



Photo by Zachary Laux

**Pastor Helen Young embraces Sophia's excitement after a week-long Vacation Bible School ends.**

## Getting to know Jesus

*By Zachary Laux*

Several children got to know a little bit more about Jesus after participating in this year's Vacation Bible School.

Children who participated in the camp from July 22-26 made arts and crafts, listened to biblical lessons and learned dances to songs, all geared toward the theme of "getting to know Jesus".

"It reaches in the whole community," said Helen Young, Pastor for the First Presbyterian Church in Saratoga. "It gives us a chance to share God's love with them." Children of all ages walked between the

First Presbyterian Church and St. Ann's Catholic Church July 24, enjoying several events set up for the day.

The town of Saratoga donated swimming passes to the children who participated in the camp. The children also performed at the Power at the Pavilion event at the Saratoga Museum, displaying what they learned during the bible camp.

Young said the success of this year's program wouldn't have been possible without all the volunteers who gave their time for the kids.

# Place-based in the Platte

*By Zachary Laux*

About 50 children brushed up on their science skills in a hands-on summer program that spanned from July 15 to 19.

Educators from Carbon County School District No. 2 and Teton Science Schools in Jackson assisted with bringing Teton Summer Science Camp to Saratoga for the third year in a row, said CCSD 2 Science Facilitator Josh Sandlian.

The program uses a teaching method called place-based education, a method designed to utilize local resources to teach students science in a hands-on environment.

"We just wanted to have a week where we were focused on science and science place-based science education," Sandlian said.

The entire week followed an energy in Carbon County theme with each day of the week highlighting a different energy topic.

"We sat down and talked about all the different

types of energy there are in the Platte Valley and how we could incorporate that into the week," Sandlian said.

On Monday, students K-6 from across the school district learned about oil and gas energy. Tuesday, the students took a tour of Power Company of Wyoming's new wind farm site south of Rawlins to learn more about wind energy. Wednesday, students learned about water energy. Thursday was a project day, and Friday marked a community service day, where students visited the Saratoga Community Gardens and decorated rocks to give the garden a new look.

Sandlian said the week, brought to Saratoga by Teton Science Schools in previous years, will be completely district-run in a couple years.

"We are working towards CCSD 2 taking over the summer science program," Sandlian said. "Not that we don't enjoy working with Teton Sci-



Photo courtesy of Josh Sandlian

**Students from across Carbon County School District No. 2 pose during their tour of Power Company of Wyoming's new wind farm site south of Rawlins**

ence Schools, but as we move forward one of the goals is that our teacher will run the summer science week. We will continue to work with Teton Science Schools throughout the school year. We will continue to send students to Teton Science School in Jackson, but this one piece, we are phasing them out so we are in charge of what we are doing."

Sandlian said he plans to have the summer science week completely district-run by 2015.

Sandlian said a dis-

trict-run summer science program is important so teachers have closer relationships with students, and to introduce place-based learning in the classrooms.

Sandlian thanked LeAnn Uhling, Annette Kelley and Dave Rangitsch of Saratoga Elementary School; Deb Burke and Brenda Morgan of Encampment School; and Kim Besel, Mindy Sutter and Mark Shipp with Hanna Elementary School for their participation in this year's summer science program.

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## Mattea gets Valley Strong



Photo by Liz Wood

Kathy Mattea belts out "Standard Lonesome Time" to a nearly sold-out crowd Saturday night at the Platte Valley Community Center. Brush Creek Presents sponsored the concert, "Valley Strong". Several organizations sold tickets to the concert and were the benefactors of the tickets they sold. For more photos of the concert, see the Saratoga Sun's Facebook page.

## Powering up for the Lord

Photos by Liz Wood

**Left, Ransom Gates plays guitar Saturday at Power at the Pavilion. Upper right, Jonathon Pattishall-Baker plays clarinet Friday night. Bottom right, Pastor Gene Smith, of the Platte Valley Christian Church, and Doris Davis sing Friday night.**

