

Icy Instructions



Jake Hubbs gives Riot a few tips when prepping to tackle the sledding races at the Sierra Madre Winter Carnival

‘A Slap In The Face’

Administrators, educators and WEA express opposition to bill which would allow ‘uncertified personnel’ to work in schools

By Joshua Wood,
Stevenson Newspapers
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“The thought of just saying that you can hire anyone without certification, to me, is a disservice to our kids.”

Carbon County School District No. 2 (CCSD2) Superintendent Darrin Jennings is just one of a number of administrators and educators concerned with legislation which would allow “uncertified personnel” to be hired as teachers in school districts and charter schools. House Bill 100 is sponsored by Representative Ocean Andrew (R - Laramie) and would give schools the ability to bypass the Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board (PTSB) when hiring personnel as long as they are able to pass a background check. Andrew has sponsored a number of education-related bills this session.

“I think it’s an attempt to try to expand the pool of qualified people, but I think the way that it’s worded, it would be a terrible setback for our state,” said Carbon County School District No. 1 (CCSD1) Superintendent Mike Hamel.

Value in Certification
While the intent of House Bill 100 appears to be to help alleviate a long-running teacher shortage in the Cowboy State, both Jennings and Hamel believe the legislation fails to do so in a way which protects the value and quality of education.

“Our number one constituents are our kids and it’s

a disservice to them. There has to be a governing body that says ‘These people are qualified to teach’ or not,” said Jennings. “That’s what PTSB does and that’s what the certification is meant to do, it’s meant to say who can be a teacher and who can’t.”

“We already have alternative certificate routes and we have ways for those people to develop their classroom pedagogy skills through the process of further developing their license from one renewal period to the next.”

~ CCSD1 Superintendent
Mike Hamel

Currently, the Wyoming PTSB provides paths to certification to individuals who don’t have a teaching degree along with those who do in the form of continuing education. A license from the PTSB is valid for five years and requires a certain amount of credit hours.

“In order to renew my license every five years, the Wyoming PTSB requires five semester hours of course credits or 70 hours of other credit approved by PTSB,” said Lesley McLinksey, an English teacher at Encampment K-12 School. “This

could be official trainings through the Wyoming Department of Education or other professional development opportunities such as in-district trainings. For myself, in the last four years, I have earned seven credit hours through in-district trainings, I have completed 500 hours of training through an SEL (Social and Emotional Learning) program and I am 27 credits into a masters program.”

McLinskey has taught for 22 years, all of them in Encampment, after spending four years pursuing an undergraduate degree where she double-majored in English and Secondary Education.

According to Hamel, there is a value to pre-service teacher and administration programs through the Wyoming PTSB. The superintendent—whose district includes schools in Rawlins, Sinclair and the Little Snake River Valley—pointed to Wyoming’s National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) scores. Also known as the Nation’s Report Card, NAEP tests fourth grade and eighth grade students on their understanding of reading, writing, science and mathematics.

“Our scores across the state on the NAEP assessment—when you compare Wyoming to other states across the country—we’re in the top five nationally for over the past decade,” said Hamel.

Indeed, as of 2022—the latest report issued by NAEP—Wyoming students

Pretty Well Equipped

Saratoga, Rawlins say municipal water systems prepared for large fires within town limits

By Joshua Wood,
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For nearly a month, fires have torn through the dense urban neighborhoods of Los Angeles, as fire departments struggled to control and contain the spread of the flames.

Among the number of factors contributing to the devastating spread of the fires was the fact that responders were attempting to fight the flames with a municipal water system.

Density and Fuel Loads
“One thing to keep in mind with these LA fires. As with most large scale fires—whether it be a large grass fire, large brush fire or forest fire—you can’t put enough adequate water on a fire like that to suppress it,” said Allen Robinson, Rawlins Fire Department fire chief. “You can kind of control where it goes [and] of course a lot of that comes from aircraft.”

Despite the fact that municipal water systems aren’t equipped to fight what are essentially wildfires in urban areas, the Los Angeles

Fire Department tried to do just that. According to original reporting from *High Country News*, within the first 15 hours of fighting the Palisades Fire the water use peaked at four times

“You get big ponderosas in town, those things burn hot and they burn for a long time. We, fortunately, don’t have a ton of trees all over town.”

~ Emery Penner,
Town of Saratoga director
of public works

the usual rate and caused 20% of the fire hydrants to go dry.

For both Rawlins and Saratoga, there is confidence that their municipal water systems could handle some of the largest fires they could see in their corporate limits.

“What’s going on in Los Angeles and what could be happening here is apples and oranges. You’ve got a lot of big fuel [loads] intermittently in LA, you’ve got a lot of wind,” said Emery Pender, director of public works for the Town of Saratoga. “The amount of fuel that exists within town is primarily just structures, there’s not a lot of dead standing timber all over town that would create a big, heavy fuel load which is going to create a big demand for water.”

Indeed, the Santa Ana winds led to wind gusts up to 100 miles per hour which carried embers to more fuel loads within the Los Angeles area. While there are trees in both Rawlins and Saratoga, they aren’t the large Ponderosa pines which have been pointed to as another cause of the spread of the wildfires.

“The biggest thing that we have [going for us] in town is there’s not a bunch of big, tall fuel loads all over town,” said Penner. “You get big ponderosas in town, those things burn hot and they

See “Pretty Well Equipped” on page A2



In July 2024, a grassfire near Rodeo Court in Rawlins burned nearly five acres. The city’s water system was taxed, but was still able to put out what was one of the biggest fires officials say would be experienced in town limits.

Skijoring excitement at Buck Springs Arena this weekend

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Valley News

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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

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Happy New Year and see you soon!



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A New Council and a Busy Streets Department

Town of Saratoga Finishes 2024 with Clean Financials

by D’Ron Campbell
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The January 2025 meetings of the Saratoga Town Council introduced one new member to the council and recapped the improvements of infrastructure throughout the Town in 2024.

Local businessman Cory Oxford was elected to one of the two four year council terms and joined the council as the lone elected member without previous council experience.

Mayor Chuck Davis and Councilman Jerry Fluty have two more years on their initial terms. Councilmen Mike Cooley and Bub Barkhurst were elected to a four year and two year term respectively and both have previous council experience.

The first two meetings of the year clocked in with business concluding in under 30 minutes each.

Mayor Davis highlighted the outgoing council’s achievements largely with



Mayor Chuck Davis swears in Councilman Cory Oxford on January 7, 2025 at the first council meeting of the year.

the list of improvements and accomplishments of the Department of Public Works.

The projects completed throughout the Town involved mill and overlay of streets, chip seal and patching, repairs and rebuilds of sections of streets, curbs and water valves, and visible improvements to Never Forget Park.

In other areas of Town matters, the Town completely caught up with the financial aspects and accounting in 2024.

“This is the one that I like — the Town has completed three financial audits,” said Mayor Davis. “All bookkeeping is being performed at or above the required GAAP standards set by the State and this pleases me more than

about anything that we’ve got going.”

The Mayor tasked the council with continuing on the path of improvements that were completed in 2024 and looks for more planning and developing of projects to occur in 2025.

The next Town Council will take place on February 4th at 6 pm at Saratoga Town Hall.

Pretty Well Equipped

burn for a long time. We, fortunately, don’t have a ton of trees all over town.”

Under Pressure

Another factor, along with the fuel loads, is the dense developments within the Los Angeles area. According to Robinson, as these structures burn they can contribute to the loss in water pressure.

“When you have a large-scale incident like that where you lose multiple structures, you have to keep in mind that most of those structures have a water tap. When you lose that structure, that water normally starts to free-flow,” said Robinson. “As pipes melt, those pipes come apart. Copper pipes, the solder joints will come undone and will push the pipe apart. If it was a three-quarter inch tap, now you have a three-quarter inch pipe spewing water out into the basement or out onto the ground.”

Take those three-quarter inch pipes and multiply them by the thousands, said Robinson, it leads to significant water loss.

“In Rawlins, if we were to lose multiple blocks of houses, it would drastically reduce the amount of water available for firefighting just because each one of those houses has a tap that’s running until we can actually go back in after the fact and shut all of those off individually,” said Robinson. “Anywhere there’s water flowing can definitely take away from the system.”

In the cases where there could be free-flowing water and a lack of water pressure, there would be ways to try and prevent the water loss and increase the water pressure.

“Say you had a really hot fire and you had some plumping that severed during that fire, if it was going to cause that big of an issue we’re probably going to shut the main line off in that area serving that structure until we can get the service shut off,” said Penner.

Similarly, Robinson said if the Rawlins Fire Department were working on just one structure fire, they typically call the water department.

“We have the ability to where, if they [Rawlins Fire Department] were to call us and let us know there was a fire and what side of town that’s one, we can shut off flow to one side,” said Stevie Osborn, water treatment supervisor for the City of Rawlins.

“It doesn’t matter if it’s a brand new system [or] if it’s an old system. Anytime you tax a system with a large amount of water flow, anything can happen.”

~ Allen Robinson, Rawlins Fire Department fire chief

By shutting off flow to one tank, it would increase the water pressure for fire fighting and ideally prevent a sustained firefight from draining the system.

The most recent example of a sustained firefight for Rawlins was in July 2024, on a fire near Rodeo Court. The fire, caused by fireworks, burned approximately five acres and required 40 personnel and 17 fire fighting apparatus. That firefight, said Robinson, used approximately one million gallons of water.

For Saratoga, the most recent large fire was the Saratoga Forest Management sawmill fire in 2018, which saw six million board feet of timber go up in flames.

“That put a lot of pressure on the water system, but it held up and that’s a significant fire,” said Penner.

How Much Water?

This, of course, would lead people to wonder exactly how much water do the communities of Rawlins and Saratoga have available? Much of that depends on some other circumstances.

At its maximum, the City of Rawlins has approximately 12 million gallons of water on reserve. This, said Osborn, often depends on the time of year. During the winter, for example, the water in the tanks fluctuates to prevent ice buildup and

the water department works throughout the year to keep the water from going stagnant.

“If we were to turn our wells off and we weren’t pumping right now, we would have an active volume [in our tank] where we could maintain adequate pressure throughout the whole system,” said Penner. “We’ve got about 675,000 gallons, but that maintains pressure everywhere. We wouldn’t lose pressure on the hill, we’d have pressure throughout the whole system.”

When the wells are on, said Penner, it completely changes the game. The Town of Saratoga has five wells drawing from an aquifer which can produce up to “several hundred thousands of gallons” of water per day.

A generator at the well field serves as reserve power. That way, in case of a loss of power, water can still be pumped from the wells into the municipal water system.

Routine Maintenance

According to Penner, it is also important to do routine maintenance on the water system. Saratoga, he said, includes fire suppression—or fire flow—in mind when making alterations to the system.

“Making sure we maintain adequate fire flow, that there’s adequate storage in the lines to provide enough pressure during high fire flows,” said Penner. “When you see these lines getting replaced around town, that’s not just being able to supply homes. That does help us have more capacity in the system to provide and supply fire protection.”

In Rawlins, which has seen its fair share of water line breaks the past few years, both Robinson and Osborn are confident the water system can keep up with a potential multi structure fire.

