

REDC Annual Meeting 2014

We are pleased to invite you to our annual meeting banquet. The evening will entail an overview of the 2014 activities that our office has accomplished, as well as a great meal.

The event will be held on Thursday, November 6th, 2014, 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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PPL Montana Community Fund

In 2013, Tami Christensen, REDC past President, was appointed onto the PPL Community Fund Advisory Board. Tami filled Leslie Messer's position when Leslie stepped off. The PPL Community Fund 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, \$2.1 million in grants has been awarded to organizations across the state that are touching the lives of thousands 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.

In July 2014, Leslie and Tami were able to present a PPL Community Fund award to the Mon-Dak Heritage Center for continuing educational training programs for school-aged children.

We are so pleased to assist the eligible non-profits in attaining much needed financial assistance to continue their programs.



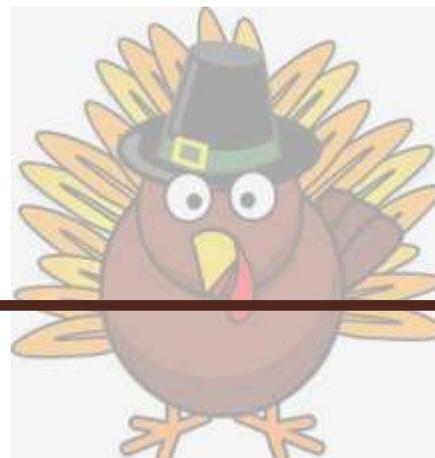
Tami C and Leslie M, representing PPL, awarded the grant to Jenny Baker and Joe Bradley of Mon-Dak Heritage Center.

Richland County Fair and Rodeo

As we do every year, REDC rented booth space in the Fair Event Center at the fair-grounds.

The benefit of our presence at the fair is for our members and the public to stop by and visit with us on the state of the economy in Richland County.

We so appreciate the willingness of our board of directors to take a shift at our booth.



REDC Hosts Outreach Meetings

SAVAGE, Inc.: Our office was contacted by members of the local community development task force in Savage, to find out what the process was to incorporate a “town”.

We contacted the MT League of Cities and Towns to ask the question. They forwarded us examples of the resolutions, meeting minutes, etc, as well as referred us to the MCA statutes outlining the process.

Leslie then presented an overview of this information to the SAVAGE, Inc members. They were thankful for the information but were astonished at the amount of work, time, and money it would take to accomplish this. (It’s no wonder that no towns have been incor-



Lambert exploratory meeting: Based on the needs as identified by the residents of Lambert, REDC hosted a meeting to determine if the community would support a convenience / grocery store.

Leslie invited one of her state contacts: Brian Gion, CEO of the Montana Cooperative Development Center, MCDC, to participate in a preliminary and discussion meeting.

Beforehand, our office did some background work to identify opportunities. Leslie called Greg Cross from Cross Petroleum to seek his advice on the possibility. Additionally, she contacted John Reynolds from Reynolds Market to see if they might be interested in partnering to provide the grocery items.

Brian opened the meeting and explained the cooperative model. There is a tremendous amount of legwork that must be done to further the project. The very first step is to determine the community’s goals.

The Lambert participants were charged with the task of seeking 7 local folks to serve on a steering committee. Our office will touch back with the participants before 10/15/2014 to see if there is interest in a steering committee.

MT Main Street Project Regional meeting:

Governor Bullock's regional meeting for our area was held in Glendive on August 20th from 10 – 4.

The Montana Main Street Project is the economic development plan that was released by Governor Bullock in April 2014. It is founded upon five pillars identified as: 1) train and educate tomorrow's workforce today 2) create a climate that attracts retains and grows business 3) build upon Montana's economic foundation 4) market Montana and 5) nurture emerging business / industries and encourage innovation.



LT Governor McLean addresses Montana Main Street Project participants. Photo courtesy of Erick Killelea, Sidney Herald.

The goal of the plan is to strive for a partnership between state government and private business, with key industry networks taking the lead to reach these goals. The project is an accumulation of ten months of statewide roundtables, surveys, and one-on-one meetings with industry, labor, community and governmental representatives.

Meeting attendees were asked to choose two of the five pillar topics, and to participate in breakout sessions. The 50 minute sessions were held to attain regional priorities from the participants.

There was a great showing of representatives from Sidney and Richland County. Our office was pleased to present our area's priorities to the Administration.



Workforce Survey:



President: Michael Simon
406-377-9408



President: Stacy Klippenstein
406-874-6165

Workforce survey results revealed: As you may recall, in July our office passed along a workforce needs survey to our membership and the community.

Dawson Community College (DCC) and Miles Community College (MCC) are committed to providing workforce training in Richland County that is convenient, timely, relevant, and valuable. Towards this effort, the colleges asked local employers to complete a survey instrument to help the faculty and staff from both institutions meet this commitment.

