



Special points of interest:

- **May 1**
Lions Scholarship Breakfast VFW
- **May 3**
Special Olympics Torch Run
- **May 4**
Leadership Graduation
- **May 7**
Paddlefishing at the Confluence
- **May 8**
Mothers Day
- **May 9**
Lions Track Meet
- **May 10**
Sidney Country Club Open House
- **May 11**
District 2C Track Meet
- **May 14 - 15**
Youth Rodeo
- **May 17**
B.A.H. An English Touch
- **May 18**
Lions Playground Fundraiser Veterans Memorial Park
- **May 21**
Dallas Holm Concert Assembly of God Church
- **May 27**
Last day of School
- **May 30**
Memorial Day Chamber Closed

Town & Country Rapidly Approaching!

As each Town & Country meeting ends the excitement builds for the celebration of the Sidney Centennial on June 25th. Last month the "Give-Away of the Century" was outlined. The Trade Promotion Committee also plans on promoting side-walk sales on this day. They will be advertised to start at 9:00 a.m. on this morning. We look forward to a full town on this day.



It is also time to start considering a float for the parade which will go down Central Ave. at 9:30. It would be significant to have 100 year businesses, families, ranches, or any other way to connect to a century ago.

Please take a look at the new street banners which our City ordered for this milestone .

"SIDNEY'S GOT IT" PROPOSALS



Presentations were given by KUMV and KXMD on April 13 to the Trade Promotion Committee at the Chamber.

The bid proposal that the Chamber has used the past two years from KXMD was very similar to what it has done in the past. Participants would be able to purchase 21 shared 30 second spots per month or 21 spots for their own ad. The Chamber would receive free commercials, a link from their website, and 20 commercials/month about Sidney.

KUMV had a new approach to consider. Their marketing people want a "higher frequency in fewer places" program for the Chamber. They would ask each member to contribute \$75 for Chamber event promotion, with 75% used on KUMV-TV advertising, and the rest used towards other media. KUMV would then market 4 major Chamber events around their best programming. They believe that events can be much bigger and create more activity for all of the members.

The next trade promotion meeting will be on May 10th at the Chamber. The meeting will start at 7:30 a.m. Members are encouraged to attend and look into both of these programs. They are unique and the initial feeling is that they could be mutually beneficial.

Sidney Chamber 2011 Board of Directors

President:	David Seitz	Seitz Insurance	
1st V.P.	Cami Skinner	Wells Fargo Bank	
2nd V.P.			
Treasurer:	Lorilee Norby	Mitchell's Oilfield Service	
Past President:	Marci Albin	The Lucky Buckle	
Rowdy Cvancara	1st Bank	Greg Miller	Millers' Corner
Idelle Badt	R.S.V.P.	Nick Lonski	Edward Jones Investments
Kathy Nicholson	Private Member	Jay Frank	Sidney Country Club
David Garland	Sidney Sugars	Lisa Aisenbrey	Sidney Health center
Staff:	Wade J. VanEvery, Executive Director		LaVanchie Starkey, Administrative Assistant

Chamber Takes on New Venture



Last fall the Sidney Chamber hosted the Montana TAC meeting at the Richland County Fair Event Center and looks forward to promoting more meetings for this great facility and the community. It was discovered that most meetings desire or require linens on their meeting tables. These were not available in our community last fall and it took considerable work to find them. So the Chamber is obtaining table linens and skirts to have available to rent. We already have them reserved for weddings coming up. Marissa Schoepp has been in the hospitality business, and consulted for the Chamber on starting this project. Contact the Chamber for more information.

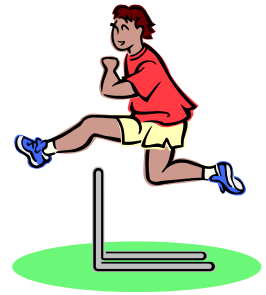
Welcome to Chamber Membership!

