

2022 WYOMING PRESS ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Free 2022 Edition

The Sno-Rag

Platte Valley's Winter Adventure Guide
Saratoga, Encampment, Riverside and Ryan Park Wyoming
Southeast Wyoming Trail Maps and More Inside



Produced by the Saratoga Sun

1st Place - Staff
Special Section or Supplement
Judges comment: "Tons of information in easy to digest format. Clean layout, good use of graphics. Clear winner."

Christmas decorating on a budget?

Bridge Street Bargains has everything you need to make your place festive! Totes and totes and TOTES of Christmas lights are waiting to be strung up on trees, houses and businesses. Come see everything we have!



HOURS:
Tuesday- Thursday
10am-5pm


BRIDGE STREET BARGAINS
114 E Bridge Ave.
Saratoga, WY

1st Place - Dana Davis
Small Ad
Judges comment: "Nice clean ad colors go nicely together."

The Saratoga Sun won 2nd place in the Foundation Sweepstakes in the small weeklies category. This award is presented to newspapers winning the most awards across all categories.

Ice is Never 100% Safe!

Minimum Ice Thickness for Clear, Hard Ice



2" Or Less: Clear, Hard Ice
4": Ice Fishing & Ice Skating
5-6": Snowmachines & ATVs
8-12": Cars & Small Trucks
12-15": Medium Trucks

Double amounts if the ice is white or opaque.

1st Place - Dana Davis
Information Graphic
Judges comment: "Excellent graphic! This is something that can be not only easily understood but also remembered."

Get your tickets for the REVERSE DRAWING today!




Only 300 raffle tickets will be sold for \$10 each. The last ticket drawn wins \$1,000 Chamber Gift Certificate. Winner will be announced at the Festival of the Trees on December 3. First 150 names drawn November 30. Second 100 names drawn December 1. Last 50 names drawn December 2. Winners need not be present to win. \$50 spree certificates will be awarded to the 1st, 50th, 100th, 150th, 200th and 250th tickets drawn. The 299th ticket drawn will receive a \$100 spree certificate. Gift certificates can only be honored at Saratoga/Platte Valley Chamber of Commerce member businesses.

Tickets available at the Saratoga/Platte Valley Chamber of Commerce (210 W. Elm Street), through any Chamber Board Member or by calling 307-326-8855.

1st Place - Dana Davis
Use of Graphic Elements
Judges comment: "The reversed arrow graphic is a unique visual aid to draw attention to the subject. It's prominence draws the eye into the ad."

Veterans, we appreciate your service to our country and thank you for all you do!



RNB State Bank
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(307) 326-8314

Member FDIC

2nd Place - Dana Davis
Institutional Ad
Judges comment: "This ad commands attention. The message is simple and respectful. The black and white makes more of an impact with the subject matter than color could. Good font choice, the sans serif type doesn't compete or clash with the customer logo."

Like writing? The Saratoga Sun needs a part-time reporter.



Send resume to:
editor.saratogasun@gmail.com

2nd Place - Dana Davis
Small Ad
Judges comment: "Loved the graphic—very unique for a help wanted ad."

2nd Annual Tailgate Party and Chili, Salsa & Bloody Mary Cook Off

Join the fun 3 pm
November 20th



at the Platte Valley Community Center

Entry fee of \$20 buys cornhole tournament, Bloody Mary cocktails, chili, salsa and the UW game! Complimentary drinks provided by Snowy Mountain Brewery and Grand Teton Distillery. Have a delicious chili, salsa or Bloody Mary recipe? Enter your recipe before November 15 for a chance to win! 1st, 2nd & 3rd place win CASH prizes. 1st place overall wins a prize valued at over \$200. No charge to enter the contest.

For more information, email director@saratogachamber.info or call 307-326-8855.

2nd Place - Dana Davis
Best Designed ad
Judges comment: "Red graphics on dark background really makes this ad stand out."

