



Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture Advantage

Volume 21 Issue 2

Sidney, Montana

February 2011

Special points of interest:

- January 31
Chamber Annual Banquet
- February 1
Customer Service Seminar
- February 2
Leadership Skills Development #3
- February 5
Celebrating Chocolate
- February 5
Elementary & Middle Schools Music Festival
- February 11 - 13
Bantam Hockey Tournament
- February 14 - 19
Combined Boys & Girls 2C District Basketball Tournament
- February 16
Leadership Issue Day #5
- February 20
Concert at the Confluence
- February 22
B.A.H. Rau Designs
- February 22
Middle School Concert
- February 25
No School



2C Combined Tournaments are Here!

Thanks to the hard work of the Sports & Rec Committee over the past 3 years, the District 2C has brought the combined boys and girls basketball tournament to Sidney. This will be 6 continuous days of basketball action at SHS on Feb. 14th -19th. The Chamber is working closely with Tournament Director Mike Gear to provide a pleasing experience for everyone coming. New this year will be a 2C memorabilia room being organized by Fred Lake. The Chamber wants to make sure that the schools want to come to Sidney every year.

Chamber members are encouraged to sign-up to help with this event. It is a great networking opportunity and we will be reminding fans during introductions who is helping at the time. Several different organizations have already stepped up to help with hospitality as well.

Following two weeks later is the Eastern C Boys Divisional Tournament on March 3-5. Sidney has an opportunity to host a divisional tourney every two years. Chamber members will start seeing a help list for this tournament soon also. This will bring schools and fans into town from as far away as Dotson to the West.

We have a total of nine days of tournament visitors coming to Sidney in the next month! Call the Chamber to help and be part to the festivities.

2010 Chamber Banquet

The Chamber held its annual banquet on January 31 with 171 people in attendance. Jim's Catering and the Sidney Elks Lodge were great hosts. Nick Lonski was the MC and kept the whole program running smoothly. Reports by Marci Albin, David Seitz, and Wade VanEvery were heard, plus the keynote address by Laurie Brown titled "Stop Satisfying Your Customers". Terrific tables were provided by The Lucky Buckle, Sidney Sugars, MonDak Heritage Center, Richland County Health Department, Quilts n' More, Johnson Hardware and Furniture, Wells Fargo Bank, and Sonda's Solutions.

The Agriculture Award, sponsored by the Ag Roundup and represented by Jody Wells, is presented each year to an individual or business that has made an impact on Agriculture either through its promotion or



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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 | |

2011 Chamber Board of Officers



Pictured front row, left to right: LaVanchie Starkey, Cami Skinner, David Seitz, Lisa Aisenbrey, Marci Albin and Lorilee Norby. Back Row: Nick Lonski, David Garland, Wade VanEvery, Idelle Badt. Not pictured are: Kathy Nicholson, Rowdy Cvancara, Greg Miller and Jay Frank

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development of farming and ranching. This award is chosen by the Chamber Agriculture Committee. Past winners have been responsible for decisions and programs that have moved our area forward to a leadership position in national agriculture, and this year's recipient is no exception.

This year we honored a diversified and progressive farm and ranch family. They are widely known for their expanding range of crops they produce, which includes the usual sugar beets, wheat, barley, corn silage, and hay, and now comprises new ventures such as lentils, potatoes, and soybeans. A cow-calf unit is integrated with a backgrounding lot and also cattle finishing when feasible.

The Chamber is devoted to demonstrating leadership in the community, and the Ag Committee recognizes this family for its unselfish role as Ag Leaders. It is part of their heritage that they take very seriously, and consider necessary for their own growth. The list of associations and committees that are represented and led by this group include: National Cattleman's Beef Association, MT Beef Council, MonDak Beet Growers Association, MT & Richland County Farm Bureau, Northern Plains Potato Growers, U.S. Potato Promotion Board, Foundation for Community Care, Sidney FFA Alumni Association, and MT FFA Foundation.

The Chamber commends V S Inc., which stands for 5 Steinbeissers, Jim, Don Jr., Craig, Russell, and Joey Steinbeisser, for their dedication to the betterment and sustainability of agriculture production from the local level to the national level.

DTF Educational Consulting, represented by owner Dr. Dan Farr, is the sponsor of the Educator of the Year award. This award is selected by a joint School and Chamber committee from the nominees submitted by the principals of each school. The selection criterion includes not only the nominee's ability as an educator, but also their written responses to a questionnaire, their involvement in extra-curricular activities, and the community.

