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38TH Annual Sierra Madre Winter Carnival
January 24th and 25th, 2025
Encampment, Wyoming


Friday, January 24th

- Snow Art:** Register at the Encampment Town Hall by 12 pm. Art must be complete by Saturday at 12 pm. Sponsored by the Platte Valley Arts Council.
- 2:30pm- Human Saucer Bowling:** Registration starts at 2pm. Races start at 2:30pm at 8th and Rankin in front of the Presbyterian Church.
- 6pm- Treasure Hunt:** Meet at the Tower Room at the Opera House. Hunt begins promptly at 6. Get there early or you might miss out! Dinner and drinks provided. Sponsored by Evergreen Disposal and The Beartrap Café and Bar.

Saturday, January 25th

- 8am- VFW Pancake Breakfast:** At the Grand Encampment Opera House. There is a separate charge for this event.
- 9:30am- Sled Races:** Registration starts at 9am. Races start at 9:30am at 8th and Rankin in front of the Presbyterian Church.
- 12:30pm- Chili, Bread and Winter Cake Cook-Off:** Red, White, Green chili. Yeast, Sweet or Quick Bread and Winter Cakes. Judging starts at 1pm.
- 1:45pm- Sixth Street Sprint:** by Grandview Park at 6th and Barnett. Helmet and Eye Protection required. Sponsored by Creative Horse Power-Shane & Kristen Herman, D & S Designs-Denille & Sherri Hoff, Capstone Industrial Services- Debbie & Jeff Hall, Karls Auto, North Fork Engineering and Harvey Heavy Equipment & Truck Service.
- 2:15pm- Snow Golf:** at Grandview Park, 6th and Barnett.
- 7pm- Casino Night:** Sponsored by Mother Mountain Anglers. Bar will be hosted by 307 Pub & Grub. You must be 21 or older to participate and there is a separate charge for this Event. The Town of Encampment and Winter Carnival are not in charge of this Event.

Thank you to our other sponsors- A Bar A Ranch, Beartrap Café & Bar, Big Bale Co, Bill Saulcy, Creative Horsepower, DHL Eco Blast, D & S Designs, Evergreen Disposal, Hair by Shannon, Harvey Heavy Equipment & Truck Service, Karl's Auto, Kindred Spirit Beauty Bar, Kraft Cattle Co, North Fork Engineering, Platte Valley Arts Council, Riverside Garage & Cabins, Silver Spur Operating Company, Steve & Heather Werner, Town of Encampment. Produced in cooperation with:



For More information contact the Town of Encampment at 307-327-5501



SLOW AND STEADY... ESTATE PLANNING!

This measured approach works for all things in life and has helped us serve the people of Carbon County/Platte Valley well for the past eight years. As such, we are offering Estate Planning Workshop classes quarterly throughout 2025, the first of which will be held the 30th of this month at the Platte Valley Community Center.

Who: Everyone is invited (RSVP @ 307 - 399 - 6060)
What: Estate Planning Workshop
When: January 30th, 2025; From 11:30 to 1:30 (come when you can)
Where: Platte Valley Community Center's White Room
Why: Because nobody wants the Government to own their property after they pass...

... AND WE CAN HELP WITH THAT!
So please join us, Adelaide Myers and Seth "Turtle" Johnson, for a relaxed session about your End of Life and Estate Planning questions. Note: Attendees at this session will be eligible for 2024 rates, as new rates have taken effect for 2025. Snacks/Drinks will be provided for all who RSVP. But walk-ins will be welcome until the room reaches capacity.
Happy New Year and see you soon!



2025 RACES
FEBRUARY 1ST & 2ND
BUCK SPRINGS RACE TRACK

FRIDAY
PARTICIPANT CHECK IN AND MEET & GREET 5-8 PM AT HOTEL WOLF

SATURDAY
FIRST DAY OF RACES 10:30 AM
CALCUTTA 8 PM AT HOTEL WOLF

SUNDAY
LAST DAY OF RACES 10:30 AM
AWARDS CEREMONY AFTER THE RACES AT HOTEL WOLF

VISIT SARATOGASKIJORING.COM FOR EVENT DETAILS AND INFO ON HOW TO SPONSOR OR VOLUNTEER.

OBITUARIES

"Chef" Eugenio Sisracon Api

On November 10, 2024 "Chef" Eugenio Sisracon Api, passed away peacefully in the company of his loving and devoted wife of 9 years, Divina Velasco Api, along with her two daughters Sylvia and Alodie.

Born on January 24, 1936, Eugenio was almost 89 years old. He served his country, as a trusted Navy man, for The United States of America, proudly and with honor. His Father-in Law, Captain William Harold Sublette, was a major pillar in his Navy and Family Life. Eugenio even married the Captain's daughter, Phyllis Elizabeth Sublette!!

Eugenio, better known in Saratoga as "Chef," was laid to rest in San Pedro Philippines, very close to where he was born. His love of organic gardening was his passion in life as was his longtime desire to always "go fishing."

Eugenio is survived by his wife, Divina Velasco Api, and his children Jesse Api, David Api, Sarah Api-Williams, and Abigail Api-Hartley, many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and other family members.

His grandchildren will always remember "Grandpa Salt" and his absolute love he had, cooking their favorite "Chicken Adobo!"

Being a Chef for dignitaries and "important people" didn't hold a candle to being his own family's PERSONAL Chef!

Eugenio was preceded in death by his wife, Phyllis Elizabeth Sublette Api, his two Brothers-in-law, Fredrick & Robert, Father-in-law Captain William Harold Sublette, his parents, and a few of his brothers and sisters. He was also preceded in death, almost two months prior, by his son-in-law, Robert Kimball Hartley.

No services are planned for the Saratoga area. Eugenio rests peacefully with his family in the Philippines.

Condolences and memorials may be sent in care of:
Abigail Sela Sublette Api-Hartley
for: **Divina Velasco Api & Family**
P.O. Box 984 Saratoga, Wyoming 82331
Rest in Peace now daddy, I love you.



Come in out of the cold for free meal

by Dick Perue

Everyone, especially the hungry and lonely, is invited to come in out of the cold and "Gather at the Table" for a free meal and fellowship Monday evening, Feb. 3rd, between 5:00 and 6:30.

Smoked pulled pork on a bun, coleslaw, baked beans, strawberry cake with strawberry cream frosting and a beverage are on the menu for the event at the Saratoga Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall at the corner of 3rd & Bridge streets.

"Gather at the Table" is a non-profit charity extension of the First Presbyterian Church of Saratoga.

Its mission is to provide a welcoming meal to anyone who desires fellowship in and around this community.

Meals will be prepared and served buffet style by volunteers in order to provide families and individuals a free hot meal once a month in order to "fulfill a physical and spiritual hunger by reflecting the teachings of Jesus Christ with love and openness through serving others," according to a press release from the "Gather at the Table" committee, the event sponsor.

Volunteers will also be available to serve those who are unable to serve themselves due to physical limitations.

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NOW \$19,623



2022 Ram 1500 Laramie
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NOW \$44,623

please see dealer for details

OF INTEREST

The year of the wolves

Thirty years ago this month, gray wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho. Today, the people who made it happen remember the mayhem and magic of one of the 20th century's most controversial acts of ecosystem management.

By Mike Koshmrl, WyoFile.com, and Amanda Eggert, Montana Free Press

Editor's Note: This the last in a 3 part series

WOLVES ARRIVE IN YELLOWSTONE, CENTRAL IDAHO (Continued)

MIKE JIMENEZ, WOLF PROJECT LEADER FOR THE NEZ PERCE TRIBE:

Mike Jimenez was the project leader for Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho's wolf reintroduction program. He continued to work on wolf issues post-reintroduction, eventually serving as the management and science coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Northern Rockies region. He retired in 2016 and lives near Polson, Montana.

Myself and Ed Bangs took off and got halfway there in a helicopter. But it was like a whiteout, so we had to fly back into Missoula.

The way we decided to do it, then, was to take them in the back of a pickup truck. We actually drove them down to the edge of where we were going to release them. This was in the wintertime and the Forest Service helped us out by plowing a dirt road so we could get them back in there a ways toward the wilderness area. It was this very "What do you do to get these animals out in the midst of pretty foul weather" operation." It was a little precarious.

ED BANGS:
It was a horror show. There was this raging river nearby and steep mountains and an icy road. It was just a complete messed-up thing. But we had to get them out of the cages — they'd been in there way too long.

SUZANNE STONE:
Multiple times we took wolves in by snowmobile. We tried to really get them as deep as we could back in there [by the wilderness area], because we wanted to make sure they weren't going to pop back out and come close to a town. We went in at midnight with the wolves in a convoy of snowmobiles. The reason we went in at night is because there were lots of threats, even from the local police. We weren't sure how safe we were going to be. The first year, we had armed government agents with us.

ED BANGS:
The wolves did fine. That's mainly wolves — that isn't because we did anything really great. They're just really tough animals.

MARK BRUSCINO:
No one really knew how to pull this whole thing off. The soft release in Yellowstone and the hard release in Idaho were experimental, more or less. And both worked. I would say it went incredibly well.

WAVES OF WOLVES IN 1996 AND BEYOND

In 1996, Republicans gained control of both chambers of Congress for the first time in 40 years. Legislators quickly eliminated the appropriation earmarked for wolf reintroduction (the first year's work cost \$750,000). Wolf advocacy groups fund-raised to help fill the gap, enabling a capture operation in Fort John, British Colum-

bia, in January 1996. That year, 17 wolves in four waves went to Yellowstone, while 20 were flown down to Idaho. Although initially a 3-to-5-year plan, wolf reintroduction only needed two years. Each of the wolves brought in from Canada was fitted with a radio collar to track its movements and reduce the likelihood of conflicts developing as they moved into areas with more people. Ten pups from a Northwest Montana pack that got into trouble with livestock were released in Yellowstone later in 1996, but that was the end of wolf-reintroduction efforts.

SUZANNE STONE:
In 1996 I was actually on the ground up in British Columbia. We had had all the funding for the 1996 reintroduction pulled just a month or two before we were supposed to be on the ground doing the second year of capture. I went to my board — we were a small group — and begged them to let me use the list that we had. They gave me about 2,000 names. I sent out a front-and-back 1-page letter to those folks, just begging. A week or so later, we went to the post office, and the postmaster met me with a box that was just full of checks and letters and support. We were able to replace all of that funding. It was over \$100,000. We were also able to get people to donate their time.

