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American Legion collecting for **PV Food Pantry**

Staff Report

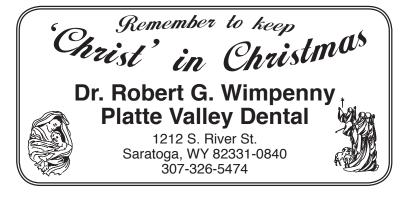
The American Legion Post #54 in Saratoga is collecting non-perishable food Dec. 20 at 5 p.m. items throughout the month of December for the Platte Valley Food Pantry.

Food items can be dropped off at the 326-9600, after 3 p.m. daily. American Legion Post Home during reg-

ular business hours.

The food items are being collected until

To find out what is needed for the pantry, call Legion Manager Deb Clark, at



HRISTMAS CONCERT **"I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS"**

concert by the Encampment - Riverside Choir featuring special guests from the E.H.S. Music class, and the Sierra Madre String Trio

GE Opera House • 7pm on Dec. 7

A Tribute to our communities, the Mayors and Councils, E.M.T.s, Volunteer Fire/Search & Rescue, the Police, Veterans and Clergy.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT & SERVICE. Refreshments will be served. Come and enjoy a special evening!

Pssssssst! We heard that Santa Claus will be there!

By Max Miller

Kate Sherrod, President reindeer team, either. of the Valley Service Organization (VSO) has "heard a ergy for the Platte Valley rumor, not yet confirmed," that Santa Clause will be sored Christmas Parade in

Wood noted.

the rest of his hard working groups in all. Those want-

Jolly joy bringer returns

Chamber of Commerce-spon-

ing more information or to They'll need plenty of en- register a float, can call the Chamber at 307-326-8855.

> Santa's last stop of the evening will be at the PVCC.

Preparing this festive occa-

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL MERCHANTS!



Jeffrey Center to Depot Saturday @ 9:30am

by Parks

Rawlins Daily Times

Sınclaır



Carbon County Visitors' Co CARBON COUNT

All Day: Shop Small-Triple Play Saratoga/Encampment/Riverside

5:30 p.m. Christmas Parade Downtown Saratoga

After the parade: *Winter Wonderland*



For complete schedule of events visit rawlinsmainstreet.org

BW Best Western.

Code: WinterFest for disc

PVCC, Great Hall

Sunday, December 11 4 p.m. Saratoga Community Choir Christmas Concert **PVCC**, Theater

Tuesday, December 13 7p.m. Saratoga Middle/High School Concert **PVCC**, Theater

Sunday, December 25 Christmas

Support your local community by shopping at your local

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." *—Luke 2:11* Platte Valle Med

PO Box 648, Saratoga WY 82331 Ph: 307-326-8381 Fax: 307-326-5698





Photo by Fred Broschart

Members of the Encampment-Riverside Community Choir prepare to rehearse for the group's Christmas concert at the Encampment Opera House.

Enc/Riverside choir performs Dec. 7

By Fred Broschart

The Encampment-Riverside Community Choir will be entertaining crowds at more fun than the perforthe Encampment Opera House this holiday season, just as it has done for the past 19 years. The all-volunteer, nonprofit group a sense of community spirit started in 1990 for the state she said. The group is always centennial.

"Back then, we did mostly old western songs," Lynn Finney, president of the nonprofit said. After being formed to celebrate the centennial of the state's founding, the group came back Ever since then, the group has been busy entertaining residents and visitors almost nonstop.

The size of the choir varies from year-to-year, and this year will be about 30 people, including some students from Encampment K-12 school. "The students have been practicing at school, and the (Christmas) concert will count as their Finney, the choir is a labor performance credit," Finney said.

volunteers, and operates Valley, the members of the on donations given by local choir are most proud of the groups, governments and group's Christmas concert, individuals. "When we perform, we just put out a can for the year. "We practice for people to drop money into," Finney said. The group cert," Finney said. "Once it's performs year-round, Finney done, we like to take a bit of said, and is often brought in break before we start getting to perform at local venues, ready for the spring."

and every year does a show at the A-Bar-A Ranch.

"The practices are almost mances," Debbie Salisbury, a longtime member of the choir said. All a member really needs is a love of music and open to new members, and age is no restriction. Finney says some people may think they are not good enough for the choir, but most people can sing whether they realize it or not, she said.

