



Photo by Jason Campbell
Kanean Roberts returns his opponent from Glenrock to the mat.

WHP, WYDOT say death toll now three in I-80 tunnel crash

By Trina Dennis Brittain
Rocket Miner
Via Wyoming News Exchange

GREEN RIVER – Wyoming Highway Patrol troopers and other first responders have confirmed one additional fatality as they work to investigate and clear the tragic Green River tunnel crash that occurred Friday at mile marker 90.2 on Interstate 80.

That brings the confirmed death toll to three.

According to a joint WHP and Wyoming Department of Transportation news release Sunday afternoon, additional details will be provided as they become available.

The WHP has cleared about half of the vehicles involved in the tunnel fire, basically to the middle of the 1,200-foot tunnel. Saturday night, four passenger vehicles and nine commercial vehicles were removed from the crash site.

In total, the WHP believes 26 vehicles were involved in the event: 10 passenger vehicles and 16 commercial vehicles. Six commercial vehicles and two passenger

vehicles were completely destroyed by the fire.

Through an emergency contracting process, the Wyoming Department of Transportation has contracted DeBernardi Construction to begin moving concrete barriers to the crossover lanes in preparation for guiding traffic head-to-head in the eastbound tunnel. WYDOT expects this to be in place by Wednesday.

“Thank you to the community of Green River for your support in keeping traffic moving during this thorough and complicated investigation,” WYDOT District Engineer John Eddins said in the release. “We know that the detoured traffic was very impactful to your community this weekend, and we will continue to work to minimize impacts.”

There will be a 10.5-foot width and 16-foot height restriction through the head-to-head lanes in the eastbound tunnel. Oversized vehicles should contact WYDOT’s oversize loads permit office for

detours. More information is available at whp.wyo.gov/commercial-carrier/ports-of-entry.

WYDOT and the WHP are working closely with the National Transportation Safety Board on parallel crash investigations.

In a separate news release sent out late Saturday afternoon, Gov. Mark Gordon’s office said he and WYDOT Director Darin Westby traveled to Green River for a briefing on the crash. The governor and Westby visited the tunnel, met with local emergency response teams; they were briefed by WHP on the crash and updated by WYDOT engineers about damage to the tunnel.

“Thank you to the Sweetwater County emergency responders and all those locally helping support those working on the ground,” Gordon said in the release. “This is a tragic incident, but we will respond together and help our neighbors. That is the Wyoming way.”

The governor emphasized the importance of driver attentiveness for the safe-

Lots and Land Development Lead Encampment Discussions

Residents Look to Development with Perceived Improvements

by D’Ron Campbell

dron.saratogasun@gmail.com

Two different residents in the lower part of the Valley approached the Encampment Town Council on February 13 with preliminary plans to change the landscape of Encampment.

One resident wanted to develop a potential RV park and the other resident discussed a purchase of Town owned lots to create cost effective housing.

Bob Merrill of the Encampment Riverside Lions Club presented a rough sketch of developing land owned by the Lions Club into trailer spaces. The income from the operation of the lots would go towards fundraising for student scholarships and Search and Rescue funds.

This trailer park would be operational May through October according to Mr. Merrill. The hope for the Lions Club would be to even-

tually construct a bath house with a washer, dryer and shower for guests. The fee would run 30 to 35 dollars a night for rent of the space.

“The first stop should probably be the planning commission,” said Mayor Shannon Fagan. “There are avenues for conditional use permits in industrial sections.”

The second resident was Schelby Merrill who represented High Plains Building. The organization was looking to purchase Town owned lots without going through the bidding process to build cost effective low income housing in the Encampment area.

“The Town of Encampment does not have any land for sale at the moment,” said Fagan.

“I don’t think we can dispose of land without going through the bidding process.”

S. Merrill countered by presenting Wyoming State Statute 15-1-112 “Manner of disposing of municipal property; when advertising

and bids not necessary.”

The statute allows for municipalities to sell property to entities if it is a benefit or in the best interest of the economic development of the area.

According to S. Merrill, the land the organization was considering was across from the Pine Lodge and north of the library. Mayor Fagan again pointed towards the planning commission as the first avenue in pursuing a planned unit development.

The meeting did produce some excitement at one point when local resident Keith Schricker yelled across the room to a departing Bob Merrill. Mr. Schricker invited Merrill to attend a painting party at the Saratoga Museum based on his artistic rendering of the RV lot.

“Excuse me sir,” said Fagan. “Side conversations should be conducted outside of Chambers please.”

The next regular meeting of the Encampment Town Council will be March 13, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Encampment Town Hall.

Stay Safe Out There

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Dr. Ched Singleton earned his medical degree from the prestigious Medical College of Georgia. After completing his medical education, he underwent extensive residency training to hone his skills in general surgery. Following his residencies, Dr. Singleton moved to Alabama, where he established a thriving rural general surgery practice, delivering high-quality care to the local community.

Now, Dr. Singleton has brought his expertise to Memorial Hospital of Carbon County, where he is committed to providing exceptional surgical care to residents of Carbon County. His focus on local care allows him to build strong, lasting relationships with his patients and support the overall health of the community.

Outside of his medical career, Dr. Singleton enjoys spending time outdoors, appreciating nature, and cherishing moments with his daughter. His passion for both his work and personal life reflects his dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of those around him.

For more information or to schedule an appointment call

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Memorial Hospital of Carbon County

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Combat ‘Cabin Fever’ with BBQ

Monday, March 3rd, at gathering

Compiled by Dick Perue
GATT correspondent

Don't let "Cabin Fever" get you down, venture out and "Gather at the Table" for a springtime barbeque consisting of BBQ ribs, stuffed baked potato, garlic bread, decadent chocolate dipped bites and beverage, along with plenty of fellowship.

Everyone, especially the shut-ins, the hungry and the lonely, is invited to enjoy a complimentary meal while chatting with their neighbors, Monday evening, March 3rd, from 5:00 to 6:30 in the Sara-

toga Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall at the corner of Third & Bridge.

No restrictions apply and reservations are not required, all folks need to do is get out of the cabin and join friends and family for an evening of food, fun and fellowship.

"Gather at the Table" is a non-profit charity extension of the First Presbyterian Church of Saratoga. Its mission is to provide a welcoming hot meal the first Monday of each month to anyone who desires fellowship in and around this community.

...death toll now three in... Continued from page A1

Photo by Jackie Finch, Green River Star.

Smoke billows out of the I-80 tunnel near Green River following Friday's crash that resulted in three casualties.

ty of all motorists. He also acknowledged the strain the current temporary detour is placing on the community of Green River, as well as the risk to infrastructure beneath local roads from the weight of commercial vehicles.

It will take WYDOT several days to construct a more permanent detour, and the governor thanked residents for their understanding as additional traffic will impact local travel. The governor further underscored the value of the Mineral Royalty Grants program to communities that require support for local infrastructure.

Gordon said he has been in contact with Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, and pledged to devote all resources available to assist the Green River and Rock Springs communities as they address the impacts of this tragic event.

Gordon extended his gratitude to all agencies and

Courtesy photo from WYDOT

partners that have been involved in responding to the accident, including WYDOT, Wyoming Office of Homeland Security, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Sweetwater County Emergency Management, Sweetwater County Sheriff's Office, Sweetwater County Commissioners, local legislators, the cities of Green River and Rock Springs, Sweetwater County Memorial Hospital staff, the Green River Fire Department and the Green River Police Department.

4-H Elects Officials for the 2025 Year

by Karlee Leiseth,
Special to The Sun

Saratoga's Finest 4-H club met on February 4th, 2025 and elected officers to represent the club for the 2025 4-H season. The following people were elected into these positions:

President - Bayla Berger	Withers	The first presentation was given by Shelly Larson about Morse code. She got the idea from her Girl Scouts Troop. The next presentation was given by Bexton Berger about his poker set. He showed us how to deal and play a round of Texas Hold 'Em. The announcements were given by the President about fair book ads being turned	in. Then she made sure that everyone was getting the Zsuite messages. Next, our Activity Director, Shelly Larson, had us play a game. We needed to say our name and our favorite food that started with the first letter in our name. With no other business, our meeting was adjourned. Our next meeting is March 4th at 6:00 PM.
Vice President - Riata	Treasurer - Bryndal Berger		
	Pledge Leader - Bexton Berger		
	Activity Director - Shelly Larson		
	Reporter - Karlee Leiseth		
	Secretary - Ellie Laborde		
	I know they will do great. We had two amazing presentations after the January minutes were approved.		

Newly Elected 4H Officials

From left to right: Karlee Leiseth, Shelly Larson, Ellie Laborde, Bryndal Berger, Riata Withers, Bexton Berger, Bayla Berger

OF INTEREST

Master Planning Healthcare

Memorial Hospital of Carbon County unveils 2025 Master Plan with cash-on-hand, accounts receivable goals

By Joshua Wood,
Stevenson Newspapers

wood.saratogasun@gmail.com

The recently announced sale of two Memorial Hospital of Carbon County (MHCC) clinics—the MHCC Family Practice Clinic in Rawlins and the MHCC Health Center - Platte Valley—are part of the county hospital’s 2025 Master Plan according to COO Stephanie Hinkle.

“[The sale is] not having any impact on our services provided. Those were two assets and a challenging, difficult decision,” said Hinkle. “We have a lot of different challenges. We have rising expenses on every level, but the reimbursement we do receive from payers are not matching those rising costs on our side to continue to provide care.”

The sale, said Hinkle, falls under the hospital’s goals of reducing the accounts payable for MHCC. It also falls under their goal of increasing cash-on-hand for the hospital. According to Hinkle, MHCC currently has 10 to 12 days cash-on-hand meaning that’s how long the hospital could operate if there was absolutely no incoming revenue.

“Having that additional cash allows us to make for a really significant headway in reducing accounts payable. Just like in our personal life, you reduce your bills every month and it gives you a lot more breathing room,” said Hinkle. “Those are some of the very difficult decisions we are having to make. When we’re talking about selling the clinics [or] a reduction in force, those are very tough decisions but they were made to help us continue to achieve some necessary financial means to help us continue to go forward”

Hinkle said her idea of creating the 2025 MHCC Master Plan came about during the campaign for the county hospital’s proposed healthcare district. The district would have included Rawlins, Sinclair, Hanna and halfway towards the Little Snake River Valley. Due to existing medical facilities or healthcare districts, it would not have included the Platte Valley, the Little Snake River Valley or Medicine Bow.

“Throughout the process, it just became very evident to me that there was a lot more education and information sharing that we needed to pursue as an organization, that we needed to make available,” said Hinkle. “The district was a great start to that process but my thought, as we approached the end of the year, was I really felt like I wanted to have this kind of document available to help further continue that communication and transparency. To let the community know, in a factual manner, this is what the hospital’s goals are for the upcoming business year.”

