $5; help decorate the Christmas trees at Hedderich's lot with ornaments. For more information and details watch the Downtowners Association Facebook page.

"Five Months on the Missouri River"

Author Wins Writer's Digest First Place Award

Pony, MT — Writer's Digest awarded Montana author Thomas J. Elpel first place in nonfiction for his natural history travelogue, "Five Months on the Missouri River: Paddling a Dugout Canoe." Elpel partnered with Churchill Clark, the great-great-great-great grandson of Captain William Clark to carve the canoe. Together they whittled a 10,000 lb. Douglas fir log into a 500+ lb. canoe.

Enlisting friends with additional canoes to join the adventure, Elpel led a five-month "Missouri River Corps of Rediscovery" expedition, paddling the 2,341-mile Missouri River segment of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail from Montana to St. Louis.

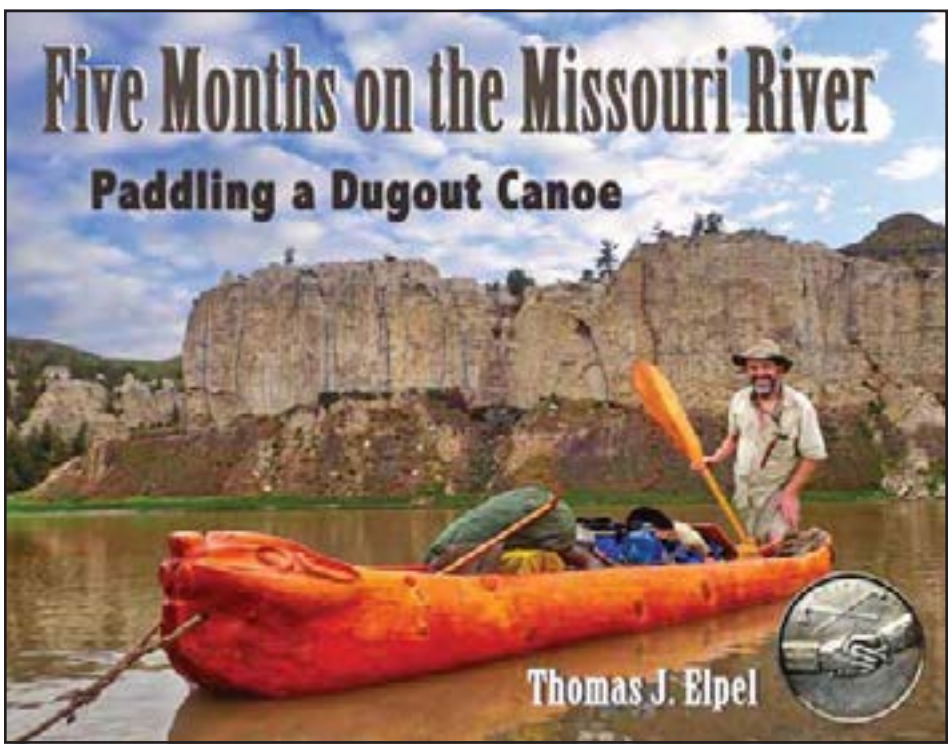
Instead of racing to the finish line, Elpel and friends paddled the Missouri River as a conduit for exploring the land and meeting its inhabitants. Every campsite offered a new opportunity to hike and explore the landscape and geology, identify plants, and forage for wild foods. They enjoyed a leisurely pace paddling through the heart of America while diving into Lewis and Clark history and the history of Native American tribes along the route.

Throughout the journey, Elpel wrote a weekly column that was published in newspapers in Montana and across the Midwest. He fleshed out the story for the book, filling in additional details and whole new essays, accompanied by 700 stunning color photos from the adventure. The finished book is an uplifting adventure story and coffee table photo journal, an inspiring page-turner for the whole family.

"Tom's extensive knowledge of plants and the natural world, his love of history and the river are expressed here on every page as if Lewis and Clark stepped into the 21st Century. The stunning images and narrative are breathtaking and inspiring, seen through the eyes of Elpel as he traveled aboard a beautiful dugout canoe through the heart of America."

--Norm Miller
Expedition Paddler and Historian

"Five Months on the Missouri River" also won the National Indie Excellence Award for Best Travel Book and was a finalist in the Travel Guides & Essays for the 2020 Best Book Awards.



FWP Enrolling New Landowners For Block Management

Submitted by Maria Prell

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks is enrolling new landowners in Region 7 who are interested in participating in the Block Management Program. Block Management is a cooperative effort between landowners and FWP to help manage public hunting activities and provide equitable public hunting opportunities.

In the Block Management program, landowners and FWP enter into voluntary agreements that determine how hunting will be conducted on the landowner's property. Items such as permission requirements, times when permission will be granted, vehicle use, and numbers of hunters are examples of what is covered in an agreement.

Block Management offers various benefits to landowners enrolled in the program. These benefits include compensation to help offset impacts associated with allowing public hunting, hunter and wildlife management, and a complimentary, non-transferable sportsman's license. Additionally, participants do not relinquish any rights by enrolling and are covered by Montana's recreational liability statute as well as livestock loss reimbursement, both of which are extended to landowners who allow access at no charge.

Yearly budgets are limited, so lands offered for enrollment are prioritized on a region-wide basis. Habitat quality, regional access needs, and hunter opportunity are considered while prioritizing properties.

