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Wednesday, January 8, 2025

Volume 50 • Number 49

Local Judge Sworn as Montana Supreme Court Justice



Former District Court Judge Katherine Bidegaray, Sidney, was sworn in as Montana Supreme Court Justice by Justice Ingrid Gustafson on Jan. 2 in the district courtroom at the Richland County Law & Justice Center in Sidney.

Sidney Area Chamber Of Commerce To Host Annual Meeting Jan. 15

By Kali Godfrey
Sidney Chamber of Commerce Director

The Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce invites its members and the public to its annual meeting on Jan. 15, at 12 p.m. at the Richland County Extension Office. The event will celebrate the Chamber's achievements in 2024 and outline plans for an exciting year ahead.

A Vision for 2025
Chamber President Ryan Kopp will share the Chamber's 2025 agenda, which includes the launch of a Downtown Master Plan. This initiative aims to revitalize Sidney's downtown area, creating a vibrant environment for small businesses while attracting visitors and residents to the community hub. Funding proposals have been submitted to the Department of Commerce

and Montana Main Street, emphasizing economic development, traffic management, and space utilization. A Successful 2024

The Chamber had a strong 2024, with membership increasing by 28%. Throughout the year, the organization hosted numerous events and programs designed to boost the local economy and build community connections.

Highlights included the Annual Banquet, where community leaders were honored, including Seitz Insurance as Partner in Progress and Jessica Chamberlin as Emerging Leader. The Chamber sustained key programs like Leadership Sidney, which engaged 20 participants in leadership development activities, and Community Power Hours, which tackled relevant local topics.

Annual events such as the MonDak Ag Days and Tradeshow, Sunrise City Slam, Fall Fest, and Magical Montana Christmas drew strong community participation. Additionally, new ventures like the Independence Day Fireworks Show and a partnership with Sidney Health Center for "Community is Stronger Than Cancer Day" added fresh energy to the Chamber's calendar.

Commitment to the Community

As it looks to 2025, the Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce remains committed to serving as a resource and advocate for regional businesses, fostering growth and collaboration throughout the area.

For more information about the annual meeting or the Chamber's initiatives, visit their Facebook page or sidneymt.com.



Scan me to save & share this week's issue

Sidney Health Center Addresses Patient Privacy Incident Involving Former Physician

By Rita Steinbeisser
Senior Executive,
Marketing

Sidney Health Center ("SHC") is notifying patients of a privacy incident involving a former physician who mishandled patient information.

On Oct. 28, 2024, SHC received a report from an employee raising concerns that a physician may have been saving patient information to their personal Google account. SHC promptly initiated an internal investigation using its privacy monitoring tools. On Nov. 7, 2024, SHC confirmed that the physician had indeed saved patient information to a personal Google account. SHC continued its investigation, including interviewing the physician and requesting the destruction or return of all documents containing SHC patient information. Unfortunately, SHC's efforts did not receive the necessary cooperation.

SHC's review of the documents saved by the physician revealed that certain files contained patient information. This information included names, dates of birth, medical record numbers, medical history, and/or treatment details, such as dates of service, provider names, diagnoses, and medications. Importantly, the documents did not contain Social Security numbers, health insurance ID numbers, or financial information.

In accordance with federal health information privacy laws, SHC began mailing notification letters to affected patients on Jan. 3, 2025. These letters remind patients to carefully review all communications from healthcare providers, including electronic messages and billing statements, to ensure consistency with their records and expectations.

SHC deeply regrets any concern or inconvenience this incident may cause. Protecting the confidentiality and security of patient information remains SHC's highest priority. To help prevent further unauthorized handling of patient information, SHC immediately suspended the physician's access to patient information unless

Continued on page 2.

MNAXLP

Alexander High School Student Council Donates To Area Animal Rescues



Senior Brooke Rykhus and Junior Tylan Womelsdorf, both members of Alexander High School Student Council, donated money and pet supplies to the MonDak Animal Rescue, Annie Oakly Animal Rescue, and Eastern Montana Pet Services. These rescues were chosen because they have all helped animals from the Alexander area. (Photo submitted)

By Amber Severson
Alexander High School Student Council Adviser

The Alexander High School Student Council held a fall donation drive for a

few of the local area animal rescues and delivered the donations just in time for Christmas. Student Council members, Brooke Rykhus, Tylan Womelsdorf, and Ad-



Pictured above Ryhus & Womelsdorf present at check to Annie Oakley Animal Rescue founders Sarah La Fountain-Faiman and Buffy Olson. (Photo submitted)

viser Amber Severson were the lucky ones to visit the rescues and cuddle some of the rescued animals.

The group raised donations mainly during sporting

events and would like to send a thank you out to everyone that donated. Their spring community service event will be an annual blood drive at the school that will

be held in April, as well as the postponed golf tournament with a date TBD.

Middle Three Forks (2nd Bench) In Bakken Petroleum System Contains Hundreds Of Millions Of Barrels Of Undeveloped Recoverable Oil

Submitted by Department of Mineral Resources Geological Survey Oil and Gas Division

BISMARCK, ND – Nathan Anderson, North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources director, and Ed Murphy, North Dakota state geologist, announced the completion of a case study evaluating the middle Three Forks reservoir within the Bakken Petroleum System. The study results indicate that significant undeveloped oil resources remain in this reservoir across a portion of western North Dakota.

Following the 2006 dis-

covery of the Parshall Field in western North Dakota, oil and gas companies primarily targeted the Middle Bakken with horizontal wells. The upper Three Forks later developed into a second established exploration and development target during 2008-2010. Then, beginning in 2013, the middle Three Forks began to be targeted. To date, over 360 horizontal wells have been drilled and completed in the middle Three Forks which have produced over 92 million barrels of oil and 238 billion cubic feet of gas. These wells have amounted to ~2% of

the drilling activity in the Bakken-Three Forks petroleum system, and ~1.7% of the total oil production to date. While drilling and completion activity in the middle Three Forks has been relatively steady, questions remain regarding whether developing the middle Three Forks adds to long-term oil and gas recovery or simply accelerates the rate of recovery, producing the same amount of oil and gas but at a faster rate.

An initial phase of the study was completed early in 2024 which led to a second, larger phase that was completed in 2024. Between the

two phases, historical and future projected oil production was evaluated from 593 horizontal wells spanning fifty-one 1280-acre drilling spacing units. A total of 25 drilling spacing units evaluated contained middle Three Forks horizontal wells, of which 17 exhibited a clear volumetric addition of oil from middle Three Forks development (68%), six did not (24%), and in two (8%) the contribution was unclear. Additionally, the study results indicate that developing the middle Three Forks reservoir, when sufficiently charged with oil, will add

on the order of 1-2 million barrels of additional recoverable oil per 1280-acre drilling spacing unit. The development of the initial prospective area of north-eastern McKenzie County is estimated to require the drilling and completion of more than 600 additional middle Three Forks wells, which could produce more than 250 million barrels of oil. Additional middle Three Forks resource potential lies outside of the study area, and there is significant potential for this development opportunity to grow.

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December 16th - January 15th - Effective February 1st

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Bergstedt Fundraiser
January 19th • 5-7pm

Come & Go Free Will Donation Meal of Soups & Cinnamon Rolls

Silent Auction
(ending at 6:45pm)

Faith Alliance Church
(301 E Main • Sidney, MT)

Suzie Bergstedt was recently diagnosed with mantle cell lymphoma. This fundraiser is to help with medical costs.

Contact LeeAnn Strasheim (406-480-3732) or Brielle Larson (406-480-0566) to donate to the silent auction.



Thank You

If wealth were to be measured in love and fun and mirth, I definitely consider me the richest one on Earth.

I was the guest of honor at a birthday bash, you see, and people came from near and far – just to celebrate me!

Texts and phone calls too, coated well with love; turning 90 is a blessing, sent from up above.

"Thank you" seems so trite a phrase, but I give it a full measure. You all made my party a day that I will treasure!