Under the strategic priorities for the MHCC master plan, one of the goals is to increase days of cash-on-hand by 25%.

Another goal in the master plan is to reduce the accounts receivable days from 50 to 45. According to Hinkle, when dealing with insurance companies—Blue Cross Blue Shield, Sigma or others—the hospital goes 30 to 45 days between the services provided and the payout.

“If there’s any kind of a glitch—whether that happens during registration or somebody has changed addresses or we don’t capture the correct demographic information during that registration process or somebody has two insurances—it

goes through that initial 30 to 45 days and it gets kicked back and starts all over again,” said Hinkle.

Another issue in regards to the accounts receivable, she said, is the mix of payer types. While there are patients who have some type of insurance, there’s a lot of self-pay patients. Add to that the hospital’s location on Interstate 80.

“We are facing some additional challenges. Part of that is our payer mix. We have a large self-pay population [and] we have some interesting dynamics because of the I-80 corridor providing the large amount of emergency care that we have to provide to individuals that enter our emergency room,” said Hinkle. “There are certainly some additional dynamics we have at play that maybe other facilities don’t, but it’s not difficult to look up stories of hospitals across the country that are either cutting services, filing bankruptcies or closing.”

According to a January 4, 2024 Montana State University report (“The Deepening Crisis of Rural Hospital Closures in the United States: Will Montana’s Most Vulnerable Hospitals Be Next?”), rural hospitals have seen nearly 200 closures since 2005. Over 100 rural hospitals have closed and 87 have converted to urgent care facilities. The report went on to read that a main catalyst of these closures was low patient volume compared to high operational costs.

One of the policies which have saved rural hospitals, or delayed closures, was the Affordable Care Act, according to the report.

Additionally, according to a February 2025 report from Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform, more than 700 hospitals in the United States are at risk

of closing. Of those, more than 300 are at immediate risk of closure with four hospitals in Wyoming.

“Most at-risk hospitals are in isolated rural communities, where closure of the hospital would force residents of the community to travel a long distance for emergency or inpatient care. Moreover, in many cases, the hospital is the only place where residents can get laboratory tests or imaging studies, and it may be the principal source of primary care in the community,” the report read. “As a result, closure of the hospital would cause a loss of access to many essential healthcare services.”

Other recent decisions which will help MHCC, said Hinkle, include the hiring of a new general surgeon: Ched Singleton.

“We went through most of the year without a general surgeon. Because of the types of cases we get here and not having the ability to care for some of those patients and having to transfer them, that was a significant loss in revenue,” said Hinkle. “We tried the model of working with locums [tenens] and that was not an effective model for us.”

A locum tenens is a physician—or someone in the healthcare industry—who steps in temporarily to help fill gaps in care.

“We need someone that lives in Carbon County and is committed to our communities and understands the dynamics of rural healthcare,” said Hinkle.

Along with the hiring of Singleton, MHCC has also hired a new family practice provider who will be relocating from Craig, Colorado according to Hinkle.

The 2025 MHCC Master Plan can be found on the hospital’s website at imhcc.com under the “About Us” tab.

Braising Short Ribs

by The Secret Chef,
Special to The Sun

Early spring is still a perfect time for comfort foods, and one of my favorite ways to cook comfort foods is braising. What is a braise, you might ask? It is a technique to utilize moist heat to break down the collagens in a tough cut of meat to make it amazingly delicious and tender. Unlike a stew, a braise doesn’t cover all of the meat as it cooks. The wet/dry cooking method combined with a low temperature makes for a heavenly meal. Here is my recipe for braised beef short ribs.

Beef short ribs (enough to fit loosely in your Dutch oven)
Salt and Pepper to taste
Oil for browning
1 can Guinness beer
1 medium onion, diced
2 medium carrots, diced
1 stalk celery, diced
4 cloves garlic, diced
1 tsp piment?n (Spanish paprika), plus more to taste
2 TBS tomato paste
1 pint beef stock
Season short ribs with salt and pepper the night before cooking and refrigerate. Let the ribs come to room temperature before cooking. Preheat oven to 275° with the rack on the

bottom.

Using a large, deep pan oven-safe pan (such as a Dutch oven), slick the bottom with oil and brown the beef in batches on all sides. Don’t be too hasty to turn the ribs. Let them get a nice brown before turning. Put the finished pieces in a bowl and set aside. Deglaze the pan with beef stock and scrape out tasty bits in between batches if needed. Save deglazed juices and tasty pan bits in beef bowl. Finish browning the rest of the ribs in batches and set aside as before.

When all the ribs are browned and pan is deglazed and clean, place back on medium heat. Slick the pan once again with oil and add the veggies with a few pinches of salt. Sweat the veggies until they smell good and the onions are clear. Add the garlic and cook for another minute or so. Add piment?n and cook until you can smell it. Add the tomato paste and cook until everything is rust-colored.

Pour the beer and mix with the veggies. Place the beef in the pan. Add enough beef stock to reach about halfway up the ribs. Bring to a boil on the stovetop. Once it boils, remove from heat and cover with a tight lid. Place in oven and cook for 3 hours or until the meat is tender.

You can remove the beef when it is done and strain out the veggies in or-




der to make a sauce. Put the pan back on a burner after straining and heat. If the sauce needs a bit more seasoning, add it now. (A dash of good soy sauce or some more piment?n work wonders. I also recommend adding a little brown sugar). Take out a cup or two of the sauce and add some cornstarch or flour to the fluid in a separate container to mix. Once it is mixed thoroughly, add it back to the pan and let the sauce thicken while stirring.

I serve my ribs over polenta or risotto and ladle sauce over the top. A nice, hearty bread and salad complete a tasty winter meal.

Notice of Public Meeting

The Highline Watershed Improvement District will meet at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, February 25th at the SER Conservation District Office, 101 Cypress Ave, Saratoga, Wyoming.

The purpose of the meeting will be to conduct general business.

Notice of Open House

Q Creek Ranch will be holding an open house to discuss a potential land exchange with the BLM.

The meeting will be held in the Hanna Elementary School gym on Thursday, February 20th at 6 pm.

The intent of the meeting will be to inform the public of the concept Q Creek is working on and to solicit initial thoughts from the public.

Any interested community members are welcome to join.

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5:15 Kiwanis
11:00 am - 6:00 pm Saratoga Library Open
11:00 am - 4:00 pm Encampment Library Open

Friday February 21st
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 22nd
Gym Closed
Weight Room Closed

Sunday February 23rd
Gym Closed
Weight Room Closed

Monday February 24th
6:00 to 6:30 am Morning Mash up
2:00 pm Story Time @ Saratoga Library
4:30 pm Spinning
6:00 - 9:00 pm Open Gym
6:30 Saratoga Library Book Club
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 25th
6:00 - 9:00 pm Open Gym
10:00 am Tuesday Talks @PVCC
11:00 am - 6:00 pm Saratoga Library Open
Noon - 5:00 pm Encampment Library Open

Wednesday February 26th
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

Thoughts on Three-Pointers

AGAINST
THE
GRAIN



By JOSHUA WOOD

I'm not often known for giving a hot take or making controversial comments when it comes to sports.

I played only two years of basketball in middle school and was probably better at dribbling soup on my chin than dribbling a ball down the court. I don't follow college or professional sports too closely, but over the past seven years I've been fortunate to cover high school sports. For someone who wasn't too into sports when I was in high school, I have often found myself getting very invested.

Recently, I've had quite a bit of high school basketball as I've covered teams here in the Valley but also up in Montana. I've also been watching a lot of middle school basketball as my son, Jareth, was able to play for the Encampment Tigers junior high team this year. In watching so much basketball, I've come to the following - and possibly controversial - opinion.

The three-pointer has ruined high school basketball. Look, as someone who reports on and photographs basketball games, I absolutely find it exciting when a player posts up outside the paint and fires off a three-pointer. The anticipation in their eyes, the hush of the crowd as it sails through the air towards the basket. The roar of the fans and the players on the bench when it passes through the net. The emotions are palpable each and every time.

It would be great if every

three-pointer attempt was successful. Unfortunately, that's not always the case. When a three-pointer doesn't make it in, it either winds up in the possession of the opposing team or goes wild and is hard to rebound.

At the same time, I can understand the temptation. When the other team is racking up points, firing off a three-pointer or two can close that gap or help your team get ahead. Conversely, it's hard to compete with a team that is successfully making three-pointers when your team is only putting up two points at a time.

And, of course, who doesn't want to be like Steph Curry who has made 3,948 three-pointers in his career. I actually had to double-check that number because nearly 4,000 three-pointers is an absolutely mindblowing number. Over a 15 year career, that's an average of 263 three-pointers a year.

I remember growing up and hoping to be like Michael Jordan or Patrick Ewing or Larry Bird, even if I was more like Daffy Duck or Bugs Bunny. It's not necessarily a bad thing to have role models in professional sports. I just think that the inclusion of three-pointers in high school basketball has taken a bit away from the determination of driving a ball up the paint, past three opposing players, and making a layup.

Of course, what do I know?

It's easy to make these critiques when I'm just taking photos from the hardwood. When watching a local game, I'll still be just as in awe as everyone else when one of our players fires off a three-pointer and it sails right through the net with barely a sound.



Unbearable tragedies jolt our small towns

WYOMING EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

David Peck
Lovell Chronicle

It still sends a jolt through the body to think about the tragedies of the last few days, events that we usually think of affecting other people or taking place in other places, not here in Big Horn County.

First came the news Friday that Lovell native JaDee Moncur was aboard a Bering Air flight that went down near Nome, Alaska, the previous day – the third major U.S. aircraft crash in two weeks. And by Friday night we knew: There were no survivors.

How do you process news like that? We don't usually know anyone aboard an ill-fated flight. But this time we did, and we mourned for Brent and Darlene Moncur and their family.

And then on Monday afternoon word began to spread of a shooting in Byron. And then came the

horrific news that a mother had shot her four children ages 2 through 9.

How is that possible, we asked ourselves – a loving mother – their mother – taking four innocent lives. It was nearly too horrible to contemplate – still is.

How? Why? Sorrow. Anger. Shock. Questions swirl, emotions stir. Hearts ache. It's too terrible to think about, but we must.

How can something like this take place in a tiny, close-knit community? How could somebody even think about doing something like that? How?

One of the benefits of living in a small community is that everybody knows everybody, but when something like this happens, it hurts all the more. We don't have the anonymity of a big city.

The investigation continues, and there will be no easy answers. But for now we must reach out to each other, talk and share with each other, hug each other. Think about not only the family and the little one fighting for her life in Salt Lake but also the first responders who arrived at

the scene and experienced the horror firsthand. These brave souls were the first to arrive at the home, and not only did they encounter shocking scenes but also the possibility of a live shooter.

