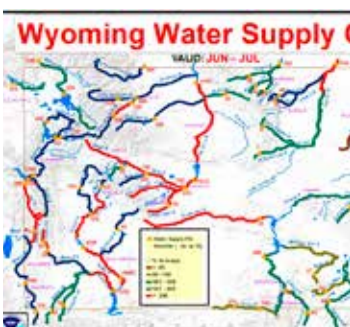


STUDENTS
Rasmussen
named to
Montana honor
roll

A3



Wyoming Water Supply

WEATHER
Water supply
outlook

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OUTDOORS
Wright Days
activities in
abundance

B1

Thursday, June 22, 2017 • WRIGHT'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • WWW.HPSENTINEL.COM • Vol. 17 Issue 25

HIGH PLAINS Sentinel

Messages of hope

Gulf War vet heals emotional and physical scars through art



By Jennifer Kocher • jen@hpsentinel.com

Four dogs paw at the gate in Carol Hayes' backyard, tumbling on top of each other with backsides wiggling madly as they try to get her attention. Down, she instructs them, playfully swatting their noses. The dogs, along with

the two cats and three birds, are Carol's menagerie – her makeshift family adopted or rescued from one corner or another.

The backyard is a well-tended, colorful oasis of bright flower beds and artful American flags painted on pallets.

Along the back runs a six-foot wooden fence that surrounds her idyllic Eden like a fortress. It, too, is brightly painted.

The fence protects her from having to deal with the world.

HOPE, Page 2

Burglars strike two homes, three cars in a single night

By Sandra Mudd
sandra@hpsentinel.com

A rash of attempted home invasions and car break-ins has a few Wright residents shaken up and left wondering what is going on.

Someone went around a Wright neighborhood trying to break into homes and cars in the area of Bighorn Drive and Pronghorn Court June 9.

The incidents remain under investigation. No information and no leads are available on a suspect at this time, Sheriff's Deputy Quentin Reynolds said.

The morning after the incident, two of the home victims took to social media to warn others in the area to keep their windows and doors locked.

It's not exactly clear which

home was hit first but details of the incident claim the burglar tried to break into a home in the Cottonwood Trailer Park sometime between 12 a.m. and 2 a.m. before being run off by the family dog and moving on to another home on Bighorn Drive, which is one street away.

Jennifer Erhart Purvis and her husband went to bed shortly after midnight. She woke at around 2 a.m. to her dogs barking, but dismissed the warning as them barking at the cat and went back to sleep. Meanwhile, her daughter lay in bed while the burglar was trying to get in her bedroom window by cutting the screen before being scared off by the dog.

At around 6 a.m., Purvis and her

BURGLARY, Page 5

Coal processing plants slated to be built in Powder River Basin

By Jonathan Gallardo
Gillette News Record

In March, the CEO of New York-based coal research firm Clean Coal Technologies, Inc. said it was "highly likely" that it was coming to Gillette.

On Thursday, the Wyoming Business Report reports, the company announced that it had secured \$80 million to build a commercial plant in the Powder River Basin.

CEO Robin Eves made the announcement in Sheridan at the Wyoming Mining Association Convention.

Commission Chairman Rusty Bell said he's excited to see Clean Coal Technologies come to Campbell County.

"This is something that could really be a game-changer for exporting Powder River Basin coal,"

he said.

According to a press release from the company, the plant will have a capacity of two million tons. The company also plans to move its test facility, currently in Tulsa, Oklahoma, up to Wyoming.

The exact locations of the plants have not been announced, but according to the Wyoming Business Report, Clean Coal Technologies is considering three places near Gillette and also plans to build commercial parks in the area as well once the plant is complete.

The design and engineering of the first plant will begin in September or October.

Eves has said his company has developed a way to dry out coal and have it remain stable. The pro-

COAL, Page 2



File photo

The Ryon Zorn Memorial Parade last year was a huge hit. It takes place this year on Saturday at 11 a.m.

Wright Days for fun

By Ryan Mitchel Collins
ryan@hpsentinel.com

The annual Wright Days are set to kick off this Thursday with a movie and popcorn night featuring the film "Moana" in the indoor arena at the Agricultural Complex.

On Friday June 23 the sixth annual "Taste of Wright" competition featuring classic barbecue and fine smoked foods crafted by locals, will begin at 5 p.m. in the Southern Campbell County Agricultural Complex.

