



Sidney Herald



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Bulletin Board

Chamber banquet

The Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture will have its annual banquet on Jan. 19 at the Sidney Country Club. Social hour begins at 6 p.m., and dinner starts at 6:30 p.m. For tickets, call the Chamber at 406-433-1916.

Adult hunting class

Orientation for the adult hunter education class is 6-7:30 p.m. Jan. 9 at the Eastern Ag Research Center, 1501 N. Central Ave. This class is for individuals 18 years of age or older. You can register online by going to fwp.mt.gov. You may also sign up at orientation. Workbooks will be handed out at this time. No late sign-ups will be accepted. There will be no online field day, all online students must attend the class. Classes will be Jan. 16 from 6-9 p.m. and Jan. 17 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

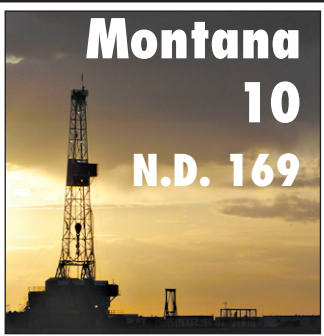
Lutefisk dinner

First Lutheran Church of Savage will hold its annual lutefisk and meatball dinner on Jan. 11. Serving will take place from 12:30-5 p.m. Prices for the meals are \$15 for adults and \$3 for children under the age of 12.

Cash at the MonDak

The Cold Hard Cash Show will take place at the MonDak Heritage Center Jan. 11, at 2 p.m. Join audience members as they welcome Montana's own Johnny Cash tribute band when the band performs at the MonDak Heritage Center. This event is free and open to the public.

Drilling rig count



Source: Rocky Mountain Oil Journal sponsored by



Deaths

Ronald "Ron" Ewing, 81
Carl Faber, 23
Blanche L. Keller, 94
William "Bill" Sullivan, 81

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Fair lady

Larson enjoys helping put together county's event of the year

BY MIKE FRANCINGUES
SIDNEY HERALD

Although the 2015 Richland County Fair is still many months away, planning for the event has been underway since before 2014's fair. Jaime Larson, fair manager, has been at the helm since 2006, guiding the fair in the right direction.

"When I started I was 26," said the now-34-year-old mother of one. "We have a convention where we meet with our agent and go to classes to learn about what other fairs are doing. That year, I had a fair board member that said, 'I think you're probably the youngest fair manager here and maybe that these people have ever seen.'"

The first few years there was some pressure, the Richland County native said, but she had help that made everything possible. Her first year, she came into the job about three weeks before the fair began.

"There were two administrative assistants that had been with (the previous manager) and they just kind of did it," she recalled. "There's also a five-person fair board and they knew the flow of things. For me, it was just kind of stepping in and watching what was going on. It was kind of a learning year."

Luckily, Larson's a quick learner. Planning for the following year usually begins shortly after the fair ends, especially booking the musical acts, she said. Saturday night is the big blowout of the fair weekend, she noted, selling out for the concert's about 3,000 tickets the past two years.

As long as it doesn't



Jaime Larson, fair manager, with headline act Joe Nichols in 2012.

storm, Larson said, everything runs pretty smoothly. Unfortunately, the 2013 concert had to be canceled because of a storm.

"When I checked the weather that morning it was supposed to be the best day ever," she recalled. "It wasn't until later in the afternoon that I was told there was a storm coming. The first act went on, but then it was storming and lightning,

and it was just awful. By far the worst experience I've had to deal with as a manager since 2006."

The act, Montgomery Gentry, was forced to cancel. Attempts to reschedule the show also fell through, but the band had a contract that had to be paid, "rain or shine." Some people were upset that there were no refunds, but more people were understanding, Larson said.

It's guaranteed to rain at least one day during the fair, she said. Hopefully it's during an event that isn't as rain averse, such as the rodeo.

"Even if it's raining, those cowboys and cowgirls are still going to go out there and do their thing," she said.

Each year is a learning experience, she noted. The

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Fatalities, letters among top stories of 2014

BY BILL VANDER WEELE
SIDNEY HERALD

Accident fatalities, two letters to the editor and county fair entertainment were among the top 10 stories on the Sidney Herald's website, based on page views, in 2014. Each of the top 10 stories recorded at least 5,000 page views and the top three each received more than 11,000 page views.

The top stories based on page views at www.sidneyherald.com for 2014 included:

1 "16-year-old girl dies in accident." In mid-April, two 16-year-old females from Sidney were involved in a one-vehicle rollover accident. Tragically, one of the students died from injuries suffered. The accident occurred at Cheney Creek Road, about 14 miles east of Sidney. The sad story received 18,416 page views.

2 "Small town mentality isn't the best in some situations." The letter to the editor, written by Jessie Redfield, included her incident with a man in Williston, N.D. while having car trouble. "He had unplugged my fuel injectors, which caused my car to not start and then plugged them back in. This was discovered when my boyfriend inspected my car to see if anything was wrong, as the lack of dirt made it evident that they had been touched when the rest of my engine hadn't. The what-ifs and could-haves are infinite. The situation that I put myself into sickens me. I was playing right into his hands. He is still out there. With no definitive description or information there

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Cattleman's ball features great food, music Feb. 21

BY BILL VANDER WEELE
SIDNEY HERALD

For the third straight year, area residents can enjoy a night of fine food and dancing at the "Rollin' the Red Carpet for Rockin' Your Hearts" Cattleman's ball. The fun is scheduled for Feb. 21 at the Richland County Fair Event Center.

"Since the ball ended last year, we were already planning the 2015 event," Marci Albin, one of the ball's organizers, said. "We booked our band last year, and we're very excited to have Chancey Williams and the Younger Brothers to play at the event."

The prime rib dinner will be catered by the Ranger Lounge. Tickets cost \$50 and can be purchased at the Lucky Buckle or the Foundation for Community Care starting Monday. Last year, the 400 tickets went very quickly.

"This is a semi-formal event that bring two industries together," Albin said. Organized by the MonDak Stockgrowers' Association, the event emphasizes the

importance of lean beef in a healthy diet and honors the Montana/North Dakota ranching community. All proceeds benefit cardiac care at Sidney Health Center and scholarships through the MonDak Stockgrowers' Association.

Last year's proceeds helped pay for a Lund University Cardiac Assist System device. The Richland County Ambulance Service is the first in the region to feature a LUCAS2. The battery-powered device performs CPR at the push of a button.

"It is nice to have an event that you can dress up for and support an amazing cause," Albin said. "Last year, we were able to raise over \$50,000. The food is wonderful, music is awesome and the whole event is amazing."

Albin said organizers are currently working on obtaining live auction items and sponsorships. If you wish to donate for the auction, contact the Foundation for Community Care, 406-488-2273, or Albin at 406-433-5825.



Chancey Williams and the Younger Brothers Band will perform at the ball Feb. 21.

Chancey Williams and the Younger Brothers Band has shared the stage with nationally known artists such as Miranda Lambert, Lady Antebellum, Eric Church, Craig Morgan, Rodney Atkins, Brantley Gilbert, Thompson Square, LeDoux,

Merle Haggard and Dwight Yoakam.

The band has released the albums "Honky Tonk Road," "Highway Junkie" and "Echo."

Recently, Chancey Williams and the Younger Brothers Band inked a six-

night run with Las Vegas Events to perform at the National Finals Rodeo. The band shared summer dates last year with Gary Allan, Trace Adkins, Alabama, Billy Currington, Craig Campbell and Dean Alexander.

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