

Around
the Judith
Basin

Stanford Woman’s Club is completing their 2016-2017 community-birthday calendar campaign. If you were missed or know of any corrections, please call Sue at 566-2775. Thanks for your support.

The Artists’ Wall at the Basin Trading Post is featuring paintings by Don Dixon.

Bridal Shower for Jessica Koelzer, fiancée of Neil Schott, Sunday, May 1, at 2 p.m., Stanford Presbyterian Fellowship Hall.

Judith Basin Chamber will meet Monday, May 2, 11:30 a.m. at the Waterhole Saloon meeting room. Everyone welcome.

Stanford Woman’s Club meets Wednesday, May 4, for a dinner meeting at Dauna’s Deli, 5:30 p.m.

Come Celebrate at Andy’s Barber Shop May 5. See the ad on page 2.

Utica Rod and Gun Club meets 7:30 p.m. at the Utica Community Center the 2nd Tuesday of each month (May 10). Please join us.

All Judith Basin County Fire, EMS and Law Enforcement Responders along with our Private, State and Federal Partners are invited to attend a Table Top Discussion-based exercise. Do we know our roles and responsibilities during a large wildland fire? How can we safely protect life and property during a multi-agency event? Join us Wednesday, May 11, at 7 p.m. at the Hobson Fire Hall.

Forage and Vertebrate Pest Workshop presented by MSU Extension in Stanford, Wednesday, May 18, 8 a.m. to noon, Stanford City Hall. RSVP to Katie Hatlelid, 566-2277, ext. 104 or 105, by May 17.

Looking for family histories and stories for Furrows and Trails, Part 2. Check out the website at www.furrowsandtrails.com

Montana Motor Vehicle Division: An appointment is required for any testing in Lewistown at the Driver License office. Appointments can be scheduled by logging on to dojmt.gov/driving and following the prompts or by calling 1-866-450-8034. In Great Falls at 207 Smelter Avenue NE, Suite 3 (Twilite Center) appointments are also required. (1-866-450-8034) or log on to www.doj.mt.gov/driving.

Tea party provides strong support to Food Pantry

By VICKY MCCRAY
Press Editor

The Stanford Woman’s Club hosted a tea party last Saturday and invited everyone to come. Although the beverages served were not of the potent variety, the outcome of the event proved strong support for the Judith Basin Food Pantry.

In addition to the tea and coffee, the party offered a delicious and colorful array of cookies, mouthwatering truffles and fresh fruit and dip. Many of the club members are known for their baking abilities and tasty recipes.

Added interest to the tea party was the silent auction that proved so helpful to the Food Pantry. The idea of combining the two entities is one the Utica Women’s Club came up with a couple of years ago. They wanted to make women’s clubs throughout the county aware of the Pantry’s need to keep its shelves full at all times and presented a program explaining the county’s pantry. The women learned that a great outpouring of good will is always evident during the holidays, but sometimes the months in between can be sparse. The tea and silent auction idea

turned out to be a real winner; in the last couple of years the Utica Women’s Club has donated over \$1,200 to the Pantry.

This year the Utica women decided it would be fun to be tea party guests rather than hosts and asked the Stanford club to hold the event. The Stanford women were happy to oblige.

The tea was held from 2 to 4 p.m. at Stanford City Hall and welcomed a number of guests, including two gentlemen. The affair was touted as a “Hello Spring” Afternoon Tea and the decorating committee – Lois McGuire, Pat Hammer, Rose Schindler and Diane Dengel – did a great job of giving the hall a springy appearance (the weather outside was rather dreary). Card tables were laid with pastel cloths, each with a bouquet of silk spring flowers in the center. Included in the centerpiece were seed bombs, tokens for women to take home with them. These were wrapped in cloth and tied with twine, the directions, “Toss, Water, Grow,” attached. Woman’s Club President Marti Blank explained the bombs were clumps of mud filled with seeds of varying kinds.

