

Soda Springs

Chamber of Commerce

Winter 2010-2011

Newsletter



Seasons Greeting

From the President—Terri Bergmeier

Observations about small towns

This fall I went on a very non-typical vacation for my husband and me. We left Soda Springs and headed for what was to be a trip to Sheridan Wyoming. There is no direct path to get to Sheridan so we meandered through west-central Wyoming visiting small towns along our path. We stopped and shopped in Pinedale, visited the mining towns of South Pass, had lunch in Lander, soaked in the hot springs at Thermopolis, had breakfast in Worland and visited Lovell. The friend we were to visit in Sheridan had to work so we changed directions and headed for Red Lodge Montana where we spent the whole day! Then we travelled on to Cooke City and a night camping in Yellowstone Park. Then on to Gardiner and Chico Hot Springs and back through the park and out the west entrance on our way to Driggs for a couple of days before returning to Soda Springs.

What a loop! What I really want to share with you is some of my observations about small town Wyoming, Montana and Idaho. Each of these towns had a very distinguishable downtown area with cafés, shopping; some had theaters, museums, parks and scenic areas. Many had created a welcoming charm with flower pots, banners, clean streets and tree lined sidewalks with seating. Several towns had newly updated facades on all their buildings, colorful signage and window displays that suggested certain business vitality.

There was a Dinosaur Center, hot springs, art shows, farmers' markets, mining exhibits, mountains, hiking, river floating, fishing, horseback riding, rodeos, rendezvous' and even wild mustangs. Each of these small towns was capitalizing on the great wild places surrounding them and the seasonal recreation opportunities provided there in and around.

Another observation was that each of these communities was for the most part dependent on agriculture and one or more industry. Potatoes, sugar beets, wheat and hay fields abound. The gas and coal industry.

And most of these communities, no matter how small, had an active chamber of commerce. There were readily available printed brochures, travel, shopping, and recreation guides, and for some, whole magazines dedicated to the hidden treasures their town or valley or county had to engage visitors and community members alike.

So. What does all this mean? Here are a few questions I am asking myself...What can we do here in Soda Springs and Caribou County to encourage travelers to stop in our community? What can we do better to get our own residents to shop, buy and play local? What initiatives can the Soda Springs Chamber of Commerce support to create vitality in our business community?

Over the next couple of months the Chamber board of directors will develop a strategic plan with specific goals and objectives and initiatives. I hope you, our members, will assist in this project by providing ideas, suggestions and directions that our community might take. As you visit other communities in your travels, take a look around and see what you like, what makes you want to visit that community, spend your money and time there. A survey will be emailed to your business early in January. Please share your thoughts and ideas with us by completing the survey when you receive it. Thank you in advance.

Mission Statement: The mission of the Soda Springs Chamber of Commerce is to foster the growth and development of the commercial, industrial, agricultural and professional interests of the community while preserving its unique style of life.

Soda Springs Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 697, 9 W 2nd S
Soda Springs, ID 83276

Winter Carnival in Soda Springs

JANUARY 15, 2011

- **Fishing Derby – Clear Spring**
Registration 6:30 a.m.
Fishing 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Prizes and loads of fun!
Call Jerry Giles, 547-2310
- **Snow Machine Fun Run**
Trail Canyon Recreation Area
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Donations benefit the Food Bank
Call the Erickson's 547-4582
- **Special Events for Kids**
Free Movie, Free line of Bowling
Enders sack lunch & gift
- **Disc Golf's "Ice Bowl"**
At Kelly Park
Registration – 11:00 a.m., \$20
Chili Cook-Off
All to benefit the Food Bank
Call Ed Hegemann 547-0040
- **Lil Angels Swap Meet**
Sell/swap your kid stuff, Handmade
Children's items,
Youth group fund raiser
Thirkill Elem School Gym
9a.m. to 3 p.m. --Booths \$15
Call Jori (307) 679-4675
- **Make-it & Take-it @ Sr. Citizen Ctr.**
Chili & Fresh Bread for sale
Make a quilt block, ear rings & lots of
other fun things. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Call Dianne Munson 208-731-9561



Enjoy Winter Recreation Locally

- *Kelly Park Nordic Ski Trails*
SSNSA – 208-547-4856
- *Bailey Creek – Dale Moon Trail*
- *Trail Canyon Warming Hut and trails – USFS 547-4356*
- *250 miles Groomed Snowmobile trails-USFS 547-4356*
- *Pebble Creek Ski Area – Inkom, Idaho, 775-4452*

