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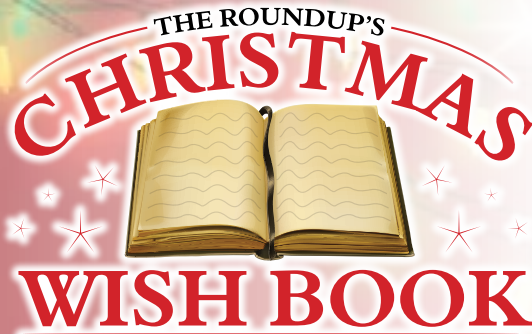
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Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Volume 50 • Number 44

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
Need gift ideas this holiday season?
Check out page 15!



The Great String Showdown - A Musical Adventure For a Magical Montana Christmas

By Lisa Gordor

You do not want to miss The Great String Showdown at the Richland County Event Center Dec. 7.

The Great String Showdown is a thrilling dueling string act led by Greg Byers and Mike Lauer. Join us at the event center for a melodic journey spanning multiple decades and genres. From the groovy tunes of the '60s to today's chart toppers. Their repertoire guarantees the audience an unforgettable experience. Greg is a master on the cello and Mike's guitar work creates a foundation for their vocal harmonies. This is more than a performance. It is an interactive experience that will keep all entertained. The duo will take requests, do live karaoke, and tr-

ly tailor the experience to the audience. This is a humor-infused spectacle that promises to thoroughly entertain audiences of all ages and keep them engaged and amused. They are described as professional as well as wildly entertaining.

Doors will open at 5 p.m., with a plated prime rib dinner served at 6 p.m., by chef LeRoy Strasheim. There are limited tickets available this year, so be sure to secure your spot for this delightful evening of food, cocktails, and community. This is sure to be a unique musical adventure for our area that many will remember for years to come.

As Sidney prepares for the holiday season, all of the events that the Sidney Chamber of Commerce is

Photo submitted



bringing to town promise to bring joy and togetherness, celebrating the spirit of community in our charming Montana town. Mark your

calendars and join in the festivities!

It is truly one of the most wonderful times of the year! For more information on

these events, visit the Sidney Chamber of Commerce website sidneymt.com or follow them on Facebook.

Alexander Christmas Stroll Dec. 5

By Katelyn Sponheim

The Alexander Activities Club will be hosting their 4th annual Christmas Stroll on Dec. 5 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Alexander Public School. The club's President Sherry Pelser and Vice President Elizabeth McKee will open with a welcome and the lighting of the community Christmas tree in the old gym.

The students of Alexander School have been busy preparing for the stroll by decorating the hallways in an "Elf" theme, and cooking up treats for all that attend! Each class decorates a section, and a winner is picked from both the elementary and high school. Last year's winners chose this year's "Elf" theme; last year, the event followed a "Grinch" theme. The winner's also get a pizza party or Soda Shack treat.

Shopping and food vendors will be spready throughout the commons and cafeteria area, and gyms. S Student groups will offer food as well, with one class offering tomato soup, grilled cheese sandwiches, and homemade macaroni and cheese. The senior class will be hosting a hot chocolate bar and a soup. The First Lego League will have caramel apple nachos, cookies, and Jingle Juice or similar punch for sale. The girls' basketball team will be running the Soda Shack, which mixes up Italian soda or coffee shop type drinks. The indoor snowball fight, with plush snowballs and gift-wrapped obstacles, will start at 6 p.m. Groups will be separated by age and play in 15-minute sessions. Buddy the Elf, Josie, and little elves will even make an appearance! "Elf" the movie will be shown at 7 p.m. with popcorn offered.

There will be multiple picture opportunities, with both a freewill donation photographer with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and several "selfie stations" where you can make your own memories with the Christmas-themed décor. Hayrides and ornament decorating offer more opportunities for holiday fun at the Stroll, and Fierce by: KD Dance Studio of Alexander will be entertaining as well. The Alexander Activities Club and School have gone above and beyond to provide a holiday event for their community with fun, shopping, food, and entertainment, and look forward to welcoming all to the event!

Border Battle High School Basketball Showcase Set For Dec. 13-14, Christmas Fest Dec. 14

The Border Battle High School Basketball Showcase to be held at the Rough Rider Center and Watford City High School Dec. 13-14 will include girls' and boys' teams from North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana. Teams will include Watford City, Alexander, Belfield, Ha-

zen, New Town, Dickinson Trinity, Ray, South Heart, ND. Joining them will be Terry and Bainville, MT, and Lemmon, SD.

Action starts at 3:30 p.m. on Friday. There will be three games. Saturday's schedule starts at 11:15 a.m. and includes 10 games.

Child passes are: \$8 or weekend \$12. Adult passes \$10 or weekend \$15. Children 2 and under are free.

Celebrate the season on Dec. 14, at the Christmas Fest from 10 a.m.-3 p.m.! For just \$7 admission, you'll get to snap a photo with Santa, explore the festive Ag

Expo Winter Wonderland, and experience Santa's Workshop with KidStop. Walk through the glowing Candy Cane Lane, and even enjoy some fun in the pool! There will also be a variety of vendors for all your holiday shopping. This is an event you won't want to miss—

bring your friends and family for a day of holiday magic!

Want to be a vendor? Please email makenziec@roughridercen.com or call at 701-842-3665 and ask for one of our event staff!

Sidney Eagle Wrestling Tournament: A Clash Of The Titans



Reece Graves (top photo) at practice. He's a senior and placed 4th, 1st, and 1st at state. Looking for his third state title this year. (Photo by Erin Graves)

By Lisa Gordor

The first week of December is always anticipating for Sidney Wrestling fans, parents, coaches, and wrestlers. Dec. 6-7 will be buzzing with excitement in Sidney at the high school gymnasium and Central School gymnasium. The team has been practicing hard and gearing up for the first tournament of the year. Wrestle-offs for the varsity positions were held Monday.

The stakes are higher this year, with 25 teams coming from across the region-and some even from out of state. The entire community is eagerly awaiting what is surely to be one of

the toughest early-season competitions.

The schedule is packed with the 1st round of duels starting in the Sidney High School gym at 8:30 a.m. Teams with multiple state champions are scheduled to arrive bringing some of the highest level of competition. Standing out to defend their dual and individual championship at the Eagle is Post Falls, ID. Other rock-solid teams coming in from thousands of miles are Mead, CO; Oak Harbor, OH; Lake Stevens, WA; Adams City, CO; and Rapid City, SD. All of these teams have their eyes set on the gold, bringing in their own powerhouse

teams. While these out-of-state teams promise to bring tough competition, neighboring teams from Dickinson and Williston, ND, along with many talented teams from across Montana are more than up for the challenge.

At 9:30 a.m. Friday, the varsity wrestlers are locked in the duels. The younger athletes will face their own competition.

Meanwhile, the high school wrestling room will gear up for the special girls' tournament at 1:30 p.m. The atmosphere will be charged with the female wrestlers showcasing their skills.

As the duals conclude,

the first round of the individual tournament will start.

Saturday will start at 8:30 a.m. at the Sidney High School Gymnasium, with Saturday night set to be the climactic conclusion. The tension will be electric for the final round of championship matches at 5:30 p.m. for the battle for the top of the podium.

The Annual Eagle Tournament is more than just a competition, it is a celebration of wrestling, determination, and sportsmanship. For the Sidney wrestling team, this is not just the beginning of the season, it is the chance to measure themselves against some

of the toughest competition they will face all year. Sidney's Coach Guy Melby stated "We welcome all of the teams to Sidney. We love bringing some of the toughest competition here to test ourselves. This tournament always brings some of the best lessons and measurements of the future of our season".

Even if you are not a current wrestling fan, you can be sure to be impressed if you stop by the tournament to watch these athletes. The team would love to see the community there for support. Let's go Eagles!

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Sidney • Fairview • Savage • Lambert
Senior Center Events

Congregate Meals:
 Fairview: Mon. & Wed., 11:30 a.m., 217 5th St. West, 406-742-5050
 Sidney: Tues. & Fri., 11:30 a.m., 813 3rd St. NE, 406-433-8077
 Savage: Thurs., 12 p.m., 178 E Main St., 406-776-9980
 Lambert: Tues., 12 p.m., Fox Lake Sr. Center, 406-774-3439

Activities/Cards
 Fairview: Men/Cards, Mon.-Sat. daily at 2 p.m.; Women's Cards: Wed. & Sat. at 1 p.m.; 217 5th St. West, 406-742-5050
 Sidney: Cards Thurs., 1 p.m.; 813 3rd St. NE, 406-433-8077
 Lambert: Cards, Tues., 1 p.m.; Fox Lake Sr. Center, 406-774-3439

Senior Commodity Distribution (Change)
 2190 W Holly St., 406-433-3701; the last full Thurs., 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; & Fri., 9 a.m.-12 p.m. of each month

AREA RECOVERY GROUPS

MONDAYS:
 12 p.m. - Monday Noon AA Group, Sidney - Prairie Hills Fellowship Hall, 623 N. Central, enter through back entrance door, SE side.
 12 p.m. - "We Are Not Saints AA Meeting, Watford City - Glory of the Lord Church, use back door entrance, handicap accessible.
 7 p.m. - Hope For Today AI-Anon Family Group Sidney - Prairie Hills Fellowship Hall, 623 N. Central, enter through back entrance door, SE side.
 7 p.m. - Living Free NA Group, Sidney - Sidney Lutheran Brethren Church, 1100 Madison Lane.
 8 p.m. - AA Meeting Watford City - Northern Pump & Compression. Call 701-770-3603 or 701-770-2675 for directions or ride. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663.

TUESDAYS:
 7 p.m. - AA Welcome Home Group, Sidney - Prairie Hills Fellowship Hall, 623 N. Central, enter through back entrance door, SE side.
 7 p.m. - Living Free NA Group, Sidney - Candlewood Suites, 201 6th St. NW, Room 228
 7 p.m. - 24-hour Women's AA Group Meeting Watford City - Northern Pump & Compression. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663.

WEDNESDAYS:
 6:45 p.m. - Celebrate Recovery, Watford City - Assembly of God (1st Wed. of month 6 p.m. Potluck)
 7 p.m. - 24-Hr AA Group Meeting, Watford City - Northern Pump & Compression. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663.

THURSDAYS:
 7 p.m. - Living Free NA Group, Sidney - Sidney Lutheran Brethren Church, 1100 Madison Lane.
 7 p.m. - AI-Anon Meeting, Watford City - Presbyterian Church, 316 4th Ave. NE.
 8 p.m. - AA Meeting, Watford City - Northern Pump & Compression. Call 701-770-3603 or 701-770-2675 for directions or ride. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663.

