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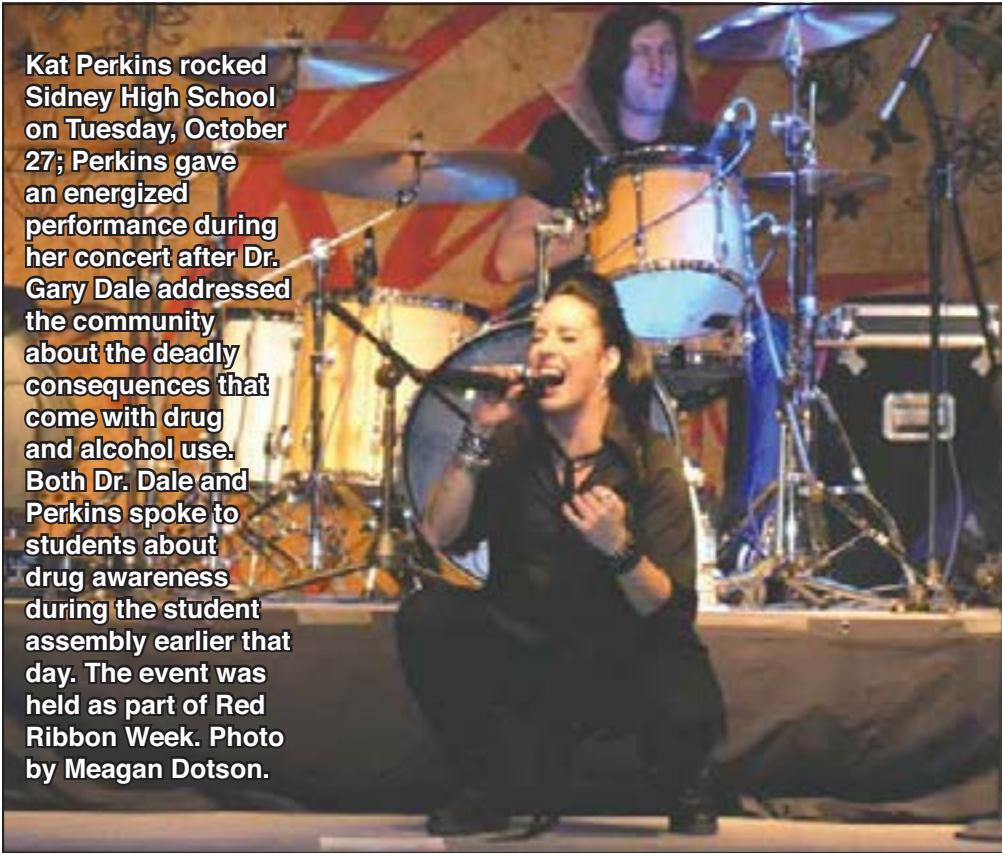
Wednesday, December 30, 2015

Volume 41 • Number 46

Sidney's Top Stories of 2015

Kat Perkins & Dr. Gary Dale Were Special Guests During Red Ribbon Week

Kat Perkins rocked Sidney High School on Tuesday, October 27; Perkins gave an energized performance during her concert after Dr. Gary Dale addressed the community about the deadly consequences that come with drug and alcohol use. Both Dr. Dale and Perkins spoke to students about drug awareness during the student assembly earlier that day. The event was held as part of Red Ribbon Week. Photo by Meagan Dotson.



By Meagan Dotson

Red Ribbon Week was October 23-30 across the nation, and the Richland County Comes Together Committee and Checkers worked in partnership with City Council, the DUI Taskforce, District II Drug and Alcohol, RSVP and the Richland County Health Department, the Foundation for Community Care, law enforcement, city officials, and local businesses to voice a clear message about the dangers of drug use.

When Checkers' owner Janette McCollum's learned that findings from a 2015 Quest Diagnostics study showed that there had been a 9.3% national increase in the number of individuals who tested positive for drugs in the workforce, compared to a 4.7% increase in 2014, McCollum felt a responsibility to make a difference. Red Ribbon Week was the per-

fect opportunity as a national drug-free campaign that gets students and parents involved in drug awareness.

The Richland County Comes Together Committee was formed and called on businesses and individuals to help them raise \$35,000 to bring Kat Perkins from The Voice and Dr. Gary Dale, a former Montana State Medical Examiner to Richland County. Dr. Dale and Perkins spoke during a county-wide school assembly the afternoon of Tuesday, October 27th. That evening a free community meal was served at the Sidney High School prior to Dr. Dale speaking during a community assembly and then Perkins performed a 75-minute concert free to the public. The donations received provided the event to the community at no cost.

Businesses were invited to join in with local schools for

Red Ribbon Fun Days and were encouraged to create a window display for Red Ribbon Week. Proclamations were issued from the County Commissioners on October 13th and Sidney City Council on October 19th. Treatment centers from Montana and North Dakota were available at both assemblies handing out information regarding drugs and or alcohol abuse, suicide, bullying, internet gambling, cyber bullying etc. and at the beginning of both assembly, officials of the community who work daily to keep Richland County drug free and safe, received special recognition.

The efforts of the Richland County Comes Together Committee along with the support and partnership of businesses, non-profit organizations, and individuals of Richland County made Red Ribbon Week of 2015 one to remember.

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Sidney's Top Stories of 2015

RED's Annual Report Shows How the Downturn is Effecting Local Businesses

By Meagan Dotson

With oil production slowing down in 2015, many are wondering what's next for Richland County and how the downturn is going to effect a community that has seen so many changes over the last few years. As part of Richland Economic Development's annual report, Leslie Messer, Executive Director, interviewed nine area businesses about how the downturn had

affected them.

"We try to keep a pulse on how the businesses in our area are coping," said Messer.

With much of the country being in recession when the oil boom was in full swing, communities across the eastern Montana and western North Dakota acclimated to sudden population growth. As people from all over the United States moved into the area to find work, local governments, businesses, and residents worked to keep pace. Now that pace has slowed; in September of 2014 there were nine oil rigs in Montana and oil prices were at \$90 dollars a barrel. In September of 2015 there was one oil rig in the state and oil prices were at \$43 a barrel.

"I liken this affect as similar to the 1950's downturn, peaks and ebbs, but steady. Not abrupt," said Greg Cross of Cross Petroleum who also noted that business is steady, though not at its peak, and they have seen on-going activity.

UINTAH Engineering & Land Surveying, business that relies heavily on oil and gas development, told Richland Economic Development that they have had a 30% reduction in staff. Pipeline work is steady, but will probably come to an end in the next year.

"I'm running my business as if the downturn will last longer than a couple of years. This strategy allows me to keep my employees and families here in our local economy," commented Troy Jensen of UINTAH.

Aliza Hunter of Candlewood Suites shared that while bookings are uncertain, the staff has had more time to get to know their guests and meet their needs, putting the hotel #1 on star report rankings.