Calling all Veterans and their supporters!

Come enjoy your **FREE SPAGHETTI DINNER**

4pm, November 14th
St. Ann's Parish Hall
218 W. Spring, Saratoga

We want to thank you for your service to this country.



Hosted by St. Ann's Catholic Youth Group

Honorable Mention - Dana Davis
Use of Graphic Elements
Judges comment: "Sometimes simple is better. The spaghetti wrapped fork is elegant and compliments the verbiage. The black and white is very attractive."

Don't give up on buying a home, let's ARM wrestle!

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2022 WYOMING PRESS ASSOCIATION AWARDS

Firewater out, Malt in...Continued from page 1



season you are going to be making money, one season breaking even and one season losing money." Burau said he saw the writing on the wall this summer when he was only able to be open four days a week and making a little more than break even. He knew winter would kill the business. He and his family looked at several ways to save what they had. They didn't want to be only seasonal. They also didn't want to close and sell the building. It was decided a new direction was required. "We are going to reset and reopen as a quick service model," Burau said. "This model will have less requirements in the kitchen. We won't be making everything in house and since we are doing that, it didn't feel to be in the tradition of Firewater. So we felt we had to part from that name and its brand." Firewater could be no more.

cost what it did. "A pile of house cut fries topped with white gravy, fried chicken, cheese curds and pickled dill pickles and onion. By the way, the chicken we buy is hovering around \$10 a pound now. Yes. That is more than local bison" was the description of a chicken dish that was over \$20 in the Firewater menu. Malt will take orders over the internet and phone, so Burau believes that will make it very easy to get their food quickly. Burau said he had no choice. Labor costs in the kitchen went up 38 percent in the past two years. Burau said, "Then there is the product cost. Our chicken breast we get is over 10 dollars a pound. No reason for it that anyone can tell. Covid had everything go up and was hard to get." Burau said he has no idea why workers are so hard to find after Covid. "It baffles me," Burau said.

The last of my four parents had passed away quietly at 5:45 a.m. Although I had been warned by a nurse the day before my stepfather's end was possibly approaching, I was positive he would rally as he has done before. I was reinforced in my belief all would be fine when my sister, Michelle, saw him on Monday and talked to him for about an hour. My stepfather, Stuart, has been in my life since I was little

shakes having a little malt barley in them—it just felt like a reward for it. Burau said, "I hope everybody gives the Malt the goodwill it deserves."

Photos by Mike Armstrong

The iconic Firewater sign outside the restaurant has only a few days before it will be removed.

2nd Place - Mike Armstrong Business/Energy Reporting

Judges comment: "Good handling of high-interest business developments in the community and region."

Coal country through French eyes



Photo by Dee Dee Murtz

People came from all across Wyoming and the country, from states such as South Carolina and Arizona, to attend the "Smuggling with Joe Pickett" fundraising event.

attend this annual event due to an accident that left him injured and requiring surgery. He did however send his best wishes via video sent to Dana Davis, Saratoga Museum Director, it was played after dinner.

The Saratoga Museum was the first to sponsor a C.J. Box trivia event in 2014. There were approximately 50 people at that event. This year the number of participants was about the same with some people traveling from as far as South Carolina to participate.

Box has strong ties to Saratoga. His first job out of college was with the meeting C.J. Box. Three judges, Vicki Stols, Mark Shipp and Virginia Parker waited patiently as the teams collaborated to find the best answer.

The Saddle String Four took first place with 13 correct answers and \$400. Three teams were in a tie for 2nd and 3rd place. After the tie-breaker questions were read, second place went to The Falcons with a prize of \$200 and 3rd place to the Kestrels with a prize of \$100. Cash prizes were provided through a grant from the Carbon County Visitors Council.

The silent auction was

the transition of regions not mining for coal any longer and what these places are having to contend with in a new world."

Buisson said, like Carbon County, there are regions in France that were dependent on coal which are looking at wind power for energy.

