

# SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation

"GROWING MONTANA - ONE JOB AT A TIME"

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## Economic Development Update

Summer 2004



## "ENERGY OPEN" A GREAT SUCCESS

### MEMBERS

ROSEBUD COUNTY

POWDER RIVER  
COUNTY

TREASURE COUNTY

CITY OF FORSYTH

TOWN OF HYSHAM

TOWN OF BROADUS

CITY OF COLSTRIP

Energy leaders from around the multi-state region met in Colstrip recently for the 1st annual "Energy Open" Conference and Golf Tournament. The event was organized by Jim Atchison, Executive Director of Southeastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC) and Tod Kasten, Regional Development

Officer for Montana Department of Commerce as a way to showcase the benefits of responsible energy development.

Featured at Colstrip High School were local business and community leaders, politicians and a representative from Montanans for Responsible Energy Development (MRED), Tom McKerlick.

Plant tours began about 10:00 a.m. at Rosebud Power Plant followed by a catered lunch at Castle Rock Lake by Montana Tamale Company. Following lunch another bus tour headed to Western Energy for a mining and reclamation tour.

After touring the mine, it was back to Colstrip High School where speakers addressed the status of the transmission lines in Montana, discussed network planning and the possibility of increasing transmission availability.

A prime rib dinner and social event took place afterward sponsored by the city of Colstrip and Rosebud County.

Thursday began the "Energy Open" golf tournament at the Colstrip Ponderosa Butte Golf Course. A Hole-in One prize was a 2004 Ford pickup sponsored by Heberle Ford of Forsyth and the Colstrip Medical Center. First Interstate Bank of Colstrip was the winning team of the "Open Energy." golf tournament. Team players were Les Mahon, Kathy Frank, Monica Lindeen and Mike Peterson who walked away with the "Coal Cup."

### ENERGY OPEN SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCED

Southeastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC) has announced an Energy Open Scholarship with the Quality of Life Corporation (QoLC) of Colstrip. "We wanted to say thank you and give back to the Colstrip Community with this \$500 Scholarship," noted Jim Atchison of SEMDC. "This is one of the benefits of the Energy Open and responsible energy developments, he added. General details as follows:

- Available spring of 2005
- Graduating Colstrip High Seniors
- Business or energy related field of study
- Student planning to attend a Montana secondary school

Call SEMDC at 748-2990 for further details.



Joe Walksalong Sr. was the opening speaker at the "Energy Open." Joe represented the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

**SEMDC Receives Certified Regional Development Corporation  
Designation from State of Montana**

Helena, MT- - June 30, 2004 - The creation of the Certified Regional Development Corporation (CRDC) program was provided for in HB76 that was passed by the 2003 Legislature and signed into law by Governor Martz. As directed by HB76, the Department of Commerce (DOC) through the CRDC program designates up to 12 CRDCs and awards regional capacity building grants to match local economic development funds. Annually, \$425,000 was appropriated to the DOC by the legislature for this purpose. The legislative intent of the CRDC program is to encourage a regional approach to economic development that facilitates the efficient delivery of economic development programs.

“The CRDC program promotes public and private sector partnerships at the regional level in order to identify and respond to economic development issues and opportunities facing each of Montana’s diverse economic regions. Each CRDC is required to have the support of all the counties and a majority of the incorporated cities and towns in their region to obtain and maintain certification,” said Mark Simonich, Director, Montana Department of Commerce. “This new program will help local officials, communities and businesses create new economic opportunities throughout the state of Montana.” The partnership of these counties and communities allows for synergy and prevents duplication of efforts, while providing a vehicle agency located locally to receive funding and administer services for economic development.

**Southeastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC)** of Colstrip was one of the 12 CRDC designations awarded by the state of Montana. “Everyone in our CRDC region should be excited about this award,” stated Jim Atchison, Executive Director of SEMDC. “It will stabilize existing businesses and encourage growth of business in Custer, Powder River, Rosebud and Treasure Counties,” Atchison added.

**COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)**

Planning and organizing the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) plan continues to proceed. The CEDS is a basic foundation planning document which will cover the four county SEMDC region of Custer, Rosebud, Powder River and Treasure Counties. It will identify, evaluate and implement economic development plans and goals with input from communities, including elected officials, business, civic and community leaders. The CEDS plan is expected to be completed by the end of 2004.

**S B D C U P D A T E**  
**S c o r e b o a r d**  
U p d a t e d M a r c h , 2 0 0 4

	<b><u>Since 1997</u></b>	<b><u>Last 12 Months</u></b>
Jobs Created	120	30
Jobs Retained	283	45
<b>Total Jobs</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>75</b>
Loans Received	\$7,507,276	\$1,800,860
Total Funding	\$9,038,356	\$2,193,170

SCORE BOARD DATA is only recorded when a SBDC client is able to receive small business funding after two or more one-on-one counseling sessions have been completed.

*The (SBDC) is a funded program of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). SBA's funding is not an endorsement of any products, opinion, or services. All SBA funded programs are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.*

SMALL BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT CENTER  
SATELLITE OFFICES

**Call for appointment**

**406-748-2990**

**BAKER – EKALAKA**

**BROADUS - ASHLAND  
LAME DEER**

**FORSYTH – HYSHAM**

**GLENDIVE - WIBAUX  
TERRY**

**MILES CITY**

**COLSTRIP**

Please check our website for  
schedule

[www.semdc.org](http://www.semdc.org)



**Dee's on Woodrose**, owned and operated by Deane Ames recently opened for business in Colstrip. **Dee's on Woodrose** is located at 122 Woodrose (old Dentist office) and is open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Mon-Sat).

