

# SENIOR

## A bold new front for Green Boomerang thrift store

BY LOIS BELL  
SHERIDAN SENIOR CENTER

SHERIDAN — Volunteers worked with the efficiency of a bucket brigade and now it's official: The Sheridan Senior Center's thrift shop, Green Boomerang, has joined the business community in historic downtown Sheridan. The Senior Center is targeting to open Green Boomerang on Feb. 6 at its new location at 226 N. Main St. moving into the space that housed Dan's Western Wear for years.

"Volunteers moved merchandise and shelving from our prior location on Werco Street to our new location," said Sheridan Senior Center Volunteer Director Haley Roberts. "We had volunteers from the Normative Services Academy, Ward Two and Ward Three of the Church of Latter Day Saints, individuals, Green Boomerang volunteers and Senior Center staff moving everything on Jan. 28. We started at 1 p.m. and had the large items in by 3:30 p.m. with some residual coming in up to 5:30 p.m."

Then the work of merchandise layout began. The new location brought the challenge of expanding from a 3,000 square foot store space to almost 5,000 square feet.

Roberts said the Senior Center team is ready to get rolling and open the doors to introduce the public to the renovated space that underwent a recent facelift.

"The front of the store will be restored with its original colors," Roberts said. "At that time we'll have a grand opening."

Green Boomerang — so named to reflect the eco-friendly action of recycling usable items — jumped in to be a part of the historic downtown Sheridan community since the 2015 holiday season. Although not open for business at its new location, the store's window display was decorated with donated snowmen dressed in poodle skirts for the Downtown Sheridan Association's 2015 Rockin' Christmas theme.

More than a year ago, Carmen Rideout, executive director for the Senior Center, visited with area churches that operate thrift stores to let them know the center was joining the Sheridan thrift store community.

"We wanted no surprises to them and to show an atti-



COURTESY PHOTO |

Haley Roberts, director of volunteer services, stands in the display window of the Senior Center's Green Boomerang thrift shop. Green Boomerang joins the business community of historic downtown Sheridan at 226 N. Main St. on Saturday.

tude of community," Rideout said.

To support the thrift store community in Sheridan, shoppers at Green Boomerang can ask for a map to visit other area thrift stores.

Green Boomerang added another twist to its membership among local thrift stores: it defines itself as a boutique thrift shop.

When Roberts accepted the position of director of volunteer services at the Senior Center, Green Boomerang had been open for eight months. AmeriCorps VISTA Pat Schwaiger was in place overseeing the store. Roberts and Schwaiger were committed to strengthen the boutique feel of the store that was initiated under Roberts' predecessor, Nancy McKenzie.

"We're expanding our hours at the new location," said Roberts. "We're now open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for shopping and Mondays through Saturdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for donations."

It is generous donors who have made the space and merchandise available for the Senior Center to open and operate at a positive cash flow since its opening in 2014.

In addition to a new space and hours, Roberts shares a peek into the future of Green Boomerang.

"We will have a larger variety of departments," Roberts said. "We're expanding our craft department and can now take more furniture. Down the line, we're introducing new areas such as a do-it-yourself work station and have ideas for special events such as a Ladies Night Out."

With expanded hours and events, Green Boomerang is in need of more volunteers.

"We're looking for a volunteer merchandiser, sales people, sorters and another janitor," Roberts said.

Incentives for Green Boomerang volunteers include flexible hours and days, and in-store credit. Volunteers age 60 and older and who are registered with the Senior Center can elect to get a lunch ticket for lunch at the center after a number of hours worked.

"Plus, you can make new friends," Rideout said.

"Being downtown broadens our audience. We have more exposure and great neighbors such as J.C. Penney," said Roberts. "Besides buying at Green Boomerang, donations of items are another way folks can support the Senior Center."

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|---|----|---------------------|
| Entrée Choice*                              | or | Soup Kiosk          |
| Sun - Potato Leek Soup w/ BBQ Pork Sandwich |    |                     |
| Mon - Taco Salad w/Beef                     |    | Corn Chowder        |
| Tue - Pork Wing                             |    | Pasta e' Fagioli    |
| Wed - Meat Loaf/ Gravy                      |    | Creamy Chicken Soup |
| Thu - Fish Florentine                       |    | Ham & Bean Soup     |
| Fri - Beef Stroganoff                       |    | Broccoli/Swiss Soup |
| Sat- Pork Chop w/Mushroom Gravy             |    |                     |

**\*Home Delivered Meals**

|   |                   |                |
|---|-------------------|----------------|
| Sun- Super Bowl Party (advance signup by calling the Senior Center at 672-2240) | 5:00 p.m.         | Dining Room    |
| Mon- Happy Feet/Cardio Dance  | 8:30 a.m.         | Community Room |
| Tue- Tai Chi  | 8:00 a.m.         | Community Room |
| Wed- D.E.E.P. Training begins   | 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. | Community Room |
| Thu - Toastmasters  | 6:30 a.m.         | Community Room |

Lunch Service Hours: 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., 7 days a week  
211 Smith Street Sheridan, WY 82801 (307) 672-6079

### CENTER STAGE

## Billie Ware homesteader and auctioneer

My granddad and Billie Ware came to Weston County Wyoming and took homesteads at about the same time. Ware related to me that it was he that saw the sign on the abandoned homestead that read "Forty miles to water, 40 miles to wood, I am leaving you sob, I am leaving you for good." There were more abandoned homesteads in Wyoming than there were the ones that stayed and proved up on their homesteads.