This teacher has taught in the Sidney Public School system for over 30 years and was nominated by the Sidney Middle School Principal Kelly Johnson. She is recognized for her work as the leader of the Montana Behavioral Institute (MBI) team at the Sidney Middle School. The past two summers have been devoted to hours of MBI training. She has developed materials that benefit every student and staff member, and produced excellent videos that teach our students components of behavioral expectations that are appropriate and meaningful for children of the middle school age. This teacher had to make changes and adapt new beliefs when leading this project.

She is considered a distinguished, master teacher in her classroom, and designed and implemented a comprehensive course of study for her subject area. When asked what her major goals are as an educator she states, "To teach students new skills, develop character, honesty, integrity, trust, teamwork, sportsmanship, and provide students a foundation for lifetime physical fitness."

We also know her as the past Head Coach of the Lady Eagles Basketball team. Several of her players she mentored went on to become successful college level players, while several of her assistant coaches met with coaching success when their careers eventually led them to other towns. She's now the Assistant Coach of the Sidney Eagle Golf team.

Congratulations to Deb Prevost as the Educator of the Year.

The Entrepreneur Award, sponsored by the Richland Federal Credit Union, and repre-



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sented by Kevin Mayer was presented to Sonda Shandy, owner of Sonda's Solutions.

This award is one of the two chosen by the members, and recognizes someone who has been successful in their new venture, and who has gone beyond the ordinary to capture the public's attention.

Sonda started business in 2007 in an 8 X 10 office in the Kringen building way out on South Lincoln. The Chamber would get calls asking how to find this place! One of the ballots received states "this is a new business that is filling a niche in the community". And it indeed has, for in May of 2009 she moved into her current building and now fills up a 60 X 60 area with 2 embroidery machines for custom embroidery, carries 3 lines of flame resistant clothing, and 2 lines of regular clothing. An owner of an oil field company offered to supply her with an embroidery machine, but she says it has worked well getting it on her own. We also appreciate the support Sonda has given the Chamber since becoming a member of our community.



The Sunrise Spirit award, sponsored by the Sidney Herald and presented by Libby Berndt, is meant to honor an individual or group that has volunteered their services to the community. RSVP of Richland & McCone County, is a Senior Corps Program funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service, and is sponsored locally by the Richland County Health Department. Standing for Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, its mission is to engage citizens aged 55 and older in meaningful service to meet local and community needs in Richland & McCone County. RSVP volunteers use their skills to serve over 50 different non-profit organizations saving them over \$300,000 annually.

RSVP helps the Chamber out many times a year by helping put the newsletter out, doing mailings, and helping with events and tournaments. Accepting the award on behalf of the RSVP were Idelle Badt and Rita Jacobson along with RSVP volunteers Mary Bieber and Stan Lindbloom.

The Partners in Progress award sponsored by Seitz Insurance and presented by John Seitz, is not an award that we honor every year, but the award itself has been around since 1993. It is saved for special recognition, for people who have given just a little more of themselves.

This year's recipients, Doug and Lori Obergfell, are a couple that work continuously for the Chamber. Involvement has included the Best of the West Beef



Showcase, Ag Appreciation Golf Tournament, and being a director and president of the Chamber. When he took on the Chairman's position for the Chamber last summer for the Beer Concessions at the Fair, Doug made a commitment that would be hard to beat as a volunteer. He did an excellent job handling the guidelines the Chamber needed to follow. The volunteer volume for this was great, and he and Lori made sure their family signed up for their fare share of the work. It was appreciated greatly that Lori did all the laundry each day.

They took a great deal of their personal time for this mission, for besides jobs at MDU and Central Hair'Em, they also operate a family ranch south of Sidney.

The Horizon Award, sponsored by the Sidney Health Center and presented by Rick Haraldson, is given to a business that has been in existence for more than five years, but keeps on breaking new ground and moving forward. This is the second of the membership nominated awards, and one that has so many that deserve to be honored.

This year's recipient, Reese and Ray's IGA, could be considered new, since the current owners, Reese LeaVesseur, and Ray O'Loughlen, took over in 2006, however the business was built and has been serving customers since the early 60's. It has seen several name changes over the years. In the last year we have seen a transformation happen to this establishment that was indicated extensively on the ballots. One ballot read "new store remodeling shows community investment", and another ballot wrote how it "Helps Sidney to be the place to shop". The owners indicate that the more they got into the building, the more they found to replace, and they didn't know when they would be able to stop. Chamber members obviously like and appreciate the work that has taken place with this business.



Rau's
DeSigns
Business After Hours

205 2nd Ave NE

February 22nd 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Help the Rau's Celebrate Their 10th
Anniversary & Continued Growth!