As a community group, together in 1997 to com- the choir is always looking memorate the centennial of for new members, Finney the town of Encampment. said. Salisbury is pleased that High School students will be performing this year with the choir. Many of the current members, like herself, have been with the choir for years, but as with any community group, there is always a need to engage younger people, both as performers and as an audience.

And for long-term volunteers like Salisbury and of love.

The choir is staffed by performs year-round in the and see it as a bit of capstone hard for the Christmas con-

This year, the choir will be performing the Christmas concert Dec. 7 at Encampment's historical Opera house. The concert will be free to all comers, but the nonprofit group does accept donations from attendees during the event.

The choir will also be performing Christmas music at the nursing home in Saratoga Sunday, Dec, 4, giving residents there a preview of some parts of the show.

This year, the choir plans to take time in the program to thank local sponsors and civic organizations. The sponsors will be getting special invitations to attend the Christmas show, and will be recognized during the program. The sponsors include the town councils of Encampment and Riverside, emergency services and other civic groups.

"There are some summers when it seemed like we never had a free weekend," Becky Kreusel, one of the choir's two directors said. "It's the love of the music that keeps us going; I think Even though the choir that's what brings people together is that love of music."

The choir's Christmas concert will be held at the



Saturday, Dgc. 3 (a) 8am Registration begins at 7:30am Starts at the Community Center Gym 2-mile Run • \$10 entry fee Proceeds benefit the Giving Tree Run sponsored by the Town of Saratoga Recreation Department. For more information or to pre-register, call Lisa at 326-8338

Have a safe and happy holiday season!



All the direct-sales vendors in one place!

Encampment Opera House 7 p.m. Dec. 7. The venue is generally packed, Finney said, and those who plan on driving should probably arrive around 6:30 p.m., as parking near the Opera House can get challenging.





Shopping small builds your commu

Staff Report

Without small businesses, a community cannot grow. The Platte Valley is no exception.

Several businesses are participating in Shop Small Saturday and it's two chamber-sponsored twin sister Saturdays on December 3 and 10. In case you haven't shopped locally lately, here are a few things Valley businesses have to offer:

Platte Valley Ranch Supply

Whether its providing for four-legged friends or getting supplies for the ranch, Valley residents need not look any further than Platte Valley Ranch Supply.

Megan Greenwood said her shop will be offering up to 30 percent off on many of her sales racks. The store will also have a drawing to win a \$25 gift certificate.

Once again Platte Valley Ranch Supply is helping local animals in need by setting up a "pet giving tree". Donations go towards assisting shelter animals.

Strong Tower Designs

At Saratoga's Strong Tower Designs, Black Friday stretches throughout the holiday season. From Nov. 29 to Dec. 26, stop by for in-store sales.

Co-owner Jamie Bernal said they are lowering prices to encourage people to shop local.

"Shopping local keeps money in the community and supports more small-business people," Bernal said.

Saratoga Auto Parts

Saratoga Auto Parts has a multitude of items which make perfect stocking stuffers. The mechanic in your family will love a small wrench set, tire pressure gauge or one of the many other items available.

cals working, it keeps local families in our community ... the money doesn't leave the community."

Saratoga Museum

If you need something fun to do, but want to stay out of the cold, the Saratoga Museum is the place to be this holiday season.

Take your holiday guests through millions of years as you explore the Platte Valley's vast history. While you are there, the museum will be offering full sets of books by former Saratoga resident and best-selling author C.J. Box.

The museum gift shop is offering all kinds of historical reading and stocking stuffers as well.

Laura M

Laura M may be expanding online, but that's not keeping her from offering shoppers specials throughout the holiday season.

Laura M's is offering discounts for in-town and out-oftown shoppers alike via her online store. The shop is also bringing in more gift items for the season as well.

When asked why it is important to shop local, Laura M said the survival of any town is dependent on local shoppers.

"[Saratoga] gets a lot of customers during the tourist season, but we need support year-round," she said. "People should shop around and see what (local businesses) have to offer."

The Flower Pot

The Flower Pot is planning store-wide sales this winter.

