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Voices of the Valley: A community conversation about our future

Voices of the Valley will launch at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 10th, 2010 at the Platte Valley Community Center (PVCC). The opening night will feature essays from local elementary, middle and high school students about what they like about the place they call home. C.J. Box, celebrated Cheyenne author and former area resident, will speak, and Dave Rangitsch, Saratoga Elementary Principal, will present the essay awards. Refreshments will be provided as we hear from our youth's perspective, and celebrate the talent and diversity of our community!

The *Voices of the Valley* series will continue to run every second and fourth Wednesday of each month from February 10th to June 23rd and will provide a forum for community members to learn about and discuss issues important to the present and future of Saratoga, Encampment, Riverside, and the North Platte Valley. Most evenings will include a diverse group of panelists and encourage lots of questions and conversation among the audience.

Our 2010 series focuses on issues related to our natural resources and how they define the character and culture of our communities: What do we care about? How do we adapt to change? How do we determine our future? Subjects will range from cows to windmills, gas rigs to sage-grouse, fish to forests, and everything in between. We hope everyone will join us, and welcome all points of view.

For up to date information about the *Voices of the Valley* series, please check your local paper, tune in to Bigfoot Radio 99.3, log on to the PVCC's Calendar, the Saratoga/Platte Valley Chamber of Commerce Community Calendar, or check out the flyers around town for more information about dates and topics.

* *Note to parents*- Childcare will be provided by the Big Brothers Big Sister program at their location one block over from the PVCC- 106 W. Bridge Street. Advance notice and minimum donation of \$5 per child is appreciated.

This series is being produced through a cooperative effort by the following organizations: Audubon Wyoming, Carbon County Higher Education, Saratoga/Platte Valley Chamber of Commerce, Platte Valley Community Center, Platte Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited, Rawlins Field Office of Bureau of Land Management, Saratoga Encampment Rawlins Conservation District, Sonoran Institute, Wyoming Stock Growers Agricultural Land Trust & Wyoming Wildlife Federation, with financial support from the George B. Storer Foundation.

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