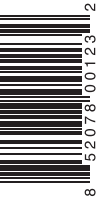


The Guernsey Gazette



Tuesday, February 20, 2024

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Volume 125, Number 08

Guernsey Gazette unveiling revamped website

GUERNSEY — On Tuesday, February 27, the Guernsey Gazette's revamped website at guernseygazette.com will be unveiled.

Work on the site has been ongoing in recent months in an effort to bring the best online experience possible to readers in the Guernsey area and abroad.

The Guernsey Gazette editorial staff will now have access to a state-of-the-art content management system to bring a more informational and immersive experience to subscribers. Editors will be able to customize the site and story features as they see fit to deliver local news in the most efficient ways possible to the site's visitors.

As they have in the past, readers will be able to keep up with the top local news and sports stories on the site, as well as police reports, obituaries and opinion pieces.

The revamped site also includes more streamlined methods for those looking to view e-editions and subscribe to the Guernsey Gazette on-

line. Feedback from subscribers and readers over the years was considered as the site's design was made. The site will also include an upgraded advertising experience for local advertisers looking to reach readers online.

Marking the special occasion of the upgraded site, access to stories online will be free to all users for two weeks, from February 27 through March 12. No pay-wall will be in use on the site during that time.

For current subscribers, usernames and emails will be transferred to the new websites; however, passwords will not. Once the two-week grace period ends, you will receive an email to update your password. Once you have updated your password, the website will be usable as it was previously as a subscriber.

The Guernsey Gazette appreciates your continued readership and looks forward to providing local news to its subscribers in the best ways possible in the future.

Police to comply with FBI reporting requirements

By Lisa Phelps
lphelps@pcrecordtimes.com

GUERNSEY — "Last week was exciting," Guernsey Police Chief Harrison said at the February 6 meeting of the Guernsey Town Council. "It was a fun-filled two days at DCI (Department of Criminal Investigation) where the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) instructed me and the police chiefs throughout the state on how to report incidents to them."

The National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) was enacted in 2021 as the official standard reporting system for all police agencies in the United States. It is intended to provide more accurate data collection and reports nation-wide so the federal government can accurately measure crime and public safety trends. The NIBRS details a broad array of criminal offenses, types and amount of property lost, types of weapons used in incidents, and demographic information about victims, offenders, and persons arrested.

All law enforcement agencies in the country are required to report, Guernsey Police Sergeant Brian Thomas said. "Every time the department has a specific incident, it has to be reported to NIBRS."

Thomas explained DCI helped arrange the meeting to encourage the state's law enforcement agencies to start complying with the federal mandates.

Currently, statistics show just 53 percent of law enforcement agencies across the nation have been complying.

Chief Harrison said any agency not reporting to NIBRS is not only being out of compliance with state statute, but "...they punish us by not awarding federal grants and recognizing us, or helping us, in any way. Now we will be in compliance and will be [eligible] for grants."

Thomas explained it's important to have accurate reporting to the NIBRS, for instance, because the data is utilized by real estate companies online, showing crime rates in the neighborhood as optional data for homebuyers to consider when moving to a new location.

Officially, the Guernsey Police Department will be in full compliance with federal reporting requirements by the end of this month.

For more information on the NIBRS, go to the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics at bjs.ojp.gov/national-incident-based-reporting-system-nibrs.

“ Every time the department has a specific incident, it has to be reported to NIBRS —Sgt. Brian Thomas Guernsey Police Dept. ”

INSIDE: **County addresses ballot concerns**, page 2
Tourism, Fire Department request, Police Report heard at Town Council meeting, page 10

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FOR THE RECORD

Commissioners address ballot concerns

By **Stephanie Wilson**

swilson@pcrecordtimes.com

WHEATLAND — Some members of the Platte County Republican Party recently expressed dissatisfaction or suspicion regarding the use of ballot machines for election polls. With scandal and media frenzy surrounding the last Presidential election results, voters are concerned that electronic counting methods could be suspect, or even tampered with.

Jerry Cundall, chairman of the Platte County Republican Party brought the group's concerns before the commissioners. "We have a very good, solid bunch of people in the Republican Party, and we are united in our thoughts," Cundall began. "Our intention is for everyone to be involved in the voting process, and while there are murmurs of controversy, our County Clerk, Malcolm Ervin is doing a superior job. What he has done

is great, but our problem is with the machines."

Cundall acknowledged that even though the results were easy and fast, there are questions surrounding the use of machines, and potential tampering or hacking problems down the road that could potentially affect the end result of a vote.

"Is there a possibility that these machines can be manipulated?" Cundall asked. "Our mission is to get together and see if we can improve the security of a system before there is an issue. We already seen interesting things with these ballot machines across the country. What can we do to prevent a problem?"

While Cundall also acknowledged that leadership in the county has been good, and there have not been ballot problems here, the potential threat remains; at least in the collective mind of the Platte County Republican party.

"We understand that County Clerk

See **BALLOT** page 9

OBITUARY

Josephine (Josie) V. Apodaca

Funeral Mass for Josephine (Josie) V. Apodaca, 90, of Guernsey will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Casper, officiated by Rev. Clark Lenz.