The Chamber welcomes Eagle Oilfield Services to membership. Owners are Ron Hammer, Dave Moore, and Josh Moore. Their company is rapidly growing to meet the needs of the oilfield industry. The services they provide are extensive and include stacking pipe on racks, casing inspection, and solids control/roustabouting. All three were excited about their super vac truck for cleaning up tank bottoms, and a new water cleaning machine. Eagle Oilfield Services can be reached at (406)488-1946 or by email: eagle_oilfield@hotmail.com.



Sidney Hosts 2C Track Meet

A chance to be outside on a beautiful day and network with other members & visitors is coming up with the District 2C Track Meet. The Chamber participates by selling admission tickets and providing concessions. Both junior high and high school athletes compete. It is a full day with a good amount of people on hand. Come and be part of a highly visible activity.



Central Avenue Update

The construction on Central Avenue began on April 18th and is being done by CMG construction from Billings, MT. The Chamber will help with communications with its' members on how the project is coming. Your Chamber will benefit by having a new approach built off of Central, and having sidewalk along the street for pedestrians to enjoy.

Montana Chamber Choices - Got Insurance?

Have you considered offering health insurance to employees? If so, you are like 88% of other small business owners who considered offering health insurance to employees in the past 3 years.



Health insurance improves employee productivity and quality employee retention. Additionally, small businesses with 25 full-time employees or less may now be eligible for a federal tax credit for offering health insurance.

So what are you waiting for? As a benefit of membership in the Chamber, you have access to the Montana Chamber Choices Health Insurance Program.

Montana Chamber Choices is a business friendly insurance solution for sole proprietors and companies with 2-99 employees.

What does Montana Chamber Choices offer?

- 11 different plan options for a variety of price and coverage choices including 4 health savings account (HSA) eligible plans
- 5,000 automatic base life insurance for all employees
- Super affordable voluntary life insurance option for employees
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP)
- Online Advanced Directive and Will Preparation Services
- 30 minute free legal consultation per issue

Additional built in preventive health care includes:

- \$100 annual preventative dental exam
- Annual VSP WellVision Exam
- Healthy Wonders Maternity Management Program
- 100% coverage on preventative screens such as mammograms, colonoscopies, well child exams and more.

How can Montana Chamber Choices help you?

- **This program offers many comprehensive benefits that provide security for families by offering many added member benefits like:**
 - \$5,000 Life Insurance
 - \$5,000 Accidental Death & Dismemberment
 - Optional Voluntary life insurance
 - Identity Theft Protection Resources

Contact your local health insurance agent and fellow Chamber member for a quote and visit chamberchoices.com for more information.

Chamber Helps Celebrate Ribbon Cuttings



The Chamber congratulates Mike Ames and Lee Candee at Agri-Industries on their new showroom and sales floor addition. The Sunrise Ambassadors were invited to help with a ribbon cutting for this new facility on March 15. They also served a barbeque lunch and provided the opportunity to win a door prize.

The Chamber's 2010 Horizon Award recipient, Reese & Ray's IGA, kicked off their grand opening with a ribbon cutting on March 30. It was a proud day for these owners as they have completed a major remodeling of their food store.

Thank you to both of these members for including the Sunrise Ambassadors in your celebrations.



Ag Committee Busy with Summer Plans



American Ag Week was celebrated by the Ag Committee with a couple different activities. Third and fourth graders from Sidney, Rau, and Brorson were invited to participate in an ag-related picture coloring contest. Placing 1st and 2nd in the third grade was Riley Thiessen and Rae Hintz. Fourth graders were led by Abbey Reitz and Lilli Seitz. All pictures received were then displayed at Reynolds Market and Reese & Ray's IGA.

The Ag Committee met during Ag Week and had a pancake and sausage lunch while discussing business.

Coming up this summer for this committee is the Ag Appreciation Golf Tournament on July 11, and the Harvest Fest Tractor Pull on August 27. Co-Chairs of the tournament this year are Rowdy Cvancara of 1st Bank, and Marci Albin of The Lucky Buckle.



A letter from one of our members...

To: Members of the Sidney Chamber of Commerce

Of all the members of the Sidney community, business owners are some of the most deeply affected by our current housing crisis. You may have found that your business cannot recruit new employees, or that you are losing current staff because rental rates are not affordable. If you have a parking lot, it has probably played host to the homeless. Every day, more campers, trailers, and semis are parked in the Sidney city limits, taking up space that you may need for your customers and staff.

