



Special points of interest:

- January 2 - 4
PeeWee Hockey
Tournament
- January 5 - 6
Business Days at
the Capitol
- January 9 - 10
MonDak Ag Days
- January 11
Ft Buford
Winter at the Fort
A Soldiers Story
- January 19
Chamber Banquet
- January 20
Wellness for Life
- January 21
Leadership Issue Day #4
- January 23
State of the Community
Countywide Conference
- January 23 - 25
Mite Hockey
Tournament
- January 25
Concert at the
Confluence
- January 29
Big Sky Concert Series
The Cascade Quartet
- January 31
Sunrise City Duels
Wrestling Tournament

Sustainable Development

Tom Harrington to Speak at Chamber Banquet

The Chamber has completed a successful year and has plans made to celebrate 2008 with the annual Chamber Banquet on January 19 at the Sidney Country Club. A no-host social will begin at 6:00 pm with the program commencing at 6:30. The festivities start right away as guests choose which "terrific table" to sit at. Tables are still available on a first come basis, and in the past all tables have been spoken for.

Karen Olson Beenken will serve as emcee, and the dinner buffet will include roast beef and baked ham.

This year's banquet will provide a stage for a host of people to be recognized including officers, award winners, leadership class participants, and door prize recipients.

Providing Chamber addresses will be Lisa Aisenbrey, Chamber President and Wade VanEvery, Executive Director.

Keynote speaker will be Tom Harrington of Whitehall, Montana. Mr. Harrington is a Montana State University Community Development Extension Agent and works with the Jefferson Local Development Corporation on economic and community development opportunities in Jefferson County, Montana. He provides business assistance and planning to help grow and retain area businesses. His focus is on sus-



tainability efforts to help mitigate the loss of employment and tax base due to mine closure. He chairs three mine/community groups in Jefferson county and co-authored a professional paper on community sustainability and mine closure. He has presented the community sustainability concept at several conferences focused on the economic, social, and environmental impacts on natural resource based communities. Tom holds a B.S. in Finance from Montana State University. The presentation will address Sustainable Development. Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Tickets are available from the Chamber office and are \$35.00 in advance and \$40.00 at the door. We look forward to an evening of honoring, celebrating, and enlightening Sidney and its people.

Inside this issue:

<i>MonDak Ag Days</i>	2
<i>Tournaments</i>	2
<i>Christmas Cash Drawing</i>	2
<i>New Members</i>	3
<i>Legislature Live</i>	3
<i>Ribbon Cutting</i>	4
<i>Big Bucks/Chamber Bucks</i>	4

Sidney Chamber 2008 Board of Directors

Past President:	Ben Larson	Richland County Extension
President:	Lisa Aisenbrey	Sidney Health Center
1st V.P.	Marci Albin	The Lucky Buckle
2nd V.P.		
Treasurer:	Lorilee Norby	Mitchell's Oilfield Service

Raleigh Peck	ElectricLand	Cheryl Olson	Mustang Run Gallery
Greg Miller	Millers' Corner	Leona Colvin	Foundation for Community Care
Rowdy Cvancara	1st Bank	Nick Lonski	Edward Jones Investments
Tim Averett	Big Sky Siding & Windows	Jodie Leland	Wells Fargo Bank
Idelle Badt	R.S.V.P.	Sharon Rau	Honorary Member
Staff:	Wade J. VanEvery, Executive Director	LaVanchie Starkey, Administrative Assistant	

MonDak Ag Days

The Executive Board invites all members to the Ag-Days breakfast on January 10th. The board will be cooking and serving sausage, pancakes and beverages from 6:30 to 9:00. It is a great time to visit with other members of the community.

We also invite everyone to stop by our booth during the Trade Show on January 9th & 10th. Our display will feature Chamber events, encourage membership and focus on agri-business members.

Feb is Tournament Time!

Cara Nelson and the Sports and Recreation Committee will be heading up two Class C basketball tournaments in Sidney next month.

The 2 C District Boys Tournament will be Feb. 18 to 21, and the Eastern C Divisional Girls is February 26, 27, & 28. This committee is in need of considerable help for these events that bring a substantial amount of people to Sidney. Work schedules will be available shortly, and all help is appreciated.