Harlem Ambassador Sponsors

All-Star Basketball Player Sponsors

Burgoyne School of Music
Sanders Furniture and Appliance
Broulims Supermarket
Intermountain Gas
Ireland Bank
Soda Springs Chamber of Commerce

Quarter Sponsors

City of Soda Springs
Lallatins Food Town
Gary's Coffee Cottage
Soda Springs Jt. School District #150

Community Support

Alco
Bear River Chiropractic
Bear River Sales
Caribou County
Caribou County Sun
Geyser Bowl
KRVB Caribou Broadcasters
KITT-FM Radio
Subway
Zions First National Bank
Enders Hotel
And.....
All of our enthusiastic volunteers



Hometown Bucket Dumpers: Front Row - Mike Burt, Jake Fabrizio, Shantell Humphreys, Kason Walton, Kurtis Nelson, Loren Yost, Back Row - Shelby Johnson, Taylor Anderson, Carrie Yost, Katie Peters and son, Grant Campbell



Officials for the game Tyson Christiansen and Jason Cunningham



New Executive Director Dianne Munson

Dianne has previously been involved with the Twin Falls Chamber and brings a wealth of experience working with businesses. A warm personality and commitment to providing quality service shine through in all she does. Her strong leadership skills will help guide the Chamber as we plan and develop new initiatives. Please join us in welcoming Dianne. Dianne's office hours are 9 to 11am Monday thru Thursday

Advantage Plus Credit Union.
Agrium
Alco
Alliance Title & Escrow Corp.
Arctic Circle
Bear River Sales
Bear River Vision
BISCO
Brigham Young Lodge
Burgoyne School of Music
Caribou County
Caribou County Drug Court GC
Caribou County Drug Court GC
Caribou County Drug Court GC
Caribou County Farm Bureau
Caribou County Sun1
Caribou Highlands Access TV-Chat TV
Caribou Land Title Inc.
Caribou Lodge & Motel
Caribou Memorial Hospital1
City of Soda Springs1
City of Soda Springs1
Clear Springs Foods, Inc.
Costco Wholesales
Degerstrom Ventures
Eastern Idaho Development Corp
Eastman Drug
El Toro
Erickson Racing & Repair
Flame
Gary M Lemarr DMD
Geysers Bowl1
Healing 4 Bodies
Hilltop Hideaway
Homeland Web1
ID/UT High Country Real Estate
Idaho Department of Labor1
Idan-Ha Theatre1
Independent Cable System
Intermountain Gas Co.

Ireland Bank1
Jeff's Repair/Towing/Storage
John's Repair
JR Inn
KBRV Caribou Broadcasters Inc.
KITF FM-100
Lallatin Food Town1
Lava Hot Springs Foundation
Linx Wireless
Lott Builders & Glass
M.R. & E., Inc.
MAAG Medical
MAGE Trailer Park
Main Street Floral1
Mason Distributing Co.
Med-Ex Paramedical
Monsanto1
Monsanto1
Mountain State Insurance
Mountain View Dental Clinic, PC
NAPA Auto Parts
Oregon Trail Eye Care
Oregon Trail Farmers Market
Paramount Supply Co.
Perk's Electric Service, Inc.
PPS/Brite Gas1
R & L Communications, Inc.
Sanders Furniture
Security State Corp.
SilverStar Communication
Soda Creek Lodge
Soda Shooting Sports
Soda Springs Chevron
Soda Springs Jt School District #150
Soda Springs Phosphate II, LLC
Soda Springs Rotary
Soda Springs True Value
Soda Suds Car Wash
Spring Creek Manor
Subway

Todd Hunzeker Ford & Mercury, Inc.
Tronox
United Hairlines
US Bank
Vaughn Smith Construction
Wingfoot Commercial Tires System, LLC
Washington Division of USR
Zion Bank

*2010-2011
Membership
Please show your
support of the Chambers
Members by shopping
local!*

Santa visited the Children of Soda Springs Dec 6th at the Masonic Lodge this year. Sponsors were Lallitins, Costco, Perkins Electric, Tronox, the Girl Scouts, and your Chamber of Commerce.



New Years Baby

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

GET INVOLVED IN THIS FUN ANNUAL EVENT...CONTRIBUTE AN ITEM FOR THE FIRST BABY OF THE NEW YEAR BORN IN SODA SPRINGS. Your contribution will be recognized in the next newsletter and on the Chamber Website. To support this fun program, contact Linda Anderson at Sanders Furniture or Dianne Munson at the Chamber office at 547-4964 no later than January 10th. Lets make this year's gift basket the best ever!