A second Funeral Mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Guernsey, officiated by Rev. Ray Moss.

Josie received her wings on Saturday, February 3, 2024. Cremation has taken place and burial will be at a later date. Arrangements are under the direction of Bustard & Jacoby, Casper.

Josie was born May, 12, 1933, in

Lingle, to Joe and Susie Ramirez. On June 17, 1957, she married Gus Apodaca in Hartville. Together they celebrated 62 years of marriage.

Josie is survived by her son Park of Guernsey, grandchildren; Brandi, Easton, Bryson and Mahlia, great-grandchildren; Alina, Mariya, and Vince, great-great-grandchild; Aulora, three siblings; Isabel Martinez, Cathy Bubnick, and Tom (Bonnie) Ramirez all of Casper, and numerous nieces and nephews who all loved her dearly. She was preceded in death by her husband Gus, son Robin, parents Joe and Susie Ramirez, brothers; Harold, Nick, Harry, Joe, Raymond and Johnny, and sisters; Sally, Lupe and Charlotte.



Caregiver clarifies use of term "loved one"

By **Stephanie Wilson**

swilson@pcrecordtimes.com

WHEATLAND — There has been some well-meaning concern expressed after a couple of features on the newly organized Dementia & Alzheimer's Support Group. While organizer Stacey Reichardt

has first-hand experience looking after, caring for, and supporting a loved one suffering from the ravages of this disease, the loved one in question was and is not her spouse or other family member.

In an effort to protect the identity of persons affected, I have intentionally left out certain names in effort to protect their privacy and will continue to do so. However, Reichardt wants those who know her to understand that this was a friend, and not her husband.

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To submit an obituary, email the information to ggeditor@guernseygazette.com or call 307-322-2627.

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Budget, firearms, and the carbon negative scam

By **Stephanie Wilson**
swilson@pcrecordtimes.com

WHEATLAND — House Representative Jeremy Haroldson (R) is slated to attend the 67th Legislative sessions in Cheyenne this week but took time to address the Platte County Commissioners at their meeting February 6th.

Haroldson opened by stating that it is a Constitutional requirement to bring a balanced budget for the state to operate the next two years. Monday, February 12th was the first day of sessions, and according to Haroldson, it is not quite clear what they will be doing once sessions commence. “We had 89 bills as of yesterday (February 5) with 400 in the hopper. Those are 400 that we can’t even look at yet,” Haroldson explained. “We will look at these in the next couple of weeks. It’s difficult to plan and nothing can actually be done until the bills hit the floor.”

Property taxes are not surprisingly a topic of discussion. Haroldson indicated that there is some talk about a cap on residential property tax, but is not sure it is a viable solution. “It is something we need to keep an eye on. Legislation will have to act. There are some citizen petitions that are being brought to the ballot so that is interesting,” Haroldson added he would like to study sales tax and find ways to intelligently fund Wyoming counties. He also indicated that budgets are not the only topic of discussion as there are other, very important bills coming down the pike.

“We are running out of the Federal money slug we got as a result of COVID. That is coming to an end. We maybe have 18 months left, and the governor has lowered the amount that counties will be getting; but those funds are drying up,” Haroldson explained.

Fortunately, Platte County has not become as dependent upon those funds as other counties have, according to the Representative. “But we do need to also have the education funding conversation, there is a bill coming through now that I find very flawed, as is it geared only toward low-income families,” Haroldson said. “Every child deserves an education, why would we choose an income bracket for that? Even though our cost of education is skyrocketing, what is the funding model? We don’t want income tax, but we

really need to talk about this fiscal cliff.”

An emergency was recently declared in Wheatland due to the dangerous condition of the Black Mountain Water Tower. Haroldson said that he has been working quite a bit on this issue. “Governor Gordon declared this an emergency, we do have our own splash pad now, and a major concern of the engineer was that 700,000 gallons of water could be lost in seconds if that tower falls. We have moved forward with SLIB (State Loan and Investment Board) and did move forward on that emergency action, and have variable vein pumps and a drain tank,” Haroldson explained. “We are looking for additional funding, and Candy Wright (Town of Wheatland Clerk) has been doing amazing things writing grants and finding



Jeremy Haroldson
(R-Wheatland)

funding. I’d like to see if we can proceed without using the 6th Penny Tax funds.”

Additionally, Haroldson briefly talked about a Supreme Court ruling that states that an 18-year-old has a constitutional right to purchase a handgun. “The ruling was previously 21 years of age,” he added. “States around the country are aligning their statutes with that; I’ve got a bill that opens it up to 18, 19, and 20 years of age, and when 20, in Wyoming, they can apply for a conceal-and-carry.”

Haroldson went on to say that he felt gun-free zones needed to be eliminated. “Statistics prove that these are the very places that people go to commit crimes. There has not been a mass shooting in a school where guns were carried,” he said.

“We know there will be a pro-Palestin-

ian march at the capitol the day sessions start, and no one can carry a firearm,” he said. “It is a weird feeling. It’s our house, and our building, but we have no 2nd Amendment right inside.”