- Printer Demonstrations
- Tour the New Facility
- Enjoy Fondue, Beer & Wine
- Business Favors

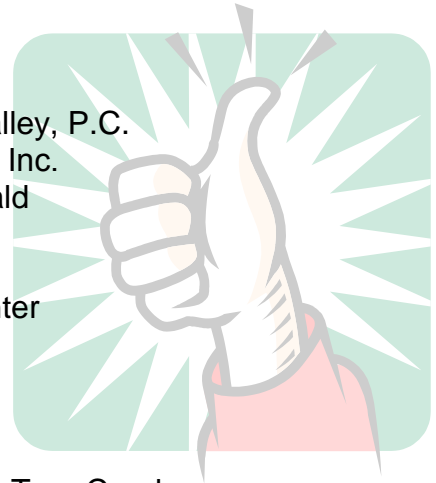
Thank You to our Renewing Members!

The following members have reinvested in the Sidney Chamber in December and January. 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!

| | |
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| Action Auto | EMMAA-Sidney |
| ADCOM | Farm & Home Supply Company |
| Advanced Communications | Fink Dental Center |
| Agri-Industries, Inc. | 1st Bank |
| American Legion Post # 12 | 1st Choice Collision |
| Amunrud's RV Inc. | Footers, Inc. |
| Avis Rental Car | Foundation for Community Care |
| B & B Builders, Inc. | Four Seasons Trailer Court |
| Baker Boy Bakery | Frontier Heating, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning |
| Basin Brokers, Inc. | Fulkerson Funeral Home |
| Beagle Properties, Inc. | Gem City Motors |
| Big Sky Siding & Windows | Glendive Coca Cola Bottling Co, Inc. |
| Blue Rock Products Company | Glendive Sales Corporation |
| Border Steel & Recycling, Inc. | Great Lakes Aviation, LTD. |
| BOSS Office & Computer Products | Great Plains Supply |
| Boy's & Girl's Club of Richland County | Gulliver's |
| Brenner, Averett & Co.; PC | H & R Block |
| Candy Bouquet | Hedahls, Inc. |
| Carpenter's Storehaus, Inc. | Hi-Line Trucking, Inc |
| Cavanaugh, Gregory Dr. | High plains Veterinary Clinic |
| Chad's, Inc. | Hurley Enterprises, Inc. |
| Checkers, Inc. | Interstate Engineering |
| Christensen, Curt Dr., D.M.D.; P.C. | JB Sprinklers |
| CHS Farmers Elevator | Jock Stop |
| Church of Christ | John Stockhill Jewelers |
| Clinic Pharmacy | Johnson Hardware & Furniture |
| CM Built Doors, Inc. | Kalberer's heating, Inc. |
| Creative Solutions | KXMD-TV |
| Crestwood Inn | Lees Tire Center Inc. |
| Crop Production Services, Inc. | Lone Tree Inn |
| Crystal Clear Designs | Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Assoc. Inc. |
| Dairy Queen | M & C Beverage, Inc. |
| Dawson Community College | M & M Café |
| Doorbustin' Portables & Septic Service | Martini Siding & Windows, Inc. |
| Duramed Plus | McDonald's |
| Dynneson Ranch, Inc. | MD Hose & Fitting LLC |
| Eagle Country Ford, Inc. | Melby's Creative Curbing |
| East-Mont Enterprises, Inc. | Mercer Farm & Ranch |
| Eastern Ag Research Center | Millers Corner |
| Edward Jones—Enid Huotari | Mitchell's Oil Field Service, Inc |
| Edward Jones—Jerry Hughes | MonDak Historical & Arts Society |
| Edward Jones—Nick Lonski | MonDak Motorsports |
| ElectricLand, Inc. | Montana Dakota Utilities Company |

Montana Turf 'n Wheels
 NAPA Auto Service
 Nicholson, Kathy
 Nick Jones Real Estate
 North Star Auto Body
 Northwest Farm Credit Services
 Olson Plumbing & Heating
 Park Plaza Motel
 PATH
 PEDE & Associates
 Pella Lutheran Church
 Picture Perfect Photography
 Prewitt & Company LLC
 Priceless Rent -A-Car of Sidney
 ProBuild
 R & J Ag Supply
 Ranger Lounge
 Rau DeSigns
 Reese & Ray's IGA
 Regal Eagle
 Reynolds Market
 Rhines Farming Corporation
 Richland County Commissioners
 Richland County Fair & Rodeo
 Richland County Health Department
 Richland County Transportation
 Richland Economic Development
 Richland Farm Mutual Insurance Company
Richland Federal Credit Union
 Richland Motor Inn
 Richland Opportunities, Inc.
 Richland Pump & Supply
 Richland-Sidney Public Library
 Richland Youth Hockey
 Security Abstract Company
 Sidney Country Club
Seitz Insurance Agency
 710 Auto Glass

