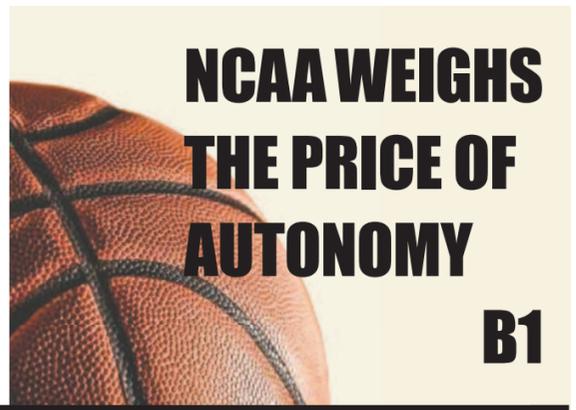


# LARAMIE BOOMERANG

TUESDAY | JUNE 10, 2014 | LARAMIE, WYO | LARAMIE'S VOICE SINCE 1881



## NCAA WEIGHS THE PRICE OF AUTONOMY

**B1**

75¢

### EDUCATION

# 'Bettering our lives'

BY THE NUMBERS:  
CLIMB WYOMING

- 92 percent graduation rate
- 75 percent of graduates employed in two years
- Average annual income is \$10,240 higher two years after graduation



Amanda Schneider, left, receives a hug during a CLIMB Wyoming graduation ceremony Thursday evening at the Depot. Schneider was one of seven women to graduate this spring. JEREMY MARTIN/Boomerang photographer

## Program seeks to help single mothers achieve independence

By EVE NEWMAN  
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Clutching tissues and smiling at their children, seven women commemorated the start of a new chapter in their lives Thursday evening during a CLIMB Wyoming graduation ceremony.

As friends, family and others looked on at the Depot, the cap-and-gown-clad graduates celebrated the completion of intensive training they started in February, designed to give them skills to achieve self-sufficiency as single mothers.

For graduate Amanda Schneider, finishing CLIMB Wyoming felt like starting anew.

"I just need to be the parent I'm supposed to be and not rely on somebody else to help raise my child," she said.

A few months ago, she was working two jobs and living with her mother. Now she's interviewing for long-term positions and plans to move out this summer with her two-year-old son.

Even better, she's "100 times more mature" than she was a few months ago.



Wyoming program director Katie Hogarty, right, talks with graduate Nerida Mora during a graduation ceremony Thursday evening. Mora was one of seven women to graduate this spring. JEREMY MARTIN/Boomerang photographer

"I've gained some independence that I never had. I've taken these steps that I never would have taken, ever in a million years," Schneider said.

CLIMB Wyoming operates in six communities around Wyoming and has been in Laramie since 2004. The program provides comprehensive training for

participants, including job training in areas where local positions are available.

See CLIMB, A10

### COURT

## Hung jury results in mistrial

### Jury fails to reach verdict on alleged kidnap, sexual assault case

By CHILTON TIPPIN  
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A trial involving a WyoTech security guard who allegedly kidnapped and sexually assaulted a minor ended Friday in a mistrial.

The six-man, six-woman jury first notified Jeffery Donnell, District Court Judge, that they were deadlocked at about 12:45 p.m. Friday.

Donnell issued an "Allen Charge," encouraging jurors to continue deliberating. The jury proceeded with discussions but returned without a decision.

Donnell declared a mistrial at about 4:30 p.m. Friday. The jury deliberated for nearly 15 hours.

Both the alleged victim and the defendant testified during the trial, which began Wednesday. The names of both are being withheld in accordance with the Laramie Boomerang's policies regarding alleged sexual assault cases.

See Court, A7

### EDUCATION

## Hill committee readies report

By AERIN CURTIS  
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CHEYENNE — The end could be in sight for the Legislature's Select Investigative Committee.

The 16-member panel was formed last August to review State Superintendent of Public Instruction Cindy Hill's work at the Wyoming Department of Education.

The task has included a review of topics raised in a report from the Governor's Inquiry Team, the committee reports.

Its work is now drawing to a close, said Rep. Glenn Moniz, R-Laramie.

Before it is completely done, though, the panel will finish a report on its findings, he said.