"People in France are wondering how this transition will end up," Buisson said. He said coal was once essential to France.

"Coal was once very important to the economy of France at one time," Buisson said. "Like this area in Carbon County, the area in France that used to be dependent on coal has been closed."

Buisson is referring to the Nord-Pas-de-Calais Mining Basin in northern France which stretches across the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments. The region

baseball fields and two weight rooms.

When the mines started shutting down, Carbon County Coal gave the recreation center to the town. The building is an example of how much money was spent on keeping coal miners and their families happy.

Alexis Buisson, a journalist from France, stationed in New York, came to northern Carbon County for a story he was doing on coal country in the United States and the transition it is going through. The magazine he was doing the story for, is the international magazine La Croix. The magazine, according to Buisson, is the premier, independent Catholic daily in the world.

Initially, he came to Wyoming for another story. "I came here to the Hanna Recreation Center, built in 1982 by Carbon

The town of Hanna, once a major coal boomtown as recent as the 1980s, has watched jobs disappear to the point, the town itself is the largest employer versus any other industry.

The transition has not been an easy one for the miners and their families that have lived in the area for generations.

In the Hanna Basin area, coal has been the lifeblood for development to the town of Hanna. Now there is little evidence coal was king other than a few sites, like the Hanna Basin Museum, which

2nd Place - Mike Armstrong Arts-Entertainment-Culture Reporting

Judges comment: "The writer covered stories about a French freelance journalist reporting on the history of coal in Hanna, which has a similar mining history to the Nord-Pas-de-Calais Mining Basin in northern France; a Hanna resident, who after his bar was shut down at the beginning of COVID, transitioned his time to woodworking and a resurgence of Pokemon Go in Hanna. Good historical details in the coal and Pokemon Go stories."

NORTH COUNTY NEWS

Protecting the public

Charlie George reflects on 16 years as Director of Public Works for MedBow

by Mike Armstrong

Just as 2021 came to a close, the town of Medicine Bow received news their Public Works Director, Charlie George was retiring after 16 years of service with the town. It was the first time a town employee had actually retired. Prior years had workers leave on their own and at request of the town.

He will be missed.

"Charlie has been great to work with," Mayor Sharon Blanton said. "He really cared about the town and the people that lived here. He set a bar that will be tough to match. Everyone will miss him."

George came to work for the town 16 years ago, but his ties to the town go back much further. "I went to grade school and junior high in Medicine Bow. I left when I was in 8th grade," George said. "The years went by and I was back in Wyoming and the opportunity came up to work for the town and I took it."

George said the public works has you working for the entire town.

"In small towns, you don't just work for the mayor and the council, you work for the entire

certain areas of the public works. Small towns have to do it all. We are involved in sanitation removal, street grading, snow plowing, helping parks and rec stayed mowed, building maintenance, water treatment and water distribution, waste water treatment; you name it, public works was likely involved in some way."

George said there are many things to be aware in the job he was in, because public works is different tasks that are required to keep the town running smoothly and safely.

George said that small towns have gotten hit hard by price increases of fuel over the years. "We use a lot of different ways," George said. "For instance, to plow streets in Medicine Bow, I have said it costs about \$1,000 dollars every time you plow with wages, fuel and wear and tear on the equipment. That is a lot of money and we have to be

think gets the recognition that we as residents should give them."

George has heard plenty of residents say public works does a good job and another group say, "I wish they would do this or what aren't they doing this."

"We don't always get a lot of public input such as council meetings. That is where if there are questions a resident should come, not just complain throughout town," George said. "I am not saying this is just Medicine Bow. This is all small towns. Town councils are important to attend for this reason. It does no good to just complain on the street, not when there is an opportunity for public works, the mayor and council to hear and understand a particular problem. This is where everyone should put their two cents."