For more information, or to receive an application packet, interested landowners can contact Travis Muscha, Region 7 Hunting Access Coordinator, 406-234-0929, or email trmuscha@mt.gov.

Hoverboard giveaway entry with each admission fee! Additional entries available with food shelf donation.
ROUGHRIDER
Christmas FEST
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5TH
11 AM - 4 PM
ROUGH RIDER CENTER
$5 PER PERSON
Vender Show - Pictures w/Santa (11 AM - 3 PM) - Letters to Santa - Christmas Crafts - Face Painting - Christmas Tree Silent Auction - Hoverboard Giveaway - Swimming (3 - 5 PM) - Skating (5 - 7 PM)
ROUGHRIDER
Christmas Tree Silent Auction
Saturday, December 5th
11 AM - 3:30 PM (bidding ends)
Come pick out the perfectly decorated tree!
Silent auction will be held during Christmas Fest.
50% of auction proceeds will go to support the Watford City Eagles Auxiliary Giving Tree.

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TEMPORARY DRIVER NEEDED
One day a week picking up newspapers early Tuesday morning in Minot with stops at businesses and post office in Watford City and Sidney. Fill in when permanent driver is temporarily unavailable. Must be available Dec. 22, 29 and Jan. 5 and as needed in the future. Must be able to lift up to 80lbs, have a valid operator's driver's license (CDL not required) & clean driving record. Applicants will be required to submit a copy of driving record.
Call 406-433-3306 for questions.
Applications available at the Sidney Job Service.

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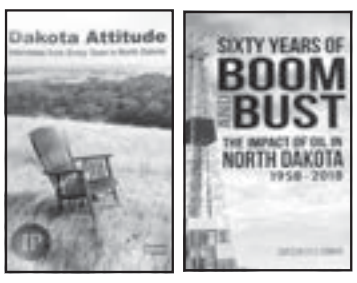

Books On Broadway
12½ W. Broadway, Williston, ND | 701-572-1433
www.booksonbroadwaywilliston.com • @booksonbroadwaywilliston
Mon: 10am - 7pm • Tues - Sat: 10am - 5:30pm

2020 Spring Lake Park Holiday Lights Drive Through Dec. 31

The Spring Lake Park Holiday Lights Drive is from 5:30-9:30 p.m., $5 per car and will continue through Dec. 31.

The Holiday Lights Drive is still happening despite the current pandemic restrictions. The park will be filled with lighted displays for a wonderful interactive drive through the holiday lights. The activities our lights drive is known for will be handled differently this year, but the lights will be brighter than ever and will bring holiday cheer as it has been doing for the past 18 years.

Gate passes will be available again this year! A book of 10 can be purchased for $40 ($10 savings per book) and give them out to friends, co-workers, in Christmas cards and to the people who help you out all year long like your delivery person, mailman, hair stylist and others. Contact the CVB for details at 701-774-9041 or stop out at the Visitors Center at 212 Airport Road to purchase your book of passes!

Featured nights:

Dec. 3 - LEGO Night: Each child in the vehicle gets to take home a special themed Logo activity while supplies last.

Dec. 7 - Snoopy Gives Back Night: Snoopy and his gang are asking for help to collect supplies for the Mondak Animal Rescue! Visit Spring Lake Park Holiday Lights Drive Facebook page for the wish list, and check out the new Snoopy themed display near the beginning of the Lights Drive.

Dec. 10 & 12 - Ice Carving Demonstrations: Holiday craft items will be available at the gate house for children in the vehicle while supplies last, then cruise by the keel boat to see what the ice sculptor is making.

Dec. 14 - Bumble Night: Watch for the Abominable Snowman? This night comes with a take home craft for children in the vehicle while supplies last.

Dec. 15 - Dinosaur Night: Each child in the vehicle gets to take home a special dino themed activity while supplies last! Watch for the dinosaur light display.

Dec. 17 - Grinch Gives Back Night: This year the Grinch is collecting personal care items for the Family Crisis Shelter and would love to have your help. See the Spring Lake Park Holiday Light Drive Facebook page for a list of items the shelter could use.

Dec. 18 - Pajama Night: The first 50 cars to visit in their pajamas will receive a special holiday movie and popcorn surprise.

Dec. 19 - Free Book Night: Christmas books for all ages. Stop at the icehouse in the keel boat parking lot for your free book.

Dec. 21 & 22 - Reindeer Nights: Find the reindeer in the display by the keel boat parking lot. Take home crafts will be distributed from the gate house for kids in the car while supplies last.

Dec. 26 - Great Elf Send Off: Try and find all 15-miniature elves partying around the park. This is the last night to complete the Elf on the Shelf bingo card.

Dec. 30 - New Year's Eve Party: Party swag bags available for children in the vehicle at the gate house while supplies last. Come early to watch the ten-minute fireworks show starting at 8 p.m.

Other activities weather permitting

Wednesday Night Hayrides with Ironhide: Up to 10 people or 2 families per ride. Check with the driver in the keel boat parking lot to verify availability. First come, first serve, 6-8 p.m.

Luminary Sundays: Hundreds of luminaries will be lit up along the road. Techno Luminary Sunday, Dec. 27.

Elf on the Shelf Bingo: Every night through Dec. 26, the life size Elf on the Shelf will be moved. Find him and mark off the corresponding square with the date on your bingo card! Cards available at the Lights Drive gate. Complete a row and return your winning card to the Williston Convention & Visitors Bureau for a prize.