The competition is a fundraising event

for the Wright Centennial Museum, and all proceeds generated during the event will go to the museum. Tickets for the Taste of Wright are provided on a donation basis for all you can sample tickets. Suggested donations are \$10 per adult, and \$5 for children.

Raffle items will be available during the competition. The featured item being raffled is a numbered special edition Marlin 1895G 45-70 caliber rifle, "Tribute to the American Horseman."

On Saturday the day will begin with a pancake feed sponsored by the Wright Little League in the multi purpose building. The Ryon Zorn Memorial Parade will start

at 11 a.m. on Wright Blvd. and continue on to Hay Creek Road. Following the parade at 11:30 a.m. there will be a root beer float social at the Wright Centennial Museum. Starting at noon, local vendors will be selling items in the indoor arena at the agricultural complex, with a concurrent roller derby taking place in the multi-purpose building.

Saturday festivities will conclude with a barn dance starting at 8 p.m. in the indoor arena, ending at 2 a.m.

For more information on Wright Days, feel free to contact the Wright Town Hall at 464-0198.

Thur 73 44
Fri 68 44
Sat 60 42
Sun 70 47
M 8 5

There's Still Time to be included in the High Plains Sentinel's WYOMING STATE FAIR GUIDE Call 307-464-0262 TODAY!





Jen Kocher photos

Carol Hayes' backyard is a work of art because the Wright woman has found peace through creativity after a life of struggles.

HOPE

A small camper trailer sits at the ready in the far left corner of the yard in a patch of overgrown weeds. Before buying this house last year, she had purchased the camper with the original intent of living on the road, traveling around the country and living the life of an artist.

Her recent bout with bone cancer and subsequent removal of seven ribs put the kibosh on that plan. Her desire to stop running away from the problems in her life helped fuel the decision to stay.

TEARING DOWN WALLS

Breaking down walls is one problem she faces, she admits. She looks at the fence surrounding the perimeter of the yard and laughs at the irony.

"At least I'm decorating them," she says with a shy smile behind tinted brown eyeglasses.

Out front, she's just finished a bright blue mural with flowers and a purple bone cancer ribbon around the word "hope." It's a simple message expressed through her art.

In her white jeans and whimsical sleeveless summer top with arms covered in colorful tattoos that she's also designed, Carol's soft voice and youthful demeanor belie her 48 years of age, as well as her recent bout with cancer and the near-nightly seizures that have earned her medical disability from the VA. Leaning stiffly with her left arm buffeting her side, Carol protects the mesh covering over the boneless cavity above her lungs. In recent weeks, the mesh has bunched together and she's waiting for the VA to set up a surgery, but she's optimistic and hopeful that the bone cancer is gone.

Cancer has been a tough one to remain positive through, she says, but little steps like painting and pushing herself to do part-time work selling cosmetics definitely help. It made her day when someone stopped her at the post office last week to tell her

how cheerful Carol's new mural made her.

That's the point, spreading cheer, starting with Carol herself.

STAYING PUT

She's got a long way to go to heal, both mentally and physically. She's been running away from problems most of her life, she admits. Owning up to them is not going to be easy but she's already got a good start, beginning with coming to terms with her past. She has closed a lot of doors and put up even more metaphorical fences throughout her life, she admits, because she kept her mouth shut and refused to admit she was suffering. Instead, she fought back and denied accusations and shoved wedges into her relationships while she allowed the chip on her shoulder to fester, starting with her family.

Carol grew up on her father's ranch in the small town of Mission, South Dakota, near the Rosebud Sioux Reservation, where she also attended school as one of the few non-native kids. She learned that being quiet and not drawing attention to herself was a good thing, so at age 17 when she left home to join the Army, she kept her mouth shut and didn't say a word when a drill sergeant during basic training in Alabama asked her in a southern drawl, "Are you stupid or what?"

What could she say? There was no good answer, so when she remained silent, she was punished just the same.

At age 21 and newly married, she went to Iraq as a parademic with her mobile medical unit, where she sopped up blood and pieced bodies back together. Sometimes, she double bagged dead bodies and shipped them home.

She looks back to pictures of herself in Iraq, in which she's laughing with a smile.

"I don't remember anything being funny," she says, but that's just another coping skill.