On Sept 23rd, DCC President, Michael Simon, and MCC President, Stacy Klippenstein, hosted a business over breakfast meeting in Sidney to reveal the results of the survey. The following was determined by the participants:

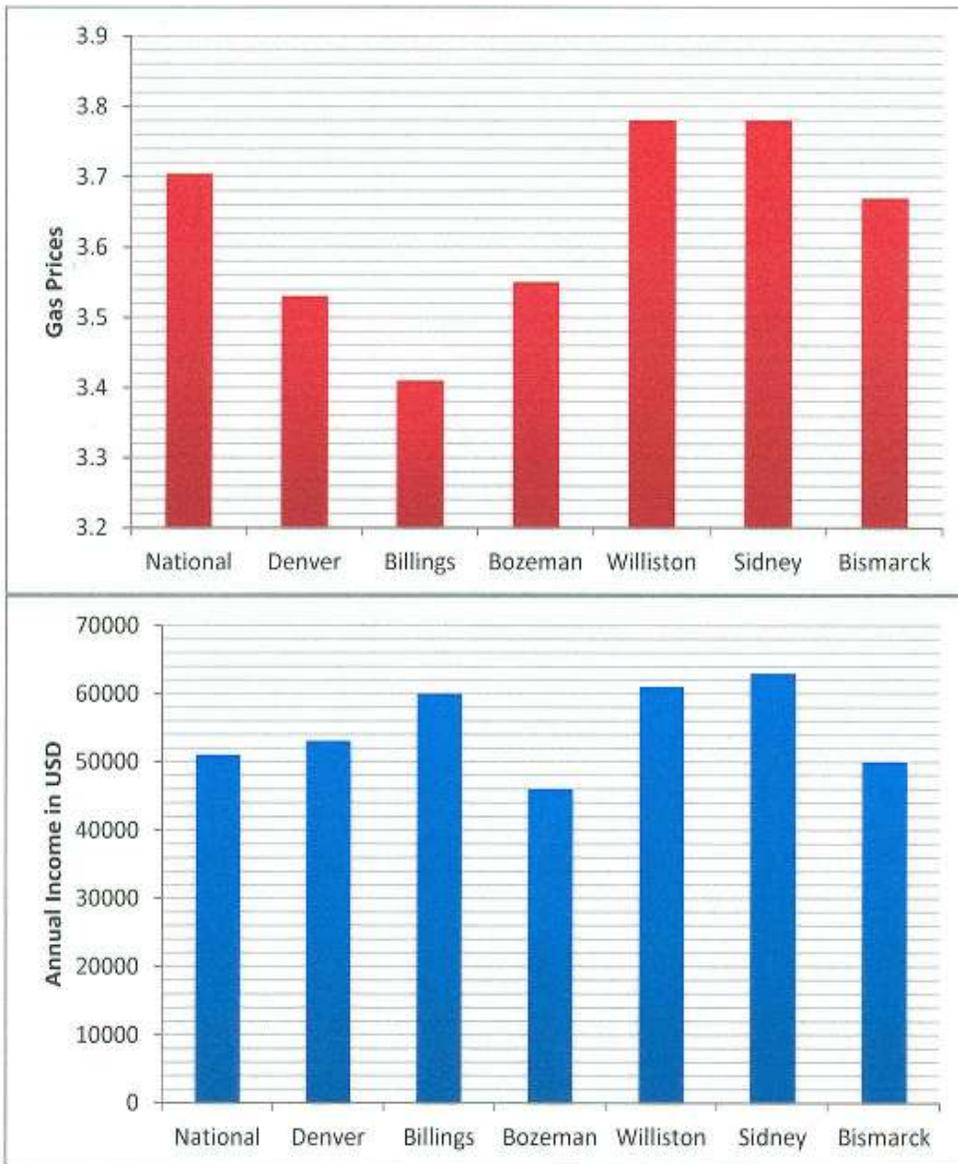
- Participants thought that a structured curriculum, held at a location within our community, in the evening would be best
- Soft skills in relation to workplace etiquette would be helpful– No texting, call in absences, general workplace ethics, etc.
- More collaboration with the high school in regards to dual enrollment
- Computer basic skills (Excel, Word, Publisher) couple with basic electronics such as A/C vs. D/C and Ohms, etc.
- Classes on food prep and safety for food service employees
- Classes on general custodial care such as chemical mixtures and storage procedures

