



takes just seconds for a vibrant college campus to turn into a center of chaos and tragedy. Since the 32 shooting deaths at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007, colleges around the nation have been working to better protect their own campuses.

The remote campus at Laramie County Community College is no exception.

"We have to be prepared," said Ron Bailey, Campus Safety and Security manager. "It could happen here."

Recent school killings — the latest being Northern Illinois University in February — have demonstrated the vulnerability of all schools, especially college campuses because of their open access, Bailey said.

Steven Healy, the president of the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, has stated that campuses require a layered approach to security, starting with highly trained campus safety and security officers, appropriate security technology, and crime prevention through environmental design, according to a report in Campus Safety Magazine. Mass emergency notification systems such as phones, text messaging and e-mail also are extremely important, he said.

In the aftermath of Virginia Tech, Laramie County Community College has enhanced its layers of safety and security. Most recent has been the addition of text alerts for students and employees in the event of a campus emergency or closure due to bad weather. The college also has increased manpower for the Campus Safety and Security department.

Campus Safety and Security works around the clock 365 days a year to monitor public safety, enforce campus regulations, campus traffic and parking rules, and provide CPR, emergency first aid and limited emergency vehicle assistance. While unable to make arrests, campus officers work with the Laramie County Sheriff's Department regarding any criminal activity that may occur on campus.

"We have a tremendous working relationship with the Laramie County Sheriff's Department," Bailey said. "It's something that has been cultivated through time. We're here to help each other."

Tragedies like Virginia Tech's have forced everyone to be more cautious about personal safety. Anyone who visits, studies or works at LCCC should feel safe, Bailey said, but they also have a responsibility to be aware of potentially dangerous situations.

"I don't want people to be afraid to come here," Bailey said. "But the threat is never going to go away. There's always something going on, on a campus someplace in the United States. It's everyone's job to be watchful and report suspicious activity."

Even — and especially — at Laramie County Community College. ❖

Nine emergency call boxes are located on the Cheyenne campus.

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LCCC student Brandon Parence waves his key across an electronic access system before gaining entrance into the LCCC Residence Hall. The system utilizes proximity devices to verify all users.



Academy is usually defined as a school above the elementary level.

The usual doesn't apply here, but the skill level does as soccer students from around the region participate in Laramie County Community College's soccer academies.

Jim Gardner, academy director and head coach of the Golden Eagles women's soccer team, said the programs offered are more than camps; they're better described as an academy.

"We like to think of it more as a learning and school atmosphere, where we work on very specific technical parts of the game rather than a camp where many times general topics and tactics are taught."

The LCCC Golden Eagles soccer programs have proven to be very successful. The men's team has claimed the Region IX title the past three years, and the women's squad has made three consecutive appearances at the national tournament. The programs aim to share their tools of success with young players through the winter and summer academies.

Gardner said the goals of the camps are to build a base of quality soccer players in Cheyenne and the region.

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n an era of leisure suits, station wagons and social unrest, Laramie County Community College was born and beckoned its first students to join the new institution.

The year was 1968, and one of those first students was Cheyenne resident Al Cassidy.

In the 40 years that have transpired since the college first opened its doors, new buildings have peppered the campus; enrollment has swelled; programs have been added.

And Cassidy finally received his degree.

"When LCCC first opened, I didn't think it was going to make much of a college," Cassidy said, "and they were probably thinking I wasn't going to make much of myself, either."

But time tells a different story — one of growth, success and ultimately, a degree for one of the first students at Laramie County Community College.

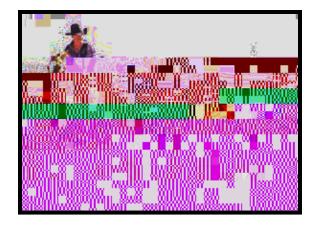




With men still being heavily drafted for the war, Cassidy knew he wouldn't be able to avoid it because of his poor GPA. So after one semester at LCCC, he entered the Navy and served in the nuclear submarine service. After six years he finished his military duties and returned to Cheyenne. Over the next few years, he began working in the







Today

Jump ahead more than 20 years to happy hour at Uncle Charlie's bar in Cheyenne. Cassidy, now the owner and general partner of Climate Control Heating & Air Conditioning, was having a drink with his former instructor and friend Henry Derr, an LCCC chemistry and math instructor. As the conversation turned to Derr's impending retirement from the college, Derr realized that Cassidy never received a degree.

"Why didn't you ever go back to see if you had enough hours for a degree?" Derr had asked Cassidy.

"I just never thought about doing that," Cassidy replied.

After a little research on Derr's part, Cassidy was the proud owner of an Associate of Arts and Science degree, dated 2007, 39 years after he took his very first class.

"We've both come a long way since 1969," Cassidy said. "I'm proud of what LCCC has done and what it has become, and I'm hoping that maybe they can say the same for me."

Al Cassidy was one of Laramie County Community College's first students.

He's certainly not the last. ❖





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The day Carol Kabeiseman started working at Laramie County Community College was the day Elvis died. In the years that have passed since 1977, Kabeiseman has worn different hats with LCCC, most recent being director of the nursing program. Having helped

thousands of students become nurses, she will retire in May. Her plans include traveling with her husband, Earl, volunteering more in the community, gardening, reading and cooking.

Carol Kabeiseman

"The nursing program has just grown tremendously. I think the best part of teaching in this program is pinning and the graduation afterward. These people walk across that stage and ye e ee e

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Save time!

You can register online at www.lccc.wy.edu.



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