

# LARAMIE BOOMERANG

Laramie's Voice Since 1881

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LARAMIE, WYO.



The World Trade Center lights shine over the site Friday in New York. Sunday will mark the 10th anniversary of the attacks of Sept. 11. AP photo

## LARAMIE REMEMBERS 9/11

**What:** Remembrance event at Laramie High School  
**When:** 7:40 a.m. Monday  
**Where:** at the flagpole in front of the school  
**Details:** The school band will play the national anthem; local police and fire department representatives will raise the flag; a moment of silence and the reading of a proclamation from President Barack Obama will follow.

**What:** Laramie Fire Department Memorial ceremony  
**When:** 8:15 a.m. Sunday  
**Details:** flag raising, ringing of the

bells at Station 1 (on Fourth Street), a presentation and prayer by the Laramie Police Department chaplain.  
 Following the ceremony, there will be tours of the fire station and refreshments.

**What:** Memorial ceremony, organized by the city of Laramie emergency response personnel  
**When:** 11 a.m. Sunday  
**Where:** War Memorial Stadium on the University of Wyoming campus

**What:** "We Will Remember" memorial event

**Who:** Laramie Police Chief Dale Stalder; Laramie Fire Chief Dan Johnson; University of Wyoming Professor of Military Science Lt. Colonel Mitch Day  
**When:** 2 p.m. Sunday  
**Where:** 417 Ivinson  
**Cost:** Free; refreshments will follow  
**Details:** The event will include a bell-ringing to honor fallen firefighters, a speech from the American Legion post commander and a bell-ringing ceremony to honor the fallen heroes of the military from the American Revolution will present Global War on Terrorism.

## Local agency search for missing man

**By AARON LECLAIR**  
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The Albany County Sheriff's Office said it has organized the largest interagency recovery operation of the year to locate the body of a 71-year-old man who went missing near Centennial in July.

Teams of search-and-rescue workers from multiple agencies will meet in Centennial this weekend for the 11th time to look for the body of Keith William Lantz, who has been missing since July 3, when it's believed he fell into the Little Laramie River.

On Wednesday, 66 days after Lantz went missing, Undersheriff Rob DeBree and Lt. Brian Fritzen sat down for an interview in which they said the sheriff's office and other agencies have not given up the search for Lantz's body.

"The case isn't concluded until we find something," DeBree said.

With colder weather fast approaching, DeBree said the recovery effort might be the final major interagency operation this year.

"This could be our last major search effort of the year ... unless we come up with something of an evidentiary nature," he said. "We're hoping, with the amount of people that we're going to be able to get into the area, that

we're going to be able to come up with something."

Both Fritzen and DeBree asked the Boomerang not to print the exact day of the search to prevent spectators from showing up at the site.

"We have to have a very controlled atmosphere with these searches," DeBree said.

The recovery operation will consist of ground, dive and canine teams.

"We're going to have people ... in parallel with the people that'll be in the river out to the flood line," DeBree said.

If searchers do not find substantial evidence of Lantz's body this weekend, DeBree said the case would remain open throughout the fall and winter — with deputies continuing to investigate — until a new series of interagency operations could be organized next spring.

"We'll still be continuing to follow up on everything," he said.

The first major organized search took place from 6 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on July 4. Since then, the sheriff's office has led search or recovery operations nine times that have included divers, a Bureau of Land Management helicopter, canine units and searchers walking along the river's edge.

After being too high and fast this

summer for diving teams, the Little Laramie River has now calmed to the point that divers can be sent into the main channel, Fritzen said.

The river's main channel is about 30 yards across and from 3- to 8-foot deep.

However, while the river is flowing at a slower rate than in July, the water is still moving fast enough to make searching a challenge, DeBree said.

"It's not easy walking by any means," he said. "You have to take your time with it. (There's) still a lot of deep holes."

And, even through the river has receded, it is still full of debris, Fritzen said. "There's numerous areas where logs have piled up," he said, "so there's large debris fields."

Since July, teams have found various articles of clothing along the river's edge that indicate Lantz was in the area when he disappeared.

"There's been clothing located as recently as Friday, and his wallet," DeBree said.

"We've located a shoe and other items further down."

In addition, clothing has recently been found along a bank that was underwater this summer, when the Little Laramie River was much higher

## City proposes land swap with UW

**By PETER BAUMANN**  
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City and county officials, business representatives and conservation experts told the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees Friday that there is now an opportunity to further protect the Casper Aquifer recharge zone — and create vital recreational open space — if the university and other interests agree to exchange property on the Y Cross Ranch for 10,000 acres immediately east of Laramie in the aquifer protection zone.

"We have an opportunity right now with the Y Cross Ranch up on top of the hill, which the University of Wyoming owns in conjunction with (Colorado State University), to possibly make a land trade," Mayor Scott Mullner said. "(To) both preserve the aquifer and provide some needed recreational opportunities adjacent to our city boundaries."

Laramie Rivers Conservation District Manager Tony Hoch told trustees that the Casper Aquifer provides anywhere from 60-100 percent of the city's drinking water, depending on drought conditions.

Snowmelt and rain recharge the aquifer through barren bedrock just east of town, he said.

"We don't have protective soil and we don't have sand, we have fractured rock where water can move very freely into the aquifer and into wells," he said.

"And there is development pressure within (that aquifer protection zone)."

City water quality surveys in recent years have shown elevated nitrate levels — a common contaminant found in fertilizer sewage — along Grand Avenue. Hoch said the proposed land swap would help to prevent further degradation of the aquifer.

"Right now, all we have to do to treat this water is add chlorine and fluorine," he said. "The water is of very high quality."

Trustee Warren Lauer asked Hoch how much of the city's water supply is consumed annually by UW.

"(There is) 20 percent delivery to the UW campus and facilities. That does not include all the residents who are faculty," Hoch replied.

Councilor Erik Molvar submitted a letter of support on behalf of the Biodiversity Conservation Alliance, where he serves as director, and said the proposed land exchange also had the support of the United States Forest Service.

"In the arid West, nothing is more important than water," Molvar said.

"I hope the university and trustees can get behind this idea wholeheartedly."

Bringing the property under public ownership would also be an important step in developing open space right next to the city. Convenient recreational opportunities for hiking, horse back riding and mountain biking are becoming more and more crucial to attracting a skilled workforce to a community, Molvar said.

"The previous owner of the ranch in question used to allow public access, and that shows demand," he said. "Opening up this area to public ownership would allow continuous pathways and radically improve access to public lands directly from city limits."

Citing Cheyenne's purchase of the Belvoir Ranch, hydrologist Bern Hinkley said acquiring lands for public benefit and protection is something many surrounding cities have already done.

"Public ownership would be the best way to protect the aquifer, as well as (realize) its open