See Tea Party/page 3



Daley Hall (center), food provider for the Judith Basin Food Pantry, expressed her gratitude to Saturday’s tea party guests for their support. Hall is flanked by Stanford Women’s Club members, Rose Schindler (left) and Marti Blank. Blank currently serves as the club president.

Photo by Vicky McCray

Entomologist presents
awesome after-school program

By VICKY MCCRAY
Press Editor

The April after-school program, “Bugs, Bugs and More Bugs,” was a big hit.

“[The kids] were into it,” Extension Administrative Assistant Meredith Phillipe said. “I bet if you asked them, it would be one of their tops.”

Phillipe and Extension Agent Katie Hatlelid were uncertain just how this program would end up, as they knew nothing ahead of time about the presenter they chose for the afternoon – Dr. Scott Portman, an entomologist with the Western Triangle Agricultural Research Center (WTARC) north of Conrad. He was suggested by someone at the Central Montana Agricultural Research Center, as at the time CARC did not have an entomologist. They have since hired one.

Both Phillipe and Hatlelid were very pleased with Portman’s presentation and his connection to the young students. Phillipe kindly called him a “bug geek.”

“He was totally into insects,” she said, “and his interest, his enthusiasm was contagious to the kids. They just loved it.”

Research Associate Amber Ferda, who also works at WTARC, joined Portman for the afternoon in Stanford.

Portman chose a movie title for his PowerPoint presentation. Although it probably went over the kids’ heads, “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly” proved a great way to distinguish between the many insects Portman discussed and had specimens of.

“And there were some ugly bugs,” Phillipe said.

Prior to Portman taking over the program, the students watched a BrainPop movie, “The Mysteries of Life,” narrated by Tim and Moby. Tim is an intelligent high school student and Moby is an orange robot that helps him. The video was full of insect information, which may have helped students pick the insects from a group of photos Portman presented to them.

In order to be an insect, an animal must have three body parts: head, thorax and abdomen, along with three pairs of legs and sometimes wings. Tim and Moby explained that insects have a widespread and diverse habitat; in fact, they are everywhere – almost all climates and in all parts of the world. They belong to the group in the animal kingdom called invertebrates, meaning they have no backbone, and they are the largest group of animals that have an exoskeleton. An exoskeleton is an outer shell made of a protein called chitin. It provides both support and protection for the insect.

Portman’s insect diagram also introduced an insect’s antennae and eyes. The antennae are its flexible feelers and they are covered with tiny sensitive hairs. In addition to using them for feeling, an insect uses antennae for smelling and some use them for tasting and hearing also.



Kora McCray concentrates on getting her bug box just the way she wants it.

Photo courtesy of Meredith Phillipe

Insects have either simple eyes or compound eyes or sometimes both. The simple eye has only one lens. It does not form a clear image but is used for light detection and polarization. The compound eye has multiple lenses and gives the insect wraparound vision, allowing it to see in almost every direction without moving its head.

The good insects Portman included in his PowerPoint were a bumblebee, a ladybug, a praying mantis and a green lacewing. The first two are pollinators, and the ladybug is a predator bug as well. The second two are beneficial bugs because they keep insect pests in check.

Among the insects making Portman’s “bad” list were the housefly and the wheat stem sawfly. He added the latter to the list because he is currently working with it at the research center. The sawfly has been a pest of significance in Montana spring wheat for many years.

Probably the ugliest insect in Portman’s lineup (to this reporter anyway) was the antlion in its larvae stage. He explained it digs pits and lies in wait for unsuspecting ants and other prey.

See Bugs/page 3

Stanford celebrates 15 years of Arbor Day

By PATTY CREAMER
NRCS District Resource Conservationist



DNRC Forester Josh Stoychoff discusses one of the Stanford trees included on his Arbor Day walk-about with Arbor Day participants.

Photo courtesy of Teresa Wilhelms

Arbor Day, which is Latin for “Tree Day,” is an environmental holiday when citizens and groups are encouraged to plant trees and care for the already existing trees. Arbor Day was founded by J. Sterling Morton on April 10, 1872, in Nebraska City, Nebraska. Over an estimated one million trees were planted on that single day. The United States celebrates Arbor Day on the last Friday in the month of April while other countries celebrate on various dates throughout the year.