She is featuring a cozy café style atmosphere with breakfast, lunch specials and an excellent salad and sandwich selection. The coffee and creative desserts are awesome!

Dee is also renting DVD's with pay-per-view or membership payment options. So stop by **Dees on Woodrose** or call 748-3520 for more information.



Deane Ames with SBDC Director, David Anderson

CONGRATULATIONS DEE!

**USDA ANNOUNCES FUNDING  
FOR HYSHAM ASSISTED LIVING PROJECT**

The USDA recently announced that Southeastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC) was awarded an \$18,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG). The grant will fund a feasibility study of a proposed eight unit assisted living facility in Hysham, MT.

"We are really excited about this grant as it will study the possibility of this economic development project in Hysham," stated Jim Atchison of SEMDC.

"The Hysham Task Force is very determined and has invested quite a bit of time and energy into this proposal," added Atchison. The Hysham Task Force was also recently awarded a \$65,000 Montana Coal Board Grant for their assisted living project.

*"The role of government is to create conditions in which jobs are created in which people can find work."  
President George W. Bush - - - - -*



**MONTANA STATS**  
**JUNE 2004**

**UNEMPLOYMENT:** Montana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be lower than U.S. rate. The state's June unemployment of 4.8 percent was four-fifths of a percentage points lower than the nation's.

**EARNINGS:** Average weekly earnings for workers in Montana's private sector reached \$425.68 in June, making an over- the-year increase of 1.6%. Compare this percent change to the 3.3% over-the-year increase in U.S. inflation.

**SECTOR EMPLOYMENT:** Montana's seasonally-adjusted, nonagricultural payroll employment was up about 5,600 jobs (1.4 percent) over the year for June. The largest over-the-year gains were in natural resources and mining; trade, transportation and utilities; financial activities; professional and business services; and leisure and hospitality services.

**Source:** RESEARCH & ANALYSIS BUREAU—MT DEPT OF LABOR/INDUSTRY

**SEMDC**  
**Board of Directors**

**Joan Stahl - President**  
Forsyth

**John Williams**  
**Vice President**  
Colstrip

**Less Mahon-Sec/Treas**  
Colstrip

**Dennis Kopitzke**  
Forsyth

**Larry Fink**  
Hysham

**Betty Aye**  
Broadus

**Lyman Amsden**  
Broadus

**Susan Moos**  
Ashland

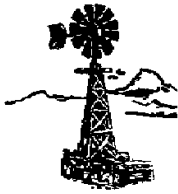
**Joe Fox Jr.**  
Ashland

**Mack Cole**  
Hysham

**Jennifer Cramer**  
Hysham

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

~~~~~  
Coal provides employment for over 90,000 miners directly, with an additional seven jobs created throughout the economy for each miner's job (Electric utilities, transportation, manufacturing, etc)  
--- **Montana Coal Council**



SouthEastern Montana Development Corporation  
 P O Box 1935 / 6200 Main Street  
 Colstrip, MT 59323

"Growing Montana -One Job at a Time"

NONPROFIT ORG  
 U S POSTAGE PAID  
 PERMIT # 17  
 COLSTRIP, MT 59323

Phone: 406-748-2990  
 Fax: 406-748-2990

E-mail: [semdc@mcn.net](mailto:semdc@mcn.net)  
 Website: [www.semdc.org](http://www.semdc.org)

## Coming Soon

### UP-COMING EVENTS

August - December - Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)  
All Four Counties

August - AG Open - Williston

August 25/26 - SBDC Quarterly Meetings - Wolf Point

October - MT Coal Board Grants Meeting - Billings

October - Mt Cooperative Development Center Retreat - Chico

October - "Got Socks" Shareholders Meeting - Colstrip

October 25/29 - NDC Training Course - Helena

### **SEMDC and SBDC STAFF**

Jim Atchison.....Executive Director  
 David Anderson.....SBDC Director  
 Caprice Gregory/Pam Hill.....Administrative Assistants

# ENERGY OPEN 2004

*Showcasing Economic  
Benefits of Responsible  
Energy Development*



*Registration  
At the Energy Open*



*E. J. Redding represented MDU  
Resources at the Energy Open*



**ENERGY OPEN  
2004  
COLSTRIP**



Montanans for Responsible  
Energy Development

## MRED

The GrassRoots  
Energizing Montana

The Luncheon was catered by The Montana Tamale Company, and served at Castle Rock Lake.



Colstrip High School provided the buses to take the participants on tours of the mines.



Participants in the Energy Open enjoyed a delicious prime rib dinner at Mulligans, sponsored by the City of Colstrip and Rosebud County.

# ***ENERGY OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT***



The golfers get their instructions from the Colstrip Golf Pro Glenn Godfrey.



Hole-in One prize sponsored by Heberle Ford of Forsyth and the Colstrip Clinic.



SEMDC Director, Jim Atchison presents the Winning team. First Interstate Bank. Left to right Kathy Frank, Monica Lindeen and Les Mahon. Not pictured is Mike Peterson



Shooting for the Hole in One Prize.



Participants in the Energy open wait for the