

# LARAMIE BOOMERANG

SUNDAY | MARCH 24, 2019 | LARAMIE, WYO. | LARAMIE'S VOICE SINCE 1881

\$2.00

**GRAND RE-OPENING**  
Wyoming State Capitol building set for grand opening on Statehood Day.  
SEE PAGE A6

**FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING**  
Boomerang reporter tries his hand at hockey.  
SEE PAGE C1



## CORRECTIONS



WENDY PERKINS/BOOMERANG STAFF

Correctional employee John tutors inmate Casiana in the Wyoming Women's Center. The facility offers several basic education courses and skills-based training.

## FISHING

### Diamond Lake damage concerns biologists

By EVE NEWMAN  
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Wyoming Game and Fish Department biologists are concerned resource damage at a popular fishery near Laramie could jeopardize future access.

Diamond Lake Public Access Area sits about 40 miles west of Laramie and a few miles north of Interstate 80 via Cooper Cove Road. This winter, wildlife managers have seen littering, shooting debris, off-road travel and damage to resources and parking barriers.

The land and water at Diamond Lake, also known as Bosler Reservoir, are owned by Wheatland Irrigation District, and public access is allowed only through an agreement with Game and Fish.

Laramie Region fisheries biologist Chance Kirkeeng said continued future access depends on maintaining a good relationship with the district.

"It's private land, and that's the biggest worry," he said. "If those folks ever got upset about what was happening out there, we could lose that fishery in the blink of an eye."

According to fisheries supervisor Bobby Compton, Diamond Lake has historically been a very popular fishery. But in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the lake started to dry up as water was used elsewhere.

"When it all started drying up, the fishery went away," Compton said.

In 2016, Game and Fish used funds from the Sport Fish Restoration Program to begin purchasing water from the irrigation district to fill the reservoir. The restoration program is funded through a federal tax on sporting goods, with proceeds distributed to states for use on waters that have boating access.

More **DAMAGE** | A3

#### AT A GLANCE

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is concerned about littering and resource damage at Diamond Lake, a popular fishery that sits about 40 miles west of Laramie. The fishery was revived after Game and Fish started purchasing water from Wheatland Irrigation District in 2016.

## 'A desire to change'

### Pathways from Prison program provides opportunity for inmates

By WENDY PERKINS • wendyp@laramieboomerang.com

The Wyoming Pathways from Prison program and the University of Wyoming Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies is hosting a symposium addressing education in prison and the transition from incarceration to freedom.

The Symposium on Transformative Education in Prison and Beyond will be hosted Friday-Saturday at the University of Wyoming Conference Center adjoining the Hilton Garden Inn on Grand Avenue. The event is free to the public, although registration is requested. Programming and registration information can be found at [www.uwyo.edu/stepb](http://www.uwyo.edu/stepb).

Wyoming Pathways from Prison is a program that seeks to provide college credit courses to incarcerated people in Wyoming correctional facilities.

Alec Muthig, co-founder and coordinator for WPPF, taught stoicism in two of the five correctional facilities in the last three years. Inspired by the feedback and interactions with inmate students, Muthig wanted to develop an event to stress the significance of philosophy as a fundamental component of societal reintegration by incarcerated people.

Many correctional education

programs emphasize skill-based topics for reintegration such as welding, woodworking, sewing, animal training and vehicle repair. Inmate students were emphatic that they need more than basic work skills.

"The value of an education is beyond measure, especially to those who have very little access to it," one inmate said. "I've had the opportunity to participate in two college courses in prison through the Pathways program."

The biggest gain from the program, the inmate said, is the educational opportunity has given

him hope.

"(It's given me) hope that I can be a better person and make better choices, hope that I can do something positive with my life and hope that I can do and be something more than someone who has completely failed at life," the inmate said. "The Pathways program has given us the opportunity to receive an education and a desire to change. ... Someday, some of us will leave these walls, and having the drive and knowledge we have gained will help us as we are now better prepared to be successful and hopefully pro-

ductive citizens."