The Flower Pot has everything you need including gift baskets, fruit and nut baskets, jade and turquoise jewelry, Wyoming tee-shirts and hats, silk wreaths, Russel Stover Christmas candies, stockingstuffers and more. They will be holding holiday gift drawings and are also December.

from local people, it's important for residents to shop local this winter.

"It keeps us alive," she said. "Our main customers are right here in the Valley, and if they don't come to our stores, then we lose out."

Red Sage Spa

Get ready to look and feel your best for that Christmas party this year and head to Saratoga's Red Sage Spa

Thanksgiving and Christmas are an especially busy time of year for the spa, so Red Sage Spa owner, Brenda Schwartzkopf, recommends making your appointment as soon as possible.

The spa will be offering gift certificates for the special person in your life who needs to be pampered.

Schwartzkopf said keeping businesses open is essential to keeping our community alive and suggests everyone shop local this winter.

Koyoty Sports

Koyoty Sports & Trophy Room Taxidermy will be offering a variety of sales throughout the Holiday Season. Koyoty Sports has something for the whole family including gift certificates, firearms, ammunition, hunting gear, footwear, camping supplies, jewelry, home decor and so much more.

"Shopping local is a great way to keep our community alive as well as giving us the opportunity to get to know and understand what our community needs," co-owner Kathleen Cervin said.

Shively Hardware

Shively Hardware in Saratoga is more than just nuts and bolts.

Shively has everything you need to make your Christmas Christmas cards, fresh and special. They have a selection of Christmas lights and decorations to get you and your family in the Christmas spirit. They have a wide selection of Tonka Toys, Lincoln Logs, crafts and stuffed animals for kids. Also, look for gifts for the home including power tools, coffee makers and more.

shopping local. "It keeps lo- most of their business coming You can also battle the cold of winter with their abundance of snow shovels, jump starters and heaters for sale.

> Shively also has everything vou need for your favorite pet too.

> As they always have, Shively Hardware offers free gift wrapping for Christmas, birthdays and anniversaries.

> Connie Hayes with Shively Hardware said you don't have to travel through the winter weather to get great stuff. Instead, you can stay in town and get everything you need locally.

"It helps out the local economy and your dollar stays here," Hayes said.

The Trading Post

The "Biggest little store in the country," according to store owner Mark Rauterkus, serves the area by selling sporting goods, snow machine registrations, hunting and fishing licenses, gas, food drinks and ammunition in addition to renting skis and snowshoes.

Riverside's Trading Post will be celebrating its 31st anniversary in business on Dec. 7 and to celebrate will offer a 31 percent discount on all of their wide selection of outdoor apparel, equipment and ammunition.

The Red Wagon

Christmas shopping is not complete without a visit to Encampment and The Red Wagon. What makes Alyson Sneddon's shop unique is the popular coffee shop located inside.

"We have gourmet hot chocolate, teas, special sugars and a unique brew," Sneddon said of the coffee shop.

The Red Wagon is also home to several vendors around the Valley and includes items from home-spun yarn to photographs, furniture and glassware. If you are looking for something for the hard-to-buy for person, The Red Wagon is a must stop.

Things boasts new, gently used and antique items.

Bob and Roz Herring travel around the region to find the perfect items for their store.

Vintage furniture and glassware are just a few of things you will find.

They also carry office supplies, hunting supplies and handmade knives.

Their inventory in constantly changing, so it is worth your time to make several stops during the Christmas season.

Grand Encampent Museum

While in Encampment, make sure to visit the Grand **Encampment Museum!**

The main gallery and research center is open to visitors most weekdays: Monday through Friday, 10am-4pm. The GEM gift shop has a variety of western and local history books, t-shirts, mugs and local art.

Aspen Sky Merchants

More than 50 vendors have wares for sale in booths at Aspen Sky Merchants.

Linda Rogers, owner of Aspen Sky Merchants, said there is no disputing local patrons are the primary key to business survival and community growth.

This store has a little bit of everything, from the hand made to the manufactured.

Rogers said as a business owner she recognizes and is grateful for her local shoppers in Saratoga and the surrounding area.

