

# The Westby Border News

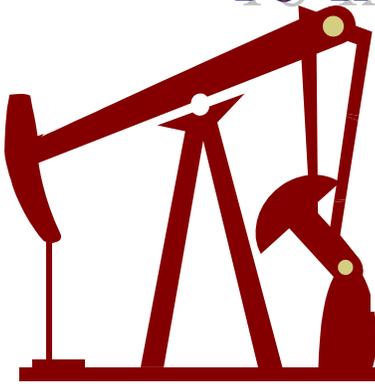
January 24, 2011

Volume 6

Issue 111

1.00/copy

## GOVERNOR PROPOSES TO TAKE SCHOOLS OIL MONEY



The 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Montana Legislation convened on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, and all eyes are on Helena.

While the oil boom in the Williston Basin is reportedly on its way west, with 9 rigs operating in Montana and 170 in North Dakota it is pretty safe to say it's not here yet. Even so, there has been some new activity in the general vicinity in the last couple years and this combined with oil production from existing wells and the higher price of crude oil has allowed for some pretty nice oil tax checks for the county and local school districts.

For now, the state receives 52 percent of oil and gas production taxes with the remainder going to the producing counties and schools.

For Westby School, this boost from oil revenue's, has helped guarantee its future in more ways than one. Superintendent Tony Holechek noted, "For the second straight year, we will be putting about \$450,000 into our general fund budget. That's about 40 percent of the districts yearly budget." Of course, this takes a big burden of the local taxpayers. Aside from the tax relief comes funding for a number of building improvements.

(Continues on page10)

## Randy's Restaurant

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We Serve Extra Lean  
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Nite Specials

**DINING ROOM ONLY**

**MONDAY** – Chicken Strip Dinner w/ coleslaw & fries

**TUESDAY** – TACO TUESDAY - \$1.00 Tacos

**WEDNESDAY** – Shrimp in a Basket w/ coleslaw & fries

**THURSDAY** – Pablo's Mexican Dinner– OR - Full Menu

**FRIDAY** – Chicken Fried Steak w/ fries, toast & salad

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Chicken to go (potatoes included) 2 pc – Barrel 200 pc



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## MOORE CAPTURES LEAD IN 'THE JUNGLE BOOK'



Eight-year-old Kellan Moore captured the lead as Mowgli, the boy cub, in The Billings Studio Theatre's production of the Disney classic, "The Jungle Book" held in Billings on January 13-16. Kellan and the gang had the stage jumpin' with jazz as they danced and sang their way through madcap adventures all the while fending Shere Khan, the ferocious tiger. The musical included all the favorite tunes like "The Bare Necessities," and "I Wanna Be Like you."

Kellan, a second grader at Central Heights Elementary School in Billings, is the son of Cory and Krista Moore and the grandson of Calvin and Sharla Moore of White Sulphur Springs and Cary and Jan Sundsted of Antelope.

## Sheridan Memorial

**Hospital, Nursing Home & Clinic**  
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### Safety Tip:

*The majority of kitchen fires occur when food is left unattended. Don't use water to extinguish a grease fire — this will only spread the fire. Approach a small grease fire with a properly rated extinguisher. If an extinguisher is not available, hold a pan lid (in a hand protected with an oven mitt) vertically to shield yourself from the smoke and flames and turn the burner off. Then move the lid toward the pan and ease the lid over the fire. Do not attempt to bring the lid up over the fire and then straight down. Once the lid is on and oxygen is cut off, the fire will extinguish itself.*

**Sheridan Memorial Hospital & Nursing Home**  
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**The February meeting  
Of the  
Westby School Board**

**Has been changed to**

**Wed., February 9, 2011  
7:00 p.m.**

Now is the time to renew your subscription to the Border News. Act now to take advantage of the current subscription rate (\$24.00) before the rate increase March 1, 2011.