Muthig reached out to Rob Colter, an academic professional lecturer in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at UW who co-taught stoicism with Muthig and leads the annual Stoic Camp, drawing participants from all around the world. While brainstorming with department head Susanna Goodin, the event evolved from a focus on philosophy education in prison to a symposium about embracing education as a transformative process.

More **PATHWAYS** | A3

## MEDIA

### Sample Day on Thursday will bring Boomerang to subscribers, residents

By JORDAN ACHS  
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Thursday's edition of the Laramie Boomerang will be in an extra couple thousand local homes for Sample Day.

In an effort to get the paper exposed to a wider audience, the print edition will be sent to both subscribers and non-subscribers in around 12,000-13,000 Laramie homes.

Unlike most days where the paper is delivered by carrier, the

#### EARLY DEADLINES

Due to the early publication deadline for Thursday's newspaper, the copy desk will not be accepting Local Briefs or What's Happening? calendar submissions Wednesday. To get your information in Thursday's newspaper, please make all submissions to [news@laramieboomerang.com](mailto:news@laramieboomerang.com) by 5 p.m. Tuesday.

majority of residents — as well as subscribers — will receive the paper via the U.S. Postal Service along with Thursday's mail. Thursday's Boomerang will arrive whenever the mail typically arrives at

Laramie homes. Papers will not be delivered to post office boxes.

However, West Laramie, newer subdivisions east and south of the city and more rural areas will still receive papers via carrier. Carriers will

be given extra papers to give to non-subscribers in those areas that day as well.

Boomerang General Manager Gary Loftus said the sampling effort is a "win-win" for both readers and advertisers. The goal was to reach new readers, he said, whether its people who once had a subscription and fell out of the habit of reading the newspaper or people who have never read the Boomerang at all.

More **BOOMERANG** | A3



BOOMERANG FILE PHOTO

The Laramie Boomerang sign outside of its Grand Avenue office is seen March 14, the day after a winter storm dropped several inches of snow on the city.

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WENDY PERKINS/BOOMERANG STAFF

Wyoming State Penitentiary inmates prepare for graduation ceremonies after completing various courses through Central Wyoming College.

## Pathways/from A1

The impact of college education courses on the success of inmates, both in the correctional system and after release, affect not just the individual inmate, but society as a whole. Recidivism, a relapse into criminal behavior, is common for those released from a period of incarceration. Some stumble because of limited financial resources, being unprepared for social reintegration, lacking family support and discrimination based on criminal records.

Additionally, previously incarcerated people often have difficulty in attaining steady work because of a lack of work skills and education. Recidivism leads to overpopulation in the correctional system and reliance on government programs after incarceration, which affects the economy and lessens the quality of life for many people.

“Not to sound ungrateful — because I couldn’t possibly be any more appreciative — but we definitely need more programs like this,” another inmate student said. “If pursuing a degree were possible when I arrived, I would probably have a master’s degree by now, perhaps even two. Although it’s too late for me to get a degree in prison, that shouldn’t deter you too much from advocating that others should be educated before being released. The science on the

“Not to sound ungrateful — because I couldn’t possibly be any more appreciative — but we definitely need more programs like this. If pursuing a degree were possible when I arrived, I would probably have a master’s degree by now, perhaps even two. Although it’s too late for me to get a degree in prison, that shouldn’t deter you too much from advocating that others should be educated before being released.”

— Inmate student

inverse correlation between recidivism and education has been known for some time now. Prison reform has to start somewhere; why not here?”

Colter, Goodin, Muthig and Susan Dewey, co-founder and coordinator of WPfP, applied for funding through the College of Arts and Sciences Special Symposia/Lecture Series Fund and were awarded \$25,000. The award, combined with other funding sources, allowed the cohort to arrange for several well-known speakers, including Damon Horowitz, Jody Lewen, Mary Gould, Ben Walker and Erin Castro.

