

# BRIDGER VALLEY PIONEER

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## Commissioners keep county on straight-and-narrow



The Uinta County Commission meets twice a month in the County Courthouse in Evanston. PIONEER FILE PHOTO

By VIRGINIA GIORGIS  
Pioneer Editor  
vgjorgis@bridgervalleypioneer.com

**EVANSTON** — The Uinta County Commission continued to address issues concerning the county and county citizens at their meetings in May and the first part of June.

The Commission was to address some budget issues in their meeting Tuesday, June 18, but the information wasn't available at the Pioneer's press time.

In their meeting on June 4, the Commission addressed the issue of road repairs on county roads. According to the commissioners, this work had been delayed due to a staffing shortage and the late spring season, but the county can now address these issues. This includes the blading and repairing the roads following damages created over the winter.

The Commission tackled an issue that required an out-of-county solution. Due to a conflict of interest in the county, the Commission approved a resolution, which authorizes Clayton M. Melinkovich with the

Sublette County Attorney's Office to act as special prosecutor to determine how and what needs to be done in this issue.

The commissioners also addressed substance, alcohol and tobacco use. The discussion covered the use and abuse of these substances. To help counteract problems created by the abuse, etc., the County approved a grant agreement with the Wyoming Department of Health for \$313,451.

In addition, the commission has been approving subdivisions across the county as land owners continue to subdivide out portions of their property for lots.

In last months meeting on May 7, the commissioners approved a hangar lease at the Fort Bridger Airport, #5, to James Richard Long for \$480 per quarter.

They also changed some district voting boundaries but noted the changes would not impact electors and they would still be voting at the same voting sites they previously used.

In preparation for the summer, the commissioners also approved an Insect Management Grant pre-acceptance letter for \$45,000. This agreement includes a 50 percent county match.

## Multi-million-dollar shooting complex site cut to 4 possible cities

*Fremont County, Uinta and three others shot down on shooting complex*

**LANDER (WNE)** — Fremont County, Uinta and three other sites have lost their bids to be the site of a multi-million-dollar shooting complex, after the legislative task force charged with determining the best spot culled the list of contenders.

Now, Casper, Cheyenne, Cody and Gillette will each vie to be host for what state leaders are hoping will be both a world-class facility and world-wide draw for shooters. The task force is expected to meet on Monday, June 24, and hear presentations from the narrowed list of potential hosts. "This was not a surprise," explained Shoshoni Mayor Joel Highsmith, who helped lead efforts for Fremont County's bid for the shooting complex.

One of the things that set Fremont County's application apart was the size of the two proposed sites – both near Shoshoni, one at 12,200 acres and the other up to 40,000.

While state leaders estimated far fewer acres would be needed, Fremont County's team believed that to truly be a world-class facility, the shooting complex would need more land, and more room to grow.

But the land is likely at the heart of the reason the county's bid was rejected.

Both proposed sites included federal land, one owned entirely by the Bureau of Reclamation, the other in part by the Bureau of Land Management.

"I know the reason was too much federal land," Highsmith noted. "There is a path forward to gain ownership of federal land for something like this, but the task force didn't seem willing to take that time."

With a tight timeline – lawmakers are expected to consider releasing \$10 million during the next legislative session in support of the new shooting complex – the idea of wrestling with the federal government to even get started was unappealing.

## Wyo. gas prices are down again this week

**CHEYENNE (WNE)** — Average gasoline prices in Wyoming have fallen 1.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.27 per gallon Monday, according to GasBuddy.com's survey of 494 stations in Wyoming.

Prices in Wyoming are 5 cents per gallon lower than a month ago, and stand 27.3 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

The lowest price in Bridger Valley as of Wednesday, June

19, was \$3.28 for a gallon of gas and \$3.67 for a gallon of diesel.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the lowest price in the state Sunday was \$2.82 per gallon, while the highest was \$4.19,

See WYO GAS, page A2



## Congressional leaders balk at federal cattle rule

By SARAH ELMQUIST SQUIRES  
The Ranger  
Via Wyoming News Exchange

**RIVERTON** — In April, U.S. Rep. Harriet Hageman warned the crowd gathered in Dubois: Cattle ear tag legislation isn't about monitoring disease, it's about the federal government crunching numbers for climate change.

In Ireland, she explained, a similar measure was passed in January 2022, and by August of that year, bureaucrats were ordering the slaughter of more than 40,000 head of cattle – not because of disease, but to get the country more green.

Similar pending federal requirements in the U.S. have drawn outcry here in Wyoming.

The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has a new rule that would require all cattle be fitted with electronic identification ear tags when they move

across state lines, and folks from the county commission to town councils have raised the alarm.

Hageman says it's "a solution in search of a problem," and her Wyoming colleagues in Congress agree; Senator Cynthia Lummis has joined Hageman in introducing legislation to combat the new rule, with Senator John Barrasso signing on as a cosponsor.

"We need look no further than what happened in Ireland to recognize the threat of a USDA-driven [electronic identification] mandate," Hageman said. "In early 2022 Ireland adopted an [electronic identification] mandate, and by August 2023, their government was reporting that they needed to slaughter as many as 41,000 head of livestock – not because of a disease outbreak, but because of so called 'climate change.'"

The rule, Hageman said, "simply gives the federal government too much power."

Hageman and Lummis on



METRO PHOTO

Thursday introduced a joint resolution disapproving of the new rule, which is an avenue that triggers oversight that allows Congress to overturn action by a federal agency.

"Wyoming's ranchers pro-

vide some of the highest quality meat in the world, yet this administration continues to find creative ways to make their jobs harder," Lummis said. "Forcing

See CATTLE, page A2

### WEATHER



Mostly sunny skies today with highs near 34 and lows tonight around 20

For complete details, see page A6



Costs range from \$8 to \$37

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# Around the Valley/News

## Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation awards 2024 college scholarships

*Dane Catlin of Mountain View received 'continuing' scholarship*

LARAMIE — The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) awarded \$5,500 in college scholarships to nine young Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation members for the 2024-25 school year and three Continuing Education Scholarships of \$500 each. Students receiving a Continuing Education Scholarship must be an entering college sophomore, junior, senior or graduate

student. Dane Catlin, Mountain View, is a recipient of the Continuing Education Scholarship. He will be a junior at the University of Wyoming studying kinesiology with the goal of becoming a neurosurgeon. His parents are Steve and Dana Catlin of Mountain View.

"Investing in the youth of our great state as they work to accomplish their ac-



ademic goals is important to the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation," said Todd Forn-

strom, WyFB President. "We are proud to honor these outstanding individuals with college scholarships to play a small part in helping them achieve their goals."

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is the state's largest general agriculture organization. The mission of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation is to represent the voices of Wyoming farmers and ranchers through grassroots policy and supporting farm and ranch families through advocacy, education, and leadership development.

## July 4 Independence Day Celebration

FORT BRIDGER — The theme for this year's Independence Day celebration is "Still Carrying On," according to Megan Dunlap.

The celebration is a yearly event by American Legion Post 36 of Fort Bridger. The event will include a parade in Fort Bridger, followed by a barbecue at the American Legion Hall.

Parade participants need to register inside the American Legion Hall at 8 a.m. on July 4. The parade will begin at 11 a.m.

"We are implementing a few new rules this year due to insurance and safety purposes," Dunlap said

in the PR. "We ask that if you have a horse, please provide 3rd party insurance for your horses. Secondly if you are planning on giving out candy or other items to the crowd you will not be able to throw them from your vehicle or float. You may however have someone walk along side of your float and hand it out. Please be mindful of your surroundings and stay safe this 4th of July weekend."

This year the fireworks display and evening events will be hosted by the Town of Mountain View, starting at 7 p.m. The fireworks will be shot at dark.

## MVHS Girls State attendants



Addison Walk and Jocelyn Roberts were the Girl State candidates for MVHS. COURTESY PHOTO/WeAreMV

CHEYENNE — Addison Walk and Jocelyn Roberts were the two MVHS students selected to attend the 2024 Girls State.

They recently returned from Girls State, which was held this year held at Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne. The session began on Sunday, June 9, and The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Wyoming Girls State provides citizenship training for girls who have com-

pleted their junior year of high school. The purpose behind Girls State is to give the girls an opportunity to live together as self-governing citizens; to inform them about the duties, privileges, rights and inform them of the responsibilities of American citizenship.

While at Girls State, participants are put into townships and are elected to governing positions so they can experience some of the things they will encounter as adults.

## No special session: Gordon says Wyoming's 'well-equipped' to fight feds on coal

*26 lawmakers asked the governor Monday to call for a special session to reverse Biden administration plans to stop new coal leases in the Powder River Basin*

By Maggie Mullen  
WyoFile.com

CASPER — So long as it's up to Gov. Mark Gordon, a special session of the Wyoming Legislature to address the federal government's proposed plans to stop issuing new federal coal leases in the Powder River Basin won't be happening.

Rep. Mark Jennings (R-Sheridan) circulated a letter amongst lawmakers last week that called on Gordon to convene a special session. Altogether, 26 lawmakers signed on, and a revised version of the letter was sent to the governor's office Monday.

In May, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management proposed ending federal coal leasing in the Powder River Basin, which is the nation's largest coal supplier and a longtime pillar of Wyoming's economy.

"This move will not only kill thousands of good-paying jobs and decimate surrounding communities,"

the letter states. "It will permanently cement out-of-control inflation and energy poverty nationwide."

"We respectfully but urgently request you to convene the Wyoming Legislature pursuant to Article 3, Section 7 of the Wyoming Constitution in order for the Legislature to appropriate funds and enlist a constitutionally-focused, proven legal team to fight Biden's war on Wyoming the right way," the letter states.

After WyoFile broke the story last week, Jennings reached out to Gordon by phone to clarify that the letter was meant to be supportive of the state's legal fight, according to Michael Pearlman, spokesperson for the governor's office.

The governor reiterated to Jennings during the call that Wyoming "is well-equipped to fight the battle," Pearlman said, thanks in part to the state's \$1.2 billion coal litigation fund.

See **SESSION**, page A5

## MVHS Educators of the Year



Mountain View School District recently tapped two third grade teachers at Mountain View Elementary as their 2024 Educators of the Year. The two teachers to receive this recognition from the District are Cami Brown and Sarah Butters. COURTESY PHOTO/MVHS

## CATTLE, continued from page A1

Wyoming's ranchers to shell out their hard-earned money to trace and ship their livestock not only threatens to erode their privacy but puts unnecessary pressure on their supply chain. As a rancher myself, I understand the devastating impact this will have on our industry and will do everything in my power to block this administration's chronic federal overreach."