**Subscription increases to  
\$30.00  
March 1, 2011.**

**THANK YOU**

The family of Arla Samuelson would like to thank the following for the kindness and compassion shown to Arla and her family: Dr. Kirk, Dr. Ruth, the nurses and staff at the clinic and hospital for your compassionate care, seemingly above and beyond the call of duty; Dave and Jane Fulkerson for your attention to every detail - you helped us make Mom's service beautiful and memorable; the staff at LaCasa for your expert care and concern the last couple of years; Pastor Barb Westhoff for your ministry and the lovely tribute to Mom; Sharon Michels and Jill Garman for the beautiful music at the service; Angel Light for catering a delicious meal; the Westby ladies who served us a wonderful meal Monday night; everyone who stopped by, phoned, said a prayer, sent a card, flowers, or memorial and brought food and supplies to our houses, we can't thank you enough. Mom lived in this community her entire life and we know that she would echo our heartfelt, "Thank You, Thank You"! Sally, Curt, Russ, Arlene, Cleo, Susan, Lori and families



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**Danny Moore  
Westby Manager**



In case anybody is wondering –IT IS WINTER IN NORTHEAST MONTANA-although I don't think we are alone. Much of the country has been dealing with 'old man winter' on some level. I understand 49 of the 50 states have had some snow recorded this year. We have to chuckle as we watch our fellow man (and woman) in areas like Atlanta deal with a dusting of snow. The stories are hilarious, but I hesitate to laugh too loudly 'cause if they saw what we deal with on a daily level, they would be the one laughing and surely think we needed to have our heads examined for choosing to inhabit this part of the country.

Our level of winter is always somewhat unique though and when I say our level, I mean anyone living east of Plentywood to the North Dakota line. We are back to keeping an overnight bag packed in the car because when you leave home, one is never sure if you will get back again. The cuts on the Plentywood highway are getting higher and longer every day and the country roads fill in just as fast. The state department has a full time job trying to keep the road open between Westby and Plentywood and on a recent quick trip over it was evident they have their work cut out for them. Three snow plows worked all day just to stay even. It is Saturday evening as I write this and the thermometer registers 10 degrees above and the wind has picked up considerably. The phone rings and it is Lanny of the state department out on the road again doing his best to keep our lifeline out open. His warning was, "Stay home it is not safe out here." A glance out the window would not give evidence of its severity. A blessing; the basketball games were canceled for this evening and hopes are most are safely tucked in at home.

There is no way to express our gratitude for what the state and county employees do to help ensure our safety on the roads and many times go above and beyond the call of duty as noted when Irene Nielsen called county employee Archie Peterson about the road conditions this Sunday morning so as to know about the possibility of attending church. He said, "Hang on, I'll be right over with the plow." Five minutes later he was over and led them into church with the plow."

Now while they may be laughing at us in Atlanta for living in this country, we know exactly why! And spring will eventually get here.

*(Continues on next page)*

Calling all creative people!

Now is the time to enter the

2013 Westby

Centennial

Logo Contest!

Mail your entries to:

Vance Meyer

PO Box 55

Westby, Montana 59275

CONTEST DEADLINE:

February 1, 2011

The First Day of Spring is  
March 20.



FOOTBALL, FOOTBALL, FOOTBALL. As you read this, the playoffs are history and the contenders for the Super Bowl XLV have been determined.

If a Super Bowl party is in your future these recipes from my baby sister will do very nicely.

## ***RASPBERRY CHEESE BALL***

- 4 oz cream cheese
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 3 green onions, chopped fine
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 2 cups shredded mild cheddar cheese
- 1 jar seedless raspberry jam

Combine cream cheese, mayo, green onions, and shredded cheeses. Roll into a ball and refrigerate. Before serving, pour raspberry jam over the cheese ball.

Serve with crackers. This recipe makes 1 large cheese ball or 2 small cheese balls. One may be frozen for a later date.

## ***CHICKEN ENCHILADA DIP***

- 1 pound skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 (8 ounce) package shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 (4 ounce) can diced green chile peppers
- 1 jalapeno pepper, finely diced

Preheat oven to 350 degrees Place chicken breast halves on a medium baking sheet. Bake in the preheated oven 20 minutes, or until no longer pink. Remove from heat, cool and shred. Place shredded chicken in a medium bowl, and mix in cream cheese, mayonnaise, Cheddar cheese, green chile peppers and jalapeno pepper.

Transfer the chicken mixture to a medium baking dish. Bake uncovered in the preheated oven 30 minutes, or until the edges are golden brown.