Sincerely, Irene Emly

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

STATISTICS

LAKE WATER LEVEL REPORT

Sakakawea

Current Elevation.....	1835.0
Last Week's Elev.	1835.3
One Year Ago	1838.5
Release For Day (C.F.S.)	16,000

SIDNEY WEATHER DATA

Source: MSU Eastern Agricultural Research Center

Date	High	Low	Precip.
Dec. 30.....	30	19	0.000
Dec. 31.....	26	18	0.000
Jan. 1.....	19	7	0.000
Jan. 2.....	9	-1	0.000
Jan. 3.....	6	-8	0.000
Jan. 4.....	6	-7	0.000
Jan. 5.....	16	-4	0.000
Total 2024 YTD Precipitation.....	8.74		

OBITUARIES

Jacquelyn Rae Palmer, 69 Billings, MT (formerly of Sidney, MT)

Memorial Mass will be Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025, at 10 a.m. at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, Sidney, MT, with Father Jim O'Neil officiating. A luncheon will follow the service for a time of fellowship and sharing. Jackie will be laid to rest at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025, at Lone Butte Cemetery, Sidney, MT. Visitation will be Monday, Jan. 13, 2025, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Fulkerson Stevenson Memorial Chapel, Sidney, MT.



Jacquelyn Rae Palmer

Flowers, cards, or any memorial contributions in Jackie's name are equally welcomed; please consider the charity of your choice, or the Foundation for Community Care, Sidney, MT. Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT, is assisting the family. Remembrances, condolences, and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.

Jacquelyn Rae Metzberg was ALMOST born Holly Noelle Metzberg on Dec. 27, 1955. Thanks to a deal struck between her parents, Ernie and Gladys, that he would name the girls and she would name the boys, she escaped the fate of being a Christmas baby with a Christmas name.

Jackie was born in Miles City, MT, but thanks to Ernie's law enforcement career, she grew up all over SE Montana, graduating from Dawson County High School with the class of 1974, and Dawson Community College with the class of 1976.

On a beautiful spring day in 1981, sheriff's deputy Denny Palmer walked across the alley from the Law Enforcement Center to the county courthouse in Sidney, MT, after being told how cute the new driver's examiner was (he'd later learned she was also the Highway Patrol Captain's middle daughter). Pleased to see he hadn't been misled, and blinded by her killer smile, Denny's atypical shyness crept up, and Jackie had to chase him a bit (he was cute too, and that mustache? Come on now). They were married at St. Matthew's Catholic Church on April 17, 1982.

Jackie and Denny settled into their lives as a young married couple for just a short while before deciding to start a family. Their only child and built-in bestie, RaeLeigh Jo, was born Aug. 28, 1983.

Jackie spent the next 22 years working for the state of Montana as a driver's examiner, providing written and final driving exams to hundreds of teenagers in Richland and Sheridan counties. Many remember her kind smile and calm demeanor in what were the most nerve-wracking moments of their young lives.

When she wasn't carrying out her duties as "that Jackie lady" down at the DMV, she was busy being the best wife and mom in the entire world, tagging along with Denny and RaeLeigh in whatever adventures they could dream up. She taught her daughter the cultural significance of pop and country music in the late '80s and early '90s, earning herself a duet partner to any tune that came on the radio. She taught Denny as much patience as he could muster raising the headstrong kid that was somehow a perfect combination of her sweetness, his friendliness, and both their Scandinavian stubbornness.

Jackie retired from driver services in 2005, to dedicate herself to being a stay-at-home mom of a recent college grad, waiting by the phone for the inevitable "how do I know this spaghetti is done?" phone call. Aside from her sometimes 3 daily calls with RaeLeigh, and her lunchtime and Friday night dates with Denny, she kept herself busy in retirement reading and planning a new house build, which was completed in 2011. When signing documents for their new home, Jackie's bright smile and kind and patient disposition enchanted the folks at Sidney Abstract and she found herself with a part-time administrative gig for a few years, until oil activity in the area slowed again.

In July 2019, Jackie moved to Billings to be closer to her favorite daughter. Denny had retired from the sheriff's office but was working for the Richland County Road Department and commuting to his girls on weekends. In December 2019, he fully retired and joined them in Billings.

The three amigos made it through the global COVID pandemic, hunkering down at home, and acquiring a pandemic puppy, Augustine, for RaeLeigh's 37th birthday.

During her time in Billings, Jackie enjoyed caring for her family and grandpuppy, nail appointments, haircut dates, lunches, brunches, and Target/Starbucks/Soda Station runs with her daughter, and going for drives with Denny.

Jackie peacefully passed away on Friday, Jan. 3, 2025, at the Billings Clinic Hospital, Billings, MT, after a short illness, but not before charming the daylights out of half the staff at Billings Clinic and University of Washington Medical. We will be eternally grateful for their efforts in giving us as much time with her as they could.

She was lovingly welcomed Home by her mom and dad, beloved Grandma Daisy, big sister Bobbi, brother-in-law Mike, her in-laws, Gene and Helen, and her sweet niece, Amy Lynn.

She is already desperately missed by the loves of her life, Denny and RaeLeigh Jo, her furball granddaughter Gus, her little sister Kellye, big brother Mike, step-mom Vada, brothers-in-law John, Joe, Hassell, and George, sisters-in-law Pam, Diane, and Loretta, childhood besties, Terry and Debi, as well as her cherished nieces Joli, Darcy, Tara (Randy), Blair, and Casey, and nephews Michael (Angie), Nathaniel (Alta), Nathan (Beth), and Corey (Tylah), as well as several great nieces and nephews. Aunt Jackie loved you guys, endlessly.

Sidney Health Center...

Continued from page 1.

accompanied by a supervisor during the investigation. The physician no longer works for SHC, and SHC has reported their conduct to the appropriate authorities.

To prevent future incidents, SHC is implementing additional safeguards, including enhanced privacy training, and additional access and system monitoring controls.

Patients with questions about this incident can contact SHC's dedicated helpline at 1-833-468-1010, Monday through Friday, between 6 a.m.-3 p.m. MT.



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., Jan. 9
5:30 p.m. - **Meet Your Richland County MSU Extension Agents** - Marley Voll, Agriculture Extension Agent; Josie Evenson, 4-H & Youth Development Extension Agent & Stephanie Reynolds, Family & Consumer Sciences & Community Vitality Extension Agent. Learn about all they do to build our communities. Sidney Richland County Library, 121 3rd Ave. NW.

Fri., Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31
7:30 p.m. - **Volleyball Sports Nights** - Come bring your family & have a great time, 1215 5th St. SE. For more info call 701-317-2309.

Fri., Jan. 10, 24; Feb. 28; March 14, 28, April 11, 25
11 a.m.-1 p.m. - **Sidney's Soup Kitchen** - All are welcome, no charge, & volunteers appreciated. St. Matthew's Parish Center, 310 7th St SE, Sidney, MT. For more info call 406-433-2510 or email stmatt@midrivers.com.

Sat., Jan. 11, 18, 25
7 p.m. - **Basketball Sports Nights** - Come bring your family & have a great time, 1215 5th St. SE. For more info call 701-317-2309.

Sun., Jan. 12
12-3:30 p.m. - **First Lutheran Church of Savage Annual Lutfisk & Meatball Dinner** - Prices: \$20 for adults; \$5 children 12 & under.

Tues., Jan. 14
5 p.m. - **Sidney Area Dollars for Scholars Annual Meeting** - Sidney Middle School teacher's lounge.

Thurs., Jan. 16
11:30 a.m. - **Richland Red Hatters Lunch Meeting** - Sunny's Family Restaurant. To RSVP call Paula, 406-489-2843 or Margaret, 406-489-1535.

Sun., Jan. 19
2-4 p.m. - **Game Night Gala At Savage Sunrise Manor** - All ages welcome. Enjoy a fun filled afternoon of games, friends & treats. Hot cocoa, apple cider & popcorn provided. Bring your favorite games to share & ours will be set up. Savage Sunrise Manor, 407 S. St.

Mon., Jan. 20 & Tues., Jan. 21
5-8 p.m. - **Sidney Area Dollars For Scholars Phonathon** - Conducted by the SHS National Honor Society.

Tues., Jan. 21
12-6 p.m. - **Red Cross Blood Drive** - St. Matthew's Parish Center, 310 7th Street SE. Make an appointment in advance as there is limited availability for walk-ins. To schedule an appointment call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit redcrossblood.org.

6:30-7:30 p.m. - **Sidney Book Club** - The Book Club meets the 3rd Tues. of each month at The Meadowlark.