Several years later, Ware ran the grader for the county. He would smooth out the country roads and remove snow from them. One time he was operating the grader when a storm was eminent. He pulled into the yard of our ranch and shut the grader down to take refuge from the approaching storm. He had his cribbage board and several packages of cigarettes with him. He told dad, "that he did not know when or where but he figured that this would happen sooner or later. Ware was prepared for the storm.

The next morning, dad fixed oatmeal, bacon and toast for breakfast. The cream for the oatmeal was frozen.

When Ware poured the cream and ice on his oatmeal, he stated to dad "oatmeal a la mode." The storm lasted a couple of days and nights so dad and Ware played a lot of cards and smoked Ware's cigarettes.

Ware was an auctioneer when he got older. I remember going to several of his auctions when he was an auctioneer.

The Dagner family father and son had decided that they were going to buy a milch cow at one of Ware's auctions. The trouble with that plan is that they stayed too long at the Western bar before they went to the auction. When they arrived at the auction they got separated when the milch cow came up for sale. Naturally Ware took advantage of the situation. The father and son were bidding against each other and the owner of the milch cow got a lot more dollars than she was worth. Ware would get tears in his eyes when he would tell this story.

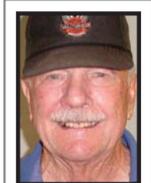
They were having a dance at the city hall, before things were modern. The water table is high where the outhouse is located. There was always water in the hole down below. The outhouse was connected for the men and women with just a wall separating them.

Ware had an urge to do his chores and he went to the men's outhouse. There was a brick there to put against

the door for privacy. A few ladies decided to use the other side of the outhouse when Ware was there. Ware being the prankster that he was started to moan and groan. After doing that he grabbed the brick and threw it in the water below. The woman screamed and vacated the premises immediately. The outhouse was doubleheader with just one hole underneath.

Ware had some hogs. The hogs had pushed and had broken a couple of the posts of the fence off at ground level. It was bitter cold and the ground was frozen. Ware had a solution for the broken fence and the frozen ground. He cut several blocks of snow and piled them up to make a fence. He then poured water over the blocks of snow. The water froze immediately making an ice fence that the hogs could not negotiate. Of course when it warmed up, the fence melted and was gone. The hogs had free reign to leave the enclosure. Ware had to set the posts to repair the fence. At least the weather had moderated and Ware did not have to dig in the frozen ground.

**BOB HUFF** grew up in Upton. He is a driver for the mini-bus managed by the Senior Center. Center Stage is written by friends of the Senior Center for the Sheridan Community. It is a collection of insights and stories related to living well at every age.



**BOB HUFF**



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### SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS

• A Valentine Tea Party for every generation, on Saturday, Feb. 13, at the Senior Center, 1-3:00 p.m. Bring one Valentine to exchange. No charge. Just call 672-2240 or stop by the front desk of the center at 211 Smith S. before Feb. 9 to let us know you're coming. Attendees can dress up and/or wear a hat if they wish! We have spots for 75. Girl Scout Troop 1333 and Miss Wyoming's Outstanding Teen, Olivia Boley, will present the program.

• Take a key role in managing your diabetes or pre-diabetes. Diabetes Education and Empowerment Program (DEEP) begins Wednesday, Feb. 10 in the conference room of the Senior Center. This is a free six-week course offered through the Wyoming Department of Health Aging Division. Attendees must be signed up in advance as space is limited. You may sign up by calling 672-2240 or stopping by the front desk of the Senior Center at 211 Smith St. Classes will be offered 9-11 a.m. on Wednesday mornings.

• Conversations in History as Helen Laumann shares the history of "Ranchester, Wyoming: A Town Built by the

Railroad," 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 10, at the Sheridan Senior Center. Check what room for this presentation at the front desk at the center. No need to call in advance. Just grab a beverage from our dining room and bring it with you to enjoy history!

• International Guitar at the WYO Theater is Feb. 16. Discount tickets for those who are 60 and older and registered with the Senior Center are available for sale at the Senior Center's front desk at 211 Smith St. The discounted price is \$18 per person. Must pick up by Feb. 10. There are a limited number of tickets at this price.

• Senior Center 101. Join us on Monday, Feb. 15, to learn about the mission of the Senior Center! 1 p.m. in the Senior Center Conference Room, 211 Smith St.

• Sauerkraut – A powerhouse food for probiotics! Join us on Feb. 17 at the Senior Center for a demonstration and insights into the power of probiotics. This is a free presentation for the community with registered dietitian, Georgia Boley.