SCOTT FRAZIER:
I started to sour on the project. What happened to the wolves that we first brought in? One of them was shot right off — it was tragic. The Lamar Valley just turned into this paparazzi overnight. That wasn't what I wanted. I wanted the wolves to have their privacy and be wolves. I didn't want them collared. I just wanted them let go.

I told Tankersley, "I think what I want to do is adopt these wolves and give them a family here." So then we went and did a ceremony for that. I had gone to see my grandma. She was 101 or 102 at the time. I told her, "They're bringing these wolves in from Canada, and they're going to let them go. I want to adopt them, but I'm going to have to make a feed."

So she reached over and she pulled out a pack of crackers, and she said, "Feed them these." That's all she had. So I took them, and I offered those crackers. I put them on the rock up there, and I adopted them.

JOHN POTTER:
For the one in 1996, we actually got to be there when they were bringing wolves in and released into the acclimation pens up on Crystal Creek, Crystal Bench. And of course, all kinds of press was there. The first year we were able to avoid all the press, and the next year we couldn't. So we were there doing our ceremony, and I was singing as wolves were being brought into the pens.

All of the wolves that they released basically bolted as far away from the human beings as possible — went to the other end of the pen. But after we stepped out, the last one [stayed close] and just threw his head back and howled while we were singing. I still get goosebumps, even thinking about it. That was the most incredible moment for me. And I thought, "OK, they're here. They're here."

DOUG SMITH:
As [monitoring] started, I was the main person flying. They were all collared. Ev-

erybody's freaking out. "What are they going to do? Are they going to leave the park?" It was a lot of flying. I wanted to turn it into a research project. They're like, "No, no, no. We want to make sure they're not in some rancher's backyard."

WOLVES PROLIFERATE
Both Yellowstone's and Idaho's wolves thrived. They hit recovery goals — more than 300 wolves and 30 breeding pairs for three consecutive years — by 2002. Eventually, the Northern Rockies' 2,000-plus wolves seeded still-growing populations in Oregon, Washington and California. The reintroduction states, meanwhile, took authority over the delisted species and began implementing their own management strategies. Congress stepped in to remove Montana's and Idaho's wolves from federal jurisdiction in 2011. Wyoming, which sought to manage wolves as non-regulated predators in much of the state, took longer to gain control as a result of litigation, but has been managing its wolves uninterrupted since 2017.

MARK BRUSCINO:
I don't think anyone understood how quick it was going to happen, how quickly they were going to establish themselves and start reproducing. Everyone anticipated there was probably going to be higher mortality. Dispersers just taking off and never being seen again. In both cases, they pretty much settled right in and started doing what wolves do.

JIM MAGAGNA:
I certainly felt very worried about [reintroduction], to be honest. Defenders of Wildlife established a program to reimburse ranchers for losses of livestock to wolves. About four or five years after the reintroduction, as I recall it, there was a pack of wolves [that] moved down into my ranch. So I experienced that loss. Over a period of two years, I lost 61 head of sheep to wolves. Then Fish and Wildlife came in and removed that pack.

ED BANGS:
We had a pretty good idea they'd grow about 22% per year. We guesstimated that we'd have illegal killing, maybe 10% per year, and that we'd have to remove problem wolves that attacked livestock or did things we didn't like, about 10% per year. All of those things came pretty close to being on track.

DOUG SMITH:
The most beneficial aspect of wolf recovery has been to humans, because it is a sensation. It's millions of dollars a year in economic activity, of people coming here to see wolves. The latest figure was \$82 million. I'm loathe to use economics to justify wildlife — so I'm not — but what I'm saying is they mean a lot to people. This has been a grand slam home run in terms of visitor enjoyment.

MIKE PHILLIPS:
The most significant consequence of the wolf restoration project in Yellowstone was its capacity to give rise to beautiful work elsewhere. It was of significance to the Mexican wolf recovery program in the southwest, the world's most significant private effort ever to use private land and private assets to restore populations of imperiled species as redress for the extinction crisis.

The Yellowstone project had fundamental bearing on the first-ever exercise of



Mike Jimenez, a wildlife biologist who spent more than 20 years working on wolf management for various governmental agencies, carries a lightly sedated wolf near the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Elk Refuge in 2011.

direct democracy to establish a lawful mandate to restore gray wolves in western Colorado, the archstone in an effort to restore a metapopulation of wolves that extends unbroken from the high Arctic to the Mexican border.

The park matters because it's a great birthing ground of ideas that get scattered to the seven winds and find roots somewhere else. That's the significance of gray wolves in Yellowstone.

JOHN POTTER:
Having wolves back on the landscape for us, metaphorically, has helped a renaissance of our own. [It's helped us] find our own home ground, our own center, again. And if you look at what's been happening among Native people ever since the mid-'90s, early [2000s], there's been this resurgence of Native people in movies, in theater, Native authors, Native poets. Native people have kind of come out of their shells. When I first heard that the wolves are coming back to Yellowstone, I just felt bigger, like I was growing inside.

BIOLOGICAL SUCCESS AMID DISMAL SOCIAL TOLERANCE

Biologically, the reintroduction of wolves to the American Rockies was an unmitigated success. But 30 years on, management of the controversial canines remains fraught — arguably more so than in the reintroduction era. A privately funded compensation program, reminiscent of the bounties that decimated wolf populations, has proliferated in Montana and Idaho, which have also expanded the number of wolves individual hunters and trappers can kill and the methods by which they can kill them. Concerns about population declines associated with those laws spurred an ultimately unsuccessful petition by environmentalists to relist wolves in

2021. In Wyoming, meanwhile, the anything-goes policies in the predator zone, where wolves have

no protections, continue to produce ugly outcomes, including the infamous 202 incident

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Thursday January 23rd
6:00 - 9:00 pm Open Gym
11:00 am - 6:00 pm Saratoga Library Open
11:00 am - 4:00 pm Encampment Library Open

Friday January 24th
6:00 to 6:30 am Morning Mash up
4:00 to 5:00 pm Yoga
6:00 - 9:00 pm Open Gym
7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous
@ PV Assembly of God basement
11:00 am - 3:00 pm Saratoga Library Open
Encampment Library Closed

Saturday January 25th
Gym Closed
Weight Room Closed

Sunday January 26th
1:00 - 4:00 pm Winter Market @ PVCC
Gym Closed
Weight Room Closed

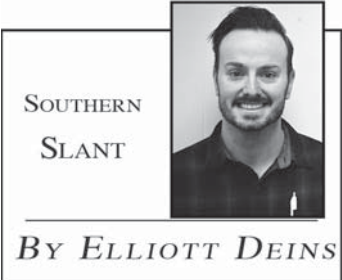
Monday January 27th
6:00 to 6:30 am Morning Mash up
2:00 pm Story Time @ Saratoga Library
4:30 pm Spinning
6:00 - 9:00 pm Open Gym
6:30 pm Book Club @ Saratoga Library
7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous
@ PV Assembly of God basement
10:00 am - 6:00 pm Saratoga Library Open
11:00 am - 4:00 pm Encampment Library Open

Tuesday January 28th
6:00 - 9:00 pm Open Gym
10:00 am Tuesday Talks @PVCC
featuring Dick Perue
11:00 am - 6:00 pm Saratoga Library Open
Noon - 5:00 pm Encampment Library Open

Wednesday January 29th
6:00 to 6:30 am Morning Mash up
4:30 pm Spinning
6:00 - 9:00 pm Open Gym
11:00 am - 3:00 pm Saratoga Library Open
Noon - 5:00 pm Encampment Library Open

OPINION/EDITORIAL

Wyoming winter welcome



By Elliott Deins
elliott.saratogasun@gmail.com

“Have you gotten comfortable driving in the snow?” My grandmother’s voice came through the phone.

“Absolutely,” I responded, cruising North up WY-130 back to Saratoga after covering the Battle for the Platte basketball game between the Tigers and Panthers a few weeks back.

After two winters delivering deep-dish pizzas around the outskirts of Chicago, half a winter working in the wet and frozen conditions of Southeast Alaska and now with nearly two months of Wyoming winter under my belt – “I’m practically a pro, Gram.”

Views of the Valley rolled on – to the west, dozens of antelope herded together and to the east, cattle, the size of the SUV I was piloting, grazed in front of a picturesque Snowy Range backdrop – as did my conversation with Gram. We covered everything from her weekend plans, articles I was working on and the latest family lore.

At a smooth 55 miles-per-hour the tail started to wag the dog.

The back tires swang. I corrected. No big deal for a practical professional like myself, right?

Wrong.

“Spinnin’ out,” was all that blurted out before I was across the median, facing south but still heading north.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, a driver encountering ice should “remain calm” and “avoid overreacting,” do as little as possible and allow the car to pass over the ice. Do not hit the brakes and keep the steering wheel straight. If the back end starts sliding left or right, gently turn the wheel in the same direction. Trying to struggle against it by steering in the opposite direction may result in skidding or spinning out.

I followed the USFS guidance to a tee, after that initial brake hit and over correction.

The vehicle slid 180-degrees, split perfectly between two highway poles and came to a stop 10 yards off the road in a foot of snow – still running and unscathed. It would have been impressive, had I meant to do it.

I told Gram that I was fine and would call her back.

I tried the gas. The tires spun. Tried the old give her gas and turn the steering wheel maneuver. The tires budged for a second, then spun.

I opened the door, saw how deep the tires were dug in and realized any further gas out efforts were moot.

“You got four wheel drive?” A voice, not a divine call from the heavens, but from the driver side window of a pickup. It was more of a polite recommendation than a question. The stranger must have pulled over after seeing the calamity, that was more embarrassing

than anything else.

“Good call,” I said.

The initial adrenaline spike had begun to fade.

After dropping into four wheel, she started to crawl instead of spin.

Now, instead of doing what every Florida boy knows to do when stuck on a sandbar at low tide – follow your tracks and go out the way you came in – I decided to plow through a foot of snow by taking the shortest possible route back to the road.

Maybe that adrenaline hadn’t fully faded away.

The SUV trudged through the fresh powder with relative ease but couldn’t make it up the final swoop before the glorious asphalt. It got halfway up and slid twice before I put it in park and got out.

“Don’t worry,” the gentleman in the truck said. “I’ll turn around, get right in front of you and pull you out.”