Haroldson closed by saying that the “Carbon Negative” conversation is a bad conversation in Wyoming. “We don’t have the technology to even try to fulfill that, and the only way to be carbon negative is to eliminate fossil fuels. There is no proof that [fossil fuels] is hurting us. Our fields need a certain amount of carbon, but the narrative is the opposite in D.C. Even in Cheyenne, a shift is happening: a push for wind energy. But we don’t have a tax structure around wind,” Haroldson added.

“How much wind is enough?” he asked. “And how long can Wyoming hold onto their back, the ideology of energy in other states? Wyoming is paying for bad policies in other states, and if we lose our legacy industries, we do not want to see how poor this state can be. We are a rich state because coal, oil, and gas has been our foundation.”

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Robert Galbreath/For the Gazette

Recognizing 95 years ... Platte County District No. 2 Board members Kevin Gross, Sarah Seyfang and Blaine Ayers shake hands with staff members who were honored for a combined total of 95 years of service to the Guernsey-Sunrise Schools.

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Guernsey-Sunrise presents “Years of Service” awards

By Vicki Hood
vhood@guernseygazette.com

GUERNSEY – Eight staff members of the Guernsey-Sunrise Schools were honored recently for their combined 95 years of dedicated service to the district.

The award plaques were presented at the high school basketball games by Superintendent Lisa Weigel and members of the Board of Trustees for Platte County School District No. 2.

Art instructor Laura Green, Vocal Music instructor Matt Hebbert,

“ These individuals have made many contributions to the education of the children in the district.

–Jeremy Deitchman
Assistant Principal

” Early Childhood Coordinator Misty Thomas, and Para Educator Rebecca Walsh were each recognized for five years of service.

Business Man-



Photos by Robert Galbreath/For the Gazette
Board member Kevin Gross shakes hands with Vocal Music Instructor Matt Hebbert for his five years of service during the presentation of years of service awards recently.

ager Nikki Quinn was recognized for 10 years of service.

Technology Director Curtis Cook was recognized for 15 years of service.

Bus Driver Max Garner was recognized for 20 years of service.

Custodian Lois Whelan was recognized for 30 years of service.

Guernsey-Sunrise School's Assistant Principal Jeremy Deitchman told those gathered, “We are proud to recognize this group of individuals. They have made many contributions to the education

of the children of the school district. Many times, we take

those who work in our schools for granted and forget to acknowl-

edge and show our appreciation for the important work they do.”



PCSD No. 2 trustees, including Sarah Seyfang (l-r) and Blayne Ayers, recognized Laura Green, art instructor for five years of service.

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OPINION

Wyoming must take a measured approach with property tax

Ashley Harpstreith,

*Executive Director,
Wyoming Taxpayers Association*

WYOMING — As the 67th Legislature once again considers Wyoming residential property tax proposals in the 2024 Budget Session; it is my hope that they will take into consideration all the contributing factors of the property tax system and the local services it provides. Any changes in the property tax system must provide immediate and targeted relief with a measured approach.

Here are some helpful reminders of what property tax is used for. First, property tax is a LOCAL tax that provides a way for Wyoming citizens to pay for the services they have become accustomed

to. Just to name a few, those types of services include K-12 education, local government, law enforcement and special districts, such as fire, weed and pest, hospitals and community colleges. Many of these services have had local authorizing elections to provide local solutions for local needs. Additionally, property tax is the way that we as Wyoming citizens fulfill our constitutional obligation to provide an equal and adequate education for all Wyoming students for the K12 education system.

The legislature has a complicated task in front of them when contemplating the



Ashley Harpstreith
Wyo. Taxpayers Assoc.

increased residential property assessments and the preservation of the stable funding for these critical, constitutional, and local services. Without a doubt, we are in unusual times with significant inflation and an extreme increase in demand for property and shift of populations. Those circumstances have had a significant impact on

many Wyoming residents and their tax bills. However, these conditions are situational and do fluctuate.

With that said, successful proposals will contemplate the stresses of situational economics and provide immediate relief that can be adjusted to meet the needs of local and state requirements. More complex

structural tax policy changes are permanent and inflexible and thus should be utilized for true tax reform and stabilizing Wyoming's economy. Without a measured approach in reduction of spending or identifying additional resources (tax increases) to meet the cost of services, anything that limits property tax revenues will result in a future shift of the burden from one tax classification (residential) to another (commercial, industrial, and mineral). This would place significant pressure on an already unbalanced system and only further exacerbate the volatility of Wyoming's economy.

Since 1937, WTA has been educating and informing its members and the public about sound fiscal policy; providing state and local policymakers with unbiased analysis of public expenditures and taxation and promoting efficient and effective government through a wide dissemination of reports and analysis. WTA's mission is to advocate for sound tax policy for a health Wyoming economy.