Perhaps one of the most telling reports of how the downturn is effecting the job market is from Sidney Job Service, which has been staying busy with five to seven walk-ins per day. In September the Sidney Job Service had 250 job postings. Slightly down from 330 the previous September, and of those 250 jobs, all but one was paying more than minimum wage.

Businesses like UINTAH, Candlewood Suites, and Sidney Job Service are all considered frontline businesses, meaning that their business is directly impacted by the oil field, but many businesses are second line in that their business is indirectly impacted.

B&B Sales and Service noted that while sales are down, they are picking up more concrete business and expanding to Williston, Watford City, and Culbertson; as other companies leave, B&B Sales and Service fill that need and have reduced inventory to control manageables.

Footers owner, Jerry Watson, told Richland Economic Development that they haven't seen a drastic downturn in business and that with the cost of housing coming down there are more choices, which has made business easier.

"I haven't had to increase my prices yet. For the past three years I've been able to absorb the rising costs and not pass it along to my customers," stated Watson.

"We are filling more of our customer's needs," commented Ron Utgard of Reynolds Market. He added in regards to the recently built store, "We wouldn't have made this huge investment if we were only reliant on oil and gas activity." He went on to share that services such as the deli, smoker, bakery, and floral department are all doing better than they were last year and added that it's easier to find employees and patrons seem to be more community minded.

Electricland, which is the only authorized Verizon dealer which keeps money in the community, had to think fast when Radio Shack went under, causing them to establish other vendors with better pricing. While sales have dropped and walk-in business is back to pre-boom levels, they are doing more installations and location work which boosts business.

ProBuild has a unique perspective as the only National building supply store in Sidney, and with a surge in construction during the oil boom; Richland Economic Development was interested to know how the downturn had impacted local construction. Teresa Mannix commented that the local contractors they supply are busy all the time, and though the opening of Menards in Williston, ND has impacted the business, loyal clientele continues to come to ProBuild and they haven't had any layoffs.

Though the community has concerns about the local economy and the friends, family, and neighbors that have been or may be affected, perhaps Mannix summed it up best when she noted, "Sidney is like the little engine that could. We keep plugging along. No major valleys. We are steady."


*All of the information used in this article was compiled by Richland Economic Development.



Richland Economic Development Corp's Executive Director Leslie Messer discussed the economic changes during their annual meeting Tuesday, November 10.

Congratulations Top Ten!

We have enjoyed supporting business development throughout Richland County in a variety of ways!



Leslie Messer, Executive Director
Katie Dasinger, Project Assistant
1060 S. Central Ave, Suite 3 • Sidney MT
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Taphouse Bar & Grill Opened July 2015

The Taphouse Bar & Grill has enjoyed a steady business since opening in July.

With the best beer selection in N.E. Montana, including some not found east of Billings, as well as selections from Meadowlark Brewery and Beaver Creek Brewery, the Taphouse has a beer to suit everyone. A good selection of wine is also available.

The Taphouse offers a full menu but specializes in burgers and appetizers. Bryce Baker said more appetizers

have been added, with even more to come. The Taphouse is home to the ½ lb "Juicy Lucy", or you can design your own burger with a variety of cheeses and extras.

Casino free, customers can relax and have some fun at the foosball table, the dart machines, or the pool table. Big screen TVs offer the latest sports action including the NFL package. Watch for details on the upcoming Super Bowl party. Baker expresses his deep appreciation for all the sports

fans who have made the Taphouse their gathering place. "I especially want to thank the Grizzly, Bobcat, and Bison fans for coming," he said.

The Taphouse Bar & Grill is open 4-11 p.m. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. – 11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Enjoy happy hours from 4-6 daily with specials on appetizers and beer buckets. Ample parking is available in the gravel parking lot behind Super Pumper.

Rod Iron Grill Opened Feb. 2015

The Rod Iron Grill opened to the public in February of 2015 offering a classy, unique dining and entertainment establishment that Sidney had needed and wanted for a long time. Joel Kleinsasser, part owner said, "While we got off to a rough start, over the months we have pulled it together and the public is very happy with our food and service." Some fine-tuning is taking place with a new menu coming early in the new year which will reflect more of what they wanted to do. "We have a better idea of what is wanted. We're putting our best foot forward to give the public more of what they want," Kleinsasser said.

The lunch menu will see some drastic changes while the dinner and brunch menus will be modified with several new ideas being implemented in the first few months of 2016. Upcoming plans include wine & cheese tasting parties and special promos such as ladies night. "We are happy to be

here," Kleinsasser enthused. "We offer a terrific dining experience for brunch, lunch and dinner, as well as great snacks and beverages."

The Rod Iron Grill isn't just about great food. It's also the premiere place to relax and have fun. The lounge is a popular spot with a relaxed, calming atmosphere. "It's the first room to fill up," Kleinsasser said. A room, which can be walled off, can accommodate up to 35 people. It is set up for meetings with power point, audio/visual capabilities, microphone, etc. and can be ready as early as 8 a.m. A private banquet room for up to 20

people in a very popular spot and should be booked ahead of time. The Rod Iron casino features complimentary pizza and snacks for players along with Players Club, Players Station, perks and rewards. Companions of gamers can relax in the beautiful quiet area by the fireplace.

The restaurant and lounge open at 11 a.m. daily with food service until 10 p.m. Mon-Sat and until 9 p.m. on Sunday. Happy hour is from 4:30-6:30 Monday through Friday and all day Sunday. The casino is open at 8 a.m. 7 days a week.

Montana's Sunrise City Congratulates The Top Ten!

We would like to wish all our Sidney businesses continued success in 2016 & wish everyone a Happy New Year!

– City of Sidney

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Sidney's Top Stories of 2015

Sidney Livestock's Success in 2015



Submitted by Sheridan Martin

When Prewitt & Co. purchased the Sidney Livestock 4 years ago, Tim Larson became manager and has been able to slowly grow the business to where it is today. The past few years, Sidney Livestock has grown substantially and has proven to be quite an asset to Sidney's Community.

This year Sidney Livestock has been able to add on more cattle pens in August to make room to bring in even more animals for sale days. They even replaced their water tanks and Tim Larson goes on to say, "We definitely try to replenish, renew, and add

on to our facilities every 3 years." Sidney Livestock has also added a new processing facility and a new vet shed.

Sidney Livestock's animal numbers have grown this year to 50,000 and they are always trying to continue outsmarting the trade of the business. "We are here for the consignors and to create a marketplace for them," said Tim Larson. "Through travel and a lot, and I mean a lot of phone calls, we have been able to create connections in the business and create that marketplace that are consignors need."

Sidney Livestock currently has 4 full-time employees, but on sale days they can

see up to 20-30 volunteers in the business. Wednesday is regular sale day at Sidney Livestock, with other sales planned throughout the year.

"There have been good times and bad times in the business, but the relationships we have made and much more have made this a very rewarding business," said Tim Larson. "We are very happy to be here and always looking for ways to make Sidney Livestock even better."

Stop and visit or call Sidney Livestock at 406-482-3513 to discuss marketing your cattle.