In 1972, the Arbor Day Foundation was formed to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Arbor Day and to carry on the mission of the tree planters’ holiday. One of the many programs the foundation sponsors is “Tree City USA,” which was started in 1976. The program is partnered with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. Tree City USA was designed to encourage better care of the nation’s community forests by awarding recognition to communities that meet four basic standards of a good tree care program. To qualify for participation in the program, a town needs a tree board, a tree care ordinance and an annual budget and must celebrate Arbor Day.

The town of Stanford celebrated 15 years participation in the program on April 20.

The celebration, hosted by Mayor Rose Schindler and the Town of Stanford, started at City Hall, with guest speaker Josh Stoychoff, DNRC Forester from Lewistown.

See Arbor Day/page 3

Stanford Town
Council adopts
required
water project
documents

By VICKY MCCRAY
Press Editor

In a special meeting held Tuesday evening at City Hall, the Stanford Town Council adopted Resolutions 2016-05, 2016-06, 2016-07 and 2016-08 and accepted the Uniform Environmental Checklist, all of these documents dealing with the Town’s water improvements project.

The first of the resolutions addresses the adoption of the 2016 update to the Town’s 1999 Mini Capital Improvements Plan. The plan looks at the improvements Council members would like to see completed for the long term. It is broken down, however, into a more workable list of items to be completed by 2022. The total cost of these improvements is \$1,313,000. Broken down they are the new water supply well, \$1,200,000; repair of the Fire Hall roof, \$25,000; completion of one new intersection, \$56,000; completion of handicap ramp improvements at City Hall, \$5,000; replacement of the floor at City Hall, \$25,000; and pavement patch in three places of the manhole along 2nd Street South, \$2000.

The second resolution addresses the approval of the 2016 Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) prepared by Robert Peccia & Associates for the Town’s water improvements and acceptance of the engineering firm’s recommendations. Folks attending the Public Hearing on April 11 were introduced to this report. The recommendations are to drill a new well into the Madison aquifer and apply for a new water right; to implement a long-term operation and maintenance program for this new well and the existing wells; and to continue with recommended distribution system improvements as the Town can afford them.

The third resolution addresses the authorization of the water system funding applications. Application will be made to the Department of Commerce for a Treasure State Endowment Program grant, to the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation for a renewable resource grant and loan, and to the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development grant and loan program. The Town agrees to provide the amount of matching funds and indebtedness as promised in the funding applications. The resolution authorizes Mayor Rose Schindler to sign the applications, to provide a \$250 application fee for the DNRC grant and loan program and to provide any additional information that may be required by the funding agencies.

The Council approved the Uniform Environmental Checklist, which was advertised in the paper. No comments were received from the public.

And finally, the fourth resolution addresses the acceptability of the Environmental Assessment to allow the Town to proceed with the water improvements project. It was determined the project will not cause any long-term environmental impacts and any short-term construction impacts will be mitigated in construction contract specifications. Mayor Rose Schindler is authorized to accept the engineer’s recommendation that an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary for the project or to execute a TSEP grant agreement.

Robert Peccia and Associates will submit the funding applications by May 1. The project will be evaluated and should be ranked by summer’s end. The ranking will be provided to the Montana Legislature in 2017 and they will make the final determination.

As engineer Gary Swanson mentioned at the Public Hearing, the Town of Stanford should have “a pretty good shot at getting the funding.”

Prior to adjournment, the mayor asked Council members to please keep May 15 from 1 to 5 p.m. open. The Geezers have planned a city park and town clean-up day that day and Schindler would like to work on the pool house as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Bugs From Front Page

Some of the largest insects include the titan beetle and the male Hercules beetle. These two insects measure about 8 inches in length, but the Hercules beetle has an enormous horn on its thorax that is included in its measurement. The titan beetle's measurement takes in only its body.

"It's a big crunch when we step on a titan beetle," Portman said.