“It doesn’t matter if it’s a brand new system [or] if it’s an old system. Anytime you tax a system with a large amount of water flow, anything can happen. Fortunately, or unfortunately, most of the time those breaks happen because things moved too quickly,” said Robinson. “If we train and do our part as the fire

department and we open valves and do stuff as we should, we can help not break things that way. Once the water is established and flowing, it normally doesn’t cause problems. That being said, at any point and time something can fail.”

According to Osborn, there are a series of pressure relief valves (PRVs) throughout the system which reduce the pressure from the tank to protect the system.

“If it’s as massive as these California fires, if we do have a PRV fail that’s going to be the last thing on our minds because we’re trying to save people’s homes,” said Osborn.

Well Equipped

Keeping in mind that there are always unforeseen circumstances, both municipalities said they were well equipped for most fires that would occur within the town limits.

“I would say for structure fires, we’re pretty well equipped. It’s the same as flood mitigation: we can build up to the 100 year [event] and then you have a 1,000 year event that you’re not looking for,” said Penner. “I feel pretty confident with most structure fires, even if we had several at one time, we would have adequate fire protection for those. For the size of the community, we have a very active [and] very well prepared fire department.”

According to Robinson, if the Rawlins Fire Department had advance notice of a wildfire approaching the city they would institute techniques and tools used in fighting such fires.

“Depending on the amount of time we would have, if we were alerted to a wildfire coming at us and we know we have a couple days to prepare, there’s a lot of stuff we can do to prepare for that,” said Robinson.

Some of that preparation, he said, would include using sprinklers which would soak the ground to slow the approach of the fire.

“We could even go out ahead of the fire and burn off a little vegetation in a controlled manner so that when that main body of fire gets to the edge of town, we’ve already removed that fuel,” said Robinson.

Valley News

'Gather at the Table' Feb. 3rd to enjoy hot meal on cold night

by Dick Perue

As the town crier shouts, "there's nothing more satisfying than a delicious hot meat on a cold blus-try night", to which the

cooks for the "Gather at the Table" volunteers respond by inviting every one, especially the hungry and lonely, to come in out of the cold for a free meal and fellowship Monday eve-

ning, Feb. 3rd, from 5:00 o'clock to 6:30.

Smoked pulled pork on a bun, coleslaw, baked beans, strawberry cake with straw- berry cream frosting and a beverage are on the menu

for the event at the cozy, warm and friendly Sara- toga Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall located on the corner of 3rd & Bridge streets.

No restrictions apply and

reservations are not re- quired, all folks need to do is warm up with a delicious free hot meal.

"Gather at the Table" is a non-profit charity exten- sion of the First Presbyte-

rian Church of Saratoga. Its mission is to provide a welcoming hot meal the first Monday of each month to anyone who desires fel- lowship in and around this community.

'A Slap In The Face'

tested higher in reading and mathematics than students in 45 other states.

Jennings agreed with Hamel that Wyoming PTSB brings value to the state's education system.

"I think the [Wyoming] Professional Teaching Standards Board has done a good job helping us through our teacher short- age. If we have people who are unlicensed, there's still a process they have to go through. A little bit like riding a bike," said Jennings. "They'll put training wheels on you as a teacher, they put certain expectations in place, certain expectations towards classes you have to take and things you have to do in a certain time frame in order to become certified."

Paths to Certification

"Today, there's so many different paths to certi- fication that the standards board has created, I really think this is a slap in the face to the work that they've done to help teachers and, ultimately, help kids in our state," said Jennings.

Indeed, one such path for certification through the Wyoming PTSB is the Pro- fessional Industry Career—or PIC—permit. According to Hamel, this permit allows someone with a degree or experience in a certain field to teach.

"Maybe someone that had been a doctor wanted to teach biology at the high school level. There's a way for that person to get a PIC permit," said Hamel. "So we already have alternative certificate routes and we have ways for those people to develop their classroom pedagogy skills through the process of further develop- ing their license from one renewal period to the next."

Another path to certi- fication, said Hamel, is the exception authorization permit. According to the Wyoming PTSB website, this permit is issued to someone who has not yet met all the requirements for full liden-

sure. The permit is valid for one year and allows the per- son to teach while obtaining the requirements to be fully licensed in Wyoming.

This would be devastating

According to a fiscal note from the Legislative Services Office, the fiscal impact of House Bill 100 is "indeterminable, but could be significant." The note added that the PTSB calculated a "poten- tially significant revenue decrease" in the form of application fees for certifi- cates and permits, which fund the PTSB. As of De- cember 2024, according to the fiscal note, there were a total of 23,936 active certifications and permits and approximately 5,300 are received annually with an average of \$725,000 collected each year in fees.

The Wyoming Education Association (WEA) rep- resents educators in public schools, colleges and the University of Wyoming and "adamantly opposes this bill."

"This legislation would be devastating for our students, our communities and our economy. Re- search shows the numerous benefits of having a highly qualified educator in the classroom, so allowing 18-year-olds with absolutely no training would lead to a host of negative issues for students and schools," said WEA President Kim Amen. "Wyoming's students deserve highly qualified teachers, ones who are trained and experienced in the science of learning."

Hamel expressed similar sentiments, saying that just because someone may understand how to perform math operations doesn't mean they are qualified to teach math.

"Just because somebody understands how to write a quality English paper doesn't mean that they would be a quality English teacher," said Hamel. "Just

because someone under- stands how to read doesn't mean that they understand how to teach young people how to read."

While there's also the po- tential financial impact of House Bill 100—either short term for the PTSB or long term for Wyoming com- munities—there's also the perception of current public educators.

"This is absolutely a slap in the face to them [teachers] to say we're going to hire anyone, basically, if they have a heartbeat to be in our classrooms."

~ CCSD2 Superintendent Darrin Jennings

"I have heard from some of my staff that the work they went through to become certified was a priority to have good people working with our kids," said Jennings. "This is absolutely a slap in the face to them to say we're going to hire anyone, basically, if they have a heartbeat to be in our classrooms."

Short term solution, long term impact

Administrators, teachers and the WEA all agreed there needed to be solu- tions to teacher recruitment and retention in Wyoming but that House Bill 100 fell short.

"Uncertified teachers may provide temporary relief during a staffing crisis; however, relying on them long term compro- mises educational quality and equity," said LeAnn Uhling, who retired from Saratoga Elementary School after 32 years of teaching, 29 of them in Wyoming. "Uncertified teachers lack the pedagogical skills and classroom management training necessary for effective teaching. Certified

teachers undergo extensive training in lesson planning, classroom management and instructional strategies. Certification ensures that all teachers meet a minimum standard of knowledge and competency. Allowing uncertified teachers could lower the overall quality of education."

According to Hamel, while there was certainly a need to address Wyo- ming's teaching shortage, it needs to be done in a way which protects "the value of the quality of education that we provide to our kids." Amen shared similar thoughts.

"The answer to solving the teacher recruitment and retention problem does not lie in hiring 18-year- olds to be teachers and administrators. This is an attempt to avoid making the investment in our state's professional educators and in public education," said Amen. "Teachers do this work because they love the job; by devaluing the profession, the legislature is making a strong state- ment about how they view educators and our public schools."

According to a study pre- sented in September 2024 to the Joint Appropriations Committee and Joint Edu- cation Committee (Current Status of Cost Pressures on Teacher Salaries in Wyo- ming), teaching salaries have "consistently eroded" over the past 10 years com- pared to similar occupa- tions with sharp declines in the past two to three years. Additionally, while teach- ing salaries had increased by three percent from the 2023 school year to the 2024 school year it was slower than wages in neighboring states.

Demoralized and Undervalued

Uhling believes legislation like House Bill 100 would not only be unhelpful to the teaching shortage in Wyoming—the same study

Continued from page A1

reported a "significant drop" in the number of graduates from the University of Wy- oming—but would exacer- bate it.

"Certified teachers may feel demoralized or under- valued if districts prioritize quick hires over highly trained professionals. Also, uncertified teachers often lack a long-term commit- ment to education, leading to higher attrition rates," said Uhling. "Frequent uncertified teacher turnover due to challenging working conditions and low pay disrupts students' learning and creates instability in schools."

According to Amen, removing highly quali- fied teachers from public schools would cause the communities surround- ing those schools to suffer.

"When our public schools thrive, so do the surround- ing neighborhoods and businesses," said Amen. "Highly qualified teachers are an integral part of our public schools, and when you remove them from the system, our schools, sur- rounding neighborhoods

and businesses will suffer."

Are There Any Pros?

While there are a number of cons regarding House Bill 100, it seems there are very few pros.

"Quite frankly, I can't see any pros," said Hamel.

Jennings, however, found at least one pro to the legis- lation.

"The only pro is that it lets the decision be up to local school districts and local charter schools," said Jennings.

According to Uhling, there could be benefits to com- munity members helping in the classroom alongside certified teaching staff.

"I do believe certified teachers benefit from strong relationships with sup- port staff and community partnerships," said Uhling. "People with real world experience and expertise may enrich instruction with practical applications, inno- vative approaches and fresh perspectives to help engage students."

House Bill 100 was intro- duced on January 2, but has not yet been assigned to a committee.

Winter Carnival Evolution

38th Annual Sierra Madre Winter Carnival hosted numerous snow friendly events for all ages

by D'Ron Campbell
dron.saratogasun@gmail.com

Winter finally arrived with the Town of Encampment presenting food and fun for the whole family over the past weekend.

Local resident Sandy Mar- tin had an idea in 1987 to roust people out of winter hibernation and make the most of seasonal condi- tions.

The first three day event took place in March 1988 featuring everything from a poker run to kamikaze ski jumping.

After 38 years, some of the original events remain, starting with a snow sculp- ture competition on Friday and ending with the popu- lar Casino Night on Satur- day.



Photo by D'Ron Campbell

According to Mary Martin, the first place snow sculp- ture won by Snow it All/ Frasier presented the most fun as the Platte Valley Arts Council judges pretended to play pool on the "Pool Table."

Other top snow sculpture

winners included the Wessel family with two entries titled "Visitors From Outer Space" and "Big 90!"

While some events have faded over the years, some improved ideas have weath- ered the changes in com- mittees and organizers.

"As participation changed and new ideas came — we moved from hot choco- late cook-offs to today's chili-cook off events," said Encampment Town Clerk Doreen Harvey.

Friday night ended with a treasure hunt and Saturday began with VFW Post 6125 providing a donation only pancake breakfast. Kids joined in the activities with human saucer bowling and sled races over the two day event.

In the mix was the chili cook-off, a sixth street sprint and snow golf. The organized fun took the edge off of the blustery cold con- ditions. Look for a return of the carnival in the Winter of 2026 as another successful break in the season oc- curred.

[See photos on B8]

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Thursday January 30th

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 31st

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 February 1st

Gym Closed
Weight Room Closed

Sunday February 2nd

1:00 - 4:00 pm Winter Market @ PVCC
Gym Closed
Weight Room Closed

Monday February 3rd

6:00 to 6:30 am Morning Mash up
2:00 pm Story Time @ Saratoga Library
4:30 pm Spinning
6:00 pm Recreation Commission
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 February 4th

6:00 - 9:00 pm Open Gym
9:00 am Carbon County Commissioners
10:00 am Tuesday Talks @PVCC
featuring Janice White
6:00 pm Saratoga Town Council
11:00 am - 6:00 pm Saratoga Library Open
Noon - 5:00 pm Encampment Library Open

Wednesday February 5th

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

Storytelling is the heart of journalism

WYOMING EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

Jonathan Gallardo
Gillette News Record

It's been literally decades since I've been in elementary school. And while life as a working adult is just so much fun all the time, sometimes you need to hear from children to put things into perspective.