Saddle Up Opened Sidney Store in the Summer of 2015

Watford City western footwear & apparel store Saddle Up opened a new store in Sidney in May 2015. Store owners Mark and Dori Sparby opened the new store due to the request of Sidney residents that were traveling

to Watford City to purchase western apparel that was not available in Sidney.

The store has had great success this year and the Sparby's also opened a store in Dickinson, ND in 2015. They also have plans to open other stores in additional cities in North Dakota, Montana and South Dakota soon.

Saddle Up is located in the M3 Meats building at 703 East Main, Sidney. Their phone number is 406-433-2629 & web address is saddleupsaddlesandtack.com.

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Sidney’s Top Stories of 2015

Sidney Sports Champions in 2015

The Sidney High School Wrestling Team placed second in at state in 2015. They had four individual state champions.



Gresh Jones turns Columbia Falls’ Haze Bell in the championship match at 126 pounds. Jones pinned Bell in 54 seconds to claim his fourth state title.

Gresh Jones became a four time Montana State Champ, 24th in Montana History. Jones is currently a redshirt freshman wrestling for the University of Minnesota majoring in Kinesiology.

Trace Jones became a two time Montana State Champ and is a Junior at Sidney High School. He is focusing his talents on football and track.

Cody Christian was a state champ as a senior. He is attending college at the University of Colorado Denver, studying civil engineering.

Ryan Chatterton was state champ his junior year. Chatterton passed away in late 2015.

The Sidney Wrestling Club took 45 wrestlers to the AAU State Folkstyle Tournament this weekend in Great Falls. Five wrestlers came home state champions: Kaleb Kutzler - Bantam 90, Zander Dean - Midget 70, Wyatt Van Buren - Elite 126, Gresh Jones - Elite 132, and Ethan Graves - Elite 152.

The Sidney Tigershark Swim Team placed scnd at the state tournament in 2015.

The Tigersharks had two relay teams and five individual event state champions in 2015.

Event #1: 8 under boys relay - consisted of Corbin Holler, Ethan Erickson, Kale Witt & Hunter Sanders

Event #78: 11-12 girls relay was Shea Roberts, Gwyneth Arthur, Hadley Garsjo & Taylor Stewart

Individuals were Corbin 2 events (#11 & 41), Hadley 1 event (#36) and Aubrey Kessel 2 events (#40 & 70).

The team was coached by Marissa Eberling and Heidi Anderson.

Shopko Hometown Opens Its Second Store in Sidney

By Meagan Dotson

On June 7, 2015 Shopko Hometown opened at its second location at 500 North Central Ave in Sidney, the only community to have two Hometown stores. Shopko Hometown carries a range of merchandise such as Nike and Adidas brand shoes, housewares, men’s, women’s, and children’s apparel, dry and canned goods, pet supplies, toys, electronics, and so much more of ‘The stuff that counts.’ Be sure to stop in and get a Shopko cash rewards card and get special offers and coupons; card members can earn a \$10 gift card for every 1,000 points, receiving 10 points on any purchase of \$5.00 or more and 100 points for every \$25.00 purchased.

“We are excited to have an additional store in the Sidney. Given the sales volume, location, and physical size of our store, it makes sense to have two locations,” said Michelle Hansen Manager of Public Relations & the Shopko Foundation.

“We are glad to be part of the community,” said Manager of



both #1 ranked stores, Mike Harbick. “Both stores are in good locations and allow us to better serve our customers.”

It took approximately eight weeks for the store to open and during that time renovations such as a new store layout, new carpet, and painting took place. The recently opened store employees 26 of 55 total Shopko employees and are proud to support the community.

“The Shopko Foundation is proud to support organizations or programs that help maintain or improve their physical health and help students succeed in school and become self-sufficient adults,” commented Hansen, and encourages anyone who would like more information about the Shopko Foundation to visit www.shopko.com/foundation.

Both stores are open from 8:00 am until 9:00 pm Monday through Saturday and from 8:00 am until 6:00 pm on Sundays. For additional information, call 406-433-3080.

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Sidney Sugars has Exceptional Growing Year in 2015

For the second year in a row, Sidney Sugars completed a record harvest, averaging 32.3 tons per acre and 18.73 sugar for the 2015 season. The crop was visually deceiving other than in the Savage area where they got an early start and no hail. "Other areas surprised us," agricultural manager Russ Fullmer said. Root samples were good with the tonnage estimate raised three times. The weather cooperated with warm, not too hot, days and cool nights in September. The new Roundup ready beets produce really well as long as they have moisture and heat. Harvest was phenomenal according to Fullmer. Sugar just kept going up and up during the 20 days of digging. The last station was done October 27.

Express Service supplied enough people to staff all the stations. "The labor situation at the factory is a lot better," Fullmer said. Farmers had to fight the construction at the Sugar Valley, Fairview, station this year but the new roundabout should make things smoother next year.

The beets are storing well so far with the consistent temperatures, even though it has been warmer than normal. The beets came in clean so the piles are clean, making them breath easier. Fresh air can also be pulled in to cool off the piles. Sidney Sugars growers had the highest percentage of sugar in the nation. "We never imagined tonnage like this," Fullmer said. "We had 38 addendums which did over 40 tons per acre."

Sidney Sugars rewards them Top 10 growers each year in January. "We have an individual in the Top 10 with 40 tons per acre and 19% sugar", Fullmer said.

There are also a couple of growers who will join the 20-20 Club, something that hasn't happened since 2007.

Sugar prices are rebounding especially compared to other crops grown in the valley. "Beets are hard to raise and it takes a