Our law enforcement officers, ambulance crew members and medical staff who dealt with this tragedy have kids, too, and to see what they saw must be beyond difficult for them. They need our support and care. Please reach out to them.

Think about members of the Byron community and the teachers, staff members and students at Rocky Mountain Elementary School who know the Blackmer kids. They are in mourning, too.

Days later, the shooting is still almost too horrific to process, but we must come together as a community, show love and support, pray and reach out. A GoFundMe page had already collected more than \$80,000 as of Wednesday afternoon.

And one last thing we should all do. Hug our kids and our grandkids. Hug them tight.

Difference of opinion?
Write a Letter to the Editor



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2023 Award-winning Newspaper



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:
Lord forgive me and I will be clean

by Dr. William F. Holland, Jr.

God's love and His provision of eternal salvation is the greatest peace and security we could ever hope for. We heard His truth, became convicted, we saw our need for a Savior, and by faith we repented of our sin, and cried out for Him to save us. Second Corinthians assures us that when we receive Jesus as our Lord, our old spirit becomes converted into a brand new creation. Within this process, we became a child of God and our names were written in the Lamb's Book of Life. How do we know this? Because the Bible teaches in many places including John 3:16, that whoever places

their trust in God shall be saved. After we repent and are baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit, God's plan is for us to grow strong in our faith, and become spiritually mature as the goal is to take on His nature and character – to be like Him. If there comes a time when we intentionally step off the narrow path, we can become what is called lukewarm or backslidden. I sing an old song called, "Your drifting too far from the shore" which is saying the Lord is beckoning for you to come back to Him. Yes, we all sin, but this does not mean we are lost again. The Holy Spirit will always convict God's children to repent and then lead them back into a right relationship with Him. Remember

the passage in Matthew 18:12 where Jesus leaves the ninety-nine to bring the one wayward sheep back into the fold. He loves His children and will never give up on us when we stray. Romans chapter 6 explains about the transformed life and the dangers of sin after we are born-again. We should be encouraged to know that we cannot be made to disobey God as sin cannot overcome us or hold us captive any longer. Verse 14 says, "For sin shall not have dominion over you: you are no longer under the law, but now under His grace." Verse 16 makes it clear that if we are drawn back into the darkness of disobedience, it's because we made the decision to follow the enemy and

turn away from God. "Don't you realize that you choose your own master? You can embrace sin and death or obedience to God. The one to whom you offer yourself, they will be your master, and you will be their slave. Do you not comprehend that when you yield yourselves to either God or the devil, your behavior reveals the one you truly love?" The point is that when we sin, we do not need to be saved and baptized again, we simply need to to be sorrowful for our rebellion and to repent for how we allowed our carnality to control us and disappoint Him. Sin should make the child of God nauseated and if it does not convict us, that individual has lost their rev-

erential fear of God's holiness. He is faithful to forgive and restore all those who are sincere. Grace allows us to be reconciled, and rededicate our promises to love and serve Him and be restored in our personal relationship with Him. First John 1:6-10 reminds us of His willingness to forgive and reconcile us back to Him. Verse nine says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Psalm 51 is a beautiful collection of verses for repentant prayer. Verses 10-12, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit

from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and sustain me by your mercy." Romans chapter 6 is such an amazing explanation of how a Christian has died to sin and is buried with Christ in His death. Then we are resurrected into a new creation as Christ rose from the dead by the glory of God the Father. Now when God sees us, He sees the righteousness of Christ. Romans 5:1-2 declares, that we have been justified by faith, which gives us joy and peace. May we wake up every morning and ask for an awareness of God's presence, that we might be focused on Christ and be willing to do His will. Yes, we will be tempted to sin, but we are always given the freedom to choose good or evil.

Many people are experiencing fear

by Susan Dyer

Many people are experiencing fear, anger, and frustration right now --- and others are expressing a feeling of freedom or joy they had lost. I am not going to join in the debates over politics that are currently taking place on social media. I am, however, going to tell you that I have met an old friend on Facebook, and share with you some of her story and her faith in Jesus Christ. I first met Corrie ten Boom on Wednesday morning in Greeley, Colorado in the spring of 1974. I have no idea how she ended up speaking to a Bible Study group at the church I attended. I had not heard of her, but her story, spoken in broken English, has had a lasting influence on my life. She was in the United States promoting her book and movie, "The Hiding Place." A sweet, yet tough, 81-year-old woman was touring the United States and other countries with the sole purpose of spreading the Good News of Jesus by telling her story. Corrie, born in 1892, grew up as the youngest of four children with her parents near Amsterdam, Nether-

lands. As a young woman she worked as an apprentice watchmaker alongside her father. The lives of the ten Booms changed drastically as the Hitler armies marched through Europe. The ten Boom family began harboring Jewish refugees in their home, in a secret room the size of a small closet, off Carrie's bedroom. It is estimated that 800 were housed then rescued from their home. In February of 1944 an informant led the Nazi soldiers to the ten Boom home. The entire family was transported by train to a prison camp near Berlin. Corrie related many of her faith stories that have become a part of my own spiritual understanding and I hope the stories of her miracles will give you hope also. Corrie remembered that, as a small child, she told her father of the fears she had that she would not have the strength to face difficulties that might come in her life. Her father's advice was this: "If you are going to travel by train to a far destination, would I give you your ticket 3 weeks in advance? No! I would hand you your ticket when you were ready to board the train. So it is with

our Heavenly Father. He supplies all our needs at the time we call on Him." Corrie took a small Bible with her when forced to leave home. As she and her sister Betsie stood in line to be processed into the prison camp, she feared the Bible would be taken from her. She prayed, "Lord please send angels to surround me so the guards will not see me and take my Bible. Her prayer was answered as the person ahead of her, and her sister behind her were patted down and searched, and she walked by them as though invisible. The sisters were placed with 700 other women in a building that was meant to hold 200. They slept on hay mattresses among lice and fleas. In fact, the lice were so bad that guards did not come in to monitor or punish them. Corrie read her Bible to the women morning and evening. Many had not heard of Jesus, but became to believe in Him through Corrie's readings. She tore the Bible, verse by verse, to share with others, sharing hope with the verses. Naturally, sickness invaded the camp. Somehow Corrie was able to smuggle a little bottle of vitamins

from the infirmary, and dole them out drop by drop to the women in her building. Miraculously, the vitamin bottle did not empty. Corrie's sister, Betsie, died in prison December 1944 and Corrie was released days later because of a 'clerical error' in her paperwork. The watchmaker returned home while God continued to prepare her to share her story with the world, spreading the stories of hope to millions. Years following her release from prison, Corrie met one of her biggest challenges. During her travels, she recognized one of the men who had been a guard in the prison. Hate swelled up inside her. She remembered the horrible suffering endured by so many by the cruelty of the guards. It was then that God presented her with her biggest lesson. He brought to her mind the sufferings of Christ: the beatings and the horrible crucifixion. She then remembered His words from the cross, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Corrie tentatively walked toward the former guard, stretched out her hand to him, and offered him forgiveness. She acknowledged that was a

true miracle, because she could not have overcome that hatred on her own. As I mentioned earlier, I met an old friend on Facebook. By the miracle of technology, I am given a gift of wisdom from her nearly every day. This wisdom means so much to me that I often pass it on to others, and from the responses I get, it helps them too. Corrie Ten Boom died in 1983 at 91 years of age. Her love of Jesus and the wisdom of her life continue to

live on. Perhaps her stories of miracles and forgiveness will help you with the challenges you are facing this day. "Even when the world grows darker, God's word shines even brighter. No matter the trials, His truth never dims. Like a candle in the night, it guides, comforts, and strengthens us. Keep holding His promises." Corrie ten Boom Psalm 119:105 KJV - "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path".

Senior Center Menu

THURSDAY

Chicken Pot Pie w/Potatoes, Peas & Carrots, Tossed Salad, Peaches, Milk

FRIDAY

Meatloaf, Wild Rice Blend, Steamed Cabbage, Wheat Roll, Banana Dessert, Milk

MONDAY

Chicken Enchilada, Spanish Rice, Zucchini, Pineapple Tidbit, Milk

TUESDAY

Hot Turkey Sandwich, Mashed Potato & Gravy, Steamed Carrots, Apricots, Milk

WEDNESDAY

Spaghetti w/Meatballs, Tossed Salad, Broccoli, Garlic Bread, 1/2 Banana, 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	

REFLECTIONS FROM OUR FILES

February 19, 1925 100 Years Ago

Raising Sugar Beets in Higher Altitudes

Platte Valley Said to Have Favorable Soil and Climate for Sugar Beet Culture

The attention of ranchmen in our valley is called to the following item, reprinted from the Denver Record-Stockman, concerning the San Luis Valley in Colorado, where the American Beet Sugar Co. is now signing up contracts for sugar beet acreage.

“Although conditions have been far from the viewpoint of the stockman and rancher during the last four years, the growers of this valley are looking forward to the future with a faith that portends steady progress

and development. Production costs have been steadily mounting here, as elsewhere, while the prices obtained for the product of the ranch and range have been inadequate. Death losses have caused a decrease in the number of lambs fed in the valley until less than 35,000 have been finished here this year on pea fields, as compared to several hundred thousand in former years. The purebred industry, in a fair way to assume leadership when the crash came, has been struggling against heavy odds.

“Some have become discouraged and quit, but

the majority are holding on , awaiting the better times they feel sure are in store for the industry. Investigations made during the past couple of years by the Colorado Agricultural College appear to have solved the difficulty that stockmen have been fighting against in the matter of feeding sheep on peas, and this industry is in a fair way to revive.

‘This wonderful valley, 75 miles long by about 40 wide, 8,000 feet above the level of the sea, with its fringe of snow capped mountains on every side, is highly productive, and crops last year were good despite the

fact that the season was dry. Potatoes made a good yield and growers have been receiving 75c to \$1 a Cwt. for them, depending upon the method of marketing.

“Efforts of the American Beet Sugar Company to sign up enough contract for acreage to warrant the erection of a beet sugar factory in the valley appear to be meeting with success, and it is reasonably certain that such a factory will be built during the next year or two. The locating of a beet sugar factory in the valley would furnish a sure market for the product of farms and ranches, and make the farmers

and ranchers independent of transportation conditions, a situation which is causing some dissatisfaction at present. It would also furnish the by-products with which to finish a large amount of the stock raised in the valley.”

Some of us have thought that the elevation of the Platte Valley was too great for success in sugar beet growing. The San Luis Valley is 8,000 feet high, while we are less than 7,000 feet at Saratoga.