Sen. Barrasso also expressed serious concerns about the new rule.

"Mandating ear tags for

all cattle and bison will financially crush independent Wyoming ranchers," he said. "Senator Lummis' and Congresswoman Hageman's legislation will stop this overreaching federal mandate in its tracks."

In April, Hageman said she and her Republican colleagues had been pushing back against the ear tag mandate since 2019, but that they needed more people to help.

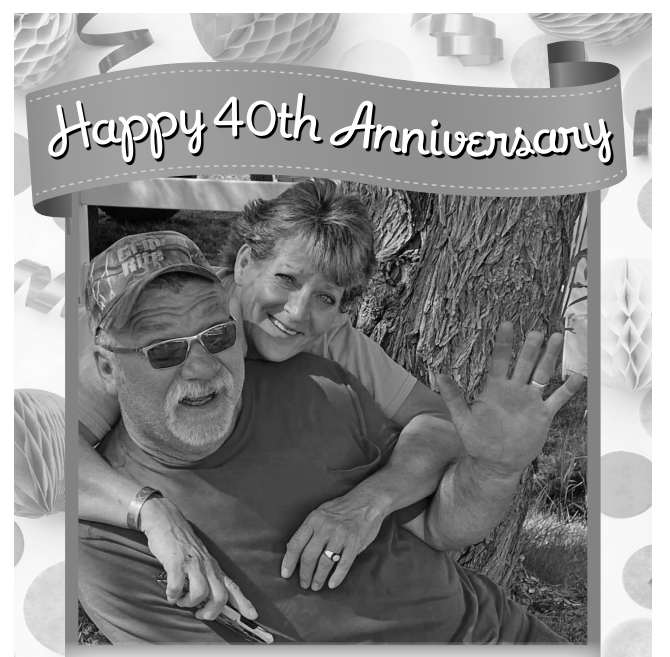
"The state needs to step up and fight these battles with us," she said.

## WYO GAS continued from page A1

a difference of \$1.37.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 1 cent per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.41 per gallon Monday. The national average is down 18 cents per gallon from a month ago, and stands 13.8 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

The national average price of diesel has fallen 1.6 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.73 per gallon.



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# Opinions

## The Wyoming way: Disagreeing without rancor

*It may be true that ‘people on the right and left seem content to yell insults at each other without attempting to rationally justify their positions’ but it doesn’t have to be.*

By RAY HUNKINS

Reading Rone Tempest’s comment about my column in WyoFile got me thinking about the different ways folks disagree.

Rone, one of WyoFile’s founders, wrote: “This [column] is refreshing in our polarized country when people on [the] right and left seem content to yell insults at each other without attempting to rationally justify their positions.”

Rone’s observation rings so true in many parts of the country and even in Wyoming on occasion. However, it doesn’t have to be, and isn’t always that way in Wyoming, especially in our small towns where I lived and worked for almost 50 years.

In Wheatland, and I dare say in many other Wyoming towns, “yell[ing] insults at each other” is reserved for only the most important of matters, like dividing water at the headgate or cutting a corner across some old codger’s well-manicured lawn. Thankfully, in Wyoming, most Democrats and Republicans, conservatives and liberals, don’t “yell” (or even whisper) insults about firmly held beliefs, and if they do forget their manners, there is usually someone around to remind them. Violating that norm runs the risk of being ostracized from the community, a serious penalty in a small town.

So, what is there about our Wyoming communities that makes those living in them reluctant to toss insults back and forth over belief systems and political matters and to disapprove of those

who do? I think it’s the smallness. All Wyoming communities are small, but the smaller the community, the less likely argumentation will be marred by poor manners. The reason is simple.

A daily must-read news update, for and by Wyoming.

It’s so much more difficult to be rude and “to yell insults at each other,” when you are sitting next to that person at Lions or Rotary, in church, or at a high school

football game. I have found that familiarity is just as likely to breed respect as contempt.

Former Democratic Governor Mike Sullivan is credited with the oft-repeated description of our state as “a small town with long streets.” For my money that’s a pretty fair portrait of Wyoming. We don’t have to yell to be heard. We know and respect each other, even when we disagree, which in politics is frequent.

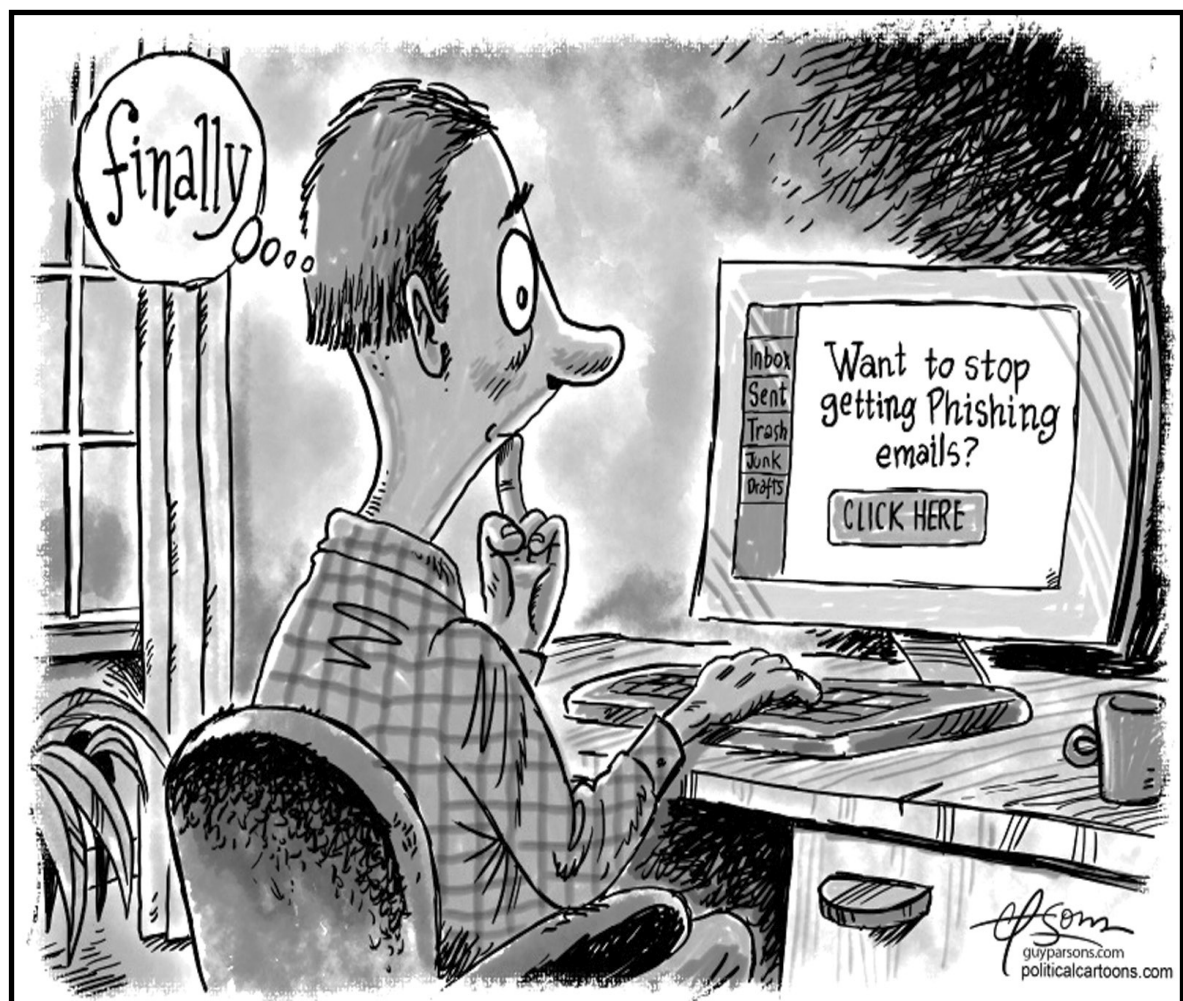
It is possible to disagree, even disagree vehemently, and still be respectful and courteous. Think

of the Wyoming Cowboys. They scrimmage most every week, blocking and tackling, physically beating each other up. Does that make the offense and defense hate each other? It better not! The team, not the individual, is the focus. In many respects, all who live and work in Wyoming are members of Team Wyoming.

Another example: Some of the most enduring friendships I have today, were made in the course



See WYOMING, page A5



## Beware increasingly sophisticated cybersecurity scams

By TOM PURCELL

Here’s a story that is growing bigger by the day: Cyber scams are on the rise.

My elderly family member fell for a common scam a few weeks ago: His screen appeared be locked by “Microsoft” and he was urged to call the number the phony security alert displayed.

If you call that fake number, a fake Microsoft representative will ask you to provide access to your computer, so he can steal sensitive data or download malicious apps.

To be sure, in the digital era in which we all now live 24/7, you must assume that every email, text and phone call might be a scam!



Google “ransomware attack” and you’ll see a sizable list of big companies and entire cities that have been completely shut down by scammers.

Scammers also spoof text messages. Apparently from reputable companies, such as banks, these messages trick individuals into revealing passwords or credit card numbers.

Scammers continue to succeed with the good old landline telephone, too. I received a call this year from a man claiming he was from the Social Security Administration, who told me my account was blocked and he would help me reactivate it.

Aware that Social Security never makes phone calls (unless

you’re having a legitimate conversation with it), I knew what the scammer was after: my full name, birthdate, address and Social Security number.

I asked him how he could sleep at night, knowing he was hurting innocent people. He cussed at me and hung up.

The greatest worry about scammers is that elderly people are especially at risk. They’re more trusting of callers from government agencies and more likely to fall for one especially mendacious tax scam.

Using phishing techniques, scammers access data on a taxpayer’s computer, then use that stolen information to file a fraudulent tax return in the taxpayer’s name and have the refund — often larger than is actually owed — deposited

into the taxpayer’s actual bank account.

According to Intuit, the scammers then “contact their victims, telling them the money was mistakenly deposited into their accounts and asking them to return it.”

Many victims, fearful of the IRS, readily comply.

According to Pew Research, Americans view cybercrime as their greatest security concern. But what are government agencies doing to combat it?

Not enough. Americans are often victimized by scammers operating from elsewhere in the world. How can the bad guys be tracked down and forced to make amends?

See PURCELL, page A5

## I’ll tell you when I’ve had enough

By Dr. James L. Snyder

It was evening, and the day was just about over. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were chilling in the living room,

watching TV.