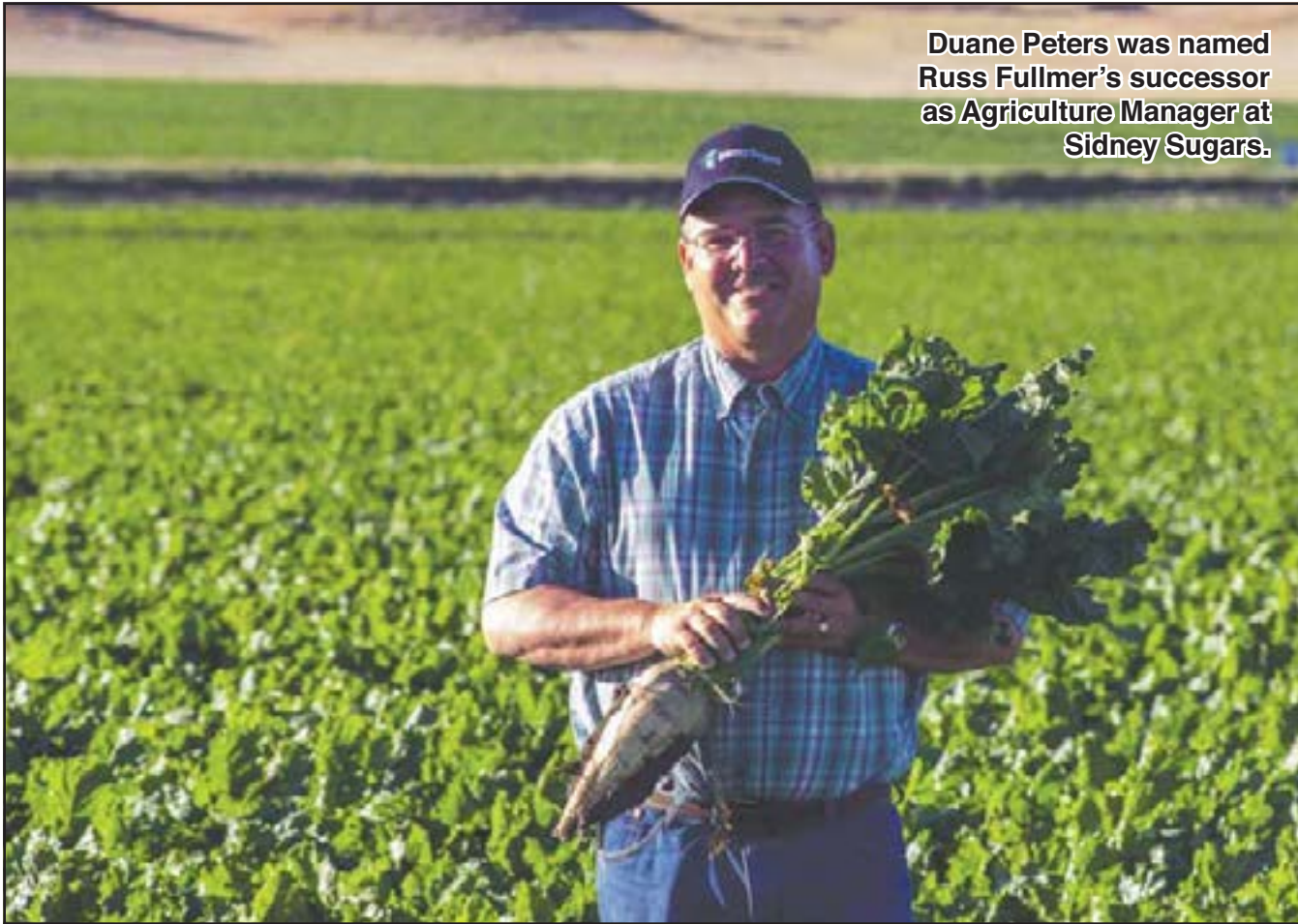
lot of money, but the rewards are worth it," Fullmer said. Sidney Sugars has begun contract negotiations with the growers.

With two consecutive record harvests to his credit, Russ Fullmer is retiring on a high note. "30 years have gone by fast," he said. Fullmer flew in to Sidney mid February 1985 to look over the position and the town. "I accepted the job but it was pretty desolate back then." What he found were good people everywhere he went. The traveling for his career ended and he and his wife raised their family here. He also found the best beet growing area in the U.S. "It's amazing country," he said.

Fullmer has the utmost respect for the beet growers. "The Scandinavians, if you get on their good side, will take care of you and give you the shirt off their back. The German Russians started in Colorado and gradually made their way north to farm the Yellowstone Valley. They're good farmers," Fullmer said. "Only the cream of the crop have survived."

Fullmer has no immediate plans to move. "We'll be here for awhile,"

Congratulations on your retirement Russ and best wishes for the next stage full of laughter and good times!



**Duane Peters was named
Russ Fullmer's successor
as Agriculture Manager at
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Sidney’s Top Stories of 2015

MNAXLP

Two New Housing Developments Address Housing Needs in Richland County

By Meagan Dotson

There are two housing developments that began building in 2015, Sunset Village and Sage Court. The plans for Sunset Village began about seven years ago as the housing board recognized the need to renovate or replace the existing Sunset apartments. HUD required a plan for replacement housing before

they would approve the demolition of the Sunset apartments. Mountain Plains Equity Group of Billings worked with the local housing board to complete the tax credit application and home grant that is funding the project. The demolition of the apartments took place in 2014 after tenants relocated. Building of the 36 units began in the spring of 2015, which includes eight more apartments than there were previously. There are also more one bedroom, four bedroom, and handicapped accessible units. “As of right now we couldn’t house a family that had a member with mobility issues. Building the new units corrects that problem,” said Executive Director of the Housing Authority, Stacey Netz.

The Sunset Village apartments will be ready in the spring of 2016; applicants must be income eligible and anyone interested can contact the Housing Authority and have their name added to a list to be notified when applications become available.

The plans for Sage Court began in 2014, as Chief of Police Frank DiFonzo and former Executive Director of the Housing Authority Paul Groshart worked closely with County Commissioners and City Council to make the much needed law enforcement housing a reality. The land was donated by the City of Sidney as well as some funds from impact fees and Richland County is funding the construction cost.

There are 10 two and three bedroom townhomes that will be available to police officers and sheriff’s deputies, addressing the consistent turnover of officers in the area due to the high cost of living. Sage Court will make it feasible for law enforcement to stay

in the area after their training is complete, saving both the city and the county a considerable amount of money.

The Housing Authority is working with the city and county and will handle the application process and admission and occupancy policies. If the number of law enforcement officers in need of housing drops, housing could then potentially be offered to staff or the townhomes could be sold individually. Housing at Sage Court will be available in the spring of 2016.

For more information, please contact the Housing Authority at 406-433-1978 or stop by their office at 1032 6th SW in Sidney.

New Year’s Resolution...

Enjoy a Refreshing Blue Rock Beverage Whenever Possible!

Congratulations To The Top Ten!



BLUE ROCK PRODUCTS
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Sunset Village apartments address the need for one bedroom, four bedroom, and handicapped accessible housing.



Above & Below: Sage Court town homes will provide law enforcement housing in the spring of 2016.



THE YEAR END SALES EVENT

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Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture formally invites you to our Annual Banquet.



January 18, 2016

Elks Lodge

6pm Social Hour

6:30pm Dinner & Program

Please join us as we bring in the new year with the Chambers’ Centennial.

RICHLAND COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

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Mission Statement

The Richland County Housing Authority is dedicated to providing housing and related services for very low, low & moderately low income families & individuals. Our management & staff are committed to serving our clients with professionalism, courtesy & respect.

How To Apply

To apply for housing, you must either come to our office located at 1032 6th Street SW or call the office at 406-433-1978 and an application will be mailed to you. Every applicant that applies for housing must sign a release form allowing the housing authority to check his or her criminal background. We may also check references from landlords & from other subsidized housing providers.

We salute all health care professionals in Richland County

Richland County’s Largest Affordable Housing Provider



Established 1952

RICHLAND COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITY

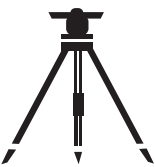


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C4 Athletics Fills Need For Athletic Equipment

C4 Athletics opened in August, providing athletic gear, footwear and clothing in response to daily requests owners Clint and Sherry Hecker fielded at High Caliber Sports. After beginning with baseball equipment, the store is now packed full of wrestling shoes and gear, and hockey equipment. Athletic footwear, active wear by Under Armour, plus sports medicine supplies fill the aisles. School spirit attire in local school colors, and Richland Rangers, is now in stock as are sunglasses, athletic socks and much, much more.

