

SARATOGA SUN CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads are \$8 for the first 15 words, 20 cents per word after the first 15. Classbox ads are \$8.50 per column inch. Classified ads must be pre-paid or may be billed to established accounts. • Deadline for submission is Monday at noon. Call Amanda at 326-8311 or email sunads@union-tel.com to place a classified ad.

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS
Miscellaneous

HUGHESNET SATELLITE INTERNET - 25mbps starting at \$49.99/mo! Get more data. FREE Off-Peak Data. FAST download speeds. WiFi built in! FREE standard installation for lease customers! Limited time. Call 1-866-982-2546.

Notice

BE INFORMED! View public notices printed in Wyoming's newspapers FREE ONLINE at: www.wyopublicnotices.com. Government meetings, hearings, spending, bids, taxes, estates, foreclosures and more!



STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS
Professional Services

YOU CAN SAY A LOT IN 25 WORDS! REACH THOUSANDS OF READERS with a single classified ad when it is placed in WYCAN (Wyoming Classified Ad Network). Sell, buy, promote your services - only \$150 FOR 25 WORDS. Contact this newspaper or the Wyoming Press Association (307.635.3905) for details.

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedroom, 1.5 bath house with garage and fenced yard. Sierra Madre Rentals. 307-701-6345.

MISCELLANEOUS

BROKEN TACOMA - Need ride to Colorado, Fort Collins or south, ASAP. Ralph Leuthold-206 West Main St., Saratoga-will pay expenses, ready anytime!

HELP WANTED

OLD BALDY CLUB
Old Baldy Club Seasonal Labor Housekeepers Wanted
Includes cleaning all common areas of private club and guest's rooms. Day and night shifts available. May 1st - October 15th • Please call 307-329-8109 with any questions or interest in joining our staff.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

PVHP is looking for professional grant writers for a health care project in North Platte Valley, must have experience in Federal HRSA, State and local grant writing. Competitive wages. Send your resume to:
P.O. Box 549
Saratoga, WY 82331

HELP WANTED

ANNOUNCEMENT

Yes!
We are open daily!
We are following all our states guidelines.
If you have any questions, call
Mary (307) 329-6191 or
Gary (307) 329-8814.
Keep Safe! Doggett Greenhouse

ANNOUNCEMENT

Need a few extra bucks!?
Saratoga Hot Springs Resort
is looking for extra **HOUSEKEEPING** staff members
Flexible Scheduling, Shifts Start @ 8:45am
Come see if your schedule can work with ours!
*Food/Beverage Servers
*Part Time Front Desk Clerk
*Part Time Laundry Associate
*Massage Therapist-Call Nastasha at the Resort
*Night Auditor Grave Yard Shift-Full/Part Time
*Full/Part Time Bartender (must be able to work weekends)
For questions or applications call or stop by the resort
SARATOGA Hot Springs Resort 601 Pic Pike Rd. 307-326-5261

EDUCATION

School district left with a 'lot' of questions

CCSD2 Board of Trustees discuss what to do with property in Medicine Bow after current lessee declines annual renewal

by Joshua Wood

The Carbon County School District No. 2 (CCSD2) Board of Trustees is facing a dilemma of land ownership after receiving information that the current lessee of property in Medicine Bow is not interested in renewing their lease for another year. Currently, property owned by the district surrounding the old Medicine Bow High School is leased to MedBow Lodging, LLC. There are approximately 10 contractors staying on the property at the moment.

As was previously reported, (see "Viridis Eolia asks about land lease" on page 16 of the March 4 *Saratoga Sun*), the wind energy company Viridis Eolia (Viridis) had expressed interest in the property surrounding the old Medicine Bow High School. Viridis had purchased the old Medicine Bow High School from the Town of Medicine Bow three years ago and, over a year ago, had expressed interest in purchasing the surrounding property.

Dean Byrne, who represents Viridis, had expressed the company's interest in the property in February 2019 via phone and appeared in person this past February to re-express interest. According to Byrne, at the most recent February meeting, the wind energy company had interest in developing the old Medicine Bow High School and the 19 acres of land surrounding it. When asked by CCSD2 Board Member Mike Boardman what plans Viridis had for Medicine Bow, Byrne replied that he could not disclose those plans publicly.

"Mr. Byrne, who represents Viridis ... has approached the board, probably a couple years ago initially, and then we didn't hear from him (for) a while and then they ended up buying the old school building from the Town of Medicine Bow. His client is the one that's interested in a purchase," said CCSD2 Superintendent Jim Copeland. "He's reached out again a couple of times recently. So, basically, I'm just looking for a little guidance. Do we want to do something about the land? Do we want to sell it? He's also indicated they would be interested in a short term lease with an option to purchase."