It has come to our knowledge that in the past year or two there have been at least two experts in the employ of

Colorado sugar companies sent in here without our knowing it, for an examination of climatic and soil conditions, and that they have reported favorably, both as to climate and soil.

What a beet sugar factory here would mean to Saratoga, Encampment, the ranch people and our railroad, we do not need to tell.

While most of us have been asleep in the matter, it would seem that we have had good friends working for us without our even knowing it. Next week we hope to have additional and most interesting news on this subject.

February 16, 1950 75 Years Ago

School Board Votes Money to Complete Fund for Band Uniforms

The Saratoga high school band is practicing for a public concert, to be held around the first of April, and at that time the entire organization will be completely uniformed, according to Mrs. Nancy Pennock, instructor. This will be made possible through recent action by the school board, in voting sufficient money to complete purchase of coats for the band members.

A campaign of entertainments and other projects had been under way for several months, in an effort to secure enough money to put the band in uniform.

The community has gotten behind the campaign with considerable enthusiasm, with fund-raising projects by numerous local organizations, individual donations, and other means. The band members

have launched several projects of their own. And up to this week, \$1,200 had been raised.

The above money has been more than sufficient to buy caps, ties, and trousers for the entire group. Now, with the appropriation set up by the school board added to funds on hand, the new coats will soon be forthcoming, and the uniforms will be complete.

The band has already made several appearances in the new caps, ties and trousers. The caps are purple with gold band, and the trousers are purple with gold side stripe. Mrs. Pennock has announced the new coats will be gold, completing a bright and striking uniform. The new uniforms will place the local band on a par with any similar organization in the state when

it makes its frequent public appearances.

Mrs. Pennock revealed that several more donations have been made recently, as follows: Saratoga Woman's Club, \$21.00; Lions Club, \$234.06, Mitwalsky Bros., \$10.00; Joseph Munz, \$15.00; and O.E. S. lodge, \$15.00.

Mrs. Pennock said that she and the band members deeply appreciate the

fine help which has been extended in bringing the uniform project to a successful conclusion, and that she believes everyone will be amply repaid for their efforts when they see the young folks of the band appear resplendent in their complete uniforms. She said the band will probably parade for the community as soon as the new coats arrive.

February 20, 1975 50 Years Ago

Action on possible gun ban urged

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department this week urged sportsmen to begin a massive letter writing campaign to head off what could become a total ban on firearm ammunition and a subsequent end to hunting in Wyoming.

While the attempted ban, which was initiated by a Chicago-based anti-gun group, is specifically aimed at outlawing handgun am-

munition as a “hazardous substance,” Wyoming Game and Fish authorities warned that other types of ammunition and components could easily be cut off if handgun ammunition were banned.

The anti-gun effort began last fall when the Committee for Handgun Control petitioned the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission to ban

handgun ammunition as a “hazardous substance” such as dynamite, under the Hazardous Substance Act.

The Commission turned down the anti-gun group's request on the basis that such a ruling would overstep its authority; however, a federal court order Dec. 19, ordered the Commission to reconsider its decision.

A proposal to ban handgun ammunition is to be

drafted by the Commission and published in the Federal Register to assess public response over a 30-day period. Clair Palmour, a member of the Consumer Product Safety Commission staff in Washington estimates the agency has already received more than 10,000 phone calls. She added, however, that “... phone calls are not being recorded or their com-

ments taken down over the (commission's) toll-free line.”

For this reason, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department is urging sportsmen throughout the state to write, rather than call, the Commission. Correspondence should be directed in care of “Handgun Bullets,” U.S. Consumer Product Safety Co., Ission, Office of the Secretary, 1750

K Street, N.W. Washington, D.C., 20207.

The Game and Fish Department is also urging sportsmen to contact their congressmen: Rep Teno Roncalio, 1314 Longworth Bldg., Washington, D.C., 20515; Sen. Gale McGee, 344 Senate Office Bldg., Washington D.C., 2051; Sen. Clifford Hansen, Room 3229 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington D.C., 20510.

February 16, 2000 25 Years Ago

Six rescued over weekend

Saratoga's Search and Rescue pulls snowmobilers from the Spring Creek Bridge area

Five regular members of Saratoga's Search and rescue squad fought ground blizzards, over two feet of fine powder, and the midnight hour to reach six stranded snowmobilers early Sunday morning.

Brian Bensen, Marty Huntley, Chuck McVey, Gary Steele and Pat Waliser receive a call from Saratoga's police department at approximate-

ly midnight Saturday that a group of snowmobilers from Cheyenne and Thornton, Colo., had phoned in a plea for help.

Once the group was retrieved, the Saratoga Volunteer Fire Department's Shaun McBride drove them back to the upper parking lot on WYO 70, according to Bensen.

Rescued were David McClintock, 56; David Gillan, 57, and his wife Nicole, 50, all of Cheyenne; and McDlin-

tock's brother William, 52, and daughter Michelle, 24, both of Thornton, Colo., according to Lt. Louis Braun of the Carbon County Sheriff's office, who coordinated the rescue effort.

‘They were really tired.’

Bensen said that when his squad reached the party at the Spring Creek Bridge the group were “very tired, very wet, exhausted and shaken.”

The group had been snowmobiling all day in the Battle Mountain area. “They had

seen that it wasn't snowing on the Baggs side, and decided to take the trail to Spring Creek,” Bensen explained. “Then they hit the serious powder, and their age and inexperience caught up with them. They got bogged down in the snow and were running low on fuel...basically they got in over their heads.

‘The one guy with any snowmobiling experience was the most tired of all because he'd been digging out his friends' snowmobiles all day.’

Bensen noted that the group had demonstrated great presence of mind, having constructed a shelter for themselves out of pine boughs in which to wait.

‘And they knew where they were and gave good directions for finding them. They new they needed to stay put and wait for help, too.’

Bensen handed out gloves from the emergency kit and his family's own supply as the squad got ready to bring the stranded party back to civilization.

‘Thank goodness they had communications.’

Bensen explained that the group had a cell phone with them, and first trie to use a cellular 911 service.

‘That didn't work, though.’

According to Braun, the group reached McClintock's son in Cheyenne, who notified authorities from there.

“What's really interesting,” Bensen said, “Was that their cell phone battery was dead. They put it on the muffler of one of their snow machines and ran the machine for a while to heat up the battery. They were able to make two calls that way, one to AAA and one to the guy in Cheyenne.

Had the muffler trick not worked, they might still be up there, Bensen noted. “I don't know how soon they would have actually been missed.”

‘We didn't just retrieve people.’

Earlier Saturday evening the snowmobilers had found it necessary to abandon one of its six snowmachines, Bensen said.

“By the time we got to them, these people didn't care if they ever saw another snow machine,” he said.

But later in the day on Sunday, Bensen and Waliser headed back in to the area where the snowmobile had been left to retrieve it, and found conditions Sunday afternoon to be just as bad as they were early Sunday morning when the rescue itself took place.

Carbon County Sheriff's Office Arrest Record

January 31, 2025 to February 6, 2025

January 31

Dwight Phillips of Casper, Wyoming was arrested for violation of a protection order.

February 2

- John Simpson of Rock Springs, Wyoming was arrested for DUI due to alcohol <.08% — 1st offense within 10 years, failure to provide proof of insurance, driving a vehicle within a single lane, vehicle exceeding 75 mph on the interstate — 6+ mph over and open container of alcohol in a moving vehicle — 1st offense.

February 3

- Colton Demars of Rawlins, Wyoming was arrested on a warrant.
- Gregory Gully of Fargo, North Dakota was arrested for driving while license suspended or revoked.

- Estelle Shafer of Gainesville, Georgia was arrested for 3 misdemeanor counts of using another's credit card — under \$1,000 and 3 felony counts of using another's credit card — over \$1,000.

February 4

- Trace Hall of Rawlins, Wyoming was arrested as a sentenced inmate.
- Brandi Jones of Rawlins, Wyoming was arrested for use or under the influence of drugs and possession of drugs in plant form — 3 oz or less.

February 5

- Matthew McLellan of Pueblo, Colorado was arrested for a DUI due to a controlled substance, possession of drugs in plant form — 3 oz or less and felony possession of drugs.
- Joshua Squibb of Coun-

cil Bluffs, Iowa was arrested for felony forgery of writing purporting to be another.

February 6

- Michael Arrington of Brighton, Colorado was arrested for driving while license cancelled/suspended/revoked, vehicle exceeding 75 mph on the interstate — 6+ mph over, interference with a peace officer and possession of a controlled substance — 3 grams or less.
- Stavontae Gilliard of Denver, Colorado was arrested on a warrant, driving while license cancelled/suspended/revoked, interference with a peace officer and possession of drugs in powder/crystalline form — > 3 grams.
- David Oliver of Rawlins, Wyoming was arrested for domestic battery — 1st offense.

The Saratoga Lions Club thanks the following volunteers for helping with another successful Saratoga Skijoring!

Abby Raymer
Alan Williams
Amy Wingate
Anthony Natale
Austin Griffith
Bob Lauman
Brenda Zieger
Brittany DeKoch
Carbon County Veterinary Hospital
Carter Edwards
Cody Hogan
Cody Sewell
Cody Waldrip
Craig Kopasz
Cruz
Dan Johnson
Dans Trucking
Duffy Counsell
Ellie Dana
Eric Hugheston

Eric Padgett
Ethan Hatch
George Griffin
Hank Jewell
Jamie Messina - Edwards
Jay Stratton
Jim Beckman
John Ellis
John Zieger
Karen Youngberg
Kasey Koller
Katie Haver
Kevin Samsel
Kristel Lessard

Levi Wolfe
Maddie
Mandy Westerman
Mark Wingate
Mrs. Ward's & Mrs. Nelson's 6th Grade Classes
Nora Jewell
Patimo Davis
Patrick
Posey Wagon
Randi McCargar
Randy Raymer
Randy Schnack
Reegan Jones

Reese White
Richard Raymer
Rick Hughes
Rocky Fiedor
Rori Mahan
Ryan Munks
Shane Mispel
Shively Truck
Sierra Hatch
Sonya King
Statton Mosbey
Susan Smith
Tamara Stone
Tessa Peterson
Thomas Scholer
Tony Lamb
Town of Saratoga Streets Crew
Travis Blalock
Will Faust



PEOPLE OF THE PLATTE

Ten Years of Capturing Platte Valley Beauty



Lori Kostur concentrates on her latest creation.

Photo by Elliott Deins

By Elliott Deins

elliott.saratogasun@gmail.com

Wielding just brushes, some paint and a whole lot of creativity, Lori Kostur has been capturing and adding to the Platte Valley's beauty for the last decade. Her hope is that her art helps people see the beauty in the world – whether it's a massive mural spanning across the walls of the Memorial Hospital of Carbon County or a depiction of the old blue 1957 Studebaker covered in snow behind the Post Office. "I'd like to help people see that there's so much beauty around us, even in the simple things," She said, "even in the little things. You just take the time to look around and see the beauty that's around us every day and in every little thing."