Thurs., Jan. 23
5:30 p.m. - **Fresh Start: Decluttering 101**: Learn about basic decluttering methods & resources to keep you motivated. Sidney Richland County Library.

Thurs., Jan. 30
5:30 p.m. - **Heart Health Education** - Learn to take your blood pressure & what the numbers mean, how to read a food label, what are the Whoa, Slow & Go foods, some stress management ideas, how to increase your physical activity without joining a gym. Sidney-Richland County Library, 121 3rd Ave. NW. To sign up for a full 6-week course contact Heather Nevins, 406-433-2207.

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

Fri., Jan. 10, 10 a.m. - Mon., March 3, 6 p.m.
Greg Walter "Animal Alphabet Alliteration" Gallery Show - Long X Art Gallery, 100 2nd Ave. SW. For more info visit <https://longxarts.com/events/upcoming-events/>.

Sat., Jan. 11
1-4 p.m. - **Nerf Wars** - Ages 6 & up, fee \$7 a person. Rough Rider Center. Bring your own gun; ammo will be provided. (Limited quantity of Nerf Guns can be provided.) For more info visit www.watfordcityparks.com.

Tues., Jan. 14
6:30-8:30 p.m. - **Beginner Dot Mandala Painting** - Learn how to paint a mandala with a simple technique. Cost: \$30. Long X Arts Foundation Gallery, 100 2nd Ave. SW. For more info visit <https://longxarts.com/classes/in-person-classes/>.

Fri., Jan. 17
5 p.m. - **McKenzie County Soil Conservation District Present Cowgirls 'n Conversation Rural Rendezvous** - Social 5 p.m., supper, 5:30 p.m. McKenzie County Ag Expo. For more info or to register <https://www.mcagexpo.com/events>

Sat., Jan. 18, & Feb. 8
2:30-4 p.m. - Strummin' and Hummin': Beginner Guitar Workshop - Ages 14+, start with an instrument orientation & tuning course followed by two 30-minute song learning sessions, learning basic chords & strumming. Come away knowing the basics of two songs & song sheets to help keep you practicing! \$35/person (bring your own guitar); \$45/person (guitar provided for the night). Long X Arts Foundation Gallery. For more info visit <https://longxarts.com/classes/in-person-classes/>.

WILLIAMS COUNTY
Events in Williston unless otherwise listed. CT.

Wed., Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29
9:25-9:45 a.m. - **Sensory Story Time** - Williston Community Library, 1302 Davidson Drive.

Thurs., Jan. 9
5-7 p.m. - **Free Winter Safety Community Training Event** - All are welcome. Event highlights: Safe winter driving tips; Car seat safety; Traffic Rules. Williston State College - Teton Lounge, 1410 University Ave.

Thurs., Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30
Clay Camp - Youth grades K-6. Class 1 Jan. 9: 4-5 p.m., Pinch Pot Monsters; Class 2 Jan. 16: 4-5:30 p.m., Glaze your monsters & make coil snails; Class 3 Jan. 23: 4-5:30 p.m., Glaze your snails & make high five hands; Class 4 Jan. 30: 4-5 p.m., Glaze your hands. Feb. 6: pick up projects, 3-3:30 p.m. \$80, 20% member discount. Cost includes all classes & supplies. Must attend all classes. James Memorial Art Center, 621 1st Ave. W. Register online at thejamesmemorial.org. Registration ends 3 p.m. Jan. 9.

Thurs., Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30; Tues., Jan. 14, 21 & 28
11-11:30 a.m. **Baby Time** - Ages 2 & 3. Read stories, sing songs, dance, play games, & engage in social play. Williston Community Library, 1302 Davidson Drive.

Sun., Jan. 12, Mon., Jan. 13, Tues., Jan. 14, Mon., Jan. 20, Tues., Jan. 21, Sat., Jan. 25, Mon., Jan. 27, Tues., Jan. 28
3-5 p.m. - **Open Ice Skating** - Family fun for all ages. Limited rentals & skating aids for beginners. All ages & abilities are welcome, helmets are encouraged. Fees: \$5 Rental; \$4 adult; \$3 Youth; Free Skating aids for beginners. Raymond Center, Pete Conlin Arena.

Tues., Jan. 14, 21 & 28
11-11:30 a.m. **Toddler Time** - Ages 2 & 3. Read stories, sing songs, dance, play games, & engage in social play. Williston Community Library, 1302 Davidson Drive.

DAWSON COUNTY
Events in Glendive unless otherwise listed. MT.

Thurs., Jan. 9
6 p.m. - **Friends of the Library Brains & Brews Trivia** - Teams of 1-5 players, \$5 per person. Cross County Brewing.

Tues., Jan. 14
10 a.m.-3 p.m. - **Money for MonDak - Funding Workshop** - Are you a small business owner or producer in Eastern MT or Western ND looking to expand your value-added agricultural operation; improve the energy efficiency of your building; or add renewable energy but not sure how it fits into your business or ag operation? Join the experts to learn how to access USDA grant programs that may benefit your operation! Glendive Chamber of Commerce, 808 N. Merrill Ave. For more info & to register visit www.glendivechamber.com/communityeventscalendar/money-for-mondak.

Fairview School Holds Holiday Concerts

Fairview School held its holiday concerts on Monday, December 16th under the direction of Samantha Stevens. K-5 presented a delightful program in the afternoon, followed by 6th through 12 in the evening.

Pictured are the combined choirs of 6th through high school entertaining the crowd. Back row, left to right; Abbigayle Carico, Kyra Buckley, Harley Thompson, Emmalyn Romero, Braelyn Yadon, Audree Hanson, Brayden Perez, Malcom Bradley, Bryson Smith and Matiah Sharbono. Middle row, left to right; JennaLee VonHeeder, Taylor Lunstad, Raelyn Emyl, Marshal Thompson and Gabrielle Fischer.

Front row, left to right; Kallen Shaffer, Fischer Christmann, Skylar Fox, Kenzie Jaquith, Joshua VaughnRutter, Jazmyne Klein, Kylee Axtman, Taylor Unruh, Zach Green and Emily Gerbracht. (Photo by Dianne Swanson)



Letter To Editor

This New Year, consider making a resolution that not only transforms your life but also the lives of our furry companions: commit to kindness and care for pets. Dogs and cats are more than animals; they are family members, often bringing joy, comfort, and companionship. Sidney, Montana, organizations like the Prairie to Peaks Animal Assistance Foundation work tirelessly to support these animals and their owners, but they need our help. You need to support these efforts, as do other livestock focused businesses in the area.

Positive reinforcement training methods are a proven way to build trust and strengthen the bond between pets and their families. By adopting kinder approaches, we can reduce stress for our pets and ourselves, ensuring a happier, healthier home. Let this be the year you seek out good resources, or even local training classes.

Happy dogs make for healthy communities, where the bond between people and their pets fosters compassion, connection, and a shared commitment to well-being."

Moreover, caring for pets extends to addressing larger issues. Volunteering with groups like Prairie to Peaks or supporting their programs, such as food banks and temporary shelters for pets, helps keep animals safe and in loving homes during tough times. Advocacy for pet-friendly housing policies and accessible vet care in rural areas can make a world of difference.

As families in Sidney know, from the farmsteads of Lambert to the streets of Fairview, resilience and community go hand in hand. Just as your loved ones deserve kindness, so do the pets who enrich your lives. This year, resolve to advocate for them, support your local animal organizations, and embrace the joy pets bring. Together, we can make kindness the foundation of change for 2025 and beyond.

- Steve Mullen

Letter to the Editor

Sidney Dollars For Scholars Schedules 2025 Phonathon For Jan. 20-21

Annual Meeting Set For Jan. 14

The Sidney Area Dollars for Scholars Board wants to extend a huge thank you to the community for their generous support shown during the 2024 phonathon. Last January, the high school students spent two nights calling the community for financial support for the scholarship fund for graduating seniors. We are proud to announce that we have collected \$28,790 which allowed us to offer 45 scholarships to the class of 2024 totaling \$66,300. We would like to thank the community of Sidney for their generous support. The vision the founders in 1992 had in forming this Chapter of Dollars for Scholars is now being realized and is benefiting Sidney High School graduates.