I’m not sure what we were watching on TV; it really doesn’t matter. What matters is that we were relaxing and enjoying the evening together. No ap-

pointments, no plans, just an evening of doing nothing. It’s that kind of relaxing that I can’t get enough of. It’s too late to do anything, and it’s too early to go to bed. What a wonderful scenario.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage went out into the kitchen and then called me and said, “Do you think you’ve had enough ice cream for the day?”

I didn’t know if it was a rhetorical question or she was setting me up for a trap. I’ve been set up before, and I’ll never know when the next one will be. Anything with ice cream is worth the chance.

I cheerfully responded, “I’ll tell you when I’ve had enough ice cream and I haven’t had enough for today.”

A soft voice from the kitchen area said, “Would you like me to bring you another bowl of ice cream?”

I responded, “That would be wonderful, and I sure would appreciate that.”

I can never think of a time when I had too much ice cream.

So when The Gracious Mistress



of the Parsonage asked me if I’d had enough ice cream, I cheerfully told her, “absolutely not”. There is no way under the sun that I could ever have enough ice cream in one day.

If there ever comes a time when I answer my wife’s question by saying, “Yes, my dear, I think I’ve had enough ice cream for today,” you know I’ve lost my mind.

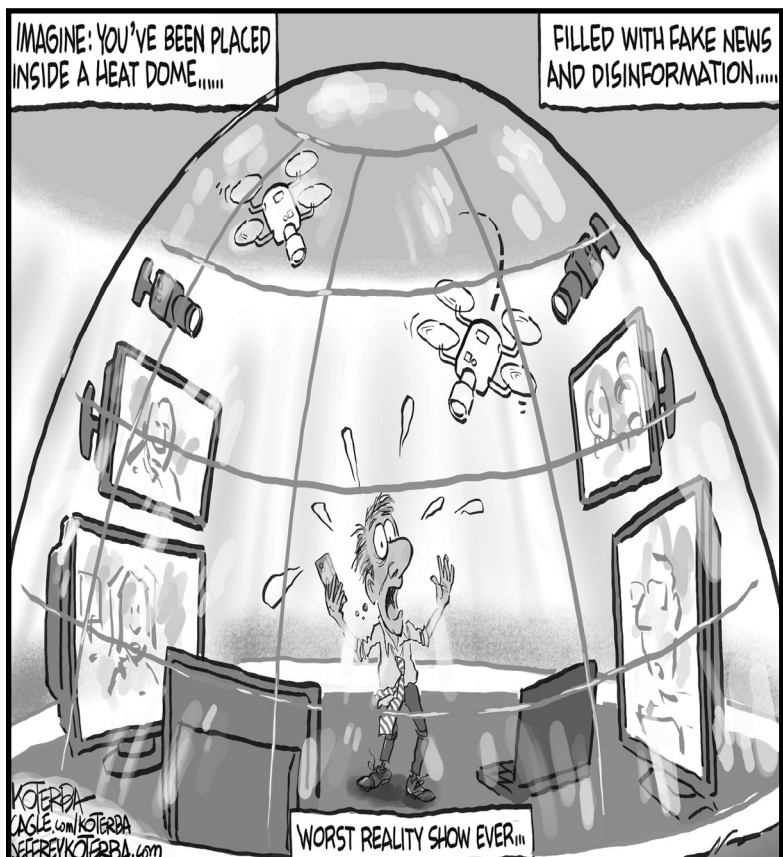
My goal in life is to find all the different flavors of ice cream and sample each one for the world’s record.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage brought me a very nice bowl of ice cream. “Here you are, I hope this is enough ice cream for tonight.”

I just smiled at her because I never think beyond the ice cream I’m eating at the time. I refuse to compromise that marvelous experience of eating ice cream by thinking of other things.

Then my wife said something rather strange. “Do you know,”

See SNYDER, page A6



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# News/Records

## Wyoming takes another step toward nuclear energy

By ZAK SONNTAG  
Casper Star-Tribune  
Via Wyoming News Exchange

CASPER — Not a week after TerraPower's seminal groundbreaking in Kemmerer, the Cowboy State has taken another step toward fission energy and deepened its partnership with BWXT, a leading nuclear components company and longtime government services contractor.

The Wyoming Energy Authority has announced it will move forward on a multi-phase contract with BWXT aiming to deploy small-scale nuclear reactors in various capacities around the state; the contract also sets the stage for investments in a reactor manufacturing supply chain in Wyoming.

"We are eager to move forward with phase two of our contract with BWXT. The completion of phase one confirms our vision of why nuclear has so much potential in Wyoming — from uranium production to manufacturing to industrial applications," said Rob Creager, executive director of the Wyoming Energy Authority. "As the world's demand for

reliable, affordable baseload power only increases over the next 50 years, we see nuclear as a valuable investment to Wyoming's already robust energy portfolio."

Following phase one analysis, the focus will be on the conceptual design of a cutting-edge microreactor capable of deployment in fleets.

The total value of the cost-share program is approximately \$20 million, and phase two of the program is expected to be complete in 2025.

The announcement comes six months after the company signed an agreement with Tata Chemicals Soda Ash Partners with the intention to deploy small-scale nuclear reactors at its Green River mines. The Tata mines — which extract and process ore 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year — are energy intensive and currently rely on coal-powered thermal energy for operations.

The BWXT partnership has the potential to reduce energy cost while zeroing out greenhouse gas emissions.

Beyond Green River, the company's modular reactor system is uniquely suited to mining operations, particularly those that require steady energy in remote areas far from the grid.

The reactor designs are meant to be small and light enough to be transported via rail, ship and even truck. They will be capable of delivering 50 MW of steady power using high-temperature gas reactor technology, which the company says will provide flexible energy output with inherent safety features.

In addition to partnering with the Wyoming Energy Authority, BWXT is working with support from the Department of Energy and the Idaho National Laboratory, as well as private entities like Tata Chemicals Soda Ash Partners.

"BWXT has seen extraordinary support for the opportunities for microreactor deployment in Wyoming," said Joe Miller, BWXT Advanced Technologies LLC president.

## Degenfelder expects new Title IX policies to be 'overturned'

By AARON PELCZAR  
Cody Enterprise  
Via Wyoming News Exchange

CODY — "The most prudent course of action at this time for Wyoming school districts is to continue under their current Title IX policies and practices," said Wyoming Superintendent of Public Instruction Megan Degenfelder on June 12.

Degenfelder has voiced strong opposition to the Biden Administration's new Title IX rules, which redefine sex discrimination to include gender identity and sexual orientation. The new rules, set to be implemented on August 1 have sparked significant controversy and legal challenges.

"Wyoming districts have robust policies in place to prevent and address discrimination of all types, and I am confident these education leaders will continue to carry them out with fidelity," she said.

The reinterpretation of Title IX undermines the original intent of the law, which was to protect biological women from discrimination, she said. Degenfelder added that the new rules endanger female students and infringe upon the religious liberties of teachers and students.

"I continue to oppose these new rules because they endanger female students, decrease the due process rights of teachers and students, and create unnecessary and overly burdensome requirements

on school districts," she said in a press release.

Degenfelder has partnered with Gov. Mark Gordon and Attorney General Bridget Hill to join a lawsuit with Kansas, Alaska, Oklahoma and Utah.

"Currently, more than half of the country's states have joined lawsuits challenging these rules," she noted.

The lawsuit aims to prevent the implementation of the new Title IX rules, which Degenfelder believes will be invalidated in court.

U.S. Rep. Harriet Hageman (R-Wyo.) expressed her support for Degenfelder's stance. Hageman co-sponsored legislation that would require athletes to compete on teams that match their sex assigned at birth.

"It's amazing, but telling, that the same people who scolded us about following the science during Covid have attempted to do anything but follow actual science when it comes to men and boys in women's sports," she said in an interview.

The new Title IX rules have been met with mixed reactions. Proponents argue that the rules are necessary to protect LGBTQ+ students from discrimination and ensure their rights are upheld in educational settings. Critics, however, contend the rules compromise the safety and fairness of female students, particularly in sports and other sex-segregated activities.

## IRS warns residents against scams targeting senior citizens

CHEYENNE (WNE) — As part of continuing efforts to protect the senior community, the Internal Revenue Service issued a warning Wednesday, June 12, about the rising threat of impersonation scams.

This is part of a wider effort taking place this week leading up to World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) on Saturday, June 15. WEAAD, observed since June 15, 2006, aims to foster a better understanding of the neglect and abuse faced by millions of older adults, focusing attention on the contributing cultural, social, economic and demographic factors.

### Remember the following:

- The IRS will never demand immediate payment via prepaid debit cards, gift cards or wire transfers. Typically, if taxes are owed, the IRS will send a bill by mail first.
- The IRS will never threaten to involve local police or other law enforcement agencies.
- The IRS will never demand payment without allowing opportunities to dispute or appeal the amount owed.
- The IRS will never request credit, debit or gift card numbers over the phone.

## UINTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

June 10 – June 16, 2024

Editor's Note: Information in this report is compiled from a daily activity log and arrest record.

### Arrests:

• Clark D. Porterfield, 21, Salt Lake City, Utah; was arrested on June 15, for use of a controlled substance/schedule I, II or III and for battery.

There was one redacted entry in this period.

The Sheriff's Office responded to 110 incidents in this period. They included five offenses not listed, one each assault/hands/fist/feet/etc. and alarm, fur ambulance or medical assists, six animal problems, one assault/simple, 10 agency assists, one each citizen complaint/Lyman and citizen dispute/Evanston, four citizen assists, one

civil problem/Lyman, controlled substance/possession/Lyman controlled substance/use/under influence/Meeks Cabin campground, family fight, fire/Evanston and harassment/Lyman; 19 information reports, one jail offense, three keeping the peace, one lost or found property, five livestock problems, three prisoner transports, two each rancher contacts and suspicious incidents, one traffic accident/property damage, traffic accident/personal injury, theft/property/other, traffic control, trespassing/Lyman and vandalism/Fort Bridger; 20 VIN inspections and one welfare check.

### Looking for your baby's birth announcement?

The Pioneer publishes birth announcements and accompanying photos whenever they are submitted. Area hospitals no longer provide them automatically, so please bring us your baby's birth announcement and photo, or e-mail to [vgjorgis@bridgervalleypioneer.com](mailto:vgjorgis@bridgervalleypioneer.com).