FRIDAYS:
 7 p.m. - AA Welcome Home Group, Sidney - Prairie Hills Fellowship Hall, 623 N. Central, enter through back entrance door, SE side
 8 p.m. - NA Meetings, Watford City - First Lutheran Church, 212 2nd St. NW, use 3rd Ave. NW entrance.

SATURDAYS:
 7 p.m. - AA Welcome Home Group, Sidney - Prairie Hills Fellowship Hall, 623 N. Central, enter through back entrance door, SE side.
 7 p.m. - 24-Hr. AA Group Meeting, Watford City - Northern Pump & Compression. Hotline/Info 701-609-8663.

SUNDAYS:
 1 p.m. - Sober Soaks AA/NA Meeting, Fairview - Zion Lutheran Church, 309 S. Central Ave., Upstairs Fellowship Room.
 7 p.m. - AA Welcome Home Group, Sidney - Prairie Hills Fellowship Hall, 623 N. Central, white building, enter through back entrance door, SE side.
 7 p.m. - Living Free NA Group, Sidney - Candlewood Suites, 201 6th St. NW, Room 228

STATISTICS

LAKE WATER LEVEL REPORT

Sakakawea
 Current Elevation..... 1836.4
 Last Week's Elev. 1836.9
 One Year Ago 1839.8
 Release For Day (C.F.S.) 16,000

SIDNEY WEATHER DATA
 Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

| Date | High | Low | Precip. |
|------------------------------|------|-----|---------|
| Nov. 25 | 12 | 0 | 0.000 |
| Nov. 26 | 23 | 2 | 0.000 |
| Nov. 27 | 21 | 7 | 0.000 |
| Nov. 28 | 11 | 1 | 0.000 |
| Nov. 29 | 6 | 1 | 0.000 |
| Nov. 30 | 15 | 1 | 0.000 |
| Dec. 1 | 17 | -1 | 0.000 |
| Total 2024 YTD Precipitation | | | 8.460 |

Eastern MT Polar Plunge Promises To Be An Icy Treat

By Lisa Gorder
 Join in the fun on Dec. 5 at the Eastern Montana Polar Plunge from 5-7 p.m. at the Sidney Elks Lodge.
 The Polar Plunge is a Law Enforcement Torch Run signature event. It was first held in 1999 in Whitefish, MT, and is an opportunity for individuals, clubs, and organizations to support the Special Olympics Montana athletes. The plunge has grown into 14 communities across the state with over 11,000 participants raising over \$350,000 annually for Special Olympics Montana. The mission of the Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and athletes with intellectual disabilities. This gives the athletes an opportunity for physical fitness, learning new skills, and a chance to experience friendship while competing.
 This is the first year that

the Polar Plunge is an exclusive event for the day. Watch as law enforcement and Special Olympic athletes take the plunge into icy waters for a worthy cause. There will be a free-will feed offered by Richland Opportunities, Inc. and the Sidney Police Department will have jumpers from all walks of life to help support our Special Olympic athletes!
 The Plunge will be held on the street in front of the Elks Lodge BPOE 1782 this year. Please nominate a jumper to support this cause today! The cost to nominate is \$50. Give the Chamber a call 406-433-1916 or stop down to the City Hall and we will get your nomination on the list. Nominees will have the option of matching your donation or they will have to take the plunge.
 For more information or the community calendar please visit the Sidney Chamber website. sidneymt.com or visit their Facebook page today.

The Lower Yellowstone Chapter Of A.B.A.T.E. Toy Drive

By Maria Hodge
 The Lower Yellowstone Chapter of A.B.A.T.E. (American Bikers Aiming Toward Education) of Montana is a nonprofit organization promoting motorcycle education, safety and awareness. This organization is involved in various community activities.
 As the holiday season approaches, they are looking forward to their 30th annual toy drive. This community project collects new toys or dollar donations to buy new toys for those who are less fortunate. They have been working with the Christmas Coalition and Gifts From The Heart for the last 25 years. Last year, because of the generosity of the people in this community, they gathered toys to be dispersed among 183 families, totaling 539 children. They raised much of this money through donations from area companies, businesses and individuals. The continued support of the sources is what keeps this toy drive going. Now they are asking for a tax-deductible contribution that will make a world of difference in the life of a child.
 Any amount donated will be a blessing to a family in need. Please mail donations to ABATE TOY DRIVE, PO Box 62, Crane, MT 59217 or Stockman Bank-ABATE, 301 West Holly, Sidney, MT 59270. Pick-up arrangements can be made by calling Maria Hodge at 406-480-3597.
 Your continued support in this worthwhile endeavor during the Christmas Holiday is truly appreciated.

Christmas At The Confluence: A Taste Of Frontier Christmas

Step back in time and celebrate the season at the Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center on Sunday, Dec. 15, 1-3:30 p.m. MST.
 Experience holiday traditions from the 19th century and enjoy festive activities for all ages.
 Enjoy a frontier Christmas Skit: A reenactment of a 19th-century frontier Christmas, showing how soldiers and settlers celebrated the season with limited resources.
 Hear Live Music by the Sidney High School Christmas Jazz Band and Mick Soiseth and friends classical acoustic.
 Listen to a fun and interactive retelling of this holiday classic, "Twas the Night Before Christmas" interactive reading with historical twists and a special visit from Santa to hand out candy!
 For the adventurers take a Snowshoeing Nature Walk guided tour through the winter landscape and learn the history of snowshoeing in our area. (Weather Dependent-dress warmly!)
 Try your hand at classic frontier Victorian crafts and homesteading practices in a hands-on, fun activity!
 Join in on an outdoor winter Indigenous Ice Gliding Game inspired by indigenous traditions.
 Enjoy light snacks, hot cocoa, and coffee to warm up and keep you in the holiday spirit.
 This family-friendly free event is the perfect way to celebrate the holidays! Don't miss out! Come and enjoy a festive and memorable afternoon at "Christmas at the Confluence"!
 For more information visit https://www.facebook.com/share/1BETCCyrb/.

McKenzie Co. Fatal Rear End Collision Nov. 26

A 2025 Chevrolet Silverado was traveling eastbound on ND Highway 23 at 3:36 a.m. and rear ended a 2012 Kenworth truck that was eastbound on ND Highway 23 also. The driver of the Chevrolet Silverado, Rance Bennett, El Dorado, KA, died from injuries on the scene. The driver of the Kenworth truck, Augustin Solis Munoz, Westport, WA, was uninjured. The driver of the Silverado was not wearing a seatbelt.
 The crash remains under investigation by the North Dakota Highway Patrol.
 Other agencies involved in the crash were Three Affiliate Tribes Police, McKenzie County Sheriff's Office, New Town Fire Department and New Town Ambulance.



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

RICHLAND COUNTY
 Events in Sidney unless otherwise listed. MT.
Thurs., Dec. 5
 5-7 p.m. - Eastern Montana Polar Plunge - Complete with a free-will meal, visit the Sidney Elks Lodge to watch law enforcement, Special Olympic athletes, & other nominees take the polar plunge!
Fri., Dec. 6
 10 a.m.-2 p.m. - Christmas Open House - Have your picture taken with Santa & enjoy treats, refreshments & holiday cheer. Stockman Bank lobby.
Fri., Dec. 6, 4-8 p.m. & Sat., Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Holiday Craft Bazaar - Lunch will be available. St. Matthew's Catholic Church Parish Center.
Sat., Dec. 7
 7 a.m.-12 p.m. - Gifts From The Heart - Christmas shopping for Richland County residents who are unable to afford gifts for their children. Masonic Temple.
 8 a.m.-noon - Boys & Girls Club Children's Christmas Shoppe - Open to children Ages 2-12: \$5. Children choose gifts for immediate family. Muffins, coffee & juice will be available & Santa will be present for photos. Boys & Girls Club, 201 3rd Ave. SE.
 9 a.m.-4 p.m. - Sunrise City Events Christmas Bazaar - Vendors, crafters, makers, bakers, boutiques & kidpreneurs. Holiday mini shoots & selfies with Santa. Richland County Event Center.
 10 a.m.-3 p.m. - Reynolds Market Holiday Open House - Santa run 10 a.m.; photos with Santa, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (bring your camera); 11 a.m.-1 p.m. kids wooden ornament decorating. Reynolds Market.
 5 p.m. - The Great String Showdown - Doors open 5 p.m.; dinner served 6 p.m. Richland County Event Center. Limited tickets sold. For more info visit the Sidney Chamber of Commerce website.
Sun., Dec. 8
 11 a.m.-4 p.m. - East Fairview Elementary PTO's Pictures With Santa & Mrs. Claus - Prints and/or digital copies. 301 2nd St. Fairview, ND. For more info contact Emily 406-407-2323.
 1-3 p.m. - A Flurry Of Fun At The MonDak - Pictures with Santa, live music, dance entertainment, local history book talk, bake sale, free youth art project, refreshments & more. MonDak Heritage Center.
Tues., Dec. 10
 6 p.m. - East Fairview School Winter Concert "Christmas At The O.K. Corral" - East Fairview School Gym.
Fri., Dec. 13 & 27
 11 a.m.-1 p.m. - Sidney's Soup Kitchen - All are welcome. Volunteers appreciated to help serve meals. St Matthews Parish Center. For more info call 406-433-2510 or email stmatt@midrivers.com.
Sat., Dec. 14
 1 p.m. - Learn To Spin Yarn With Pam Shelmidine - Members: \$30; Not Yet Members: \$40. MonDak Heritage Center, 120 3rd Ave SE, 406-433-3500, or visit https://mondakheritagecenter.org/
 1-5 p.m. - Pet Photos With Santa - All well behaved pets & children are welcome. Photos \$10 each or \$15 with decorated frame. Tractor Supply, Sidney.
 5-6:30 p.m. - Miss Montana's Teen Emma McPherson Send Off Party - Celebrate Emma as she will be competing at Miss America's Teen in Orlando. Get a preview of her wardrobe & talent & enjoy refreshments. Sidney Elks Lodge 1782, 123 3rd St. SW.