According to Rogers, 79 percent of Aspen Sky's revenue comes from local customers. "Aspen Sky then expends 92 percent of that revenue back into the local economy," Rogers said

Saratoga Do-it

You can even make your winter commute less stressful with a pair of wiper blades or a new car battery.

Rocky Fiedor, with Saratoga Auto Parts, said the money you spend at your hometown store doing daily deliveries though stays in your hometown.

"It keeps the money in our community," Fiedor said about Connie McGuire, said with

Owner of the Flower Pot,

Good Things

Good Things is right around the corner from The Red Wagon in Encampment. Good

Best Lumber

Saratoga Do-it Best Lumber is the perfect place to shop for the do-it-yourselfer in the family, or helps you to give a hint of something to be done before the holidays.

Expecting guests for the holiday season and need to do some sprucing up? Check





out their home improvement Bargains crew can be found section.

Stop in and see the crew for donations. ideas on how to make your

Hack's Tackle

If you have an angler on your list, you are in luck, at the store to earn scholarbecause Hack has the best ships. selection of fishing gear in Carbon County.

talk to Hack and his crew! several students. They will tell you what you need.

huts and augers.

Hack's has everything you need to outfit the novice or professional angler.

The Outhouse Gift Shop

the Outhouse Gift Shop has on the shelf? Talk to store a plethora of gift ideas and is owner Tim Lamprecht about now rearranging her store to special orders. get ready for Christmas.

carries Wisconsin Cheese and furnishing cheeses and meats Sausage, greeting cards, holiday plates and napkins, and desserts such as cream pies and cheesecakes.

for stocking stuffers.

ming and local school t-shirts and sweatshirts.

Need baking supplies? The Outhouse has Allison Pantry supplies.

honeys are also featured items. of rest. Need wrapping, gifts or tis-

sues? They have that too.

Bridge Street Bargains

You never know what treasures you will find at Bridge they can help. Street Bargains. Their inventory changes daily with donations from the community.

Street Bargains benefit Sara- counts on massage packages. toga students and the Big Brothers Big Sisters HUB.

sorting through the incoming

Open Monday through Sathome merrier for the holidays. urday, proceeds from the store benefit the children in the community.

Students can also volunteer

Because Bridge Street Bargains receives so many dona-Not sure what to get? Just tions, they are able to sponsor

Whether you are looking for ideas for the Festival of Trees If you have an ice fisherman or a gift item for a neighbor, in the family, be sure to talk to Bridge Street Bargains may Hack about his selection of ice have exactly what you are looking for.

Valley Foods

Baked goods are always fun gifts to give during the holiday season, and Valley Foods has all the baking supplies you Donna Sjoden, owner of need. Don't see what you want

Valley Foods makes hol-The Outhouse Gift Shop iday entertaining easier by in the deli and creating fruit, vegetable and deli trays.

Be sure to stop in at Valley Liquors and look over their The store is also has Avon large assortment of beers and merchandise, which are great wine. The crew can help you pair the perfect wine to com-They also have toys, Wyo- pliment your holiday dinner.

Albany County Chiropractic

The holidays can be stressful, so take time out to pamper Nuts, candies and whipped yourself so that you get plenty

> Albany County Chiropractic offers pillows to help with sleep and orthotics for the long shopping days. Stop in and see Kindra or Darren to find how

Heavenly Body N Sole

Susan Marich at Heavenly The income from Bridge Body N Sole is offering dis-

> Deep cleaning, climbing ladders to hang decorations and



December 7 is our 31ST ANNIVERSARY! That day **ONLY** we will be celebrating with a 31% OFF sale on ALL outdoor equipment, clothing and ammo.

rading Open 7 days • 307-327-5720 Riverside, Wyoming

Merry Christmas!





Reflections from the files of the Saratoga Sun

Out of jail, Saratoga bridge, fund drive, volunteers honored

100 Years Ago November 23, 1916 Wants out of Jail

Because he is a good porch climber, rifle shooter, and has other marked accomplishments, Amandus Kessler wants to get out of jail at Easton, Pa., and become a fighter for Uncle Sam in the ranks of the United States Marine Corps, according to an appealing letter addressed to the Marine recruiting station in that city.

Amandus wrote several pages in his patriotic outburst, and promised to use his influence with his fellow prisoners to awaken them to the call of the flag, if the Marines only would come and get him out.