C4 Athletics is committed to providing quality merchandise and excellent customer service. Stop by and check them out at 214 S. Central Ave., Sidney or call them at 406-433-1823. Store hours are Monday through Friday 8:30 am to 5:30pm and Saturdays 10am to 5pm.



New Trendz Building and Expanding Services

Submitted by Sheridan Martin

On the corner of Central, Sidney citizens can see the new Trendz Hair Salon building. Sarah Huft purchased Trendz in February of 2014, the new establishment is bigger, better and offers a lot more services and products since their smaller, hard to find salon. "We needed a new location because there was barely enough room for my three hair stylists and three nail technicians I had. We were tripping over each other constantly. There is such a lack of commercial real estate in Sidney there was really no other option than to build."

said Sarah when asked why the new building was needed.

Since the relocation, business has boomed for Trendz. "Business has been beyond anything I could have ever imagined," said Sarah. On booked days, Trendz can see up to 60 customers per day, not including walk-ins or people coming in to purchase products.

The new salon now has six hair stylists and four nail technicians. Sarah has near future plans to add skin care from two liscensed Estheticians, one being herself. These services would include facials, microdermabrasion, waxing and even eyelash

extensions. Trendz also has many hair and make up products to offer, and has recently added BareMinerals make up to their inventory. Trendz is the only location in Eastern Montana to carry the brand. "Everyone is so used to having to order online or having to travel to get their favorite beauty products. My goal is to eliminate a lot of that."

Sarah Huft was borned and raised in Sidney, MT. After school she joined the Air Force and served for four years. Her and her husband lived in Billings for a couple of years before deciding to move back home to Sidney with their three little girls. They have had a blast running the business and are excited about their future services to the salon. "Most people love going to the salon to get their hair or nails done. Whether it's to change their look or to relax, I love being able to provide a great space to allow people that service. Building the salon took a ton of research and design, and it's so rewarding when whoever walks through the door loves it as much as I do."



Happy New Year!

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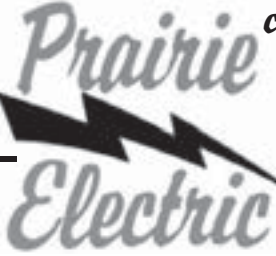
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Sidney's Top Stories of 2015

Three Sidney Parks Were Upgraded Through Grants and Donations in 2015

The Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project would like to express its deepest appreciation to everyone for their support this year & in the past.

Your continued support of our area farmers & LYIP is crucial in the upcoming months.

Public hearings have been scheduled by the Bureau of Reclamation for the week of January 21st. Please plan to attend.

LOWER YELLOWSTONE IRRIGATION PROJECT
LYIP 2327 Lincoln Ave SE • Sidney, MT



The new playground equipment at Quillings Park is just one of many improvements local parks saw in 2015.

CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT YEAR, SIDNEY!

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Carol Ault
Office Manager

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By Meagan Dotson

During the warmer months of 2015, the City spent considerable time and energy upgrading Watertower, Quillings, and Lalonde parks. Watertower Park received new bleachers, dugout benches, and a new fence, as the old fence was a maintenance issue for the City. The new fence was pushed back sixteen feet allowing more room for mowing, adequate space for growing trees, and an eventual ADA compliant sidewalk. City Park Superintendent, Stephanie Ridl, received a Richland County Recreation Grant which covered the cost of the new equipment; additional funding was given through Public Works which provided new dugouts and the Girls Slow Pitch Softball League donated new bases.

Ridl also received a Land and Water Conservation Grant that was given through Montana Fish and Wildlife to install new playground equipment in Quilling Park, including an agility based gym for ages two to twelve, new swings, two spring-ride surfers, and popular climbing wall called the Matterhorn. ADA compliant ground cover was also put in which makes the playground more accessible to wheelchairs and strollers and benches give parents and caregivers a place to sit near the playground. Other changes to be made include ADA compliant sidewalks and ramps. While there were lots of changes to the community park, some equipment remains the same such as the stagecoach and small play gym.


Lalonde Park also had new equipment installed; in November of 2015 a play gym, swing set, and merri-go-round were set and the swings and ground cover will be added in the spring of 2016. The playground equipment was donated by the Kringen family in memory of Randy Kringen and is a great example of how donations can make a big difference. Donated funds can be used to purchase trees, benches, picnic tables, playground equipment, or can be given to a specific project. It is very important to Ridl that donors are involved in where and how their contributions are used.

Donations of time are also quite welcome, as the City Crew is always busy, especially during the milder months.


Ridl's goal is to eventually upgrade all the city parks to meet ADA standards and 2015 proved to be a big step in the right direction. She has plans to renovate the bathrooms and concessions stand at Watertower Park and the bathrooms and warming house at Quilling Park. She is currently reaching out to businesses and individuals for donations for Take Part in Our Park, an extensive community effort to enhance Veterans Memorial Park, in hopes to install new benches, trash can receptacles, an ADA compliant ramp to the stage, and a park sign archway over the walking path that leads to the flag poles, Governor Nutter's statue and the Holly Sugar train. All projects are to be completed before the Billings Symphony performs there in the summer of 2016. For anyone interested in making a donation or volunteering their time, contact Ridl at City Hall, 406-433-2809 or at 406-480-9263.

Congratulations Sidney on your new growth!

Wishing You & Your Family a Happy & Prosperous New Year!



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AREA RECOVERY GROUPS

MONDAYS:

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

1 p.m. - 3 p.m. — Grief Reovery Support group at Glory of the Lord Family Ministries, Watford City.

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:

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:

12 p.m. — AA, Trinity Lutheran Church Ed. bldg., 214 S. Lincoln Ave, Sidney.

12 p.m. - 1 p.m. - AA meeting, basement of Wilmington Lutheran Church, Arnegard.

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. — Path to recovery at Faith Alliance Church, 704 S. Western Ave.

8 p.m. — AA meetings, Trinity Lutheran Church Ed. Bldg, Sidney.

SATURDAYS:

7 p.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.....1840.2

Last Week's Elev.1840.3

One Year Ago1840.6

Release For Day (C.F.S.)15000

SIDNEY WEATHER DATA

Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Dec. 21	42	17	0.00
Dec. 22	29	17	0.00
Dec. 23	24	14	0.06
Dec. 24	26	10	0.00
Dec. 25	20	-1	0.00
Dec. 26	13	-8	0.00
Dec. 27	22	-8	0.00
Total YTD Precipitation			13.09

OBITUARIES

Harald “Harry” Metz, 59, Sidney, MT

Funeral services for Harald “Harry” Metz, 59 of Sidney, MT are pending under the direction of Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home. Harry died Wed., Dec. 3, 2015 at the Sidney Health Center. Remembrances, pictures and condolences may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

Jeanne Georgeson, 60, Sidney, MT

Visitation for Jeanne Georgeson was held Tuesday, December 29, 2015 at the Fulkerson-Stevenson Memorial Chapel in Sidney, MT. Funeral services and burial will be held at a later date in Underwood, ND.