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Carlos A. Ojeda  
ojedacar22@gmail.com

## Senior Citizens Menu

Monday, June 24

Philly Cheese, Steak Hoagie,  
Oriental Cabbage Salad, Chips, Cookie

Tuesday, June 25

Cheese Ravioli, Meat Sauce, Steamed  
Broccoli, Garlic Bread, Chef Choice Fruit

Wednesday, June 26

Beef Stew, Crackers, Corn Bread,  
Tossed Salad, Fruit Pie

Thursday, June 27

Turkey Tetrazzini, Green Beans,  
WW Roll, Fruit Cup

Friday, June 28

Pulled Pork on a WW Bun, Mac & Cheese,  
3 Bean Salad, Peanut Butter Bar

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**Bridger Valley Baptist Church**  
504 E. Clark, Lyman  
787-3402  
Pastor Aaron Green

Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship.....10:50 a.m.  
Evening Service.....6 p.m.  
Mid-Week Service.....Wed., 7 p.m.

**St. Helen's Catholic Church**  
Mission & Center, Fort Bridger  
782-6190

Sunday Mass.....11 a.m.  
CCD Classes (grades K-12).....10 a.m.  
Holy Day Mass.....5:30 p.m. on the night prior to Holy Day

**First Presbyterian Church**

3rd & Pine, Mountain View  
782-6711  
Sunday School.....10:15 a.m.  
Worship.....11:30 a.m.  
Fellowship.....12:30 a.m.  
Communion & Fellowship Hour  
First Sunday of each month

**Heart of the Valley Baptist Church**  
(Southern Baptist)

280 7th Street, Mountain View  
782-7522  
Pastor Joe Reynolds, 782-6616  
Youth Pastor Butch Hansen - 307-840-0967  
Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship.....11 a.m.  
Evening Worship.....6 p.m.  
Bible Study.....Wed., 6 p.m.  
Youth Event.....Wed., 6 p.m.

**Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church**  
Missouri Synod

306 County Road 224,  
Fort Bridger  
782-6802  
Pastor Daniel Mulholland  
Sunday School.....9 a.m.  
Fellowship & Refreshments.10 a.m.  
Worship.....10:30 a.m.

**Bridger Assembly of God**  
2705 N. Highway 414, Mountain View  
786-2303

Pastor Nichole Heidt  
Lunch.....1:00pm  
Services.....1:30-2:30pm

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# News

## SESSION, continued from page A2

If additional resources become necessary, Pearlman said, the governor encouraged lawmakers to address the need in the supplemental budget during the next legislative session, which begins in January.

Beyond the call, Pearlman said the governor would not issue a formal response to the letter.

“My call with the Governor went very well,” Jennings, who is affiliated with the hard-line Wyoming Freedom Caucus but not a formal member, told WyoFile in an email.

“We were hoping to send the Governor a letter of support in fighting against the overreach of the Biden administration and letting him know if he needed to call a special session to appropriate some funds, we were willing to be of help,” Jennings wrote.

The initial letter sent to the governor was mistakenly dated May 14 — two days before the Bureau of Land Management issued its proposal — but Jennings said a corrected version has since been sent to Gordon.

A special session isn’t completely ruled out, but it appears to be unlikely.

Lawmakers have the ability to convene without the governor’s approval, but that would require a simple majority vote in both chambers, and the number of lawmakers who signed onto the letter fell short of that with a total of 22 representatives and four senators.

Those who opted to sign on are members or close allies of the Wyoming Freedom Caucus. They include: Reps. Jennings, Bill Allemand (R-Midwest), Ocean Andrew (R-Laramie), Abby Angelos (R-Gillette), John Bear (R-Gillette), Jeremy Haroldson (R-Wheatland), Scott Heiner (R-Green River), Ben Hornok (R-Cheyenne), Chris Knapp (R-Gillette), Tony Locke (R-Casper), Chip Neiman (R-Hulett), Pepper Ottman (R-Riverton), Ken Pendergraft (R-Sheridan), Sarah Penn (R-Lander), Rachel Rodriguez-Williams (R-Cody), Allen Slagle (R-Newcastle), Scott Smith (R-Torrington), Tomi Stroch (R-Douglas), Clarence Styvar (R-Cheyenne), Tamara Trujillo (R-Cheyenne).

Jeanette Ward (R-Casper), John Winter (R-Thermopolis) and Sens. Bo Biteman (R-Ranchester), Evie Brennan (R-Cheyenne), Bob Ide (R-Casper) and Cheri Steinmetz (R-Lingle).

“I was a little surprised that so many of the legislators didn’t bother to respond to the letter of support,” Jennings told WyoFile.

In May, the Freedom Caucus implored Gordon in an op-ed to begin a legal fight against the BLM’s proposal, despite the state not having legal standing yet. Sixteen House members signed on to that particular letter, which also criticized the governor’s past actions.

The BLM’s proposal completed its requisite 30-day “protest” period on Monday. A final order is due later this year. Gordon has promised to “fully utilize the opportunities to kill or modify this Record of Decision before it is signed and final.”

Since then, Gordon directed \$300,000 of the state’s coal litigation fund to the Wyoming Energy Authority to contract with entities who can assist Wyoming “in anticipation of litigation,” Gordon wrote in a May 20 letter to the agency’s director.

In March, the Legislature also added about \$1.8 million to the federal natural resource policy account, which, according to the budget bill, can be used for litigation related to “federal land, water, air, mineral and other natural resource policies that may affect the state or counties.”

Aside from Ottman and Trujillo, all of the lawmakers who signed the special session request to Gordon voted against the budget bill.

In March, a push by the Freedom Caucus to hold a special session to override gubernatorial vetoes failed to get enough lawmaker support.

Gordon recently announced a town meeting scheduled for June 25 in Gillette to discuss “a barrage of proposed rules and actions by the federal government that are impacting the state’s energy industries and public lands.”

*WyoFile is an independent nonprofit news organization focused on Wyoming people, places and policy.*

## PURCELL, continued from page A3

Nation-states are often behind sophisticated attacks on organizations. Russian-financed scammers are actively targeting our utilities, election systems and other systems.

Creating new laws and agencies to combat cybercrime is a daunting challenge.

Cybersecurity bills passed by the U.S. House move slowly through the Senate. Even if the Senate passes them and the president signs them, regulators could take months to draft and implement actual policies. Scammers aren’t bogged down by such bureaucratic red tape.

What it comes down to is that every individual must learn to detect and avoid

cyber scams. The Department of Homeland Security has helpful info at <https://www.dhs.gov/stopthinkconnect-cyber-tips>.

Always verify that an email, text or link is legitimate before you click. Always be suspicious — because scammers are getting more sophisticated by the day.

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See Tom Purcell’s syndicated column, humor books and funny videos featuring his dog, Thurber, at [TomPurcell.com](http://TomPurcell.com). Email him at [Tom@TomPurcell.com](mailto:Tom@TomPurcell.com).

## Uinta County mosquito spraying

EVANSTON — Uinta County’s Mosquito Management contractor, VDCI, will begin county-wide aerial mosquito spraying Monday, June 24, weather permitting.

Aerial missions will begin in the eve-

nings around sunset and continue throughout the coming weeks until the Evanston, Hillard, Bridger Valley and Lonetree valleys are treated.

If residents need additional information, they can call Jake Taylor at 307-313-8454.

## Western awarded \$2.4 million/ Nuclear Technology Program

ROCK SPRINGS (WNE) — Western Wyoming Community College was awarded \$2.4 million to implement a Nuclear Technology Program, outgoing president Kim Dale announced at the June 11 meeting.

The award comes from Gov. Mark Gordon’s Wyoming Innovation Partnership (WIP), which is a collaboration to align education and workforce development and support innovation, entrepreneurship, and research to help drive Wyoming’s economy.

WIP helped fund Western’s Powerline Technology Program.

Dale said a press release about the award should be forthcoming from Gordon’s office, but she wanted to let the board trustees know about the award prior to her retirement.

The Nuclear Technology Program will be created to support TerraPower’s advanced nuclear power plant in Kemmerer. With two years of funding, Dale said she expects the implementation to take about two years.

“We were funded because we were so successful with our Powerline Program,” Dale added. Western is currently the only school in Wyoming to offer a Powerline Technology Program.

She said she has been working closely with TerraPower and credited the “awesome” work Western has done to support local industries.

“We do good things and put it to work,” she said. “We continue to provide quality workforce opportunities, to our students and to the state.”

## Barrasso, Wyden introduce bill to support grazing on Federal Lands

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Senator John Barrasso (R-WY), ranking member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) and U.S. Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), member of ENR and chair of the Senate Committee on Finance, introduced the Operational Flexibility Grazing Management Program Act to support ranchers who rely upon federal lands to graze their livestock.

This legislation aims to improve the management of grazing activities on federal lands by granting livestock operators increased flexibility to promptly adapt and respond to changing on-site circumstances, such as drought or wildfires. This will enhance their capacity to oversee ranching operations that are economically viable and promote the health of rangelands and wildlife habitats.

“Grazing is an integral part of keeping Wyoming’s rangelands healthy. Ranchers need more flexibility to adapt and respond to on-the-ground threats like drought and wildfires. This will both support our ranching communities and encourage bet-

ter management of our federal lands. Our bill gives ranchers the tools they need to best manage the grazing activities of their livestock. I’m pleased to be working with Senator Wyden to advance this critical reform,” said Senator Barrasso.

“After embracing the Bureau of Land Management pilot program, ranchers in eastern Oregon worked closely with me to include updated operational flexibility in my community-crafted Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act to bring certainty, conservation and economic opportunity to the forefront of Malheur County’s future,” Senator Wyden said. “Today I’m pleased to work with Senator Barrasso to build on the work of Oregon ranchers to give the rest of the West the tools to adapt in real time to the changing conditions and seasonal variations in weather brought on by the climate crisis as they manage grazing on rangelands. These authorities will recognize the ranchers who choose to use them as active participants in improving the ecological health of our public lands.”

## WYOMING, continued from page A3

of arduous, hotly contested and emotional trials, sometimes over large sums of money or public policy disputes, even over life and death matters. Leading up to and during the legal proceedings, the contesting attorneys were trying to win for their clients. After it was over and we had (hopefully) gotten to know, trust and respect each other, it was hard not to be friendly. That’s the Wyoming way!

Thinking of all these things caused me to recollect the late Bob Harmon. He was a retired school teacher with a small cow-calf operation northwest of Wheatland. I didn’t know him well until one day in 1972, an election year. Bob was Chairman of the Platte County Democratic Party. I was Chairman of the Platte County Republican Party. Both county parties had dinner meetings scheduled at the Platte County Fairgrounds’ 4-H Building; the Republicans’ Lincoln Day dinner on Friday night and the Democrats’ Jefferson-Jackson Day dinner on Saturday night.