## ***HEARTY MEXICAN BEAN DIP***

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 cup diced onion
- 1 (16 ounce) jar salsa
- 2 (16 ounce) cans refried beans
- 2 (4 ounce) cans chopped green chile peppers
- 1 (2 ounce) can sliced black olives, drained
- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, sliced
- 2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Place ground beef and onions in a large, deep skillet. Cook over medium high heat until onions are soft and ground beef is evenly brown. Remove from heat. Drain beef and mix in salsa, refried beans, green chile peppers and black olives. Transfer mixture to a 9x13 inch baking dish. Layer with cream cheese slices. Top with Cheddar cheese. Bake in the preheated oven 10 to 15 minutes, or until cheese is melted. Serve with tortilla chips, or flour tortillas and fresh guacamole.

May you ENJOY  
FOR  
*Life is Good!*



# Blue Moon

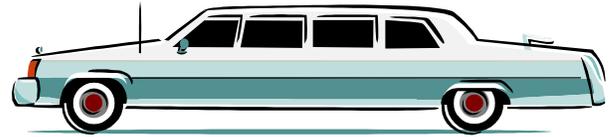
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**Tuesday SMEAR**  
**Friday BINGO (5:30)**



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Pork Whole or Half  
 \$1.39/lb.  
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**In town butchering available.**

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 Hamburger on sale all the time!**

### THANK YOU

Thanks so much to the Westby community and Westby elementary school kids who help with and support the Angel Tree Project. I was very lucky to win the ceramic Christmas tree the kids raffled off for this cause, and Caleb and I really appreciate it.

Also, Caleb is one of the little boys who benefits from the Angel Tree and we are very thankful for the toys and clothes he received for Christmas this year.

Thank you again for everything.  
 Happy New Year!

Lindsay Ruggles and Caleb

# School Board Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting  
January 10, 2011  
7:00 P.M.

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Westby School District #3 was held on January 11, 2011. Brenda Ryals, Vance Meyer, Marty Westgard, Aldon Joyes, Mr. Holecek, Mr. Somppi and Arlene Hove and Donna Sorenson were in attendance. Chairman Ryals called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Board Member Jim Sundsted arrived at 7:30pm.

Visitors at the meeting were Mike Gebhardt and Suzi Ekness.

The tentative agenda was reviewed. Mr. Holecek added one item under new business; the first reading of revised Policy 2221P (School Closure), followed by a motion by Westgard to approve, seconded by Meyer, AIF.

Arlene read the minutes of the December meeting. Following no corrections or additions, these minutes were approved and placed on file.

The Board reviewed the Clerk's November financial report.

**Public Comment:** None

**Committee Reports:** Buildings & Grounds: Mr. Holecek reported that the mag-locks are not working properly so he has contacted Ebel to correct the problems. Mr. Holecek will also be contacting Mon-Dak to solve some issues with the heating and cooling systems and to complete some unfinished projects. Mr. Holecek updated the board on the Housing project.

**Unfinished Business:**

**A.** Revised Policy BP 3310 (Student Discipline) was given a second reading. Westgard made a motion to approve this revision, Meyer seconded, AIF

**B.** New Policy BP 3415 (Management of Sports Related Concussions) was given a second reading. Meyer moved to adopt this new policy, Westgard seconded, AIF. New Policy BP 3415P (Management of Sports Related Concussions) was also given a second reading. Westgard moved to approve this new policy, Sundsted seconded, AIF

(Continued next page)



## Sheridan Electric Cooperative, Inc.

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# School Board Meeting Minutes (Continued)

## **New Business:**

**A.** Joyes made a motion to offer Mr. Holecek a two year contract, Meyer seconded the motion and all voted in favor of this motion.

**B.** Discussion was held regarding the need to discontinue the use of de-icer/salt on the school sidewalks due to the problems it was causing with the gym floor and carpets. Mr. Holecek presented a quote from Swanston Equipment for a sanding attachment for the Bobcat. The board would prefer an attachment that could be loaded with bags of sand rather than loose sand. Mr. Holecek will look into this alternative.

**C.** Mike Gebhardt updated the board on the school's current water softener and RO systems. He explained the need to replace the current residential softener with an industrial model that would be able to soften the water for the entire school (with the exception of the drinking fountains and sprinkler system) thus saving wear and corrosion of the plumbing and fixtures. Meyer moved to purchase an industrial softener, Westgard seconded, AIF.

