



WEDNESDAY

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75 CENTS

Sidney Herald

SERVING RICHLAND COUNTY AND THE SURROUNDING AREA FOR 105 YEARS



Bulletin Board

Harpist

World-class harpist Greg Buchanan will perform at the Sidney Middle School at 7 p.m. Wednesday (today). The event is sponsored by the Richland County Evangelical Ministerium. The concert is free of charge. There will be a free-will offering.

Car show

A car show is being planned during Fairview's Old Timers Festival from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. July 20. For more information, call Gene Trudell, 480-1202.

Happy birthdays

The Sidney Herald wishes happy birthday this week to friends Jessica Bieber, Chloe Reidle, Ken Callahan, Steph Vondal, Brett Norby, Bryan Prevost, MaKenzie Johnson, Laura Neu, Michelle Barbula, Sara DiFonzo, Erin Gustafson, Larry R. Miller, Shelley Hickman, Ronda Welnel, Vicki Vaira, Ray Hansen, Thale Ludwick, David Taylor, Connie Hulme, Mark Weeks, Kayleen Peters, Joan Horton, Hailee Tighe, Dewey Moede, Joyce Hall-Dey, Jessica Buxbaum, Leanna Marsh, Lauren Chase, Rhonda Folstad, Sandy Reiter, Don Steinbeisser Jr., Camille Schwindt, Sherry Huse, Gregg Hunter, Jenna Lechner, Kelly Holter, Lexi Cayko, Michelle Gibbs, Jennifer DiFonzo, Stacie Hines, Glenn Richardson, Barb Highsmith, Jennifer Girard, Jessica Richardson, Alice Keller, Taylor Searer, Danielle Knutson, JoEllen Bartels and Kelly Berndt.

Trap shooting

Sidney Trap Club will have open shooting Tuesdays starting at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$5 per round of 25. Call Leann at 480-5594 for more information.

New students

Students new to Sidney Public Schools for the 2013-2014 school year are asked to register as soon as possible at Central School, 200 Third Ave. S.E., between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Injury prevention

Richland County Injury Prevention Team and DUI Task Force will hold its quarterly meeting at 6:30 p.m. July 10 at the Community Services Building – upstairs conference rooms. Come view the year end reports, this year's work plan and compiled statistics.

Deaths

Robert "Bob" Baumeister, 82
Rep. David Halvorson, 64
Craig John Messer, 49
Earl Reidle, 77

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SARAH BLOOM | SIDNEY HERALD

Wet ride

Scout Hurley, left, and Isabella Miller go down the slip and slide at Judd Burman's residence in Fairview Saturday night.

Flying to Sidney

EAS airports wait for new bids after Silver Airways' decision

BY BILL VANDER WEELE
SIDNEY HERALD

After Silver Airways announced it will not bid for the new Essential Air Service contract to serve Sidney and four Montana cities, officials are waiting to see what airlines step up to bid.

The bid deadline was extended to July 15 by the Department of Transportation. The Essential Air Service task force will meet two days later to make its recommendation to the Department of Transportation.

"There's several (carriers) talking about it," Walt McNutt, Sidney's representative on the task force, said. "I pretty much know for sure there will be a couple."

The elimination of the Miles City and Lewistown routes results in approximately \$2.5 million less for the EAS carrier. The remaining cities are Glasgow, Wolf Point, Sidney, Havre and Glendive.

One possible downfall is that at least one of the carriers expected to bid will use only nine-seat passenger planes. Currently, Silver Airways Inc. is serving the communities with 19-passenger planes. McNutt is confident officials will also contact different carriers in hopes of increasing their interest.

Great Lakes Airlines, which flew the routes until losing the bid to Silver Airways two years ago, is anticipated to make a bid again for the routes.

If Great Lakes plans to have the hub changed to Denver, Colo., instead



BILL VANDER WEELE | SIDNEY HERALD

The airport in Sidney remains the busiest Essential Air Service location in Montana.

of Billings, McNutt feels that would decrease ridership from the Sidney-Richland airport.

"A bulk of our people that travel for medical reasons or other reasons like Billings," McNutt said. "I think it would cause boardings to go down."

He thinks the majority of the other EAS locations – especially Wolf Point and Glasgow – also want Billings to remain the hub.