The County Commissioners had rules for use of the 4-H Building. When an

event was over, all decorations were to be removed. It seemed a needless waste to throw all the bunting and flags and other non-partisan decorations away, when the next night the Democrats would be putting similar decorations back up.

I called Bob and proposed that the Republicans would leave our decorations up if he would see to it that the Democrats removed them after their dinner. Bob agreed and proposed that we jointly purchase the decorations, splitting the cost. And so, in 1972 the Platte County political parties cooperated to achieve mutual goals — successful but cost-conscious gatherings.

Bob and I were never close, but after that event in 1972 we were always friends.

The goodwill and common sense of Bob Harmon is still to be found in Wyoming, its small towns and alongside its long streets. It’s the “Wyoming way.”

*Ray Hunkins is a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Wyoming and of its College of Law. He was the Republican nominee for governor in 2006. More by Ray Hunkins*

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# News

## THIS WEEK IN WYOMING HISTORY

**June 16 – 1934**, a massive dust storm known as Black Sunday swept across Wyoming and other states in the Great Plains. The storm, which was caused by severe drought and over-farming, devastated crops, livestock and buildings, and caused widespread respiratory problems for humans and animals alike.

**June 17 – 2010**, a massive hailstorm hit the city of Cheyenne, causing millions of dollars in damage. The storm, which produced hailstones the size of baseballs, shattered car windows and left dents in roofs and siding throughout the city.

**June 18 – 1918**, huge evening thunderstorms washed out railroad bridges in Central Wyoming. Hardest hit was the area between Powder River and Waltman. A rail line still runs between the towns today, but there are no bridges.

**June 19 – 1895**, the famous Wyoming prison escape occurred in Laramie. Butch Cassidy and several other inmates successfully escaped from the Wyoming State Penitentiary, and went on to become some of the most infamous outlaws of the Old West.

**June 20 – 1912**, an explosion at the No. 4 Mine near Kemmerer killed six miners.

**June 21 – 1890**, 564 coal miners from Almy went to Evanston to be naturalized as citizens at the expense of the Democratic Committee of Uinta County.

**June 22 – 1927**, Charles Lindbergh made a stop in Cheyenne, Wyoming during his historic solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean. Thousands of people turned out to see the famous aviator and his iconic plane, the Spirit of St. Louis.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

**June 21 is the 173rd day of the year** in the Gregorian calendar as this is a leap year; 193 days remain until the end of the year.

- **1788** – US Constitution comes into effect when New Hampshire is the 9th state to ratify it.
- **1834** – Cyrus McCormick received a patent for his 1831 invention of a reaper.
- **1893** – The first Ferris wheel (invented by George Washington Gale Ferris, Jr., a Pittsburgh-based engineer) made its debut, at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.
- **1940** – World War II: Italy begins an unsuccessful invasion of France.
- **1942** – World War II: A Japanese submarine surfaces near the Columbia River in Oregon, firing 17 shells at Fort Stevens

in one of only a handful of attacks by Japan against the United States mainland.

- **1945** – Japanese resistance on Okinawa was finally crushed, less than three months after U.S. troops landed there as the last stepping-stone before the planned assault on Japan's main islands in World War II.
- **1982** – John Hinckley found not guilty by reason of insanity for attempted assassination of U.S. Pres. Ronald Reagan.
- **2004** – SpaceShipOne becomes the first privately funded spaceplane to achieve spaceflight.
- **2023** – US approves chicken made from animal cells - the country's first lab-grown meat, aimed at reducing harm to animals and the environment



# WEATHER

**Friday:** A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon. Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. South southeast wind 6 to 14 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 46. South southwest wind 6 to 13 mph.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 86. Light and variable wind becoming west 9 to 14 mph in the afternoon.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 53.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 88.

**Sunday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 58.

**Monday:** Sunny, with a high near 89.

**Monday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 55.

**Tuesday:** Sunny, with a high near 89.

**Tuesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 54.

**Wednesday:** Sunny, with a high near 89.

**Wednesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 53.

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny, chance of rain, with a high near 82.

**Thursday Night:** Mostly clear, chance of rain, with a low around 55.

PIONEER FILE PHOTO/Virginia Giorgis

## Reeling in the bucks

A pair of New York anglers, James Kane and Barbi Agostini, don't use hooks when they go trolling; they use magnets in hopes of reeling-in valuable items made of iron. For example, they recently landed an old safe containing an estimated \$100,000 in cash. The Treasury Department told them that quite a bit of the hundred dollar bills they landed were damaged beyond recognition but they can probably replace the rest with between \$50,000-\$70,000 worth of the "recoverable" bills with brand-new cool cash.

## SNYDER, continued from page A3

she said rather seriously, "that there is no ice cream in heaven?"

I chuckled as I ate another spoonful of ice cream. I looked at her and said, "That's why I'm trying to eat as much ice cream as I can now. I want to get my share of ice cream while I still have the opportunity."

While eating that ice cream I remembered a Bible verse. It caused me to think about some of my habits.

"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh

reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting" (Galatians 6:7-8).

Sometimes I want what I want when I want it. Usually, I don't give much thought to consequences.


I need to sharpen my focus on my spiritual life and trust God to lead me everyday.

*Dr. James L. Snyder lives in Ocala, FL with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Telephone 1-352-216-3025, e-mail jamesnyder51@gmail.com, website www.jamesnyderministries.com.*





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# Health & Wellness

## Porn addiction a serious mental health issue

By **Kayne Pyatt**  
*Uinta County Herald*

Most people recognize the harm and dangers of drugs, alcohol and nicotine addiction, but porn addiction is often overlooked and not recognized due to the taboo nature of the subject. Most people don't want to think about it, let alone talk about it. Porn addiction often begins at a young age due to technology and the internet making it more available than ever before.

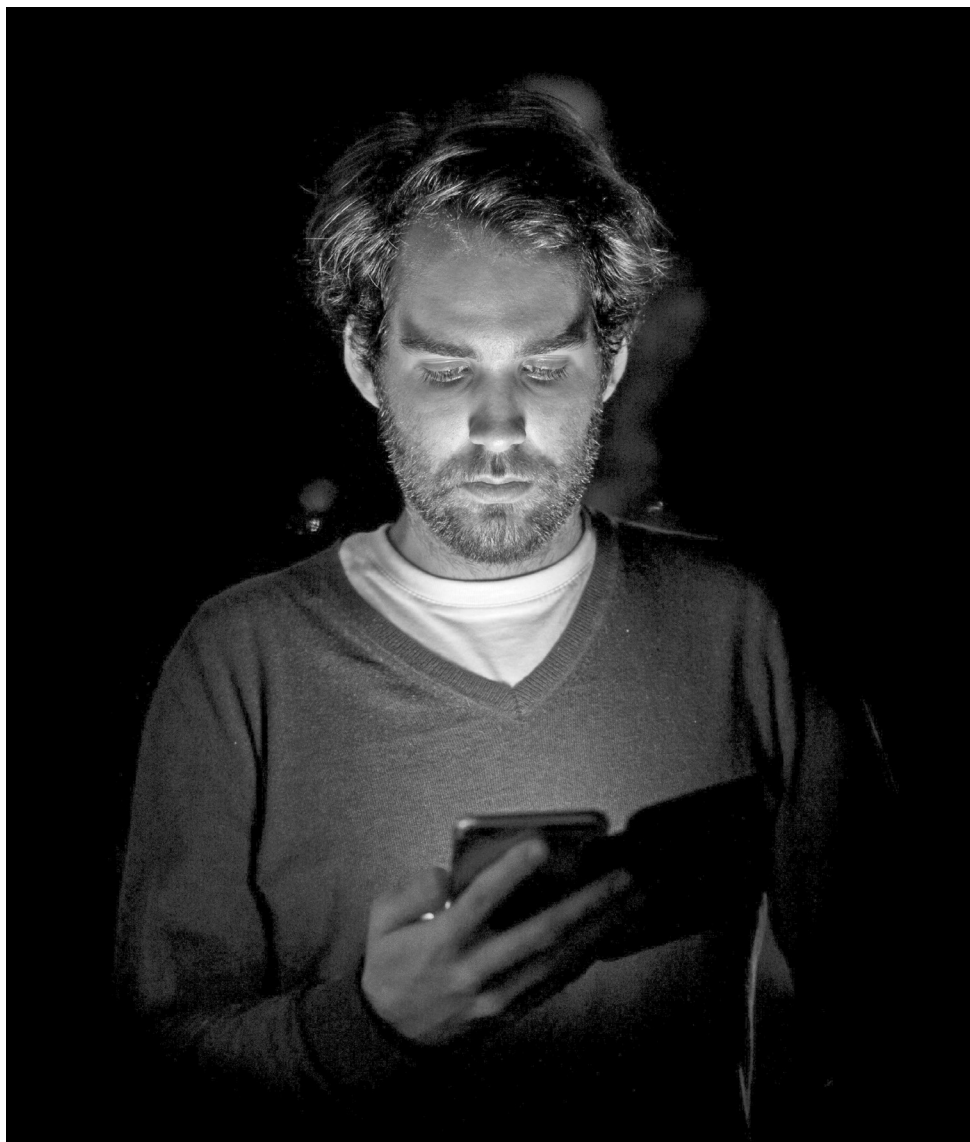
Gary Wilson, teacher of anatomy and physiology in Scotland and author of "Your Brain on Porn," wrote, "The neurological impact of frequent exposure to porn content, can reshape the brain's reward systems and sexual response similar to other addictions. Troubling patterns develop leading to sexual dysfunction, escalating desires for extreme content and decreased satisfaction with real partners."

The brain undergoes drastic changes during porn addiction; the hormonal balance in the brain is altered. The human brain consists of neurons that are activated by various types of stimuli from senses. The chemical dopamine, which is released by the brain, is a function of the stimuli. Dopamine is responsible for the feelings of excitement, happiness and rewarding experiences.

Pornography causes an intense chemical imbalance in the brain similar to what happens when using the drugs cocaine, heroin or ecstasy. The more time one spends watching porn, the more the need to increase the dopamine rush takes over.

According to an article in the *Psychreg Journal* from February 2023, Porn addicts will seek far more deviant content in videos to find the initial high once again, until they find themselves watching videos that they would have earlier viewed as appalling. This contributes to a porn addicts' low self-esteem, depression, self-isolation, sexual dysfunction and a lack of real relationships.