McKENZIE COUNTY
 Events in Watford City unless otherwise listed. CT.
Thurs., Dec. 5
 5 p.m. - Johnson Corners Christian Academy Presents Soup Supper & Sweets Auction 2024 - Doors open 5 p.m., Soups at 5:30 p.m., Live Auction at 6 p.m., McKenzie County Ag Expo Building.
 5:30-8:30 p.m. - Alexander 4th Annual Christmas Stroll - Christmas shopping, variety of food & drinks, "Elf" movie & popcorn, community Christmas tree, hay rides & photos with Santa. Alexander School Gym.
Fri., Dec. 6
 5 p.m. - 2024 Jingle Bell Jog Holiday Fun Run - 5 p.m. check in; 5:30 p.m. race start. Registration fee: \$30. Holiday costumes encouraged. Rough Rider Center, 2209 Wolves Den Parkway.
 6-8 p.m. - Wintering Well Session 1: Lefse - Reconnect with the old fashioned creative arts on the first Friday of every month. McKenzie Co. Heritage Park.
Sat., Dec. 7
 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. - Toy Mall - A free event for the whole family, featuring a pancake breakfast, the Christmas story, & a special gift for every child, from infants-18 years old. Watford City Civic Center.
 12-4 p.m. - 16 x 20 Art Show Open House - Meet the artist Onesti Krieger, paint a piece of pottery & enjoy snacks & treats. Long X Arts Foundation Gallery.
 4-7 p.m. - La Posada 2024 - Hispanic Christmas - Piñatas, food, music, caroling & door prizes. Rough Rider Center.

WILLIAMS COUNTY
 Events in Williston unless otherwise listed. CT.
Now-Tues., Dec. 31
 5:30-9:30 p.m. - Spring Lake Park Holiday Lights Drive - Enjoy thousands of holiday lights in over 75 displays from inside your vehicle. Tune to 107.1 for holiday music. Entry fee \$5 vehicle.
Fri., Dec. 6
 5:30-7:30 p.m. - Williston Community Builders Annual Reindeer Games - Free event with a non-perishable food donation. Holiday crafts, cookie decorating, free hot chocolate, live music & caroling, free photos with Santa, & cast your vote for the "People's Choice" Christmas tree (Decorated trees will be auctioned off at the 10th Annual Festival of Trees gala Dec. 7). Williston ARC Tennis Courts.
Fri., Dec. 6-Sun., Dec. 8
 4-8 p.m. - Bakken Winter Party - Open to public. Hosting a tree & wreath decorating contest & participants can choose to keep their decorated tree, enter it into a silent auction or donate to a needy family. Bakken Center, 3410 4th Ave. W. For more info contact Crysie, 307-677-3173 or Heidi, 701-339-5164.
Fri., Dec. 13
 4-7 p.m. - Williston Police Department 2nd Annual Blacklight Snowball Fight - Free event where kids (12 & under with adult supervisor) can battle their parents or member of the WPD in a fake snowball fight under blacklight. Raymond Family Community Center.
 6 p.m. - Williston Downtowners Holiday Stroll - Downtown Williston. Take a hayride down Main St., photos with Santa, & more. For event updates visit Williston Downtowners Facebook page.
Sat., Dec. 14
 10 a.m. - Winter Wonderland Vendor & Craft Show - The Williston ARC, 822 18th St. E.
Sun., Dec. 15
 1 p.m. - Christmas At The Confluence: Free event with live music; Frontier Christmas skit; "Twas the Night Before Christmas" interactive reading; snowshoeing nature walks; Victorian crafts; indigenous ice gliding game; & refreshments.
 1-3 p.m. - Kids Christmas Party - Open to the public. Bring your kids & your camera to get pictures with Santa. Williston Moose Lodge #239.

DAWSON COUNTY
 Events in Glendive unless otherwise listed. MT.
Fri., Dec. 6
 11 a.m.-1 p.m. - Santa At The Attic - 113 S. Merrill Ave.
Sat., Dec. 7
 8 a.m.-6 p.m. - 3rd Annual Kids Shopping Event - The kids get to shop & get wrapped gifts for their loved ones. Items range from \$5-\$20. Teal Dragonfly Creations.
 12-4 p.m. - Zion Lutheran Church Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner - 401 Riverview Ave.
Sun., Dec. 8
 2-5 p.m. - LaDonna's School Of Dance Presents The Nutcracker Ball - DCHS auditorium.
Thurs., Dec. 12
 7 p.m. - Suzie Claus Story-Time - Cookies & milk. Glendive Public Library.

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HOLIDAY open house

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10 am - Santa Run (starting at High Caliber)
10:30 am to 12:30 pm - PHOTOS WITH SANTA (bring your camera)
11 am to 1 pm - Kids' Wooden Ornament Decorating

404 N. Central Ave., Sidney | reynoldsmarket.com

SATURDAY, DEC. 7 | 10 AM TO 3 PM

Sidney Parade of Lights



Forever Buds Giving Tree

The Forever Buds 4-H Club decided this year to start a Giving Tree. The tree started its journey in Sidney at the Parade of Lights and it will be at the Meadowlark, for the Progressive dinner for Giving Tuesday. It will then make its way to Sidney Eyecare later this week. They are looking for businesses to host their tree so they get the most exposure to get all the gifts that are needed. The gifts are for residents of the Matthew House, the Lodge and for the Savage Manor. (By Lisa Gorder)



Above is first place float winner FFA. Placing second was MacGrady Construction and third was Reynolds Market. (Photo by Bethany Wells)

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f i y t i n

Unsung Hero: Unrecognized Valor Of Lawrence Eugene Speldrich

By LeAnn M. Stasiowski

In a world where heroism is often defined by battles fought on foreign soil, Lawrence Eugene Speldrich's quiet act of courage—performed in the murky waters of a military training exercise—remains largely unrecognized. Despite saving a fellow soldier's life at great personal cost, Speldrich, a former E5 Specialist Combat Engineer in the North Dakota National Guard, has yet to receive the formal acknowledgment his actions deserve. His story is a powerful reminder of the unacknowledged sacrifices made by many veterans.

The Heroism of Lawrence Eugene Speldrich

In August 1969, at the height of the Vietnam War, Speldrich enlisted in the North Dakota National Guard to avoid being drafted. He trained as a combat engineer and heavy equipment operator, providing vital stateside support, ensuring protection and advancing critical infrastructure.

It was during a bridge-building assignment at Camp Grafton, near Devils Lake, ND, that Speldrich's true character shone. While aboard a boat equipped with an unsecured anchoring tower in turbulent waters, the vessel struck shore incorrectly, causing the tower to slide and pin fellow soldier Robert Kautzman against the side of the boat. The soldier was partially submerged, at risk of drowning

or severe injury.

Without hesitation, Speldrich leapt into action. "I knew he was either going to break his legs or drown," he later recalled.

As others on the boat sought safety, Speldrich cradled the heavy anchoring tower in his arms and walked it to the front of the vessel. Tragically, the immense weight of the double-I beam tower and the slick rocks caused him to slip. The tower fell, shattering his back and inflicting injuries that left him with chronic pain and nerve damage—a burden he still carries to this day.

A Lifetime of Pain

Speldrich was hospitalized for months in Aurora, CO, undergoing intensive recovery alongside other severely injured soldiers returning from Vietnam. "I laid there for months surrounded by soldiers hanging from meat curtains after being injured across the pond," he said, vividly recalling the grim atmosphere. Despite his own condition, he took time to wheel other soldiers around the hospital grounds, offering companionship and hope.

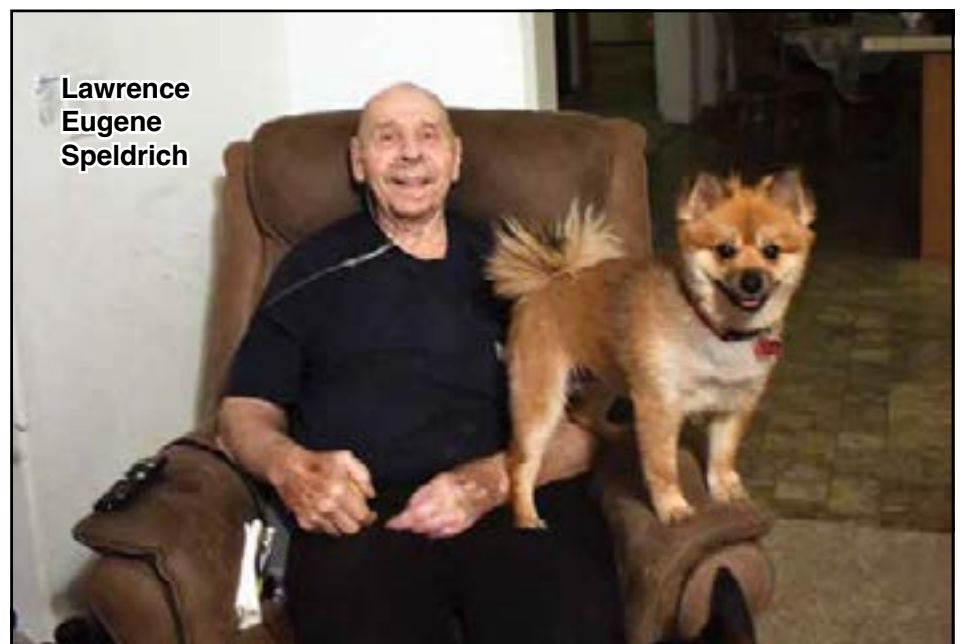
When Speldrich was finally able to walk again, he sought release from the hospital, only to discover that his records had been lost upon his arrival. Without proper documentation, he left the hospital without adequate medical release, an oversight that would haunt him for years.



Above: In the 1970s, engineers introduced cable-stayed bridges to the United States, and these bridges became increasingly popular. Cable-stayed bridges are a good alternative to suspension bridges because they are less vulnerable to wind, less expensive, and faster to build.

Photos courtesy of Staff Sgt. Michaela C.P. Granger / ND National Guard Public Affairs Office

His journey home was fraught with anxiety, as the nation was still roiled by civil unrest. Fearing protesters and possible violence, he was relieved to find the



Lawrence Eugene Speldrich

airport empty late at night when he boarded the plane for home.

Speldrich returned to service in the National Guard, but by 1977, his worsening back condition forced him into retirement. Seeking VA disability compensation, he was met with another roadblock: his service records, including documentation of his injuries, had been destroyed in the infamous fire at Fort Leonard Wood in 1973.

Undeterred, Speldrich fought to reclaim what he could. He eventually located one fragile "onion paper" ac-

cident report stored in Washington, D.C., which briefly documented the life-saving event.

The Call for Recognition

Despite his heroism, Speldrich has never received formal recognition—not even a thank-you. After years of silence, his family is now advocating for him to receive the North Dakota Distinguished Service Medal. This honor would not only acknowledge his bravery but also highlight the broader issue of overlooked veterans.