When she returned to South

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Dakota, she gave birth to her first daughter shortly thereafter, after which she suffered post-partum depression and seizures at night stemming from nightmares.

Her husband urged her to get help. She denied she needed it. Nobody could tell her what to do. Instead, she yelled back and blamed him for doubting her as the casualties in her life mounted.

In retrospect, she realizes she had no idea how deep her own wounds and scars were. Her personal relationships paid the price.

Her marriage ended. Her daughter no longer talks to her. Today, she has a granddaughter she's never met nor was she invited to her daughter's wedding.

Both she and her daughter are stubborn, she concedes, and right now she's not willing to take the first step. She's hoping one day that will change.

Today, her 19-year-old son Hudson has graduated high school and moved to Gillette for work, but they remain close. She and Hudson moved to Wright seven years ago so he could go to school in a small town.

And though she has not been able to work full-time in recent years due to her disability, including seizures which require subsequent days of healing, she's taken out her sketch book and actively draws and spends several hours gardening.

"Being sick and having cancer has been depressing," she admits, but she's doing her best to rise above it and remain positive. She's getting out more to socialize, and in recent months, she's repaired her relationship with her mother and is getting to know her estranged siblings.

"It helps to face up to your problems," she adds.

In the end, she realizes that it comes down to one's perspective and admitting you can't do everything on your own.

"It's amazing how different everyone's hell is," she says. "Everyone sees it differently through their own eyes."

COAL

cess, which he equates to basically "refining" coal out of the ground, also leaves it dust-free, produces significantly less harmful emissions and is less expensive than untreated coal.

Bell said it's a method that many have failed at before, but he added that the company's leaders were aware of that, and they're confident about their technology.

"They didn't want to roll out something that wasn't successful," Bell said. "They didn't want to just take the money and run. They wanted to have a product and a technology that was going to work. They're in it for the long haul."

If Clean Coal Technologies proves to be successful, the possibilities could be endless.

"If their process can deliver what they say it can deliver — a very stable product with no fear of spontaneous combustion — there are many, many applications for it," said Jason Begger, executive director for the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority, back in

February.

Bell has met with Eves and Aiden Neary, the Chief Operating Officer of the company, a few times, and earlier this year, he gave them a tour of Gillette and Campbell County.

"They just seem like really genuine guys that care more about their product than money," he said. "In the business world, that's not always the case."

"This is a US-designed, engineered and tested technology and we are very pleased to see it deployed here in the US, where we will continue to work with Wyoming on additional agreements and locations," Neary said in the press release.

Bell said this area makes a lot of sense for Clean Coal Technologies because it already uses Powder River Basin coal at its test facilities. Being located near the source of the coal will save the company time and shipping costs.

And according to the Wyoming Business Report, Eves is excited

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

BIG SAVINGS AT IRWIN'S
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**GREAT SAVINGS COUPON**  
 CLIP and SAVE COUPON

Come in to Big D for weekly savings coupon specials and additional special buys!

**WRIGHT DAYS**  
 Thursday, June 22, 2017

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. **Photo Contest** - submit entries at Wright Town Hall. All photos to be displayed at Ag Complex Vendor Booths on Saturday. Winners announced at 2:00 p.m. Call Wright Town Hall for information. 307-464-1666.

7:00 p.m. **Movie and Popcorn** - Indoor Arena at the Ag Complex. Come see *Moana* on the big screen...bring your lawn chairs for front row seating!

7:00 p.m. **Wright Social Gathering and Beverage Tasting** - Ag Complex - Concession Area. While the kids are enjoying the movie, socialize with friends and sample beverages from around the area.

Friday, June 23, 2017

6:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. **DISC Golf Scorecards** available for pickup at Wright Recreation Center. Call 464-580 for more info. Turn in completed entries at Town of Wright Vendor Booth - Ag Complex by 12:30 p.m. Saturday, June 24th. Prizes to be awarded to winners at the time.

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. **3 on 3 Golf Basketball Tournament** - Wright Recreation Center. Call the Wright Recreation Center at 464-0580 for more information.

11:00 a.m. **Wright Days Wacky Golf Tournament** - Teams of 4 for non-traditional golf fun! Call Hay Creek Golf Course at 464-00747 to reserve your spot! Prizes, Prizes, Prizes to be given away.