**D.** Revised Policy BP 2221P (School Closure) was given a first reading.

## **Announcements/Discussion**

Mr. Holecek updated the board on upcoming legislation that may affect schools. There are 7 proposals being presented at the upcoming MHSAA annual meeting in Billings. Mr. Holecek reported that only one proposal will pertain to Westby. He and Susan Meyer will be attending the meeting.

Mr. Holecek reported that all the buses passed the second semester inspection.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Holecek updated the board on meetings he had attended in Bainville and Sidney regarding Proposed HB 136 and how passage of this bill might affect school funding.

Thank you notes were read from Ms. Overgard for the Christmas dinner and gift, and from the family of Arla Samuelson for the flowers.

Westgard moved to approve payment of Payroll warrants #10676 – 10686 totaling \$95,122.61 and claims warrants #16067 – 16104 totaling \$42,399.28. Meyer seconded the motion for payment approval, AIF.

The November Extracurricular Financial Report was reviewed followed by a motion by Meyer to approve; Westgard seconded the motion, AIF.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Arlene Hove, District Clerk

Brenda Ryals, Chairman

**THESE MINUTES ARE UNOFFICIAL AND SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL.**

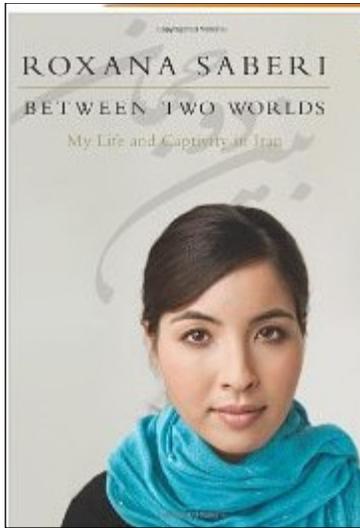
## Book Club

January 2011

### Between Two Worlds

Author: Roxana Saberi

Hostess: Karen Meyer



Roxana Saberi is a very, very brave young woman. A journalist, dual citizen, (Iranian and American), she had been working and living in Tehran for six years when the unthinkable happened. Four men appeared at her apartment and interrogated her for hours, then forced her from her home to another location for more interrogation. "Was this really happening?" was all she could think. She had interviewed more than 60 people about life in Iran and was writing a book on Iran, it's citizens, culture, religion and politics. The intelligence agents accused her of espionage, a charge she vehemently denied. The agents would not believe her claim that she was merely writing a book, hence all those interviews.

(Continues next page)

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## Book Club (continued)

Ms. Saberi was detained at Evin Prison in solitary confinement. In the beginning she was not allowed to call anyone, including her parents in Fargo, ND or her boyfriend, Bahman, living in Iran. The intelligence agents refused to believe her story until she finally came to firmly believe the only way she could get out of Evin was to lie and say exactly what they wanted her to say, that she was indeed a spy for the U.S. Government - the CIA. She had finally “cooperated” with them and they assured her that she would be released any day, following her confession and agreement to spy for *them*. The days turned into weeks, then months. Ms. Saberi was feeling very broken for having sold her soul to the devil and soon began to defy her captors, going back to her original story of doing all this research for a book she was writing.

Following a sham of a trial in as corrupt a justice system as you have ever heard of, Ms. Saberi was sentenced to eight years in prison but was released after having been incarcerated for 100 days.

Although unjustly imprisoned in the first place, this early release would not have been possible without the intervention of the U.S. Government, scores of groups, organizations and individuals all over the world whom she acknowledges in the final pages.

This non-fiction pick was very well researched and written, although we would have liked to hear less about the Iranian government and politics (nearly impossible for us to sort out) and more about her actual time in prison. Oh, and here’s an interesting sidelight; Ms. Saberi was crowned Miss North Dakota in 1997 and went on to finish in the top ten of the Miss America Pageant. Half Iranian and half Japanese, she was born in New Jersey, raised in Fargo, attended Concordia College in Moorhead, MN and currently lives in Fargo. It’s a small, small world. Thank you, Roxana Saberi, for adding to our knowledge of this “small” world.