Self-Guided Photo Opportunities: Refer to the map from the gate house for specific locations corresponding to these numbers:

6. The Lighted Bridge, east side of park

9. Christmas Tree Bench, east side of park, Sleigh and Polar Bear, Lions Amphitheater

28. Grinch (attached to wall inside pavilion shelter) Lighted Frame, pavilion shelter

76. Lighted Tunnel and Santa's Mailbox, south side of park

Letters to Santa: Leave your letter to Santa in the mailbox on the south edge of the park near the playground (#76 on the map). These are picked up daily and replied to, if a return address is provided! You can use the blank letter form you receive at the Lights Drive gate.

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For details and to register, visit handyandysnursery.com or our Facebook page
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December 12 .....Two Tin Snowmen
December 15 ..... Dried Centerpiece
December 19 .....Christmas Centerpiece

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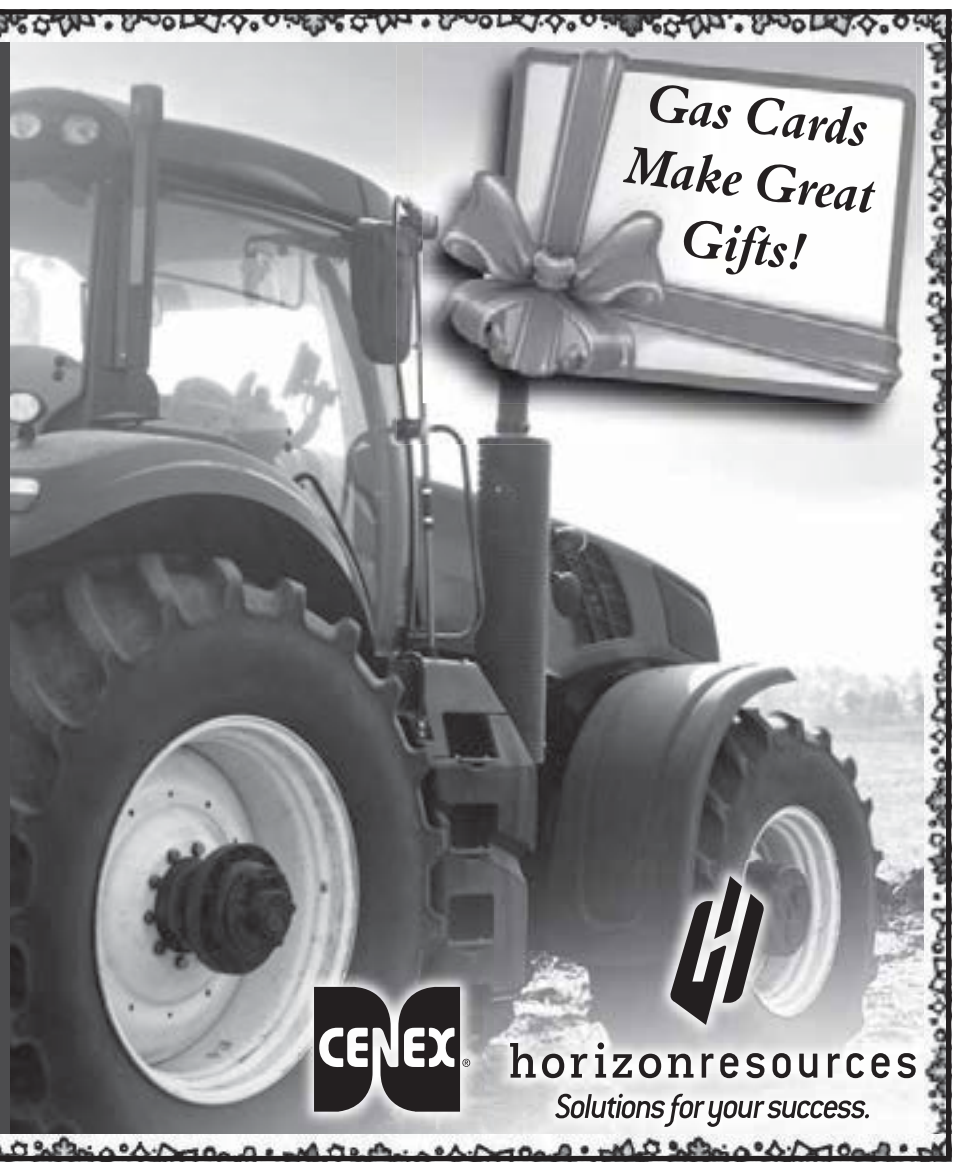

Williston Downtowners Association Holiday Stroll, Dec. 9-12

This year the Holiday Stroll will run from Wednesday, Dec. 9-Saturday, Dec. 12. Some of the great activities planned are listed below.

Picture Time - Take a picture with some of the new outdoor photo opportunities downtown, courtesy of the Williston Convention & Visitors Bureau! Santa and his Elves are hanging out at the City Hall Courtyard; a family of snowmen is on the Hedderich's lot, and a cool Mr. Penguin is at the Renaissance Station Park. There is also a festive photo spot at Castle Framing.

Ice Sculpture - The Ice Sculpture Artist will be back in town! Watch for ice sculptures at downtown businesses.

The Christmas Pickle - While there are many myths to this Christmas tradition, one thing is that 2020 has been a bit like a pickle - some sweet, some sour! Shoppers are invited to come downtown and find the Christmas Pickle. Several pickle ornaments will be hiding downtown from Dec. 9-12. When a shopper finds one of the "pickles" they take it into the business listed for a prize, and they get to keep the ornament as well!