Horowitz is known for his TED Talks on teaching philosophy in prison and calling for increased access to education in prisons, as well as speaking about the ethics of the technology industry and the need for humanities in the technology industry. Lewen is the founder and executive director of the Prison University Project, which provides a general education Associate

of Arts degree and intensive college preparatory courses at San Quentin. Gould is the director of the Saint Louis University Prison Program, which provides liberal arts education to prison employees and incarcerated people. She is also the interim director of the Alliance for Higher Education in Prison. Walker is the founder of the Crito Project, which provides degree-level education to inmates in three correctional facilities in the East of England region. Castro is director and co-founder of the University of Utah Prison Education Project, which provides higher education courses to two facilities in the Utah State Prison.

Other attendees and potential speakers include representatives for Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon and the UW president’s office, the wardens from all five correctional facilities, top officials from the Wyoming Department of Corrections and inmates from two of the Wyoming correctional facilities.

When asked about expected outcomes from the symposium, Muthig said the goal is to “connect ideas and people in the realm of transformative education, particularly higher education, and to determine the way forward.”

As a testimonial to the strength of college education for incarcerated people, T.R., an inmate in the Wyoming Honor Conservation Camp, offered a reflection after attending a stoicism course in 2017.

“I am honored to have had the opportunity to participate in the Stoic Camp offered by the University of Wyoming,” T.R. wrote. “The most striking aspects of the program are that it was conceived, conducted, and supported by the people who freely give of themselves for the good of others. The Stoic mindset is something that I have stumbled upon in my own life, yet I didn’t know it had a name. I hope to continue having open discussions in the future about morals and ethics with people around me. The Stoic Camp has shown me the joy of asking a question and finding how I can come to a suitable conclusion while also living in accord with nature. There seem to be limitless situations that I can view through the Stoic lens in order to shape my conduct in a way that allows me to live an excellent life that is harmonious with nature itself.”

## Damage/from A1

“It’s a pretty big part of our budget that we can use to maintain a lot of the facilities that we do have,” Compton said.

Game and Fish is planning to spend \$750,000 over the next 10 years to purchase water. The agency has also spent about \$400,000 on a water pipeline, boat dock, outhouse repairs and a snow fence.

The agency began stocking the reservoir with rainbow trout in 2016, adding cutthroat and brook trout in 2017.

Kirkeeng said the 284-acre lake is now about two-thirds full. Last summer, biologists found brook trout at 14 inches, cutthroat at 17 inches and rainbows at 19 inches. They plan to manage the lake for mainly cutthroats and brookies in the future.

“It’s coming back online for sure,” he said.

Compton said Diamond Lake is a beloved fishery, and now that it’s regaining its past form, visitation is increasing to the point where it sees more anglers than any other area lake.

“It was a really popular and prized fishery for a lot of people, and it was known to grow really nice fish — just a place people really loved,” he said.

Meanwhile, fisheries managers don’t



COURTESY PHOTO

Diamond Lake, which sits about 40 miles west of Laramie, is a popular fishery that has been recently restored by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

want a few irresponsible visitors to put future access in doubt. In the 1980s, for example, the Wheatland Irrigation District put a stop to overnight camping at the area because of littering and other problems.

Compton described finding litter such as beer cans near the lake, as well as shooting debris such as televisions used for target practice.

The area is very windy and large snowdrifts will form during the winter. Motorists have been driving around the

drifts and tearing up pasturelands in the process. Biologists have also repaired parking barriers knocked over by motorists driving down to the reservoir. Kirkeeng said the resource damage is mainly limited to winter users, such as those wanting to access the lake for ice fishing.

All the land around the lake is private, and Game and Fish wants visitors to be good neighbors.

“Be respectful and look after yourself,” Compton said.

## DRONES

# Yellowstone Park drone ad draws fire

By MIKE KOSMRL

Jackson Hole News&Guide  
Via Wyoming News Exchange

JACKSON — A California-based drone manufacturer is being investigated for promoting its “true follow-me” technology with footage of a Rollerblader kicking it along a West Thumb Geyser Basin boardwalk.

Flying drones is illegal in Yellowstone and all other national parks, as is in-line skating on boardwalks. The drone company involved, named Skydio, geo-tagged the Wyoming video as shot in Iceland.