The Guernsey Gazette



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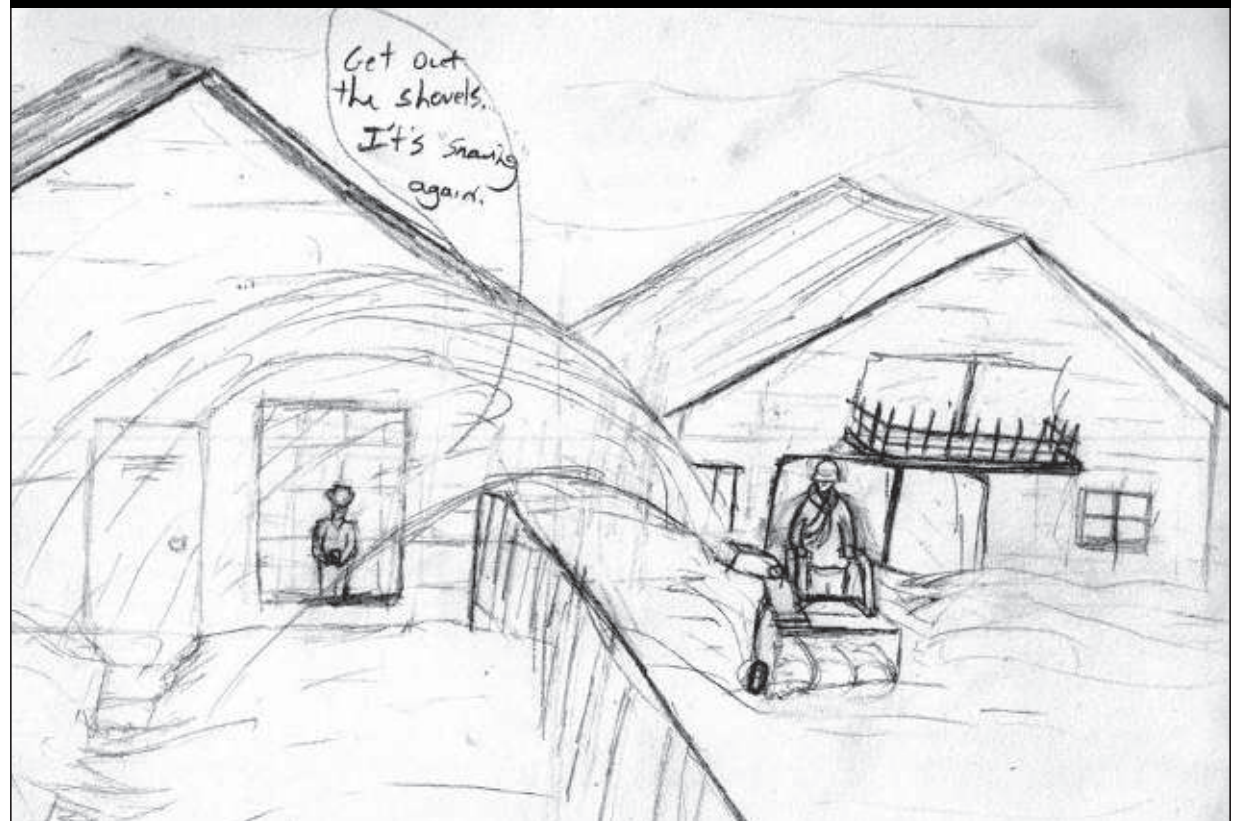
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CARTOON



By Annabelle Phelps, Wheatland

"Get out the shovels, It's snowing again!"

Tourism, fire department funds request, police report heard at Town Council meeting

By Lisa Phelps

lphelps@pcrecordtimes.com

GUERNSEY – In the community and organization reports, Shawna Reichert, a volunteer representative of Guernsey on the Platte County Lodging and Tax board, shared with the council the new campaign being launched online to draw in tourists to the county. “We found out with the marketing company that people want to come to Platte County to hike, because they like to hike in the winter and we do not have the snow to fight with. The winter season landing page tells what to try if they’re here in the winter, and it has lists of hotels and Air B&B’s so they can stay longer than one day.”

She also said the pages for the planning season will be ready in March for the typical time people are planning their summer trips, and in May with the travel season, they have a campaign encouraging tourists to explore living history that ties into a theme mimicking the popular “Oregon Trail” game. With slogans like, “No fording the river necessary.”

Reichert explained other marketing companies have used the same pictures year after year, but the current marketer is using different and interesting pictures. The overall look will be along the lines of the style used by the State of Wyoming’s tourism campaign. There will also be a billboard that will be located by Little Bear, directing people to the website and helping people find their way around the county and the interesting things it has to offer.

The governor’s tourism conference will be held the end of February, and Reichert said the Platte County Lodging and Tax Board decided to use the grant money to attend the international meeting in Casper. She explained the meeting is a networking with other countries, where the Board will invite them to encourage the tourism in their countries to stay in Platte County. Reichert shared a previous experience at the international meeting, “I have had countries like Italy come to me and say they came because of the International Roundup.”

In a report concerning the Platte County Chamber of Commerce, director

Reichert filled in the Guernsey Council on the Ag Banquet hosted in appreciation of agriculture business in the county. There were 215 people who attended, and Colt and Leah Thayer of Mill Iron L Meat were awarded the 2023 Ag Business of the Year award for their contributions to commodities and schools. She also shared the Chamber is communicating with other Chambers around the state as they actively work to have a voice for small business interests in the state legislative session. Part of that was a “Lunch and Learn” the Chamber held to fill in members on bills that are being proposed.