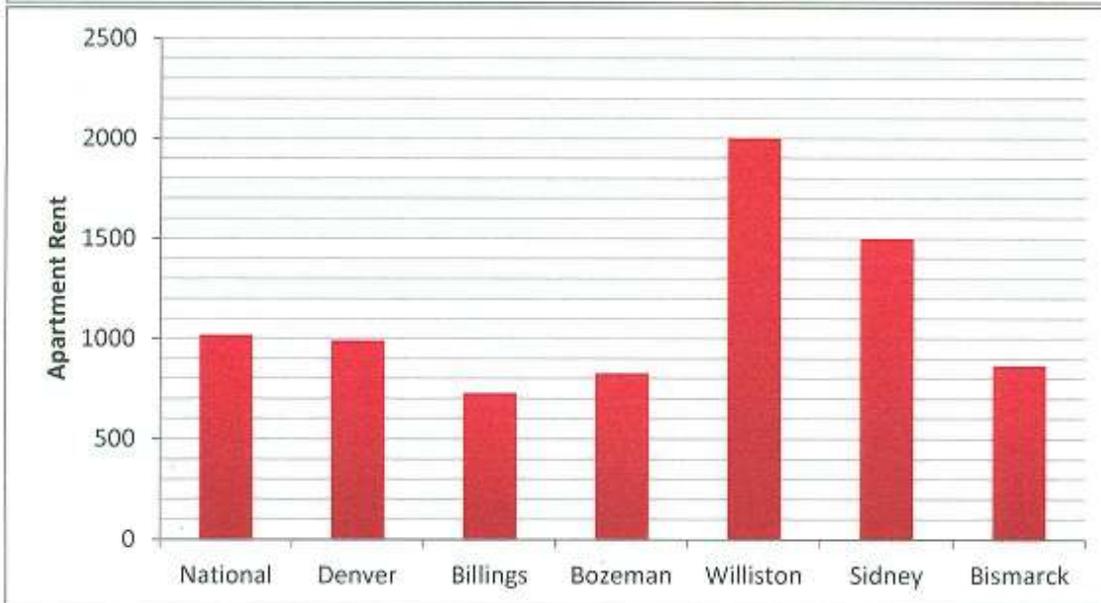
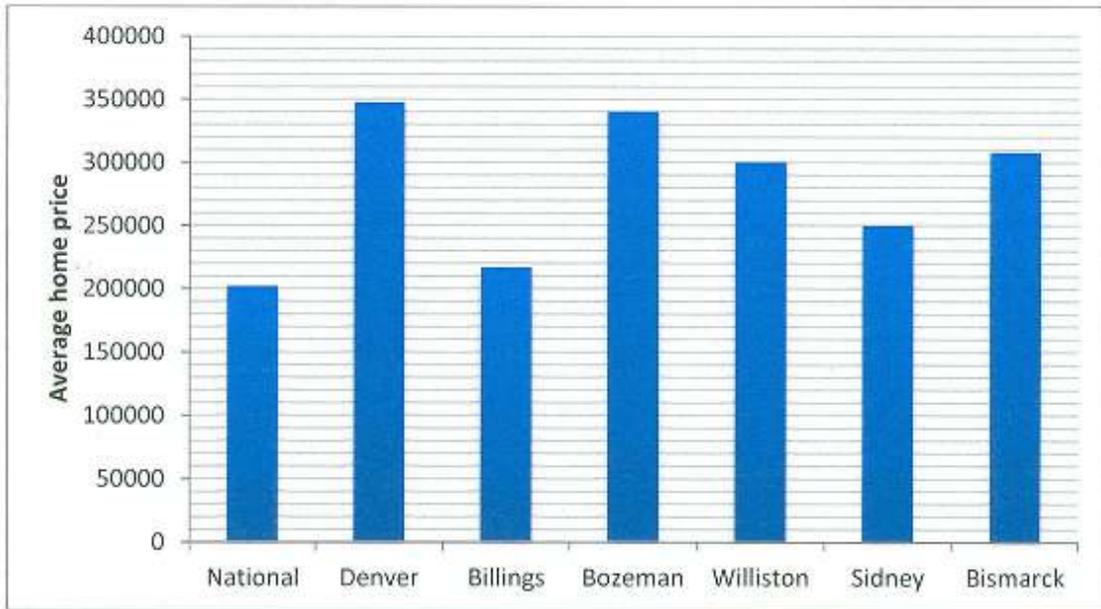
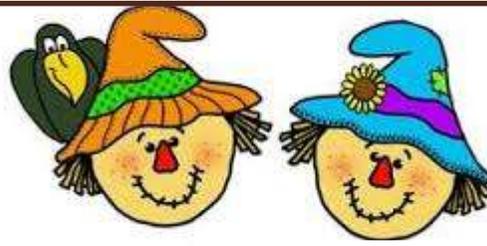
* If your business has any training needs, please don't hesitate to contact one or both Presidents with your workforce training needs.*



How DO we Really Compare??

These graphs were designed to show the correlation between different communities and the nation when comparing living costs. None of the prices account for taxes (State or Federal) The information concerning each listed community was compiled in our office and the national numbers were found on the US Census and www.numbeo.com. We hope you find these helpful and informative!





**RICHLAND
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DEVELOPMENT
CORP.**

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Calendar of Events

- October 21– Chamber Sponsored Political Forum for United States Senator between Congressman Steve Daines and Amanda Curtis– 7:00 Pm @ Fair Event Center
- October 23– Chamber sponsored Local Political Forum– 7:00 pm @ Richland County Extension Center
- November 4– ELECTION DAY!!!
- November 6– REDC Annual Meeting– 6:00 pm @ Sidney Elks Lodge
- November 27-28- REDC Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Holidays
- December 24– REDC Office Closed 1/2 day for Christmas Eve
- December 25– REDC Offices Closed for Christmas
- December 31– REDC offices closed 1/2 day in celebration of a New Year
- January 1, 2015– REDC office Closed for New Years Day