Bill Henderson, airport manager in Sidney, hopes that if Great Lakes takes over that it would have two hubs – Denver and then Billings as a sub-hub.

Henderson said there were schedul-

ing problems when Great Lakes was the carrier a few years ago, but he's hopeful that can be improved.

Flights going to and coming from Sidney are recording more than 10,000 boardings annually. Ridership is between 800 to 900 per month. Sidney is by far the busiest EAS airport in Montana.

Both Henderson and McNutt are confident carriers will provide quality bids for the flights.

"We're going to get something here," McNutt said.

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Less paperwork planned for student athletes

BY BILL VANDER WEELE
SIDNEY HERALD

Sidney school district's activities director Ross Hall says that since he came to the area a little less than a year ago, he found about 99 percent of the process in Sidney to be positive.

One of the things that Hall wants to change, however, is the paperwork regarding Sidney's student athletes.

Sidney High School will hold a pilot program during the first semester where students going on school trips will no longer need to have teachers sign "make-up slips."

'We have to fix it.'

Dexter Thiel
School board trustee

"This is a royal pain in so many directions," Hall told trustees during Thursday's school board meeting.

For many years, students needed every one of their teachers to sign the slip prior to going on a school trip. Now, instead, teachers will be sent notice three days prior to the trip and would need to give students the needed assignments to

be completed.

"If they (students) don't turn it in, they can't go," Hall said of assignments.

Hall predicted students and school secretaries would very much like the change, but teachers won't like the idea at first.

"I think it will be a simpler system," Hall said.

Trustee Dexter Thiel agreed there are faults to the current system.

"We have to fix it," Thiel said.

Thiel noted there needs to be other changes at the high school, including teachers having grades handy for parents to see and being

available for make-up tests.

Another change will be that parents and guardians will no longer need to sign a release form at the Sidney High School office in order to transport their child after an away game.

Instead, parents and guardians can get the release from the coach at the game site and then sign the paper there.

Adults, however, must still talk with school officials beforehand when special circumstances occur where someone other than the parent/guardian will be taking the student back from the game.

Representative passes away from cancer

BY BILL VANDER WEELE
SIDNEY HERALD

Rep. David Halvorson, R-Sidney, passed away Monday morning after a brief battle with cancer. He was 64 years old.

After winning election in 2012 to the Montana House, Halvorson was diagnosed with cancer during his first legislative session in Helena during 2013.

The Sidney native was well-known in the area as a radio newscaster and on-air personality, beginning first with KGCH-AM followed by KGCH-FM.

Following his work in broadcasting, he served in Helena as a staff member of the Montana State House of Representatives and the Montana State Senate, working in a number of capacities under leadership of both the Republican and Democratic parties. In that venue, he reported directly to the Speaker of the House and the president of the Senate. Halvorson also was employed in Helena as the executive director of the Montana Right to Life Association.

According to the Montana Secretary of State office, there is a process in place to select the person to complete Halvorson's term. First, the Republican central committees of Richland County and Dawson County must provide a list of three nominees to county commissioners. They have 45 days to submit nominees.

Commissioners in Richland and Dawson counties will then select the next legislator. The vote by commissioners would be weighted by how many votes Halvorson received in each county during last year's election. Because the district is mainly in Richland County, the Richland County commissioners' votes will count more than the ones from Dawson County. Commissioners have 15 days to select a legislator after receiving the nominees.

If they can't decide from the nominees, the central committees must submit three new nominees.



Halvorson

Body of man recovered

BY DAVID RUPKALVIS
WILLISTON HERALD

A body believed to be that of a man presumed drowned was recovered Saturday night in the Missouri River southeast of New Town, N.D.

Montrail County Sheriff Ken Halvorson said Monday that his office had been contacted by a citizen who saw a body floating in the river. The body was located in the same area where a 49-year-old Sidney man, Craig Messer, had been reported missing on June 22.

After a report, the North Dakota Game and Fish

SEE BODY, PAGE 9A

Sidney Herald Presents: **DUCT TAPE FASHION SHOW**
Sponsored by **STAND**
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: July 8th, 2013. For more information please contact Melissa Dean at 406-433-4097