We have our 2025 annual meeting scheduled for Jan. 14 at 5 p.m. in the Sidney Middle School teacher's lounge. This meeting is for the public. Additionally, this year's phonathon will be held Jan. 20-21.

Dan Hart and the SHS National Honor Society are organizing this event. We hope you will consider giving to DFS once again and will welcome calls from our high school students.

Thank you again for your generous support of our current and future graduating seniors.

Respectfully submitted,
Dollars for Scholars Board of Directors
Kelly Johnson, President

Red Cross Blood Drive Scheduled Jan. 21

A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 21, from noon-6 p.m. at St. Matthew's Parish Center, 310 7th St. SE, Sidney.

Please make an appointment in advance as there is limited availability for walk-ins. To schedule an appointment to donate blood, call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit redcross-blood.org.

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Winter Classes Open For Registration

For details and to register, visit handyandynursery.com or our Facebook page

January 18.....	The Wonders of Water
	The Green World of Ferns & Mosses
January 25.....	Whimsical World of Fairy Garden



Wonders of Water
January 18



Monday - Friday: 9am - 5:30pm
Saturday: 9am - 5pm
3515 West Front St
Williston, ND | 701-572-6083

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Dr. Pedersen understands the unique challenges of rural healthcare. His personal experience and professional expertise drive his mission to bring advanced cancer treatments and personalized care to Western North Dakota and Eastern Montana. With triple board certifications in oncology, hematology, and internal medicine, Dr. Pedersen delivers world-class expertise tailored to your unique journey. From diagnosis to recovery, our team provides comprehensive support every step of the way.

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Watford City, ND



DR. CHAD PEDERSEN

McKenzieHealth.com

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Off street parking, laundry facilities on site. No smoking, no pets. 110 8th Ave. SW, Sidney, MT. 406-939-2785.

APARTMENT IN SIDNEY
2 bedroom, 1 bath, pet friendly, \$625. 406-489-5195.

SERVICES

CARPENTERS + PLUS
Construction & Repairs Expert Handyman Service. Concrete form & pour, tile, drywall, C-fans, windows, doors, custom framing, decks. Mike 406-478-3885.
Free estimates.

WANTED

OR BUYING
ATVS OR UTVS
In need of repair. Call or text 1-406-489-3837.

GUN OWNERS

TAKING CONSIGNMENTS FOR
Spring Gun Shows. Contact RC, 1-406-489-3837.

AUCTION

LAND AUCTION:
163.41 acres pasture, farm, hunting, investment land with great access for sale January 23, 2025 at 1 p.m. MT, Dickinson, ND www.gandgauctioneers.com Ross Glass 701-290-4001.

CASH FOR Mobile Homes 1990+ Newer REH Sales 970-308-5571

WINDSHIELDS FOR MOST VEHICLES INSTALLATION AVAILABLE MAGRUM MOTORS
Williston, ND • 701-572-0114 • 701-770-6375

LEGALS

NOTICE OF ELECTION Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District #1

NOTICE is hereby given that on February 14, 2025 an election will be held at the Sidney Moose Lodge, Sidney, MT for the purpose of electing 1 Commissioner from Division 2 and 1 Commissioner from Division 4. Polls will be opened at 12:00 p.m. and will be closed at 3:00 p.m. of that day. Only one person may vote per business. The current Commissioner of Division 2 is Joe Steinbeisser who is running for an additional 3-year term. Division #2: Includes all lands: Sec. 1-4, T.20N., R.58E; Sec. 1-3, 10-12, 14, 15, 21-23, 27-29, 31-34, T21N., R.58E; Sec. 6, T21N., R.59E; Sec. 31, T.22N., R.59E. The current Commissioner of Division 4 is Mark Iversen who is running for an additional 3-year term. Division #4: Includes all lands: Sec. 9-16, 20-24, 26-35, T.23N., R.59E.

NOTICE is further given that any person desiring to be included on the ballot in Division 2 or Division 4 and owning classified irrigable acres in the respective division and residing in Montana may register his/her name with the district secretary by **January 31, 2025.**

If only one nominating petition per division has been filed, the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation District #1 will declare elected by acclamation the candidates who have filed and no election will be held.

MNAXLP
(Publish January 8 and 15, 2025)

RICHLAND COUNTY LANDFILL SCALE & MAINTENANCE BUILDING RICHLAND COUNTY, MONTANA

NOTICE IS GIVEN that Richland County will receive separate sealed bids for the construction of **Richland County Landfill Scale and Maintenance Building** project until **Monday, January 27, 2025 at 11:00 am.** No bids may be withdrawn after the scheduled time for the bid opening. Bids must be addressed to and delivered by one of the following methods:

A. Delivered to the office of the Owner: **Richland County**

NEW AND USED TIRES FOR SALE
MAGRUM MOTORS
Williston, ND • 701-572-0114 • 701-770-6375

Commissioners, 201 W Main St, Sidney, MT 59270

All Bids will be opened and publicly announced by the **County Commissioners at the Richland County Commissioners Office on Monday, January 27, 2025 at 11:00 am** Local Time).

A. BASE BID:

1. The work generally consists of:
a. **Site Work: dirt work (clearing/grubbing, topsoil removal and storage, grading, subgrade prep), removal of old container site, construction of new container site, facility water well installation, asphalt and concrete paving, fence installation, and seeding.**

b. **Landfill Scale: scale foundation & scale installation, setup, and staff training.**

c. **Maintenance Shop: building subgrade preparation, footings and foundation installation, building erection, interior fixtures & finish.**

B. ADD ALTERNATE 01:

1. The work generally consists of:
a. The addition of radiation detection panels to the scale structure.

The contract may be awarded based on the OWNER's best interests. The award will be based on the lowest cost combination of responsive, responsible bids, on the Base Bid and various Schedules, Alternatives, and Additive Alternates, as applicable, selected by the OWNER.

Contract Time:
A. BASE BID and ADD ALTERNATE 01:

1. All construction schedules shall be substantially complete and ready for OWNER's use and pre-final inspection by **Friday, December 5, 2025.**

B. All construction schedules shall be finally complete and ready for final payment within (30) calendar days of Substantial Completion.

Liquidated Damages:

A. The CONTRACTOR shall pay the OWNER **\$1,750**, for each calendar day or part of a day that expires after the time specified for Substantial Completion of any construction schedule(s) until the Work is substantially complete. Digital copies of the Bidding Documents are available at www.interstateeng.com or www.questcdn.com for a fee of \$37.00. These documents may be downloaded by selecting this project from the "Bid Documents" tab and by entering Quest Project Number **9466708** on the "Search Projects" page. For assistance and free membership registration, contact QuestCDN at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com.

The bidding and contract documents may also be examined at the office of Interstate Engineering located at **2177 Lincoln Ave. SE (P.O. Box 648) Sidney, Montana 59270.** For technical questions or inquiries on obtaining paper copies (\$150.00 non-refundable) of bidding and contract documents please contact the office of record at

(406) 433-5617 Sidney MT. **Bidders must download the bidding documents from either QuestCDN or receive paper copies from the office of record to be a registered bidder and receive addenda and any other information issued by the ENGINEER or OWNER. Addenda and other information will not be sent to Bidders that obtain copies of the bidding documents from other sources.**

CONTRACTOR and any of the CONTRACTOR's Subcontractors doing work on this project will be required to obtain registration with the **Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI).** Forms for registration are available from the Department of Labor and Industry at **P.O. Box 8011, 1805 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana 59604-8011.** Information on registration can be obtained by calling **1-406-444-7734.** CONTRACTOR is required to have registered with the DLI prior to bidding on this project and all laborers and mechanics employed by the CONTRACTOR or Subcontractors in performance of the construction work shall be paid wages at rates as required by the Laws of the State the work is being performed. The CONTRACTOR must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Each bid or proposal must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond payable to the OWNER, in an amount not less than **ten percent (10%) [MT]** of the total amount of the bid. Successful bidders shall furnish an approved Performance Bond and a labor and materials Payment Bond, each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount. Insurance, as required, shall be provided by the successful bidder(s) and a certificate(s) of that insurance shall be provided. The bid bond, a copy of the CONTRACTOR's license or certificate of renewal, and applicable funding requirement forms shall be included with each bid of proposal. All bids must be sealed.