Governor Doug Burgum is being urged to award Speldrich this distinction,

which would serve as a powerful reminder that every act of heroism, regardless of where it occurred, deserves acknowledgment.

How You Can Help

To support Lawrence Eugene Speldrich in his quest for recognition, contact North Dakota representatives and express your support for his nomination. His story is a testament to the unyielding spirit of our veterans and the sacrifices they make, often in silence.

Let us honor the heroes among us and ensure that bravery—no matter where it occurs—is never forgotten.

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Ler Chosen Montana Speaker of the House

By Dianne Swanson

House District 33 representative Brandon Ler was elected Speaker of the House for the next session at the caucus meetings held Nov. 12. This is Ler's third term as representative.

As speaker, Ler will be the presiding officer of the house with authority of administration, decorum, and the interpretation and enforcement of rules in all deliberations. He will also be the key negotiator between the house, senate and governor.

Ler said his goals this session include: protecting Montanan's pocketbooks by not increasing state government spending. He also wishes to take steps to retake some legislative power that has been slowly eroded over time by the judicial branch. "I want to take measures to regain the power given to the Montana Supreme Court and stop their egregious overreach of power in meddling in legislative business," Ler stated. "I am willing to work with other branches of government but not for them."

The next session begins on Jan. 6, 2025 with a Republican Governor and Republicans holding majorities in the House and Senate.



House District 33 representative Brandon Ler speaks at the 2024 Sidney Chamber and REDC banquet.

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OBITUARIES

Stewart Edward White Jr., 73, Sidney, MT

Mass of the Christian Burial was Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024, at 10 a.m. at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, Sidney, MT, with Father Jim O'Neil officiating. Visitation was Monday, Dec. 2, 2024, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Fulkerson Stevenson Memorial Chapel, Sidney, MT. Stewart was laid to rest in the Sidney Cemetery, Sidney, MT. A luncheon followed services at the Ned Shinnick Hall. Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT, is assisting the family. Remembrances, condolences, and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.



Stewart Edward White Jr.

Stewart Edward White was born April 30, 1951, Newark, N.J., to Margaret Hopkins and Stewart White Sr. Stewart was raised in Kearny, N.J., and attended schools there, graduating from Kearny High School in 1970.

After graduation, he worked for Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company, and later at PSE&G in the computer department, both located in Newark. Stewart was an avid chess player and played in many tournaments over the years.

Stewart met the love of his life, Robin Sweley, in 1999. He moved to Sidney, MT, and married Robin in May 2000. He quickly assumed the role of father figure to Robin's two children, Kimberly and Emily, and was soon also a caregiver for Robin.

Stewart could often be seen walking around town or inside Reynolds' Market, getting his exercise.

At Christmas, Stewart was a very proud member of a community of real-bearded Santas. Robin hand-made his suits, curled his beard, and he held court at the Rushmore Mall, Rapid City, SD, for many years.

Stewart was a communicant at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, Sidney, where he served as a commentator and lector. He organized weekly group recitation of the Holy Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

Stewart passed away after a long battle with cancer on Tuesday, Nov. 26, 2024 at the Sidney Health Center with loved ones by his side. He was a very kind and giving soul and will be missed dearly by many.

He is survived by his stepchildren Kimberly Skeens (Brad) and Emily (Sarah) Colegrove; grandchildren Jordan Skeens, Jay Skeens, and Diana Meehan; brother Earl (Patricia); sister Margaret Jane Gilbert; and many nieces and nephews.

Stewart is preceded in death by his wife Robin, his parents Margaret and Stewart White, and sister Mary and brother John Paul who both died at birth.

Merlyn D. Larson, 94 Sidney, MT

Merlyn's funeral service is at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2024, at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Sidney, MT, with Pastor John Baseley officiating. Visitation was Tuesday, Dec. 3, 2024, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fulkerson Stevenson Memorial Chapel, Sidney, MT, with a family and friends service, which followed at 6 p.m. Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT, is assisting the family. Remembrances, condolences, and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.



Merlyn D. Larson

Merlyn Dean Larson was born on Sept. 18, 1930, to Chris and Bertha (Helmer) Larson, Sidney, MT. He was the youngest of the family and had two brothers, Gerald and Don. He attended school at the Brorson and McBride Country Schools and later the Sidney High School. Merlyn enlisted in the United States Navy in 1951 where he served aboard the aircraft carrier Princeton during the Korean War and was honorably discharged in February 1955.

While he was in the military, he fell in love with a hometown girl and a sister of one of his friends, Rosemary "Jen" Obergfell. After a whirlwind courtship, these two were married on July 2, 1955, at the Pella Lutheran Church, Sidney, MT. This fun-lovin' couple were married 69 years, and their legacy of love was admired by all, especially their family.

Merlyn and Jen lived most of their married life in the Brorson Community, west of Sidney, MT, and he was very proud of the fact that he was able to raise his children on the same farm where he was born and raised. He truly loved his home and community and felt so blessed to live there.

Merlyn cherished his life on the farm with Jen. He loved planting crops and watching them grow, raising animals of all types and in later years, taking side-by-side rides to check all the water tanks and just enjoy nature. Merlyn also enjoyed visiting friends and neighbors and being a practical joker. All loved to have him tell of the jokes he had pulled on his neighbors! The highlight of each day was when his kids and grandkids would stop by for a visit and their favorite beverage. Their home was the gathering place for any age group, and everyone was always welcome.

Merlyn served on the Brorson School Board for many years and was so proud that four generations of Larsons have attended school there and one great-grandson is currently enrolled at Brorson. He was also on the Farmer's Elevator Board of Directors, a member of the VFW and Trinity Lutheran Church, all of Sidney.

Merlyn and Jen raised five children: Sheri, Tim, Randy, Gary and Chris. Many enjoyable years were spent raising this lively bunch and attending their activities. All of their kids feel so blessed to be raised in such a hard-working, but fun-filled house full of love. They were taught to have a strong work ethic, faith in God, love and respect for this wonderful country, be good stewards of the land and to live life to the fullest.

Merlyn passed away on Monday, Nov. 25, 2024, surrounded by his family at the Sidney Health Center, Sidney, MT.

Merlyn is survived by his loving wife, Rosemary "Jen" Larson; daughter, Sheri (Bill) Madison; sons, Tim (Brenda) Larson and Chris (Shelly) Larson; daughter-in-law, Teresa Larson, all of Sidney, and 12 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild and 1 more due this winter; sisters-in-law Joann Obergfell, Sidney, MT, and Joanne Obergfell, Plentywood, MT; and many nieces and nephews and extended family.

Merlyn was preceded in death by his parents, Chris and Bertha Larson; sons, Randall (Randy) and Gary Larson; brothers and their wives, Gerald and Hazel Larson and Don and Evelyn Larson; in-laws, Jake and Jean Obergfell and all of Jen's siblings.

Kelly Ann Dey, 60 Sidney, MT

Celebration of Life Services were Friday, Nov. 29, 2024 at 2 p.m. at the Sidney Yellowstone Merc Building, Sidney, MT, with Sr. Regina Murray officiating. Light refreshments followed for a time of fellowship and sharing. Kelly will be laid to rest beside her parents at the Sidney Cemetery, Sidney, MT, at a later date. Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT, is assisting the family. Remembrances, condolences, and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.



Kelly Ann Dey

Kelly Ann Dey, 60, was born April 29, 1964, in Farmington, NM, to Anton "Tony" and Joyce (Hall) Dey. After battling pancreatic cancer for two years, she left this earth on Nov. 16, 2024, at St. Vincent's Hospital, Billings, MT, with her son, Matt, mom, sister, and niece, Krista, by her side.

Because her father was in the oil industry, she attended many elementary schools in various places such as Burlington, CO, Rawlins, WY, Ogden, UT, and finally setting roots in Sidney, MT. "Killer", as she was known in high school, was a proud member of the class of 1982, and after graduation went to Concordia College for one quarter.

Kelly's career journey began as a cook at Dairy Queen during her high school years, followed by roles as a cook/bartender at the Corner Pocket and R&R Lanes. She left Sidney in 1997 to explore her options in Billings. There she worked at a bar called Shooters for a short time before

returning home. Kelly was a bookworm and was fortunate enough to land a job at the Homestead Books with lifelong friends Arnie and Lola Hansen as her bosses. She worked a short stint for the City of Sidney only to go back to work for the Hansens/Ray and Heather Johnson at the South 40. She loved discovering new food and drink ideas for the 40's menu.

Her hobbies over the years included bowling, darts, shooting pool, and head banging to music with her nieces and nephew. She liked playing cards and everyone wanted her on their team for Trivial Pursuit! Up until this past year she ran The Pub's Fantasy Football league where she met many lifelong friends. However, Kelly's true passions included Las Vegas Raider football, watching the Dickinson Blue Hawks football and spending as much time as she could with family and friends. Her great niece, Wrenley, had Kelly wrapped around her little finger and provided much entertainment especially on her difficult days.

Beyond her professional life, Kelly was deeply involved in her community. She was a member of the Bar and Tavern Association, was an active member of the Montana School Board Association (MTSBA), and served on the Sidney School Board for the past 18 years until her health issues necessitated her stepping down. She truly cared for the youth in the community and supported their welfare academically.

When her son, Matthew, was born she earned the highest honor - Mom. Throughout Matt's elementary, high school and college days, she was his biggest fan. Whether it was his football, wrestling, baseball, soccer, basketball games or music performances, she was there. She was a huge Sidney Eagle fan and an even bigger Dickinson Blue Hawk fan. It wasn't just sports that she supported Matt with, but with life in general. Even during her last breath of life, she was so proud that he will be graduating this May as a Doctor of Physical Therapy. We know she will be with him Spiritually on that day and she will be proudly smiling down on him.

Kelly is survived by her son, Matthew Dey; mother, Joyce Dey; sister, Kathy (Kirk) Johnson; nieces, Krista (Travis) Iverson and Hailey (Darran) Buxbaum; great niece, Wrenley Buxbaum; nephew, Jared (Nehkyah) Steinbeisser; step nieces Nicole (Josh) Hellyer and family; Jennifer (Cody) Goodyear and family; step nephew, Erik Johnson and family; and the Joe and MaryAnn Steinbeisser family.

Kelly is preceded in death by her father, Tony Dey; significant other, Bill Tyler; brother-in-law, Keith Steinbeisser, grandparents and uncles.

Kelly's life was marked by her vibrant spirit and dedication to those she loved, leaving a lasting imprint on all who knew her. Our heart is hurting but we are so thankful she is finally free of pain.

