



LARAMIE BOOMERANG

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SUNDAY PROFILE

Pushing the limits



Extreme adventures a way of life for local student

By CAITLIN TAN
news@laramieboomerang.com

Swimming through the silent, cold waters of Fremont Lake, David Rule felt at peace despite a vicious storm brewing in the sky above.

"It was really calming," he said. "You'd think it would be stressful or really invigorating, but the whole entire swim was really calm."

David, 19, a sophomore at UW, competed in the summer to break the 5 hour and 50 minute record to swim across the 9 miles of Fremont; a lake in Pinedale that averages a temperature in the mid-50s. He broke the record in 5 hours and 34 minutes.

Originally, six people were going to swim. David was the only one to finish. Due to the ever-present thunder and lightning storm, two people dropped out the morning of, David said. Several world-class Norwegian swimmers opted out the day before because of the chilling water temperatures.

David said he considered not swimming for a split-second, but decided to go for it anyway. The waters remained relatively calm. Rule said he was only challenged during the first and last mile.

"I went out way too fast," he said. "I was trying to get in the groove. I thought, 'Oh my gosh, I have nine of these.'"

A canoe followed David the entire swim. After three hours, David said he thought he had only been swimming for 30 minutes.

"Time went really fast — just cruising in the water," he said.

But his last mile the storm hit hard. David said the waves were huge, and it quickly became a battle to make any progress.

"I was fighting the waves and thinking, 'at any moment lightning could hit me,'" he said.

University of Wyoming student David Rule stands on a rock during a recent three-day backpacking trip. Rule and a friend climbed to the summit of Gannett Peak in western Wyoming. Courtesy photo

See Rule, A8

AWARENESS

Wearing purple

Organizations raise awareness of domestic violence

By NURIA MATHOG
nuriam@laramieboomerang.com

Albany County organizations and businesses are once again donning purple this month in recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

According to data from Laramie Police Department Lt. Gwen Smith, in 2016, the LPD received 75 calls regarding domestic violence — including 39 arrests — through Oct. 12.

See Domestic violence, A7



ALBANY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

Looking forward

School district releases stakeholder surveys

By NURIA MATHOG
nuriam@laramieboomerang.com

Albany County School

District No. 1 released online surveys this month asking students, staff and parents for feedback on their experiences — one of the first steps in ongoing efforts to develop a strategic plan.

See Survey, A7

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INDEX: Comics/Abby C6 Opinion A4-A5
 Calendar A2 Legals D5 Sports C1-C5
 Classifieds D3-D6 Obituaries A6 Weather A2

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