That report is in its draft stages, he added.

The committee's work initially

### At a glance:

The work of the Legislature's Interim Investigative Committee might be drawing to a close as it finishes its report on State Superintendent of Public Instruction Cindy Hill's first tenure with the Wyoming Department of Education.

See Hill, A7

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# CLIMB

Continued from A1

In Laramie, that's mainly office careers, said program director Katie Hogarty. Participants meet several times a week for training in hard and soft jobs skills. They learn how to operate various computer programs such as QuickBooks and Excel while also learning etiquette and ethics.

They also receive training in areas such as parenting, nutrition, relationships and even self-defense. Plus, they receive individual and group counseling to prepare for long-term success.

Hogarty said the CLIMB office works with employers to fit graduates into positions that match their skills, interests and personalities. The office reimburses employers for the first eight weeks of wages, payroll taxes and workers' compensation when they hire a graduate, in exchange for supportive on-the-job training.

"We are matchmakers," she said. So far, one of the spring's graduates has secured a job. Several have conducted interviews with the city of Laramie, Albany County and Albany County Public Library, among others.

Long-term prospects are good. Seventy-five percent of local graduates are employed two years after they finish the program, compared to fewer than half beforehand.

On average, incomes increase from \$11,300 a year before the program to \$21,500 two years later. Food stamp participation drops from 62 percent to 39 percent.

Hogarty praised this spring's group for their commitment to each other. They shared bikes, beds, meals and rides. They took care of each other's children, provided emotional support and laughed together.

"Sometimes when you're alone and a single mom, life feels really isolated," Hogarty said. "This group has really taken advantage of that peer support."

As she called each graduate's name, Hogarty pointed out strengths the woman exhibited during the program, such as calmness, perseverance, grace or leadership.

"This group has been such a gift to be a part of," she said.

Schneider said the evening was bittersweet. "I'm feeling every emotion there could possibly be. I'm holding back tears," she said.

When asked about the motivation for joining and finishing CLIMB, she didn't hesitate with her answer — he was wearing a green stocking cap and climbed into her lap partway through the program.

"I'm ready to start bettering our lives," she said.



Amanda Schneider wipes away tears during a CLIMB Wyoming graduation ceremony Thursday evening at the Depot. Schneider was one of seven women to graduate this spring. JEREMY MARTIN/Boomerang photographer

## Summer Youth Arts Initiative

The Cooper Center for Creative Arts



Free art and dance classes for children 3-16

**Tuesday's 4:00-4:45 pm** class offers dance with one on one instruction and a less stimulating environment for children 5-9 years of age. Children on the autism spectrum or with social/communication challenges may enjoy this class.

**Tuesday's 4:00-4:45 pm** class offers art for children 10-16 years of age with intellectual & physical disabilities, on the autism spectrum, or with social/communication challenges.

**Thursday's 4:00-4:45 pm** class offers art for children 5-9 years of age with intellectual & physical disabilities, on the autism spectrum, or with social/communication challenges.

**Thursday's 4:00-4:45 pm** class offers dance for children 10-16 years of age with intellectual & physical disabilities, on the autism spectrum, or with social/communication challenges.

**Dates: June 10th– July 17th**

1174 North 4th St

Laramie, Wyoming 82072



For information: call 307-742-3996 email [events@arkrs.org](mailto:events@arkrs.org) or visit our website [arkcreativearts.org](http://arkcreativearts.org)

## Dad Doing 'DAD' Things!



This month submit your photos of the **'World's Best Dad'** doing what he does best to the Laramie Boomerang's Our Town Photo feature at the end of the month.

Please include with your photos:

- Dad's Name
- What he's up to in the photo
- And who's submitting the photo

Deadline to submit for the Boomerang's Our Town Dad Doing "Dad" Things photo page is Monday, June 23rd by 5pm

Please submit non-professional photos. Professional work will not be published. By submitting your photograph, you represent that you are the owner or have permission from the owner to do so at no charge for editorial use. You authorize the Laramie Boomerang to publish and republish the photo. Not all photo submissions may be published. Electronic submission photos should be in jpeg format and of high quality and reasonable size. Send to [graphic2@laramieboomerang.com](mailto:graphic2@laramieboomerang.com)