



# Sidney Herald

SERVING RICHLAND COUNTY AND THE SURROUNDING AREA FOR OVER 100 YEARS

**WEDNESDAY**

AUG. 15, 2012  
104th year, No. 66  
Sidney, Montana  
www.sidneyherald.com  
75 CENTS

## Bulletin Board

### Blood drive

There is a blood drive from 1-6 p.m. Tuesday at St. Matthew's Parish Center in Sidney. To schedule your appointment, call 1-800-733-2767. Identification is required to donate blood.

Ask about how to enter a drawing for a \$100 movie theatre gift certificate.

### Farmer's market

Farmer's Market is Fridays from 7:45 a.m. until gone at the Richland Federal Credit Union at 201 W. Holly in Sidney.

### Substitute teachers

Sidney High School will have training for substitute teachers Thursday from 3-4 p.m. in the high school library computer lab.

Individuals not able to attend this training should contact the high school office at 433-2330.

### Gun show

The Lone Tree Gun Show is Friday from 5-8 p.m., Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Richland County Fair Event Center.

### 75th anniversary

Sidney Assembly of God 75th anniversary weekend celebration is Friday-Sunday with special services and events throughout the three days.

### Fall sports

Sidney High School fall sports preview is Aug. 24. Schedule includes scrimmages for volleyball at 6 p.m., football, 7:30 p.m.; volleyball clinic for grades 3-8, 7-7:30 p.m., football clinic for grades 3-8, 8:30-9 p.m. Golf, cross country and cheer/dance teams will be introduced.

### Happy birthday

The Sidney Herald wishes happy birthday to friends Becky Frison Heinle, Kendall Neff, Brenna Ferrell, Cindy Devine, Harrison Earl Lipsea, Cortney Hecker, Michelle Feldmann Jacobs, Codi Renea, Desiree Kling, Michael Anderson, Chisum Lewis, Erik Evanson, Janetta Godfrey, Colleen Cantrell-Crosby, Rachel Leininger, Rhonda Swisse, Elisa Watts, Tami Jo Sleeth, Rebecca Dahle Carroll, Della Pewonka, Heather Wirtz Suko, Jana Gray, Thomas Evenson, Brody Rooks, Georgine Tinker, Amy Fox, Alison Stordahl Kruse, Jana Gray, Kb Nordlund, Gregory Rauschendorfer, Amanda Stewart, Laura Corwin Thiel, Aaron Snyder, Kayla Fritz, Rachael Derry, Braydon Rasmussen, Leslie Johnson Micheletto, Rita Quiroz Jacobson, Ben Chestnut, Barbara Averett Myers, Tracy Kringen, Anthony Forsberg, Brianna Dodge.



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### Market day

Janet Martineau, left, checks out the fresh produce and gets some free zucchini muffins from Danielle Murray early Friday morning, the first day of the Farmers Market. The market at Richland Federal Credit Union, located at 201 W. Holly Street, begins at 7:45 a.m. each Friday.

## Building permits on track to beat last year

BY LOUISA BARBER  
SIDNEY HERALD

Although only a fraction of the activity Williston and Williams County, N.D., is experiencing, building permits for Sidney and Richland County are on track to beat last year's total.

Seventeen dwelling units have been permitted so far this year, 12 short of last year's total. A dwelling unit is anything that houses a family. Nine single units have been permitted this year. More activity is on the way.

Alton Hillesland, building inspector for the city of Sidney and rural Richland County, says this year is "much busier" than 2011. "This is my 18th year as building inspector, and this is by far the busiest year of all," he said. While 2011 was the year for single family housing, it appears 2012 is all about multi-family housing. Northview Subdivision on W. Holly Street has



Building inspector Alton Hillesland expects building permits to hit well above last year's total, at least 75. Construction is still going strong in Richland County.

construction activity, and there'll soon be a 58-unit complex north of the Richland County Law & Justice Center known as Pheasant Run Subdivision. Hillesland expects more than 75 dwelling units permitted by the end of the year.