“Thermal tour a la rollerblade,” the company posted in a caption alongside the video, which was viewed over 10,000 times in its one week up on Instagram.

The video has since been removed.

Skydio representatives initially responded to the News&Guide’s request for an interview over email, but their willingness to talk withered when the story’s topic was disclosed.

Based in the Bay Area, Skydio pitches itself as a startup created by former Google engineers that got off the ground with \$28 million in venture capital raised through the fall of 2017.

The “pre-eminent investors” the company lists on its website include Justin Timberlake and Magic Johnson.

Yellowstone National Park law enforcement rangers learned of the video’s existence last week and, as of Tuesday morning, had not made any determinations, park spokeswoman

Morgan Warthin said.

“They are aware, and they will investigate it,” Warthin said. “What’s important to recognize is that there are so many incidents of drone use that we deal with. Visitors using drones in Yellowstone is a problem.”

During 2018 there were about 40 drone flights that Yellowstone rangers became aware of. A chunk of those resulted in citations, some of which resulted in mandatory court appearances for pilots, who paid over \$1,000 to square up on fines, Warthin said.

The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem’s two national parks have been home to a number of infamous illegal drone flights since the National Park Service banned the emerging technology from its 419 properties in 2014. The Park Service director at the time, Jon Jarvis, said the policy was necessary because drones were interfering with rescues, causing excessive noise, ruining views and disturbing wildlife.

Perhaps the most notorious illegal Yellowstone drone took flight five years ago. The aircraft never made it back to its owner, Dutch tourist Theodoros Van Vliet, who crashed his drone into Grand Prismatic Spring and was fined more than \$3,000. His DJI Phantom quad-copter was never recovered, and its remnants stew today in Grand Prismatic’s depths. Scientists have worried that the sunken drone could clog one of Grand Prismatic’s vents or melt and forever alter the microbial mats that make the famously photographed spring so brilliant.

## LIVESTOCK

# Sheridan College researcher studies alternative beef crops

By MICHAEL ILLIANO

The Sheridan Press  
Via Wyoming News Exchange

SHERIDAN — A Sheridan College instructor presented research focused on addressing the challenges dwindling resources pose to livestock producers at the Mars Agriculture Center Wednesday.

Rebecca Atkinson, an animal science instructor at Sheridan College, said her research has been driven by the reality that the availability of resources will wane in the near future.

“Our future generations to come have a huge challenge come 2050 — how are we going to feed everybody?” Atkinson said. “So what do we do? We have to start thinking out of the box.”

As the world’s population continues to increase, the lands available for livestock production will shrink. As a result, Atkinson predicted, the cost of available land will skyrocket.

Livestock producers, then, will have to find ways to do more with less and Atkinson said her research suggests alternative forage crops can help beef producers accomplish that task.

Atkinson said she has had success with growing forage soybeans, a variety of soybean typically planted for purpose of deer management, as a pasture crop for cows.

“I have several years growing forage soybeans and several years of people thinking I’m crazy,” Atkinson said.

But her unconventional utilization of forage soybeans has proven successful, Atkinson said. Most importantly, Atkinson said she discovered that cows would readily eat forage soybeans. The crop also proved to carry nearly the same nutritional qualities as crops like alfalfa, due to its high protein content.

Crucially, forage soybeans are also more resistant to summer weather conditions than traditional grazing crops, like alfalfa, which allows cattle producers to extend their grazing season deeper into the summer, when low rainfall typically damages the quality of forage crops.

Allowing cattle to graze on crops is generally cheaper than harvesting the crops, therefore extending the grazing season could prove to save cattle producers money, Atkinson said.

## Boomerang/from A1

“The main point is simply to get our message out to as many people as we can, getting them exposed to the articles and the editorial content and the features we have available,” Loftus said. “Also, it exposes the advertiser’s messages to this whole audience that maybe hadn’t been seeing those ads.”

Advertisers in Thursday’s paper, he added, had the opportunity to gain exposure with a large portion of the city “in an economical way.”

Regular carrier deliveries for subscribers to the Boomerang will resume Friday.