Councilwoman Penny Wells said she

was asked by a citizen to find out how much money from the lodging tax was used to pay Reichert in her position at the chamber.

Reichert responded “There is nothing in the Memorandum of Understanding (with the Town of Guernsey) that says what anyone gets paid. I make nothing on the lodging tax board.”

When Wells pressed Reichert to explain two different amounts from the Town that are paid to the tax board, Reichert said the total amount was given to Councilmembers in a final copy of the budget, and a copy of what is turned into the County Clerk is also available on the plattecountyywoming.com website.

“I don’t have the numbers at the top of my head because I’m not involved in the MOU. I refuse to have anything to do with that part of the chamber,” Reichert emphasized in explanation of how she separates out her different rolls to prevent conflict of interest.

Fire Department Report

In Department reports, Fire Chief Jeff Thomas echoed citizen concerns from the meeting about abandoned houses in town. “I’ve got a lot of concern about a number of properties. I am not looking forward to going to any of them, but eventually I’m going to have to.”

See **COUNCIL** page 10

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Two student archaeologists participated in digs at the historic town of Sunrise recently. Their work and more about what's happening in Sunrise will be the topic of the Platte County Historical Society's program on Tuesday, February 27th.



Courtesy Photo

Digging history in Sunrise

By Linda Fabian
For the Gazette

PLATTE COUNTY — The Platte County Historical Society will host a talk by John Voight on Tuesday, February 27th at the Platte County Library. The free program will begin at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

John is a long-time member of the Platte County Historical Society and well known for his restoration and renovation efforts at the historic town of Sunrise, Wyoming. Sunrise was a company mining town of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, and is listed on the National Register of

Historic Places.

Between John and the support group, Sunrise Historic and Prehistoric Preservation Society (SHAPPS), those efforts have not gone unnoticed locally, or on an international level. John's talk, "What's New in Sunrise...What's Old in Sunrise" will shed light on all that is and has been happening, including student scholarship, archaeological digs that have attracted broad attention, collaboration with Eastern Wyoming Community College, oral history projects, public programs, and so much more.

If you have been to

Sunrise, you'll appreciate this program. If you have not yet visited the area this program will make you want to go!

The Platte County Historical Society is a chapter of the Wyoming Historical Society. Membership includes receiving Annals of Wyoming, Wyoming History News, notices of special events such as treks to historic sites, award opportunities, and more. Officers include Rick Robbins, President; Mary Jo Birt, Vice President; Kathy Price, Secretary and Diana McDonald, Treasurer. For more details contact Rick at 331-3024.

BALLOT

from page 2

Ervin has a lot of rules to abide by. We just want things more secure and establish voter confidence. A lot of people don't want to use the machines. Is this a real threat or is it perceived?" Cundall queried. "We have been told that these machines can be hacked. We really want your input as commissioners."

"We use equipment from a company named Election Systems & Software (ES&S)," Ervin explained. "We have two types of equipment. The DS200 is an optical scanner and all it does is count the votes that are marked on ballots. The other piece of equipment is called the ExpressVote, which is used to mark ballots."

Commissioner chair Steve Shockley answered by saying, "The Voter Accessibility laws require the use of these machines to accommodate voters who cannot physically vote another way. It must be in place to accommodate certain limitations." The equipment in question is part of this requirement.

"Malcolm's office has done a lot of extra work in all of the elections we have had in the past year," commissioner Ian Jolovich interjected. "That's a choice he has made to be more involved in that process. He has gone above and beyond, and his staff has done the same thing. It does help to become more familiar and comfortable

with the whole process." Jolovich added that he continues to come back to election integrity. "We have locked that down in the aspect of voting," he said. "I believe the problems stem from everything leading up to the voting point. Ninety percent of what goes wrong happens in the time before people vote."

Jolovich cited a situation of potential voter fraud (that does not just exist with the use of machines) when he lived in another state, and used to receive mail-in ballots meant for the previous owners of the house. "That's a bad deal. There would be no way to check invalid or fraudulent voting of that kind. I believe we are doing a good job. Voters stop trusting the process because they hear all the stories and misinformation leading up to an election, so the question is really how to address that problem. I believe we have very trustworthy county workers."

Cundall added that he hoped to continue to publicize the positive action the Republican Party is taking. "We really want people to know what we are doing and what we are trying to accomplish. It is also so important to get young people involved.

sessions, you won't know," Ervin said. "Our office has done a good job to convey that the process is fair, honest, and accessible. We will continue to do that. It must be a partnership. We want those with concerns and questions to come."

Cundall did reiterate that the concern was with voting equipment and not with Ervin or his staff. "We are meeting with Malcom next week, and we will talk about what we can and can't do and what restrictions exist," Cundall added. "Our group represents a good cross-section of the county, and we would love your input. We only want to avoid potential problems down the road."