“You Gotta Put Miles on the Brush”

Last week in her home studio, Kostur worked on a painting of her granddaughter opening the flaps of a tent to a snowy scene during a camping trip last fall. Music played as she worked her brush against the prepared wood to achieve the proper shading of a backlit hand behind a canvas tent. Behind her is a table covered in paintings ranging from snow covered cabins to red cowgirl boots to an onion. Standing above the rest is a framed painting of a wooden barn with a mountain backdrop composed by Kostur's first inspiration, her grandmother. As a child growing up in the Front Range area

of Denver, Kostur was introduced to painting by both her grandmother and mother, she said. "They worked all the time," Kostur said about her grandmother and mother painting, "they just dabbled in it mostly, but they always kept me with art supplies which is nice." Through her grandmother, Koster learned an invaluable lesson about persistence and practice in painting. "She didn't paint enough," Kostur said about her grandmother, " but she painted. Then when she did paint, she'd be frustrated because it wasn't what she wanted, which is just a matter of practice and putting in the time but she didn't have that. You gotta put the miles of the brushes." Some of Kostur's earliest painting memories come from trying to copy her grandmother's depictions of landscapes and animals. "I always thought they were really beautiful," she said about the painting. As a child, Kostur started with paint by numbers but admitted to never being able to wait for the paint to dry and doing them all at once. She did lots of pastels and lots and lots of drawing, she said. "I always loved to draw," she said. "I'd sit and draw all kinds of stuff. I'd get in trouble at school for drawing horses on my desk. I'd space out and be off somewhere drawing, you know, just in la la land in my mind." Art was something Kostur gravitated to. She struggled all the way through grade school and didn't want to go to University after

graduating in 1983, she said. With extra encouragement from art teachers, she attended Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design for two years and earned a degree in fine art. "It was down in Denver," Kostur said about RMCAD. "I could access it easily. I still wasn't sure about the career thing, I just knew I wanted to keep pursuing the art and that was the way to do it." While pursuing her degree, Kostur also worked for her parents' drywall company. The surprising thing about art school for Kostur was the amount of drawing live models there was, she said. "We painted and drew from models the whole time," she said, "lots and lots of nudes. You don't see that in my work these days, but there's nothing like drawing from an actual person, a figure, to learn how to draw, learn the anatomy and work from life." With student loans to pay off, Kostur got a job working as a sand blaster and cut off person at a bronze casting factory in Arvada, Colo. – which is where she got her first big commission in the late 80's. "The National Mining Hall of Fame needed a sculpture, a big sculpture," she said. Kostur told the museum she'd do it for the cost of materials because she was working in the foundry. She got the commission to sculpt a nine-foot-tall jack miner. "I gave myself a deadline that was pretty unrealistic," she said. "I almost pulled it off. I was only late by a day, but it was still late. Usually

From murals to a painting in the Wyoming State Capitol, Lori Kostur has become a prominent Platte Valley painter

people give themselves a whole year to sculpt and put something through the Foundry and I said 'yeah, I can do it in six months.' So there were a lot of all nighters." Eventually, the bronze factory shut down. Kostur went back to work for a little drywall company in Vail, Colo. which is where she met her husband, Dale Kostur. "We got married," Kostur said, "worked for a couple years in the Front Range, my parents gave us the dry-wall business and then we decided to move to Huntley in Southeast Wyoming. We lived there for about 25 years, raised cattle and our kids and my art career kind of went on the backburner." With money being tight and the duties of motherhood, Kostrur just didn't have the resources to pursue art, she said. "I can use that as an excuse, but I could have still been drawing." Her initial push back into art came from her, at the time, sixth-grade daughter during an art show and competition in Torrington, Wyo. "I walked through that show with my daughter and said, 'you know I could do this,'" Kostur said. "And she said, 'Mom, you say that every year. You need to do it.' That got me back into painting and getting ready for shows." It took a while for the finite skills of oil painting to come back, according to Kostur. She was used to drawing but almost had start over again with painting. Her abilities came back fairly quickly after continuously working at it for a few years, she said. "I've been pretty busy trying to hone my skills." Kostur and her family had been vacationing in Saratoga for 15 years when they decided to move in 2015, she said. "I love to hunt and fish," she said. "Dale loves the hot springs and the golf. We'd come here for a little

getaway for a few days. When the kids grew up and moved off, we sold our place and decided to retire here. That's when I really, really hit the art hard and heavy. Wanted to get back into painting, I've been pretty busy trying to hone my skills." With award-winning paintings and galleries displayed everywhere from the Wyoming State Capitol to Brush Creek Ranch, Kostur certainly has been honing her skills. She's done more than just oil work too, as can be seen by the patriotic mural on the building at the Northwest corner of First Street and Walnut Avenue. "I'd like to help people see that there's so much beauty around us, even in the simple things," ~ Lori Kostur on her hopes for her art

"I have a friend who'll text me that she's sitting in the waiting room and always enjoys seeing it," Kostur said about her MHCC mural. "It's relaxing, calming, which was what I was hoping for because hospitals can be hectic." "Draw, draw, draw as much as you can" With a plethora of wild-life and mountainscapes, Saratoga is a perfect location for Kostur's bread and butter – en plein air, which according to Kostur is a "fancy french word for painting outside in fresh air." "I love being outside," she said. "I love going in the mountains and trying to paint in different places. I'll paint just about anything that'll hold still. Old pickups or buildings or anything. Something That'll catch your eye. It's a good challenge and I want to get really good at it. The better I get at plein air painting, the better my studio paintings get." Her favorite part about painting is "just going out and painting," Kostur said. Her least favorite is all the not painting parts like framing, marketing and keeping her website updated. Kostur's advice for any artist trying to find their way to practice drawing. "Draw, draw, draw as much as you can," she said. "That's the foundation to everything. A good painting usually starts with a good drawing, so keep your skills sharp and draw as much as you possibly can all the time." "I love this place" Kostur loves the Platte Valley and being a member of the community, she said. "I love this place," she said about the Valley. "I love the small town feel. I love all the local people. It's fun to see people walking by, saying 'hi,' stopping, visiting and talking with and encouraging each other, helping each other. It's a really nice little small town."

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Sports

Carbon County Invite Wrestles Saratoga

The Weather Did Not Curtail Tough Competition Over the Weekend

by Jason Campbell,
Special to The Sun

Saratoga Middle-High school hosted nine other teams last weekend for the Carbon County Invite. Coach Rusty Arnold commented that, 'the boys wrestled well (and) had some tough losses and some exceptional wins.' Six of the eight SMHS grapplers had podium finishes, with Ace Arnold and Kanean Roberts both taking second place in their respective weight classes.

The school honored its two seniors during the tournament, (Kanean Roberts and Skyler Wood), and acknowledged their contributions to the team. The SMHS Panther team placed 5th in their tournament out of the ten teams. Saturday's bouts featured several state-championship level matchups, which provided the crowd a great opportunity to watch very high-level wrestling.

106 pounder Ace Arnold came close to another first-place finish, but came up just short in the championship match to take second. Arnold's victory against Ticknor (Glenrock) set up a rematch against Cyrus (Dubois) in the finals. Cyrus prevailed in the battle, pinning Ace in the second period. Arnold and Cyrus have battled back-and-forth over the last two seasons, with them trading victories fairly evenly. Coach Rusty's thoughts on the match were, 'hopefully we meet him in the state finals and are ready for him. A good loss should be a motivation for us to push really hard these next two weeks.'

Tate Zeller had his first weekend wrestling at 106 pounds. He lost his first match to Cyrus (Dubois) and was then pinned by Ticknor (Glenrock). Zeller finished the tournament on a high note by pinning Campbell from Pinedale for a 5th-place medal. Coach Arnold talked about Tate saying, 'we have seen a lot of improvement from him

(Zeller) this season and hope to continue on with some more wins.'

Hayden Sutttee wrestled for the Panthers at 132 and brought home the 4th-place medal. He began the tournament by losing to Marinez (Wind River) before winning his next two matches against Cooper (Pinedale) and Nelson (HEM). Hayden then exacted revenge against Martinez in the consolation semis with a dominating major decision. Sutttee faced Valdes (Rawlins) in the consolation finals, but lost by fall to secure a 4th place finish. 'He has a lot of determination and I look forward to the rest of this season with him,' said coach Arnold.

Senior Kanean Roberts was SMHS's other second-place medalist. He won his first match by fall against Haskell (Moorcroft), then beat Rivera-Lopez (Glenrock) to make it to the final contest. Unfortunately, Rivera (Glenrock) was victorious against Roberts in that bout. Rusty had this to say about Roberts, 'Kanean has been fighting sickness most of this season. He has a lot of potential and I hope to get him on the podium for state.'

The Panther 144 pounder, Ben Miller, lost both of his matches in the Invite. Coach Arnold reflected on Ben's performance stating, 'Ben is a kid that doesn't give up and just had a tough draw.' Miller lost to Martin (Glenrock) and Wazelle (Rawlins). Ben mentioned during the tournament that he is 'wrestling better than last year' and hopes to have a good showing at regionals and then state.

Saratoga's other senior is 150-pound wrestler Skyler Wood. Skyler had several tough draws, losing both to Coffman (Niobrara County) and Zamarripa (Rawlins). Coach Rusty stressed that 'Skyler is a great wrestler,' and that 'I think we can dial him in for regionals and state and go out on a high note.'



Galloway O'Leary puts on some punishing moves.

Photo by Jason Campbell



Ace Arnold does some heavy lifting at the meet.

Photo by Jason Campbell

Coach Arnold praised 165-pound Galloway O'Leary by stating he 'had a great weekend placing 3rd.' O'Leary's first match was a victory against Coulter (Glenrock). He lost in the semifinals to Anderson (Moorcroft) but finished with a third-place win against Sorensen from Glenrock. Coach continued, saying that O'Leary 'shows a ton of talent' and hopefully he can 'see how good he is and keep a winning mindset through the rest of the season.'

175-pound wrestler Carson Everett ended up 4th on the weekend. Coach Arnold was pleased that he 'had some good matches' and needs to put aside his doubt and he will end up wrestling very well. Carson began his meet with a pin against Kelly (Pinedale). The semifinal matchup was a loss for Everett versus Posey (Wyoming Indian). Everett won in the consolation semis to Jensen (Wind River) before losing to Sorensen (Glenrock) for a 4th-place podium position.