HO! HO! HO! - Unfortunately there will be no traditional pictures with Santa this year, but keep your eyes peeled, as he will be walking around downtown throughout the Holiday Stroll handing out his favorite peppermint treats.

12 Nights of Winemas Raffle! The WDA is sponsoring a Basket Raffle, featuring 12 baskets with a bottle of wine, glasses, an ornament and other goodies. The baskets will be displayed in the window next to Castle Framing (former Hallmark Building). Shoppers can purchase raffle tickets for $5 at Castle Framing, Style Uncorked, and Cooks on Main. Drawing will be held, Monday, Dec. 14 and announced via social media.

Leave Your Mark! There will be Christmas Trees set up on the Hedderich's lot. Help decorate them by placing a store bought or handmade ornament on the tree!

Watch our Facebook page for more information and details on the festivities!

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Dan Brown Benefit, Watford City, Dec. 12

Dan and LeeAnn Brown have been a part of the Watford City community since 2011. The Browns have been giving back to this amazing community by helping people move, finding shelter for families due to the tornado, holding family activity events and helping home businesses stay afloat.

As 2020 has not been hard enough, Dan was diagnosed with stage 3 prostate cancer on Sept. 1. Since then the cancer has been so aggressive that it has passed from the lymph nodes and now attaching to other organs.

Dan's current treatment has definitely not been easy. He is currently taking heavy doses of radiation treatment five days a week and was prescribed chemo treatment in the pill form, which he has to take seven days a week. The cost of Dan's treatment is $3,000 a day. After insurance Dan and LeeAnn are left with the patient responsibility of $850 and were told this would be their new normal for the next two years.

Dan and LeeAnn have been doing everything they can. With Dan's radiation treatment in Bismarck Monday-Friday he is forced to commute a 100 miles one way to Dickinson so he can try and continue working knowing he has to drive the same 100 miles back to Bismarck that same day for the next day of treatment. LeeAnn manages the Long X Liquor Store during the week and has been able to spend time with Dan when he is able to come home to Watford City, from Bismarck on the weekend.

The Watford City community has always helped one another in dire times of need and now it is time to come together to help Dan & LeeAnn as they have for others in the past.

The Brown benefit will be held 5-8 p.m., Sat., Dec. 12 at Watford City Eagles Club and will include great food, music and a silent auction. The benefit goal is to raise $10,000. This will help eliminate the burden of Dan's treatments and the financial strain of Dan's driving back and forth on the weekends just to be able to see his wife, his best friend, for 32 hours before having to return to Bismarck.

Thank you, Watford City, for everything, anything helps & God Bless.

OBITUARIES

Verna M. Bouchard, 92 Billings, MT

Verna May Bouchard

Verna May Bouchard slipped peacefully from this life on Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2020 at St. John's United nursing home, just three weeks from her 93rd birthday. She was born Dec. 7, 1927 to Dave and Anna Thiessen,Lambert, MT.

Verna graduated from Lambert High School and went on to study at St. Paul Bible Institute, MN. While there, she worked as a clerical secretary in the Christian & Missionary Alliance Midwestern District. After returning to Montana, she worked as a secretary for the Richland County Sheriff, and later as a clerk for the Richland County Attorney. In 1956, she returned permanently to the ranch to help her stepmother, Clara Thiessen, with the family farm after her father's sudden death in a tractor accident. During that time, she met Arthur W. Bouchard from Midway/Crane, and the two joined in marriage Sept. 9, 1958. They made their life together raising children on the DH Ranch. In the 1970s Verna took a secretarial position at Nortana Grain Company, Lambert, MT, a job she loved due to her interactions with area farmers and ranchers and their families. She and Art lived five miles south of Lambert until Art's passing in 2012, after which she moved to St. John's United assisted living, Billings, MT. While there, she continued to form many friendships and thrived for eight years.

Verna stayed in touch with her family and friends via telephone and colorful emails. She enjoyed listening to daily Bible programs on Glendive's KGLE radio over the Internet. She had an incredibly sharp and inquiring mind, asking anyone who called or wrote about their lives. We all knew she prayed for us constantly, and that she considered herself engaged in our lives even over the many miles. She was a constant prayer warrior, quoting scripture and hymns in nearly every conversation. Verna lived in the confidence of knowing her eternal future was secure in Jesus Christ, her Savior and Lord. She lived her faith and set a solid example that suggest her desire to "finish well" was accomplished. Her favorite scripture was I Peter 5:7, "Casting all your cares upon him, for he careth for you, (KJV), and her favorite hymn was "I Will Pilot Thee."

She is survived by her brother, Allen (Susan) Thiessen, Lambert, MT; sons, Don (Melody) Bouchard, Waconia, MN, and Ron (Ann) Bouchard, Lambert, MT; daughter, Kathy (Les) Sundeen, Colorado Springs, CO; and by six grandchildren and five great grandchildren, as well as many nieces, nephews and their families.

A Spring 2021 Memorial Service is being planned.

Memorial gifts may be sent to KGLE Radio, Box 931, Glendive, MT 59330

Milo Hansen, 69 Sidney, MT

A memorial service for Milo Hansen, 69, Sidney, MT is at 2 p.m. (MST Friday, Dec. 11, 2020 at Carpenter's Church, Sidney, MT with Pastor Gloria Buxbaum officiating.