"I can't really find a study that says a hand count is better than a machine count," Shockley said. "I've read study after study that the hand count is off by six percent and the machine count is off by two percent."

Jolovich expressed his appreciation to Cundall, "We appreciate you coming in. It's hard to do, and most people don't. I just feel there is more liability leading up to an election."

Cundall replied that the Republican Party was sincerely interested in the opinions of the commissioners and Ervin. "If we know what you're thinking, then we know what we can do, and we just want to be proactive instead of waiting until there is a problem."

“Our office has done a good job to convey that the process is fair, honest, and accessible. We will continue to do that. It must be a partnership. We want those with concerns and questions to come.”

—Malcom Ervin,
Platte County Clerk

ent. If there is concern about the election, then why aren't people involved in the other processes of how it takes place?"

Ervin also encouraged attendance to post-election audits and other meetings. "There are a lot of concerns that are addressed at the county canvas as well as during the post-election audit. But if you're not attending those

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Platte County Public Health



Platte ParaTransit receives generous grant

For the Gazette

Kathy Wilson, Platte ParaTransit Board

WHEATLAND — Thanks to the efforts of members of All Saints Episcopal Church in Wheatland, Platte ParaTransit recently received a generous donation from the Foundation for the Episcopal Church in Wyoming.

Platte ParaTransit provides transportation to and from medical services and facilities in Cheyenne, Douglas, Laramie, Casper, Ft. Collins, CO and Scottsbluff, NE for Platte County residents who are elderly, disabled, and otherwise unable to travel.

The service is especially important for patients who need dialysis, because most of them need to be treated three days a week at centers in Cheyenne or Casper. Because this service is available, many of them are able to continue to live at home instead of being forced to move to a care facility near a dialysis provider.

The Platte ParaTransit has been operating in Platte County for over



Photo courtesy Kathy Wilson

A check is presented to Platte ParaTransit Board members Kathy Wilson (l-r), Jill Bramlet, Joshua Bruns, Susan Zimmerman, and Diane Schroeder.

10 years through the efforts of Marge Scholten and the local Thrift Store, but was re-organized into a non-profit organization when Marge retired and the Thrift Store was sold. It is now funded only through donations, fundraisers, and the generosity of volunteers. It costs about \$2,500 a month to operate, maintain, and provide insurance for the vehicles.

According to Covenant Lutheran Church Pastor Joshua Bruns, who is also

a Platte ParaTransit volunteer, "We are constantly seeking volunteer drivers. A clean driving record is a must. Anyone wanting to volunteer with us can apply and be interviewed; many of our volunteers are retired and it's a good fit for them." We appreciate any ideas for raising funds and are grateful for our generous donors.

For more information, contact: Kathy Wilson at 307-241-0156 (e-mail: kewilson@juno.com)

COUNCIL

from page 7

He shared last month the fire department went to several calls last month with two accidents, some alarms and training. Thomas asked the Council to consider authorizing five of the department's firemen to spend \$350 per person to attend the EMS training in Glendo, since the Council tasked him with getting as many fire department personnel to take personal responder courses. Attendees would receive certifications "right below EMT-B," Thomas said. "At that time, we could ... transport patients, if needed, on an emergency basis."

He cited a situation recently when both ambulances assigned to Guernsey were busy on other calls when the Fire Department could have transported an emergent patient in their rescue truck, but were unable to do so legally because they didn't have the proper certifications. Thomas said the situation was resolved, but he welcomes the ability to

See **COUNCIL** page 11

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COUNCIL

from page 10

do more for people in the community. “Considering where we are, the distance to the hospital and ambulances, I am totally in favor of you getting training,” Councilman Michaels said.

Fire engine No. 208 is “on a flatbed on its way to Greeley” for repairs, and may need another engine, Thomas reported. He also asked the council to considering increasing by \$200 the amount he was budgeted to spend on ice rescue gear. There is currently a two-for-one sale on the gear, and he could get them both for \$1,200, which he emphasized is “a good deal.” He needs the council to let him know by the end of the month.

The fire chief also discussed no parking signs that are to be going up on the building, and in response to Councilman Dale Harris’ inquiry about progress on getting seals on the doors, Thomas said someone showed up and took measurements, but he hasn’t heard anything back from them. He further shared there was a new furnace installed for the medics on their rooms and the weight room, but the doorway is open, and “until we get a door put in, that heat will go into the bay all the time.” Thomas added he has not had any luck getting anyone to complete that task.

Maintenance Report

Reporting on town maintenance, Mike

Fronapfel said, “Everything is pretty good. We worked on water line breaks, and there have been some electrical outages - I think people have noticed over the last few days.” He said his team hasn’t pinpointed the specific problem yet, but “hopefully we’ll find it soon.”

He reported the wrap on the cemetery building is done, the handrail “looks nice”, they’re getting electricity going to it, and the electricity at city hall is going to be put in for the automatic doors of the planned handicap entrance. Fronapfel also updated the Council of details on the progress he’s making in getting the specialty bulbs for Guernsey streetlights, which is a very involved process. “It’s coming along slowly,” he said. “We did find some, but [it’s been a challenge] finding the right supplier to produce them for us.”