Jeanne died December 25, 2015 at Sidney Health Care. Remembrances, pictures and condolences may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

Elaine Portra, 96, Fairview, MT

Funeral services for Elaine Portra, 96 of Fairview, MT are at 10 am on Thursday, December 31 at Zion Lutheran Church in Fairview with Pastor Roberta Pierce officiating. Interment will be in the Bainville Cemetery, under the direction of Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home of Sidney. Remembrances, condolences and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

Elaine died December 26, 2015 in Fairview, MT.

Caroline Marguerite Ruffatto, 89, Sidney, MT

Mass of the Christian burial for Marguerite Ruffatto was held on December 29 at St. Matthews Catholic Church in Sidney with Father Jim O’Neil as presider. Wake services were held on Monday, December 28 at St. Matthews Catholic Church. Burial will be in St. Bernard’s Catholic Cemetery in Charlie Creek, MT under the direction of Fulkerson-Stevenson Funeral Home. Remembrances, condolences and pictures can be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

Marguerite passed away December 25, 2015 at Sidney Health Center.

Sidney Elks, 2nd Annual Bootleggers Ball February 5

The Sidney Elks Lodge proudly announces that tickets for the Bootleggers Ball to be held February 5, 2016, at The Lodge, went on sale this week. Tickets are being sold at Sidney Liquor Store and Sidney Elks Lodge.

The twenties-themed charity ball benefitting a number of Richland County charities will feature a variety of whiskeys and spirits for tasting. These varieties range from premier national and international brands to regional boutique distilleries which are becoming highly popular throughout the Inter-mountain West. For whiskey and spirit connoisseurs, this is an economical opportunity to compare the big distilleries with the smaller, up and coming distilleries.

Cigar aficionados as well as novices will be able to savor fine cigars and get advice from experts of the Sweet Ash Cigar Company.

The evening offers a great number of entertainment options. A live auction will be held throughout the evening. Participants may compete in the Best Dressed Contest, have their photos taken by a professional photographer on-site, and snack on a delicious assortment of appetizers provided by Kountry Catering. Through all of this, music will be provided by the Darning Hearts from Rapid City, SD, featuring Swing Dancing opportunities. To make the event even more fun, organizers suggest period dress for the event.

Tickets went on sale Monday, December 20 at Sidney Liquor Store for \$100 each. Ticket includes spirit tasting, substantial appetizers, signature event cocktails, an event glass, coat check, and most importantly a Sidney Shuttle Event Ticket for a ride home.

McKenzie County Food Pantry

Free food assistance for you and your family. All income eligible residents in McKenzie County welcome. Open dates and times are as follows: Thursdays from noon to 2 pm, Cashwise donates food giveaway to the Food Pantry, 1st Tuesday of each month from 5 pm to 7 pm and the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 2 pm to 4 pm. The Food Pantry is located in the lower level of First Lutheran Church, 212 2nd Ave. NW, Watford City. For more information or to set up an appointment to visit the pantry call 701-444-3451 or www.mcfoodpantry.com.

Pantry includes a wide variety of frozen meats, canned goods, personal care items. Donations can be sent to: McKenzie Co. Food Pantry, Box 2716, Watford City, ND 58854.

MNAXLP

EVENTS

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RICHLAND COUNTY

Events in Sidney unless otherwise listed. MT Zone.

Thur., Dec. 31

4 p.m. - 2 a.m. - New Years Eve Party at the South 40.

7 p.m. - 2 a.m. - New Years Eve Party at the VFW. Party favor: & hor d’oeuvres. Free shuttle ride- up to 5 people. Free non alcoholic beverages to designated drivers. Live music from The Relics starts at 9 p.m.

Fri., Jan. 1

10:30 a.m. - Storytime. 0-5 yrs. Richland County Library.

Sat., Jan. 2

8 p.m. - 2 a.m. - Black Tie Affair. Presented by MonDak Relay For Life. Sidney Elks Lodge. Hor D’oeuvres, cash bar and live auction and live DJ. For 21 and over tickets call 406-480-3073

9 a.m. - Confluence scrapbooking. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Center.

Sun., Jan. 3

9 a.m. - 9 a.m. - Confluence scrapbooking. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Center.

Tues., Jan. 5

3:30 - 5:30 p.m. - Lego Club- Richland County Library.

6:30 - 8 p.m. - Meadowlark Trivia Tuesdays.

Fri., Jan. 8

10:30 a.m. - Storytime. 0-5 yrs. Richland County Library.

Sun., Jan. 10

12 - 3:30 p.m. - First Lutheran Church of Savage will hold it’s annual Lutefisk and Meatball dinner. Prices are \$15 for adult and \$3 for children under 12. For more information call Dennis at 406-480-9807.

WILLIAMS COUNTY

Events in Williston unless otherwise listed. CT Zone.

Tues., Jan. 5

7 p.m. - Williston Camera Club. Held at the James Memorial Art Center. All levels of experience welcome. Come learn something new or sharpen your skills.

Thur., Jan. 7

7 p.m. - 8 p.m. - Ft. Buford History Book Club. Join other histor buffs in an interesting discussion of this month’s selected book. Free refreshments. Missouri Yellowstone Confluence. 1539 39t Ln NW, Williston, ND, 58801. 701-572-9034.

Fri., Jan. 8

8 p.m. - Poetry Out Loud. Live open mix at the Lantern Coffee Co. 4401 16th Ave. W. Williston, ND.

Sat., Jan. 9

12 - 3 p.m. - Williston Bridal Expo 2016. Meet with premier wedding vendors all in one place. Sample their work and enter to win fabulous prizes. Follow on facebook for an updated list of vendors and door prizes. Grand Williston Hotel. www.facebook.com/willistonbridalexpo.

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RMC Celebrates Their Holiday Heroes

By Jaimee Green

People still get sick around the holidays and so when everyone else is carving the turkey, opening presents and gathering around the family tree, Roosevelt Medical Center is fully staffed with nurses, activities, housekeeping and dietary staff to care for the sick and the 20 residents who call RMC home.

This year, Vickie Grimsrud, Activities Director, implemented Holiday Heroes, an appreciation program geared toward ensuring staff know how much they are needed and appreciated for working on the holidays.

Both evening and night staff enjoyed Grimsrud's homemade, hand-delivered, dilly party mix and a lighthearted atmosphere complete with Christmas music and decorated trees throughout the facility.

Notes of thanks were also posted on the RMC website and face book page to enable other community members to express

their appreciation.

"This was just a way of thanking the efforts and sacrifices staff make by stepping away from their families to care for ours. It may not be the same as relaxing in front of a roaring fire at home with loved ones, but in a world where health care co-workers can become like a family, these small holiday celebrations can really make a difference," Grimsrud said.

