



Special points of interest:

- **May 1**
Paddfishing at the Confluence
- **May 2**
Lion's Scholarship Breakfast
- **May 5**
Leadership Graduation Luncheon
- **May 6**
Family Science Night
MonDak Heritage Center
- **May 9**
Mother's Day
- **May 11**
Candidates Forum
- **May 12**
2C District Track Meet
- **May 13**
B.A.H. - The Lodge
at Lone Tree Creek
- **May 13**
Vigilante Theatre
- **May 15**
Ft Buford Flag Raisin' & Foot Stompin'
- **May 15 - 16**
Youth Rodeo
- **May 19**
ProBuild Customer Appreciation
- **May 22**
Eastern A Divisional Track Meet
- **May 22**
Middle School Play
- **May 23**
Sidney High School Graduation
- **May 26**
MidRivers Annual Meeting
- **May 31**
Memorial Day

Candidates Forum Scheduled

To help everyone become familiar with the people running for office in Richland County, the Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, and Richland County Farm Bureau are co-hosting a Candidates Forum on May 11th. It will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Sidney Moose Lodge.

Every candidate running for office in Richland County, including those of House District #36, has been invited to participate. Richland County is part of Public Service Commission District #1, and all candidates for this office have been invited as well, with some already confirming attendance.

Each aspirant will have five minutes to tell about themselves and why they are running for office. Citizens will be asked to submit written questions during this time frame. Those questions will then be asked to the intended candidates for answering. Each candidate will have three minutes to respond.



ABC Clinic Scheduled in June

Sidney will again host the Assistance for Business Clinic on June 16th, at the Elk's Lodge. The clinic was designed to assist both **new** and **established** employers, accountants, bookkeepers and lawyers in constructing a proactive approach to prevent unnecessary claims and/or charges by providing updated reporting of state withholding, Unemployment Tax requirements, minimum wage laws, overtime laws, civil rights laws, identity theft and federal tax incentives.

Presentations will be made by the Department of Labor & Industry and the Department of Revenue covering topics that include Human Rights, Unemployment Insurance Tax, Withholding Tax, Child Support Enforcement and more.

Registration will be at 7:30 am until 8:00 am. Opening remarks are from 8:00 - 8:10 with the presentations running from 8:10 until 4:30 pm.

Call the Chamber at 433-1916 to register. Fees for the clinic are \$30.00 for Chamber members and \$40.00 for non-members. Lunch is included in the registration fee.

Sidney Chamber 2010 Board of Directors

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Past President: | Lisa Aisenbrey | Sidney Health Center |
| President: | Marci Albin | The Lucky Buckle |
| 1st V.P. | David Seitz | Seitz Insurance |
| 2nd V.P. | Jodie Leland | Wells Fargo Bank |
| Treasurer: | Lorilee Norby | Mitchell's Oilfield Service |

| | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Rowdy Cvancara | 1st Bank | Greg Miller | Millers' Corner |
| Idelle Badt | R.S.V.P. | Nick Lonski | Edward Jones Investments |
| Ben Larson | Safflower Technologies | Kathy Nicholson | Candy Bouquet |
| David Garland | Sidney Sugars | Jay Frank | Sidney Country Club |
| Staff: | Wade J. VanEvery, Executive Director | LaVanchie Starkey, | Administrative Assistant |

Sidney to Host Track Meets

The Sports and Recreation Committee is at it again. Sidney will host two track meets in May. District 2C schools will compete on May 12th and the Eastern A Divisional meet will be held on May 22nd. Both events will be at the Sidney High School track.

The committee will have a concessions stand and will be taking tickets at the meets as another fundraisers to cover the expenses of the District 2C basketball tournaments.

Volunteers are needed to help with the concessions or take tickets at both events. Please call the chamber at 433-1916 if you are available and willing to help.



Trade Promotion had interesting presentations from our local television stations on April 14th. Summaries of the proposals, which are for low cost

ads, are available for review from the Chamber. This program also benefits the Chamber by providing ads for use with our events. The Committee will make a decision on May 11 on which station to work with for the coming year.

Thank You to Our Renewing Members In April

Thank you for continuing to support the Sidney area. We look forward to putting your dollars to work supporting the business and agricultural community throughout the year!