Burial of cremated remains will take place in Sidney Cemetery Sidney, MT following the memorial service.

Visitation will be 12-6 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020 at Fulkerson-Stevenson Memorial Chapel, Sidney, MT with a family service starting at 6 p.m. under the care of Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT.

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

Milo passed away on Thursday, Nov. 26, 2020 at Sidney Health Center.

Harry W. Chornuk, 83 Watford City, ND

Funeral mass for Harry W. Chornuk, 83, Watford City, ND is at 11 a.m. (CDT) or 10 a.m. (MDT), Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020 at St. Demetrius Ukrainian Catholic Church, south of Fairfield, ND with Father Myroslav Dumych presiding.

Interment will be in St. Demetrius Ukrainian Catholic Church Cemetery under the care of Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home, Watford City, ND.

Visitation was held 11 a.m.-5 p.m. (CDT), Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020 and 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. (CDT), Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020 at the funeral home, Watford City, ND.

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

Harry passed away on Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2020 at Sanford Health, downtown Fargo, ND.

Willmer "Sonny" Lorenz, 89, Sidney, MT

Willmer "Sonny" Lorenz

Funeral services for Willmer "Sonny" Lorenz, 89, Sidney, MT, are at 1 p.m. (MST) Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2020 at Ebenezer Congregational Church, Sidney, MT with Pastor Dave Meehan officiating. Interment will take place in Sidney Cemetery, Sidney, MT. Visitation was 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020, at Fulkerson-Stevenson Memorial Chapel, Sidney, MT and one hour prior to the funeral under the care of the Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT. Remembrances, condolences and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

Willmer (Sonny) Lorenz was born Aug. 5, 1931 to Henry and Louisa Lorenz, Sidney, MT. Sonny was one of eleven children. They grew up on a farm south of Sidney, which Sonny later farmed for many years. He married the love of his life Darlene Rau on Feb. 24, 1952. They had three children, Tim, Dennis and Pat. They then purchased two farms east of the river in 1970 and in 1973 that he farmed until he retired.

Sonny wasn't afraid of a challenge. He was a jack-of-all-trades and all was self-taught. He loved to build things. He learned how to do electrical, plumbing, welding and could fix whatever needed fixing, and it was usually better than before. Because of these talents he was able to build their home that they lived in until his death. He built the walls in his shop in the winter, and set them up in the spring on the hill overlooking the valley, a view he loved a lot.

He loved to do many things from bowling and fast pitch softball, to hunting and fishing. He had a horse named Babe growing up that he loved. His brother Harold built a cart for Babe, and they would go around the neighborhood picking up kids so they could play games. One thing that Sonny loved to do that not many people know about was playing the accordion. He was self-taught and played by ear. Even though he hadn't played for years, he probably still could have.

Sonny and Darlene loved to travel. They went on many trips across the country, sometimes up to a month away from home, and on several mission trips to Mexico where they made many friends.

Sonny went to be with the Lord on Thursday, Nov. 26, 2020 at Sidney Health Center, Sidney, MT. Even as he was drawing near to the time he was leaving us, he continued to praise and glorify the Lord and share Jesus. To Sonny, the most important day of his life was the day he asked Jesus to forgive his sins, and to come into his heart as his personal Lord and Savior. He prayed constantly, every day, for all of his family and friends to come to know Jesus as their Savior as he did. He loved the Lord, his family and his Ebenezer Church family, of which he was a lifetime member.

Sonny was preceded in death by his parents Henry and Louisa; grandson Matt and great-granddaughter Macee; five sisters, three brothers and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years Darlene; sons Tim (Jolene) and Dennis (Tamar) Lorenz; daughter Patricia Ann (Bill) Cundiff; sisters Edna Rambur and Bernice Reidle; 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

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Dan was diagnosed with stage 3 prostate cancer on September 1st. Since then, the cancer has been so aggressive that it has passed from the lymph nodes and is now attaching to other organs.
He is currently undergoing heavy doses of radiation and chemo treatment 5 days a week. The cost is $850 a day after insurance. He was told this would be the new normal for the next 2 years.
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Email: rjslaw@midrivers.com

MONTANA SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, RICHLAND COUNTY
PROBATE NO. DP-20-98
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
WILLIAM E. DUNN,
Deceased.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned have been appointed Co-Personal Representatives of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within four (4) months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred.

Claims must either be mailed to PENNY LYNN DUNN or VICKI RAE DUNBAR, the Co-Personal Representatives, return receipt requested at The Savage Law Firm, PO Box 1105, Sidney, Montana 59270 or filed with the Clerk of the above-entitled Court.

DATED this 23rd day of November, 2020.
PENNY LYNN DUNN,
Co-Personal Representative
VICKI RAE DUNBAR,
Co-Personal Representative

(Publish November 25, December 2, and 9, 2020.)

SAVAGE SCHOOL IS SEEKING TO FILL THE HEAD COOK POSITION FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Interested persons may send a letter of interest, a District Application and 2-3 letters of reference to Superintendent Martha Potter at PO Box 110, Savage, MT 59262 or marthap@savagepublicschool.com
A background check will be required for employment.
Please call the school for a District Application at 776-2317.
A job description will be available at the school office.

SAVAGE SCHOOL IS SEEKING TO FILL THE HEAD VARSITY GIRLS' BASKETBALL COACH POSITION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

The season begins on December 7th, 2020. Please send a letter of interest, a district application and 2-3 letters of reference to superintendent Martha Potter at PO Box 110, Savage, MT 59262 or marthap@savagepublicschool.com.
A background check will be required for employment.
Please call the school at 776-2317 for a District Application.