Growing public concern about the sexual exploitation of children across the U.S. led Congress to pass the Protection of Children Against Sexual Exploitation Act of 1977. Because officials believed child pornography was funded and operated by highly-organized



Pornography addiction is often overlooked, but it's on the rise and can lead to more extreme and illegal images and videos, including child porn. (COURTESY PHOTO)

and wealthy groups, this legislation targeted the commercial production of visual and print depictions of obscenity involving minors.

In 1984, Congress established the U.S. Sentencing Commission with the mandate to establish sentencing policies and practices that consider the purposes of sentencing to avoid disparities. In 2005, the Supreme Court ruled the Sentencing Guidelines as "advisory," giving more discretion to district courts. The

goal is a sentence that is sufficient, but not greater than necessary.

The harsh sentencing for child pornography offenses reflects a moral panic and is fundamentally based on a presumption that anyone involved in child pornography, even a possessor or distributor (but not a producer) is an undetected child molester.

Those judges who enact lesser sentences may blame the defendant's pornography ob-

session on depression or compulsive behavior caused by the ease and addictive quality of internet searching; or the defendant's need to increase the level of deviance may be a result of their own childhood sexual abuse.

What is the answer — continued monitoring of social network sites, stiffer and longer sentences for offenders, all of the above, or a new approach? Recent studies among psychologists and mental health workers suggest a new approach, which could save lives and resources.

Licensed Clinical Social Worker Robert Banta has been working with the Utah Department of Corrections since 2003 to provide out-patient after-care treatment for convicted sex offenders who are required to attend private and group therapy for 4.5 hours per week. He also worked with the Utah Division of Child and Family Services for three years.

Banta works with attorneys on court cases involving sex offenders. He has recently testified in court cases in Evanston.

"Most pornography crimes are all about child pornography. Viewing or possessing adult pornography is not illegal," Banta said. "I find the sentencing in Evanston to be much harsher than in Utah. In Utah, a fellow on a first offense of child pornography would probably get 6 months in jail and 3 years on probation. They would not be sent to prison. Treatment is needed, not incarceration."

Banta's private practice, "Arrowpoint Associates," is in two locations: Midvale, Utah, and St. George, Utah. He has developed a program for sex offenders and holds groups on Tuesday or Wednesday nights and on Saturday mornings in Midvale.

"Therapy really makes a difference in sex offenders' lives," Banta said. "They really need to be involved in a long-term treatment program. There are SA (Sexaholics Anonymous) groups available, as well as private therapy."

The future of child pornography sentencing in the federal system is uncertain as the three major institutions involved are moving in a variety of directions. Congress continues to expand child pornography laws and increased sentencing; the Sentencing Commission is restudying the issue with potential guidelines

**ADDICTION** continued on next page

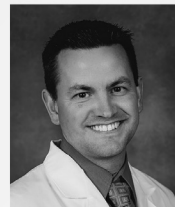
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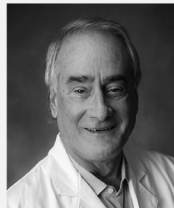
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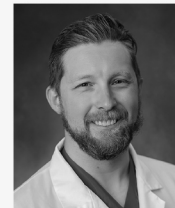
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# What to know about heatstroke

Fun in the sun is a big part of the appeal of summer. Outdoor recreation and relaxation kicks up a notch each summer, contributing to a vibe that is as welcoming as it is warm.

Summer is indeed all about recreation, but individuals also must remain safe when spending time outdoors. Heatstroke is a potentially deadly condition that can be prevented with some basic knowledge of what it is and how it manifests.

## What is heatstroke?

The Mayo Clinic notes that heatstroke is caused by the body overheating. When individuals suffer heatstroke, it is usually because they have been exposed to high temperatures for long periods of time or have been physically exerting themselves in such conditions.

## How serious is heatstroke?

The medical examiner's office in Maricopa County, Arizona noted that heat deaths surged by 50 percent in the city of Phoenix in 2023. Rising temperatures related to climate change have made it less safe to be outdoors on certain days. The risk for heat-related death is serious in places like Phoenix when the mercury rises, but anyone anywhere can succumb to the heat if they are not careful. By no means are deaths due to heatstroke or other heat-related illnesses exclusive to individuals in traditionally warm locales like Phoenix. Despite that vulnerability, various organizations, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, note that heat-related illnesses are preventable. Prevention involves recognition of symptoms prior to going outdoors and a willingness to go inside should any symptoms begin to arise.

## Symptoms of heatstroke

Heatstroke can manifest in various ways, producing symptoms that may include:

- Elevated body temperature: The Mayo Clinic notes that a core body temperature of 104 F or higher is a main sign of heatstroke.
- Altered mental state: Someone suffering from heatstroke may begin to feel confused,



METRO PHOTO

agitated, irritable, and/or delirious. In addition, such individuals may begin to behave erratically, which can involve slurred speech.

- Changes in sweating patterns: People may begin to sweat differently depending on why they are suffering from heatstroke. When heatstroke is brought on by hot weather, a person's skin will feel hot and dry to the touch, notably leading to a lack of sweat. When heatstroke occurs because of strenuous exercise in hot weather, the skin may feel dry and slightly moist.

- Nausea and vomiting: Heatstroke can make people feel sick to their stomach and even induce vomiting.

- Flushed skin: This recognizable symptom is marked by skin turning red as body temperature spikes.

- Changes in breathing: Heatstroke can cause rapid, shallow breathing.

- Elevated heart rate: The Harvard Medical School notes that the heart experiences stress when the human body sheds heat. That stress can cause the heart to beat faster and pump harder.

- Headache: Some people with heatstroke experience a throbbing headache.

## Preventing heatstroke

The CDC notes that drinking plenty of water, cooling off in air conditioned rooms, limiting time outdoors on particularly hot days, taking frequent breaks if you must be outside, and wearing light-colored, loose-fitting clothing and sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or higher are some ways to beat the heat and avoid heatstroke.

Heatstroke is a notable, yet preventable threat. Making an effort to avoid heatstroke while spending time outdoors this summer can ensure the season is safe and fun.

## 6 tips for staying hydrated this summer

Summer is marked by hot and humid conditions. After all, the band The Lovin' Spoonful didn't sing, "Hot town, summer in the city. Back of my neck getting dirty and gritty" because the summer weather is crisp and cool. Although summer temperatures can make a day at the beach or in the pool ideal, that rising mercury also can contribute to dehydration.

The Mayo Clinic advises that water is critical to every cell, tissue and organ in the human body. The body relies on water to function properly. Water helps to regulate body temperature, flush waste from the body, lubricate and cushion joints, and promote healthy digestion. And that's just the start. So when temperatures climb and the body begins sweating to cool off, it is vital to replenish lost fluids at a faster rate. The U.S. National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine says women should consume 2.7 liters of fluid per day, while men need 3.7 liters. These amounts increase if one is exercising, sweating, has an illness like a fever, or is vomiting.

The following are six ways to stay properly hydrated to avoid adverse reactions during hot summer days.

1. Consume a glass of water when you wake up. Start the day off with some water to give you an energy boost and get your metabolism moving.

2. Coffee and tea count toward fluid intake. Drinking your favorite tea or coffee is another way to take in fluids. A 2016 meta-analysis published in the Journal of Science and Medicine in Sport found that caffeine doesn't contribute to dehydration for healthy adults, so having a cup or two should be fine.

3. Certain foods are hydrating as well. Hydrating foods include cucumbers, celery, tomatoes, watermelon, strawberries, grapefruit, and peppers. The Mayo Clinic says the average person gets 20 percent of his fluid intake from food.

4. Make water more fun. Add unsweetened flavoring to water if you find plain water too bland. You can squeeze in lemon or lime juice, or float cucumber or apple slices in the water for some flavor.

5. Reach for calorie-free beverages before food. It's easy to mistake the signs of dehydration for hunger. By drinking a glass of water or another unsweetened beverage prior to every meal, you can stay hydrated and reduce the amount of food you eat. This can be part of a healthy weight loss plan.

6. Occasionally consume electrolyte powders and drinks. Working out in the heat or sweating profusely can unbalance electrolytes in the body. The Cleveland Clinic says electrolytes are substances that help the body regulate chemical reactions and maintain balance between fluids inside and outside of your cells. They include sodium, calcium and potassium. An electrolyte-infused beverage can help replenish these lost substances.

Staying hydrated is essential at all times, but it's especially important when summer temperatures can make loss of body fluid more significant.

## Star Valley Health Provides Extensive Spine Care in Afton

As Star Valley Health continues to expand its services in the region, the community now has more access to spine care. Through Dr. Wade Jensen and Mountain West Orthopedics, Star Valley Health provides a wide range of spine solutions, including endoscopic spine surgery.

Dr. Jensen is a board-certified orthopedic surgeon who joined Star Valley Health in 2023. Dr. Jensen understands how impactful pain from spine injury can be, and patients' hesitations regarding surgery.

"I approach care with the least invasive procedure first," says Dr. Jensen. "There's a whole bunch of tools that we can use to make you feel better while you're improving non-surgically."

These tools may include anti-inflammatory medications, physical therapy, or epidural steroid injections. When surgery is needed, patients have various options. One procedure that is new to Star Valley Health in recent months is endoscopic spine surgery.

Like other endoscopic procedures, endoscopic spine surgery utilizes smaller incisions than traditional back surgery. This can mean less scar tissue, less pain, and a reduced need for pain medication. Says Dr. Jensen, "The recovery time is quicker because it's just less

surgical insult. You can kind of go back to your normal activities, within reason."

Endoscopic spine surgery may be a prime solution for patients with spinal stenosis or a herniated disk. It can also provide relief if radiofrequency ablation has not been effective. In addition to his own experience performing endoscopic spine surgery in Afton, Dr. Jensen travels throughout the country training other surgeons to perform the procedure.

The scope of spine pain and its effects are vast. According to the National Spine Health Foundation, back and neck pain is the top reason for job-related disability in the U.S. 100 million Americans experience chronic back and neck pain each year, and those who do are four times more likely to become clinically depressed.

From endoscopic surgery to physical therapy, Star Valley Health's local spine services can help patients find restoration and get back on their feet.

Adds Dr. Jensen, "It's much simpler in life to have a guide through the hard times. We just want to be that guide for you in the process." For more information, or to make an appointment with Dr. Jensen, call 307-885-5870 or visit [StarValleyHealth.org](http://StarValleyHealth.org).

## ADDICTION

from previous page

Consequently, the results are disproportionate sentences and a lack of reasonableness considering the offense and offender and overall logic suffers at the expense of justice and public coffers.

