



RED Newsletter

RED welcomes Wendel as Project Assistant

Michelle Wendel was hired as the Project Assistant for Richland Economic Development on July 18. Michelle was born and raised in Michigan, in the Houghton Lake area. She has worked as the Executive Assistant for Artesian Water Technology, as well as an Office Manager at US Waterway, both in Michigan.

Michelle moved to the Sidney area in March, mainly because the oilfield development here offers new job op-

portunities. Michelle loves the varying and beautiful landscape of our region. She is an avid outdoor enthusiast, and appreciates the small town pride of Sidney.

Michelle is excited to be working in the Richland Economic Development office, and stated that she was waiting for the right job opportunity to come along.

Please feel free to call or stop by to meet Michelle and welcome her to the area.



2011 RED Annual Meeting

We are pleased to feature several local businesses and entrepreneurs at this year's event. Our business development report includes remarks from Jim & Rebecca Miller, Miller's Garbage Service, Herb Leuprecht, Golden Prairie Inn, Steve Sparks, Microtel, and others.

The event will be held on Thursday, November 10, 2011, at the Sidney Elks Lodge. The social will begin at 6:00 PM, with the dinner beginning at 6:30 PM.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this annual event. The invitations, RSVP's, and ballots will be arriving soon. Please mail or fax your RSVP as soon as possible in respect for the caterers.

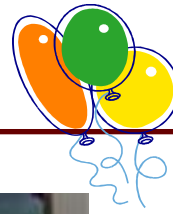


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MSU Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



RED was honored to be invited to the MSU Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. The ceremony concluded Field Days; at which we learned about the ongoing research, the field tours, a magnificent meal, and then a tour through the new building.

The building has a beautiful meeting place for the staff and other businesses in the area. Stop by or call to schedule your own visit if you haven't already.

RED would like to thank ALL of our members for their continued support! We'd also like to WELCOME our newest members in 2011!

Bechtle Architects, Inc. Candy Bouquet

Kirby Dasinger Dr. Gregory Faul

Knapp Oil Corporation Microtel

Millers Garbage Service, Inc.

Northern States Fishing Tools

Matthew Rosendale, Sr. Sidney Rental

Yellowstone Marketplace

Economic Development Progress



Holiday Inn Express & Suites holds groundbreaking ceremony on September 9, 2011.

The hotel group is made up of investors who are excited to help the community grow. The project is expected to be completed in early spring.

Many different organizations helped with the success of this project including; Richland Federal Credit Union, the city of Sidney, the public works department, the city council, Mayor Bret Smelser, Richland Economic Development, and Wells Fargo Bank.



We are proud to have played a small role in assisting this project through the development process, and we wish them the very best for the future.



Abatement Hearings for new hotel projects

Richland Economic Development asked the community, city, county, and our membership to prioritize our top projects. The top two priorities identified were housing and hotel rooms.

In an effort to best prepare ourselves, we asked the Richland County Commissioners if they were willing to utilize the "New and Expanding Industries" Tax abatement as one tool for assisting and recruiting business development in Richland County. They gave us the approval, and stated that they would consider each project to ensure that it meets the eligibility requirements.

The Holiday Inn Express & Suites Hotel, and the Golden Prairie Inn, (Best Western Hotel), each requested the tax abatement for their new buildings. A public hearing is required in the consideration process.

Leslie attended and spoke at both hearings to explain how the tax "phase-in" has been used statewide as a tool to foster growth in communities.

The phase-in mediates the risks and investments made by the industry while they are getting established or expanding. It also demonstrates a community's

willingness to encourage growth.

By granting the tax phase-in, the taxing jurisdictions are not giving up any revenues, they are merely receiving a reduced portion for a period of time.

The ultimate decision for granting the tax phase-in is the Commissioners. In each hotel's case, they approved the phase-in.

As the economic development professionals, we are pleased to partner with the Commissioners to continue to promote, assist, market and recruit for the businesses in the area; while utilizing the tools allowed by the state and adopted by the County.





RED is in the business of answering questions

Richland Economic Development partnered with the Small Business Administration, (SBA), the Great Northern Small Business Development Center, (SBDC), and Mid-Rivers in June to sponsor a small business workshop. In addition to learning what the SBA, SBDC and Mid-Rivers' services are, we were able to present an overview on the services that RED provides, as well.

So many times during conversations with people from the community, we hear "I didn't know that RED did that". Our office provides a vast clearinghouse of information, so much so, that if we don't have the answer; we at least know who does.

We constantly ask, "What can our office do to help your business, project, or development"? As our com-

munities are becoming more populated, and as more development is being planned, Richland Economic Development would like to help our elected officials whenever possible.

The growth of an area is not only bringing more businesses to town, but also the expanding payrolls of the existing businesses flowing around our economy. This is one reason that RED fostered the Revolving Loan Fund, to help existing business grow and expand. Each new or saved job that is created here in Richland County has a far greater impact on the tax base and the community.

Every business, great or small, is very important to Richland Economic Development. Whether we assisted in the start up or expansion phases or not, we

respect and admire business success. We deeply value our membership, and it is critical to our continuing services. We maintain contact with the membership to keep a pulse on the needs of the businesses.

So whether you have a question about how to start a business, if there are any grants available, who can help you with QuickBooks, or who else has thought of "this" business idea, call or stop by the Richland Economic Development office. You just might be surprised as to how we may be able to help you and your business succeed!





PPL Montana Community Fund:

In 2011, Leslie was appointed onto the PPL Community Fund Advisory Board.

The board meets in the spring and fall to distribute \$200,000 annually in grant funds to eligible applicants focusing on the areas of education, the environment, or economic development.

Since the fund was established in 2005, \$1.4 million in grants has been awarded to nearly 200 organizations that are touching the lives of thou-

sands of people and, as a result, improving the quality of life for all Montanans.

Some examples of grants that have been awarded include: museums, roof replacements, back pack programs, a commercial kitchen, machinery and equipment, etc.

If you are a school or a non-profit, (501(c) 3) and if you have a great project that might fit within the categories addressed above, please contact the Richland Economic Development office.

Or, if you would like more information on the PPL Community Fund, please log on to: www.pplmontana.com and click on "Community Fund".



Baucus Energy Roundtable

Our office was contacted to assist with an informational oil meeting with Senator Baucus. We arranged for the meeting place, refreshments, and provided a list of potential representatives from the oil field to visit with Senator Baucus.

The Democratic legislator visited Sidney on August 23, 2011 for a discussion that he called a "fact-finding mission" on oil development in eastern Montana and the affects on the local communities.

The Mayor of Sidney, Brett Smelser opened the

discussion with his concerns regarding the 70-yr old lagoon that needs to be replaced to keep up with the growing population.

He feels that the little old lady on the corner shouldn't have her taxes raised due to the increase. On another note, he discussed the roads and the damage that the trucks do to them.

Mayor Smelser said "We embrace this industry, at the same time the revenue in the city can't keep up with the demands that are being placed on it."

To off-set some of the costs the city has raised its water and sewage hookup fees, but that just doesn't seem to be enough. If you have any ideas or suggestions please contact the Mayor.





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A Non-Profit Countywide Economic Development Corporation



As you begin to take action toward the fulfillment of your goals and dreams, you must realize that not every action will be perfect. Not every action will produce the desired result. Not every action will work. Making mistakes, getting it almost right, and experimenting to see what happens are all part of the process of eventually getting it right.

Jack Canfield