This week, three of my co-workers and I were invited to speak with some third-grade students at Wagon-wheel Elementary about the newspaper business. I knew that there would be questions.

And boy, did they have a lot of questions. I know kids are naturally inquisitive, but I was surprised by just how many questions they had, and how long some of them had their hands raised, waiting to be called on.

They asked some thought-provoking questions, such as, "do you get to eat lunch?" and "what do you guys talk about when you eat lunch?" and "what is your schedule like?"

But they also asked some hard-hitting questions. "Do you like your job?" "What's your favorite part of your job?" "Have you heard of the Nintendo Switch?"

I told them that every day is different, which keeps things interesting, and that my favorite part of the job is telling stories.

Because at the end of the day, journalism boils down

to one skill: storytelling. This can be easy to forget when there's a week full of government meetings or serious crimes. But talking to these kids, I was reminded why we report the news. It's about the people. Yes, it's also about politics and crime and the economy, but deep down, it's about the people.

Not every story is an investigative piece about some injustice going on behind the scenes or bills. Some stories are just about a local person doing something cool.

At the Wyoming Press Association's annual conference, the News Record took home a few awards, but the stories that I won for were not the ones I enjoyed writing the most. Yes, hand counting ballots and the state shooting complex are important issues, but talking to Gillette's longtime residents about the blizzard of 1984 and the Fourth of July fireworks fiasco were way more fun.

I've found that many journalists take themselves too seriously. Yes, what we do is important, but let's not act like we're all out there saving lives. Some of us may be, but most of us have a pretty comfortable setup. We get to sit in front of a computer and write stories.

I don't expect these children to care about the economy or the political climate. They're children. They shouldn't have to, at least not yet.

Who knows what they'll grow up to be? I doubt I inspired them to be reporters, but I hope they cultivate a love for telling stories.

It's one of the oldest traditions in human history, and we've got to keep it going.



Invest in, don't divest from, public education

AGAINST THE GRAIN

BY JOSHUA WOOD

When looking at the amount of education related bills in the 68th Wyoming Legislature, it's hard not to believe that a number of our legislators aren't invested in our public education system.

The amount of bills introduced this session—more than 700—is enough to make my head spin some days. Yet, what makes my head spin even more are the bills introduced which almost seem to try to undercut Wyoming's public education system.

Take, for example, House Bill 100. On the surface this bill almost seems to try to alleviate the teaching shortage in the Cowboy State, allowing local school districts—and charter schools—to hire without having to be certified through the Wyoming Professional Standards Teaching Board. Instead, as long as they were able to pass a background check and were at least 18 years old, they could be hired as a teacher or administrator.

I have to agree with Darrin Jennings, superintendent for Carbon County School District No. 2, in that a bill like this is a slap in the face to not only the standards board but the educators who work to retain their certifications.

To be clear, I don't want to discount some of the experience we have which could be used in schools. In a community like the Platte Valley, we

have a wealth of experience in various industries. We have restaurant owners and chefs who could help teach ProStart, mechanics who could help teach automotive classes, or bank tellers and financial advisors who could help teach applied math.

Additionally, if there are people with education or experience who want to teach, the professional standards teaching board has an avenue for them to do just that. The Professional Industry Career permit requires applicants to have a high school diploma or GED, along with:

- Minimum two years of work experience for each field of occupational specialty for which the applicant is seeking a PIC. Work experience must exclude any educational training the applicant may have obtained in his/her field of occupational specialty.
- Verification of Employment Forms (found in the application) for each field of occupational specialty in which the applicant is seeking a PIC must be filled out completely and accurately and submitted as part of the complete application packet.
- Current and valid license (s) in each of the applicant's occupational specialties when one is required by state or federal statutes.
- Plan for Continued Professional Advancement

Of course, House Bill 100 is just the beginning of the education bills in this legislature.

House Bill 46—the Home-school Freedom Act—would remove the current requirement of homeschool families to submit their curriculum to their local district for approval. Combine that with House Bill 199—the Wyoming Freedom Scholarship Act—and it seems we have an issue.

The Wyoming Freedom Scholarship Act would, primarily, award \$7,000 each year for each homeschool student.

Additionally, House Bill 199, "Requires that the ESA student receive instruction in, at minimum, reading, writing, mathematics, civics, including studies of the United States constitution and the constitution of the state of Wyoming, history, literature and science. No parent shall be required to include any instruction that conflicts with the parent's or the ESA student's religious doctrines."

And where would this money come from? House Bill 199 would cut

public school funding—which is required by the Wyoming State Constitution—by almost half. While 52.8% of school funding would go to public schools, the remaining 47.2% would be diverted to the Wyoming Freedom Scholarship.

In short, the State of Wyoming would be paying parents to keep their kids at home.

Finally, there's House Bill 200.

This bill, along with wading into the "culture wars" of DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion), would require teachers to post the entire year of curriculum on the school district's website at the beginning of each school year. Carbon County School District No. 2 already does this, posting their curriculum maps, curriculum manual and proficiency scales—among other documents—on their website.

However, with House Bill 200, not only would it be required that the curriculum be posted at the beginning of the year but that any change in curriculum be immediately updated. Additionally, any parent who is upset by the curriculum—or as the bill puts it, "aggrieved by an alleged violation of this section"—can file a civil suit against the district and the teacher under this legislation.

As a parent myself, I am understanding of and sympathetic to parents' rights. The question I often ask myself, however, is where do my rights as a parent begin and the rights of another person as a parent end? I believe that question is best answered by one of the Founding Fathers.

Thomas Jefferson once wrote "If the children are untaught, their ignorance and vices will in future life cost us much dearer in their consequences than it would have done in their correction by a good education."

Though I may have my own concerns and critiques of the public education system, I wholeheartedly believe it is in the best interest of our country and its democratic processes to ensure the upcoming generations are educated in a way that is good for the many and not the few.

The same goes for Wyoming.

As Matt Blunt, the former Republican governor of Missouri once said, "Public education is an investment in our future."

EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO MY OPINION

Difference of opinion?
Write a Letter to the Editor

Saratoga Sun
P.O. Box 489
Saratoga, Wyoming 82331
or
editor.saratogasun@gmail.com

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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THE SARATOGA SUN

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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: Having a covenant relationship with God

by Dr. William F. Holland, Jr.

The Almighty is always faithful, He never fails, and if we take a closer look throughout our past, we notice that He has been working in our lives even when it did not seem like it. It's been said that God's care for His children is like the sun: it's constant. Even though the clouds often obscure it, this does not mean it's not there. We might not have everything we asked for, and sometimes we are thankful we did not receive the thing we begged for. I remember the song, "Thank God for unanswered prayers" which allows us to realize that God can see the future and always has our best interest in mind whether we want to admit it

or not. Have you considered how many times He protected you from a terrible thing that could have happened?

We are still in January, and this coming year, may you discover the wonders of God's love and receive the peace and contentment you are searching for. Beyond the resolutions, and hopes that everything will work out, we are going to face some unpleasant situations. This is not heaven, and we are still living under the curse of the fall which includes the probabilities of pain, sorrow, and disappointment. On the flip side, we have the opportunity to draw as close to God as we desire. This sounds easy, but as we know there is much more to walking the narrow path than warm and fuzzy

statements. We enjoy hearing about what Christ has promised, but we do not like the all the things we need to do to make it work. A covenant is not just one sided.

I was raised in church and have been involved in many assemblies for the years. Each week pastors present messages that basically challenge and encourage the listener to incorporate God's word into hearts and minds which transforms us into being more like Jesus. This is wonderful, but there is always the danger of becoming numb to hearing the same old devotions and losing our passion to continue growing stronger in our spiritual development. We hear a lot about being lukewarm, but rarely consider that we are susceptible to its

deception. It's simply a lethargic attitude of going through the motions of religious activity while neglecting our daily quiet time of repentance, worship, and prayer to God.

I've been encouraged the last two weeks with the overwhelming response from readers requesting my scripture narration project. It contains me reading over 100 passages of hope, faith, and peace, set to beautiful background music. A few years ago, I felt inspired to create this resource for those who could find somewhere quiet, close their eyes and relax as they absorb the power of God's promises into their spirits. Again, this doesn't seem difficult does it? Really? For those of you who declared a new commitment to Christ

and rededicated your life back to God on New Years Eve, how's it going? There is a huge difference between being religious and stepping into the arena of spiritual warfare. This really adds a higher meaning to the saying, "no pain, no gain."

Yes, our flesh wants a cozy relationship with God, but the closer we are to Him, the more sacrifice and suffering we will endure. This explains why the average religious person remains content to play games where it's comfortable and safe from conviction and responsibility. My point is that it's wonderful to purchase books and videos that challenge us with thoughts about being filled with the Holy Spirit, but if we are not going to do what they say, we are

continuing to be controlled by our unrenewed mind that wants to keep everything as it is. We can have a Bible on every table and shelf in our home, but if we are not disciplined about studying it for the purpose of casting down our carnality and demonstrating the character of Christ what good are they?

If you desire to accept Jesus as your Lord today, no one is preventing you except your fleshly nature. Our carnality wants us to wait and delay our decision to make a life-changing commitment to Christ, but if not today, when? "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become brand new" II Corinthians 5:17. God is waiting for you.

Jesus' Inaugural Address

The Rev. Canon Bobbe Fitzhugh, St. James' Episcopal Church Encampment

In Luke's Gospel Chapter 4:14-21, Jesus is launching his public ministry. After teaching in several synagogues around Galilee, he arrives in Nazareth, "where he had been brought up." As Luke tells the story, this is the first place we hear Jesus' teaching — it's his inaugural address as he begins to preach and teach and heal.

And what does Jesus say to this hometown crowd?

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And then Jesus sits down. "And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

In the next chapters of Luke, the people listening to this message will turn on Jesus in a rage and try to throw him off a cliff.

Jesus' inaugural words stirred people up. This scene played out again last

week in the Inauguration Day sermon by Washington Cathedral Episcopal Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde. Many of the reactions to the words of Bishop Budde calling for unity and justice and mercy stirred plenty of people up, including the target of her pleas for mercy — the newly inaugurated President of the United States. Many who heard those words wanted to throw Bishop Budde off a (metaphorical) cliff, just like those who didn't like what they heard from Jesus tried to throw him off a cliff. Others applauded the Bishop's words and googled "Episcopal Church."

Bishop Budde got the nation's attention. Calmly, deliberately, she quoted scripture, directly pleading with this powerful man to govern with mercy. Bishop Budde got the President's attention. This was not an unusual "priest-in-the-pulpit" moment. Martin Luther King, Jr., Dietrich Bonhoeffer, even Moses — all stood before political leaders to demand justice and compassion.