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Mammoth Dig Site In North Dakota Shows Promise



A paint brush helps show the scale of nearby mammoth bones uncovered in September at a site in northwest North Dakota. (Courtesy of North Dakota Geological Survey)

By Jeff Beach, North Dakota Monitor, <https://northdakotamonitor.com>

A dig at a site believed to have mammoth bones shows it is worthy of further excavation, according to the North Dakota Geological Survey.

Mammoth bones were first discovered at the site in northwest North Dakota in 1988 during the construction of a garage. The North Dakota Geological Survey and state Historical Society returned to this site in September to confirm that

mammoth bones are there.

Senior Paleontologist Clint Boyd said the fossil dig near the garage aligns with what construction workers reported and that there are likely more bones beneath the garage.

A dig below the garage would require money from the Legislature to move a portion of the garage, dig beneath and then restore the garage.

Boyd said there has been "great collaboration" with the property owner, who is not the same owner that

built the garage.

Boyd reviewed the mammoth dig site and other archaeological explorations Tuesday with the North Dakota Industrial Commission, which oversees the agency.

Boyd said the woolly mammoth was likely not yet an adult and is about 13,500 years old, right about the time that evidence shows the first humans living in North America. He said no evidence of human activity has been found at the site.



Local Edward Jones Advisors Donate to Gifts From the Heart

Sidney Edward Jones Advisors gathered with Gifts from the Heart donations Monday Dec. 2. The Gifts From The Heart event is Dec. 7, 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Masonic Temple, 220 W. Main St., Sidney. Pictured (L-R) Financial Advisor Nick Lonski, Associate Financial Advisor Beth Verhasselt, Financial Advisor Jerry Hughes, Financial Advisor Jace Johnson, Financial Advisor Lauren Sukut, Associate Financial Advisor Garrison Hughes and Financial Advisor Jamie Malsam. (Photo submitted)

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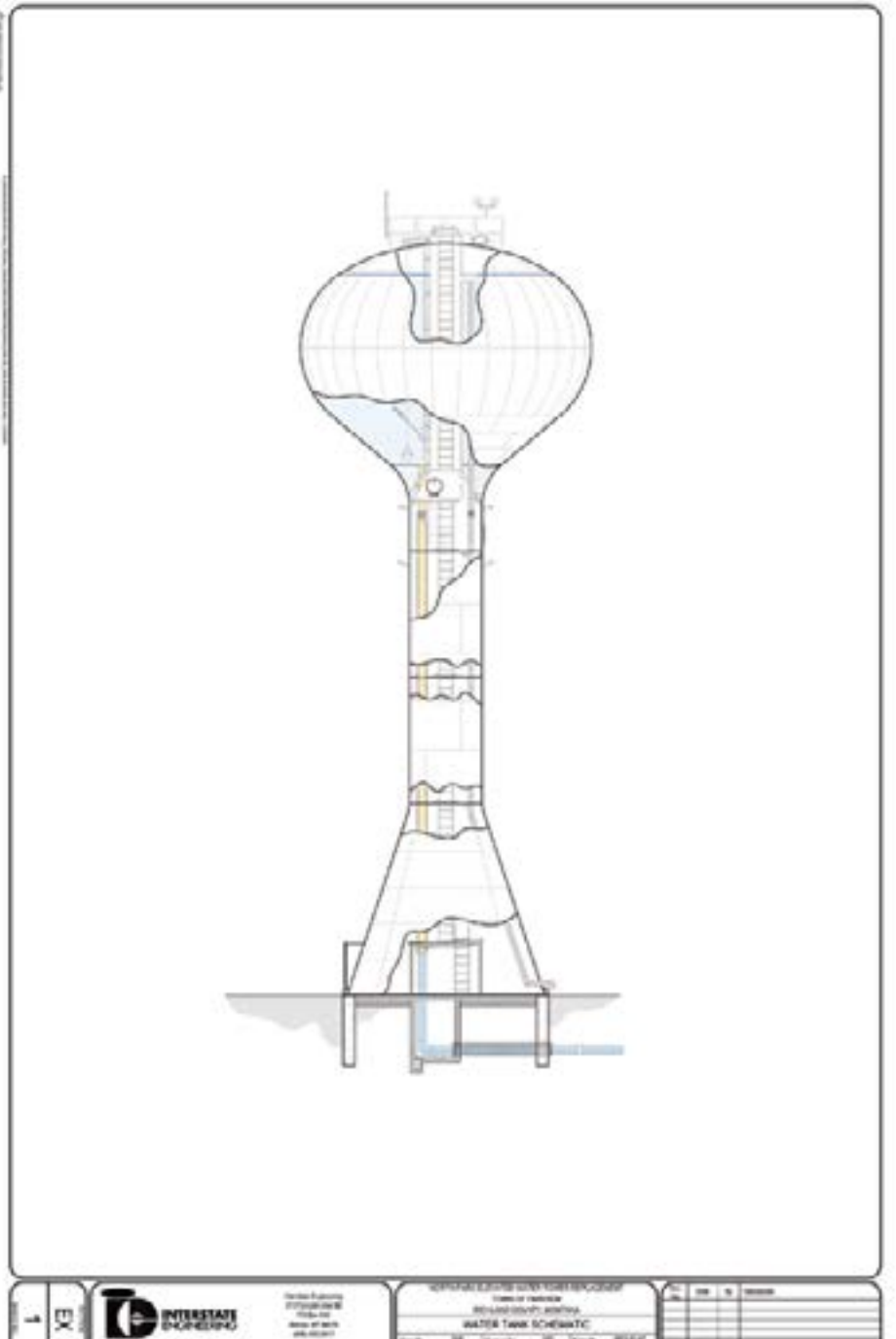
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Sidney Water Tower Plans In Final Stages



The current water tank at North Park (also known as Water Tower Park) in Sidney.



Interstate Engineering schematic drawing of new water tank. (Photo submitted)

By Dianne Swanson

Works Director Jeff Hintz and Jordan Mayer, Interstate Engineering. The 750,000-gallon water tower will sit just east of the existing 300,000-gallon

tower. This position was selected to keep the grass area in the northeast quadrant of the park. As a result, the new tower location conflicts with the existing playground area and bathroom building. The old tower will be decommissioned and torn down after the new tower is in operation.

Hintz explained that plans to replace the old tank, which was built in about 1946, have been in the works since 2018. It is not leaking but is impossible to repaint due to the lead in the old paint and EPA rules against sandblasting that into the air. He also said that

almost doubling the capacity will help with fire insurance issues within the city as well as accommodate future growth.

Along with the pedestal style tower, plans call for recommissioning and restoring the park amenities affected by the project. By the end of the project, there will potentially be a new multi-use building which will have bathrooms, an area for concessions and an area for storage for the new park and water department. Interstate Engineering is working with the City of Sidney and the parks department to finalize a layout to include a play-

ground, sidewalks, curb and gutter and vegetation depending on funding sources. Irrigation is in place but will be reconfigured to meet the new park layout. Hintz said a picnic shelter is also a possibility if all goes as planned.

Along with the tower, Mayer said there will be three blocks of water main replacement, one block of new water services installation and one lead water service replacement.

Cost of the initial project was \$4,770,517. However, with the increase in the water project and restoration and recommissioning of the

park amenities, Mayer said the cost could balloon into approximately \$7 million. The project will be funded by \$1,081,517 Minimum Allocation Grant from the American Rescue Plan Act. The remainder of the project will be funded by the City of Sidney and the Montana SRF program. A water rate increase went into effect in January 2023 in preparation for this project.

The city will have plans finalized and the project out for bids in February or March. The multi-year project should see the installation of the water tower by the fall of 2026.

Great Northern Development Corporation Awarded \$1.38 Million To Boost Tourism Growth

Wolf Point, MT - Great Northern Development Corporation (GNDC) is excited to announce that it has been awarded \$1,383,928.58 from the Montana Department of Commerce's Tourism Development and Enhancement Revolving Loan Fund Program. This funding will allow GNDC to support tourism-related businesses across northeastern Montana, offering competitive loan options that help businesses start, expand, and thrive in our region.

"This funding is a game-changer for tourism development in northeastern Montana," said Tori, GNDC's Executive Director. "It empowers us to help small businesses and organizations grow, create jobs, and establish tourism opportunities that will benefit our communities now and in the future." GNDC's revolving loan fund will provide financing at competitive rates, focusing on permanent tourism infrastructure and projects that enhance or expand tourism visitation. Additionally, GNDC works collaboratively with local banks to provide the funding businesses need to turn their ideas into reality.

"This program is about more than just funding; it's about collaboration and long-term growth," Kelcie Bates, Director of Lending at GNDC, added. "Tourism plays a vital role in Montana's economy, and we're here to help businesses reach new heights with this support."

Tourism-related businesses and organizations are encouraged to apply for financing through GNDC. Whether you're looking to start a new venture, expand an existing operation, or improve tourism assets, this program is an excellent opportunity to bring your vision to life.

For more information about the Tourism Business Development and Enhancement Revolving Loan Fund and how to apply, visit www.gndc.org or contact GNDC at 406-653-2590 or info@gndc.org.

Stockgrowers Foundation Raises Over \$1 Million In Donations For Ranchers Affected By Fires in SE Montana and Northern Wyoming

By Cheyenne Leach
Montana Stockgrowers Association

Helena, MT – The summer of 2024 presented another active fire season, especially across Southeastern Montana and Northwestern Wyoming. The Remington Fire started in late August 2024 in Sheridan County, WY, and burned thousands of acres, quickly crossing into Montana.

In response to this large, fast-moving fire, affecting

many cattle producers in the area, the Montana Stockgrowers Foundation (MSF) reactivated its Wildfire Relief Fund, to raise funds to assist landowners in their recovery and rebuilding. As a 501(c)(3), MSF provided a tax-deductible avenue for donors to contribute to landowners and producers that lost so much in this devastating fire.

MSF and the Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) would like to thank its many generous donors

who supported the fire relief efforts through supply and financial donations. Through the generosity of the agriculture community in Montana, and across the country, MSF organized over 70 loads of donated hay and trucking for producers that lost their grazing pasture and winter feed in the fire. Additionally, through the generosity of Hutchinson Western out of Denver, CO, MSF coordinated delivery of over half a million dollars of fencing

and building supplies to producers in both Montana and Wyoming.

Over \$125,000 in financial contributions were donated with 100% of those donations being distributed to producers through the Rosebud County CattleWomen and Wyoming Stockgrowers Endowment Trust's grant processes.