Although the young man claims to be a good "healthy feller", unfortunately his morals are not in the same flourishing condition, so Amandus and his pals must languish in

prison while the Marine Corps of-way necessary at the south will be a Federal-State-Town County Commissioners will remains heartless but uncon- end of town can be arranged taminated.

75 Years Ago November 27, 1941 New Bridge Believed to be **Developed of Immediate** Future

Developments within the past week indicate that a contract for construction of the new highway bridge across the river at Saratoga may be let about the first of the year, providing the town can secure the necessity right-of-way within the town limits, Council members have announced. The new bridge will be located within the town limits, and the State Highway Department has requested the Council to obtain the northern section of the required right-of-way immediately in order that the contract can be let about January 1, and construction started. Rightfor later, the Council revealed.

A group of local Lions Club and Town Council members drove to Cheyenne Friday, where they met with the members of the Highway Commission and were given details regarding the proposed new bridge and highway construction. It will be necessary for the Town to obtain all right-of-way needed within the town limits, which will then be turned over to the State. In this manner construction of the new bridge and a short portion of the highway at each end of town will be constructed and maintained at no cost to the town. Excepted will be the eight-block section of First Street from the Herring residence south to a point at the south edge of town near the I.M Conness property. This section, along with the highway will pass,

of Saratoga will be required to share in the construction cost, and will maintain the street after it is oiled.

The Council said the right-ofway is being secured as rapidly as possible, and that they hope for 100 per cent co-operation in the matter. Local business man feel that owning to the defense program and other things, the Saratoga-Encampment highway is a proposition of "now or never", and that any impediment arising now might permanently lost the highway to the town, and result, when it is built, in its missing the town altogether. Also, in order to give the fullest co-operation to the State, all right-of-way should be determined immediately in order that the Department may have data for early letting of the bridge construction.

Indications are that the

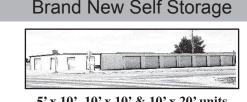
co-operative strip. The Town soon begin work on securing the necessary right-of-way between Saratoga and Encampment, and that if no serious difficulties are encountered. a contract may be let for this section soon after the first of the year.

50 Years Ago November 24, 1966 Valley United Fund Drive **Chairman Honored at Banquet in Rawlins**

Emil Blom and Joe Jones of Saratoga are among 15 persons honored for their work in the October fund-raising drive of the Carbon County United Fund, Inc. Mr. Blom and Mr. Jones were co-chairmen of the drive in Saratoga in which \$1295 was raised.

Awards were presented during a dinner meeting of United Fund directors held last Thursday night at the Golden







Spike Restaurant in Rawlins.

Mr. Jones was also elected to the board of directors of the United Fund as were Ralph Moorhead of Sinclair, Mrs. Lois Higley of Rawlins and Howard Hembree of Rawlins. With the eight directors named earlier, the new directors will serve on the board until March 15, the date of the United Fund's first annual meeting.

The awards presented to Mr. Blom and Mr. Jones at the meeting Thursday night were certificates of merit presented by United Fund president George Hutt of the Rawlins Chamber of Commerce, sponsors of United Fund.

During the meeting, drive chairman Jack Dunham praised the Saratoga men for their efforts in making the drive a success in the Platte Valley. Mr. Dunham added that he has learned that next vear the Encampment Lions Club will conduct the drive in Encampment. This year the drive in the Platte Valley was handled through the Saratoga chairmen.

Treasurer Ed. Lenhart reported that total contributions to date are \$14,100.05, including \$1295 from the Saratoga area, \$950 from Sinclair, and

\$357.85 from Elk Mountain, 1991 Saratoga Museum volun-Baggs, Hanna and Slater, Colo.

Nine agencies will benefit in 1967 from thee 1966 campaign. They are the Carbon County Red Cross, Boy Scouts, Carbon County Health Association Salvation Army, U.S.O., Carbon County Association for Retarded Children, Camp Fire Council, Arthritis Fund and Carbon County Mental Health Association.

25 Years Ago November 27, 1991 **Museum volunteers** honored at tea A tea party honoring the

teers was held Nov. 13 at the museum.