One of the important goals of preaching the gospel is to "comfort the afflicted and afflict the comforted." If we are offended by the words of a sermon, maybe it's because we know there is truth in that discomfort we feel. But if those spoken words are in line with scripture

and the teachings of Jesus, which certainly mercy and loving one's neighbor must be, then we must search our own heart. Are we following Jesus in our own actions, in our words, in our directives? Preaching a sermon involves encouraging people to confront their own behaviors and choices: how we treat others, how we use resources, how we care for our planet, the people on it, and the vulnerable in society.

Bishop Budde did just that. She delivered a thoughtful message in which she called for unity and reminded us of core Jesus principles - to respect the dignity of every human being, to welcome the stranger, to love one another, to show mercy.

Bishop Budde began her sermon speaking about unity. "Without unity, we're building our nation's house on sand," she said. She spoke about honoring the inherent dignity of every human being as a child of God. Bishop Budde talked about honesty as an important piece of creating unity. We need to be honest in speaking the truth, even when speaking the truth costs us. And she spoke of speaking and acting with humility. When we line up in our silos and believe that we are absolutely right and you are absolutely wrong, there is no path to reconciliation. But we are all, every one of us,

children of God and in that truth is hope for the future.

Quoting Bishop Budde again, "Unity is a way of being with one another that encompasses and respects differences, that teaches us to hold multiple perspectives and life experiences as valid and worthy of respect; that enables us, in our communities and in the halls of power, to genuinely care for one another even when we disagree."

And what gave Bishop Mariann Budde the credentials to preach in the pulpit at the Washington National Cathedral? She is the duly elected Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. An Episcopal Bishop is elected by the people in that diocese and affirmed by a majority of all bishops in the denomination. A Bishop's church is called a Cathedral - the "seat" of a diocesan Bishop. Bishop Budde preached from her pulpit at the Cathedral of the Diocese of Washington.

This Cathedral is often referred to as the National Cathedral. However, it is not a state church because of our separation of church and state. It is an Episcopal Cathedral, while serving the nation as a "national house of prayer." The cathedral has achieved this status simply by offering itself and being accepted by religious and

political leaders as playing this role. This cathedral is used for many interfaith and national events and services.

Bishop Budde spoke the truth, she spoke directly and honestly, she spoke with humility. Her inaugural address called on all of us to respect the dignity of every human being, to welcome the stranger, to "act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our Lord." (Micah 6:8)

She followed the lead of our Redeemer Jesus, who at his "inaugural address" courageously stood up in his hometown synagogue and claimed that "The Spirit of

the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Jesus' first public speech calling listeners to serve the most vulnerable is a fitting, challenging reminder for us all — and a call to each and every one of us, no matter our politics, to open our hearts in generosity, mercy and service. And to not resort to anger and threaten to throw the messenger over a cliff. Be kind one to another.

Senior Center Menu

THURSDAY

White Bean Chicken Chili, Tossed Salad, Cinnamon Roll, 1/2 Banana, Milk

FRIDAY

Tuna Casserole, Green Beans, Wheat Roll, Apricots, Milk

MONDAY

Baked Pork Chop, Rice Pilaf, Asparagus, Wheat Roll, Applesauce, Milk

TUESDAY

Beef Stroganoff, Egg Noodles, Lettuce Salad, Peas & Carrots, Wheat Bread, Pears, Milk

WEDNESDAY

Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Steamed Carrots, Wheat Roll, Mandarin Oranges, Milk

Church Calendar

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

CUSTOM BUILDERS 326-8341

Aid to stranded motorists and travelers 307-321-6688

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

OF INTEREST

Carbon County Sheriff’s Office Arrest Record

January 17, 2025 to January 22, 2025

January 17

- Mechelle Diefenbach of Harrisburg, Illinois was arrested on a warrant.
- Peyton Evans of Baggs, Wyoming was arrested for DUI due to alcohol <.08% — 2nd offense within 10 years and possession of drugs in plant form 3 oz or less.

January 18

- Bridgette Dettmer Clarke of Rawlins, Wyoming was arrested for domestic assault — 1st offense.
- Darin Vasquez of Wheat Ridge, Colorado was arrested for possession of drugs in powder/crystalline form > 3 grams.

January 19

- Nathan Scott Miller of West Valley, Utah was arrested on 2 counts of heavy vehicle speeding in a construction zone (1-5

mph over) and for reckless driving.

January 20

- Patricia Glover of Tulsa, Oklahoma was arrested on a warrant, felony possession of a controlled substance — 3rd+ offense, use of and under the influence of drugs and on a felony warrant.
- Cristobal Rios of Tulsa, Oklahoma was arrested for possession of drugs in powder/crystalline form > 3 grams, interference with a peace officer, and 2 counts of felony possession of drugs.
- Isaac Whitaker of Ten Sleep, Wyoming was arrested for possession of a controlled substance in liquid form 3/10 of a gram or less, for DWUS, and for DUI due to a controlled substance.

January 21

- Jimmy Clark of Hanna,

Wyoming was arrested on a warrant and for possession of drugs in plant form 3 oz or less.

- Kelly Parker of Rawlins, Wyoming was arrested for felony possession of drugs in plant form 3 oz or less, DUI due to alcohol and controlled substance combination — 1st offense within 10 years, and parallel parking within 18 inches of a right hand curb.

January 22

- Leonardo Herrera of Rawlins, Wyoming was arrested for failure to yield to an approaching emergency vehicle, driving while license cancelled/suspended/revoked, interference with a peace officer and failed equipment of license plate light.
- Misty Lascano of Rawlins, Wyoming was arrested on a felony warrant.

Saratoga Police Report

January 7, 2025 through January 21, 2025

CAD Calls	(1); K9 deployment (1);	Crash (1); Vandalism Re-
Alarms (3); Animal	Traffic Citations and	port (1); Warrant Arrest
Calls (6); Fraud Report	Warnings (14); Traffic	(1)

Encampment K-12 Honor Roll

High School Principal's List Semester 1	Reid; Ashley Finney; Coy Munroe; Galloway O’Leary; Declan Ralston; Isaac Sandoval; Hayden Sutttee	Junior High Honor Roll Quarter 2
Tyrel Brown; Savannah Fagan; Eckerley Pickett; Baylin Sifford; Korbyn Barkhurst; Dash Baysinger; Caleb Koehn; Regin Stewart; Kannon Gilbert; Raden Miller; Deanise Sloan		Terryn Brown; Molly Dugger; Kaylee Holden; Rory Mahan; Sarah Sloan; Kellan Swanson; Zeva Adams; Brithney Llapo Perez; McKinley Martin; Lexi Vorn
Junior High Principal's List Quarter 2	Detrick Baysinger; Mesa Sutttee; Hoyt McKinney	

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REFLECTIONS FROM OUR FILES

January 29, 1925 100 Years Ago

Took a Radio “Joy Ride” to All Parts of the Nation

Total Distance of Nearly 45,000 Miles Recorded on Local Radio Set in Four Hours “Fishing”

Last Saturday night S. S. Sharp, local engineer and radio fan, took a “radio trip” over the country — that is, spent the evening reaching out for various broadcasting

stations and losing the ones received. Between 7:35 and 11:25 he “logged” the following stations:

Edmonton, Can., Memphis, Tenn., Minneapolis, Minn., Hot Springs, Ark., Dallas, Texas, Schenectady, N.Y., East Pittsburgh, Pa., Cincinnati, O., Springfield,

Mass., Hollywood, San Francisco, two stations in Oakland and three stations in Los Angeles, Calif., Elgin, Ill., Omaha, Neb., seven stations is Chicago, Ill., Denver, Colo., Waco, Texas, Kansas City, Mo., Calgary, Can., Seattle, Wn., Northfield, Minn., Portland, Ore., Davenport,

Ia., Lansing, Mich., Hastings, Neb. (relay), Cleveland, O., two stations in New York City, Ottawa, Can., Shreveport, La., Salt Lake City, Utah, New Orleans, La., Atlantic, Iowa, and Atlanta Ga.

Measuring airline distance between Saratoga and the various cities listed, Mr.

Sharp figured out that he had heard broadcast programs from a total distance of 44,950 miles, and the general average of distance of the 46 stations heard was about 975 miles.

On the evenings of January 25th and 26th he also listened in on programs

broadcast from a new station at Miami Beach, Fla., which is approximately 1880 miles distant from Saratoga and, with the exception of a station in the extreme northeastern section of Maine, the most distant broadcasting station in the United States.

January 26, 1950 75 Years Ago

Work Progressing on Hot Springs Hotel Construction

Most of the foundation and approximately half of the first couple of layers of brick are in place at the site of the new hotel which is going up on the hot springs property on the east side of the river.

Bill Walker, of the Saratoga Hotel Co., who came in this morning by plane, said the contract for construction of the new hotel has been awarded to Carl Christensen of Cheyenne, and that several carpenters will arrive here early next week to start the work of installing the floor joists, sub-floor, and other similar work.

About one day’s work pouring concrete still remains to finish the foundation, he said. It had been hoped to complete this work yesterday, but cold weather caused a little setback. However, it is hoped to finish this work within a day or so, after which the initial layers of brick will be put in place and the sub-floors laid.

Walker stated that several thousand feet of canvas has been accumulated, enough to cover perhaps a third of the foundation, which will be used to house in the workmen during cold weather, and that considerable of the work will be carried on under this canvas. A steam pipe has been laid to the building, and the area inside the canvas will be heard

with blower type heaters. He said that on warm days work will be done on the outside, and that on stormy cold days thee contractors will work under the canvas, thus permitting the work to go ahead with a minimum of delay for the rest of the winter.

He also said that the old Cottage Hotel building, which was purchased by the Hotel Company, will be turned into a plumbing and work shop while the construction is going on. Several tenants who had been living in the old hotel are vacating, partitions will be removed, and much of the plumbing will be assembled in the building preparatory to putting it in place.

January 30, 1975 50 Years Ago

Gift Given in Good Faith by Grace Healey

The Saratoga and Encampment Railroad, since the first train came into Saratoga in 1907, had gone through lean years, and suddenly in the fall of 1927 rumors were circulating that the Morse Bros. were going to junk the line. The story of how the valley people, without previous organization or planning, met the crisis is exciting and inspiring and should be remembered now and then.

The time element became so important that the news in the Saratoga Sun began to read like suspense fiction.

Within a week after the rumors, Attorney L.E. Armstrong of Rawlins explained the situation to the citizens. The people could buy the railroad and either run it themselves or persuade the Union Pacific to take over the line. At the meeting a railroad committee, comprising F. H. Healey, M.M. Cushing, W. E. Sears, W. M. Englehart, and Russell Thorp, was appointed to go to Omaha and talk with the Union Pacific officials.

A MONTH PASSES

A precious month went by while the committee made

efforts to interview Carl Gray of the Union Pacific about the U.P.’s absorption of the Saratoga and Encampment Railroad. Gray was unenthusiastic, but after the committee, accompanied by Attorneys L. E. Armstrong and n.R. Greenfield, rode on the train with Gray from Cheyenne to Rawlins, he finally agreed to talk to some of the directors in New York on the subject.

It was at this time in the face of many community problems that the Saratoga Business Men’s Club was organized, first as a luncheon club, later as a group, meeting at dinner. By March1928 this active club would have decided to affiliate with Lions International.