The two fastest insects in Portman's presentation were the black cutworm moth and the horse fly; both of these insects have been clocked at sustained speeds of over 100 mph. The dragonfly, although not as fast, is fast – around 70 mph, but that is not a sustained speed, only a burst of speed.

Portman shared two insects with amazing lifespans – a metallic wood-boring beetle that can live up to 51 years and a queen ant with the estimated longevity of 23 years.

The loudest insect, according to Portman's presentation, is a cicada, with a very loud sound of more than 100 decibels.

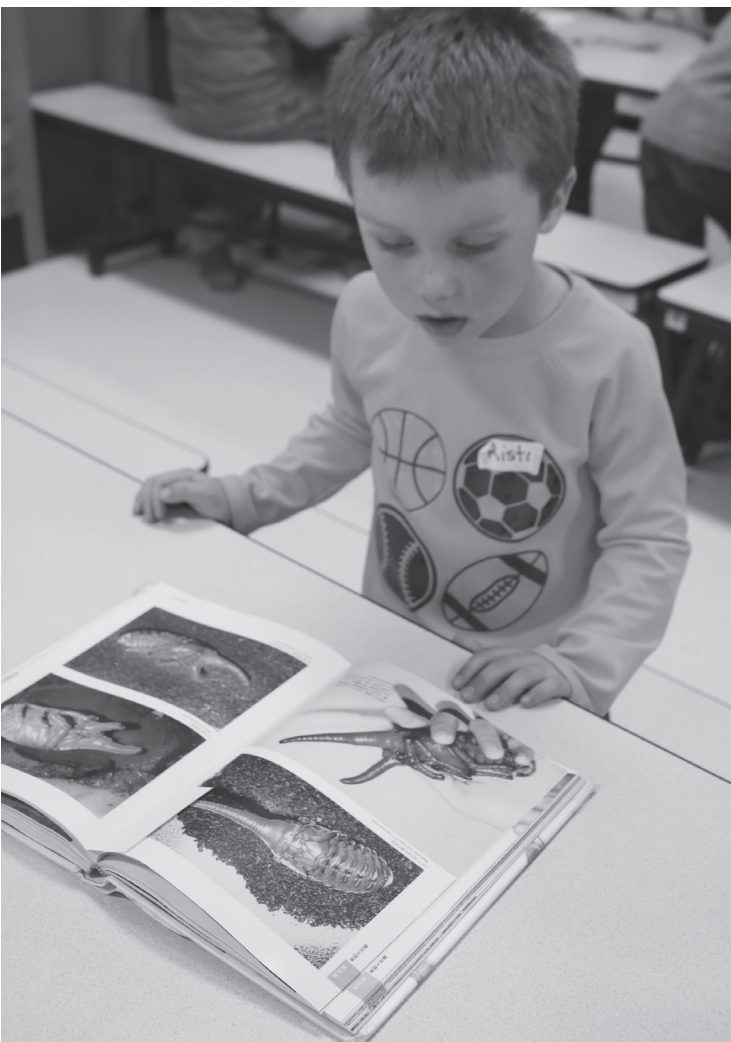
The most venomous insects are the bullet ant, the tarantula hawk wasp and the red harvester ant. This reporter did a little bit of research on her own just to double check these insects' stings. What she found out is enough to give her nightmares.

Justin Schmidt, an American entomologist and research director of the Southwest Biological Institute, has done extensive work on insect stings. He has noted the stings of each of Portman's venomous choices and has the following to say about each:

The sting of a bullet ant is "... a tsunami of pain. The tsunami would crash as they do on the beach, then recede a little bit, then crash again. It wasn't just two or three of these waves. It continued for around 12 hours."

"The pain from the sting of the tarantula hawk [wasp] is like you were walking underneath a high-voltage electric line in a wind storm, a wind gust snapped the line, and it fell on your arm. You get 20,000 volts all at once cascading through your body. It's pure electrifying pain. Instantaneous. Very clean and sharp. The good news is that it only lasts about three minutes."