Dr. Jaber Abawi, a former RMC provider, also revived his long-time tradition of paying for all of the holiday meals eaten by both staff and residents on Christmas Day.

For Michael Eylander, a nurse's aide, working in the Alzheimer's unit on New Year's Day will give another staff member the opportunity to spend time with family. "I'm young and don't have a family yet, so I am happy to work the extra hours and let someone else enjoy that time with loved ones," he said. Eylander is a senior at Froid High School.

Although it can be hard for the families and friends of healthcare professionals, working around the holidays can really shed some light on what is really important this time of year.

Terrie Turbiville, an LPN, elected to work Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year. "I don't have children, so if I can work and give those staff members who have children that time with their families, I feel good about contributing to their happiness. Besides, I would rather be with the residents because they are like my family. We share the holidays together," she said.

Typically, healthcare professionals work 12-hour shifts. One of the things that medical professionals do to keep a positive attitude is enjoy the season for what it is, a time to be generous and spend time with friends and colleagues. This year, staff members also enjoyed a holiday celebration party at the Saddle Club and several gift exchanges and potlucks took place at the facility throughout the festive season.



Michael Eylander, a nurse's aide at Roosevelt Medical Center, spends his holiday working, so that other staff members with families can have the day off.

County Agent Update

National Hard Spring Wheat Show

The 63rd Annual National Hard Spring Wheat Show is coming up quick. This year we have a great line up of speakers for the Feb. 2-4 dates. On Tuesday, Feb. 2, will be the popular "Bread Fair" for area 5th graders. The "bread fair" allows students to learn about where the bread comes from, and how this region is very important for bread making. With many of the supplies being donated, the students are able to make a loaf of bread for them to take home and bake later that night, which works out great because it gives the yeast enough time to rise. Over 350 students will be in attendance throughout the day, making it a great educational "field trip" for them that they will talk about for years to come.

Wednesday, Feb. 3 and Thursday, Feb. 4 will be the two days for farmers and those that work in the agriculture

field. Pamela Solberg will share ideas, thoughts and educational material for the 2016 season. The committee has put together a great line up with 21 speakers attending, some presenters over those days are; Cliff Naylor, Elston Solberg, and V.J. Smith. Cliff Naylor will be presenting his "Off the Beaten Path" talk during our Wednesday lunch, \$10 for a ticket from noon to 1p.m. Our two keynote speakers are Elston Solberg and V.J. Smith. Elston Solberg is the director of Agri-Trend in Alberta, Canada, he will be presenting a few times over Wednesdays schedule. Elston has a wealth of knowledge from past service as Head Cereal Specialist and Research Agronomist with Alberta Agriculture, his presentations will be on; 13 deadly sins of a Farmer, Water drives everything- whether there is too little or too much and the 7 Rs of successful crops- thinking balance, balance, balance. Our second keynote speaker, V.J. Smith is a professional speaker and author of "The Richest Man in Town", "You Hear What I See?", and "Jackrabbit Tales".

V.J. Smith will be presenting on Thursday Feb. 4, the audience will be organizing the "file folders" of our life and thinking about how the choices we make can affect those around us. Smith will be presenting on Thursday during our lunch, with a \$10 ticket, it is open to the public.

Along with the speakers above, we have a few wonderful presenters from North Dakota State University Extension Service, University of Minnesota, Natural Resource Conservation Service, and our commodity groups in Montana and North Dakota. The commodity groups that will be in attendance are; Montana Wheat and Barley committee, North Dakota Wheat Commission, North Dakota Grain Growers, North Dakota Barley Council, and United States Durum Growers Association. Over the next month, I will be mentioning more of the speakers that will be present and more information about the Wheat Show. If you have questions about the 63rd Annual National Hard Spring Wheat Show, please call the extension office at 701-577-4595.

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Damian Mason Selected as Ag Days 2016 Entertainment

By Tim Fine

The MonDak Ag Days and Trade Show is happy to announce that we have secured our feature entertainer for the 2016 event. Damian Mason, renowned entertainer and agricultural humorist will be entertaining the crowd at the annual banquet on the evening of March 3, 2016. Tickets will be available for purchase soon. In the meantime, feel free to visit the MonDak Ag Days and Trade Show facebook page at www.facebook.com/mondakagdays. You may also want to visit Damian Mason's page at www.damianmason.com. For more information and for tickets (when they become available), feel free to call the Richland County Extension Office at 433-1206.

BLM Issues Proposed Decision On American Prairie Reserve Grazing Application On Flat Creek Allotment

Submitted by Jonathan Moor

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has issued a proposed decision to change a grazing permit on the Flat Creek Allotment in Northeastern Montana to allow bison to graze on federal land all year.

The American Prairie Reserve (APR) purchased private lands in Phillips County in 2014, which had been primarily used to grow crops and forage for livestock. The associated 13-thousand acre Flat Creek Allotment has historically been used for cattle grazing.

APR submitted a proposal to switch from seasonal grazing of cattle to yearlong grazing of 385 bison. They also asked to remove internal fencing in order to manage the private and public land as one common pasture. There would be no change in the number of federal Animal Unit Months (AUMs) permitted.

At the conclusion of a year long public planning process, the BLM has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA), Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and has issued a Proposed Decision authorizing the changes requested by APR. These documents are available online at <http://1.usa.gov/1NSdr0O>.

The Proposed Decision would authorize the permittee to remove interior fencing and graze bison. It also includes mitigation measures and adaptive management conditions.

Because the allotment is within the recently defined Sagebrush Focal Area, lands under the grazing permit would be prioritized for field checks to ensure compliance with both Standards for Rangeland Health and desired conditions for Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat.

Any applicant, permittee, lessee, or other affected interest may protest a Proposed Decision under Sec. 43 CFR§4160.1. Protests must be made in writing within 15 days after receipt of this proposed decision to: Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, 501 South 2nd St. East, Malta, MT 59538.

Written protests should clearly and concisely state the reason(s) why this Proposed Decision is in error. A written protest electronically transmitted (e.g., email, facsimile, or social media) will not be accepted as a protest. A written protest must be on paper.

For more information, call (406) 654-5100.

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Guest Opinion: If It’s Broke, Let’s Fix It

Submitted by Bob Brown

If it’s broke, let’s fix it. That’s what Montanans need to do with our dysfunctional office of Lt. Governor.

The dysfunction dates back for at least a half-century. After serving as Governor in the nineteen fifty’s, Republican Hugo Aronson once commented in my presence that he rarely left the state because of his deep distrust for his Lt. Governor, Democrat Paul Cannon.

In the 1960’s the relationship was probably even worse between fellow Republicans Governor Tim Babcock and Lt. Governor Ted James. Babcock was out of state when a car crash killed Public Service Commissioner Jack Holmes. Without waiting for Babcock’s return, James quickly appointed his political ally and Great Falls hometown friend, Ernie Steele, to the vacancy on the PSC created by Holmes’ death. Babcock was furious, and the animosity that grew between them resulted in James and Babcock locking horns in a bitter Republican primary contest for Governor in 1968.