Pre-bid conference information:

B. There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference held at the office of Interstate Engineering, Inc. on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 at 1:00 pm Local Time. Interested Contractors are required to attend in order to submit a bid proposal. Acknowledgement of pre-bid conference notes shall be submitted with the bid. (PRSP)

No bid will be read or considered which does not fully comply with the above provisions as to Bond and Licenses, and any deficient bid submitted will be resealed and returned to the Bidder immediately. The OWNER reserves the right to hold all bids and bid securities for a period not to exceed thirty

(30) days and to hold the three low bids and bid securities for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days from the date of the bid opening. The OWNER may, in its sole discretion, release any Bid and return the Bid security prior to the end of these periods, waive any informality in any bid, and to reject the bid of any party who has been delinquent or unfaithful in the performance of any former contract with the OWNER.

Richland County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

MNAXLP
(Publish January 8, 15, and 22, 2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE MCKENZIE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON **MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025 at 5:00 PM** in the **Board of County Commissioners' Meeting Room** located at **201 5th St. NW,** Watford City, North Dakota, for the purpose of receiving comments regarding a Variance request submitted by Laurie Roedeske. The Applicant requests a Variance # 02-24 to allow the existing fence in place of the required chain link. The proposed area is in Sect. 33, T-149N, R-103W SW1/4NW1/4 NW1/4SW1/4 EX 7.06 A RW PID 26-00-01300 in McKenzie County, ND.

The provisions regarding Variance requests are contained within the McKenzie County Land Development Ordinance. The Land Development Ordinance may be viewed at the McKenzie County Planner's Office during office hours, as well as online at www.McKenzieCounty.net. The application can be reviewed by the public in the Planning Department.

If you are unable to attend the public hearing, written comments will be accepted until Friday, January 10, 2025 at 12:00 PM at the office of the McKenzie County Planner, 1300 12th St SE Ste #214, Watford City, ND 58854, or via e-mail to CandyLundgren@co.mckenzie.nd.us. You may also phone us at 701-444-2420 with any questions.

Planning and Zoning Board Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, starting at 5:00 p.m. Central Time. The Planning and Zoning Board may change the date or time of a meeting by a motion made and passed in advance of the meeting to resolve calendar conflicts. In the event a scheduled meeting cannot be held due to inclement weather or other reasons, the meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday immediately following the scheduled meeting and the Planning Director will cause notice of the postponement to be posted at the courthouse entrance and on the Planning and Zoning Website.

McKenzie County complies with Title VI Nondiscrimination Standards and the American with Disabilities Act. These policies can be viewed at the McKenzie County Auditor's Office.

Dated at Watford City, North Dakota, this 16th day of December 2024

Candy Lundgren-Planner
McKenzie County Planning & Zoning Department
Attest: Sandee Kimpel
Planning Director

MNAXLP
(Publish January 1 and 8, 2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The McKenzie County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, January 13, 2025 at 5:00 PM** in the **Board of County Commissioners' Meeting Room** located at **201 5th St. NW,** Watford City, North Dakota, for the purpose of receiving comments regarding a Zone Change request #08-24ZC submitted by Down to Earth Truckn Inc to change the zone from Agricultural to Light Industrial. The property is located at T150, R100, S02 IT#s 2545 PT S1/2NE1/4, 2961 133J Ave Arnegard, PID # 03-00-01095 in McKenzie County, ND.

The provisions regarding Zone Change requests are contained within the McKenzie County Land Development Ordinance. The Land Development Ordinance may be viewed at the McKenzie County Planner's Office during office hours, as well as online at www.McKenzieCounty.net. The application can be reviewed by the public in the Planning Department.

Candy Lundgren – Planner
McKenzie County Planning & Zoning Department
Attest: Sandee Kimpel
Planning Director

MNAXLP
(Publish January 1 and 8, 2025)

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Dated at Watford City, North Dakota, this 16th day of December, 2024.

Candy Lundgren – Planner
McKenzie County Planning & Zoning Department
Attest: Sandee Kimpel
Planning Director

MNAXLP
(Publish January 1 and 8, 2025)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The McKenzie County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, January 13, 2025 at 5:00 PM** in the **Board of County Commissioners' Meeting Room** located at **201 5th St. NW,** Watford City, North Dakota, for the purpose of receiving comments regarding a Zone Change request #09-24ZC submitted by 325 Oilfield Services LLC Inc to change the zone from Agricultural to Light Industrial. The property is located at T150, R100, S02 IT# 2554 PT S1/2NE1/4, 13315 29P St NW Arnegard, PID # 03-00-01160 in McKenzie County, ND.

The provisions regarding Zone Change requests are contained within the McKenzie County Land Development Ordinance. The Land Development Ordinance may be viewed at the McKenzie County Planner's Office during office hours, as well as online at www.McKenzieCounty.net. The application can be reviewed by the public in the Planning Department.

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Dated at Watford City, North Dakota, this 16th day of December, 2024.

Candy Lundgren – Planner
McKenzie County Planning & Zoning Department
Attest: Sandee Kimpel
Planning Director

MNAXLP
(Publish January 1 and 8, 2025)

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 Al-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. - **Al-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

JOIN OUR CARE TEAM!

Sidney Health Center is looking for individuals who will join our mission to help you achieve your highest level of health and well-being.

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- And Much More!

Visit our website for a complete list of career opportunities.
SidneyHealth.org



SIDNEY HEALTH CENTER
Exceptional Care for Life

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Human Resources
216 14th Ave SW • Sidney, MT

SCAN ME

PUBLIC NOTICE
 THE MCKENZIE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON **MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025, at 5:00 PM** in the **Board of County Commissioners' Meeting Room** located at **201 5th St. NW**, Watford City, North Dakota, for the purpose of receiving comments regarding a Conditional Use Permit request submitted by West Dakota Water. The Applicant requests Conditional Use Permit #17-24 to bring an existing water intake building and pond into compliance. The property is located on Parcel # 15-00-19100, S-7, T-152N, R-102W, LOTS 4-5 Alexander, McKenzie County, ND.

policies can be viewed at the McKenzie County Auditor's Office. Dated at Watford City, North Dakota, this 16th day of December, 2024
 Candy Lundgren-Planner
 McKenzie County Planning & Zoning Department
 Attest: Sandee Kimpel
 Planning Director

MNAXLP
 (Publish January 1 and 8, 2025)

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The provisions regarding Conditional Use Permit requests are contained within the McKenzie County Land Development Ordinance. The Ordinance may be viewed at the McKenzie County Planner's Office during office hours, as well as online at www.McKenzieCounty.net. The application can be reviewed by the public in the Planning Department. If you are unable to attend the public hearing, written comments will be accepted until Friday, January 10, 2025 at 12:00 PM at the office of the McKenzie County Planner, 1300 12th St SE Ste #214, Watford City, ND 58854, or via e-mail to Candy.Lundgren@co.mckenzie.nd.us. You may also phone us at 701-444-2420 with any questions. Planning and Zoning Board Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, starting at 5:00 p.m. Central Time. The Planning and Zoning Board may change the date or time of a meeting by a motion made and passed in advance of the meeting to resolve calendar conflicts. In the event a scheduled meeting cannot be held due to inclement weather or other reasons, the meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday immediately following the scheduled meeting and the Planning Director will cause notice of the postponement to be posted at the courthouse entrance and on the Planning and Zoning Website. McKenzie County complies with Title VI Nondiscrimination Standards and the American with Disabilities Act. These policies can be viewed at the McKenzie County Auditor's Office. Dated at Watford City, North Dakota, this 11th day of December, 2024
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12th St SE Ste #214, Watford City, ND 58854, or via e-mail to Candy.Lundgren@co.mckenzie.nd.us. You may also phone us at 701-444-2420 with any questions. Planning and Zoning Board Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, starting at 5:00 p.m. Central Time. The Planning and Zoning Board may change the date or time of a meeting by a motion made and passed in advance of the meeting to resolve calendar conflicts. In the event a scheduled meeting cannot be held due to inclement weather or other reasons, the meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday immediately following the scheduled meeting and the Planning Director will cause notice of the postponement to be posted at the courthouse entrance and on the Planning and Zoning Website. McKenzie County complies with Title VI Nondiscrimination Standards and the American with Disabilities Act. These policies can be viewed at the McKenzie County Auditor's Office. Dated at Watford City, North Dakota, this 11th day of December, 2024
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The provisions regarding Conditional Use Permit requests are contained within the McKenzie County Land Development Ordinance. The Ordinance may be viewed at the McKenzie County Planner's Office during office hours, as well as online at www.McKenzieCounty.net. The application can be reviewed by the public in the Planning Department. If you are unable to attend the public hearing, written comments will be accepted until Friday, January 10, 2025 at 12:00 PM at the office of the McKenzie County Planner, 1300 12th St SE Ste #214, Watford City, ND 58854, or via e-mail to Candy.Lundgren@co.mckenzie.nd.us. You may also phone us at 701-444-2420 with any questions. Planning and Zoning Board Meetings are held the second Monday of each month, starting at 5:00 p.m. Central Time. The Planning and Zoning Board may change the date or time of a meeting by a motion made and passed in advance of the meeting to resolve calendar conflicts. In the event a