Schmidt describes a sting from the red harvester ant as



Riston Mikkelson pours over one of Dr. Portman's books. He is checking out the various stages of what looks to be a male Hercules beetle.

Photos courtesy of Meredith Phillipe

"bold and relentless, a feeling comparable to drilling out an ingrown toenail."

The bullet ant is found in South America, but the other two can be found in the United States. The tarantula hawk wasp has been found as far north as Logan, Utah, and south as far as Argentina. The red harvester ant is native to the southwest U.S.

Although these last three insects' stings may leave a person wishing he/she were dead, the deadliest insect is the Anopheles mosquito. The female of the genus transmits malaria, with over one million people dying from the disease annually.

At the end of Portman's presentation, the kids were divided into groups by grade and given time to get up close and personal with his many specimens.

"They had awesome questions," Phillipe said, "all the way from kindergarten up. They were all about it."

Portman has been at WTARC since September of last

year. He holds a bachelor's of science degree from Southeast Missouri State University, a master's of science degree in entomology from the University of Florida and a doctorate in biology from Penn State.

He told the Press he has had experience with outreach and has been interested in insects for quite some time. In fact, at one time he had his own collection of live giant beetles, which he shared with others during Penn State's annual Great Insect Fair. When asked if his being called a "bug geek" was derogatory, he answered in the negative, noting that pretty much describes him.

While the individual groups visited with Portman and Ferda and the amazing bug specimens, the rest of the group colored bug boxes to take home. The county may soon have some budding young entomologists, thanks so much to Dr. Scott Portman.

Look for information about the last after-school program for this academic year in an upcoming Press issue.



Entomologist Dr. Scott Portman and Research Associate Amber Ferda, both from the Western Triangle Agricultural Resource Center near Conrad, share an amazing collection of insect specimens with after-school program participants. Very few of the youngsters showed any signs of squeamishness.

Tea Party From Front Page

Although she wasn't sure exactly what each person might have, Blank noted the bombs would produce a nice surprise when the seeds sprouted and grew.

One guest, Cathy Hollandsworth, dressed up for the afternoon, donning her best tea clothes, which included a hat and a mink jacket. Several people agreed it would be fun in another year to suggest all guests dress up in their tea best.

The silent auction ran for an hour, with a couple of the items – an antique coffee grinder and a basket of tiger lilies, garden tools and colorful plates and napkins – seeing constant bid changes as two or three bidders vied to take them home. Some of the items were nearly new, such as the Brother sewing machine and the Prada wallet, while others were old and collectible, like the vintage vanity set made in London and the Made in Occupied Japan hen salt and pepper shakers. The Occupied Japan term was used for the time period from 1945 (after World War II) through April 25, 1952; it was during this time that the Allies occupied Japan.

A few pieces of Rada cutlery, which is made in the U.S., were also available for purchase. These were brand new paring knives, tomato slicers and vegetable peelers.

Several guests also brought non-perishable food items for the Pantry. Food provider Daley Hall was delighted to fill her car trunk with these groceries. She spoke briefly to the group thanking them for their support of the Food Pantry.

"Folks come from Hobson, Utica, Stanford, Geyser – all



Cathy Hollandsworth, who dressed in her tea best for Saturday's tea party, places her bid for the tiger lily basket. She was among three others bidding for this cheerful silent auction item. Marti Blank looks on.

Photo by Vicky McCray

around," Hall said. "We're not affiliated with the government, so everything we give out is donations from all of you wonderful people. You really keep us well supplied."

The Pantry is open the third Tuesday of each month from 2 to 4 p.m. It is located on the bottom level of the courthouse, across from the Extension office.

"If you know of any folks who are having a tough time and they don't know about it," Hall said, "please tell them they're more than welcome."

"If they don't have rides, just

have them get ahold of me and we'll work something out," she added. "We'll do what we can to help."

With the proceeds from the silent auction and several cash donations, the Stanford Women's Club collected almost \$900 for the Food Pantry Saturday afternoon. Their treasurer figured adding in the cost of the trunk full of groceries put the total at about \$1,000.