Sure enough, he whipped his rig right around and backed up five feet from my front bumper on the first try.

He went right to the chrome toolbox in his truck bed and grabbed a foldable camping shovel, a canvas mat, some rope and other straps.

“Dude, thank you so much,” I said and asked if he needed any help.

“No problem,” he said. He cut the zip-ties off the rope with a pocket knife, layed out the mat, unfolded the camping shovel and dug out the snow in front of my tires.

“We saw you hit that ice. It’s a good thing you didn’t hit any of those highway posts.”

I told him that’s what I was aiming for, that I was new in town and still getting used to these wild road conditions.

He took off his Buffalo Bills hat, placed it on the mat and tucked under the car.

“Don’t hit the gas too hard when I’m towing you,” he said. “There’s no front towing mount, so I’ll tie to the frame and your tire will tangle up my rope. Should be pretty easy, you’re pretty light and there’s not much snow.”

Bing, bang, boom, he tied off the the hitch of his truck using a knot I’d never seen before. We were in business.

“Just follow you out?” I asked.

“Just follow me out,” he answered walking back to his pickup.

With the torque of the truck, the SUV emerged from the snow and was back on solid ground.

We pulled over after a couple yards and got out.

“You’re my fricken hero,” I said. “I appreciate the hell out of it.”

“No big deal,” he detached the rope from the frame. “Welcome to Wyoming.”

I asked his name.

“Bob,” he said, throwing the rope in the bed of his truck.

“Bob,” I repeated for memory sake. “Thank you, Bob and go Bills”

“Go Bills,” he shouted as he got in his truck and pulled off.

Since this occurrence – the Buffalo Bills have been on a phenomenal play-off run. In my heart, the Bill victories are, at least in some part, thanks to a karmic reaction in the universe after Bob helped me.

Thanks again, Bob. Go Bills.



Thanks to You



Small but mighty is perhaps the best way to describe the Saratoga Sun, especially after we’ve returned from the Wyoming Press Association Annual Convention.

The Saratoga Sun competes every year with small weekly

papers throughout the state for coveted Wyoming Press Association awards. Thanks to this Valley and community, the events provided for entertainment and the people associated with organizing and participating in our area have given us plenty of not only fun, but inspiring stories. We live in a great community and definitely exceeded expectations with our small crew at this year’s annual press convention. Coming home from convention with 28 Pacemaker Awards and three Major Awards, we are inspired to continue to cover your lives and our Valley.

Even though we are a small staff, we work hard to cover as many of the events as possible.

The Saratoga Sun staff is proud to be part of the 137-year history of covering the Valley and all the changes that have happened in those years. We look forward to giving you the top notch photos and stories that won the awards this year and strive to make the Saratoga Sun the newspaper to read in Carbon County.

Thanks to all of our subscribers, advertisers and Valley go-getters. Here’s to another 100+ years.

Honorable Mention



THE SARATOGA SUN

Your elected officials are *your* representatives in local, state and federal government. Their contact information is provided below as a service of the Saratoga Sun:

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Carbon County Commissioners Sue Jones, Chairman Phone: (307) 324-9170 Cell: (307) 329-5121 Email: suejones@carboncountyywy.gov	Gwynn Bartlett Phone: (307) 321-4587 Email: gwynnbartlett@carboncountyywy.gov	U.S. Representative Harriet Hageman Cheyenne Office 2120 Capitol Avenue, Suite 8005 Cheyenne, WY 82001 Phone: (307) 829-3299
R. Travis Moore, Vice Chairman Phone: (307) 324-9170 Cell: (307) 321-1817 Email: travismoore@carboncountyywy.gov	Wyoming State Senator Larry Hicks (R - Baggs) Phone: (307) 383-7192 Email: Larry.Hicks@wyoleg.gov Mailing: P.O. Box 413 Baggs, WY 82321	U.S. Senators John Barrasso Cheyenne Office 2120 Capitol Avenue, Suite 2013 Cheyenne, WY 82001 Phone: (307) 772-2451
John Johnson Phone: (307) 379-2526 Cell: (307) 760-7727 Email: johnjohnson@carboncountyywy.gov	Wyoming State Representatives Robert “Bob” Davis (R - Baggs) Cell: (307) 380-6457 Email: P.O. Box 369 Baggs, WY 82321	Cynthia Lummis Cheyenne Office 2120 Capitol Avenue, Suite 2007 Cheyenne, WY 82001 Phone: (307) 772-2477

THE SARATOGA SUN

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EDITOR/PUBLISHER
D’RON CAMPBELL
Editor.SaratogaSun@gmail.com

REPORTER
ELLIOTT DEINS
Elliott.SaratogaSun@gmail.com

AD SALES
DEE DEE MARTZ
Ads.SaratogaSun@gmail.com

116. E Bridge Ave.
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(307) 326-8311

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

We welcome your letters. Letters should be timely, local, brief and contain no libelous statements. The Saratoga Sun reserves the right to edit or reject any letter for brevity, content and/or clarity. Anonymous letters will never be considered for publication.

Thank you letters, political endorsement letters or political campaign letters will be not be included in letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and include complete contact information.

Three ways to get your letter in.

- Drop off: Saratoga Sun at 116 E. Bridge Ave., Saratoga, WY 82331
- Mail: Box 489 Saratoga, WY 82331
- Email: editor.saratogasun@gmail.com

THE FAITH PAGE

Living on Purpose: God's love is waiting for our love

by Dr. William F. Holland, Jr.

No matter what the negative naysayers declare about the absence of the love of God, do not allow these dark imaginations to be absorbed into your conscience. Let us accept the fact that after God created the heavens and the earth and everything in it, the Almighty keeps repeating, "And God saw that it was good." He passionately loved everything He made and still does. Take a moment and read the first chapter of Genesis for yourself. Allow these words to saturate your soul, as you realize He is also talking about you. He created you as one of His finest masterpieces, and for you to not embrace how special

and adored you are, means
you are refusing to accept
spiritual reality.

I want to encourage you today and remind you how highly God thinks of you. Since He is infinite and knows everything that has happened and will happen, consider that He knew and loved you millions of years ago, and knows where you will be millions of years from now. You see, just like a master sculptor, He has been shaping and guiding your steps because He always has your best interest in mind. This includes a unique and perfect plan for you that is filled with hope and peace. You were not made with a cookie cutter on some cosmic assembly line, you are a custom, handcrafted, one of

a kind individual who God proclaims is wonderfully made and there will never be anyone exactly like you.

These truths are eternal and what God has promised, no one has the power to prevent. His word is His will, the absolute way, the truth, and the life that gives us the vision and strength to keep walking forward in faith. It's when we begin to doubt that God is with us, or is not not listening to our cries that we drift into fear and sadness. With all the blessings and covenant assurances Jesus has given to us, He will not force us to walk in the brilliant light of His presence. He will not make us worship and praise Him, or push us down on our knees to cry out to Him.

He compels and draws us to come closer, but it is our free will decision to choose how much of His grace we want. He is patient and kind, but within the dynamics of a potential personal relationship with us, He desires and requires for us to love Him enough to do what He says.

When we become desperate to find answers and solutions to our problems, we are usually focused on two things: Our misery and how the damage can be fixed. Our mind has secret ideas that if we can find the right person to confide in, they will have the key that can unlock our frustration and misery and take care of our situation. I understand the human practical reasoning, but we often leave out the most important

factor which is listening to God's thoughts and obeying Him. Most of the time our lack of communicating with Him is what caused our mess in the first place. This is where the lessons of life can be an opportunity to learn and develop spiritual maturity, or we can continue on the merry-go-round of defeat and continue in the independent cycle of rebellion.

Since God created humans, He is the one who knows exactly how we are inside and out. He is never surprised with how we think or what we do. I say this because we are often under the impression that we are getting away with something or sneaking behind His back. He is fully aware of what our motives are and whether we just just

want a quick miracle to relieve our situation, or if we have a sincere and aggressive determination to change the way we are living. Yes, you are correct, He already knows our decision. I understand we do not want to hear about our weaknesses and carnality, but He's not interested in playing games or anyone seeing Him as a genie in a lamp. To accept God's love makes us feel secure, but doing what He says proves how much we love Him. "Father, I pray for everyone reading this, give them discernment and reveal how you are waiting for their love. We repent for our lukewarmness. Stir a brokenness and conviction within us to find a quiet secret place to pray and worship you today. Amen."

The Mysteries of the Faith

Part V – The Inspiration and Inerrancy of the Bible

by Pastor Randolph Schnack

Though many churches today no longer teach that the Holy Scriptures, as originally written are inerrant (without error). The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, the Southern Baptist Church, the Assemblies of God, and other conservative Churches still hold to this very important teaching of the Bible. In this article we explore both why this teaching is critical for the church, and the mystery of how the Bible can, at one and the same time, be the work of its many authors, and the very voice of God.

There are three ways people view the Bible. Unbelievers generally see it as an important piece of historical literature that can be of some moral guidance as we seek to live out our lives on this earth. However, they deny that this work is anything other than a book, written by many men and compiled into one volume. It is no more true than any other book written in ancient times and contains many errors, both historically and scientifically. For this group, it is not the word of God at all, simply opinions of man.

The second group are people who believe in God. They believe that God inspired

different men, throughout Biblical times, to write and speak for God. However, being fallible men, sometimes they got the message right and sometimes they got the message wrong. For people in this group, it is up to the reader or someone the reader trusts to glean the wheat from the chaff, to pick out what God would teach us from these words written by fallible men and what are those men's own pious opinions. These are, according to this group, often false. Indeed, some in this group reject very clear teachings in the Bible, that are found in multiple places by multiple writers. One example of this would be the prohibition of homosexuality. Even as they say the bible is God's word, they reject this teaching as being unloving and ungodly. I would summarize this group as teaching that to a greater or lesser degree, the Bible contains the word of God, but also contains error.

This brings us to the third group, those that hold that the Bible IS the word of God. Every word is the word God wanted the writer to write. Every word is true. Such believers point to scriptures themselves, such as 2 Timothy 3:16-17. *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for*

every good work.

Why is this, the teaching that the Bible IS the inerrant word of God so critical. If it is truly God's word, it comes from God. It becomes the standard by which all other things are weighed and measured. Our opinion does not matter. We are bound by what our God tells us. By following the Bible, we have a sure and certain guide in life and know that we are saved because the word assures us that those who trust in Jesus for their salvation are saved, period! If the Bible only contains the word of God, it is uncertain and unclear. It would no longer be the word of God, but the word of man.