Coach Rusty talked about how there is a tendency for the team to put too much pressure on themselves, which affects how they perform on the mat. All wrestlers have to deal with the feelings of doubt and self-confidence issues when facing tough opponents. The difficulty lies in the fact that each wrestler is singularly responsible for the outcome of the matches, since a grappler doesn't have teammates who can help fix a mistake or get them out of a tough situation. Even so, the coach felt that, 'all in all (it was) a great weekend for Saratoga wrestling!' Arnold finished by declaring 'if we can have a great week of practice we should do well and get everybody to state. We will work extremely hard these next two weeks and be ready for the challenge of getting on that podium for state!'

The SMHS wrestling team next competes on Friday at the regional tournament in Lingle/Fort Laramie.



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SPORTS/ACTIVITIES



Eckerley Pickett, 5, defends Tessa Peterson, 21.



Sami Anderson, 22, looks to make a move against Peterson, 21.



Laenee Barkhurst, 33, lunges through the corridor by Kyenna Jackson, 45.



Kristie Jordan, 12, picks her lane by Cassidy Herring, 45.



Brain Smith, 1, fights his way past Burris Berger, 12.

Battle of the Platte



Kannon Gilbert, 20, leaps for the ball against Hazen Williams, 14.



Hunter Johnston, 20, gets by Dashaal Baysinger, 10.

Photos by Elliott Deins

Menus

CCSD#2

Thursday:

Breakfast — Blueberry Muffin, Fruit, Juice, Milk

• Lunch — Hand Pressed Quarter Pounder with Cheese, Tater Tots, Fruit, Milk

Friday:

Breakfast — Waffles with fruit and whipped cream, Juice, Milk

• Lunch — Pizza, Salad, Fruit, Milk, Dessert Bar

Monday:

Breakfast — Biscuit with Honey or Gravy, Fruit, Juice, Milk

• Lunch — Popcorn Chicken Bowl, Hot Veggie, Fruit, Milk

Tuesday:

Breakfast—Peach Smoothie, Scooby Doo Cookies, Fruit, Milk

• Lunch — Sloppy Joe's, Smile Fries, Hot Veggie, Fruit, Milk

Wednesday:

Breakfast — Breakfast Bagel Pizza, Slushy Juice, Fruit, Milk

• Lunch — Mac & Cheese, Hot Veggie, Fruit, Milk, Pudding Cup

WEEKEND SPORTS SCHEDULE

Thursday, February 20th

Encampment Basketball vs LSRV • Encampment 5:00 pm

Indoor Track • Simplot Games

Saratoga Basketball vs North Park • North Park 4:30 pm

Friday, February 21th

Indoor Track • Simplot Games

Saturday, February 22th

Indoor Track • Simplot Gamers

Wrestling • Regionals In Lingle



Tyrel Brown, 15, protects the ball from Max Jones, 11.

SPORTS/ACTIVITIES

Encampment Clinches Regionals

The Tigers sweep the Panthers and secure spots in postseason

By Elliott Deins
elliott.saratogasun@gmail.com

The Encampment boys and girls varsity basketball teams clinched postseason appearances after sweeping Saratoga in the Panther Den last Thursday.

Platte Valley basketball bragging rights belong to Encampment after the Boys won 52-44, the Lady Tigers eked out a 41-38 victory in a must win game and a season sweep of the Panthers.

With the victories, the Tigers secured trips to Regionals and eliminated the Panthers.

“Saratoga is a great team,” Girls Head Coach Mandy Westerman said. “I’m sad for them that they weren’t able to make it to Regionals. They had a really good season and I’m excited to see them next year. It could have easily been us in that scenario.”

Lady Tigers

After a victorious trip to Saratoga last Thursday, the Lady Tigers moved to 10-11

and 4-5 in conference play.

They sit at fourth on the 1A Southwest Conference Table despite having a better record than third place Farson-Eden – who have the same conference record but hold a victory over the Tigers.

A win-and-in away game against a rival school with an environment as rowdy and cacophonous as the Saratoga Panther Den is a tall task but with a gritty fourth period effort, the Lady Tigers rose to the occasion and locked up a trip to Regionals.

“They used it all to their advantage,” Westerman said about her Tigers. “Everything about it was a driving force for them to go in there and play their game of basketball. Saratoga is a great team and we’re pretty evenly matched with them. So, that game could have gone a lot of ways.”

Westerman leaned on the basics to put a final stamp on the neck-and-neck game that had multiple lead changes leading up to the final period.

“We kind of had to put

a period to it and play our game of basketball,” she said. “In tight games like that, when you have two evenly matched teams with really skilled players, you can’t just throw in a miracle play. You have to go back to the basics and just be really good at what you do and how you play.”

“Saratoga is a great team and we’re pretty evenly matched with them. So, that game could have gone a lot of ways.”

~ Head Coach Mandy Westerman on playing the Panthers

With 22 played and only one game remaining, Westerman’s first regular season leading the Tigers has flown by and she’s ready to see what the postseason brings, she said.

“The season has gone so fast,” she said. “I was looking forward to this season

all summer long and all through the fall and I really enjoyed it. It’s almost kind of sad that it’s coming to an end but I think we’re ready to take this on, take these challenges on and see how far we can get.”

With nothing on the line but pride, the final game of the regular season will be against the Little Snake River Rattlers in the Encampment Tiger Den on Thursday, February 20 at 4:30 p.m.

“I’m not putting too much pressure on that game,” Westerman said about LSRV. “Whether we win or lose, we’re going to Regionals. It’s an opportunity to fix what needs fixing and sew up our loose ends. Obviously we want to win and I want it to be a big night for the four seniors I have but we have to keep our eyes on the bigger picture.”

Boys Varsity

With a win over the Panthers, the Encampment Boys Varsity Basketball Team moves to 13-8 and 5-4 in Conference play. The Tigers currently sit third on

the 1A Southwest Conference Table and have secured their trip to Regionals.

“We are just trying to take this season one week at a time,” Boys Head Coach Duane Gilbert said. “The game with Saratoga was a competitive one. They are a well coached team with a lot of talented players. We didn’t prepare any differently for that game than any other. We knew we needed to play good defense in order to have a chance against such a good shooting team.”

With the prominence of the three-pointer in today’s basketball, the Tigers are beginning to adapt in order to win in the post season.

“We worked most of the regular season on learning how to score from inside the arch,” Gilbert said. “Now we must become more multidimensional if we want to win in the post season.”

On top of physical skills, the Tigers have been working on the mental side of basketball too.

“As a team,” Gilbert said, “We have been working on making better decisions at certain times of the game.

Sometimes this takes a lot of patience along with believing in our system.”

Senior Night

“This week is our last home game and we will be honoring our seniors,” Gilbert said. “I coached them as freshmen and it has been fun to see how they have grown over the years.”

Nine Encampment seniors will be honored in between the girls and boys game against LSRV in the Encampment Tiger Den on Thursday, February 20. The evening will start at 4:30 p.m. with half of a Junior Varsity boys game followed by Girls and Boys Varsity.

“We’ve always had great senior support,” Westerman said. “Between us and the boys, we’ve got some really great kids who have contributed a lot to Encampment and are going to be leaving us, which is always hard. It’s also our last game of the whole season too. I’d really like to put a bow on it. I know Encampment and the Valley are going to come out and support and we really appreciate that.”

Panthers shut-out of postseason

With two more conference losses, Coach Jason Williams looking to the future of the program

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

Facing the Little Snake River Valley (LSRV) Rattlers on their homecourt on February 15, the Saratoga Panthers played a game which Head Coach Jason Williams said was a privilege to coach.

The game, having already gone into overtime due to a buzzer-beater three-pointer, was approaching a second overtime. With the Rattlers ahead by just 2 points, Newt Williams scored a reverse layup to tie the game.

“It looked like another extra frame, but then Snake River hit another buzzer beater three-pointer to

win the game,” said Coach Williams.

It was a game in which the Panthers had nothing to gain. Their postseason fate had already been decided on February 13 when they hosted the Encampment Tigers for a Battle of the Platte rematch.

Panthers vs. Tigers

When Encampment hosted the Panthers last month, the Tigers dealt Saratoga a narrow 6-point loss. On Thursday, with Encampment coming into the Panther Den, there was hope for a 1-1 result with their conference and Valley rivals.

“Thursday night’s game against the Encampment Tigers was a do-or-die for the Panthers and unfortunately

it didn’t come out in the Panthers favor,” said Coach Williams. “Saratoga jumped out to an early lead but the Tigers kept clawing their way back into it, and it was a tie game with 2 minutes remaining.”

While the Panthers could only get one free throw in during those two minutes, said Williams, Encampment put up 8 points to seal Saratoga’s fate.

The final score was 52-44, Encampment.

Jace Westring led the Panthers against Encampment as he scored 13 points and had 4 assists. Hazen Williams followed as he scored 9 points and pulled down 7 rebounds. Burris Berger scored 7 points and pulled down 10 rebounds.

Panthers vs. Rattlers

After being swept by the Tigers, Saratoga hit the road and traveled to Baggs to take on the Rattlers for their final conference game of the season. With the postseason out of reach, the Panthers could have given this rematch with LSRV the minimum amount of effort. They could have, but didn’t.

“The boys showed their true colors in a game that we had nothing to gain, after having already been eliminated from postseason play Thursday night,” said Coach Williams. “We jumped all over the Rattlers and led for nearly the entire game.”

Despite leading for almost the whole game, the Rattlers—who also had nothing

to gain or lose as they sit at No. 2 in the 1A Southwest Conference—managed to close the gap before sending the game into overtime. With seconds left, it seemed as if the game might go into double-overtime. With Saratoga leading 80-79, the Rattlers fired off a three-pointer to push ahead by 2 points. Newt Williams secured his reverse layup to tie the game at 82-82. With seven seconds left, LSRV responded with another three-pointer and held the ball during the rebound.

The final score was 85-82, LSRV.

Though last week meant two more conference losses for the Panthers, Coach Williams is looking at the silver linings and towards the future of the program.

“It [the Snake River game] was one of the funnest games I have had the privilege of coaching in,” said Coach Williams. “We saw a lot of good things in the game, especially offensively, and we see it as a great way to start building for next year since we won’t be losing any seniors.”

Following their two losses last week, Saratoga is sitting at No. 5 in the 1A Southwest Conference with a season record of 9-9 and 2-8 for conference play.

Saratoga will have hosted the Hanna, Elk Mountain, Medicine Bow (HEM) Miners junior varsity on February 18. They will travel to Walden on February 20 to take on the North Park Wildcats. Tip off is at 4:30 p.m.

‘Excited for the future’

Lady Panthers show growth even as postseason is beyond their reach

By Joshua Wood, Stevenson Newspapers

The Saratoga Lady Panthers only have two games left this season, their chance at a postseason cut off due to how matches went in the 1A Southwest Conference.