George said when a public works big project got done, he felt great satisfaction. He is glad that the town now elects mayor for four years instead of three. He said it gives time for the mayor to accomplish goals that three years didn't always allow. He also gives credit to the residents who are on the council (some multiple times) and are dedicated to the town because there have been years when no person would run.

"I can think of several now in Medicine Bow who elected me

drop off doggie treats. Bo lived and worked with George for 15 years. According to Heath, they were a package deal.

"People appreciated Bo. They would always ask Karen where he was, but seldom asked where I was," George chuckled. "The acceptance he got was really heartening. I also enjoyed working with all the people in town. It was always nice to get the thank you."

George said probably the most difficult part of the job was digging graves for friends that he had known for years.

"We take care of the cemetery and dig the graves," George said. "It can be overwhelming to some people, but I took it on as saying farewell to my friends. It is a part of the job, but it is a part of your shoulders as you put this person you knew and cared for in their final resting place. I was to do it for the friends I knew versus it being done by someone that didn't know them."

George said he admires all the public works guys in other small towns.

"Sometimes it is hard to go out in the public sometimes, and the residents who are on the council just take pride they are doing the best they can, given the circumstances," George said. "It boils down to, if you take care of the public, the public will take of you accordingly. Residents just

Honorable Mention - Mike Armstrong Government Issue Reporting

Judges comment: "Well written and good job of revealing the character of the man retiring."

SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

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OPINION/EDITORIAL

Ode to the stepfather

CHEERS FROM WYOMING

By Mike Armstrong

I found out Tuesday morning I was an orphan.

The last of my four parents had passed away quietly at 5:45 a.m. Although I had been warned by a nurse the day before my stepfather's end was possibly approaching, I was positive he would rally as he has done before. I was reinforced in my belief all would be fine when my sister, Michelle, saw him on Monday and talked to him for about an hour. My stepfather, Stuart, has been in my life since I was little

He was the parent who pushed me to look at all angles before making any impulsive decision. Stuart hated when people around him did something stupid and made it clear.

He could be so annoying because, as a kid, I did lots of unwise things. Plus, as often as not, he was the smartest guy in the room and wasn't shy about letting people know it. To say he didn't suffer fools is being kind. Less kind, would be to say he was somewhat arrogant. I always felt he gave me good practice to deal with personalities like this as I encountered them in life.

There was quite a time when I doubted I could ever be close with him.

My biological father passed way too early. He didn't even get to enjoy retirement. My stepfather, Stuart, has been in my life since I was little

It was pretty tough to lose them at a fairly young age, but my mother and Stuart kept the parental fires going. Although my mother was not wild about me taking her words so seriously by living overseas.

I would visit them and there were times that were great and other times, that weren't. My mother became obsessed with me coming back to live around her, or at least the USA. Stuart loved her very much and usually would side with her.

They were very happy when I bought my home in Wyoming. I would call weekly when I was in America and I found Stuart actually listening to me. When I was overseas, the calls were not as frequent. Whereas my mother wanted to know when I was coming home, I noticed Stuart liked hearing my adventures.

I have always assumed that I got along with during my youth

they aged fairly gracefully until about three years ago. Then deterioration of physical health meant they had to go into assisted living. They moved to Colorado from Maine to be closer to my sister and me. My mother didn't last six months because she was one of the unfortunate elderly to get Covid-19 when it first hit Denver.

Stuart became the last parent alive and, although his health wasn't excellent, it always comforted me to talk to him and I hoped he would be around for years to come.

I tried to phone him every Sunday since, with the advent of the pandemic, I could not visit him other than stand outside a window. Fortunately, that changed a couple months ago. Stuart who had once been one of the hardest people to get along with during my youth

2nd Place - Mike Armstrong Column Writing

Judges comment: "Wonderful and honest tribute for a man you've made all your readers care about."