On Dec. 22, almost like a Christmas present, a letter from Attorney Greenfield was published in the Saratoga Sun stating that “if the road was donated to the Union Pacific, and on agreement reached as to taxes for some years in the future, the Union Pacific would be willing to take over the road and operate it perpetually.”

The news was like a shot of adrenaline to the people. And there was more

good news. Morse Bros. had reduced the price to \$100,000, regarding \$30,000 dollars as their contribution. Citizens had no problem selling themselves on the deal. At that time everything came and went on the railroad. The Union Pacific was experienced and dependable; the Union Pacific had good equipment. Property would appreciate; ranchers, miners, and timbermen would save the money in a few years on freight.

HOW TO DO IT?

The problem was how to aise \$100,000 by the first of May. The theme of the Union Pacific’s continued operation of the railroad and support in development of industry was upmost in everyone’s mind. The committee decided on a plan to collect from each taxpayer three percent of his assessed valuation. Agreement was practically unanimous. The committee sent out letters: pledges were taken; every taxpayer was reached. Eight thousand dollars was subscribed at the first meeting.

Now came a time that

resembled frenzy — desperation and celebration. The Angus England Post of the American Legion gavee strong, active support; community organizations gave whatever money they could raise by various methods. Prominent men from Rawlins made pep talks. A railroad thermometer was set in the window of the Saratoga State Bank, temperature rising, one degree for every thousand dollars. By February the temperature was \$20,000.

March 1 — Temperature \$30,000. The Flying Needles Club gave a benefit dance with vocal selections, vaudeville stunt, costume dances, and readings. A Rawlins troupe presented a musical comedy at Saratoga. The Encampment Eastern Star promoted a play, “The Whole Town’s Talking,” followed by a Civic Club dance and box supper at the Town Hall. Everything was donated. Musicians played for nothing far into the night. Supper boxes, auctioned off at high prices, provided expensive eating. Someone donated a calf, which was displayed in a tiny railroad stock car and

auctioned off. Raffle tickets were sold on huge decorated cakes.

COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Communities helped each other, going back and forth to functions over roads which were far from black top and in weather which not always ideal. Raw; os gave the valley heavy support.

On April 12, Receiver C.R. Fairman gave notice that the last train would go over the rails on April 20.

April 19 — Temperature \$69,000. Last call for money. Some of the ranchers had to borrow money to fill their pledges. A big railroad benefit dance was given at the Masonic Temple in Rawlins sponsored by the Carbon County American Legion Posts to gather some last dollars.

April 26 — \$98,000. From the Saratoga Sun: “The next train that whistles into Saratoga will bring the glad message that our transportation troubles, which have been many and varied during the past ten years, are over for all time to come.” The Union Pacific

put 100,000 new ties on the line; the road was in operation by July.

It was all over but the shouting, and the shouting came on July 3 when the valley people enjoyed a free railroad celebration, conducted by the Legion. There was an entire afternoon of entertainment featuring bucking broncs, races, and various track events with exotic names: “A Jeffries Special,” a “Union Pacific Handicap,” a “Slow and Easy Special,” and a “Morse Bros. Special.”

GIFT IN GOOD FAITH

And so it was. A gift to the Union Pacific in good faith by a few heroic people.

By way of nostalgia, the little train was lovingly called “The Slow and Easy” even in the horse and buggy days; few people now have ever followed its track through the lovely canyon of the Encampment River where cool green waters swirl around fallen granite boulders and eagles fly high over ancient Indian burial grounds. The track itself looks too fragile for modern behemoth mechanization.

BEST OF THE VALLEY

The Best of the Best

Readers made inaugural Best of the Valley a success

Staff Report

The ballots have been received and counted and the results are in for the Best of the Valley. For years, the staff of the Saratoga Sun has heard from locals and visitors alike what a great place the Platte Valley is when it comes to food, drinks and customer service. It's one of the few communities this size where, when someone asks "Where's a good place to eat?" the

response is "What are you hungry for?" With that in mind, the Saratoga Sun set out to begin awarding local businesses and individuals which make the Platte Valley, well, the best. For the month of December, full page ballots were printed each week in the Saratoga Sun with a total of 27 categories. It didn't take long before ballots were mailed or dropped off in-person and the counting began. The Best of the Valley was suc-

cessful not only because readers got involved in the voting, but because there are so many wonderful businesses in the Valley. The Saratoga Sun will be holding an after-hours chamber social tonight (January 30) from 4 pm to 6 pm to present certificates to the winners. Everyone is encouraged to attend. For those who can't make it, the results of the 2024 Best of the Valley are as follows:

- Best Steak
 - Hotel Wolf
 - Best Specials
 - Hotel Wolf
 - Best Salad
 - Hotel Wolf
 - Best Pizza
 - The Grumpy Italian
 - Best Cocktail Hour
 - Lazy River Cantina 2.0
 - Best Burger
 - 307 Pub & Grub
 - Best Sandwich
 - Saratoga Sandwich Company
 - Best Ice Cream
 - SunnyCup
 - Best Teller
 - Amber Arcos (BMO)
 - Best Bartender
 - Tona Hall (Lazy River Cantina 2.0)
 - Best Server
 - Karen Buford (BearTrap Bar & Grill)
 - Best Customer Service
 - Town & Country Realty
 - Best Atmosphere
 - Bella's Bistro
 - Best Entertainment Venue
 - Platte Valley Community Center
- Best Restaurant
 - Bella's Bistro
 - Best Retail
 - The Lucky Pearl
 - Best Bar
 - The Hotel Wolf
 - Best Bank
 - BMO
 - Best Insurance Company
 - Burns Insurance
 - Best Real Estate Company
 - Town & Country Realty
 - Best Gift Shop
 - Aspen Sky Merchant Mall
 - Best Hardware Store
 - Shively Hardware
 - Best Liquor Store
 - Valley Foods & Liquor
 - Best Music Event
 - Saratoga Days
 - Best Summer Event
 - Saratoga Days
 - Best Winter Event
 - Sierra Madre Winter Carnival
 - Best Community Event
 - Saratoga Days

The Unsung Volunteers



Members of the Saratoga Sun have been involved on committees throughout the years ranging from recreation to landfill to airport to planning to arts council to chamber board. We understand the time sacrifice serving on a board requires. At the January planning commission meeting, the members were so meticulous in their publication writing — the final arguments came down to comma placement. Department of Public Works Director Emery Penner and this planning commission should be lauded for taking ordinance revisions to task. For 2025, the planning commission has set a goal of addressing Title 18, which regulates the zoning of the Town of Saratoga. As witnessed by many conversations and articles over the years about the mess the Town has on its hands in matters of zoning — this new lofty goal by those just looking to better the Town — should be admired. Make sure to take time to thank planning commission members McCall Bura, Matt Baker, Chia Valdez, Nancy Ford, Jodell Hone and Johnny Portillio for taking their time to correct outdated codes. For anyone who wants to get involved, there is also a vacancy on the planning commission, which meets on the second Tuesday of every month.

The Saratoga Planning Commission should be commended for completing their work on one of the largest sections of town code. At the Town of Saratoga's last council meeting, the recap of happenings in Town Hall included the finishing of Title 17 in Saratoga's Code of Ordinances, which regulates the development of subdivision within town limits. The new council will incorporate the revision of this outdated ordinance in the 2025 proceedings. Upon first glance, this might not seem to be anything other than cleaning up town business. The year-long undertaking of the current planning commission in tackling Title 17 is nothing short of miraculous. The volunteer members of the planning commission took their commitment to straightening out ordinances the Town has outgrown seriously. There's no doubt that this work was done both inside and outside of meetings, which meant spending valuable personal time on reviewing the current code.

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To all those who voted our Pizza Best of The Valley.

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The Beartrap would like to congratulate **Karen Buford** on her great service. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication. The entire staff appreciates all you do.

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THANK YOU FROM THE TOWN OF ENCAMPMENT!

To everyone who voted for our **Sierra Madre Winter Carnival** as best winter event in the Best Of The Valley contest. We are so happy you enjoy it.

The Platte Valley Ministerial Association is grateful to valley residents for their support of our ministries in 2024: The Saratoga/Platte Valley Food Pantry The Travelers' Assistance Fund. The Housing and Utilities Assistance Fund Through your generosity, we have been able to help many valley residents. You have been a blessing to many. May you be truly blessed.

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-Tommy and Cassie Orduno

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**Join the Saratoga Sun
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at the Platte Valley Community Center as we present certificates
to the winners of the inaugural Best of the Valley

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SunSports

Tigers finish weekend undefeated

The Encampment boys basketball team vanquished Ft. Washakie and Rock River over the weekend

By Elliott Deins
elliott.saratogasun@gmail.com

The Encampment Tigers boys basketball team earned two victories in the Tiger Den last weekend. The Tigers rounced the Ft. Washakie Eagles 68-37 on Friday afternoon and routed the Rock River Longhorns 63-35 on Saturday.

With the two additional games in the win column, the Tigers moved to an overall record of 10-5, 3-2 in conference.

After the wins, Encampment now sits in a tie for third on the Wyoming 1A Southwest rankings table, despite having a better overall record than two of

the top three teams– Farson-Eden (8-7, 3-2) and Little Snake river (8-4, 3-1), according to Wyo-Preps.

Although in the thick of the season, there are still ways for the Tigers to get better on the court, according to head coach Duane Gilbert.

“We are still trying to just become better basketball players,” Gilbert said. “This conference is full of talented teams and if we want to be competitive, we must continue to improve every day.”

For senior and captain Gunner Knotwell, there is plenty for the Tigers to work on before the final big push of the season.

“Right now,” Knotwell

said, “we’re right at where we expected to be. We could definitely be a lot better. We could shoot a lot better as a team and of course effort goes along with that. Our defense is fine, just more effort trying to get more steals and everything.”

“What we gave up in size, we made up for with our effort.”

Between leaping for rebounds, wrestling for loose 50/50 balls or drives to the basket, both the boys and girls games this weekend proved that Basketball is in fact a contact sport.

The Tigers had their hands full against the size and grit of the Ft.

Washakie Eagles on Friday.

“If we want to be competitive, we must continue to improve every day.”

~ **Encampment Head Coach Duane Gilbert**

“The Ft. Washakie game was a physical contest,” Gilbert said. “I felt like their game plan was to use their size and strength against us. I was proud of the way we fought back and held our own in that type of game. What we gave up in size, we made

up for with our effort.”

Knotwell thought the Tigers handled the Eagles’ physicality great, he said.

“They (Ft. Washakie) had some players who were kind of aggressive,” Knottwell said. “We just didn’t associate with them, just let them do their own thing and they got fouls because of it.”

Younger players getting minutes

With a 20 point lead at the start of the fourth period, some of the younger Tigers like Raden Miller, Gaspard Carerra and Caleb Koehn got vital Varsity minutes and reps off the bench.

“This was a good

weekend for some of our younger players to get some minutes,” Gilbert said. “Those boys were able to come in and pick up right where the starters left off. That kind of experience will be valuable to our team down the road.”

Look ahead

The Encampment Tigers will head to Little Snake River for an in-conference matchup against the Rattlers on Friday, January 31 at 4:00 p.m.