Donations are still being accepted through MSF. Contributions will continue to fund future grant requests.

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MonDak Heritage Center's Flurries Of Fun Dec. 8!

**By Nikki Bailey-Will
Executive Director
MonDak Heritage Center**

The MonDak Heritage Center will be celebrating Flurries of Fun Sunday, Dec. 8 from 1-3 p.m. at the MonDak. This Christmas at the MonDak Event will be a fun filled afternoon and will include photos with Santa, a snowflake gift giveaway, refreshments, a bake sale, live music, dance entertainment, local history author talk, and a free craft project for kids. Everyone is invited to this FREE event for the entire family!

The MonDak Heritage Center is decked out for the holidays and currently has several new art and history exhibitions on display. The basement is decorated for unique professional photos with Santa (for free) and the stage is set for a wide

range of live entertainment from local musicians, singers, and dancers! At 1 p.m., author Mary Anne Mercer will be reading from her new book based on local history, "Crossing the Yellowstone: The Sage of a Montana Ranching Family", and will be available to sign copies of her book for the rest of the event! After this book talk, the stage will feature wonderful live entertainment for the rest of the event. Throughout this event, purchase one of a kind, locally made snow ornaments from our tree and be entered to win an amazing snowflake gift. Tickets for the Snowflake Gift Raffle will also be given to youth who complete the free craft project and anyone who spends over \$10 at the bake sale or in the MDHC Gift Shop! During the event, the art room will be

open and youth of all ages can create a one-of-a-kind watercolor snowflake painting to take home for FREE!

This event is FREE and open to the public. Doors open at 1p.m. This event is sponsored by H&R Block and Seigfried Agency Insurance and Real Estate. Come celebrate the season with art, culture, and heritage at the MonDak Heritage Center's MonDak Christmas on Dec. 8.

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Right: MonDak Main Street Set and Ready for Santa (Photo submitted)



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Watford City Parade of Lights



Watford City kicked off their Christmas season with their Parade of Lights Friday on Main Street. Pictured is Reservation Telephone Cooperative Network float. (Photo by Kathy Taylor)

The Parade of Lights concluded with a fireworks show on Main Street. (Photo by Kathy Taylor)

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OFFICIAL SCHEDULE

ALL TIMES CENTRAL - ROUGH RIDER CENTER AND WATFORD CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Friday, December 13th

| Time | Group | Team | vs. | Team | Location |
|---------|-------|------------------|-----|--------------|-----------|
| 3:30 PM | Girls | Alexander, ND | vs. | Terry, MT | RRC Arena |
| 5:15 PM | Boys | Alexander, ND | vs. | Terry, MT | RRC Arena |
| 7:30 PM | Girls | Watford City, ND | vs. | Belfield, ND | RRC Arena |

Saturday, December 14th

| Time | Group | Team | vs. | Team | Location |
|----------|-----------|-------------------|-----|-----------------|-------------|
| 11:15 AM | Boys | Hazen, ND | vs. | New Town, ND | RRC Arena |
| 11:15 AM | Girls(JV) | Hazen, ND | vs. | New Town, ND | High School |
| 1:15 PM | Girls | Hazen, ND | vs. | New Town, ND | RRC Arena |
| 1:15 PM | Boys(JV) | Hazen, ND | vs. | New Town, ND | Highschool |
| 3:00 PM | Boys | Dickinson Trinity | vs. | Lemmon, SD | RRC Arena |
| 3:00 PM | Girls | Ray, ND | vs. | Terry, MT | High School |
| 4:45 PM | Girls | Dickinson Trinity | vs. | Lemmon, SD | RRC Arena |
| 4:45 PM | Boys | South Heart, ND | vs. | Terry, MT | High School |
| 6:30 PM | Boys | Bainville, MT | vs. | Ray, ND | RRC Arena |
| 8:15 PM | Girls | Bainville, MT | vs. | South Heart, ND | RRC Arena |

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SIDNEY WRESTLING

(L-R) Sitting: Bodee Bright, Melanie Crooks, Karen Rosales, Mackayla DeWitt, Marley Idland, and Jason Sorteberg.

Kneeling: Lance Allen, Isaak Lassey, Trayden McKee, Reece Graves, Brenner Mullin, Carson Propp, and Yuraih Camacho.

3rd Row: Sophia Schoepp, Alice Thogersen, Matt Helfrish, Tyson Syth, Isaac Carlsen, Shane Goergon, Diego Fritts, Brody Keysor, Cody Crooks, Audrina Schlothauer, and Alexa Lonski.

Top Row: Ty Schepens, Eli Lonksi, Stetson Armes, Cooper Fulgham, Thor Fulgham, Rylan McGahan, and Aaron Schmitz.

Boy's Schedule

Thursday December 5, 2024

4pm Weigh-ins at home (bring weight sheets with you)
6pm Mats open for practice

Friday, December 6, 2024

6:30am Gym open for warmups
7:30am Weigh-ins for those that choose (1 pound)
7:45am Coaches meeting in weight room
8:30am Dual Tournament Begins
*Top 16 seeded teams on six mats at high school
Next 16 seeded teams on 4 mats at the grade school will wrestle in a pool format*
9:30am JV Starts at Central Elementary School
2:45pm Finals of Dual Brackets
Small Break
5:30pm Individual Bracket Starts
*Varsity on mats 1-4 (Round of 32-16)
JV's/Girls Mats 5-6 (First Round only)*
8pm All matches Complete
8:30pm Winners Pub Social

Saturday, December 7, 2024

9:am Quarters - 1st Round Wrestle Backs
11:30am Semis - 2nd Round Wrestle Backs
1:30pm 3rd Round Wrestle Backs
3pm Varsity Consolation Semis
JV Placing Rounds
5pm Varsity Placing Rounds

Girl's Schedule

All girls wrestling will be at the high school. Weight-ins are all the same

Friday, December 6, 2024 (Round Robin until 5pm)

1:30-2:30pm Mat 6 (Round Robin)
2:45-5pm Mats 5-6 (Round Robin)
5:30pm 1st round of bracketed tournament
Mats 5-6 (One Round Only)

Saturday December 7, 2024

7:30am Weigh-ins (Plus 2 pounds)
9am Continue wrestling mats 5-6
3pm Placing Round 1-8
5pm Introduction of Awards
(Mixed In with Varsity Awards)



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National Monument Proposed For North Dakota Badlands

Tribal citizens, conservation groups call on Biden to recognize land along Maah Daah Hey Trail

**By Mary Steurer
North Dakota Monitor,
<https://northdakotamonitor.com>**

A group of North Dakota tribal citizens and conservation advocates are calling on President Joe Biden to make roughly 140,000 acres of undeveloped federal land in western North Dakota into a national monument.

The proposed Maah Daah Hey National Monument would preserve land

recognized as sacred by members of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation and other Native cultures, advocates said during a Friday morning press conference at the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum.

"Maah Daah Hey" means "grandfather, long-lasting" in the Mandan language. With its close proximity to President Theodore Roosevelt National

Park, the area is popularly remembered for its ties to the former president and cowboy culture. The country should honor Native historical and cultural ties to the land as well, said Michael Barthelemy, director of Native Studies at Nueta, Hidatsa, Sahnish College in New Town.

"What we're proposing, as part of this national monument, is a reorientation around that narrative,"

Barthelemy said. "When you look at the national parks and you look at the state parks, oftentimes there's a singular perspective — as Indigenous people, we kind of play background characters."

The monument would include 11 different plots of land along the Maah Daah Hey Trail between the north and south units of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Badlands Conservation Alliance Executive Director Shannon Straight likened the proposal to "stringing together the pearls of the Badlands."

The tribal councils of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation, the Spirit Lake Nation and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe have passed resolutions supporting the creation of the monument.

"It is important that the Indigenous history of the North Dakota Badlands is formally recognized," state Rep. Lisa Finley-DeVill, D-Mandaree, said during the presentation. "If created, the Maah Daah Hey National Monument would also allow Indigenous people to reconnect to our ancestral lands."

The land is managed by the United States Forest Service. Turning the 11 plots into a national monument would protect them from future development, according to the group's proposal.

The land is surrounded by oil and gas development, maps included in the proposal show.

In addition to being an area of significant cultural heritage for Native tribes, it's also home to sensitive ecosystems, unique geological features and fossil sites, the proposal indicates.

Dakota Resource Council Executive Director Scott Skokos said Friday the group has visited Washington, D.C., twice so far to speak with President Biden's administration — including the U.S. Forest Service, Department of the Interior, United States Department of Agriculture — about the proposed monument.

"The reception has been pretty good," Skokos said.

He said the group hopes to see action from Biden on the monument before he leaves office in January, but is also open to working with President-elect Donald Trump's administration on the project.

"We believe this is a good idea, regardless of who's president," Skokos said.

Advocates said the designation would not impact recreational access to the land, and that cattle grazing would still be permitted.

In a statement to the North Dakota Monitor, U.S. Sen. Kevin Cramer, R-N.D.,

called the proposal "premature at best." He said he was not convinced the proposal had sufficient local support from North Dakota residents and worried the project would "lock away land as conservation."

"Any proposal should have extensive review as well as strong support from local communities and the stakeholders who actually use the land," he said.

When asked for comment, the North Dakota governor's office provided this statement from Gov. Doug Burgum: "North Dakota is proof that we can protect our precious parks, cultural heritage and natural resources AND responsibly and sustainably develop our vast energy resources."

To learn more about the proposal, visit protectmdh.com. The website also includes a petition.

Presidents can designate federal land as national monuments under the Antiquities Act of 1906. The first land to receive this status was Devils Tower in Wyoming, which Roosevelt proclaimed a national monument that same year.

Should Maah Daah Hey become a national monument, it'd be the first of its kind in North Dakota.

This story was updated with statements from Gov. Doug Burgum and U.S. Sen. Kevin Cramer.



North Dakota Rep. Lisa Finley-DeVill, D-Mandaree, speaks during a presentation about the proposed Maah Daah Hey National Monument at the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum on Nov. 22, 2024. (Mary Steurer/North Dakota Monitor)

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Wed., Dec. 11: Chicken alfredo over pasta, steamed broccoli, stuffed breadsticks, fruit cocktail.

Savage School
Thurs., Dec. 5: Tacos, refried beans, fruit.
Fri., Dec. 6: No school.
Mon., Dec. 9: Sweet-n-sour chicken, fried rice, broccoli, carrots, pineapple.
Tues., Dec. 10: Beef roast, mashed potatoes, bread, veggies, fruit.
Wed., Dec. 11: Pancakes, eggs, sausage, tater tots, strawberries, blueberries.