Bylaws be gone but water is back

Water tank project completed, two towns no longer need to share

Stephenson then read the minutes from the South Central Wyoming Emergency Medical Services (SCWEMS) meeting. SCWEMS is looking

had more than 82 people in attendance and \$256 in donations. It was a success. Stephenson reported that he is finalizing plans for the

out to local businesses. Lorenz also reported that one bid was received for the groomer. The bid was

Letters to Santa



Produced by the Saratoga Sun

Honorable Mention - Dana Davis & Joshua Wood

Plus Business Advertising Idea

Judges comment: "Loved these pages—showing kid's letters is always fun."

Edward Jones

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



Will Faust
AAMS®, CRPC®
122 E Bridge
Saratoga, WY 82331

Should you consolidate retirement accounts?

- One of the rewards for working over several decades is the ability to contribute to tax-advantaged retirement accounts, which can help provide needed income for you when you do retire. As the years went by, you may well have accumulated several retirement accounts, such as IRAs and 401(k)s or similar employer-sponsored plans. But you might find it advantageous to consolidate these accounts with a single provider.
- Considering them can provide you with several potential benefits, including:
 - Less confusion and clutter – If you have multiple accounts in different locations, it may be difficult to keep track of tax documents, statements, fees, disclosures and other important information. Consolidating accounts could help provide clear, simplified account maintenance.
 - Ability to follow a unified strategy
 - Less likelihood of "lost accounts" – It may be hard to believe, but many people abandon their retirement accounts, leaving thousands of dollars behind and unclaimed.
 - In fact, at the end of 2021, there were nearly 25 million forgotten 401(k) accounts, worth about 20% of all 401(k) assets, according to an estimate by Capitalize, a financial services company that helps individuals roll over retirement plan assets into new accounts. It's possible that employers can even move small, old accounts out of their 401(k) plans and into an IRA on behalf of their former employees, thus increasing the chances that savers will lose track of their money. By consolidating your retirement plans with one provider, you can ensure you don't lose track of your hard-earned money.
 - With multiple retirement accounts, and different investment portfolios, you might find it difficult to maintain a unified financial strategy that's appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance. But once you've consolidated accounts with a single provider, you'll find it easier to manage your investment mix and to rebalance your portfolio as needed. The need to rebalance may become more important as you near retirement because you may want to shift some of your assets into investments that aren't as susceptible to swings in the financial markets.
 - Possible improvement in investment options – Other 401(k)s may have limited investment selection, so consolidating accounts with a full-service firm may allow for a wider array of products and strategies. This broader exposure can potentially help you improve your overall retirement income strategies.
 - Greater ease in calculating RMDs – Once you turn 72, you will need to start taking withdrawals – called required minimum distributions, or RMDs – from your traditional IRA and your 401(k) or similar plan. If you don't take out at least the minimal amount, which is based on your age and account balance, you could face a penalty. If you have several accounts, with different providers, it could be cumbersome and difficult to calculate your RMDs – it will be much easier with all accounts under one roof.
 - So, if you do have multiple retirement accounts, give some thought to consolidating them. The consolidation process is not difficult, and the end result may save you time and hassles, while also helping you manage your retirement income more effectively.

Contact Information: (307)-326-3300

Office Hours: M-TH 8am -5pm
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Mailing Address: PO Box 460
Saratoga, WY 82331


Branch Team: Randi McCargar
Branch Office Administrator

2nd Place - Dana Davis & Joshua Wood

Plus Business Advertising Idea

Judges comment: "Great idea—sponsored content ad reads easily."

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SUN		Cloudy with a Chance of PM Snow	16° 3°
MON		Snow Showers	15° 3°
TUE		Partly Cloudy Slight Chance of Snow	15° 5°
WED		Partly Cloudy Slight Chance of Snow	18° 9°

Weather Provided By The National Weather Service

1st Place - Dana Davis & Joshua Wood

Plus Business Advertising Idea - RNB Sponsored Weather

Judges comment: "Nice looking."