Chairman James Sewell advised the board, most of whom joined via videoconference, that no actions would need to be taken on the matter at that meeting. Rather, Sewell had put the item on the agenda to get discussion going on how the board would want to proceed.

"The board could take action to move forward with Mr. MacPherson writing a lease with some conditions, we could say we're just not ready to take any action at this time or we could say we're not interested in selling the land," Copeland said. "There are some past issues that have come up."

One of those issues, expressed by both Boardman and CCSD2 Vice Chair Kaycee Alameda, was the fact that Viridis had not paid taxes on the property they already owned in Medicine Bow. Indeed, according to data from the Carbon County Assessor's Office, the wind energy company has not paid their 2019 property taxes in the total amount of \$37,401.73. According to the data available on *carbonwy.com*, the first half of the taxes, \$18,700.87, was due on November 10 and the second half, \$18,700.86, is due on May 10.

"The fact that they haven't paid their taxes is just one issue. There's several issues that I have. Back taxes is kind of a big one but also not a huge fan of selling it. Leasing it could be an option if they could move past the tax point or get that squared away," said Boardman. "The fact that they're not willing to share their plan with us and they're keeping that kind of hidden is kind of one reason a year or two ago they didn't succeed in getting their plans in Medicine Bow implemented to begin with."

Alameda echoed Boardman's concerns on the back taxes. Another concern raised by Alameda was that of Viridis using the property purchase to make headway with the Wyoming Industrial Siting Council.

"They need to purchase some land or this building to get a production tax credit on their project. This is just a move so they can show the Industrial Siting Council that they are trying to do something. The huge problem with that is they're a year late on their taxes,"

said Alameda. "I don't know what they've done with the Medicine Bow School but I would suspect that that was just another attempt to appear that they've spent the money on this project and they haven't gotten it in the air."

As discussion continued, it became evident that many of the board members were hesitant about selling the property to Viridis. Most had concerns about the back taxes owed on the property in Medicine Bow but were also concerned about the company's unwillingness to share their plans with the board. Among those members was Charlie George, who works for the Town of Medicine Bow and has also maintained the property leased by MedBow Lodging.

"The only issue I have with any of this right now is that there's 10 RV's in there now, expected to be 15, they (MedBow Lodging) just let me know about this," said George.

Copeland replied that he wasn't proposing the school district kick the current tenants off the leased property. He added that when the lease, which is currently written as a one year lease, expired with nobody to take it over, that would leave the school district in the position of being landlords. A number of ideas were thrown out including gauging interest on the part of MedBow Lodging in a short-term lease through the summer or interest on the part of a local lessor, such as Vernon Scott, in taking over the lease through the summer.

The general consensus among the board was that nobody was interested in selling the property and that nobody was interested in working with Viridis.

"I am not in favor of letting them get any deeper than they are right now in Medicine Bow," George said.

Sewell asked for a motion to allow Copeland to work with either MedBow Lodging or a local resident to develop a temporary lease for the property in Medicine Bow. The motion was made and passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Carbon County School District No. 2 Board of Trustees will be on May 18 at 4 p.m. at Elk Mountain Elementary School in Elk Mountain.

Going digital for Earth Day

Instead of usual Earth Day celebration, SERCD promotes online education network

Staff Report

Each year in April, the Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins (SER) Conservation District promotes two conservation events, Earth Day, which is April 22, and Arbor Day, which is April 24. Earth Day was founded in 1970 as a day of education about environmental issues so this year we are celebrating the 50th anniversary. By raising public awareness of pollution, reducing the use of our natural resources, reusing materials and recycling many products through the years, we all contribute to the conservation of our natural resources.

Arbor Day is an event celebrated every year on the last Friday in April to recognize the importance

of trees. Most years, the Town of Saratoga and the SER Conservation District cosponsor an event with the Saratoga Elementary School to plant trees in the community.

Amid the recent COVID-19 global pandemic, the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and Arbor Day celebration has gone digital. Project Learning Tree teamed up with Earth Day Network, Project WET, and Project WILD to share available education resources to advance natural resource education. This year SER Conservation District is encouraging the community to utilize the education resources at <https://www.plt.org/news/earth-day-2020/> and to utilize one or more of the suggested activities. Activities include 12 nature walk

activities for Earth Day (or any day) and information on learning how to reuse and recycle at home.

Other ways to celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day in your community include: cleaning up your yard, picking up trash along your street or road, planting a tree in your yard or establishing a recycling program for your household. If everyone does a little, it adds up to a lot for our communities and environment.

If you are not able to access the information on the website listed and would like more information on nature and conservation activities, please contact the SER Conservation District at 307-326-8156 and ask for Leanne