Rau School
Thurs., Dec. 5: Cheeseburgers, potato wedges, coleslaw, mixed fruit.
Fri., Dec. 6: No school.
Mon., Dec. 9: Corn dogs, French fries, macaroni & cheese, apricots.
Tues., Dec. 10: Sloppy joes, baked beans, watermelon.
Wed., Dec. 11: Chicken alfredo, Normandy veggies, garlic bread, pears.

Froid School
Thurs., Dec. 5: Meatballs, mashed potatoes, gravy, buns, veggies, fruit, salad bar.
Fri., Dec. 6: No school.
Mon., Dec. 9: Leftovers, salad bar.
Tues., Dec. 10: Chicken noodle soup, sandwiches, veggies, fruit, salad bar.
Wed., Dec. 11: Corn dogs, beans, fruit, salad bar.

Bainville School
Thurs., Dec. 5: Turkey sandwiches, baby carrots, peaches, salad bar.
Fri., Dec. 6: Chicken alfredo, broccoli, apples, salad bar.
Mon., Dec. 9: Chicken tenders, butter noodles, cuties, green beans, salad bar.
Tues., Dec. 10: Beef tacos, grapes, corn, salad bar.
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LEGALS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

In re the Application of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. for Authority to Update its Tracking Adjustment for Montana State and Local Taxes and Fees Docket 2024.10.101 November 26, 2024

NOTICE OF APPLICATION AND INTERVENTION DEADLINE

1. On November 15, 2024, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. ("MDU") filed an Application for Authority to Implement a Tracking Adjustment for Montana State and Local Taxes and Fees ("Application") with the Montana Public Service Commission ("Commission"). MDU asserts it has over-collected \$1,282,280 in tax expenses from electric customers and under-collected \$641,600 in tax expenses from gas customers.

2. MDU proposes to reduce its electric tax tracking adjustment, which is applied as a percentage of basic service charge, energy charge, and demand charge revenues, from the 14.4028% currently in effect to 11.8337%. MDU proposes to increase its gas tax tracking adjustment, which is applied as a percentage of basic service charge and distribution delivery charge revenues, from the 22.6700% currently in effect to 25.0573%.

3. A copy of the filing is publicly available at the Commission's business office, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, MT 59620-2601, and online at the Commission's website (psc.mt.gov) under Docket No. 2024.10.101. A copy of the filing may also be available at the office of the Montana Consumer Counsel ("MCC"), which represents consumer interests before the Commission, 111 North Last Chance Gulch, Suite 1B, Helena, MT 59601-4144, (406) 444-2771. Interested parties can register on the Commission's website to receive notice of filings in this docket. Instructions for subscribing to notices of filings are available at psc.mt.gov/reddi-help.

4. The Commission invites any interested party affected by MDU's filing to intervene in this docket. To intervene, a party must file a motion to intervene with the Commission no later than **December 5, 2024**. In order to afford due process: (1) data requests must be issued no later than **December 12, 2024**; (2) MDU must respond to data requests within five business days of service (excluding weekends and holidays) or by **December 19, 2024**, whichever is earlier; (3) parties wishing to submit comments or request a hearing must do so no later than **December 23, 2024**; and (4) The Commission may hold a public hearing, if requested by an intervenor or upon its own action, at the Commission's

offices. If the Commission does not issue an order by **December 30, 2024**, the proposed rates will be considered approved. Mont. Code Ann. § 69-3-308(2)(c) to (d) (2023).

5. A party seeking intervention must file an electronic petition on the Commission's website at reddi.mt.gov. All filings must be made in REDDI and hard copies are not required. A party seeking intervention must also mail a copy of the petition to MCC at 111 North Last Chance Gulch, Suite 1B, P.O. Box 201703, Helena, MT 59620-1703, and to MDU's attorney, Wiley Barker, Crowley Fleck PLLP, 900 N. Last Chance Gulch, Suite 200, Helena, MT 59601.

6. The Commission invites members of the public who do not wish to formally intervene to submit written public comments on the matter to the Commission at 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, MT 59620-2601, or by email to pschelp@mt.gov. Public comment may also be submitted in REDDI. Instructions for submitting public comments in REDDI are available at psc.mt.gov/reddi-help (select "Submit a Public Comment").

7. The Commission's jurisdiction over this matter is provided in Title 69 and Title 2, Chapter 4 of the Montana Code Annotated; Title 38, Chapters 2 and 5 of the Montana Administrative Rules; and any prior orders of the Commission relevant to the issues presented. DONE and DATED November 26, 2024, by the Montana Public Service Commission through delegation to staff.

JAMES BROWN, President
JENNIFER FIELDER, Vice President
TONY O'DONNELL, Commissioner
RANDALL PINOCCI, Commissioner
DR. ANNIE BUKACEK, Commissioner

MNAXLP
(Publish December 4, 2024)

Tara Lee Hill
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 211
Lambert, MT 59243
(406) 433-2094
Attorney for the Personal Representative
MONTANA SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, RICHLAND COUNTY IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DIANNE KAY ETZEL, Deceased.
Probate No. DP 42-2024-0000072-II

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Co-Personal Representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be mailed to Debra Peck, Co-Personal Representative, or Karen Magone, Co-Personal Representative, return receipt requested, at 1575 10th Ave SW, Sidney, MT 59270, or filed

with the Clerk of the above Court.

I DECLARE, under penalty of perjury and under the laws of the State of Montana, that the foregoing is true and correct. DATED this 29th Day of August, 2024, at Sidney, Montana.

Karen Magone
Co-Personal Representative of the Estate of Dianne Kay Etzel, Deceased
Debra Peck
Co-Personal Representative of the Estate of Dianne Kay Etzel, Deceased

MNAXLP
(Publish November 27, December 4 and 11, 2024)

REQUEST FOR BIDS
Notice is hereby given that the Alexander Public School District has one (1) manufactured home (Serial Number #RED363951MNAB) available for purchase through sealed bidding. The minimum bid for this home is: **Reasonable Offer**. Interested parties may submit a qualified bid by delivering a sealed envelope conspicuously labeled "Sealed Bid - House Sale" containing a cashier's check made payable to "Alexander Public School District" in the amount of the bid. Bids must include the bidder's name, phone number, address, bid amount, and bidder's signature. Bids must be hand delivered or mailed to
Alexander Public School District
601 Delaney Street
PO Box 66
Alexander, ND 58831
and must be received no later than **4:00 p.m. on 01/08/2025**. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the **7:00p.m. APS School Board meeting on 01/08/2025**. Any bids that do not comply with the foregoing may, at the District's sole discretion, be rejected and returned to the bidder. Any bids that are not accepted by the District shall be returned to the bidder.

The home is located at the following address: 518 Comet Street, Alexander, ND 58831. Public inspection of the home may be arranged by calling 701-828-3334 to set up an appointment for viewing. The District is selling the structure, not the real property. The home is sold AS IS, and the District makes no warranty of the condition of the home. Each bidder shall be responsible for verifying condition and accuracy of the home prior to submitting a bid.

The successful bidder must move the home off the premises on or before May 15, 2025, transport the structure in manner that complies with applicable law, and transport the structure to a location authorized by law. Upon compliance with the foregoing, the District shall deliver one or more documents to the successful bidder conveying the District's right, title, and interest in the home. If the successful bidder does not comply with the foregoing, without limiting the District's available remedies, the District shall have the authority to retain all right, title, and interest of and to the structure and/or use all the funds submitted by the bidder to remove, transport, store, sell, and/or otherwise dispose of the structure. By submitting a bid, the bidder agrees that, in the event the bidder fails to comply with its obligations, the District's use of the bid amount is fair and reasonable under the circumstances including the actual damages likely to be suffered by the District if the bidder fails to perform. The bidder further agrees bid amount will not be disproportionate to damages that could reasonably be anticipated by the District if the bidder fails to perform.

The School Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive informalities or irregularities in a bid received, to hold bids for a period of 30 days, and to accept that bid which appears to be in the best interests of the District.

Alexander Public School District
Leslie Bieber, Superintendent
Dated: 11/20/2024

MNAXLP
(Publish November 27, and December 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024 and January 1, 2025)

SAVAGE PUBLIC SCHOOL SIDING UPDATE
368 MESA STREET SAVAGE, MONTANA 59262
Bids shall be submitted as described on the form provided with the Contract Documents. Contract Documents for prime contractors may be obtained by emailing a request to: info@bauergrouparchitects.com or calling Bauer Group Architects PLLC at 406-259-8234. No Contract Documents will be issued later than five (5) days prior to the date of receipt of bids. Documents may also be reviewed at the following location:
Billings Builders Exchange, 2050 Broadwater Avenue, Suite A, Billings, MT 59102, Phone: 406-652-1311
A pre-bid non-mandatory walkthrough (however attendance strongly recommended) will be held on December 4, 2024, at 2:00 PM at the Savage School. We will meet in the school board room. Parking is available at the Savage School office entrance. Bids shall be accompanied by bid security meeting the requirements of the Owner in the amount of 10% of the total bid. Bid security will be held until the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The successful bidder will furnish an approved Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payments Bond each in the amount of 100% of the contract. The contractor agrees to give preference to the employment of bona fide Montana residents. The Owner requests that material, contracting, subcontracting and labor sources of the Richland/Dawson County area be utilized to the greatest extent possible. Montana made products are to be utilized where possible. The bidder shall comply with all fair labor practices and must meet applicable requirements of the Montana State Statutes, Labor Division Regulations, Federal Regulations, the Montana State Prevailing Wage Rates and the Contractor's Montana Gross Receipt Tax. Each bidder will be required to have a Montana Public Contractor's License. Subcontractors for work shall also be the holder of a Montana Public Contractor's License in the proper classification. Bidders are to obtain Prevailing Wage Rates at the date of this project.
No bidder may withdraw his bid for at least 30 days after the scheduled time for receipt of bids except as noted in the Instructions to Bidders. The Owner reserves the right to waive irregularities, accept or reject any or all bids, base bid, unit prices, and/or alternates.
Dated: 11/14/24
Martha Potter, Superintendent
Savage Public School

MNAXLP
(Publish November 20, 27, and December 4, 2024)

Donald L. Netzer
NETZER, KRAUTTER & BROWN, P.C.
1060 South Central Ave., Ste. 2 Sidney, Montana 59270
(406)433-5511
(406)433-5513 (fax)
don@nkbattorneys.com
Attorney for Co-Personal Representatives
MONTANA SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, RICHLAND COUNTY
In the Matter of the Estate of Marlo Salsbury, Deceased.
CAUSE NO. DP- 42-2024-95

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Co-Personal Representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must be mailed to Marlon Kilen and Kenneth Kilen, return receipt requested, at c/o Donald L. Netzer, Netzer, Krautter & Brown, PC, 1060 South Central Ave., Ste. 2, Sidney, Montana 59270, or filed with the Clerk of the above-named Court.
DATED this 1st day of November, 2024.
Marlon Kilen and Kenneth Kilen
Co-Personal Representatives

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Separate and sealed bids will be received at the following time and location:
Date: December 11, 2024
Time: 2:00 PM Local Time
Location: Board Room - Savage School
Bids will be received opened and publicly read aloud for the contract and work as delineated in the Contract Documents for the:

MNAXLP
(Publish November 20, 27, and December 4, 2024)

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Gas Flares Contribute To 2 Western North Dakota Wildfires, Reports Say

Fires Started Hours Before State's Request To Shut Down Oil Production In High Danger Areas

Amy Dalrymple, <https://northdakotamonitor.com>

Heat from natural gas flares combined with high winds and dry vegetation caused two of the October wildfires in western North Dakota, according to the state fire marshal.