Councilman Michaels said the Wyoming Municipal Power Agency (WMPA), 10 years in the future, will “probably” go to time-of-day, rather than by-the-minute billing of electrical services. He stated Wheatland has made progress in their billing system, and asked Fronapfel if it made sense for Guernsey to go to something similar.

Fronapfel answered a complete transi-

“
We reduced crime
calls 35 percent - our
presence reduced
crime.”

—Chief Jay Harrison

Guernsey Police Dept.

”

municipal court cases have been down lately. All criminal cases are now going through county court. Anyone with a bench warrant issued by the municipality would have to be housed at the Sheriff’s Office, and the town would be responsible for paying \$150 per day for incarceration, plus any medical or other fees incurred by the inmate while in jail. Since that is not feasible, all arrests will now be cited through county, state or federal violations.

After questions from the council concerning traffic violations, said the department devoted 30-35 hours of traffic monitoring in a two-week time frame that resulted in three warnings and two citations.

tion to a universal billing and monitoring system is included in the Town’s four-year plan. At that time, all electric and water meters will be converted to a central system. “We will be able to do it all from Town Hall,” he said, speaking of reading meters, turning services off and on, and managing on-peak demand services.

Police Report

Police Chief Jay Harrison reported the department will be in compliance with FBI reporting requirements by the end of the month. He also explained the reason

“There’s not a lot of traffic violations, which is a good thing,” Chief Harrison said.

Sympathizing with public comments at the meeting, citing fear and alarm with individuals loitering about the town, Chief Harrison said, “We reduced crime calls 35 percent - our presence reduced crime.”

He said the department has a 92 percent success rate in closing cases, either by arrest or solving the case. “Those are good statistics, though we’d like 100 percent,” Harrison said, adding, “Yes, we do have a problem with mental health assistance resources in Wyoming. We have three to four calls a week on people with mental health issues. There is one specific person we get calls on several times a day, but Sgt. Brian Thomas, with his dilligence, worked very hard to find something to help this person. Today he worked with VOA (Volunteers of America) and in cooperation with this person, help is being provided.”

Crosswalk Signs

New crosswalk signs were put up at US 26 and Nebraska Ave., and the council is seeking to encourage people to use the side of the street where the signs are to cross the road.

“We have signs up now, please use them,” Michaels said.

The council unanimously voted to adjourn after announcements and an executive session to discuss personnel.



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SPORTS

Varsity girls hammer it out on the court, No. 4 in conference

By Lisa Phelps

lphelps@pcrecordtimes.com

GUERNSEY – It was a hard week for the Lady Vikings, falling to Southeast 9-36, Rock River 19-58, and Hanna-Elk Mountain, 35-46, but there is no lack of grit in the girls, and they intend to use it heading into Regionals.

Last week's games began with a battle with the number-one ranked Southeast Lady Cyclones in the first quarter, where Layla Noggle and Lashea Dimas forced a Southeast turnover, but Lady Cyclones still netted 13 points in the first quarter. Quarter two saw Liberty Whitebird steal the ball twice and net one free throw; Rylee Thompson stole the ball from Lady Cyclone offense and nabbed two points for the board, ending the score 19-3, Southeast. Quarter three was much quieter with Southeast offense dominating the court and adding 12 points to the board. The Guern-

sey-Sunrise girls fought hard in the fourth quarter, and forced Southeast to keep active, resulting in some fouls against Thompson that allowed her to gain four points from the freethrow line. Dimas and Whitebird both took turns sneaking the ball away from the Lady Cyclone offense, but in the end, the Lady Vikings lost the battle, with the final score ending with a disappointing 9-36, Southeast.

Thursday, the Guernsey-Sunrise girls faced number-two conference team, the Rock River Lady Longhorns. The first quarter saw a small lead by the Lady Longhorns of 9-3, which widened by the second quarter to 25-5, Rock River. The girls hustled, but ended the third quarter, 46-11, Lady Longhorns. The fourth quarter saw defense step up to keep the Lady Longhorns from adding too many more points, and net-

ting another eight points for the home team. The final buzzer sounded with a score of 58-19, Rock River.

Scoring was led by Whitebird with six points, followed by Jacelyn Schiele with four, and Noggle, Dimas and Thompson each with three.

That hard-fought game gave the Lady Vikings a jump start the following day in another conference match-up, this time against Hanna-Elk Mountain. The first quarter, saw teamwork as the Lady Vikings got a jump on offense with 10 points on the board, and defense kept the Lady Miners to four

See HAMMER, page 18



Photos, Robert Galbreath/For the Gazette
...And it's going in! (Alyssa Nyquist, No. 1, above) seeks a double in last week's games.

Rylie Thompson (No. 23, right) grabs for the ball as Lashea Dimas (No. 15) gets ready for a wild ball.



Robert Galbreath/For the Gazette
Dymond Dimas (No. 3) dribbles down the court in an offensive play under the watchful eye of the referee at a home game last week.