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Lunch Menus

Sidney School
Thurs., Dec. 3: Chicken noodle soup, turkey and cheese sandwiches, potato chips, grape juice.
Fri., Dec. 4: No school.
Mon., Dec. 7: Hamburger gravy over potatoes, green beans, pears, dinner rolls.
Tues., Dec. 8: Super nachos, tater tots, peaches, ice cream cups.
Wed., Dec. 9: Chicken alfredo, steamed broccoli, mandarin oranges, breadsticks.

Savage School
Thurs., Dec. 3: Chili dogs with buns, fries, shredded cheese, onions, tropical fruit.
Fri., Dec. 4: No school.
Mon., Dec. 7: Chicken cordon bleu bake, peas, peaches.
Tues., Dec. 8: Scalloped potatoes with ham, green beans, bread fruit cocktail
Wed., Dec. 9: Pulled pork on buns, baked beans, coleslaw, pineapple.

Rau School
Thurs., Dec. 3: Chili, cinnamon rolls, oranges.
Fri., Dec. 4: No school.
Mon., Dec. 7: Fish sticks, macaroni and cheese, apple slices.
Tues., Dec. 8: Goulash, peas, mixed fruit
Wed., Dec. 9: Pulled pork sandwiches, fries, pineapple.

Froid School
Thurs., Dec. 3: Corn chowder, ham sandwiches, veggies, fruit.
Fri., Dec. 4: Beef stroganoff over noodles, buns, veggies, fruit.
Mon., Dec. 7: Riblet on buns, baked beans, chips, fruit.
Tues., Dec. 8: Broccoli cheese soup, soft pretzels, veggies, fruit.
Wed., Dec. 9: Chicken alfredo, garlic bread, veggies, fruit, dessert.

Bainville School
Thurs., Dec. 3: Cody Skor Day! Cheeseburgers, smiley fries, peaches, dirt cake.
Fri., Dec. 4: Grilled cheese, tomato soup, celery sticks, applesauce.
Mon., Dec. 7: Russell Riegler Day! Super nachos, taco bar, grapes, chocolate pie.
Tues., Dec. 8: Turkey gravy over mashed potatoes, green beans, breadsticks.
Wed., Dec. 9: Jambalaya, rice, pears.

Richey School
Thurs., Dec. 3: Steak fingers, green salad, fruit.
Fri., Dec. 4: Taco casserole, corn, fruit.
Mon., Dec. 7: Cheese quesadillas, refried beans, fruit.
Tues., Dec. 8: Tater tot casserole, peas, fruit
Wed., Dec. 9: Spaghetti, bread, green salad, fruit.

Culbertson School
Thurs., Dec. 3: Chicken slider sandwiches, pork and beans, peaches.
Fri., Dec. 4: Hot dogs, chips, pineapple.
Mon., Dec. 7: Chicken strips, mixed vegetables, mozzarella cheese sticks, red sauce.
Tues., Dec. 8: Pulled pork sandwiches, tots, pears.
Wed., Dec. 9: Soft shell tacos, beans, churros.

Lambert School
Thurs., Dec. 3: Chicken a la king, salad, fruit.
Fri., Dec. 4: Cracked out chicken casserole, green beans, fruit.
Mon., Dec. 7: Hamburger gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, fruit.
Tues., Dec. 8: Chicken fajitas, fresh veggies, fruit
Wed., Dec. 9: Hot ham and cheese, chips, fruit salad.

Fairview School
Thurs., Dec. 3: Chicken fried steaks, mashed potatoes, gravy, veggies, fruit, buns.
Fri., Dec. 4: No school.

Alexander School
Thurs., Dec. 3: Popcorn chicken bowl, mashed potatoes, corn.
Fri., Dec. 4: No school.
Mon., Dec. 7: Pizza burgers or chicken parmesan, fries.
Tues., Dec. 8: Mini corn dogs, chips with cheese.
Wed., Dec. 9: Scalloped potatoes and ham, carrots, buns.

Watford City School
Thurs., Dec. 3: Chicken alfredo, garlic bread.
Fri., Dec. 4: Cheeseburgers, tater tots.
Mon., Dec. 7: Popcorn chicken and fries with brown gravy.
Tues., Dec. 8: Taco in a bag with all the fixings, treat.
Wed., Dec. 9: Chili, cinnamon rolls, crackers.

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1 p.m. - 3 p.m. – Grief Reovery Support group, First Lutheran Church music room, Watford City.
6 p.m. – Al-Anon Family Group Meeting,Trinity Lutheran Church Ed. bldg., 214 S. Lincoln Ave., Sidney, MT.
8 p.m.— AA Group, Northern Pump & Compression, Watford City. Call 770-3603 or 770-2675 for directions or ride. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663.

TUESDAYS:
7 p.m. — AA Welcome Home Group, Sunny's Family Restaurant, 102 E. Main St.,Sidney, MT, Central Avenue Entrance.
7 p.m. – 24-hour Women's AA group meeting, Northern Pump & Compression, Watford City. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663.

THURSDAYS:
7:30 p.m. – Al-Anon Meeting, Presbyterian Church, 316 4th Ave. NE, Watford City, ND.
8 p.m.— AA Group, Northern Pump & Compression, Watford City. Call 770-3603 or 770-2675 for directions or ride. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663.