Due to the increased ease of finding and distributing child pornography on the Internet, and the focus of federal investigators in finding child pornography offenders online, the incarceration of offenders will continue to rise. If offenders' prison sentences continue to be longer than necessary for the purpose of public safety, public monies and resources are wasted. Also, if the sentences are disproportionately severe to the crime committed, fairness and justice may be compromised.

Yet, child pornography is increasing. The U.S. Sentencing Commission's October 2021 report, which studied child sexual abuse image producers, found that OSEAC (online sexual exploitation and abuse of children) has increased by 422% over the last 15 years.

According to the Internet Watch Foundation, a UK-based organization that works to spot and take down abusive content, the top countries hosting child sex abuse URLs in 2020 were in this order: the Netherlands, the U.S., France, Russia, Latvia and Luxembourg.

The U.S. accounted for 30% of the global total of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) URLs at the end of March 2022. Ninety-eight percent of child sexual abuse material reports involved children under 13 years old, 30% of which involved children under 10 years old, including infants and toddlers.

In 2017, the Department of Justice reported that 72% of suspects reported for possession of child pornography accounted for the majority of CSEC (commercial sexual exploitation of children) suspects, followed by those suspected of child sex trafficking (18%) and child pornography production (10%).

Most suspects arrested for CSEC crimes were male (97%), were U.S. citizens (97%), were white (82%), had no prior felony convictions (79%), and were not married (70%). CSEC suspects had a median age of 39 years and more than half (56%) had no more than a high school education.

Transparency reports of seven of the biggest social networks were reviewed to find

out how prevalent child abuse is on their platforms. Transparency reports typically include content removals, which are broken down into various categories. These reports show those related to child nudity, abuse and sexual exploitation.

The key findings: TikTok saw removals nearly double between 2019 and 2020; YouTube has seen a 169% surge in removals between 2018 and 2020; and Facebook saw a modest 3% decrease between 2019 and 2020.

These studies and reports show the U.S. has a serious problem with child pornography and no city or town is exempt. Recognizing that those who use child pornography are not "untouchables," but are people who suffer from an addiction, not unlike those who abuse alcohol, drugs and nicotine, is a step toward healing and recovery — for both the addict and the nation.

## Did you know?

Encouraging children to be physically active can be an important step in helping them to be healthier later in life. The Physical Rehabilitation Network (PRN) says active kids are more likely to become healthy adults. Studies have shown that being physically active and making smart food choices while young can lead to a reduced risk of developing many serious health conditions later in life, which can include diabetes, high blood

pressure, obesity, heart disease, and even certain cancers. What's more, Better Health Victoria in Australia says evidence suggests that physically active children also are more likely to mature into physically active adults. Developing fitness skills early in life is a wise choice. However, one in six kids between the ages of 2 and 19 in the United States are obese, and just one in three are physically active each day, reports the PRN.

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## News

# Officials: 2024 wildfire season will be 'average to normal'

By **ALYSSA CRUTCHER**  
Wyoming Tribune Eagle  
Via Wyoming News Exchange

**CHEYENNE** — Forestry and public land officials said the end of May, they expected Wyoming to experience an "average-to-normal" wildland fire season, with the north-central part of the state experiencing the driest conditions.

In what has become an annual tradition, Wyoming State Forestry Division and Bureau of Land Management officials joined Gov. Mark Gordon in a media briefing that covered wildfire safety, prevalence and steps officials are taking to lower the risk of wildfires in Wyoming this year.

State Forester Kelly Norris said when it comes to wildland fire in Wyoming, the interagency group has strong partnerships backed up by agreements.

"Wyoming takes an 'all hands, all lands' approach to wildland fire suppression," Norris said. "Interagency coordination is important for Wyoming as we continue to work together to protect our communities, our infrastructure, watersheds and critical resources."

The National Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook has indicated Wyoming is expected to have an "average-to-normal" fire season, Norris said. Northern Wyoming is currently the driest area in the state, and north-central Wyoming is expected to have drought conditions throughout the summer.

As summer weather causes fuels in the mountains and grasslands to dry out, Norris said the interagency group expects an increase in fire activity, especially in the later summer and earlier fall months. This spring alone, more Wyoming acres have been burned than all the acres burned in 2023.

With the support of the Wyoming Legislature, Wyoming State Forestry is providing a Type 3 helicopter and crew for initial attack and two single-engine air tankers, Norris said. The helicopter crew was slated to begin Monday, June 3, and the single-engine air tankers will come under contract June 12.

Recently, the state of Wyoming received \$1.75 million in grant funding from the U.S. Forest Service for large-scale field projects and mitigation planning.

Over the past three years, Wyoming has received \$5 million from competitive grants for 19 field mitigation projects across 13 counties. This recent grant funding will complete critical field treatments on over 2,500 acres of private and state lands, Norris said.

Shad Cooper, the Sublette County fire warden and chief and president of the Wyoming Fire Advisory Board for the Wyoming Rural Firefighters Association, said preventing wildfires is a community effort because the issue affects everyone.

Last year, state fire officials noticed there was a trend in Wyoming and the nation of a reduction in volunteer firefighters, Cooper said. As a result, they went to the Legislature to ask for help, and several bills were passed to beef up firefighting in Wyoming. Andrew Archuleta, the Wyoming state director of the Bureau of Land Management, said his team manages around 17 million acres, and they depend on their partnership with Wyoming State Forestry to have an effective firefighting group.

The BLM has 17 fire engines, a 20-person veterans hand crew, a Type 3 helicopter and crew, and many firefighters across the state.

Through a variety of methods last year, the BLM has treated over 150,000 acres in Wyoming for hazardous fuels, Archuleta said. It is looking to treat about 85,000 acres this year.

Archuleta said 85% of wildfires are human-caused and usually happen near roads, communities and recreational areas. "Our No. 1 goal, and I think I share it with the other agencies here, is the protection of life and property," Archuleta said. "That includes the public and firefighters."

Chris Campbell, deputy regional forester for the Intermountain Region of the U.S. Forest Service, said the agency has more than 1,500 permanent and seasonal firefighters in place for the fire season this year, as well as 83 wildland engines, six 20-person interagency hotshot crews and a number of helitack and other air assets.

Over the past year, Campbell said his team has been working to reduce wildfire risk on more than 134,000 acres of national forest land across the region through mechanical thinning of overgrown forest and prescribed burning of excess wood fuels. This year, the team is on track to treat more than 18,000 acres in Wyoming alone.

# "Prescriptions for Parks"

By **JILL KRUSE, DO**  
Prairie Doc Perspective

Doctors write prescriptions for medications all the time. However, have you ever heard of a doctor prescribing a walk in the park? While this prescription will not fit in a bottle, it can pack some powerful health benefits.

It may sound strange, but doctors actually can prescribe time outdoors to their patients with the help of a national program, ParkRx.org. This free online program can help a patient track their outdoor activity and discuss more outdoor exercise options with their doctor.

In South Dakota, health care providers can contact the Department of Health to get a "Park Prescription" pad that is redeemable for a free 1 day pass to any South Dakota State Park or a discounted annual pass. Minnesota, Iowa, Wyoming, Montana, and Nebraska all have "Walk with a Doc" programs where you can meet at a public location to walk with a doctor and other health-minded individuals. Spending time in nature has been proven to help both physical and mental health.

A review of 20 medical trials of participants who spent time in a forest environment found that their blood pressure was significantly lower after being in a forest than it was in a non-forest environment. Additionally, this improvement lasted for several days after being in the wooded area. These participants did not need to go for hikes, simply walking in, sitting in, or viewing the forest was able to give the participants lower blood pressures. This worked both for people with high blood pressure and normal blood pressure. It also showed improvement regardless of age as

children, young adults, and older adults all had similar findings.

One study found that children who spend more time outdoors have reduced rates of nearsightedness. Children who spent more time outdoors also have a lower risk of developing asthma according to another study. Increasing outdoor play also decreases BMI in preschoolers and lowers obesity in adults.

Time outside has also been shown to be associated with improved sleep and sleep quality. Spending time outdoors has been linked to improving the immune system and decreasing stress. While spending time in State Parks and Forests is beneficial, even walking around the local neighborhood and being in an outdoor "green space" has shown to have health benefits.

Of course, no medication is without side-effects. The great outdoors has bugs, you can get sunburned or there are uneven surfaces and loose gravel. So when you are going outside, remember to use sunscreen or wear a wide-brimmed hat and have bug repellent if going into areas where there are mosquitos and ticks. It is also important to have proper fitting shoes for your adventures to prevent blisters and slips or falls. With all the benefits of spending time outdoors, it just makes sense that doctors should write prescriptions for outdoor activities. So get out into nature to stay healthy out there!

Jill Kruse, D.O. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices as a hospitalist in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org) and on Facebook and Instagram featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show providing health information based on science, built on trust, streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



## Community sports and news

As the community sports events for the area get in full swing for the summer, the Pioneer asks coaches and parents to submit stories and pictures on the groups in which their children are involved.

As stated many times in the past, the

help makes the Pioneer's coverage better.

So submit things to the Pioneer and for community sports groups and organizations to submit information, E-mail to [vgiorgis@bridgervalleypioneer.com](mailto:vgiorgis@bridgervalleypioneer.com), fax to 787-6795 or bring it by our office at 317 Bradshaw Street #2, in Lyman.

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# PIONEER Sports



## Lyman's Paige Rose signs for collegiate volleyball

*Lady Eagle soars and becomes Pronghorn*

**LYMAN** — Paige Rose, Lyman High School, recently signed her National Letter of Intent to play volleyball at Gillette College.

Rose was an all-conference selection in the 2023 season. She helped the Eagles take third place at the 3A state volleyball tournament last fall.

Rose led the state in digs during the 2023 season. In her senior season, she broke the school record for digs in a single season at 1,228. She also set the school record for most digs in a single game at 57. In her career, Rose finished with 1,817 digs. She averaged 6.5 digs per set in her career, which included

9 digs per set during her senior year.

Rose also contributed 60 service aces and 15 kills over her prep career. She also helped the Eagles take second place in 2022 and win the 3A state championship in 2021.

Rose also participated in basketball, soccer and track and field at Lyman High School.

Gillette College went 8-21 in its first season as a program. The Pronghorns compete in Region IX of the NJCAA.

Paige Rose, center, is pictured with her parents as she signs to play volleyball for Gillette College.

COURTESY PHOTO/LHS



## Wyoming Downs, off and running on weekends



Breaking from the gate and heading down the track...