Attempting to create a more functional relationship between Governors and Lt. Governors, the 1972 Montana Constitutional Convention changed the State Constitution to require candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor run as a team, as national candidates for President and Vice President do. (That hasn’t always been an ideal arrangement either. Lyndon Johnson described his role as Vice President in the Camelot time of the Kennedy administration as “the banjo part in the halleluiah chorus.”)

In 1976 when Montana’s partnership provision was first implemented, Governor Tom Judge chose former legislator and state Lands Commissioner Ted Schwinden as his running mate. Judge gave Schwinden some real responsibility, but no

trust relationship resulted. Judge and Schwinden ended up squaring off against each other the first chance they got, in the primary election of 1980.

Lt. Governor George Turman, resigned before the end of Schwinden’s administration, as did Lt. Governor Allen Kolstad in the succeeding administration of Governor Stan Stephens. Lt. Governor Denny Rehberg left in the middle of the Racicot administration to run for U.S. Senator. Lt. Governor Karl Ohs made no secret of his disdain for his boring and unfulfilling job and confided to me his intention not to be a candidate for the office again.

Now, Lt. Governor Angela McLean has resigned, reportedly because a personality conflict with Gov. Steve Bullock resulted in the Governor giving the capable and energetic McLean nothing to do.

People with ambition and ability hate being benched. People who become Lt. Governor, like McLean, are usually ambitious and capable people. Why waste their productive potential because a Governor may either not recognize it, or be uncomfortable with it for some reason?

Montanans know that Lt. Governors running independently of the Governor have been problematic for our state, at least since the era of Aronson, and the attempt to force them to be loyal teammates hasn’t worked either.

Lt. Governors should serve in a real job. Many do, including neighboring Lt. Governors of Wyoming, Utah, Oregon, Alaska, and Arizona. Whether called Secretary of State or Lt. Governor, those states elect one person to perform the defined duties of Secretary of State.

We should do the same thing. Montana taxpayers will be

served by eliminating a useless and troublesome office and benefitted by giving a capable person a real job to do.

This reform can be accomplished only by amending our state constitution. That can happen by a citizen’s initiative in the 2016 general election or by a referendum to the people from the 2017 legislature, voted on in the election of 2018. Let’s recognize it’s broke, and let’s fix it.

Bob Brown is a former MT Secretary of State and State Senate President.

New Economic Data to Change Job Creation Grant Eligibility Jan. 1

Submitted by Daniel Iverson

HELENA – The Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund (BSTF), a state grant program to help Montana businesses create good-paying jobs, has updated its 2016 eligibility guidelines based on new economic data from the Department of Labor and Industry.

The 2014 average weekly wage data and poverty maps, which will be used to determine eligibility for the program starting Jan. 1, are now available for review at the BSTF website, bstf.mt.gov. Applications under the 2013 data will continue to be accepted through Dec. 31.

In order to qualify for BSTF financial assistance, a business must create a net new job that pays an average weekly wage that meets or exceeds the lesser of 170 percent of Montana’s

current minimum wage or the current average weekly wage. For 2016, Montana minimum wage will remain unchanged at \$8.05 per hour.

Additionally, BSTF allows for a higher award amount per job and a lower match requirement for counties that are located in a designated high-poverty county. A “high-poverty county” means a county in which 14 percent or more of the people of all ages are in poverty as determined by the U.S. Census Bureau estimates for the most current year available.

Also starting Jan. 1, the BSTF program will be transitioning to an online application system at www.FundingMT.org. Businesses already registered with the BSTF program will not need to register again.

For additional information, please contact the BSTF Program at 406.841.2250.

The Montana Office of Tourism and Business Development markets Montana’s spectacular unspoiled nature, vibrant and charming small towns, breathtaking experiences, relaxing hospitality, and competitive business climate to promote the state as a place to visit and do business.

Administrative Rules Hearing Set for Jan. 12

Submitted by North Dakota Game and Fish Department

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department will hold a public hearing to address proposed rule changes to North Dakota Administrative Code Title 30. The hearing is scheduled for 1:15 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 12 at the agency’s main office in Bismarck.

The purpose and explanation of the proposed rule change is as follows:

Chapter 30-03-06-05 – Water prohibited. Currently all drain plugs must be removed from all watercraft and recreational, commercial and construction equipment bilges and confined spaces when entering the state or leaving the Red River. To reduce the threat of transport of aquatic nuisance species, it is proposed the current administrative rule be extended statewide, requiring all drain plugs be removed, and water draining devices be open, on all watercraft and recreational, commercial, and construction equipment bilges and confined spaces, during any out-of-water transport.

The proposed rule language may be reviewed at the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, 100 N. Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND 58501-5095, or on the Department’s website at gf.nd.gov. A copy of the proposed rules may be requested in writing, or by calling 701-328-6305, or emailing ndgf@nd.gov. Written or oral comments on the proposed rules must be received by Jan. 22, 2016 for consideration.

Anyone who attends the public hearing and needs special facilities or assistance relating to a disability should contact the Game and Fish Department at least seven days before the public hearing.

Deadline For Pheasant Release Applications Due Jan. 15

Submitted by Erin O’Connor, MT FWP

It’s not too late to submit your application for 2016 pheasant releases through Montana’s Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program.

Landowners interested in raising and releasing ring-necked pheasants have until Jan. 15, 2016 to submit an application.

Under Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Upland Game Bird Release Program, landowners may apply annually for up to five consecutive years to establish pheasants. Landowners may either raise their own pheasants with the appropriate state permits or contact a pheasant raiser to provide pheasants for release. All pheasants must be certified through the National Poultry Improvement Plan.

Projects must comprise at least 100 contiguous acres of land and contain a combination of habitat components – including cover and food – that upland game birds need to survive. Lands enrolled in the pheasant release program must allow free public access to hunt upland game birds during the season the releases take place.

Applications for pheasant releases must be postmarked by Jan. 15, 2016 and mailed to FWP in Helena. Pheasant releases will take place between Aug. 1 and Sept. 15.

Hunting preserves, lands that host a commercial hunting enterprise, and lands where hunting rights are leased or paid for, are not eligible.

For more information, and to download an application form, visit FWP’s website at fwp.mt.gov – search “Upland Game Bird Enhancement Program,” or contact Debbie Hohler at 406-444-5674, or by email at dhohler@mt.gov.

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Culbertson Holiday Windows Concert



Above: On Mon., Dec. 21, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade music class gather together to sing “Night of Silence”, by Daniel Kantor and Frans Gruber. (Photo by Sheridan Martin)

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Parade Of Lights In Culbertson December 21



Mike & Keri Hauenstein’s house of 50,000 lights, spreading Christmas spirit through the town of Culbertson.



A semi truck shown here was one of the largest floats in Culbertson’s Parade of Lights, also done by Mike & Keri Hauenstein. (Photos by Sheridan Martin)

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