“In all the years past, four conference wins would’ve warranted at least a pig-tail game. This year, since Encampment and us have four conference wins, but Encampment beat us both times, they got the No. 4

seed and we are out as the No. 5 seed,” said Head Coach Logan Wright. “Farson beat Encampment twice and Baggs once, so they are in.”

Despite losing their opportunity at a postseason, Wright is looking at the positives. Both with their final game against the Little Snake River Valley (LSRV) Lady Rattlers and the season as a whole. Bright spots could also be found in the homecourt loss to the Encampment Lady Tigers.

When the Lady Panthers

were hosted in Tiger Nation last month, they left with a 12-point loss to Encampment as the Lady Tigers won 41-29. During the Battle of the Platte rematch, Encampment still put up 41 points, but the Lady Panthers were able to keep the score within 3 points.

The final score was 41-38, Encampment.

Koya Roberts led the Lady Panthers against Encampment as she scored 13 points. Cassidy Herring followed with 12 points.

The last conference game of the season against the Lady Rattlers was very similar in hints of improvement for Saratoga. When the Lady Panthers hosted LSRV last month, Saratoga was left with a 33-point loss to what is now the No. 2 team in the 1A Southwest.

“Our girls played really hard and stuck together. We had it tied in Baggs 50-50 with 1 minute left. Considering we lost by 33 to them the first time around, I was very happy with the effort of all

players,” said Wright. “Our JV (junior varsity) team lost to Baggs by 2 earlier in the year, and beat Baggs JV by almost 30 on Saturday. The improvement across the board by our younger group has all of us excited for the future.”

The final score was 57-50, LSRV.

Laenee Barkhurst scored 12 points against the Lady Rattler and pulled down 12 rebounds. Herring put up 8 points and pulled down 7 rebounds.

“Throughout the JV and

Varsity games, all girls in the program scored at least 1 point. I thought that was pretty cool and shows our depth,” said Wright.

Following their two losses, the Saratoga Lady Panthers are 9-9 for the season and 4-6 in conference play.

They will have hosted the Hanna, Elk Mountain, Medicine Bow (HEM) Lady Miners JV on February 18. On February 20, they will travel to Walden to face the North Park Lady Wildcats. Tip-off is at 4:30 p.m.



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

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Rawlins WY 82301
307-324-8494

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 Family Practice Clinic - Hanna
Peggy Lake, FNP-C

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

MHCC General Surgery Clinic
Ched Singleton, MD

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Rawlins WY 82301
307-324-6022

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 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

2221 West Elm Street
Rawlins, WY 82301
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Of Wyoming adults cite local newspapers or newspaper websites, as their “most trusted” source for PUBLIC NOTICES vs. government and related sources.

Public notices enable citizens to monitor actions of government, and serve as watchdogs for government officials and private interests.

Source: The Wyoming Market Study, 2022; by Coda Ventures

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To learn more, contact your local newspaper or the WPA at: 307.635.3905 • wyopress@wyopress.org

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Architectural & Engineering Services | Johnson County Library System

The Johnson County Library System is seeking proposals from qualified firms for the design and engineering of a 4,500 sq. ft. library facility in Kaycee, Wyoming. The project is funded through federal grants and aims to create a modern, ADA-compliant space that enriches the community. The winning applicant will refine existing floor plans, ensure compliance with Wyoming State Fire Marshal and county regulations, and provide construction-ready blueprints, site planning, and cost estimates. For the full RFP packet, contact Library Director, Lindsey Belliveau at director@johnsoncountylibraries.org

To download rfp packet go to <https://tinyurl.com/jclibraryrfp> or scan QR code.



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Saratoga Police Report

January 21, 2025 to February 3, 2025

CAD Calls

Animal Complaints (4); Assist Other Agencies (3); Domestic Disturbances

(2); Hot Pool Violations (2); K9 Deployment (1); Traffic Offenses (6); Unattended Death (1)

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THEME: THE OSCARS

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6. European tourist tax,

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See solution in Business Card Directory

15. Relating to wine, arch.

16. Tabletop mountains

17. H+, e.g.

18. Large key on the right

19. *” ____ Boys”

21. *”Emilia Pérez” lead-ing actress

23. H in HMS, sometimes

24. Kids’ get-away

25. Like certain Four

28. Queen of Carthage

30. Razzed

35. Scary fairytale creature

37. Soft drink

39. Like certain egg order

40. Sir Mix-____-

41. *Sean Baker’s original screenplay

43. Loyal, arch.

44. Caldecott award

46. Ascus, pl.

47. AI’s learning material

48. Harry ____, once of One Direction

50. Wearing footgear

52. *At 2024 Oscars, Ryan Gosling sang “I’m Just ____”

53. Sushi restaurant liba-tion

55. Unit of length of yarn

57. *This year’s Academy Awards host

60. *Elphaba and Galinda story

63. Antique shop item

64. Metal-bearing rock

66. Mountain nymph

68. Southeast Asian org.

69. Lavatory, abbr.

70. * ____ Theatre

71. Whimper

72. Sodium hydroxide

73. Follow

DOWN

1. Scottish cap

2. Barbara of “I Dream of Jeannie”

3. Not yet final, at law

4. Mold a mind

5. Like ear of corn that is ready to cook

6. Bride’s cover

7. Opposite of hence

8. Polynesian kingdom

9. Zn

10. “I’m ____ you!”

11. Property right

12. Acronym, abbr.

15. Evening worship

20. “All My Children” vixen

22. Invoice qty.

24. Colossus, pl.

25. Fizzes

26. End of a shoelace

27. *”The Brutalist” lead-ing actor

29. Spanish lady

31. Old, in Scottish

32. Go stealthily

33. Related on mother’s side

34. *Chalamet’s role

36. Et alibi, abbr.

38. St. Louis’ Gateway

42. Garlicky mayonnaise

45. Acne, technically

49. Famous frat house

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12		
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71						72				73				

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51. Crack

54. Grassy mound

56. Ohio metropolis

57. Yorkshire river

58. Tea or beer

59. Iranian money

60. We have

61. Mature elvers

62. Dabu-____, chili pep-per condiment

63. Operator’s equip.

65. *Jamie Foxx won Best Actor in 2005 for this biopic

67. Yellow #5, e.g.

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STYLES SHOD KEN

SAKI LEA

OBRIEN WICKED

CURIO ORE OREAD

ASEAN LAV DOLBY

MEWL LYE ENSUE

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

CALL FOR BIDS

Carbon County School District #2 (CCSD #2) is requesting Bid Proposals for Local Area Network (LAN) Switches and Wireless Access Points (WAP) to be purchased by CCSD #2 during the 2025-2026 school year. Official Bid documents may be obtained from Carbon County School District #2, Andrew Hays, Technology Integration Specialist, ahays@crb2.org . Bids must be submitted in accordance to the guidelines set forth in the RFP. Sealed bids will be received at Carbon County School District No. 2, Central Administration Office, 315 North First Street, P.O. Box 1530, Saratoga, Wyoming, 82331, until 2:00 p.m. on Monday March 17th, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Sealed Bids must be labeled with (a) proposer’s name and address, (b) request for proposal name [RFP CCSD2 IT 25-26], and proposal due date on outside of proposal envelope. Sealed bids arriving after this date and time will not be considered and will be returned to the bidder unopened. Awards will be announced on or after Wednesday, March 19th after winning vendor(s) have been notified and confirmed. Carbon County School District No. 2 reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive irregularities and informalities deemed to be not in the best interest of the School District. Preference is hereby given to resident Wyoming vendors, whenever possible.

-s- Nick Wamsley, Clerk
Carbon County School District #2

Legal #9112
Published in
The Saratoga Sun
February 13 and 20,2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SARATOGA TOWN COUNCIL
TITLE 17 SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE

In pursuant to Wyoming Code; notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held by the Town Council of Saratoga. The Town of Saratoga Planning and Zoning Commission has recently drafted an ordinance that will fully repeal and re-write Title 17 “Subdivisions”; within the Saratoga Town Code. The purpose of the revision is to clarify the process and development requirements when subdividing property or altering existing subdivision boundaries within the Town limits of Saratoga. The revision also clarifies the processes and assurances required when making public improvements during the subdivision process including but not limited to; roads, sewer, water, natural gas, curb and gutter, etc. Prior to recommending the ordinance for adoption to the Town Council, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on January 14th, 2025. The Town Council would like to give the public an additional opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed changes. The Town Council would appreciate any information that could be beneficial in improving this process for the staff, residents, developers, elected officials and residents alike. A copy of the proposed ordinance is available online at: www.townofsaratoga.org or at Town Hall at the address listed below. The hearing will take place at;
Time: 5:30pm Date: March 18th, 2025
Where: Town Hall (Council Chambers)
110 E. Spring Ave. Saratoga, WY 82331
This is an opportunity for the public to provide opinions, insights and information to the Town Council as it pertains to the subdivision process within the Town Limits. Written comments may be mailed to:
Saratoga Planning Department
P.O. Box 486
Saratoga, Wyoming 82331
For questions or information please contact the Saratoga Planning Department at the mailing address above or call 307-447-2882.

Legal #9113
Published in
The Saratoga Sun
February 20, and 27, 2025

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CARBON COUNTY, WYOMING
SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Case No. 2025-CV-00117

David Chatfield and Sarah Chatfield, husband and wife, and Kurt Stropas and Sheree Stropas, husband and wife, Plaintiffs, vs.
D.P. Brown and B.L. Brown, husband and wife, and each of their heirs, successors, and assigns, and all other unknown parties claiming an interest in certain real property located near Saratoga, Wyoming, in Township 17 North, Range 84 West, 6th P.M., Section 12: NE¼, Defendants.

NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

To: D.P. Brown and B.L. Brown, husband and wife, whose last known address is 1779 Cedarglen Drive, Aneheim, Calif. 82807, and each of their heirs, successors, and assigns, and all other unknown parties claiming an interest in certain real property located near Saratoga, Wyoming in Township 17 North, Range 84 West, 6th P.M., Section 12: NE¼, as more specifically described in the Complaint filed in this matter.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a civil complaint has been filed by David Chatfield and Sarah Chatfield, husband and wife, and Kurt Stropas and Sheree Stropas, husband and wife, in the District Court of the Second Judicial District, Carbon County, Wyoming. The matter is an action to quiet title to real property located in Carbon County, Wyoming. If you wish to defend this lawsuit, you must answer or otherwise plead within thirty (30) days of the last date of publication. If you fail to answer or otherwise plead, a default judgment will be entered against you, granting the relief requested by the Plaintiffs.

DATED this 10th day of February, 2025.

