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BEAR spotlight
quote of the quarter

Badlands BEAR

The EPEDC region's Business Expansion and Retention program - entitled "Badlands BEAR" - is in the process of creating new marketing materials to advertise its growing involvement in connecting established businesses with diverse resources and training opportunities that can aid them in further developing their potential.

Contact Information

Comments or questions?

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Local Project Updates

Recent news within the district includes Carter County's successful grant application to USDA Rural Development for which they received \$50,000 toward the purchase of a new road grader now in operation (pictured above from L to R: James Courtney/Carter County Commissioner, Bill Loehding/Carter County Commissioner, and Kirk Keysor/USDA).

The EPEDC also received a commitment from the USDA for \$50,000 to be utilized as additional Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) money that will be invested in small businesses throughout our area for the purpose of business expansion and job creation/retention. To further support the RLF program, the EPEDC, in conjunction with the Southeastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC), is seeking continued funding from the Economic Development Association (EDA) as well.

Currently, the EPEDC is assisting the Town of Ekalaka with an application to the USDA for the purchase of an emergency generator that would serve to pump the town's water in the event of a prolonged power outage.

New Assistant Begins Work

The EPEDC welcomed Elizabeth Smith as the new Economic Development Assistant August 24th. Ms. Smith will be directly involved in assisting the EPEDC accomplish projects throughout the five county district.

Elizabeth is a graduate of Terry High School and currently a proud Terry resident. After graduating from Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD with a BA in Fine Art, she moved to the west coast before returning in the fall of 2004 to raise her family in Prairie County.

She's garnered significant experience in the area of historic preservation and served a one year VISTA volunteer term with the Prairie Economic Development Council from July 2008-July 2009.

Continued interest in further capitalizing on Eastern Montana's diverse beauty, small-town community spirit, and abundant resources for the betterment of the local population led Elizabeth to pursue a more permanent position in the field of economic development. It is her hope to faithfully serve the communities linked under the five county scope of the EPEDC's work by helping them achieve the goals they've set forth as priorities. She is excited to take on her new role with the organization, as well as meet those individuals already involved in developing the area's potential.



"Do more than is required. What is the distance between someone who achieves their goals consistently and those who spend their lives and careers merely following? The extra mile."

-Gary Ryan Blair

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**The EPEDC serves the following participating counties and municipalities:
Carter County, Dawson County, Fallon County, Prairie County, and Wibaux County,
as well as the City of Baker, the Town of Ekalaka, the City of Glendive, the Town of Plevna,
the Town of Richey, the Town of Terry, and the Town of Wibaux.**