The Tigers then play host to the Southeast Cyclones for an out-of-conference game with tip-off scheduled for Saturday, February 1 at noon.

Two more Tiger Wins

Encampment Tigers girls basketball team held Rock River to four points during an undefeated weekend

By Elliott Deins
elliott.saratogasun@gmail.com

The Encampment Tigers girls basketball team decidedly defeated the Ft. Washakie Eagles and Rock River Longhorns in the Tiger Den last weekend.

The Tigers topped the Eagles 64-31 on Friday and held the Longhorns to four points during a 38-4 victory on Saturday.

With the two victories, Encampment’s record improves to 9-6 including 3-2 in conference play.

In the 1A Southwest conference – the Tigers are tied for second with Farson-Eden (5-10, 3-2

Conference and trail only to the table leader Cokeville (10-4, 4-0).

The Tigers are feeling good but don’t want to get ahead of themselves, according to head coach Mandy Westerman.

“We keep having the conversation of ‘how do we want to make this look? How are we going to keep pushing ourselves? How are we going to tackle whatever the next mountain is to tackle?” Westerman said. “We’re trying to not look too far ahead because there’s a lot of battles leading up to Regionals or States.”

The big things the Tigers are focused on is

honing skills, not straying too far from the basics and keeping confidence and motivation, she said.

“We’re trying to not look too far ahead because there’s a lot of battles leading up to Regionals or States.”

~ **Head Coach Mandy Westerman**

Dominant defense

The Encampment defense was dominant all weekend but specifically

showed sharpness against Rock River. Only allowing four points on Saturday, the Tigers held the Longhorns to just one basket per half of play.

According to Westerman, the defining defensive factor is her Tigers love for competition and the game.

“My girls are just competitors,” Westerman said. “They just truly enjoy the game. In moments where we’ve been down and had to pick ourselves back up, I don’t draw up a special play or anything of that nature. What I ask is, ‘are we actually having fun? Are we playing basketball or just trying to win a

game?”

The Tigers have the mental toughness to look past mistakes, be proud and pick each other back up, she said.

Physical Play

Similar to the boys varsity game against Ft. Washakie – the Tigers and Eagles tussled for loose balls, played through contact and wrestled over rebounds in a scrappy game on Friday.

Playing in tough games is right in the Tigers wheelhouse, according to Westerman.

“That’s how we like to play,” she said. “We like to show up, bring aggression

and bring our heart to the floor. My girls are really good with loose balls, they want it. They’re not afraid to dive on the floor or go up for a rebound. They’re not afraid of the pressure.”

Looking ahead

The Encampment Tigers will head to Little Snake River for an in-conference matchup against the Rattlers on Friday, January 31 at 4:00 p.m.

The Tigers then play host to the Southeast Cyclones for an out-of-conference game with tip-off scheduled for Saturday, February 1 at noon.

"BOUNCE TO THE VICTORY, REACH FOR THE SKY"

We wish you the best of luck!

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SPORTS/ACTIVITIES



Dashaal Baysinger, 10, leaps for a layup in the first period against Ft. Washakie.



Kannon Gilbert, 20, tries to maintain possession while surrounded by Ft. Washakie defenders.



Sami Anderson, 22, makes a pass from the Eagle baseline during the first period against Ft. Washakie.



Chase Brown, 3, snags an offensive rebound in the fourth period against Ft. Washakie.



Encampment Head Coach Duane Gilbert instructs his Tigers during the third period against Ft. Washakie.



Kristie Jordan, 12, keeps the ball in play by the tip of her shoes during the first period against.



Savannah Fagan, 4, keeps the ball from a Ft. Washakie Defender.



Kyenna Jackson, 25, attempts to pry the ball from a Ft. Washakie player.



Regin Stewart, 11, drives toward the Ft. Washakie basket.

Menus
CCSD#2

Thursday:

Breakfast — Chocolate Chip Muffin, Slushy Juice, Fruit, Milk

• Lunch —

Bison Meatball Sub Sandwich, Hot Veggie, Fruit, Milk

Friday:

No School

Monday:

Breakfast — Bacon & Eggs, Buttered Toast, Juice, Fruit, Milk

• Lunch —

Pizza, Hot Veggie, Fruit, Milk, Dessert Bar

Tuesday:

Breakfast—Cinnamon Roll, Sausage, Fruit, Juice, Milk

• Lunch —

Chicken Pot Pie, Hot Veggie, Fruit, Milk

Wednesday:

Breakfast Casserole, Toast, Slushy Juice, Milk

• Lunch —

Chicken or Beef Ramen Bar, Hot Veggie, Fruit, Milk

WEEKEND SPORTS
SCHEDULE

Friday, January 31st

Encampment Basketball vs LSRV • Baggs 4:00 pm

Saratoga Basketball vs Fort Washakie • Saratoga 5:00 pm

Speech and Debate • Natrona

Wrestling • Ron Thon in Riverton

Saturday, February 1st

Encampment Basketball vs Southeast • Encampment 12:00 pm

Indoor Track • Casper

Saratoga Basketball vs Windriver • Windriver 1:00 pm

Speech and Debate • Natrona

Wrestling • Ron Thon in Riverton

SPORTS/ACTIVITIES

Lady Panthers go 1-1 in conference play weekend

Saratoga girls fall to Cokeville, sink claws into Lady Pronghorns

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

The Saratoga Lady Panthers had another split weekend as they took on two conference rivals while on the road.

On January 24, Saratoga was hosted by the Cokeville Lady Panthers for what would be a double-digit loss but turned it around on January 25 for a win against the Farson-Eden Lady Pronghorns. As is often the case with Saratoga's girls, the score doesn't tell the entire

story.

"I felt like we had turned the corner against Cokeville," said Head Coach Logan Wright. "We were winning at the end of the first quarter and were down 7 points at half time. We had a rough third quarter and then held our own in the fourth quarter."

According to Wright, both games saw eight girls score for the team.

"In both games we had eight girls score. This is the strength of our team - we have a ton of girls who can step up on any given day," said Wright. "Our guards

handled pressure all week-end better than ever and we continue to rebound at a high rate."

The final score against the Cokeville Lady Panthers was 50-27, Cokeville.

The next day, Saratoga was able to salvage their weekend of conference games as they took on the Lady Pronghorns.

"Farson started off not going our way and they were up quickly 8-3. We weathered their initial storm and it felt like a 2-4 point advantage for either team the whole way," said Wright. "It was a physical game in

a hostile environment, and our girls showed how tough and scrappy they can be."

"This is the strength of our team - we have a ton of girls who can step up on any given day."

~ Logan Wright, Saratoga Lady Panthers head coach

Though things started out rough for the Lady Panthers,

Wright said it was a combination of a good defense and success at the free throw line which helped Saratoga pull out a win.

"I'm super proud of the girls as they secured a much needed conference win against a very good Farson-Eden team," said Wright.

The final score was 46-42, Saratoga.

"Tessa Peterson led the way for us with 10 points and 9 rebounds. She continues to play very strong for us," said Wright. 'Aspen Sewell and Maggie Elder both had their best games

of the season with 8 points each. Sophie Diaz continues to play at a very high level as well and her consistency has been great for us lately."

Following their split weekend, the Saratoga Lady Panthers are now 7-5 for the season and 2-3 for conference play. The Lady Panthers are sitting at No. 5 in the 1A Southwest Conference, just above the Fort Washakie Lady Eagles.

Saratoga will host the Lady Eagles at 5 p.m. on January 31. Then, at 1 p.m. on February 1, they will be hosted by the Wind River Lady Cougars in Pavillion.

Panthers fall to Cokeville, Farson

Saratoga boys dealt duo of losses on the road, prepare for second round of conference games

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

The Saratoga Panthers had a rough weekend on the road as they traveled to Cokeville and Farson for what were two more conference losses.

On January 24, Saratoga was dealt a narrow 9-point loss by the Cokeville Panthers. Then, on January 25, the Panthers fell by 12 points to the Farson-Eden Pronghorns.

"We were competitive in both games but ran into scoring droughts that we ultimately couldn't overcome," said Head Coach Jason Williams.

Saratoga vs. Cokeville

While Cokeville has been one of the tougher teams in the 1A Southwest Conference, the orange-and-black Panthers haven't been impossible to beat. As the season goes on, however, they are undefeated in conference play with only two losses total.

For the purple-and-gold Panthers, it served as a good measure of where they are as a team.

"We played with them in the first half and we were down 1 point at halftime," said Coach Williams. "However, we had trouble scoring in the third quarter and were outscored 7 – 2 in the frame. That was a deficit we couldn't get over and ended

up on the losing end."

Jace Westring led Saratoga against the hosting Panthers as he scored 15 points and had 3 assists. Griffin Bartlett

"We feel like our defense has improved significantly this month, we just need our offense to catch up."

~ Jason Williams, Saratoga Panthers head coach

scored 10 points against Cokeville and Max Jones scored 7 points and had 7

rebounds.

The final score was 51-42, Cokeville.

Saratoga vs. Farson-Eden

After their loss on Friday, the Panthers faced Farson-Eden on Saturday. Another tough team in the conference, Saratoga went into the match prepared for a fight.

"We knew coming into the game that Farson was going to be a big challenge for us match-up wise, but we did a good job defensively on their two all-state posts, limiting both of them under their season averages," said Coach Williams. "Unfortunately some of their role players stepped up and hit shots we had hoped they wouldn't

and Farson won the game. Once again, scoring points was a struggle for us."

Westring, again, led Saratoga as he scored 10 points and had 9 rebounds. Bartlett scored 9 points and had 8 rebounds. Hunter Johnston also contributed as he scored 7 points and had 2 assists and 2 steals.

The final score was 48-36, Farson-Eden.

While they were two conference losses, Coach Williams said he felt like they were both learning experiences for the mostly young team. As Saratoga goes back through for rematches with conference rivals, there's hope to improve.

"We feel like our defense has improved significantly

this month, we just need our offense to catch up," said Coach Williams. "We begin now going through the second half of conference play, and we are hoping to pick up some wins that we didn't get in the first half."

Following their two losses, the Saratoga Panthers are now sitting at No. 5 in the 1A Southwest Conference, just above the Fort Washakie Eagles. They are 7-5 for the season and 1-4 for conference play.

The Panthers host Fort Washakie (2-8, 0-5) at 5 p.m. on January 31. They will be on the road again on February 1 as they are hosted by the Wind River Cougars at 1 p.m. in Pavillion.

Minimizing Mistakes Set as New Wrestling Goal

Wrestlers keep setting new goals on the path to regionals and state

by Jason Campbell, Special to the Sun

The SMHS wrestling team travelled to the Lander Valley tournament last weekend. Coach Rusty Arnold quipped that the competition was 'super tough, with mainly 3A and 4A schools attending.' Competing at this level helps immensely and Rusty was pleased that 'everyone is showing improvement.' The team has continued its tough training and hopefully that work will pay off as they move into the heart of the wrestling season.

Three wrestlers competed in the varsity tournament in Lander, and the remainder of the team were placed in the JV tournament. The coaches design the season this way in hopes of wrestlers gaining valuable mat experience. This extra mat time increases experience which is invaluable going into the regional and state tournaments next month. The entire team will be competing at the varsity level going into the regional competition.