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 Candy Lundgren-Planner
 McKenzie County Planning & Zoning Department
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MNAXLP
 (Publish January 1 and 8, 2025)

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The provisions regarding Conditional Use Permit requests are contained within the McKenzie County Land Development Ordinance. The Ordinance may be viewed at the McKenzie County Planner's Office during office hours, as well as online at www.McKenzieCounty.net. The application can be reviewed by the public in the Planning Department. If you are unable to attend the public hearing, written comments will be accepted until Friday, January 10, 2025 at 12:00 PM at the office of the McKenzie County Planner, 1300

Lunch Menus!

- Sidney Schools**
Thurs., Jan. 9: Tony's pizza, tossed salad, broccoli, fresh pears.
Fri., Jan. 10: No school.
Mon., Jan. 13: Biscuits & gravy, hash browns, mandarin oranges, orange juice.
Tues., Jan. 14: Super nachos, beef, tots, fruit cocktail.
Wed., Jan. 15: Chicken pot pie, spinach, peaches.
- Savage School**
Thurs., Jan. 9: Hot ham & cheese, tomato soup, fresh veggies, fruit.
Fri., Jan. 10: No school.
Mon., Jan. 13: Chicken pot pie, green beans, fruit.
Tues., Jan. 14: Stroganoff, bread, veggie, fruit.
Wed., Jan. 15: Pizza, veggie, fruit.
- Rau School**
Thurs., Jan. 9: Shepherd's pie, dinner rolls, garden salad, apricots.
Fri., Jan. 10: No school.
Mon., Jan. 13: Cheeseburgers, potato wedges, baked beans, grapes.
Tues., Jan. 14: Pepperoni pizza hotdish, salad, apples.
Wed., Jan. 15: White chicken chili, cornbread, mandarin oranges.
- Froid School**
Thurs., Jan. 9: Fish patties, buns, beans, chips, fruit, salad bar.
Fri., Jan. 10: No school.
Mon., Jan. 13: Leftovers, salad bar.
Tues., Jan. 14: Taco soup, beans, tortilla chips, fruit, salad bar.
Wed., Jan. 15: Roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, buns, veggies, dessert, salad bar.
- Bainville School**
Thurs., Jan. 9: Chicken sandwiches, kiwi, baby carrots, salad bar.
Fri., Jan. 10: Creamy beef & shells, mandarins, Harvest of the Month: carnival squash, salad bar.
Mon., Jan. 13: Chicken strips, spinach, artichoke dip, sliced apples, salad bar.
Tues., Jan. 14: Quesadillas, guacamole, refried beans, pineapple, salad bar.
Wed., Jan. 15: Tater tot hotdish, peaches, green beans, salad bar.
- Richey School**
Thurs., Jan. 9: Chicken strips, fried rice, peach cobbler, fruit, salad bar.
Fri., Jan. 10: No school.
Mon., Jan. 13: Roast beef, gravy, roasted vegetables, dinner rolls, fruit, salad bar.
Tues., Jan. 14: Pizza, salad bar, pumpkin bars.
Wed., Jan. 15: Beef stew, corn bread muffins, fruit, salad bar.
- Culbertson School**
Thurs., Jan. 9: Tater tot casserole, veggie.
Fri., Jan. 10: Turkey cheese sandwiches, chips, fruit.
Mon., Jan. 13: Chicken nachos, rice, fruit.
Tues., Jan. 14: Chili, corn chips, fruit.
Wed., Jan. 15: Turkey, mashed potatoes, veggie.
- Lambert School**
Thurs., Jan. 9: Big mac wraps, fries, fruit.
Fri., Jan. 10: Chicken alfredo, broccoli, breadsticks, fruit.
Mon., Jan. 13: Enchiladas, fresh veggies, fruit.
Tues., Jan. 14: Chicken strips, tots, fruit.
Wed., Jan. 15: No school, BPA Regional.
- Fairview School**
Thurs., Jan. 9: Meatball subs, fries, veggie, fruit, fresh garden bar (6-8); fresh garden salad (3-5).
Fri., Jan. 10: No school.
Mon., Jan. 13: Chicken fajitas, Spanish rice, veggie, garlic, fresh garden bar (6-8); fresh garden salad (3-5).
Tues., Jan. 14: Chicken drumsticks, mashed taters, gravy, corn, fruit, fresh garden bar (6-8); fresh garden salad (3-5).
Wed., Jan. 15: Spaghetti, Caesar salad, green beans, garlic toast, fresh garden bar (6-8); fresh garden salad (3-5).
- East Fairview School**
Thurs., Jan. 9: Spaghetti, garlic bread.
Fri., Jan. 10: No school.
Mon., Jan. 13: Shepherd's pie.
Tues., Jan. 14: Italian chicken.
Wed., Jan. 15: Street tacos.
- Alexander School**
Thurs., Jan. 9: Chili, pretzel bites, fruit & vegetable bar.
Fri., Jan. 10: No school.
Mon., Jan. 13: Popcorn chicken or finger steaks, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, fruit & vegetable bar.
Tues., Jan. 14: Street tacos or burrito bowls, cilantro lime rice, fruit & vegetable bar.
Wed., Jan. 15: Slush burgers, sun chips, fruit & vegetable bar.
- Watford City School**
Thurs., Jan. 9: Chicken drumsticks or pizza lunchables, mashed potatoes, veggie, salad bar, fruit, dinner rolls, chicken gravy.
Fri., Jan. 10: Garlic cheese French bread pizza or Smucker's uncrustables, veggie, salad bar, fruit, cookies, salad pasta rotelli.
Mon., Jan. 13: Oriental bowls or deli roll up pinwheels, veggie, salad bar, fruit, fried rice, egg rolls, fortune cookies.
Tues., Jan. 14: KFC spud bowls or turkey & cheese on bread, veggie, salad bar, fruit, honey biscuits.
Fri., Jan. 15: Super beef nachos or ham & cheese on buns, pico, refried beans, veggie, salad bar, fruit, cinnamon sugar churros, cheddar cheese sauce.

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Richland Ranger Bantams Continue Winning Streak

By Brenda Filler

The Richland Ranger Bantams dominated home ice this past weekend and added two more wins to their season.

If I were asked to say a few words that might describe the Bantam team it would be a quote from United Hockey; "You don't always get what you wish for, you get what you work for."

This group keeps showing us repeatedly the work they are putting in.

Saturday, Jan. 4, the Bantams faced off against Mandan Mayhem and commanded their way to a win. In the first period, the Rangers scored 3 goals, 3 assists, second period added 6 goals, 5 assists and they rounded out the third and final period with an additional 2 goals and 1 assist leaving



Wyatt Conn vs. Williston black on Jan. 5. (Photo submitted by Brenda Filler)

the ice with an 11-3 win over Mandan.

Sunday, Jan. 5, the

Rangers played Williston Flyers Black. The Bantams proved to be victorious once



Dresden Wesley vs. Mandan on Jan. 4. (Photo submitted by Brenda Filler)

again skating away with a shutout victory of 13-0 over the Flyers.

Next, the Richland Bantams travel back to Bismarck to compete in the Capitals

Cup Jan. 10-12.

Fairview Basketball Teams Take On Malta & Harlem

The Fairview Warriors traveled to play the Malta Mustangs on Jan. 3 and the Harlem Wildcats Jan. 4. In Malta the boys lost 84-61 and the girls lost 59-39. In Harlem the boys

lost 51-43 and the girls won in overtime 47-40. This week, Fairview will play the Sidney Eagles at home Thursday, Jan. 9 and on Friday, Jan. 10 Fairview travels to Baker.