Christmas Cash Give-away

The drawings for the Christmas Cash Giveaway were held on December 19th at Stockman Bank, with a live remote broadcast on Power 95. One ticket was drawn from each participating business, and these were the finalists for the big drawings.

Pictured are Deniece Schwab, Sidney - \$250 winner and Rita Oakland, Cartwright - \$500 winner. Not pictured is Tammy Olson, \$250 winner from Froid.

Seventy five percent of the finalists were from Sidney, with the rest representing six other communities in Montana and North Dakota. Thank you once again to those who participated in this promotion.



Chamber Closes Out 2008 With 3 New members



Yellowstone livestock is a major piece of the agribusiness community of Sidney, and the Chamber welcomes their membership in December. This new company began operating the livestock auction in August of 2008. Ryan Oberfell, of Sidney is

the new manager and is a life-long resident of the Sidney area. Ryan is well versed in beef cattle production and will use his experience in assisting customers with marketing programs.

In addition to the on-site marketing, Yellowstone Livestock will also provide video sales options for their customers. Yellowstone Livestock is located east of the railroad tracks on 10th Avenue and can be contacted at 482-3513.

Pro Tire, owned by Steve Geiser began membership in December. Steve will celebrate 3 years in business this coming April. He describes his venture as a full-service shop with emphasis on tires as a product line.

Located at 415 2nd St NW, Pro Tire can be reached at 433-8473. Steve keeps his cordless phone within his reach to provide personal service.



Pictured from left: Owner Steve Geiser, Cody Smith & Wacy McMillen

Downtown Sidney has a new eatery coming soon as Jodie Geiser prepares "Hots, Brats, and More" at 120 S. Central Avenue. Jodie is



gearing her menu to people who want and need good, quick food. The staple will include different varieties of hot dogs and brats, and a condiment bar that has anything a person wants. She will also have pre-made salads.

The Chamber is pleased to bring Hots, Brats, and More into membership, and thank the Geisers' for their involvement.

Watch the Legislature Live!

The Montana Chamber of Commerce has provided us with information to watch gavel to gavel coverage of the floor sessions of the 61st Legislature from Helena beginning Jan. 5.

To access the video broadcasts, visit www.leg.mt.gov/broadcast. Floor sessions generally begin at 1:00 pm Monday through Friday, and 8:00 am most Saturdays.

A legislative government broadcast service called TVMT may also be available thru your local cable or other video service provider. Mid-Rivers has told the Chamber they were working to have it available here at Sidney.

Please call the Chamber if further information is needed.

B.A .H. A gri-I ndustries: February 5th

SIDNEY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE

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

Corporate Members:

Hi-Line Trucking

Montana-Dakota Utilities

Mitchell's Oil Field Service

Seitz Insurance

Sidney Sugars

Stockman Bank

Wells Fargo

Lower Yellowstone REA

We're on the web!

www.sidneymt.com

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

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

The Lucky Buckle Ribbon Cutting

Board member and Second Vice President Marci Albin launched the Grand Opening of her store The Lucky Buckle on November 7. Assisting in the celebration were members of the Sunrise Ambassadors.

Marci put a great deal of planning into her Grand Opening which lasted from November 9th to the 15th. On January 1st Marcy became the Chamber's 1st VP and is also Chairperson of the Town & Country Festival.



Pictured left to right: Ben Larson, Del Deg, Renee Goss, Marci Albin, Deb Sing, Marlys Dynneson, and Wade VanEvery

Chamber Bucks & Big Bucks Keeps Dollars in Sidney

The Trade Promotion Committee completed its Big Bucks loan program on December 24th, and reports that 57 loans were made for a total of \$48,180. Providing the loans were Stockman Bank, First Bank, and Richland Federal Credit Union.

Another \$23,880 in Chamber bucks were purchased in 2008. In the month of December alone, \$19,685.00 were given as bonuses, Christmas gifts and donations.

These two programs resulted in \$72,060 in direct business to Chamber members in the past year.