106 pounder Ace Arnold is currently ranked first in the state and he had another visit to the podium, this time for third place. Coach Rusty mentioned that Ace

placing third 'wasn't what he was hoping for' but he had a 'very solid weekend.' Arnold first pinned Schneider from Kemmerer before losing by decision in the semifinals to Evanston's Moon. Arnold then pinned Nuss (Powell), followed by a tech fall over McWilliams (Lander) for the third-place victory.

The next two varsity wrestlers were Kanean Roberts at 144 and Skyler Wood wrestling 150. Coach Rusty said both of them 'wrestled well but they just have to minimize mistakes.' Roberts lost both of his tournament matches, first to Symons (Kemmer-

er) and Visocky (Powell). Wood had a 1 and 2 week-end, losing first to Albaugh (Torrington) before scoring a win by decision against Rawlins' Wazelle. Skyler's final match of the tournament was a loss to Lander's Nachazel.

The boys on the JV side wrestled 'really well' and Coach declared, 'we gained a lot of confidence' and it is his hope 'to carry that on to Ron Thon.' The JV wrestlers were Tate Zeller at 113; Hayden Suttie at 132; Ben Miller at 150; and Carson Everett at 175.

Zeller lost his first match to Aguilar (Thunder Ridge) before dispatching Wil-

liams (Natrona) and Kibler (Thunder Ridge). Zeller again faced Aguilar in the consolation semis, only to lose by tech fall.

Ben Miller was 2 and 2, first losing to Lozano (Rawlins). He won his next two in decisive fashion versus Chamberlain (Douglas) and Miller (Worland). Ben lost in the consolation semis to Asay (Lovell).

Carson Everett had a great outing, winning four matches for a top-of-the-podium finish. All four victories were pins. Carson beat Belnap (Thunder Ridge); Lopez (Douglas); Klepp (Lovell); and won

first place against Martinez (Natrona County).

This weekend unveils the Ron Thon Tournament in Riverton. It is an exciting time of the season, as witnessed by the fact that most of the hotels in the Riverton area have been sold out for months. Coach Arnold stressed that he hopes the Panthers 'will practice very hard this week and get our minds and body right for the weekend.' The SMHS grapplers should field a near-complete team this weekend at Ron Thon as members return from various illnesses and minor injuries.

Senators: No transgender athletes should be allowed in intercollegiate athletics

By Carrie Haderlie Wyoming Tribune Eagle Via Wyoming News Exchange

CHEYENNE — State lawmakers took a step Friday toward banning transgender athletes at the University of Wyoming and the state's community colleges from playing in intercollegiate athletics divisions that match their gender identity.

The Senate Education Committee passed Senate File 44, "Fairness in sports-intercollegiate athletics," by a 4-1 vote,

with the sole Democrat on the panel, Sen. Chris Rothfuss of Laramie, voting against the measure. Sen. Wendy Schuler, R-Evanston, brought the bill, following a successful effort in 2023 to ban transgender athletes from competing on teams that match gender identity in grades seven through 12.

"The bill ... is fairly simple. It requires students at the University of Wyoming and Wyoming community colleges to compete in intercollegiate athletic competitions based on their biological sex," Schuler

said. "What this does, it just protects those female — biological female athletes — not only with the safety issues, but the fairness issues."

Dickey Shanor, chief of staff for State Superintendent of Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder, said Degenfelder fully supports SF 44. Kirk Young, president of Western Wyoming Community College, said that although community colleges have been disappointed the NCAA has been silent on the issue and has not offered guidance, he supports the bill and the

direction it provides.

Nyoka Erikson, a Laramie woman who said she plays roller derby and has played on both male and female hockey teams, urged lawmakers to vote against the bill.

She said she has competed with both cisgender and transgender women.

"I don't think it is appropriate for the state to tell sporting organizations what their policy should be," Erikson said. "I additionally do believe, because of my experiences, that trans women do belong in sports."

University of Wyoming volleyball player Macey Boggs spoke in favor of the legislation.

"During my last season at UW, my team was punished with two losses for refusing to play against a male athlete on an opposing team," Boggs said, saying that ultimately kept the team out of the Mountain West Conference championship.

"I was (denied) the chance to play my final collegiate matches because we faced a situation no woman should have to face: either compete against a team

rostering a male athlete on a woman's scholarship, robbing us of fair and safe competition, or forfeit the rest of our season," Boggs said.

Boggs said she has joined a lawsuit against the Mountain West Conference over the incident.

Sen. Charles Scott, R-Casper, asked Schuler if the bill would authorize UW to ban other teams from bringing transgender athletes playing for teams that match their gender identity to Wyoming to compete. Schuler said the bill does not do that.

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Lincoln Westfall, DO
Gary Mikesell, DO
Sophie Baxter, PA-C
Kristel Lessard, DO, Internal Medicine

300 3rd Street
Rawlins WY 82301
307-324-8494

MHCC Family Practice Clinic - Hanna

Peggy Lake, FNP-C

1008 Feldspar Ct.
Hanna, WY 82327
307-325-6596

MHCC Health Center - Platte Valley

Bob Keel, PA-C
Patti Shue, PNP
Kristel Lessard, DO
Peggy Lake, FNP-C
Fremont Therapy Group

1504 S. River Street
Saratoga, WY 82331
307-326-3580

MHCC Visiting Specialists Clinic

2012 Elm Street
Rawlins, WY 82301
307-324-8247

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MHCC Orthopedic and Pain Clinic

Orthopedics
Darin Allred, MD
Bob Keel, PA-C

Pain Management

2221 W Elm Street (2nd Floor)
Rawlins WY 82301
307-324-8712

MHCC General Surgery Clinic

Ched Singleton, MD

2221 W Elm Street (2nd Floor)
Rawlins WY 82301
307-324-6022

MHCC Wound Care Clinic

Sophie Baxter, PA-C

2221 W. Elm Street (2nd Floor)
Rawlins, WY 82301
307-324-6022

Ivinson Women's Health Clinic

*In partnership with Memorial Hospital of Carbon County

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CLASSIFIEDS

Reminder that CCSD#2 Recreation Board Grants are due by February 15th!

See the CCSD#2 website for grant guidelines. Please note the mailing address


CCSD#2 Rec Board
PO Box 1865,
Saratoga, WY 82331.

Accepting Applications for A Full Time Communications Technician

 is accepting applications for the position of Communications Technician (Dispatcher). The Glenrock Police Department offers a competitive wage (\$20.66 – \$27.11 hourly) and benefit package.

For full details contact the Glenrock Police Department at (307)436-2777 by email at cfelton@glenorck.org or on our website at www.glenrock.org.

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Services/Miscellaneous

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Service/Miscellaneous

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: VALENTINE'S DAY

ACROSS

1. Past participle of spit
5. King Kong, e.g.

8. Greek portico
12. Not to be mentioned
13. Congeal
14. ____ cell carcinoma

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	6				7			9
	9				8	5	3	
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1						7		
		2	8		4	1		
		7						3
		5	2					1
	2	6	1					7
4			7					6

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15. Top of Kilimanjaro, e.g.
16. Periods of time
17. D-Day beach
18. *Holiday the day before Valentine's Day
20. Shade of beige
21. Quantities on doctors' prescriptions
22. Not amateur
23. *Letters to Juliet destination
26. Come to final conclusion
30. *Ultimate Valentine's vow?
31. Purchaser
34. Zelensky's capital
35. Move a plant
37. High-____, as in an image
38. Tubular pasta
39. Not Visa or MC
40. *Moving Valentine's Day date option
42. "Annie get your ____"
43. a.k.a. ladybird
45. Maximum
47. "Rub A Dub Dub" vessel
48. Suburb of Dallas
50. Skunk's defense
52. *Sweet Valentine's gesture
56. Long stories
57. Rhythmic way of talking
58. Yours and mine
59. Send, as payment
60. The E of B.P.O.E.

DOWN

1. Doe's mate
2. One of Three Bears
3. Cain's brother
4. Prom night garb
5. Bird of prey's nest
6. *Make them in advance of Valentine's Day
7. "Or ____?"
8. *"Cupid" singer (2 words)
9. Russia's Terrible one, e.g.
10. Pearl Harbor island
11. Between Fla. and Miss.
13. Ship's floating wreckage
14. Afrikaners' ancestors
19. Group of nine singers
22. For each
23. All over the internet
24. Possible allergic reaction
25. Lassoed
26. *Baby's breath's partner
27. Texting vocabulary, e.g.
28. *Cupid's mom
29. Black tie ____
32. Snob
33. Gymnast's goal
36. *a.k.a. "love hormone"
38. Deck alternative

CROSSWORD

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56						57				58		
59						60				61		
62						63				64		

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40. Chicago baseballer
41. Defrauds
44. Explosion
46. Pleasing notes succession
48. At the same time
49. Too much egg middle
50. Newspaper piece

51. Five and ____
52. Staff leader
53. Heavenly glow
54. Think, archaically speaking
55. Sport spectator's TV acronym
56. Before, old English

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LADYBUG UTMOST
TUB WYLLIE
ODOR CHOCOLATE
EPICS LILT OURS
REMIT ELKS DROP
EDEN FEY YAWN

SUDOKU ANSWERS

5	6	3	4	1	7	2	8	9
7	9	4	6	2	8	5	3	1
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9	7	5	2	8	6	3	1	4
8	2	6	1	4	3	9	7	5
4	3	1	7	5	9	8	6	2

PUBLIC NOTICES

Town Council Regular Meeting
January 07, 2025 at 6:00 PM
Saratoga Town Hall
110 E Spring Ave
Saratoga, WY 82331
MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Chuck Davis called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Opening Ceremony

Roll Call: Mayor Chuck Davis, Councilman Cooley, Councilman Oxford, Councilman Fluty, Councilman Barkhurst, Councilwoman Beck was absent, all other members of Council were present.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda for January 7, 2025, with the addition of the 3rd and final reading of Ordinance 877- Driver's License required made by Councilman Cooley, second by Councilman Barkhurst. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Meeting Minutes from December 17, 2024

Motion to approve minutes from December 17, 2024 made by Councilman Barkhurst, second by Councilman Cooley. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

Motion to approve all financials from January 7, 2025 made by Councilman Cooley, second by Councilman Barkhurst. Motion carried.

Deposits - \$63,411.92
Accounts Payable - \$97,658.95

Transmittals - \$24,140.72

Payroll - \$46,030.04

CORRESPONDENCE

Rawlins National Bank - Application for Designation of Depository for 2025

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Chuck Davis swore in newly elected Councilmembers: Michael Cooley, Bub Barkhurst, and Cory Oxford.

ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Special Events Application - Susan Smith - 307 Go Fast

Motion to approve Special Event Application for 307 Go Fast made by Councilman Cooley, second by Councilman Oxford. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENTS

Town Hall

Appointment of Clerk of Court

Motion to appoint Marie Christen as Clerk of Court, Councilman Cooley as Mayor Pro-Tem, Councilman Oxford as the Liaison to the Planning Commission, and Mayor Davis as the Liaison to the Airport Advisory Board, made by Councilman Barkhurst, second by Councilman Cooley.