With the expansion of the oil activity, it can only get worse. Holechek explained, “If we’re going to continue to bring teachers to our community we’re going to have to have a place for them to live. That being said, the district is looking into buying or building houses for teachers.” To provide housing and a school system and building that has been well taken care of, goes a long way in selling ourselves to a prospective teacher.

But.....if Governor Schweitzer has his way, projects like these will come to a halt for us as 48 percent of the oil and gas production tax will no longer go to the producing counties and school districts. He has proposed in House Bill 136 to increase the state’s portion from 52 percent to 90 percent and redistribute the money to other school districts. This distribution formula once again favors the large schools as it is based on enrollment.

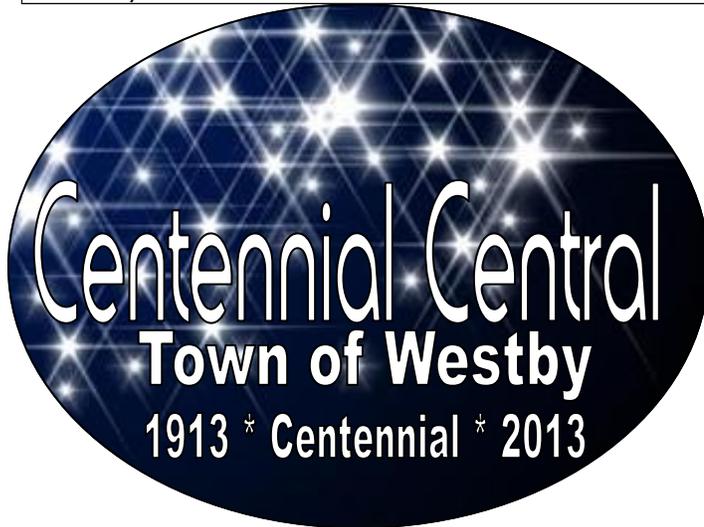
Just as in North Dakota, those in the oil country must educate the opposite side of the state about the costs that come with increased oil production, but for now, it’s a ‘wait and see game’ as to how far the bill goes with this language and how we can fight to come out with the least amount lost. No doubt, we will be watching.

## Oil Money (continued)

Former Superintendent Wayne Koterba had several projects in the works when Mr. Holechek took the helm. Among them is phased replacement of all windows in the school with more energy efficient glass. In addition, a more energy efficient heating and cooling system was installed over the summer as well as a 21-camera security system with time locks. The system allows for a secure environment for those using the recently renovated adult fitness center and securing the building, each day, more feasible.

Superintendent Holechek said, “While we can’t go out and be crazy about spending money, there are some other things we need to do to help ensure quality education into the future.”

The housing market has become extremely tight in Westby with few, if any, homes available at this time.



*Our new centennial column will keep you informed of the plans, progress, and updates for the reunion, as well as bring you interesting stories, past and present, and tidbits of Westby's history. Anyone wishing to share pictures, stories, or pieces of the puzzle may contact the Border News. Cathy Nordhagen will be our new correspondent for the history portion of this column and she may be reached at: [firecrackermango@gmail.com](mailto:firecrackermango@gmail.com) or 385-2364.*

## The next Westby Centennial Meeting will take place:

**March 7, 2011**

**7:00 PM**

**Westby Community Center**

## CURRENT FUNDRAISERS:

First up is a \$1,000.00 cash prize raffle to be drawn for at Prairie Fest 2011. Tickets are available from committee members and many local businesses and sell for \$10.00 each. anyone wanting to purchase tickets, willing to sell a book of tickets, or preferably both, may contact Marlene Anderson at: [marlene\\_bazil@yahoo.com](mailto:marlene_bazil@yahoo.com) or Karen Meyer at: 385.2351.

Donations for 2013 Westby Centennial will also be accepted with any denomination greatly appreciated.

Individual and Business 2013 Centennial Donors will be recognized at the following levels and periodically published (unless specified as anonymous), as well as displayed on a donor board at the 2013 Centennial.

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\$250 Silver  
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**CONTEST DEADLINE:**

**February 1, 2011**



**Westby Border News**  
**P.O. Box 36**  
**Westby, MT 59275**

**Westby Centennial**  
July 12th - 14th, 2013

**\*\*Please note: Subscription rates increase to \$30.00 March 1, 2011**

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**Submission Deadline:**

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*Letters to the editor are welcome but must be signed.*