Nineteen of the 23 active volunteers and their guests were in attendance at the event. Sonia Collamer, Virginia Storer, Cynthia McGinness and Gay Alcorn, representing the Saratoga Historical and Cultural Association's board of directors. also attended.

Museum Director Nancy Wallis conducted a short meeting.

During 1991 more than 600 volunteer hours were accumulated with the bulk of this time being spent during the summer season when the museum is open. Volunteers served as tour guides and were available to answer questions from the museum's many visitor.

Many hours were also spent in the restoration and repair of artifacts displayed and housed in the museum. A programs given by Cynthia McGinness and Nancy Wallis, featuring slides of their recent trip to England, was presented to the group.

This year's annual Christmas party was also discussed. It was decided that the group would accept an invitation by Peter and Ginny Storer to attend a carry in dinner at their home on the evening of Dec. 20.

Saratoga Sun BUSINESS CARD DIRECTORY





Needs to fill, ways to give Some suggestions for giving back during the holiday season

StatePoint

back to your local community. The holiday season is the perfect time of year to do this, when volunteer all proceeds go to support and donation opportunities increase. Here are a few ideas to give back in your go even further thanks to community:

The Gift of Literacy

dents entering high school are proficient in reading, according to a National Assessment of Education Progress report. Brighten children's smiles this holiday season while also giving them an opportunity to succeed at school and beyond. The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation has given new toys to children in need for organization also extends its reach through a partnership with The UPS Store through the Toys for Tots Literacy Program, which provides economically disadvantaged

children an opportunity to to organize an event like When making this year's succeed in school and beholiday gift list, consider yond. Donations can be how you might also give made at The UPS Store locations nationwide or online at toysfortots.org/literacy.

One-hundred percent of local children and literacy programs. Your donations the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, which is able to purchase books at a deep Only one-third of all stu- discount. To find a participating location near you and make a donation that will help ensure families everywhere have access to books, visit *theupsstore.com*.

Bake Sale

trays of cookies for your big holiday party, consider making an extra batch or two, and encouraging friends and more than 60 years. The neighbors to do the same. With your combined efforts, you can host a bake sale, which can be a lucrative and enjoyable way to raise monev for your favorite charity.

If you don't have time give back.

this, you can still give back through your baking. Wrap packs of cookies or other goodies in bags as thank you gifts to your children's teachers, coaches and others in your community who have served or been kind to your family all year.

Volunteer Your Time

One of the best ways to give back is by donating your valuable time. Make a trip to a local nursing home and spend time with residents who may not have family or anyone else to visit them this season. Additionally, soup kitchens are often in need of extra hands during When you're busy making the holidays. Ask your local organizations about volunteer opportunities.

> While holiday wish lists are often full of fun gadgets, clothes and toys, there are still many in your community lacking more basic necessities. This season. think beyond your personal wants and do your best to

Get your overseas packages out on time

Staff Report

During the holiday season, most know that the post office is busy and delivery times are expected to be longer than usual. But those sending packages to loved ones serving overseas in the military or diplomatic services should pay particular attention to ensure that holiday gifts arrive on time.

According to a release by the U.S. Post office, the deadline to mail packages and cards to military, APO and FPO addresses is Dec.9 for priority packages and first-class postage. For Express Mail service, the deadline is Dec. 16.

The post office offers a \$2 discount on its largest flat-rate priority mail box if the box is being shipped to an APO, FPO or DPO address.

For sending holiday gifts to overseas service members, the post office offers a military kit. The kit contains two priority mail flat rate boxes for APO, FPO and DPO addresses, two Priority Mail medium flat-rate boxes as well as tape and address labels. The kit can be ordered by calling 800-610-8734.





Come participate in the upcoming events at the Platte Valley Community Center

Dec 6: Saratoga Elementry School Concert 6:30 - 8 p.m. Dec 8: Ladies Night Out from 6:30-9 p.m. **Dec 4:** View the Festival of Trees from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Dec 9: Festival of Trees Gala and Auction 6 p.m. Dec 10: Winter Wonderland & Santa House after the Christmas Parade Dec 11: Saratoga Community Choir 4 p.m. **Dec 13:** SMHS Christmas Concert 6 - 7:30 p.m.



210 W. Elm, Saratoga 307-326-7822 www.pvcenter.org