Designate Official Depository

Motion was made by Councilman Cooley, seconded by Councilman Barkhurst to approve the designation of Rawlins National Bank

as the Official Depository. Motion carried.

Franchise Agreement - Black Hills Energy - Ordinance 877

Motion to approve Ordinance 878 - Franchise Agreement with Black Hills Energy made by Councilman Cooley, second by Councilman Oxford. Motion carried.

Liquor License - The Malt

Motion to accept relinquishment of The Malt Restaurant Liquor License for 2025 made by Councilman Cooley, second by Councilman Barkhurst. Motion carried.

Mountain States CPA's Invoice #140397 - 2024 Audit \$13,276.00
Motion to approve invoice 140397 from Mountain States CPA's in the amount of \$13,276.00 made by Councilman Fluty, second by Councilman Cooley. Motion carried.

Council Meeting Schedule – Discussion took place of the possibility of moving to one Council Meeting a month

EFT NSF Fees from XPress Bill Pay

Motion to approve fee of \$30.00 for NSF EFT's (debt transactions) made by Councilman Cooley, second by Councilman Barkhurst. Motion carried.

Police Department

Motion to approve Ordinance 877 - Driver's License Required on the 3rd and final reading made by Councilman Barkhurst, second by Councilman Cooley. Motion carried.

Fire Department

Recreation Department

Next meeting is February 3, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall Council Chambers

Department of Public Works

Point Architects Proposal

Motion to move forward with Point Architects Proposal for Restrooms and Ampitheater at Never Forget Park, made by Councilman Cooley, second by Councilman Oxford. Motion carried.

Tap Grant Task Order No. 24422.0

Motion to approve TAP Grant Task Order 24422.00 made by Councilman Cooley, second by Councilman Barkhurst. Motion carried.

Desert Mountain - Ice Slicer Quote - \$4,974.08

Motion to approve quote from Desert Mountain for Ice Slicer in the amount of \$4,974.08 made by Councilman Fluty, second by Councilman Oxford. Motion carried.

Mowing Service Contract

Motion to approve Contract for Mowing Services made by Councilman Cooley, second by Councilman Barkhurst. Motion carried.

Streets Dept - Jason Sharp

Motion was made to hire Jason Sharp at \$18.02 per the wage scale with full benefits by, Councilman Cooley, second by Councilman Fluty. Motion carried.

Imperial Pump Solutions - Airport Lift Station Quote - \$29,462.39
Motion to approve quote from Imperial Pump Solutions in the amount of \$29,462.39 for the Airport Lift Station made by Councilman Cooley, second by Councilman Barkhurst. Motion carried.

Benson Brothers - Road Broom Sales Order - \$28,000.00

Motion to approve Sales Order for Road Broom in the amount of \$28,000.00 made payable to Benson Brothers, made by Councilman Fluty, second by Councilman Cooley. Motion carried.

Octagon Invoice #1102 - NVP Fine Grading - \$13,730.00

Motion to approve payment of invoice #1102 to Octagon for fine grading on NFP made by Councilman Cooley, second by Councilman Oxford. Motion carried.

Backhoe Repairs

Motion to move forward with the estimate on repairs for Streets Backhoe made by Councilman Cooley, second by Councilman Fluty. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Planning Commission

Next meeting is January 14, 2025 at 5:30 PM at the Town Hall Council Chambers

North Platte River Floodway Investigation

Motion to move forward with the investigation of the Floodway made by Councilman Cooley, second by Councilman Barkhurst. Motion carried.

Water and Sewer Joint Power Board

Next meeting is January 8, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the PVCC

Community Center Joint Powers Board

Next meeting is January 13, 2025 at 4:30 PM at the PVCC

Recreation Commission

Next meeting is February 3, 2025 at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall Council Chambers

Saratoga Airport Advisory Board

Next meeting is January 13, 2025 at 3:30 PM at the Town Hall Council Chambers

South Central Wyoming Emergency Medical Services Board

Next meeting is January 20, 2025 at 6:00 PM at Saratoga Ambulance Barn

NEW BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

FURTHER BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:08 PM made by Councilman Barkhurst, second by Councilman Cooley. Motion carried.

THE NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025 AT 6:00 PM.

- s - Mayor Chuck Davis

- s - Jenn Anderson, Town Clerk

Legal #9104

Published in

The Saratoga Sun

January 30, 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

CARBON COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Carbon County Planning & Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on the following case file on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 10:00 A.M., Carbon Building, 3rd Floor-Room 332, located at 215 West Buffalo Street, Rawlins, Wyoming.

C.U. Case File #2025-01: Request for a Conditional Use Permit in the Ranching, Agriculture and Mining (RAM) Zone. The request is to replace the existing 37-foot tower with a permanent 120-foot tower with foundation with the overall total tower height being 126 feet including appurtenances and related facilities.

Project/Site Name: Saratoga North Communications Site

Petitioners: SAC Wireless on behalf of Union Telephone Company (Applicant) and Saratoga Land and Cattle Company (Land Owner)

General Site Location: Approximately 1.25 miles north of Saratoga on HWY 130 and approximately 1,250 feet west on a private road.

Legal Description: A communication facility lease site located in Lot 1, Section 2, T.17N., R.84W., 6th P.M., Carbon County, Wyoming, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the northeast corner of Lot 1, said Section 2, from which the southeast corner of said Lot 1 bears S00°45’10”E 1387.34 feet; thence S44°15’09”W 247.05 feet to the point of beginning; thence N90°00’00”W 80.00 feet; thence S00°00’00”E 80.00 feet; thence N90°00’00”E 80.00 feet; thence N00°00’00”E 80.00 feet to the point of beginning of this description containing 6,400 square feet more or less. For additional information, please call the Carbon County Planning and Development Department, (307) 328-2651.

-s- SAC Wireless on behalf of Union Telephone Company (Applicant) and Saratoga Land and Cattle Company (Land Owner)

Legal #9099

Published in

The Saratoga Sun

January 30, 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

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

Town of Saratoga
c/o Emery Penner, Public Works Director
P.O. Box 486
Saratoga, Wyoming 82331

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

The Town of Encampment will hold a **PUBLIC HEARING** during their regular meeting on Thursday February 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Encampment Town Hall located at 614 McCaffrey Avenue. The purpose of the hearing is to allow public comment on an application for a “Conditional Use Permit” for Block 57 lots 13 & 14 aka 722 Heizer Avenue, seeking the use of their home as a vacation/short-term rental.

-s- Doreen Harvey, CMC, Clerk/Treasurer

Legal # 9101

Published in

The Saratoga Sun

January 30, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Carbon County School District #2 will be destroying Special Education Records for students who graduated from high school, moved, dropped out, or stopped receiving services prior to 2018. If there are records you DO NOT wish to be destroyed, please contact Pam Schroeder at the Carbon County School District Administration Office at 307-326-5271 ext. 1103 or by email at pschroeder@crb2.org before February 28, 2025.

Legal #9105

Published in

The Saratoga Sun

January 30, 2025

Town of Saratoga
Manual Checks 1-21-2025

Accounts Payable \$127,390.23

Transmittals \$13,179.97

Payroll \$47,645.04

Legal #9103

Published in

The Saratoga Sun

January 30, 2025

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Valley News

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

Town of Saratoga
Cash Requirements 1-21-2025

Armstrong Consultants, Inc - \$25,329.24; BCN - \$109.01; Business Solutions Group - \$278.75; Carbon County Clerk - \$4,246.13; Carbon Power & Light Inc. - \$15,013.04; Caselle, Inc. - \$1,347.00; CenturyLink - \$49.73; Cogent, Inc. - \$361.38; Communication Technologi - \$220.00; Crimmins Associates, LLC - \$89.88; Desert Mountain Corporati - \$4,913.46; Energy Laboratories Inc - \$63.00; Hach Company - \$267.75; Hach Company - \$141.40; Knife River Materials - \$69.10; Kylie M Waldrup, P.C. - \$630.48; Northwest Parkway LLC - \$13.90; One-Call of Wyoming, Inc. - \$18.75; Platte Valley Foods LLC - \$31.97; Saratoga Feed and Grain - \$24.99; Saratoga Sun - \$6,260.00; Shively Hardware Co - VF - \$9.99; Stinker Stores, Inc - \$1,793.73; Sundahl, Powers, Kapp & - \$4,163.63; US Bank - \$3,487.47; Valley Oil Company - \$717.50; Watson Well Service - \$702.00; Wyoming Assn of Municipal - \$ 235.00; Wyoming Diesel Service - \$7,381.91; Wyoming Machinery Comp - \$117.64; Wyoming Machinery Comp - \$645.10; Wyoming Machinery Comp - \$75.67; Wyoming Machinery Comp - \$298.99; Wyoming Retirement Syste - \$581.25

Legal # 9102
Published in
The Saratoga Sun
January 30, 2025

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9th Annual Skijoring Races Occur February 1st and 2nd, 2025



STAY SAFE SKIJORERS!
We are now open to 8:00 pm
Friday & Saturday night
For Burgers & Grub
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Saratoga Sun File Photos





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SARATOGA WY

Welcome to the 9th Annual Saratoga Skijoring Races!

We proudly support the Saratoga Skijoring Races!



Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

WELCOME SKIJORERS!

Race registration Friday afternoon at 3:30 pm
Calcutta Friday AND Saturday nights at 8:00 pm

The saloon will be open after the races on Sunday afternoon.

Good luck to all the racers!



Hotel Wolf
SINCE 1893

307-326-5525

Thank you from the Campbell family and especially the staff!



WHITE STONE REALTY WELCOMES ALL SKIJORING RACERS TO THE PLATTE VALLEY!

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Welcome to Saratoga Skijoring!



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PEOPLE OF THE PLATTE



Photo by D’Ron Campbell
Bob Herring serves up pancakes at the VFW Carnival breakfast.



Photo by D’Ron Campbell
Encampment kids join forces in the annual sledding event.

38th Annual Sierra Madre Winter Carnival Boasts Fun and Games



Photo by Mary Martin
Judges Shirley Hillyard, Kelli Granieri and Alyson Sneddon play pool during their snow art judging duties.



Photo by Joshua Wood
Jamis McLinskey, left, and Edgar Faust spend time Saturday morning building an igloo next to the Encampment Presbyterian Church during the sled races.



Photo by Joshua Wood
Fluffy pancakes were flipped with precision during the annual VFW Pancake Breakfast at the Grand Encampment Opera House on Saturday morning.



Photo by Joshua Wood
Willow McCreary snuggled with her mother, Dana, during the chili, cake and bread judging on Saturday afternoon in Encampment.



Photo by Elliott Deins
Adults join in the human saucers bowling fun during the snowy conditions.



Photo by Joshua Wood
Zane Jacobsen was among a number of local residents who let the VFW handle breakfast during the 38th Annual Sierra Madre Winter Carnival.



Photo by Elliott Deins
A participant knocks over pins during human saucer bowling on the first day of the Sierra Madre Carnival.



Photo by D’Ron Campbell
Dylan Merrill seems skeptical of the snow and sledding.



Photo by D’Ron Campbell
Anna and Leslie McLinskey scope out the sledding competition.

We would like to thank

all those who voted our business Best Hardware Store in the Best Of The Valley contest. We want you to know your support means the world to us.