Sidney has a Housing Committee, a group of volunteers that are working to educate the City of Sidney and Richland County about how serious this housing crisis really is. We are helping the governing bodies complete the documents that developers MUST have before they can begin projects in our area, like **land use and zoning maps**. **Two of your colleagues, Greg Miller and Fred Lake, owners of Miller's Corner and the M&M Café, are members on our committee.** They've shared with us the impact of the housing crisis on business owners.

We want to help business owners and the Chamber tell their story, and impress upon our leaders how important it is to act now to encourage the development of workforce housing. The Housing Committee has potential solutions, but we need the community to show their support and encourage local government to investigate answers and develop a real plan.

Help us tell your story. Send pictures of crowded parking lots, and the people living in their cars, campers and trucks on or near your property. Tell us what it has been like to find help in the current environment. Have you lost employees due to housing issues? Communities In Action, the community development project that brings VISTAs to Eastern Montana and supports the County-Wide Conference will help Chamber members compile a booklet sharing their experiences that can be used to demonstrate the need for immediate action.

If you have a story or photos to share, please send them to Becky Hayes at the Richland County Health Department. You can reach her via e-mail at rhayes@richland.org or at 433-2207. If you have any questions, you can also feel free to contact Greg Miller at Miller's Corner 433-4010.

Thank you for your support!

Information Opportunity for Employers.

Quist Consulting, an Advocate for Disability Employment invites members to a lunch and presentation on Diversity in the Workplace.

Curt Quist presents information "to make business and their owners more aware of the advantages of hiring People with Disabilities".

This free lunch and hour-long presentation will be on May 11 at the M & M Cafe meeting room starting at noon. Please call the Chamber at 433-1916 to RSVP.



Raffle Tickets On Sale

Board members have conceived a package of commemorative items for a raffle, that include a 1894 Winchester replica rifle and pistol set, a hand made pair of spurs and straps, and a Centennial Quilt. Close ups of the pistol are shown below.

Drawings will be held on June 25th during the Town & Country Festival. Tickets are \$10 or 3/\$25. Stop by the Chamber and pick up your tickets!



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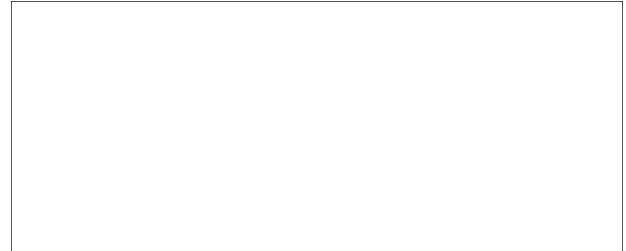
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The Advantage is published monthly by the Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. Periodical postage paid in Sidney, Montana 59270, bulk permit #300.

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

More Members Renew in April Recreation Program Open House



C.H.M.S.; P.C.
Elk River Printing, Inc
Jim's Catering
KUMV-TV
Dr Paul Martineau
Party Central
Paws Point Pet Grooming & Boarding
Ribbon & Rail
Sunny's Family Restaurant
The Roundup
The Rush Espresso
Thorgerson Oil

Everyone is invited to an open house at the Sidney Country Club on May 10 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to meet the new Recreation Director Justin Neuvman and hear about the programs that are being planned and implemented. Food and beverages will be hosted by the Sidney Country Club, and Justin will provide a program at 5:30. He has become a familiar face in our community and desires to get to know more people.

The Chamber is constantly asked by visitors what can they do in Sidney? We look forward to having more resources for this question.

The Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture invites you to

A n E n g l i s h T o u c h D a y S p a B u s i n e s s A f t e r H o u r s

May 17th, 4:30 - 6:00 pm
205 N Central Avenue

Come enjoy refreshments as you take in their line of services & products featuring:

- *Control Corrective Skin Care Products*
- *Alchimie Forever of Switzerland*
- *Jane Iredale Mineral Make-up*
- *Semi-permanent make up services*