Not a bad haul for a two-hour afternoon tea, and certainly a real boost for the Judith Basin Food Pantry.

Arbor Day From Front Page

Josh took participants on a walk-about, explaining to the group proper tree management, which included tree identification, water management, species selection, and proper pruning techniques. Stoychoff also included information on how trees heal injuries. He answered many questions from the group.

Josh reminded the group the Stanford community has benefited from our ancestors who had the foresight to plant trees years ago so today's citizens can enjoy the benefits the trees provide in the community. We all need to have that kind of foresight and plant a tree for the next generation.

The walk-about ended back at City Hall with a great lunch provided by Town of Stanford and served by Stanford Geezers. The weather was beautiful for the tour and we all learned a lot from Josh.

If you have any questions concerning tree management, contact Judith Basin Extension Service, 566-2277, ext. 104.



Stoychoff explains proper pruning techniques during Stanford's Arbor Day celebration last Wednesday.

Photo courtesy of Teresa Wilhelms

Stanford Geezers set clean-up day

At their monthly meeting last week, the Stanford Geezers set Sunday, May 15, for a clean-up day for Stanford, which includes the city park. The clean-up will run from 1 to 5 p.m., with a hamburger and hot dog barbecue picnic topping off the day's end for all volunteers. The Geezers look forward to the kind of turnout they had last spring – many hands make for less work for everyone.

The group has been busy

doing what they do best: spending donation and fund-raising monies to make things better at the park and pool. They have purchased a lifeguard chair (\$708.46) for the pool and two 6-foot Easy Shots hoops (\$506) for the park. They deposited a \$100 donation from the Central Montana Shootout and paid \$300 for storage shed rent. The Geezer checking account as of Wednesday, April 20, has a balance of \$5,110.

The Geezers will have their meeting dates noted on the Stanford Woman's Club calendar, the cost for the service \$8.

Under old business Jim Walsh has found a place to order signs for a pet waste station. He will furnish the steel posts and make the boxes to house plastic gloves and waste materials. Three pet waste stations will be placed in the city park.

Several suggestions have been made for additions to the

park, including a splash pool and covered benches close to the swings. Unfortunately, a splash pool comes with state regulations that make it too expensive, and the Geezers agreed the covered tables and benches located on cement slabs in the park are probably enough to accommodate people.

Aeric Reilly would like to see a memorial of some sort to his grandmother, Mary Reilly, located in the park. The Geezers will need more information on this possible project before making a final decision.

Walsh, John Bracha and Dale Zuck will soon start work on establishing a third horseshoe pit in the park.


A motion to make Rosanna Cimrhakl a director for the Geezer organization passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. The next meeting of the Stanford Geezers will be Wednesday, May 18, 6 p.m. at Stanford City Hall.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ On June 7 ☒ Vote ★

★ DON HAJENGA ★



★ for ★

★ Judith Basin ★

★ County ★

★ Commissioner ★


★

- Lifetime resident of the county
- Land owner & tax payer
- Benchland Co-op Director, 18 yrs.
- Benchland Co-op Manager, 5 yrs.
- Moore Co-op, 2 yrs.
- Employee of Youderian Construction, 9 yrs.

Paid for by Don Hajenga for Commissioner,
Treasurer Janet Ridgeway,
Box 84, Stanford, MT 59479

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Delivering the news to
the Judith Basin. Call to
subscribe today.
566-2471




Accepting Bids for Picnic Catering

3 Rivers Customer Appreciation Day
in Centerville, MT

Saturday, June 11, 2016
Lunch served from NOON - 2:00p.m.

Deadline for submitting bids to
3 Rivers is May 5, 2016

For details, contact
Susan Wilson
1.800.796.4567
ext 4133



Weather Report for Stanford

Date	Max.	Min.	Precipitation
April 18	53	29	
April 19	65	34	
April 20	67	38	
April 21	76	40	
April 22	72	51	
April 23	62	44	.08
April 24	45	37	

A total of .08 inch of precipitation was reported for the period, with a wind gust of 24 mph noted on Saturday, April 23, at 5:23 a.m.