American Cancer Society
Friends of Ft Union
JB Sprinklers
Paws Point Pet Grooming
Sunny's Family Restaurant
Sunrise Floral
Tami Maltese, CPA

Leadership Graduation

All members are invited to the Sidney Leadership Class Graduation coming up on May 5, at the Sidney Moose Lodge during the noon hour. Tickets are \$10 and will include an address from Dr. Jim Cargill of Dawson Community College, with the theme "How DCC Leadership Can Have a Role in Sidney's Future".

Thirteen class members have completed the requirements this spring and are anxious to be part of the community.

Chamber Membership Continues To Grow

The Chamber welcomed Trista Mueller Graphic Design into membership in April. Trista and her family have converted the "Peterson House" into an office building at 224 6th St. S.W. She previously worked out of her home for the past year. Trista Mueller Graphic Design works with most any graphic design application including company logos, business cards, invitations, and specialty work. Trista is open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Mon. - Fri., or by appointment and can be contacted at 433-3376 or trmueller@middrivers.com.



Insure Montana Tax Credits Available

Created in 2005, Insure Montana is a State funded insurance program housed at the State Auditor's Office which assists businesses with 2-9 employees to attain and pay for health insurance in two ways: 1) the purchasing pool/assistance program and 2) the tax credit program.



Insure Montana (IMT) has three health insurance plans but offers over 20 additional plan option choices through the Qualified Association Health Plan or QAP program. Nine different associations are approved by IMT and Montana Chamber Choices is one of the nine. Employers in the IMT program may choose any of the 11 Montana Chamber Choices plans and receive premium assistance.

IMT insures 693 businesses in the purchasing pool, provides assistance to an additional 116 businesses that choose insurance through one of nine qualified association plans such as Montana Chamber Choices and provides a tax credit to 778 businesses that provide health insurance.

Apply now for tax credits

Any employers with 2-9 employees that provide health insurance, like Montana Chamber Choices may be eligible for a tax credit through the IMT tax credit program. The website states that the tax credit is \$100/month for employees and spouses and \$40/month for dependents. Check additional details and see if your business is eligible for tax credits at www.insuremontana.org.

Sidney Rental B.A.H.



Sidney Rental hosted the April Business After Hours at their new facility on the 15th. Tours were given to their spacious shop and storage area, and the office area served as a great socializing room for this occasion. The big lot was also full of equipment that is available to be rented. Featured was the electronic display sign that is a portable and effective way to highlight any type of event. The Kringen Family, Dennis Lorenz, and staff provided everyone with great hospitality.

Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture
909 South Central Avenue
Sidney, MT 59270

(406) 433-1916 phone
(406) 433-1127 fax
schamber@midrivers.com e-mail



PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Sidney MT 59270
Permit No. 300

Corporate Members:
1st Bank
Hi-Line Trucking
Lower Yellowstone REA
Mitchell's Oil Field Service
Richland Federal Credit Union
Seltz Insurance
Sidney Sugars
Stockman Bank
Wells Fargo Bank



The Advantage is published monthly by the Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. Periodical postage paid in Sidney, Montana 59270, bulk permit #300.

We're on the web!
www.sidneymt.co

Celebrate The Lodge's 10th Anniversary!

Greetings Chamber Members,

We, the staff and residents of The Lodge, are proud to announce that The Lodge will be hosting the May 2010 Sidney Chamber Business After Hours.

Don't miss it! We'll see you Thursday, May 13th from 4:30 – 6 p.m. The Lodge is located at 1015 7th Ave. SW. Go to Lincoln Ave., turn west on 9th Street and south onto 7th Avenue.

- Tour The Lodge facility, including the apartments, dining and activity areas, and our new patio
- See first hand the comfort and security The Lodge provides its residents
- **Visit with the residents: the residents will enjoy meeting today's business and community leaders**
- Register to win free meal tickets to our June 6th Lodge Celebration
- View listings of the services available to Lodge residents

Learn about how Sidney's seniors can benefit from Sidney Health Center's continuum of care.

Have fun, network, socialize, and learn at The Lodge Business After Hours!

Sincerely,

Kathy Jensen, Director, and The Lodge Staff



Come Home to The Lodge!