This leads us to the mystery. How could books written by men over many centuries, and gathered together, first as the Torah, Navi'im and Ketuvim in the Tanakh, designated by Christians as the Old Testament, and the Gospels, Epistles, and other writings included in the New Testament be the true and certain word of God?

What is the answer to this question? It is unanswerable! It is a mystery! The only answer I can give is because God, Who Himself is a mystery, and is surrounded by mysteries made it be so. But by studying what both the Old and New Testaments tell us about themselves, we can teach various truths about this mystery.

Every word of Scripture are the words the individual authors chose to use, using their own way of writing (in the case of St. John, containing Greek grammatical mistakes), their own research, their own words and yet, every word is God-breathed, the very words God would have us read, learn, and inwardly digest.

Where does this understanding come from? It comes from the Bible itself. Let's look at several of these passages. We begin with the text of scripture I quoted before. *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.* The Greek word translated as inspiration is very interesting. The word transliterated as theopneustos, means God-breathed. If the words are to be profitable for us for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction, they must be reliable and true.

2 Peter 1:19-21 - *And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God*

spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. The word is confirmed, made more sure in the hearts of believers. When heeded, it is a light that shines into our sin-darkened hearts until the light of faith dawns in our hearts, working faith in us so that we trust that word. Again, the word clearly says that what has been written is not simply the personal thoughts of the prophets and writers of the Scriptures, but rather, they were carried along by the Holy Spirit to write what they wrote.

Matthew 5:17-18 - “Do not

think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled." Jesus here makes it clear, that no part of the law, including laws against homosexuality, or fornication shall pass away. But He had come to fulfill the law in our place, since we have failed to keep it perfectly. By the way, this means that a homosexual, a sexually promiscuous person that renounces their sin, and

See “The Mysteries of the Faith” on page A6

Senior Center Menu

THURSDAY

Sloppy Jo, Sweet Potato Wedges, Cauliflower, 1/2 Banana, Milk

FRIDAY

Chicken Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Carrots, Wheat Roll,
Pineapple Upside Down Cake, Milk

MONDAY

Beef Tacos, Tomato, Lettuce & Cheese, Refried Beans,
Corn, Pears, Milk

TUESDAY

Chicken Strips, Tater Tots, Spinach Salad w/strawberries,
Beets, Wheat Bread, Tropical Fruit, Milk

WEDNESDAY

Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce, Tossed Salad, Broccoli,
Garlic Bread, 1/2 Apple, Milk

Church Calendar



Alison's Pantry
with Sally 329-5329
Encampment and Saratoga
whisper5329@gmail.com
www.alisonspantry.com



CUSTOM BUILDERS
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**Aid to stranded
motorists
and travelers**
307-321-6688

<p style="text-align: center;">Church of Christ 2nd & McCaffrey Ave., Encampment 327-5682</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday worship - 11 a.m. Bible Study - 10 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ride on Faith Ministries 7 mi. S of Saratoga - Cornell Place Les Barkhurst 329-7183</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Worship Sunday 10 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Barnabas Episcopal Church 106 W. Main, Saratoga The Rev. Dr. Peggy Hotchkiss 329-3060</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Holy Eucharist Sundays at 9 a.m. Followed by Fellowship Time- Agape House The Journey Labyrinth & Meditation Garden are always open for prayer and meditation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. James Episcopal Church 812 McCaffrey, Encampment 327-5558</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Holy Eucharist 10 a.m.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Saratoga Alliance Church 1302 S. River St., Saratoga. 326-8307 Pastor Vince Vannett</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Main Gathering Time - 10:30am Fellowship & Discipleship Hour - 9:30am</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Platte Valley Lutheran Church Pastor Randolph Schnack 326-5449</p> <p style="text-align: center;">514 S. 1st Street, Saratoga. Sunday school - 9 a.m. Sunday worship - 9 a.m</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Christian Community Church 3.5 miles North of Encampment on Hwy 230 Pastor Tom Crowe 307-329-3316</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship - 10:45 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Saratoga Church Friday: 6:00 pm Tuesday: 6:30 pm 108 West Spring Ave Saratoga, Wyoming 307-329-7240 http://www.saratogachurch.org</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 9th & Hugus, 307-260-7882 Saratoga.Bishop, Bob Keel</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday Sacrament - 10 a.m. Primary - 11:15 a.m. Melchizedek and Aaronic Priesthood/Young Women Relief Society and Primary - 11:05 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">First Presbyterian Church 3rd and Bridge, Saratoga. 326-5337 • 326-3163</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pastor David Cole Sunday: Adult Bible Study - TBA. Morning Worship - 8:30 a.m. Fellowship time - 9:30 a.m. Wednesday: Prayer Shawl Ministry - 9:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women - 1:30 p.m. - 3rd Thursday of the month</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Platte Valley Christian Center Assembly of God 111 N 7th, Saratoga Pastor Gene Smith 326-5520</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7th and Main, Saratoga Sunday school - 10 a.m. Sunday worship and Children's Church - 11 a.m. Evening worship - 6 p.m. Wednesday Adventure Club Children's Ministry 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">St. Ann's Catholic Church Father Bruce Clapham 326-5461 stannwy.org 218 W. Spring, Saratoga</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Saratoga Masses Sat. Confession 4 p.m Sat. - 5:30 p.m. Sun. - 9 a.m. St. Joseph - Hanna Mass Sunday 11:30</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">Encampment Presbyterian Church 918 Rankin, Encampment Pastor David Cole 327-5331</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Food Pantry available to those in need Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women 3rd Thursday - 1:30 p.m. Mariner's 2nd Wednesday - 6 p.m.</p>	<p><i>Sponsor the Church Calendar, only \$5 per week.</i></p> <p><i>Call 307-326-8311</i></p>		<p style="text-align: center;">First Baptist Church 802 W. Main, Saratoga Pastor Greg Snell 307-329-3371</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bible Study- 9:45 a.m. Worship - 11 a.m. Bible Study - 6 p.m. Wednesday evening prayer meeting - 7 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Chapel on the Plains 220 Pine St. Medicine Bow Rev. Bobbe Fitzhugh 307-359-3311</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Worship Service Sun. 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 3rd Sunday Call for Wed. Zoom link</p>

OF INTEREST

The year of the wolves

of a Sublette County man torturing an adolescent wolf he legally wounded with a snowmobile.

JIM MAGAGNA:
The wolf reintroduction has been a success for those [for] whom that was the goal, and they’ve had the pleasures to come with that. And while we strongly opposed it till the last moment, we’ve developed tools — both in terms of how we manage wolves and in terms of how we manage and pro-

tect our livestock — to make it generally workable for us. At some cost, but workable. So I think we’re in that happy medium right now. I hate to see people, frankly on either side of that equation, pushing for significant change.

DOUG SMITH:
We’re at this really kind of nasty point in our cultural divide. You can’t even get running wolves over with snow machines banned in Wyoming. Come on, guys. And I’m not saying I’m an-

ti-wolf hunting. I’m pro-live-stock control, pro having a season on wolves. But I’m anti running them over with snowmachines, and Wyoming can’t even do that.

STEVE FRITTS:
One thing that remains the same is the fact that so many people just hate them. There’s so much disdain and vitriol about the animal. With all the persecution of wolves in Idaho and Montana, it almost seems like we’ve returned to the 1800s

or early 1900s right now. That really disappoints me.

MARK BRUSCINO:
I think there’s room for wolves in northwest Wyoming. There’s not room for wolves everywhere in the modern world, but there’s certainly room for some wolves. I think they’ve showed us where they can live successfully and where they can’t, and that’s kind of what we got.

SUZANNE STONE:
I wish we would have

stopped [reintroduction], given what has happened to Idaho wolves. Idaho is the worst place in the world to be a wolf. We have bounties on even pups in the den. They’re being killed 365 days of the year. They’re using aerial gunning, snaring, trapping. This wasn’t what we envisioned when we brought wolves back.

MIKE JIMENEZ:
If there’s anything I would do differently, I wish I had the age and the wisdom of

somebody that had been doing it for decades and decades. Then you realize you’re probably not going to change people’s opinions. People that like wolves really like wolves, and people that don’t like wolves really don’t like wolves. And they’re both legitimate perspectives, but it took a while to kind of come to grips with that. And when you can do that, you can find places where wolves fit, and you can help people out when there are conflicts.

Continued from page A3

The Mysteries of the Faith

trusts in Jesus, is covered by the righteousness of Christ. Psalm 19:7-10 - *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring*

forever; The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Notice the words perfect, sure, right, pure and clean. These words could not be used for words that might not be from God. It is clear that the writers of Scripture

believed that the words they wrote, were also God’s word, and were reliable for guiding us in all aspects of life. I would also here speak a bit about the interpretation of Scripture. The Bible is the written word. That means that reason must be used to understand the words, considering the style (poetry, apocalyptic, historical)

of the writing. Similes and metaphors must be understood. Parables interpreted. This all takes human reason. However, our reason must always be used to seek the intended sense of the author. It must not lord it over, and override what the writer is clearly saying. To do this is to deny what is written, and replace it with our own

thoughts. Is the teaching that the Bible is inerrant reasonable? Not according to human reason. It is a matter of faith, a mystery. As we seek to understand the Bible, the Holy Spirit will aid us so that we might understand all that we need to know in this life. All passages quoted are from the New King James

Version of the Bible. I pray that this is helpful to you. If you have any questions, objections, or thoughts about what I have written, I would love to hear from you. Please contact me, Pastor Schnack, at 307 343-2314 and I would be happy to explain everything written in greater detail. This is a very condensed summary of this topic.

Continued from page A5

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR FILES

January 15, 1925 100 Years Ago

Old Age Pensions Will Be Asked of This Legislature

Eagles Lodge Sponsoring Movement to Do Away With Poor-houses and Poor-farms in Wyoming.
Casper Aerie No. 306 Fraternal Order of Eagles will present the Eagles Old Age Pension Bill to the coming legislature and the present outlook is that this measure will receive favorable consideration.
The old age pension idea was adopted by the Grand Aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles, at the annual session of 1921, which was held in Newark, N. J., and since that time the states of Nevada, Montana, Pennsylvania,

and the territory of Alaska have incorporated this law on their statute books. A number of states have already had this bill presented and have appointed commissions to investigate the same, and from reports made by these commissions it is safe to say that their states will adopt this humanitarian measure and do away with poor-houses and farms. It is a measure that each and every organization — fraternal, religious, civic, etc., — should get behind and see that it is placed on the statute books of Wyoming during the coming session of the legislature.