FRIDAYS:
6:30 - p.m.- 5 Stones - Faith Based Recovery meeting, Sidney First Church of the Nazarene, 606 9th St. SW, Back door is open.
7 p.m. – AA Welcome Home Group, Sunny's Family Restaurant, 102 E. Main St.,Sidney, MT, Central Avenue Entrance.

SATURDAYS:
7 p.m. — AA Welcome Home Group, Sunny's Family Restaurant, 102 E. Main St.,Sidney, MT, Central Avenue Entrance.
7 p.m. – AA 24 group meeting, Northern Pump & Compression, Watford City. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663.

SUNDAYS:
7 p.m. — AA Welcome Home Group, Sunny's Family Restaurant, 102 E. Main St.,Sidney, MT, Central Avenue Entrance.

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Thank You

The family of Anders Lassey wants to express our deepest gratitude for the communities' support during this most difficult time. An account in Anders' name has been established at Merchants Bank in Fairview to support the Fairview cross country team.
Contributions are gratefully accepted.

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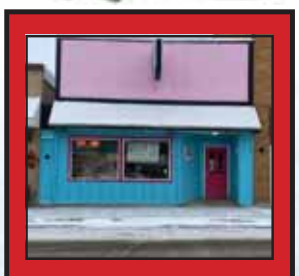

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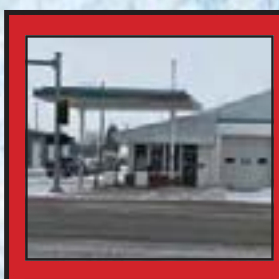

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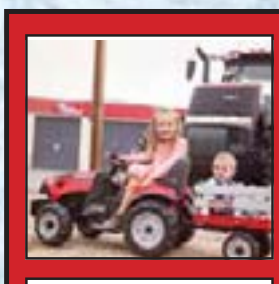

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OBITUARIES

Guido Vaira, 95
Sidney, MT

Funeral services for Guido Vaira, Sidney, MT will be 11 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020 at Pella Lutheran Church, Sidney, MT, with Pastor Audrey Rydbom and Pastor Tim Tharp officiating.

Visitation will be 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Friday, Dec. 4, 2020 at Fulkerson-Stevenson Memorial Chapel, Sidney, MT under the direction of Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT.

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

Guido passed away Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020, at Eastern Montana Veterans Home, Glendive, MT.

North Dakota USDA Service Centers Open For Business By Phone Appointment Only

Submitted by Lindsey Abentroth

Fargo, ND - The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is temporarily restricting in-person visits for USDA Service Centers in North Dakota because of elevated rates of coronavirus community spread, but USDA employees will continue to assist agricultural producers with programs and services.

USDA is using a phased, data-driven approach to determine which Service Centers are open for in-person appointments. Fieldwork, including conservation planning assistance, will continue with appropriate social distancing.

"While many of our Service Centers across North Dakota will be physically closed to visitors, we remain open for business," said Brad Thykeson, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in North Dakota state executive director.

Mary Podoll, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in North Dakota State Conservationist: "Throughout the pandemic, our work with producers has continued and we remain committed to serving our customers."

All USDA Service Centers are for open for business, and Service Center staff members from FSA and NRCS will continue to work with producers by phone, email, and digital tools like Microsoft Teams, Box, and OneSpan. Producers can learn more about how to leverage these digital offerings by visiting https://www.farmers.gov/mydocs.

Producers wishing to conduct business with the FSA, NRCS, or any other Service Center agency should call ahead to confirm and schedule appointments. More information on Service Center status can be found at https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status, and contact information for local Service Centers is available at https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator.

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Send Your Packages Early This Holiday Season

Postal service Sunday package delivery will expand to select major markets.

Helena - During this unprecedented time, it is expected that more holiday gifts and greetings will be sent through the mail than ever before, as families and friends will hold virtual celebrations instead of opening gifts in person. The Postal Service always encourages customers to send their holiday gifts and cards early. This year is no different.

The Postal Service begins planning for peak holiday season every January. To help handle the expected volume increase, the Postal Service has the ability to flex our network to meet the significant volume increases expected this year. This includes making sure the right equipment is available to sort, process and deliver the expected mail and package volumes. We also have 644,000 employees dedicated to ensuring gifts and greetings are delivered in time for the holidays.

Seasonal workers are hired when and where needed, and technology has been expanded to enhance package tracking throughout the USPS processing and transportation networks. Sunday delivery will be expanded beginning Nov. 29 to locations with high package volumes. USPS already delivers packages on Sundays in most major cities. Mail carriers will also deliver packages for an additional fee on Christmas Day in select locations. We thank our customers for their continued support, and our promise that we will continue to work hard to ensure their gifts and cards are delivered in time to virtually celebrate the holidays.

Busiest Mailing and Delivery Days

The busiest time of the season peaks two weeks before Christmas, when much of the last minute shopping starts. Customer traffic is expected to increase beginning Dec. 7, with the week of Dec. 14-21 predicted to be the busiest mailing, shipping and delivery week.

Skip the Trip and Ship Online

Consumers don't have to leave home to ship their packages. In these socially distant times, they can simply visit usps.com or use the Click-N-Ship feature for help shipping that holiday gift, ordering free Priority Mail boxes, printing shipping labels, purchasing postage and even requesting free next-day Package Pickup. And usps.com is always open.