12:00 p.m. **Thunder Basin Belles BINGO!!** - Multi-Purpose Building.

12:00 p.m. **3 D Archery Shoot** - Come to Panther Pond to practice your marksmanship. Call Josh Steel at 299-5123 for more info.

5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. **TASTE OF WRIGHT** - Meat Smoking - Meat Grilling - Barbecuing. Donations at the door...\$10 for adults - \$5 for kids 12 and under. For more info call Janet at 464-1666. Sponsored by the Wright Centennial Museum.

Saturday, June 24, 2017

7:00 p.m. **5K Walk/Run** - Hay Creek Golf Course. Registrations available at the Town of Wright, stop by or call for information.

7:30 p.m. **Wildly Wright Jackpot at the Ag Complex Outdoor Arena**. Event will be an all-day event with kid's games such as money pit, sack races and many, many more throughout the day!

8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. **Pancake Feed** - Multi-Purpose Building. Fuel up on pancakes! Sponsored by Wright Little League

11:00 a.m. **Ryon Zorn Memorial Parade** - Route starting on Wright Boulevard and winding around to Hay Creek Road.

11:30 a.m. **Root Beer Floats** - Wright Centennial Museum following parade. Sponsored by the Wright Centennial Museum.

12:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. **Vendors Galore** - Ag Complex Indoor Arena. Something for everyone! For more info call the Wright Town Hall at 464-1666.

12:00 p.m. **Roller Derby in Wright!** Come see the WyoSkate Flamingo Cup Association show off their derby skills at the Multi-Purpose Building.

12:00 p.m. **Silver Sage Senior Center** - Community Center. Craft Fair, Cupcake Walk for kids of all ages and Popcorn Sales.

12:30 p.m. **Mud Volleyball** for participants of all ages! To enter your team please call Wright Town Hall at 464-1666.

1:00 p.m. **Wright Days Scramble** - Hay Creek Golf Course. Enter your team of four or call to play on a team! Golf at its finest, call 464-0747 for more info.

8:00 p.m. **Barn Dance** - Ag Complex Indoor Arena. Come down to dance the night away with The Silver Street Band.

Sunday, June 25, 2017

11:00 a.m. **Roger Grose Last Pull Tractor Pull** - Weigh-Ins at 11:00 a.m. Event begins at 12:00 p.m. For more info call Steve Grose at 689-5576.

Wright Days would not be possible without our sponsors!  
 Thank you for your continuing support!

**GILLETTE-WRIGHT**  
**Wright Wyoming**  
 Energy, Community, Opportunity  
**CCPR**  
 Campbell County Parks & Recreation  
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**DOUGLAS & GLENROCK**

**SPEND JULY 4 AT HISTORIC FORT FETTERMAN**  
 8 a.m. • Fort Fetterman • July 4  
 752 Hwy. 93 • Douglas, Wyo.

Join the Friends of Fort Fetterman at their 5th annual Fort Fetterman Days 4th of July Celebration! The event will include a free pancake breakfast, a 5k trail run and 1k kids fun run, free ice cream, craft and food vendors, living history demonstrations, historic children's games, kids crafts and a watermelon eating contest! There is no admission fee to the fort for this event but certain events will cost money, like the 5k and kids fun run as well as small fee for the watermelon eating contest.

**DOUGLAS HOSTS '1ST THURSDAYS' CELEBRATIONS**  
 Spend a beautiful summer evening in downtown Douglas! On the first Thursday of every summer month the community is hosting a downtown summer block party, sip and social. The next gathering is from 5-8 p.m. on Thursday, July 6.

**ENJOY A WESTERN MOVIE ON A TRAIN!**  
 9 p.m. • Converse County Tourism Visitor Center • Locomotive Park  
 121 Brownfield Road • Douglas  
 Every Monday in July!

Enjoy a summer evening watching a western movie at Locomotive Park! Bring your blanket or lawn chairs. The movie and the popcorn will be provided! Movies are shown outdoors on a screen mounted on the side of the historic steam engine.

**PLAN TO ATTEND THE CONVERSE COUNTY FAIR**  
 July 11-12 • July 14-21 • Wyoming State Fairgrounds • Douglas  
 Converse County Fair organizers have more planned for the 2017 event than ever before. Watch this ad for full details leading up to the fair. In the interim, mark your calendar for FAMILY FUN and a chance to support local youth!

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