One of the greatest bugbears of aged people in poor circumstances is the thought of the poorhouse or farm. It is well known fact that the lives of the inmates of these places are anything but rosy. Commissions appointed in other states to investigate have told most revolting stories as to conditions found. The Ohio commission reported, in part, as follows:
“Thirty county infirmaries caring for the sickness as well as communicable diseases had practically no hospitable facilities. Not one of them employed a trained nurse, and at least half did

not have a practical nurse. In many cases the sick were housed in an outside building with iron doors, formerly used for the insane. The sanitary conditions in these buildings were simply revolting. In some cases the odor was unbearable; the bed clothing was ragged and dirty; old fashioned toilets which had not been cleaned for many months were frequently found in the bedrooms. Persons afflicted with communicable diseases are admitted without provision for isolation. Those who were unable to care for their physical needs demanding constant

attention, had to depend on other inmates for the most urgent needs. Often these improvised attendants were feeble-minded or at least ignorant and inattentive.
“Usually the old people, who had been compelled to go to the infirmary through no fault of their own, had to sleep in the same dormitory and eat at the same tables with the feeble-minded and the partially insane.”
The above is certainly not the kind of a life the builders of our town, cities, states, and nation should lead when they are past the age of usefulness to industry. With the granting

of old age pensions the old folks would be able to live in their own little home, or at least in sanitary quarters, among old-time neighbors and friends, and at far less cost to taxpayers of the state than under present conditions.
The Fraternal Order of Eagles and the old folks of Wyoming will certainly appreciate any and all efforts made towards having this measure adopted by the state legislature. You can do your part by asking the representatives of your county in the legislature to give the Old Age Pension Bill careful consideration.

January 12, 1950 75 Years Ago

Upper Valley Man Opens Fender and Body Shop at Riverside

J.V. Stitz, well-known paper valley ranchman, has announced that he has opened a new fender and body shop in quarters at the National Garage at Riverside, and that he is prepared to expertly knock

all those unwanted dents and kinks out of car fenders and bodies match and spot paint scarred areas, align dilapidated doors, and otherwise bring your car back to its original smooth lines and lustre.

Mr. Stitz revealed he is a veteran of more than 12 years in the body and fender business, but was forced to give up the work owing to ill health. He has spent the past several years in the ranching business, and the

outdoor life having greatly benefited his health, decided to re-enter the car body business. Mr. Stitz moved to the upper valley from Green River, where he operated a shop for three years. Previous to that he

said he spent four years in the business at Corpus Christi, Texas.
The Stitz ranch is located just east of the highway, 2 ½ miles north of Riverside. Mrs. Stitz is a flower hobbyist, and the west windows of the Stitz

home area constant source of interest to motorists passing along the highway for the beautiful groups of house flowers which perpetually glow from the windows, winter or summer, sunshine or blizzard.

January 16, 1975 50 Years Ago

Duchess Takes the Wheel

“Master made me do it,” said Duchess. Duchess, a black Lab puppy, be-

longing to John Rummel, owner of John’s Body Shop in Saratoga, decided to take up driving last week. Rummell had

parked his pickup in the vacant lot across from the Sands Restaurant and left it running while he went inside to talk to John

Chadwick. While Rummell was inside Duchess ran the pickup into a vehicle belonging to Everett Grubb. Duchess had

hit the gear shift of the pickup’s automatic transmission. Rummell heard the crash and looked out the window to see his

dog looking at him out of the pickup window. An estimate of over \$200 damage was done to the two vehicles.

Carbon County Sheriff's Office Arrest Record

January 3, 2025 through January 15, 2025

January 3

• Ricardo Larios was arrested for a DUI >.08%.

January 4

• Raymond Moses of Rawlins, Wyoming was arrested for criminal trespass.

January 5

• Kennida Beiber of Rawlins, Wyoming was arrested for interference with a peace officer and possession of a controlled substance 3 grams or less — 3rd offense.
• Adam Bitterlich of Raw-

lins, Wyoming was arrested for a DUI > .08% — 2nd offense within 10 years and driving while under suspension.

• Jaden Davis of Rawlins, Wyoming was arrested for a DUI >.08% and failure to provide proof of insurance.

January 7

• Oscar Mancia of Rawlins, Wyoming was arrested for tail light equipment and driver’s license required.

• Jason Vargas of Green River, Wyoming was arrested for driving while license suspended — 2nd offense, DUI for alcohol and controlled substance,

windshield obstructed view, exceeding 75 mph on interstate, and expired/improper registration.

January 8

• Trace Hall of Rawlins, Wyoming was arrested as a sentenced inmate.
• Spencer Hensinger of West Point, Utah was arrested as a sentenced inmate.

January 9

• Joshua St. Arnold of Rawlins, Wyoming was arrested on probation/parole jail sanction.

January 10

• Morissa Baca of Rawlins, Wyoming was arrested for

child abuse due to responsibility of welfare and physical abuse.

• Leonard Lucero of Aurora, Colorado was arrested for possession of a controlled substance — 3rd+ offense.
• Diana Ray of Rawlins, Wyoming was arrested for probation/parole jail sanction.

January 11

• Jefferson Redfeather of Pueblo, Colorado was arrested on a warrant.

January 12

• Leticia Garcia of Hanna, Wyoming was arrested for possession of drugs in plant form 3 oz or less, reckless

endangering of a child, and child violation of the law.

January 13

• Bobby Lee of Houston, Texas was arrested for probation/bond revocation.
• Shannon Moore of Saratoga, Wyoming was arrested on a warrant.

January 14

• Michael Abeyta of Rawlins, Wyoming was arrested for possession of a controlled substance — 3rd offense and DUI due to alcohol >.08% — 2nd offense within 10 years.
• Arthur Montoya of Rawlins, Wyoming was arrested for interference with a peace

officer.

January 15

• George Ashby of Rawlins, Wyoming was arrested for driving while license suspended/revoked and failure to maintain liability coverage.
• Jacob Gomez of Rawlins, Wyoming was arrested for walking where there were no sidewalks, possession of drugs in plant form 3 oz or less and possession of a controlled substance in the form of cocaine/crack 5/10 grams or less.
• Scott Holden of Rawlins, Wyoming was arrested for DUI due to alcohol > .08%.

Valley News



The photo taken by Joshua Wood of students saluting the American Flag during a homecoming parade took first place in the general news photo category.



The photo of Olivia Moore at Valley Food's annual pumpkin patch by D'ron Campbell took honorable mention in the portrait/personality division. The judges said "the young girl's expression speaks for itself."



Kaitlyn Campbell's photo of the Northern Lights — "Symphony of Color" — won first place for the portrait/personality division. The judges said it was "eerie and yet so inviting."



Liz Wood's photo of saddle bronc rider Daniel Weyrich won first place in the sports action division. The judges said it had "good action and emotion."

Saratoga Sun Wins Big

Sun staff bring home 28 individual awards, three major awards

By Joshua Wood, Stevenson Newspapers wood.saratogasun@gmail.com

The Saratoga Sun had a record-breaking showing at the Wyoming Press Association Annual Convention in Cheyenne this past weekend. The staff of the Sun brought home 28 Pacemaker Awards, which are awarded to individuals, and brought home three major awards. Along with taking first place for the Pacemaker Sweepstakes—which is awarded to the newspaper with the most individual awards—the Sun also brought home second place in Photographic Excellence, second place in Advertising Excellence and honorable mention in Editorial Excellence. The contest this year was judged by the South Dakota NewsMedia Association. "Congratulations to the staff of the Saratoga Sun," said Gary Stevenson, owner of the newspaper. "Two years ago we made some wholesale changes to the Sun and those changes are now starting to bear fruit." All together, the Saratoga Sun had 13 first place entries ranging from government reporting and features to photography. The Sun also earned nine second place awards and six honorable mentions.

This is the most Pacemakers the Saratoga Sun has won in recent years, setting a new record in 2020 with a total of 24 awards. This is also the most number of major awards won by the Saratoga Sun in recent memory. Across all categories, awards were earned by D'Ron Campbell, Kaitlyn Campbell, Liz Wood and Joshua Wood. **First Place In-Depth Reporting for LaVa Coverage, Liz Wood.** The judges said "Very well done. This was an interesting topic to follow." **First Place Government Issue Reporting for "Planning for Saratoga's Future," Joshua Wood.** The judges said "An in-depth series of dispatches on an important topic to the reporter's community. The writer did a good job gathering statistics while also laying out the arguments from the various parties involved." **First Place Outdoors-Environmental Reporting, Joshua Wood.** The judges said "An enjoyable package of stories from Wood. Wood's experience shows through his ease in writing and presenting the facts to his readers that he knows are relevant and important. Particularly, it was an interesting angle to cover the Rock Springs RMP in a way that was the most relevant possible for Saratoga. Enjoyable writing and reading." **First Place Business-Energy Reporting, Joshua Wood.** The judges said "Great, de-

scription features that still highlight the role and impacts the businesses have on the overall Valley. The Farm to table story was a great localized piece on a larger national trend." **First Place Agriculture Reporting, Joshua Wood.** The judges said "These articles effectively highlight three local business owners who serve the agricultural community. Nice work capturing their perspectives and passion for their areas of interest, particularly 'Lost in the Leather' and 'Serving local, supporting local.' Well done overall." **First Place Obituary Writing, "A Voice for All Seasons," D'Ron Campbell, Liz Wood and Joshua Wood.** No judges comments. **First Place Headline Writing, Staff.** The judges said "Headlines are consistent throughout, Not too wordy. Use of subheads to lead readers into story is used well." **First Place Special Section or Supplement, 2024 SnoRag.** The judges said "Nicely done section! I like niche publications that focus on one topic instead of a blanket 'travel guide.'" **First Place Public Service Award, "Gordon: We Need That Permanent Record," Joshua Wood.** No judges comments. **First Place First Amendment Award, "Council Gets Notice," Kaitlyn Campbell.** No judges comments.