Sidney Cleaners & Laundry
 Sidney Gymnastics Club
 Sidney Health Center
 Sidney Job Service
 Sidney Liquor Agency
 Sidney Lutheran Brethren Church
 Sidney Moose Lodge #856
 Sidney Paint & Glass
 Sidney Public Schools
 Sidney Realty, Inc
 Sidney Rental
 SM Energy
 Smith, Lange & Halley, P.C.
 Sonda's Solutions, Inc.
 Steinbeisser, Donald
Stockman Bank
 Sunrise Floral
 Sunrise Music Center
 Taco John's
 The Agate Stop
 The Cattle-Ac
 The Depot
 The Lodge at Lone Tree Creek
 The Pizza House
 The Sidney Herald
 Thrifty White Drug
 Triangle Nite Club
 Tri-County Implement, Inc.
 Twisted Wire Designs
 Union Gateway, Inc.
 Upper Missouri G & T Electric Cooperative Inc
 Valley Motor Supply/CARQUEST
 V.F.W. Club Post #4099
 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
 XTO Energy Inc.
 Yellowstone Chiropractic Clinic
 Yellowstone Court
 Yellowstone Painting LLC



Christmas Cash Giveaway Winners

The Christmas Cash drawings were held on December 17 with a live remote broadcast on Power 95 at 1st Bank. Winning the \$500 in Chamber bucks and pictured at left is Doug Fink of Sidney, who registered at Sonda's Solutions. Receiving \$250 in Chamber Bucks was Wally Whitney of Sidney, and James Huffman of Richey. They registered at Sidney Paint and Glass, and Action Auto respectively.

One name was picked from each participating business and then those were drawn for the finalist. A majority of the names were from Sidney, however individuals from Richey, Savage, Fairview, Culbertson, and Trenton, ND were in the final selections.



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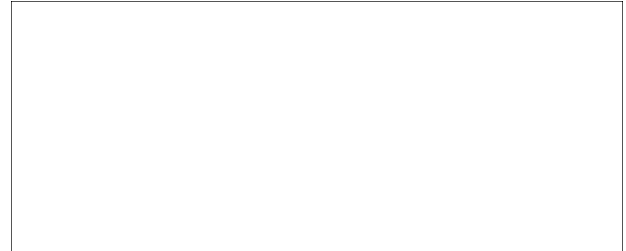
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Corporate Members:

Hi-Line Trucking
Lower Yellowstone REA
Montana-Dakota Utilities
Mitchell's Oil Field Service
Richland Federal Credit Union
Seitz Insurance
Sidney Sugars
Stockman Bank
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We're on the web!
www.sidneymt.co

Ways to Improve Your Heart Health for 2011

Montana Chamber Choices Health Insurance Program offers several ways to improve the heart and performance of your business in 2011. The following benefits can uniquely increase collaboration at your worksite, raise the energy level and make you look like the best boss ever.



- **Stop heart disease.** Yes, it's already February the month of cupid hearts and heart disease awareness. Heart disease kills more US men *and* women than any other disease. Luckily you and your employees can take steps to reduce their risk at work and at home.
- **Quit.** 70% of current smokers say they want to quit, are you one of them? Call the Montana Tobacco Quit Line at 1-800-QUIT-NOW to get free cessation counseling, a free personalized quit plan, 6 weeks of free nicotine replacement therapy (gum, patches, or lozenges), discounts on prescription cessation drugs and more.
- **Shape Up Montana.** High cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes and excess weight are all risk factors for heart disease and miraculously each of these can be reduced, controlled or resolved by participating in the statewide, team-based Shape Up Montana physical activity (or weight loss) challenge. Montana Chamber and Montana Chamber Choices customers receive a 33% discount off of the \$15 fee to participate in the competition by registering by February 9th at www.shapeupmontana.org/shapeupcc11.html.
- **Get your WellVision exam.** High blood pressure can be detected through a thorough eye exam. Luckily, as of January 1, 2011 all employees covered by Montana Chamber Choices health insurance have a VSP vision benefit that includes a \$10 copay at a VSP provider for an annual WellVision exam and eyewear discounts. Schedule your appointment today.
- **Buy-up.** Help the heart by insuring it. Every Montana Chamber Choices employee health insurance customer has a \$5,000 base life insurance policy and the opportunity to buy-up additional life insurance. Prices are outrageously low (\$1.05 a month for \$10,000 of coverage for a 34-year old, for example) so call your Montana Chamber Choices agent today and help the heart beat more easily.