2020 Holiday Shipping Deadlines:

The Postal Service recommends the following mailing and shipping deadlines for expected delivery by Dec. 25 to Air/Army Post Office/Fleet Post Office/Diplomatic Post Office and domestic addresses*:

• Dec. 9: APO/FPO/DPO (ZIP Code 093 only) Priority Mail and First-Class Mail

• Dec. 11: APO/FPO/DPO (all other ZIP Codes) Priority Mail and First-Class Mail services

• Dec. 15: USPS Retail Ground service

• Dec. 18: APO/FPO/DPO (except ZIP Code 093) USPS Priority Mail Express service; First-Class Mail service (including greeting cards); First-class packages (up to 15.99 oz.)

• Dec. 19: Priority Mail service

• Dec. 23: Priority Mail Express* service

Alaska

• Dec. 18: Alaska to/from Continental U.S. First-Class Mail

• Dec. 19: Alaska to/from Continental U.S. Priority Mail

• Dec. 21: Alaska to/from Continental U.S. Priority Mail Express

Hawaii

• Dec. 15: Hawaii to/from mainland Priority Mail and First-Class Mail

• Dec. 21: Hawaii to/from mainland Priority Mail Express

*Not a guarantee, unless otherwise noted. Dates are for estimated delivery before Dec. 25. Actual delivery date may vary depending on origin, destination, Post Office acceptance date and time, and other conditions. Some restrictions apply. For Priority Mail Express shipments mailed Dec. 22 through Dec. 25, the money-back guarantee applies only if the shipment was not delivered, or delivery was not attempted, within two business days.

More tips for a successful holiday mailing and shipping season:

• Use free Priority Mail Flat Rate boxes. They are available at Post Office locations or online at usps.com/freeboxes.

• Make it easy with Click-N-Ship. You can create shipping labels and pay for postage online at usps.com/ship.

• Schedule a free Package Pickup when the carrier delivers your mail. It's free regardless of the number of packages. Pickups can be scheduled at usps.com/pickup.

• Mail and packages that weigh more than 10 oz. or are more than a half-inch thick and using stamps as postage cannot be dropped into a collection box or left for a carrier to pick up. Instead, take them to a local Post Office.

Additional news and information, including all domestic, international and military mailing and shipping deadlines, can be found on the Postal Service Holiday Newsroom, usps.com/holidaynews.

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

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MSU Extension Discusses Transfer On Death Deeds

By MSU News Service

Bozeman — Montana State University Extension has recently published free information about transfer on death deeds, or TODDs, which allow Montanans to give real property to loved ones without going through a probate process.

Since Oct. 1, 2019, Montana residents have been able to file a TODD on real property, according to MSU Extension educators. Prior to that date, a beneficiary deed was used for this purpose. Beneficiary deeds filed prior to this date are still effective upon death.

"With a TODD you can gift your Montana real property to a designated beneficiary, however the deed is only effective upon your death," said Marsha Goetting, Extension family economics specialist. "Designated beneficiaries may be your spouse, children, relatives, friends, or nonprofit or charitable organizations. A designated beneficiary has absolutely no ownership rights in your Montana real property until you die and cannot use your home as collateral for a loan."

The TODD is recorded with the clerk and recorder in the county where a person's property is located, and all TODDs must include the U.S. mailing address of the designated beneficiary.

Wendy Wedum, MSU Extension Pondera County agent, added that the deed must have a complete legal description of the Montana property that will transfer after death, not the description appearing on the property tax bill sent by the county treasurer.

After a TODD has been signed and recorded, it cannot be revoked by a provision in a person's will, Goetting and Wedum said. For example, if a parent records a TODD naming their daughter as the designated beneficiary of real property in Gallatin County and later writes a will that leaves that same property to their son, the real property will pass to the daughter under the terms of the TODD. Goetting said if the parent wanted the property to pass to the son, they would need to revoke the TODD or record a new one.

"A TODD is a contract — like payable on death beneficiary designations on financial accounts and transfer on death registrations on stocks, bonds and mutual funds," Goetting added.

Whether a TODD, will or trust is best depends on an individual's circumstances.

"Some families may find all three estate planning tools would best meet their estate planning goals," Wedum said. "Discuss your goals with an attorney to assure you are using the appropriate legal tools for your circumstances. No two families are alike."

Goetting and Wedum said a TODD must have the complete legal description of the property. If an owner does not have a deed with this description, contact the clerk and recorder's office where the property is located.

More information on TODDs can be found in the new MontGuide from MSU Extension, https://store.msuextension.org/publications/FamilyFinancialManagement/MT202010HR.pdf.

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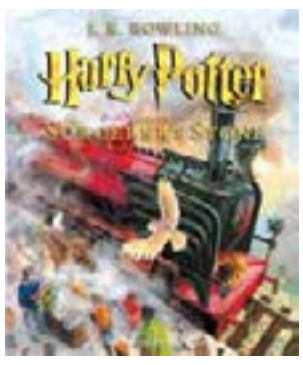

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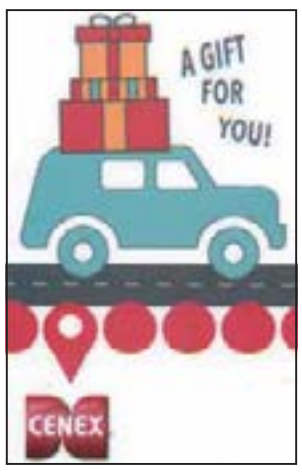

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