Investigations into an Oct. 5 fire near Keene and a fire the same day near New Town found that both originated with flares at oil and gas wells next to agricultural land with stubble or dry grass, according to investigative reports.

The McKenzie County fires occurred in the hours before state regulators asked operators to voluntarily shut down oil and gas wells in areas with high fire danger, according to the investigative reports and an interview with Department of Mineral Resources Director Nathan Anderson.

The North Dakota State Fire Marshal is finalizing investigative reports on wildfires in Williams County, including one that claimed two lives and injured six. The U.S. Forest Service is investigating the Elkhorn Fire in McKenzie County and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms is investigating the Bear Den Fire on the Fort Berthold Reservation.

A total of 190 fires occurred in North Dakota in October, burning 126,273 acres, according to the state Department of Emergency Services. Damage estimates are still being compiled, but so far rural electric cooperatives report an estimated \$7.7 million in damages, said Department of Emergency Services spokeswoman Alison Vetter. That would not include losses to farmers and ranchers.

McKenzie County fire crews received a report shortly after 3 p.m. Oct. 5 of a rapidly spreading fire near Keene. It ultimately burned 7,000 acres. About 5:30 p.m. that day, New Town fire crews were dispatched to another wildfire that resulted in damage to more than 2,000 acres. Both occurred near oil sites and the fires are referred to in investigative reports as the



Fire investigators evaluated the scene on Oct. 9, 2024, of a fire that occurred Oct. 5, 2024, near Keene. (Provided by Office of the State Fire Marshal)

Midnight Run fire and the Dinwoodie fire – named after the oil wells.

Homes near both fires were evacuated as a precaution. No structures were lost and no injuries were reported.

To evaluate the cause of the fires, investigators examined the scene, interviewed witnesses and reviewed data including weather information. Wind gusts in the region were as high as 60-70 mph at times.

The North Dakota State Fire Marshal classified both fires as accidental. The reports rule out other causes and conclude that the high winds influenced the ignition and the spread of the fire. The reports note the conclusions could change if additional information is provided.

The New Town fire originated next to a Hess Corp. site with five oil and gas wells and a flare stack that a witness said was about 300 feet from the burned area, according to the report.

Operators are required to keep flares lit at oil and gas wells to prevent venting

of natural gas. If a well is shut in, there is no need for a flare.

The report on the New Town fire said the normal temperature from the flare pilot ranges from 1,200-1,800 degrees Fahrenheit, according to information provided to investigators. A Hess Corp. representative told investigators the pilot temperature was slightly higher that day, the report says.

It's possible for pressure spikes to occur with a flare stack that cause hot oil or carbon particles to be dislodged.

When investigators were on site on Oct. 9, the Hess flare stack had a sudden "burp," causing the flare to get larger and black smoke to extend from the stack, investigators noted.

A Hess representative told investigators that one pressure spike was recorded the day of the wildfire but said it should not have caused hot oil to dislodge, the report says.

A Hess spokesperson said Wednesday the company was still reviewing the fire

marshal's report and had no immediate comment.

In the fire near Keene, a flare on a ConocoPhillips well site was about 53 feet from the origin of the fire, the report said.

The report notes three unsuccessful attempts investigators made to reach ConocoPhillips for an interview.

A ConocoPhillips spokesperson told the North Dakota Monitor on Wednesday the company is reviewing the fire investigation report and working directly with landowners and tenants. The company is committed to providing necessary information but was unaware of the interview request, the company said in a statement.

Anderson, who became North Dakota's top oil regulator in September, said in an interview Wednesday the oil companies were operating in compliance with regulations.

Gov. Doug Burgum declared a statewide fire emergency the afternoon of Oct. 3, citing above-average temperatures, high wind

gusts, low humidity and dry vegetation.

Anderson said he was notified late afternoon on Oct. 5 about the extreme fire danger conditions. Department of Mineral Resources staff worked quickly to contact oil operators and request they voluntarily shut down production in areas of high fire danger. He estimates those requests were relayed to operators by 6:30-7 p.m. that day and said companies complied with the request.

It appears that message came too late to have an impact on the two McKenzie County fires.

Anderson said the department formed a work group to evaluate what went right during the emergency response and what can be improved. The group has met three times and identified areas of improvement in communication, education and some administrative enhancements.

"Anytime you can make improvements, I think you should look at it, and we're certainly taking this as an opportunity to do that," An-

derson said.

Keene Fire Chief Wade Signalness credited ConocoPhillips workers with actively helping crews fight the fire, including bringing tankers of water. But he hopes the industry as a whole evaluates what can be done to minimize fire risk during extreme weather.

"I think all oil companies can work together and figure out a solution when it comes to fires during high winds and dry conditions," Signalness said. "We've got to do something. We owe it to the community."

New Town Fire Chief John DeGroot said the fire season is projected to go into December and urged people to continue to be cautious.

"We're still in the middle of fire danger," DeGroot said.

The state has received an extension for filing for a presidential disaster declaration with a deadline of Dec. 5, according to the North Dakota Department of Emergency Services.

Sonny Capece New Montana Petroleum Association Executive Director

By Montana Petroleum Association

MPA is pleased to introduce Sonny Capece, the new Executive Director

of the Montana Petroleum Association. Sonny comes to MPA from Congressman Ryan Zinke, where he served as a district di-

rector. Before that he was an economic development specialist in the Office of Governor Greg Gianforte. Sonny has extensive po-

litical contacts, not only in Congressman Zinke's office but in many other U.S. senators, members of Congress, as well as state legislators

and department staff. You will find Sonny open to your ideas and a very pleasant conversationalist. Welcome to MPA, Sonny.



Sonny Capece

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Williston's "12 Days of Shopping" Holiday Retail Campaign

By Brookelle Otte
Williston, ND—The Williston Area Chamber of Commerce is introducing a new way to shop locally this holiday season. Dec. 1-12, the "12 Days of Shopping" Holiday Retail Campaign features more than 44 businesses where you can shop locally for this Holiday Season.

Additionally, every participating business will have a raffle box where shoppers

can enter to win a raffle prize. There are lots of great prizes to win, so be sure to enter to win at each participating business. The announcement of winners will take place at the Williston Downtowner's Holiday Stroll on Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the dining area of Thai Tasty. Must be present to win.

For a full list of the participating businesses, visit www.willistonchamber.com/holiday-retail-campaign.

NEW Chamber Bucks

Chamber Bucks are new and improved! Instead of having a physical "Buck", shoppers have the opportunity to purchase digital Chamber Bucks, where they can use their Chamber Bucks Digital Gift Card at any participating Chamber location. Backed by Mastercard, this new system is safe, seamless, and ensures an immediate sale from the customer to the business.



Facebook photo

Chamber Bucks make the perfect gift this holiday season! To purchase and see a list of participating stores visit app.yiftee.com/gift-card/williston.

Get Spotted Wearing Chamber Buttons

Designed by Cadence Jacobs a student at Williston High School, the Official Holiday Retail Campaign Button will be available at the following locations: Williston ARC, Williston Community Library, James Memorial Art Center, and the Williston Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Chamber Ambassadors will be out and about looking

for shoppers wearing the official Holiday Retail Campaign Buttons. If shoppers "get caught" by our elves, they'll have the opportunity to win Chamber Bucks.

Participating Businesses

Participating Businesses as of Nov. 23 include: All Seasons Sport About, Arbonne Independent Consultant, Bakken Beauty, Benellis Boutique & Trucker Hat Bar, Beyond Nails, Balloon Bliss Designs, Boomtown Kids, CHI St. Alexius Gift Shop, Cooks on Main, Daily Addiction, Dazzle Spark - Permanent Jewelry, Deja Brew - 512 Main St., Deja Brew - 502 E. Dakota Parkway, Derma Rescue, Destiny Med Spa, Elite Designz, Envy Cards, Escape Spa and Tanning, Glo Tanning Spa, Golden

Girl Boutique + Permanent Jewelry, Hansens Unlimited, LLC, Home Comforts, Horizon Resources Williston Convenience Store, James Memorial Art Center, Lilac Lane, Meg-A-Latte Coffee House, Midwest Metaphysics, Mommy and Me Tea Time LLC, NODAK Nutrition, Peachy's Boutique, Revival IV and Wellness, PLLC, RoseLight Designs Co-Paint Studio, Sunday Skin Aesthetics + Wellness, The Haven Day Spa & Wellness Clinic, The TRUNK, Two Sprouts Candle Co, Yellowstone River Beef, Williston 4 Kidz, Williston CVB Visitor Center, Williston Parts Supply - Carquest, and Young Bucks Coffee + Eatery

For a full listing of Member Businesses' sales/promotions.

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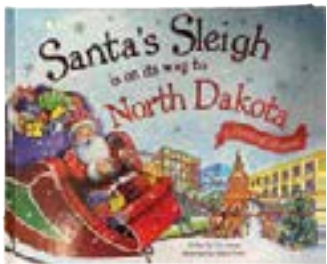
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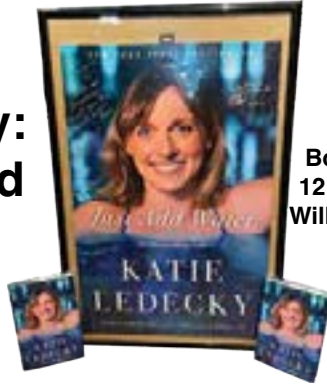
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