First Place General News Photo, "Student Salute," Joshua Wood. No judges comments. **First Place Sports Action Photo, "Saddle Bronc Rider," Liz Wood.** The judges said "Fantastic moment captured. Good action and emotion. Really appreciate the horse and the dirt." **First Place Portrait-Personality Photo, "Symphony of Color," Kaitlyn Campbell.** The judges said "The Northern Lights always amaze me, and I am a fan of silhouette photos. This one takes the prize. There's something eerie and yet so inviting in this photo and the entry title - Symphony of color seems to say it all." **Second Place Government-Issue Reporting, "Learn the process," Joshua Wood.** The judges said "A well-done story that explains the topic well and lets facts shine through." **Second Place Feature Story, "Teense Willford, the Voice of the Valley," Joshua Wood.** The judges said "A very nice feature on a local icon. The reason I ranked this one higher than the other piece on Teense is because this was written while he was still alive." **Second Place Column Writing, "Against the Grain," Joshua Wood.** The judges said "The advice to graduates and reflection on a man gone too soon are well done. Quality writing and personal coloring added to topics."

Second Place Outdoor-Environmental Reporting, Liz Wood. The judges said "What a pleasure to read a 3-series package on the same topic. The depth of the writing and research was clear in addition to the informative interviews from Wood." **Second Place Education Reporting, Liz Wood.** The judges said "Fun reporting on hands-on learning experiences for local students." **Second Place Arts/Entertainment/Culture Reporting, Joshua Wood.** The judges said "The three stories all had solid feature leads. The evolution of Saratoga Days was described well by the concert's co-organizer, who dreamed big and landed such acts as Lita Ford, Ned LeDoux and Neil McCoy. The tango class story was interesting in that the dancing couples spent a lot of time just stepping rather than dancing to learn the art form. The WHAT Fest story had a mini-Woodstock vibe and good accompanying photos." **Second Place Special section or Supplement, 2024 Adventure Guide.** The judges said "Strong layout, interesting/brief descriptions of special points of interest. Clean and organized. Good use of fonts." **Second Place, Feature Photo, "Soaring in the Sun," Joshua Wood.** The judges said "Capturing motion with clarity is very difficult. This is very well-done, and the color

saturation is wonderful." **Second Place, Sports Action Photo, "Rolseth Dunk," Joshua Wood.** The judges said "Close second place. Another great moment captured. Way to catch this!" **Honorable Mention, Government Issue Reporting, "This is about water," Kaitlyn Campbell.** The judges said "Thorough reporting on a thorny and complicated issue." **Honorable Mention, Feature Story, "A Voice For All Seasons," D'Ron Campbell, Liz Wood and Joshua Wood.** The judges said "This was a nice piece, and I was going to rate it higher, but then I came across the other piece on the same person! You each did focus on different things, though!" **Honorable Mention, Column Writing, "Just Hear Me Out," Kaitlyn Campbell.** The judges said "The writer provided worthwhile insight on the topics. Quality work laying out the facts before adding commentary." **Honorable Mention, Feature Photo, "Josh Craig," Joshua Wood.** The judges had no comments. **Honorable Mention, Portrait-Personality Photo, "Unsquashable Determination," D'Ron Campbell.** The judges said "This photo made me laugh - the young girl's expression speaks for itself. Great job on the photographer capturing the moment." **Honorable Mention, Best Use of Photos.** The judges said "The photo pages were great."

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~ Government Issue Reporting

"The depth of the writing and research was clear in addition to the informative interviews."

~ Outdoors-Environmental Reporting

"Headlines are consistent throughout. Not too wordy. Use of subheads to lead readers into story is used well."

~ Headline Writing

"Strong layout. Clean and organized. Good use of fonts."

~ Special Section or Supplement, 2024 Adventure Guide

"Quality work laying out the facts before adding commentary."

~ Column Writing

"Great descriptive features that still highlight the role and impacts the businesses have on the overall Valley."

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SPORTS/ACTIVITIES



Looking to Pass

Griffin Bartlett, 22, tries to find space in the LSRV paint.

Photo by Elliott Deins



Up in the Air

Hunter Johnston, 20, leaves the ground in attempting to make a shot.

Photo by Elliott Deins

Saratoga Loses, Wins Conference Games

Panthers fall to LSRV Rattlers, defeat Fort Washakie Eagles

By Joshua wood,
Stevenson Newspapers
wood.saratogasun@gmail.com

It was a week of defeat and victory for the Saratoga Panthers as they were narrowly dealt their second conference loss by the Little Snake River Valley (LSRV) Rattlers and secured their first conference win playing against the Fort Washakie Eagles.

"We knew going into the season we were going to be in a lot of close conference games this season, and hopefully we come out on the other end of some of these moving forward," said Jason Williams, head coach for the Saratoga Panthers.

Saratoga vs. LSRV

It was a tough loss for the

Panthers, who had previously fallen to the Encampment Tigers. Yet, they kept the game close to one of the top teams in the 1A Southwest Conference as they faced Little Snake River Valley on January 16.

"We just felt like we ran out of steam a little bit in the third and fourth quarters," said Williams. "Snake River is a physical, athletic team and we need to put four quarters of good basketball together in order to stay with them."

It was a tight game, with the Rattlers securing a slim three-point lead over Saratoga to win the game. The final score was 50-47, LSRV.

The game was not without some highpoints, however, as some strong players are coming up through the stat sheets.

Sophomore Max Jones scored 13 points against the Rattlers and had 7 rebounds.

Hazen Williams, meanwhile, scored 13 points while Griffin Bartlett scored 7 points and had 5 assists.

Saratoga vs. Fort Washakie

The next day, Saratoga hit the road and was hosted by the Eagles. Fort Washakie had previously faced the Panthers during a non-conference tournament and were dealt a significant loss. History repeated itself on January 17 as Saratoga dealt a nearly 40-point loss to the Eagles.

The game, said Williams, was a great opportunity to get some critical court time for everyone on the team.

"This game was closer than the score indicates, as we were only up by 12 at intermission. Fort Washakie has some good shooters on their team, but they started to cool off in the second half and we were able to pull ahead," said Williams. "Everybody got to

play in the game and 9 players scored."

The final score was 65-28, Saratoga.

Burris Berger led the Panthers against Fort Washakie, putting up an impressive 20 points. He was followed by H. Williams with 12 points and Bartlett with 11 points.

More Conference Games

With their 1-1 week, the Saratoga Panthers are now 6-3 for the season and 1-2 for conference play. Up next, they'll make the annual road trip to Cokeville to face the Panther team in the 1A Southwest Conference along with the Farson-Eden Pronghorns.

Cokeville is 8-4 for the season and 2-0 for conference play, having dealt a loss to the Encampment Tigers on January 17. Farson-Eden is 3-9 for the season and 2-1 in conference play and dealt

a loss to the Encampment Tigers on January 18.

Saratoga will be hosted by Cokeville at 4 p.m. on January

24 in Cokeville. The Panthers will then be hosted by the Pronghorns at noon on January 25 in Farson.

CCSD2 School Menu

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Lunch — Super Nachos, Hot Veggie, Fruit, Milk

FRIDAY: No School

MONDAY: Breakfast — Berry Sheet Pancake, Fruit, Juice, Milk

Lunch — Chicken Tenders, Smile Fries, Hot Veggie, Fruit, Milk

TUESDAY: Breakfast—Mango Pineapple Smoothie, Cocoa Puffs, Fruit, Milk

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WEDNESDAY: Omelet, Fruit, Juice, Milk

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SPORTS/ACTIVITIES

Lady Panthers Split The Weekend

Saratoga girls fall to LSRV, soar over Lady Eagles

By Joshua Wood, Stevenson Newspapers wood.saratogasun@gmail.com

It was a split weekend for the Saratoga Lady Panthers as they lost a conference game at home and won a conference game on the road. On January 16, the Lady Panthers were dealt a more than 30-point loss by the Little Snake River Valley (LSRV) Lady Rattlers. Then, on January 17, successfully clipped the wings of the Fort Washakie Lady Eagles to secure their first conference win of the season.

Saratoga vs. Lady Rattlers
The Lady Panthers came into their match-up against LSRV with one conference loss delivered by the Encampment Lady Tigers the week before. The Lady Rattlers, meanwhile, had not yet played a conference game. "Little Snake River came out on fire," said Head Coach Logan Wright. "They shot

very well the whole game and built a quick and early lead. We did some good things but in the end they were too much for us that night." The final score was 76-43, Lady Rattlers. Laenee Barkhurst led the team against the LSRV, scoring 13 points. Sophie Diaz and Haley Grubb each scored 8 points.

Saratoga vs. Lady Eagles
The next day, Saratoga hit the road to be hosted by the Lady Eagles. Since joining the 1A Southwest Conference, Fort Washakie has had a tough go of finding their way and have been dealt several losses. Friday was no different for them. "Against Fort Washakie, we came out and played really well. We were up 33-2 at one point and played all 14 girls who traveled a lot of minutes," said Wright. "Our pressure really worked against them. We took care of business against a team where if we play hard and smart, we should have success against." The final score was 62-21, Saratoga. Barkhurst scored 17 points,

all of them in the first half of the game. Haley Grubb scored 10 points against the Lady Eagles and Koya Roberts added 9 points to the win. Following their split weekend, the Saratoga Lady Panthers are No. 5 in the 1A Southwest Conference with a season record of 6-4 and are 1-2 in conference play. "Moving forward, we will continue to be in shape, play as hard as we can, and play for our teammates," said Wright. "Tough week ahead at Cokeville and Farson, but if we play up to our potential and protect the ball, they should be good games." Both the Cokeville Lady Panthers and the Farson-Eden Lady Pronghorns dealt losses to the Encampment Lady Tigers last week. Cokeville is currently No. 1 with a season record of 8-4 and is 2-0 in conference play. Farson-Eden is sitting at No. 3 with a season record of 3-9 and is 2-1 in conference play. Cokeville will host Saratoga at 4 p.m. on January 24. Farson-Eden will host Saratoga at noon on January 25.



Trying to Keep Control

Maggie Elder, 24, and Aspen Sewell, 15, attempt to capture the ball in the air.