- s - Nicholas T. Haderlie, Attorney for Plaintiffs

Legal #9107
Published in
The Saratoga Sun
February 13, 20, 27 and March 6, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
VARIANCE APPLICATION

In pursuant to Wyoming Code; notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held by the Town of Saratoga Planning and Zoning Commission. Applicant: Cindy Wilson
111 E. Saratoga Ave. — Saratoga, WY 82331
The applicant has petitioned the Town of Saratoga Planning and Zoning Commission for a variance. The proposed variance is for the property known as 111 E. Saratoga Avenue. The property is located southeast of the Rivera Motel and abuts the North Platte River. The applicant is requesting a reduction in the front yard setback back requirement from 20 feet to 17 feet. The purpose of the reduction is for the construction of a covered porch. A copy of the request is available for review at:
Saratoga Town Hall
110 E. Spring Avenue
Saratoga, WY 82331
The Town of Saratoga Planning Commission will conduct a hearing on this proposal at;
Time: 5:30pm
Date: March 11th, 2025
Where: Town Hall (Council Chambers)
110 E. Spring Ave.
Saratoga, WY 82331
This is an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposal. Written comments may be mailed to:
Saratoga Planning Department
P.O. Box 486
Saratoga, Wyoming 82331
For questions or information please contact the Saratoga Planning Department at the mailing address above or call 307-447-2882.

Legal #9114
Published in
The Saratoga Sun
February 20 and 27, 2025

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
VARIANCE APPLICATION

In pursuant to Wyoming Code; notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held by the Town of Saratoga Planning and Zoning Commission. Applicant: Tom and Shirley Thorn
236 Airport Ave. — Saratoga, WY 82331
The applicant has petitioned the Town of Saratoga Planning and Zoning Commission for a variance. The proposed variance is for the property known as 236 Airport Ave. The legal description of the property is Lot 3 Block 4 Octagon Estates Third Addition Subdivision, in Saratoga, WY. The property can generally be described as bare land at the most eastern end of Airport Avenue. The property is on the north side of Airport Avenue. The applicant is requesting the placement of a garage within the side yard of a main dwelling. A copy of the request is available for review at:
Saratoga Town Hall 110 E. Spring Avenue Saratoga, WY 82331
The Town of Saratoga Planning Commission will conduct a hearing on this proposal at;
Time: 5:30pm Date: March 11th, 2025
Where: Town Hall (Council Chambers)
110 E. Spring Ave. Saratoga, WY 82331
This is an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposal. Written comments may be mailed to:
Saratoga Planning Department
P.O. Box 486
Saratoga, Wyoming 82331
For questions or information please contact the Saratoga Planning Department at the mailing address above or call 307-447-2882.

Legal #9115
Published in
The Saratoga Sun
February 20 and 27, 2025

INSURANCE | MEDICALLY NECESSARY V. PRIOR AUTHORIZATION-WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Medical necessity is a legal principle that determines if a health care service is reasonable and appropriate. It is based on evidence-based clinical standards of care and is used to evaluate a physician’s care recommendations. Medical necessity is required to receive payer approval for care that requires prior authorization.

What is medical necessity?

- Every health plan has its own definition of medical necessity. Plans use the criteria to decide if health care is medically necessary. In general, medically necessary treatments or services are:
 - A medical service, procedure or supply provided for the purpose of preventing, diagnosing or treating an illness, injury, disease or symptom and is a service, procedure or supply that:
 - Is medically appropriate for the symptoms, diagnosis or treatment of the condition, illness, disease or injury;
 - Provides for the diagnosis, direct care and treatment of the patient’s condition, illness, disease or injury;
 - Is in accordance with professional, evidence based medicine and recognized standards of good medical practice and care; and
 - Is not primarily for the convenience of the patient, physician or other health care provider.
- Wyo. Stat. Ann. §26-40-102 (a)(iii)

How is “medical necessity” determined?

Medical necessity is determined by using specific criteria to evaluate whether a health care service or treatment is essential for a patient’s condition. Some of the factors that are considered are clinical standards, patient needs, cost in comparison to a similar

treatment, purpose, scientific evidence and medical records. Each health insurance plan has its own definition of medical necessity. Insurers use their medical guidelines to make decisions about medical necessity. The decision is made on a case-by-case basis.
Review your plan so you are familiar with the definitions they use regarding medical necessity.

Denial based on medical necessity

- All plans follow guidelines that determine if health care is within the medical community’s accepted standards. A plan must make its medical guidelines available to you on a public website, this information is updated within 24 hours if changes are made. If a service is denied for lack of medical necessity, the insurer must provide appeal rights and instructions.
- There are many levels of appeals with various timelines so its important for consumers to be aware of the documentation provided to them.

What is prior authorization?

- Prior Authorization is a process that requires approval from a health plan before you get a service or fill a prescription. The health plan reviews medical records from your health providers and decides whether the service or prescription drug meets the plan’s rules for medical necessity and if the service or prescription is covered by your plan. As part of the prior authorization process, the ordering provider must certify that the information supporting the medical necessity claims is true and accurate.
- While the insurer may not require a prior authorization for certain services, they may still deny a claim if they deter-



mine the treatment was not medically necessary based on the patient’s condition and medical records. The provider is still responsible for ensuring the treatment aligns with the patient’s condition and is considered medically necessary according to the insurance plan guidelines or medical policies. In situations, without prior authorization, the insurance company will review the claim after the service has been provided to determine if it should be covered based on the individual’s plan and the insurers’ medical policies related to that procedure or diagnosis.
Keep in mind that if a service does not require a prior authorization it is not guaranteed to be approved for payment. Medical necessity and the plan’s covered services will always be determined with or without a prior authorization.

Does medical necessity or prior authorization affect coverage for emergency services?

- Immediate, lifesaving emergency services are exempt from prior authorizations. However, after you receive emergency services, your health plan will review your claims just like any other to ensure the care was medically appropriate per the company’s medical guidelines as well as confirm the services are a covered benefit on the plan.
- If you believe a medical necessity denial is incorrect, follow the appeal process provided by your insurer in your denial letter.
- If you still have questions, please reach out to your Human Resource Specialist, insurance agent, or the Department of Insurance. The Wyoming Department of Insurance can be reached at 307-777-7401.



SPORTS/ACTIVITIES



Seniors Roberts and Wood celebrate senior day with their moms.

Photo by Jason Campbell

Saratoga Hosts the Wrestling Carbon County Invite



Galloway O'Leary gets ready to rumble.

Photo by Jason Campbell



Hayden Suttie tries to gain position in his match.

Photo by Jason Campbell



Ace Arnold faces off Sammie Cyrus in the final round.

Photo by Jason Campbell



Benjamin Miller beginning his round at 144.

Photo by Taylor Malcolm



Kanean Roberts gets a leg in against Glenrock at 138.

Photo by Jason Campbell



Carson Everett looks determined as he faces off at 175.

Photo by Jason Campbell



Tate Zeller shows a look of pure concentration at a tough 106.

Photo by Taylor Malcolm



Skyler Wood begins his bout with Rawlins at 150.

Photo by Taylor Malcolm

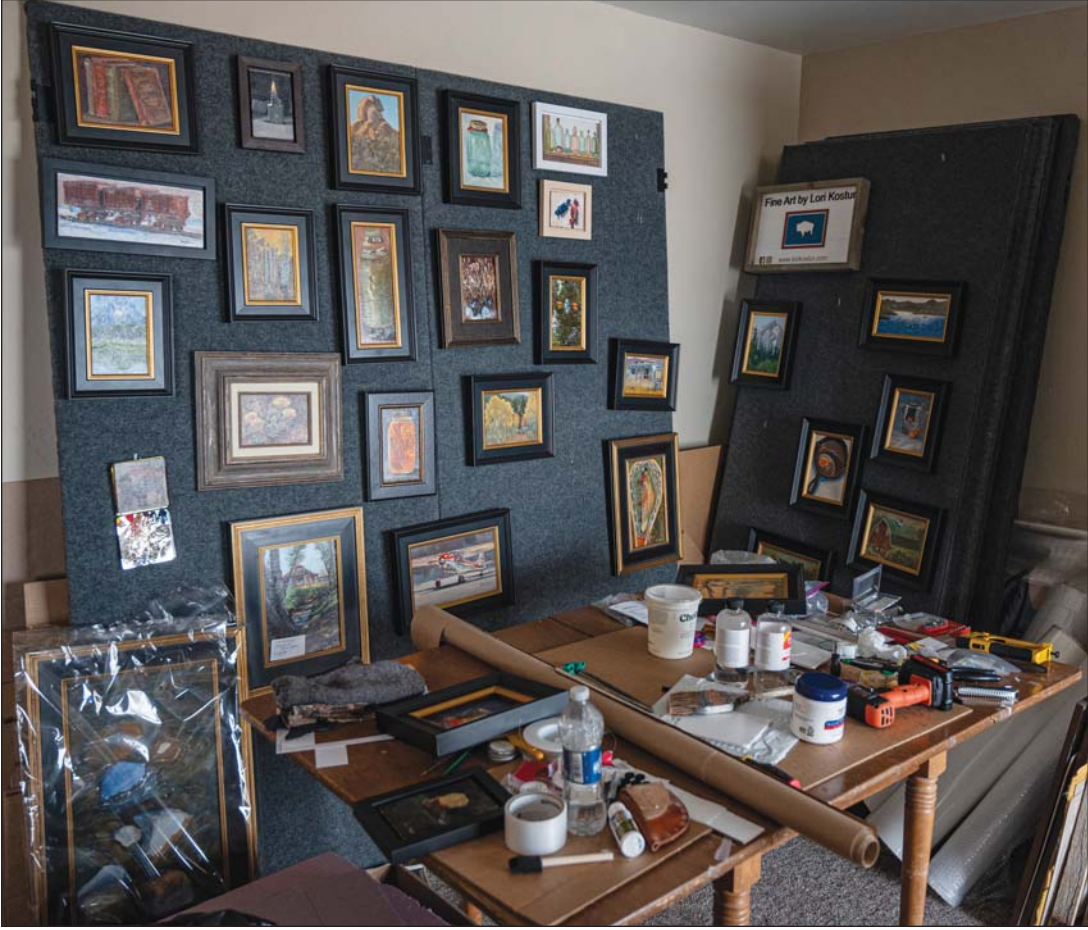
PEOPLE OF THE PLATTE



All photos by Elliott Deins

Last week in her home studio, Kostur worked on a painting of her granddaughter opening the flaps of a tent to a snowy scene during a camping trip last fall. Music played as she worked her brush against the prepared wood to achieve the proper shading of a backlit hand behind a canvas tent. Behind her is a table covered in paintings ranging from snow covered cabins to red cowgirl boots to an onion. Standing above the rest is a framed painting of a wooden barn with a mountain backdrop composed by Kostur's first inspiration, her grandmother.

Lori Kostur's Working Studio





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