

**Juniors  
 boosting golf  
 game in  
 Sheridan. B1**



## Woodland Park garden part of local produce effort

BY RYAN PATTERSON  
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SHERIDAN — Donna Johannesmeyer's classroom at Woodland Park Elementary School provides a view of an open field north of the school. About two and a half years ago, Johannesmeyer wanted to alter the view to include something more attractive and productive: a garden. Over the past few months, her plan has come to fruition due to broad community efforts. The Garden of Pride — named by Woodland Park students — is fully operational and beginning to show rewards of labor put in by an array of teachers, parents, students, businesspeople and volunteers. The process involved converting about an acre of field to a fenced area with a garden, shed and hoophouse. Whitney Benefits owns the land, which it leased to Sheridan College.

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JUSTIN SHEELY | THE SHERIDAN PRESS

**Second-grade teacher and garden co-leader Donna Johannesmeyer stands among raised garden beds at the Woodland Park Elementary Garden of Pride Wednesday, June 6, 2018.**



FILE PHOTO | THE SHERIDAN PRESS

**The Story Community Fund contracted the Sheridan Community Land Trust and Trail Solutions to develop the Story Wyoming Conceptual Trails Plan, but the implementation of the plan has hit a snag because of community response.**

## Residents stall Story conceptual trail plan

BY MICHAEL ILLIANO  
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SHERIDAN — Implementation of a plan to enhance and construct trails around Story remains on hold due to opposition from Story residents. In 2013, the Wyoming Rural Development Council published a community assessment report that noted while Story's landscape, climate and location were ideal for trail-related recreation, the area lacked developed pathways and trails. According to a summary provided in the Story Wyoming Conceptual Trails Plan, the community assessment indicated residents expressed interest in developing non-motorized paths that would connect businesses, neighborhoods and schools throughout the community as well as developing trails that

increase access to nearby public lands. In response to that assessment, the Story Community Fund con-

tracted the Sheridan Community Land Trust and Trail Solutions to develop the Story Wyoming Conceptual Trails Plan. Rather than prescribe trail routes in the Story area, the plan identified

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“zones of potential trail development,” areas that can accommodate trails for multiple uses — motorized or walking trails, good job of laying out what's possible based on physical space,” said Brad Bauer, the executive director of the SCLT. “But certainly...what is actually going to be built, if anything, is going to be based on community interest and appetite and direction given.”

But the implementation of the plan has hit a snag because of the community response, according to former SCF chair Patrick Morgan.

“We have some people here in town that don't want to see any change in Story,” Morgan said. Morgan explained that during the SCF's outreach efforts to solicit feedback on the implementation of the trail plan, some Story residents have voiced opposition to moving forward with the plan.

**Brad Bauer**  
 Executive director, Sheridan Community Land Trust

for instance — and of different designs. How, and if, those areas would be developed would depend on feedback from Story residents. “The conceptual plan does a

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## Ballard inspires, gives back with busy hands

BY ASHLEIGH FOX  
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SHERIDAN — If idle hands represent the devil's work, then many might consider Rosa Ballard one of the holiest 76-year-old women in Sheridan. Ballard, who lives at Penrose Place assisted living home, makes quilts for the community, dresses for African children and once brain-tanned a hide for the bride in “Dances with Wolves.” Ballard and her husband found ways to use almost the entire carcass of the animal through the brain-tanning process. Brain tanning uses the brain, hide and bones of the animal to cure, soften and thin out the hide

to create a leather. The couple would sell out almost instantly after taking the hides to Wyoming Muzzleloaders conventions. The Ballards also taught a Native American man how to tan hides to provide for his family. A lightly-smoked deer hide, processed by the Ballards and slightly tattooed by barbed wire in Douglas, was used to make the wedding dress for Stands With a Fist (Mary McDonnell) in “Dances With Wolves.” Later, though, when her husband died and she contracted throat cancer, doctors instructed Ballard to slow down a bit. “Rosa is a woman of God, she's widowed four years and she hasn't

stopped giving,” said Anita Schamber, friend of Ballard and a commissioned minister for Volunteers of America. Ballard no longer has the strength to brain tan a hide, so instead she works diligently throughout the day crafting quilts, dresses and baked goods for the community and family members. She and four dedicated sewers and quilters participate in the nonprofit group, Love In Stitches, which has donated approximately 350 quilts to various organizations and individuals. “For the good of others,” Ballard said. “That's what Love In Stitches is all about.”



ASHLEIGH FOX | THE SHERIDAN PRESS

**Rosa Ballard greets a fellow resident of Penrose Place Wednesday, June 6, 2018. Ballard helped make 350 quilts that were donated to various locations around Sheridan County.**

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**Debbie Watson**  
 of Sheridan

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