Photo by Elliott Deins

Ron Thon Prep Begins in Shoshoni

Panthers Continue to Improve in Competition throughout the State

by Jason Campbell, Special to the Sun

Saratoga's high school wrestling team competed in Shoshoni's Clash at the Crossroads last weekend. There were 14 teams participating, and the Panthers overall wrestled 'pretty well' according to head coach Rusty Arnold. The Shoshoni tournament is a good warm-up as the Panthers head into the meat of their season in the next few weeks. 106-pound champion Ace Arnold started the day by pinning Kelley from Hulett and LaDuke (Wright). Arnold then won his first-place match by tech fall in the second period over 2A's top ranked wrestler in the state (Cokeville's Thompson). Arnold's first place finish adds another trophy to an already impressive season. Coach Arnold stated that Tate Zeller at 113 pounds is 'improving every day,' al-

though he wasn't able to come away with a win in the tournament. Zeller lost to Dollick (Upton) and Child (Cokeville). At 132 pounds, Hayden Suttee also 'wrestled well' and was 1 and 2 on the weekend. He first pinned Dickey (Thermopolis), but lost to De La Cruz (Lovell) before falling to Lyoning (Rocky Mountain). SMHS's 144-pound Kanean Roberts has been battling illness and Coach Arnold said once he is healthy, he will be 'a force to be reckoned with.' Roberts eventually lost the 3rd place match, but had a good showing with a 4th place medal. Kanean's first match was a loss to Yarrington (Thermopolis), but he won the next three by fall (Fuhrman and Winfrey (Tongue River); and then Brown (Greybull)). Unruh (Rocky Mountain) pinned Roberts in the consolation finals. Ben Miller at 144 pounds is 'showing lots of promise' and was 1 and 2 for the tournament. He won by fall against Haslem (Rocky Mountain), but lost to Alexander and

then Brown, both from Greybull. 165-pound wrestler Galloway O'Leary Beat his first opponent (Cornell - Shoshoni) before falling to Volmer (Tongue River) and Klaproth (Shoshoni). Coach Arnold stated that O'Leary was also entered into the 'second chance' tournament on Saturday and ending up winning three matches for a first-place medal. Coach Arnold impressed upon his team that they 'need to peak twice this year.' The first peak is for the upcoming Ron Thon tournament, and then the second peak is the state tourney. Ron Thon is the second biggest tournament of the year and it is an all-class, as opposed to the state competition where the athletes only compete versus class competitors. Because of this, many people in the wrestling community consider Ron Thon to be the 'real state championship.' The team heads to Lander this weekend and the results there will be a good indicator where they all stack up before Ron Thon.

My Ball



Koya Roberts, 5, defends the steal.

Photo by Elliott Deins

Pickleball Donates Back to the Community

Encampment Pickleball players Peggy Huntley, Rhonda Martin, Deb Riker, and Tracy Schneider present a donation to Jake Johnston, principal of Encampment school. Encampment Pickle Ballers have been able to play their games at the Encampment school gymnasium for the last two winters. They are in deep appreciation to Encampment School, as well as Carbon County District #2 for letting this be a possibility. The Encampment Pickle Ball group formed in June 2023. The group has gone from three players to sixteen players this winter. The last



few years has seen a renewed interest here in the valley as well as around the world. Winter play is happening at the Encampment gym Tuesday and Thursday evenings 7-9 p.m.

Panther Wrestling



Photo by Jason Campbell

Back Row: Coach Sterling Arnold, Manager Taylor Malcolm, Carson Everett, Skyler Wood, Kanean Roberts, Galloway O'Leary, Atom Lindsey, Coach Rusty Arnold
Front Row: Tate Zeller, Ace Arnold, Ben Miller, Hayden Suttee

OF INTEREST



Pond hockey and ice fishing, a perfect combination

By Elliott Deins
elliott.saratogasun@gmail.com

Organized pond hockey made its debut during the 2025 Saratoga Lake Ice Fishing Derby. Six teams participated in a round-robin style tournament throughout the two derby days. “This is awesome,” a frozen-mustachioed Tommy Jansen, 38, Laramie, said about the tournament, “got good ice, it’s nice, hard. And

the games are quick.” The ice is more manicured playing on a rink but Mother Nature does all the work out on the Lake, Jansen said. “These guys have been great with either flooding the ice out, getting the divots, the cracks and everything,” he said. “We had to take a blow torch to some stuff this (Sunday) morning as far as bigger cracks to seal it back in.” Getting a zamboni out to, let alone on, Saratoga Lake to make repairs would be a tall

task. The players MacGyver the ice repairs using snow, a puck and blow torch. “Just heat the crack up, pack a little snow in there, melt it down in and then take a puck and smooth it back over,” Jansen said, “within a couple minutes it’s all smoothed down.” Jansen hopes the pond hockey tradition continues with future Derby’s. “I’m looking forward to coming back,” he said, “It was a ton of fun.”



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ACROSS

1. Bungle

5. Cause of a trip?

8. Dao, alt. sp.

11. Between marquess and viscount

12. Super garb?

13. Inlet in Norway

15. Cogito ____ sum

16. Long story

17. Deprived of a limb

18. *Half-time headliner

20. Ice, dark or middle

60. Like Piper of Hamelin

61. Uber alternative

62. ____ Robinson

63. Acronym, abbr.

64. "Come Sail Away" band

DOWN

1. Service charge

2. Songbird

3. Craving

4. Marilyn Monroe, e.g.

5. ____ lazuli

6. Hot

7. 52 cards

8. Hefty volume

9. Greek god of war

10. 1, e.g.

12. Cherry red

13. Post vitriol

14. *Team with no Super Bowl appearances

19. Looney Tunes duck

22. Architectural add-on

23. Meat of coconut

24. Roman king of Judea

25. Like certain whiskey

26. Grow crop

27. Brag

28. Algorithmic language

29. Ganders' companions

32. Tom Jones's "____ a Lady"

33. Rolodex abbr.

36. *____ Superdome

38. Wombs

40. Lady lobster

41. Hardened

44. Follows wash

21. *Cindy Crawford wore "____ Dukes" in a Super Bowl ad

22. Flightless bird

23. *Last year's Super Bowl winners

26. A cheap, run-down motel

30. "____ the fields we go"

31. Merry

34. Actor's part

35. Expensive

37. Not him

38. Cell phone bill item

39. Civil Rights icon

40. *David Tyree's ____ Catch

42. Letters of distress

43. What rule follower does

45. Get cozy

47. Greed, biblical-ly-speaking

48. Grieve for the dead

50. Time period

52. *Team with most Super Bowl appearances

55. 3600 seconds, pl.

56. Casino chip

57. Salmon's output

59. En ____, all together

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46. Pig sounds

48. Bouncing off the walls

49. Weasel's aquatic cousin

50. Fly like an eagle

51. Boot-wearing kitty

52. Mama Bear's husband

53. To perfection (3 words)

54. *Justin Timberlake's "____Back," sung in Super Bowl show

55. Expression of doubt

58. *Steelers' number of Super Bowl trophies

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PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF SARATOGA PUBLIC WORKS
REQUEST FOR BIDS
MOWING SERVICES

Invitation to Bid

The Town of Saratoga, Wyoming is requesting competitive bids from qualified persons and firms for providing transportation, equipment, supplies, materials, and labor to perform mowing services for the Public Works Department. Interested bidders should review specifications and attachments and submit bid to:

Town of Saratoga
Emery Penner, Director of Public Works
110 E. Spring Ave
Saratoga, WY 82331

A full copy of the specifications can be obtained at Saratoga Town Hall. Electronic copies are also available by request.

Bids shall be in a sealed envelope and marked “Town of Saratoga Mowing Contract Bid”. Envelopes shall include all required documents as indicated on the Bid Form in these documents (Page 9). Bids shall be submitted by **February 18, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.** and will be opened at the same time and place. No decision regarding award will be made at that time. There will be a **MANDATORY pre-bid meeting on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 10:00 A.M.** in the Town Council Room, 110 E. Spring Ave. Saratoga, WY 82331. **In order to turn in a qualifying bid, bidder or bidder's agent must attend the mandatory pre-bid meeting and sign into the sign in sheet provided at the meeting.** A review of the contract specifications will be presented with estimated acreages, mowing quantities, and answer any questions the bidder(s) may have. All bidders are encouraged to attend. If there are questions about these bid documents, please contact Emery Penner at 307-447-2882.

Legal #9094
Published in
The Saratoga Sun
January 16 & 23, 2025
February 6, 2025

NOTICE: TOWN OF SARATOGA
PUBLIC WORKS
REQUEST FOR BIDS
1-TON PICKUP TRUCK

Invitation to Bid
Request for Proposal/Quotation Pickup Truck

The Town of Saratoga Public Works Department is seeking a qualified vendor to supply a new, 1 ton, four-wheel drive work truck. **A full copy of the specifications can be obtained at Saratoga Town Hall. Electronic copies are also available by request.** Sealed bids shall be sealed and submitted to the Town using the enclosed bid form. Bids shall be either hand-delivered to Town Hall, at:

Town of Saratoga, Town Hall
110 E. Spring Avenue
Saratoga, WY 82331
c/o Emery Penner, Public Works Director
P.O. Box 486
Saratoga, Wyoming 82331

or by US mail in sealed envelopes marked “PW-Service Truck -2025” and addressed to:

Electronic submission of bids shall not be accepted. Bids shall be received until:
Thursday, February 13th, 2025 @ 2:00 PM.

and at said time, bids will be opened and read aloud. The bid opening will be held in-person at Saratoga Town Hall. All pre-bid correspondence shall be submitted electronically to Emery Penner, Public Works Director, at e.penner@saratogawyo.org. Questions regarding this bid/proposal shall be accepted until 2:00 PM, Thursday, February 6, 2025. The Town of Saratoga reserves the right to waive any informality in the bids, to accept any bid, and to reject any or all bids, should it be deemed in the best interest of the Town to do so. The Town of Saratoga further reserves the right to cancel or amend this RFP at any time.

Legal # 9096
Published in
The Saratoga Sun
January 23 and 30, and February 6, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act and the Wyoming Public Service Commission’s (Commission) Rules, the Commission hereby gives notice of Carbon Power and Light, Inc. ’s (Carbon Power or the Cooperative) Application for authority to revise its schedule of fees and electric facilities allowance.

