



# Rawlins Daily Times

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Serving all of Carbon County



Courtesy Holly Foster

Kie Foster poses for a photo with his Spot Barrow pig named Clyde at the 2014 Carbon County Fair. Foster has been raising pigs for two years.

## Getting dirty with the pigs

By Han Cheung  
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RAWLINS – Rawlins Middle School student Kie Foster has only been with 4-H for two years, but he is already able and eager to help newcomers.

This week is National 4-H week, and Foster hopes to be a part in promoting 4-H.

“I’d like to see more and more kids join 4-H, to keep 4-H going and make it more fun,” he said.

Foster said he first joined 4-H because he loves animals. “Animals are really fun,” he said. “I just love being around them.”

For the past two years, Foster has been raising pigs. “I’ve had friends that have done swine before,” he said. “I tried it and they’re pretty simple and not that hard to take care of. They’re fun too – you can run around with them and play.”

Foster said he participated in all Carbon County Fair swine events this year. “I didn’t do very well in showmanship,” he said. “I talked to the judge and he said I need to stay off the railing and more in the middle of the ring. I just need to learn new things for next year so I can maybe place or do better.”

For the market swine com-

petition, Foster’s lightweight pig placed 7th. His heavy-weight placed 8th.

Foster said a big reason he enjoys 4-H is the interaction with other participants.

“I like to work with other kids,” he said. “I like to have fun with my friends and watch them compete against me. It’s just a fun thing to learn and have a good time and meet new people. Your friends help you meet your goals and you help them meet theirs.”

While Foster has yet to take on any official leadership position, he is glad he knows enough to help other kids out. “Being a leader is

helping other kids out,” he said. “One of my friends just joined and he’s asked me all kinds of questions that I could answer.”

Foster said he is building up a “4-H portfolio” where he can track how much money he’s spent on a project, add photographs and keep a list of his goals.

“You just keep adding to it every year and you can get better and better at 4-H knowing you have all this stuff,” he said.

Eventually, Foster hopes to branch out from raising pigs.

“Next year I’m probably going to do leather crafts as well,” he said.

## ‘Very persistent eating machines’

By Han Cheung  
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ENCAMPMENT – Jim Dutton of Rawlins was staying at his cabin at the Oddfellows Campground near Encampment earlier this week when he heard a loud “bang” around 10 p.m.

Dutton headed toward the source of the noise to find the back spoiler of his car completely torn off. The area around the trunk was riddled with teeth punctures.

“We didn’t see the bear,” Dutton said. “He took off.”

Dutton said there was food in the car since he delivers for Meals on Wheels in Rawlins.

According to Dutton, another cabin at the same campground was also attacked recently. A bear tore a few window screens off and scattered garbage all over the place.

“They’re probably looking for food for hibernation,” Dutton said. “The moral of the story is, ‘Don’t leave food in your vehicle.’”

Robin Kepple of Wyoming Game & Fish calls bears in the fall “very persistent eating machines.”

“This is the season of the year where they’re trying to put on as much weight as they can,” Kepple said. “They’re trying to take in

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### AT A GLANCE

#### Bears in human areas

- Minimize odors and the availability of food rewards throughout your property.
- Put out garbage on the day of pick up, not the night before. Store in a sturdy building or place in an approved bear-resistant trash receptacle. Game and Fish can provide information on where to purchase bear-proof trash receptacles, or a product guide may be viewed or downloaded at www.lww.org
- Keep barbecue grills clean and grease free. Store with livestock/pet feed and other attractants inside a sturdy building.
- Fruit trees: Pick all ripe fruit from the tree and surrounding ground.
- Electric fences are an effective way to keep bears out of orchards, gardens, compost piles and beehives. Follow appropriate safety precautions.
- Never feed wildlife. Nearly any food source can attract bears. Do not leave pet food outside. Hang bird feeders out of a bear’s reach (10 feet high and 4 feet from vertical supports) and take down at night and during periods of high bear activity.
- All wildlife can be dangerous. Do not attempt to chase or harass a bear out of your yard. Contact Game and Fish for assistance. For more information log onto the Center for Wildlife Information web site at www.bebearaware.org. Source: Wyoming Game & Fish

## The Great Pumpkin Run

By P.J. Cook  
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RAWLINS – Exercising outside will become harder as Carbon County advances toward winter. The Rawlins Rec Center wants community members to get one more run in before mother nature wraps the land in snow. The Rawlins Rec Center

is hosting a Pumpkin Run Oct. 18 from 9-11 a.m. at the Rochelle Ranch Golf Course. Participants can register for a 2K or 5K race at the rec center for \$20.

All proceeds go to the Library Foundation, which provides funding for programs, events and books for the Carbon County Library

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## Trout Unlimited conservation efforts help fisheries remain healthy

By David Louis  
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RAWLINS — The Platte Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited has big plans for 2015, with nearly \$500,000 in water conservation projects planned for Carbon County.

For more than 50 years, Trout Unlimited has been committed to preserving and protecting cold-water fisheries throughout the west.

Chapter members in Wyoming, Colorado and Montana are focused on conservation issues including protecting public lands, ensuring quality habitat for fish, implementing public policy and galvanizing grassroots support to help sustain healthy fish populations.

Jeff Streeter is the North Platte River water project manager for Trout Unlimited.

“What we try to do is identify projects — whether they are channel restoration or irrigation diversions or water quality issues and others — that effect and promote healthier cold-water fisheries,” Streeter said. “In Wyoming, that means trout.”

Streeter added that if all goes well 2015 should be a productive year.

“We will probably have three projects with a number of others that will either be in the organizational

stage or may not even happen, which is the nature of the beast,” Streeter said.

“We never quite know what we have in store, because I have to raise funding for the projects, secure the associated permits and get the landowners involved to agree with what we want to do.”

In the works is a collaborative project between Trout Unlimited, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the U.S. Forest Service to remove two fish barriers on Coon Creek and the east fork of the Encampment River.

“Much like deer and elk, the larger the range is the more healthy the herd, which really applies to trout as well,” Streeter said. “The more connected our waters are the more secure trout populations become.”

The barriers were installed in the 1960s to prevent fish from entering the ecosystem. At the time, data was being collected to measure variables such as flow rate and volume pre and post-timber harvest.

“It was an interesting study. Unfortunately the barriers were left in place,” Streeter said. “We will go in there and reconnect the fishery and clean up the sites to bring them back to nature as much as possible.”

Trout Unlimited will also conduct

two channel restoration projects to halt bank erosion and quell sediment buildup on the Encampment and North Platte rivers.

“Rivers that don’t move sediment have lost their energy, and they’ve lost their energy because they are too wide,” Streeter said. “When this happens you see a mid-stream bar building like the one between the two bridges at Saratoga.”

Sand and gravel bars in turn create even more stress on a river’s natural balance.

“When the balance is changed, where does the channel exert its pressure? It is on the riverbanks, which causes lateral erosion to occur,” Streeter added. “This process just exacerbates itself. Over time it will keep getting worse and worse.”

The money to pay for the conservation project is largely provided through federal and state assistance such as from the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust.

Without this trust, Streeter said, it would be hard to complete many Trout Unlimited projects.

“These things can get expensive,” Streeter said. “I was on a project that finished up last week and I was spending \$10,000 per day on heavy equipment. The projects can get very large, very quick.”



Rawlins Daily Times, Gavin Elliott

Jeff Streeter and the Platte Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited have \$500,000 in water conservation efforts planned for fish like this rainbow trout caught on the North Platte River and the anglers pursuing them.