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SPORTS

Vikings battle to dominate the scoreboard, No. 2 in conference

By Lisa Phelps

lphelps@pcrecordtimes.com

GUERNSEY – In a game of dominance, the Southeast Cyclones kept up a heavy defense that the Guernsey Vikings couldn't fully break through last week when the top two Southeast conference teams went head-to-head.

From the first whistle the

Cyclones pressed hard, and though Dawson Bingham, Tristan Hohnholt and Mason Collar each put up two points, and Bingham stole the ball for an extra chance at the board, the first quarter ended in favor of Southeast, 16-6. The second quarter saw Collar put in a free throw and two points to the board, Hohnholt put up a pair of

two's and executed a steal, Austin "Bear" Gretch put in two and a pair of freethrows were good for Aiden Noggle, ending at half-time 30-17, southeast. Collar and Hohnholt were able to steal in the third quarter, and teamwork between Noggle and Tim Radcliffe forced a turnover before Bingham put in another one from the in-

side, ending the third quarter 50-19, Southeast. Not to be deterred, the Vikings pressed hard in the fourth, and teamwork paid off in the fast-paced fourth quarter. Noggle started the team out with two points, then Collar proved his metal with a nice block before Hohnholt netted two points. Collar stole the ball again and put up two points on a fast-

break. Then Hohnholt, Collar and Julian Rodriguez each found an opportunity to steal the ball, and Noggle netted two freethrows. The fourth quarter was dominated by the Vikings, who put up eight points against the Cyclones' two, but in the end it wasn't enough. The final buzzer recorded a score of 52-27,

See **BATTLE**, page 18



Photos, Robert Galbreath/For the Gazette
Tristan Hohnholt (No. 12, above) works offense as he passes the ball.



Viking defense (right) was on high alert as Tim Radcliffe (No. 21) stretches to block a Cyclone shot after a rebound in the game last Tuesday against Southeast.

SPORTS

BATTLE

from page 17

Southeast. High scorer was Hohnholt with eight. Collar put in seven; Noggle, six; Bingham, four; and Gretch, two points.

The game against the Cyclones must have primed the Vikings, setting them up to have back-to-back wins in conference play Thursday and Friday.

The Vikings started the first quarter with a strong offense, ending with a five-point lead on the Longhorns at 13-8, Guernsey. Both teams worked defense in the second and third quarters, ending the half 29-18, Guernsey; and the third at 46-30, Guernsey. The Longhorns battled to close the lead, but the game ended in favor of the Vikings: 61-40.

Lead scorer was Collar with 11, followed by Noggle and Hohnholt each with four, Bingham with two, and Gretch with one.

Friday's game against the Hanna-Elk Mountain Miners started as either man's game, ending 5-6, Guernsey in the first quarter. By half-time, the Miners had the lead 22-19, but once again, Viking teamwork was on overdrive to keep the Miners from gaining

more than seven points while they put 13 up for themselves. The third quarter ended with a 32-29 lead for the Vikings, and that streak continued until they squeaked out a four-point lead by the final buzzer: 49-45, Vikings.

Hohnholt led the team in points at 18, followed by Noggle with 12 points, Bingham with seven, Collar with six and Jayden Wagner with two.

The Vikings are 7-10 overall, with a 3-2 conference record.

The Guernsey-Sunrise boys have their work cut out for them Thursday in Casper as they battle their way through the brackets at Regionals beginning at 9 a.m. in the morning as Game 1 of the tournament. Their opponent will be Kaycee, the number three seed from the Northeast Conference.

HAMMER

from page 15

points. Things got heated in the second quarter while the battle on the court saw the Lady Vikings put up seven points, and the Lady Miners added eighteen, for a 17-21, Hanna-Elk Mountain half-time score. The Lady Vikings kept up the pace in the third quarter, which ended 37-23, Hanna-Elk Mountain; and a hard press



Robert Galbreath/For the Gazette
Dawson Bingham (No. 33) puts pressure on Southeast's No. 11 at the start of a play last week in Guernsey.

in the fourth quarter helped the Lady Vikings gain ground, but the final score in the fourth was 46-35, Hanna-Elk Mountain.

Thompson led the team in scoring with 15 points; Whitebird added 13 points, including three trés; Nyquist, Atwood and Noggle added two each.

The Guernsey-Sunrise girls basketball team will be the number four seed in the Southeast Conference entering Regionals this weekend, playing Upton,

the Northeast Conference's number-one ranked team, at 1:30 p.m. Thursday afternoon.

"It's been a long season since we started on Thanksgiving week but regionals is that weekend where seasons come to an end for some and goals are realized for others," Coach Curtis Cook said as the team looks forward to regional games, "We are excited to have the chance to extend our season, but we also realize we have to earn it."

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SPORTS



Robert Galbreath/For the Gazette
 Dawson Bingham (No. 33) fends off a Cyclone defender as he seeks to create an opening for a pass.



Robert Galbreath/For the Gazette
 Jordan Atwood (No. 2) seeks to block a Cyclone offensive play during Tuesday's home game.

INSIDE: **Varsity girls hammer it out on the court as season closes**, page 15
Viking Boys battle for ranking at Regionals, page 17



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