A graph Hillesland created last year to track the activity over the last decade shows exactly what many people already knew. In 2001, just one building

permit was issued. A couple more were issued in 2003. Then 12 in 2005, 12 in 2007 and then the Great Recession hit. Seven building permits were issued in 2008 and four in 2009, but activity levels rose in 2010 with 10 permits and soared to 29 in 2011.

The value of homes is also growing this year at \$4.206 million, compared to last year at \$3.494 million and 2010 at \$3.165 million.

Of course, all of these numbers pale in comparison to what's going on in North Dakota where thousands of housing and hotel units are being permitted. Last year, Williston issued a whopping 2,131 permits for single family (310), apartment units (1,017 in 25 buildings), manufactured homes (113) and hotel units (691). These accounted for \$357.3 million.

In McKenzie County, N.D., commissioners changed the rules to control extreme building. In July, the county began requiring building permits for any construction project. Anyone not in compliance is subject to a 200 percent permit fee and stop work order until permit requirements are met. Richland County is moving in that direction.

Communities on the eastern edge are generally seeing housing activity. Glendive is "busier than

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## Carpenter retires after 29 years with Sidney police

BY LOUISA BARBER  
SIDNEY HERALD

After 29 long years working behind the scenes in the Sidney Police Department, Nancy Carpenter said goodbye Thursday, her last full day as police administrative secretary.

Carpenter was the one who kept the department running, keeping track of reports, knowing who should be doing what and keeping the police chief in line, which is no easy task. It was time, however, to leave behind a stress-filled career in favor of a quiet atmosphere in Enid Huotari's Edward Jones office. Over the last few years, police officers are busier. Activity is up more than 70 percent over last year. That's 70 percent more work for Carpenter who was nearing retirement.

"Working in law enforcement is possibly one of the most interesting careers a secretary could have," Carpenter said last week. "Each day is a new gift to be opened, not knowing what surprise it would hold." Her work largely comprised of typing reports and other paperwork,

often involving heart-wrenching situations, Carpenter said she leaned on the Serenity Prayer that once hung in the office she shared with Chief Frank DiFonzo before moving to the justice center.

The last 29 years Carpenter was privy to witness first-hand changes in how the department operates, starting with technology. "When I began, officers hand wrote their reports, and I typed all of them in addition to transcribing nearly every statement," she said. "So much of that has changed with computers, which is good as busy as things have gotten." She also didn't drink coffee before joining the department. She likes to drink it with doughnuts now.

A couple hundred birthday cakes she baked for co-workers through the years – the same done for her in return – highlight her tenure. And then there was sharing a teeny, tiny office with DiFonzo for 27 years, before getting her own space at the Richland County Law & Justice Center. After the move, she couldn't figure out how to decorate it until her husband, Rocky, came up with a police pedal car theme and bought her all the accessories needed to decorate



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**Nancy Carpenter, administrative secretary for 29 years, retires from the Sidney Police Department and starts a new career path.**

the shelves and walls.

Carpenter is one of the most loved in the police department, if not in the local law enforcement. DiFonzo is particularly fond of his good friend, the woman he's relied on for so many years. "She's a saint.

That's all I can say," he said, admitting that, yes, he did cry over the news of her departure. "I couldn't ask for a better person. I'm going to miss her."

Calling Carpenter an intricate part of the department, DiFonzo described her as dedicated, reliable, honest and trustworthy who helped the department grow; she "raised probably 100 kids" the chief said, referring to the scores of young officers who have served on the police force.

On Monday, Carpenter reported to her new office several blocks away from her old one where Huotari said she feels "very fortunate" to have Carpenter on board. Carpenter will return to the justice center every now and then until her replacement is trained.

Carpenter says she'll miss seeing her former co-workers, turned friends, every day, and, like anything, adjusting to a new role always has its kinks to work out. "Leaving my old routine behind and learning a new one will be challenging," she said, realizing that, for the first time in a long time, she'll be out of the loop. "Not knowing things like where the fire is when the alarm sounds will be unusual."

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## Deaths

William A. Burnison, 76  
John Albert Fink, 86  
Darvin Ruggles, 85

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