Kendal Vitt looks to pass during the game against Harlem Wildcats. (Photo by Brandy Spitzer-Tjelde)



Elliot Thompson works to get around Malta to attempt a layup for Fairview. (Photo by Keri McPherson Photography)

Sidney Wrestling Results

Rumble on the Red Fargo, ND - Jan. 3-4, 2025	Varsity
Youth	139# - Aaron Schmitz, 6th
12U 100# - Toby Kleinke: 5th	145# - Reece Graves, 2nd
12U 113# - Landon Franck: 3rd	Junior Varsity
	189# - Cooper Fulgham, 6th

DEQ Encourages Radon Awareness With Free Radon Test Kits This January

By Madison McGeffers, Public Information Officer

Montana Department of Environmental Quality

HELENA—In recognition of National Radon Action Month, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is offering Montana residents a free radon test kit during the month of January to assess radon levels in their homes.

Radon is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that can enter homes through miniscule cracks in the foundation or around utility pipes and can build up in homes over time. Radon forms from the breakdown or decay of uranium in soil, rock and water. Long-term exposure to elevated radon levels can increase the risk of lung cancer and is the leading cause of lung cancer in non-smokers.

"Montana's geology makes our state prone to elevated radon levels," said DEQ Energy Bureau Chief Ben Brouwer. "Testing your home and mitigating radon levels, if necessary, is the best method to protect yourself from long-term exposure. When Montanans send their completed test kit to the lab, they are taking the first step to understanding their potential risk."

Radon test kits are provided by the Montana DEQ Radon Control Program and funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protec-

tion Agency (EPA). The test kits are usually delivered within two weeks from the date they are requested. Once the test kit arrives, instructions provided in the kit will guide the two-to-five-day testing process. DEQ recommends testing at the lowest occupied floor of a home every two to five years, after making structural changes to the home, or when moving into a previously unused lower floor of the home. Completed radon test kits must be mailed to the lab within one week of testing for accurate results. Paid return postage is provided with the radon test kit and lab results will be emailed once the test has been analyzed.

EPA recommends taking steps to reduce, or mitigate, radon levels at or above the action level of 4.0 picocuries per liter (pCi/L). In Montana, approximately half of the homes tested for radon have levels at or above the 4.0 pCi/L action level. Elevated radon levels can be reduced through mitigation measures. The cost for a radon mitigation contractor to lower radon levels in a home typically starts at \$1,500; though actual costs may vary depending on the home.

To learn more about radon in Montana, to order a free test kit, or to find a radon service provider, visit: <https://deq.mt.gov/energy/Programs/radon>.



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Animal Nutrition Meetings

We invite you to join us for one of our upcoming Animal Nutrition Meetings. Learn valuable insights from our expert speakers, enjoy a meal, and connect with fellow livestock producers.

January 14th • 3-5pm

Outlaws Restaurant

120 N Main St, Watford City, ND

Meal provided following the meeting.

January 15th • 3-5pm

Grenora Fire Hall

15060 Highway 50, Grenora, ND

Meal provided following the meeting.

January 16th • 12-4pm

River's Edge Bar & Grill

1002 2nd St W, Williston, ND

Lunch provided, meeting to follow.

Featuring Guest Speakers:

Heather Dykins — Payback Animal Nutrition Consultant

Randell Von Krosigk — Smartlic Supplements

This is a great opportunity to learn from industry experts and improve your animal nutrition strategies. Don't miss out!

For more information, contact Tim Fjeldahl (Watford City) at 701-444-2222, Justin Hanson (Grenora) at 701-694-3291, Ethan Klundt (Williston) at 701-774-0228, and Rick Foss (Zahl) at 701-694-4111.

Montana Dept. Of Revenue: Business Equipment Reporting Requirement

By Jason Slead
Montana Dept. of Revenue

HELENA – The department recently notified business owners with a business equipment reporting requirement, that it is time to report for Tax Year 2025. Individuals and businesses owning business equipment (as of Jan. 1, 2025) with an aggregate market value of more than \$1 million statewide must report the equipment owned by March 1, 2025, to avoid a 20% penalty.

Businesses whose statewide market value of equipment is \$1 million or less are exempt from the business equipment tax. These businesses do not have a reporting requirement in 2025 unless: (1) they have acquired new per-

sonal property that would increase their equipment's aggregate market value above the exemption amount; or (2) the department requests a personal property reporting form be completed.

Business owners can report online using the department's TransAction Portal (TAP) at <https://tap.dor.mt.gov>. Online reporting forms are pre-populated with the business equipment reported in 2024. Owners will review the previously reported assets and make any needed additions and deletions. An immediate confirmation receipt will be sent after the report is submitted. For more information, visit MTRRevenue.gov or contact us at 406-444-6900 or DORCustomerAssistance@mt.gov; 1-406-444-6700 | Jslead@mt.gov.

OBITUARIES

Esther Mae Peterson, 85 Culbertson, MT

Funeral services will be Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025, at 11 a.m. at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Culbertson, MT, with Pastor Gretchen Wagner officiating. Visitation will be held for an hour before the service. A luncheon will be held after the service for a time of fellowship and sharing. Esther will be laid to rest in the Sidney Cemetery, Sidney, MT. Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home, Sidney, MT, is assisting the family. Remembrances, condolences, and pictures may be shared with the family at www.fulkersons.com.



Esther Mae Peterson

Esther Mae Frank Peterson, 85, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully on Jan. 2, 2025, at Sidney Health Center, Sidney, MT, leaving behind a legacy of love, warmth, and kindness.

Esther was born on Jan. 19, 1939, in Dodge, ND, to Leonard and Elsie (Entzel) Frank, and was the cherished only daughter among five doting brothers. Esther's life was one of devotion to her children, grandchildren and her great-grandchild. Her gentle spirit touched all who knew her.

Esther was born at home on the family's farm where she grew up helping care for the farm and her younger brothers. The family moved to Sidney, MT, when Esther was in middle school. After graduating from Sidney High School in 1957, she began her career as a telephone operator with Mountain States Telephone Company where she formed lasting friendships. It was during this time that she met the love of her life, Allen Peterson, Culbertson, MT. On Nov. 15, 1959, the two were married and began their lives together in Culbertson, where they raised three children: Paula, Darin, and Kelly. On Nov. 15, 2024, the couple celebrated 65 years of marriage by renewing their wedding vows at the Sidney Health Center chapel surrounded by their children.

Esther's greatest joy was being a mother and grandmother. She took immense pride in every milestone, whether it was a game, concert, or school event. Esther was the best listener, supporting her children and grandchildren with unwavering attention. Even in her later years, when her eyesight faded, Esther found a way to stay connected to her grandkids' activities, using her iPad to watch and be part of their lives from afar. Her love for her family was boundless, and her home was always open with a heart full of warmth, care and favorite treats.

Esther's life was marked by service to others. She remained close to the friends she made as a phone operator, participated in the Red Hat Society, and volunteered at the local food bank, Trinity Lutheran Church and WELCA. She

took great joy in her work on Election Day, serving alongside her close friends.

One of Esther's fondest memories was when her children came home to visit. She would spoil them with their favorite desserts, making sure they left with too much food, and always, without fail, stood in front of the large picture window, waving goodbye until they were out of sight. Then, she would wait for the phone call to ensure her loved ones had made it home safely. She looked so forward to calls from the kids.

Esther loved the simple pleasures of life including gardening, caring for her plants, and reading. She and Allen would make a day of traveling to Williston and Sidney, enjoying their favorite restaurants along the way. Weekly visits to the Senior Citizens Center were a tradition, giving Esther and Allen the chance to catch up on the latest Culbertson stories. Allen and Esther loved their road trips, traveling to bank conventions, tax school, and to see the grandkids. They enjoyed trips to Germany, the Panama Canal, and her favorite destination, Hawaii.