1. Carbon Power is a non-profit cooperative public utility providing electric service subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction. Wyo. Stat. §§ 37-1-101(a)(vi)(C) and 37-2-112.
2. On November 25, 2024, Carbon Power submitted its Application seeking Commission approval to increase certain fees including: Security deposit minimum, Connect, Restoring Service, Collection of delinquent bill and Electrical Facilities allowance as reflected on tariff sheet 1A and 2A. The Cooperative is not subject to the Commission’s retail rate jurisdiction. Wyo. Stat §§ 37-17-103.
3. The proposed changes are subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction. Carbon Power’s Board of Directors approved the new tariff on October 23, 2024, and notified their membership. Wyo. Stat. § 37-17-104.
4. This is not a complete description of Carbon Power’s Application. You may review the Application at the Commission’s office in Cheyenne, Wyoming, or online at: <https://dms.wyo.gov/external/publicusers.aspx> (enter Record No. 17727).
5. Anyone desiring to file a statement, intervention petition, protest or request for a public hearing in this matter must do so, in writing, on or before February 14, 2025. Petitions shall set forth the grounds of the proposed intervention or request for hearing as well as the position and the interest of the petitioner in this proceeding. Please mention Docket No. 10002-98-CT-24 in your communications.
6. If you wish to participate in this matter and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, please contact the Commission at (307) 777-7427, or write to the Commission at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, to make arrangements. Communications impaired persons may also contact the Commission by accessing Wyoming Relay at 711.

Legal #9098
Published in
The Saratoga Sun
January 23 and 30, 2025

STATE OF WYOMING IN THE DISTRICT COURT ss. COUNTY
OF CARBON SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Probate No. 2025-CV-0000001

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
SAM D. MORGAN A/K/A SAMUEL D. MORGAN A/K/A
SAMUEL MORGAN, Deceased.

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF ESTATE

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN SAID ESTATE:

You are hereby notified that on the 14th day of January, 2025, the above-named Court admitted the Estate of Sam D. Morgan a/k/a Samuel D. Morgan a/k/a Samuel Morgan to probate, and that the Court appointed Robin A. Pickering as Personal Representative thereof. Any action to set aside said Will must be filed in said Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to said Decedent or to said Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned at 584 Yampa Avenue, Craig, Colorado 81625.

Creditors having claims against said Decedent or the Estate are required to file them in duplicate with the necessary vouchers, in the office of the Clerk of the District Court for the Second Judicial District, on or before three (3) months after the date of the first publication of this notice, and if such claims are not so filed, unless otherwise allowed or paid, they will be forever barred.

DATED this 14th day of January, 2025.

/s/ Robin A. Pickering, Petitioner

Legal #9097
Published in
The Saratoga Sun
January 23 and 30 and February 6, 2025

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reading
The
Saratoga
Sun

\$52 in County
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THE SARATOGA SUN

INSURANCE

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud to highlight the significant achievements of the State Insurance Department in 2024. This year has been marked by wildfires in Wyoming and across the country; legislative changes regarding Prior Authorization and continued excellence in consumer assistance. The office has worked tirelessly to ensure that the Wyoming citizens have fair, transparent and accessible insurance information.

The Wyoming Department of Insurance (DOI) regulates insurance companies, multiple employer welfare arrangements, risk retentions and purchasing groups, motor clubs, service contract providers, preneed funeral homes, agents, brokers adjusters, consultants, pharmacy benefit managers and third party administrator. We also approve policy filings, investigate consumer complaints, monitor financial conditions and solvency of insurance companies and collect premium and surplus lines taxes. The DOI does not regulate insurance rates for most types of insurance.

The statutes that govern insurance in the state of Wyoming can be found in Title 26-Insurance Code. The statutes can be accessed by visiting <https://www.wyoleg.gov/StateStatutes/StatutesConstitution> and clicking on the link for Wyoming Statutes Annotated. The rules for the agency can be found at the Secretary of State’s website <https://rules.wyo.gov/> Department of Insurance (044).

2024 Highlights:

During the 2024 legislative session, the DOI monitored four bills regarding insurance. They were HB0014 Prior Authorization Regulations; HB0015-

Health Insurance-reimbursement of overpayments; SF0005-Organ transplant recipient protections; SF0100-Payment of Insurance Claims. You can view the bills and the changes that were made by visiting the legislative Service Office website and select 2024 bills.

In preparation for the 2025 legislative session, the agency proposed two bills to the Joint Corporations, Elections & Political Subdivisions Committee. The first bill was a simple “clean up” bill with minor corrections and updates to Title 26. The second bill, was an NAIC Accreditation bill with updates to Chapter 44, the Holding Company System per the 2021 model law updates. Both bills passed the Joint Corporations Committee this summer and will be committee bills this upcoming session. The 2025 legislative session begins January 14, 2025 and we expect to follow several bills during the general session.

The DOI also did extensive outreach during 2024. Public service announcements were published each month in statewide papers and on the DOI LinkedIn page. Some of the topics in 2024 were Marketplace and Medicare open enrollment, Health Insurance 101, Mental Health Awareness Month and Wildfires. The agency also did several presentations, provided various articles and information for state agencies and interested parties, and interviews with the New York Times and Cowboy State Daily.

In 2024, the agency collected over \$25,632,397 in premium tax. The fiscal section also reviewed approximately twenty-one new company expansion applications for insurers to become licensed to write business in Wyoming.



The agency was also busy with licensing applications and form reviews. Our three licensing personnel issued 42,852 licenses, renewed 66,252 licenses and manually processed 5,186 applications. The Rate and Form filing section reviewed 1,726 Life & Health filings and 2,108 Property & Casualty filings. Staffing remained consistent with five personnel.

The legal section was busy with public records request and docket filings. In 2024, the legal section finalized one regulation, Chapter 72-Prior Authorization. They processed seventy-six (76) public records requests and opened seventy-five (75) docket files. They also collected \$40,631.00 in fines. The agency also has a very responsive complaint section. This section handles a variety of complaints to include improper denial

of claims; delays in claim handling; cancellation or termination of an insurance policy or misrepresentation of policy. In 2024, the section handled 1,880 consumer complaints or inquiries in addition to many phone calls and emails.

The Department also added one new position. Thanks to an appropriation from the legislature the Department was able to hire a Health Program Manager to handle complaints and inquiries regarding Pharmacy Benefit Managers. This individual will develop a PBM regulation program, respond to PBM complaints, and follow legislation regarding PBMs.

As we head into 2025, our goals remain clear: to enforce insurance laws and regulations, assist consumers with complaints and encourage a healthy insurance marketplace.

This public service announcement is presented and paid for by the insurance companies licensed to do business in Wyoming in cooperation with the Wyoming Insurance Department. For more information on the state’s insurance companies, including financial information, visit the Insurance Department website’s “Company Financial Information” section.



Wyoming Department of Insurance
<http://doi.wyo.gov> • 1 (800) 438-5768

Valley News



Photo by Elliott Deins
An ice fishing rig set up on Saratoga Lake during day one of the Saratoga Ice Fishing Derby.



Photo by Elliott Deins
Anglers participating in the Saratoga Ice Fishing Derby set up tents on Saratoga Lake.



Photo by Elliott Deins
Lyle "Butch" Cook drills a fishing hole through the ice during day one of the Saratoga Ice Fishing Derby.



Photo by Elliott Deins
Bryce Inman, 12, wrangles a trout he just caught during the Saratoga Ice Fishing Derby.



Photo by Elliott Deins
JJ Schrock, 14, holds a rattle lure in hopes of catching a big trout during the Saratoga Ice Fishing Derby.



Photo by Elliott Deins
A bounty rainbow trout is measured at the Derby Headquarters Tent on day one of the Saratoga Ice Fishing Derby.



2025- 41st Annual Saratoga Lake Ice Fishing Derby



Director/Organizer

Amanda Knotwell

Tent Crew

Amanda Shahadey
Autumn Highland
Stephanie Patterson
Stacy Crimmins
Karen Buford
Kevin and Tracey Samsel
Carter and Jamie Edwards
Dave Christman
Adam Clarke
Jay Buszkiewicz
Phil McGrath
Ridge Knotwell

O-FISH-ALS

Jerry Butki
Emily Kaluzny

Registration

Medicine Bow Anglers
The Country Store
Shively's Downtown
Koyoty Sports

Concessions

Selena's Eats and Treats
Lazy River Cantina

Ice Patrol

Alvi Cerise
Karen Buford
Mike Tommervick
Amanda Shahadey
Carter Edwards
Phil McGrath
Josh Craig
Scott & Michelle McIlvaine
Dan Brain

Hourly Door Prizes

Medicine Bow Anglers
Valley Foods & Liquor
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Saratoga High School

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PEOPLE OF THE PLATTE

Trombonist Slides into All-State Band

Keel credits school music program for his success

By Liz Wood
lizwood.saratogasun@gmail.com

Editor's Note: Due to errors in the first run of this article, The Sun is running again for Bennett and the Keel family

For the second year in a row, Saratoga High School (SMHS) junior Bennett Keel has been accepted into the All-State Concert Band. He is the only student from Carbon County to play in the band.

To be considered, Keel was required to send an audition recording of his trombone playing by October 28, 2024.

Keel says he did not try out for the band his freshman year, because he was a little overwhelmed with the complexity of the music for the audition. Keel said one of the best trombonists he knew had tried out all four years and was accepted twice, so Keel felt he didn't have a chance. Last year, he discovered he had underestimated himself.

One of his mentors was Jensen Mills, a recent graduate of SMHS. "He made the trombone look cool." Keel said. He also said he owes his teacher, Gregory Paulson, and the music program, at SMHS "everything".

He described his experience last year as interesting.



He was inspired by an upperclassman, Jensen Mills, to try out his sophomore year.

Photo by Liz Wood

play with other trombonists who were like him. After last year's experience, Keel said he is very excited for this year.

Keel said the music for the audition was more complex than what he is used to playing in the SMHS band, but less complex than a symphony or orchestra. He practiced daily until the audition.


Last year, he played 3rd chair in second trombone. In this band, there are 15 trombonists and 5 chairs in each section. This year, he hopes to move up to a higher chair.

Keel said that hearing the 15 trombones together was amazing. He referred to a quote that a composer came up with - the trombone is the voice of God - it has been attributed to Beethoven and other composers according to www.thefactsite.com/trombone-facts/. It is called that because of its perfect tone according to the website.

Keel said he is not sure it is the voice of God, but the sound of the trombone with other trombones is very powerful and strong. "It is a really unique experience, it is something I have not felt outside of band," Keel said.

Besides playing in the band, Keel competes on the Speech and Debate team, plays bass and piano, is in the Jazz Band, is a member of FBLA and is the secretary for the student council.

Keel has been playing the trombone since he was in the sixth grade.



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