Esther will be remembered as the sweetest soul, a woman who lit up every room she entered with her smile

Armstrong Appoints Jill Kringstad To Succeed Fedorchak On North Dakota Public Service Commission

BISMARCK, N.D. — Gov. Kelly Armstrong appointed Jill Kringstad, manager of business operations for the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC), to fill the PSC seat vacated by former commissioner Julie Fedorchak, effective immediately. Fedorchak was elected to Congress in November and sworn in Friday to represent North Dakota in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Kringstad has served as the PSC's manager of business operations since January 2019, overseeing daily business operations, managing administrative staff and assisting the executive director in overall management of the agency. A certified public accountant, Kringstad joined the PSC in 2016 as an accounting and budget specialist. She previously served as a financial services accountant and internal auditor at Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck from 2013 to 2016 and worked seasonally at Cody Oil and Gas Corp. in Bismarck for five years.

"With more than eight years of service to the Public Service Commission and her private sector experience in the energy and utility industry, Jill Kringstad has the background and knowledge base to serve our citizens well on the PSC. She understands that the success of our state and nation depends on a stable regulatory framework and strong supply of reliable, affordable, dispatchable energy," Armstrong said, also commending Fedorchak for her PSC tenure. "Julie deserves our respect and thanks for her 12 years of exemplary service on the

PSC, looking out for the best interests of utility customers and the public interest. We know she will do a fantastic job representing North Dakota in Congress."

Fedorchak had served on the PSC since 2013. She was re-elected to a full six-year term in 2022. Kringstad will serve on the PSC until the November 2026 general election, which will determine who serves the remaining two years of the six-year term through 2028.

A native of Bismarck, Kringstad earned her bachelor's degree in accounting with a minor in economics from Minnesota State University Moorhead in 2012. She served as an intern for U.S. Sen. John Hoeven and U.S. Rep. Rick Berg and, in addition to her PSC and private sector experience, has completed professional coursework in rate regulation, operations and regulation of the natural gas and electricity industries, and fundamentals of utility law and regional transmission organizations. She has served as treasurer of the Bismarck Public Schools Hospitality Fund since 2015.

"I'm thankful to Gov. Armstrong for the opportunity to serve our citizens on the Public Service Commission. The PSC touches the lives of every citizen every day as we fulfill our mission of protecting consumers, the public interest and the environment," Kringstad said. "With broad jurisdiction over several industries, including investor-owned utilities, serving on the PSC comes with significant responsibility and a huge opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of North Dakotans and all Americans through

and kindness. She made every person she spoke with feel like they were the most important person in the world. Her spirit will live on in the hearts of all who had the privilege of loving her.

Esther is survived by her devoted husband of 65 years, Allen Peterson; her children, Paula (Chadd) Wheeler, Billings, MT; Darin (Polly) Peterson, Jamestown, ND; and Kelly (Peni) Peterson, Watford City, ND; her six grandchildren, Andrew, Paige, Courtney, Michael, Kayla, and Lindsay, and one great-grandchild, Aven; her brothers Raymond and Harold (Edith) Frank; sisters-in-law Marilyn and Marlene Frank; many nieces and nephews, and countless friends including Bruce and Judy Waldhausen.

She was preceded in death by her parents Leonard and Elsie (Entzel) Frank; brothers Elmer, Art, and Ervin Frank; sister-in-law, Donna Frank; and two nieces Suzanne and Lisa Frank.

Esther's love will remain in our hearts forever, and we will cherish the beautiful memories she created with us. She mothered with care and concern until the end when she was welcomed into her final resting place with her Lord.



Jill Kringstad. (Photo submitted)

the important role our state plays in U.S. energy security. I look forward to joining Commissioners Christmann and Haugen-Hoffart to continue this important work."

The PSC is a constitutional agency with varying degrees of statutory authority over electric and gas utilities, telecommunications companies, energy plant and transmission siting, rail-

roads, weight and measuring devices, pipeline safety, coal mine reclamation and abandoned mines, and damage prevention. The agency is authorized for 45 full-time employees and has a budget of \$21.3 million for the 2023-2025 biennium. The PSC's three commissioners are elected on a statewide basis to staggered six-year terms.

Governor Gianforte Solicits Public Comment On Seventh Judicial District Judge Applicants

HELENA — Governor Greg Gianforte announced he is seeking public comment on applicants to fill the vacancy in the Seventh Judicial District (Dawson, Prairie, McCone, Richland, and Wibaux counties).

Members of the public can provide letters of support or other comments regarding the applicants through Thursday, Jan. 16, 2025, at 5 p.m.

The governor has received four applications from the following attorneys, whose application may be found at nominatejudges.mt.gov: Scott William Herring, John Tyson Hrubes, Brett Joseph Irigoien, and Charity Sue McLarty.

Members of the public should submit letters or other comments by email to nominatejudges@mt.gov, by fax to 406-444-4151, or by mail to Attn: Hannah Slusser, Governor's Office, PO Box 200801, Helena, Montana 59620.

Letters or other comments submitted will be publicly available and posted at nominatejudges.mt.gov.

Applicants must receive at least three letters of support to be considered for appointment by the governor.

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Christy Rindahl

Sidney Country Club

Dawson Patriots: A New Voice For Community Education Schedules "Fight for American Health" Jan. 9

Submitted by
Linda Eaton

The Dawson Patriots, a newly established organization, aims to foster edu-

cation, discussion, and the dissemination of valuable information within the community. With a commitment to addressing important

topics that impact American families, the group has announced a seven-month series of events scheduled for 2025.

The inaugural event will take place on Thursday, Jan. 9, at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW in Glendive. Mimi Hoff, a distinguished speaker and

Glendive resident, will present "The Fight for American Health". Her talk will delve into the pressing challenges and potential solutions surrounding the current American health crisis.

Hoff brings a wealth of expertise in "Testing and Applied Epigenetics" and will share insights from her professional background and personal experiences. Her presentation aims to equip attendees with tools to optimize their health outcomes and unlock their potential for well-being.

The Dawson Patriots' initiative represents an opportunity for residents to engage with critical issues in a constructive and informative setting. All community members are encouraged to attend and participate in this important conversation.

For more information about upcoming events, stay




Mimi Hoff.
(Photo submitted)

connected with the Dawson Patriots.


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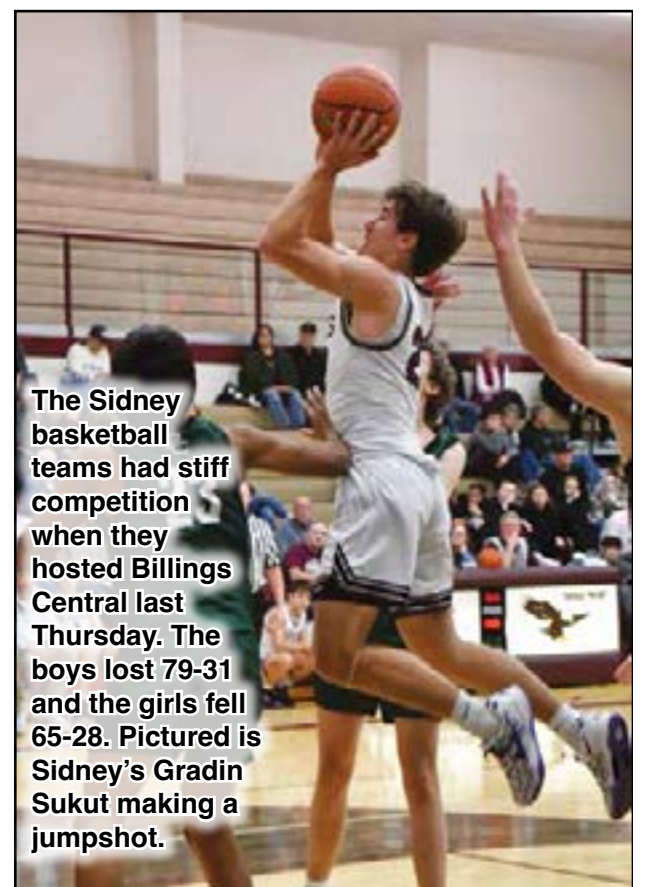

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Eagles Fall to the Rams



The Sidney basketball teams had stiff competition when they hosted Billings Central last Thursday. The boys lost 79-31 and the girls fell 65-28. Pictured is Sidney's Gradin Sukut making a jumpshot.



Sidney's Savanna Anderson battles for a rebound against Billings Central's Grace Jagodzinski and Gracie Loveridge.

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