PIONEER FILE PHOTO/Wyoming Downs

By **VIRGINIA GIORGIS**  
Pioneer Editor  
vgjorgis@bridgervalley.pioneer.com

**EVANSTON** — Wyoming Downs will feature live horse racing the rest of this summer until the final weekend of Aug. 11.

The Downs started its 2024 season on June 8, and will host races through Aug. 11 when they post their 2024 Season Award Presentations: Top Own-

er, Trainer & Jockey.

The racetrack is 15 miles north of Evanston. The races include many horses from Utah. In addition, horses from California and other western states have hit the turf at the Downs. Races are held on Saturdays and Sundays. Gates open at 11:30 a.m. and the first post time is 1:05 p.m.

Wyoming Downs has had an impact on Uinta County as it brings in revenue to the county

and state. According to Eugene Joyce, as an managing partner of Wyoming Horse Racing LLC said several years ago, tourism impacts for Uinta County were at \$2.9 million at that time.

Last weekend at Wyoming Downs was slated as Intercollegiate Racing Experience for college students. In addition, last Sunday also featured an event, Bear River Day, which featured a Father's Day Stick Horse Race.

This weekend, Saturday, is set as Wyoming Downs Spirits and Brew Fest. Those attending the SPBF have to pay a separate fee to attend the fest.

And, Sunday is a slated as a Celebration of Uinta County: Local Area Businesses and Elected Officials.

The youth aren't left out of the Wyoming Downs plans as next weekend, June 29-30, is focused on the youth, and will feature the Youth Racing Program. This is for participants 15 to 18 years of age. To be included in the race, youth need to go to wydowns.com.

The Freedom Riders-Utah Day at the Races will be held Saturday, June. This day is for those who are part of Recreational Riding Groups and Families for special needs children.

Sunday, June 30 is for disabled jockeys and is designed to support the {PDJF} Permanently Disabled Jockey's Fund.

July's events include things like the Freedom Rally on July 6, which honors current and former military and first responders. This day will highlight both the Evanston area VFW Post 4280 and the American Legion Post 41.

Sunday, July 7 will be Pink Out Day, which will celebrating cancer survivors who wear pink to the race. In addition, the race will featuring fillies and mares

in a Raysha's Race.

Each of the remaining weekends in July are also designated for a special purpose.

On July 13, Legislative Day at the Races, there will be a Governor's Cup Race and the hosting of Wyoming's 1st Lady's Wyoming Hunger Initiative.

UW Alumni will be feted at the rack on Sunday, July 14 with a pre-race tailgate party, south end of grandstand.

The next weekend, July 20 and July 21, will be a derby hat contest and fashion show for the ladies and on Saturday and stick horse races for the children.

True to the history of the area, July 27, has been designated as Native American Heritage Day, which will include Indian Relay Races. On Sunday July 28, the Indian Relay Championship Races will be held and will be a qualifying race for the Horse Nation Indian Relay Championship held later in Casper.

Two more weekends are on tap for this season with Aug. 3 slated as Autism Awareness Day, and Sunday, Aug. 4 as the LS Tractor Day.

On the final weekend of the Downs season this year, there will be a car show hosted by Young Ford on Saturday. With the wind-up Sunday, Aug. 24, with the 2023

## Wicks announces signing of guards Dontaie Allen and A.J. Wills

*Cowboy roster is now set for 2024-25 season*

**LARAMIE** — University of Wyoming head men's basketball coach Sundance Wicks announced the signing of transfer guards Dontaie Allen and A.J. Wills on Tuesday.

The Cowboy roster is now complete for the 2024-25 season.

"It's always nice when you can put a stamp on the end of the recruiting season that says, finished," Wicks said. "It took us just under 30 days to complete this roster and our last two spots were filled by transfers A.J. Wills (Holy Cross) and Dontaie Allen (Western Kentucky). We had to find the right mix of high character, intensely competitive, deeply connected players that understood the commitment they had to have to be a part of our Cowboy Culture and I think we found that mix."

Allen is a 6-6, 210-pound guard and is a native of Falmouth, Kent. He spent three seasons at Kentucky before his time at Western Kentucky. Last

season, Allen added 8.2 points per game and three rebounds shooting a team-best 40 percent from behind the arc with 56 makes. He scored a season-high 30 points against Florida International and scored in double-figures 11 times.

As a junior, Allen recorded 9.3 points per game and 3.1 rebounds and shot 42 percent from behind the arc. He appeared in 18 games at Kentucky in 2021-22 scoring a season-high 14 points against North Florida. In 2020-21, Allen appeared in 22 games and added 5.4 points per game. He made seven threes in one game.

He was named Mr. Basketball in Kentucky in 2019 and was a Top-100 recruit by Rivals. He finished his high school career with 3,255 career points at Pendleton County High School. He played only 13 games as a senior but averaged 42.9 points per game and 14.2 rebounds.

**Wicks on Allen**

"I really think Poke fans



COURTESY PHOTO/UW Athletic Dept.

are going to like Dontaie Allen. We always look first for where a player has won along his journey, and he has done plenty of that. He brings an insane amount of experience to our roster and elite weaponry in his ability to shoot the basketball from beyond the arc. To put it in perspective Dontaie finished last season as 1 of 11 players 6'6" + in Division I to shoot over 42% from the arc on 55% + eFG%. He has a great

toolbox to work with and his strength, length and experience is going to mean a lot for our program this year. Welcome to the Wild West Dontaie Allen!"

**Wills, a native of Richmond, Virg., the 6-2, 160-pound guard will have three seasons of eligibility remaining.** He appeared in 22 games last season with three starts for the Crusaders. He averaged 16 minutes a game. He finished his freshman season averaging 5.5

points and one assist per game. He shot 36 percent from behind the arc for the season. He scored in double-figures six times and recorded a career-high 12 points twice once coming against Lehigh and once against American. He recorded 11 points and added four assists in a contest against Boston College.

He played for Shining Stars

# Sports

## Bridger Valley Little League



There are multiple teams signed up this year for the Bridger Valley Little League. These are pictures of only the two teams. The season was off and hitting the diamond earlier this month with its opening day, giving Valley youth a chance to hone their baseball skills. The teams include multiple age groups.

COURTESY PHOTOS/BVLL

## Sam Griffin steps into the NBA spotlight

By RYAN THORBURN  
Pokes Insider

**LARAMIE** — Wyoming fans already know Sam Griffin's game travels well. As a high school prospect in Miami, Griffin averaged 23 points during his senior season to lead his team to its third consecutive state title. The 6-foot-3 guard piled up 1,497 points during his time at UT Arlington and Tulsa before arriving at UW as a graduate transfer last summer.

Griffin averaged a team-high 16.9 points to go with 3.7 rebounds and 3.4 assists per game for the Cowboys during the 2023-24 campaign.

It all added up to 2,037 career points at the Division I level and now an opportunity for Griffin to play professionally.

Eight NBA teams will have kicked the tires on Griffin in person before next week's draft. He has already auditioned for the Golden State Warriors, Miami Heat, Los Angeles Lakers and Oklahoma City Thunder and will do workouts for the Milwaukee Bucks, Memphis Grizzlies and Los Angeles Clippers this week.

"It's been a blessing, man," Griffin said of traveling from coast to coast for on-court job interviews with NBA franchises.

Griffin's ability to consistently knock down perimeter jumpers — he shot 39.2% behind the arc, including 46.5% on catch-and-shoot 3-pointers for the Pokes — has put him in position to perhaps play at the game's

*Wyoming sharpshooter will work out for eight NBA teams before next week's draft*

highest level. To put Griffin's scoring prowess in perspective, UW's 2,000-point club consists of Fennis Dembo (2,311), Brandon Ewing (2,168), Hunter Maldonado (2,158), Justin James (2,061) and Flynn Robinson (2,049). Maldonado won a G-League championship with the Oklahoma City Blue last season after a decorated six-year career with the Cowboys, which included leading the program to the 2022 NCAA Tournament.

The other four players on the list are in the UW Athletics Hall of Fame. Dembo (Detroit Pistons) and Robinson (Lakers) were part of NBA championship teams.

"Wyoming has a real college environment," Griffin said when asked how much playing his senior season for Jeff Linder and the Cowboys helped his game. "I never really got the full college experience (before). Seeing how much they value sports; I was able to have access to meals every day. That was my first time ever having an athletic café.

"I appreciate Wyoming as a whole, just the people there and how serious they take (basketball). It's good to be around that."

"My goal was always to get to the NBA, so it's a blessing that I have the opportunity now," Griffin said. "I don't know what the future holds, but my goal is to always be in there."



### WICKS, continued from page A11

Sports Academy during the 2022-23 season. He is a graduate of L.C. Bird High School in Chesterfield, Va. He earned All-Region Honors in 2021-22. He has appeared in the movie Shooting Stars and the series Swagger.

#### Wicks on Wills

"A.J. will add great depth to our go-guard position. He can create for others and has a unique game that keeps the defense off balance when he is in attack mode. He is one of those rare players who

has an extremely efficient and effective floater/runner game that the defense has a hard time keying in on. I also love the fact that he can find the open man, on time and on target. More than 60% of his passes for 3's last year registered as uncontested for his teammates. Add to the fact that he led Holy Cross in Assist to Turnover ratio, and you have a player who can make the right reads, score and take care of the basketball. Cowboy Country help me welcome A.J. Wills to the family!"

## INSURANCE

# INCREASING INSURANCE PREMIUMS



Are you noticing higher insurance premiums? You are not alone. Across the country, home and vehicle owners are feeling the pinch of higher insurance premiums. What is causing it and what can you do about it?

Homeowner's insurance rates have surged by 23% since 2023. There are several factors that are making homeowners insurance more expensive. The increase in the number and severity of hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and other weather has caused a spike in claims in many parts of the country. In addition, the western states have faced drought and heatwaves that led to record level wildfire seasons.

Since these events are occurring more frequently in recent years and the cost of building materials and labor has also significantly increased, insurance companies are raising rates. Because insurance is essentially a pool of funds supported by your premiums, when you are affected by one of these disasters you use funds from that pool based on what your policy will allow. What you pay in premium is determined by various risk factors, such as where you live, age of your home and past claim experiences.

Regretfully, the increase is not only affecting homeowners. In fact, auto insurance has also seen rates increase

by almost 22% compared to a year ago. New vehicle prices starting spiking during the pandemic when there was a shortage of computer chips and supply chains were backed up. Many dealers were faced with very few cars in stock. As we head into 2024, the average cost of a new vehicle is \$47,338. The higher value cars also come with more advanced technology and parts which raises the overall cost of repairs. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics maintenance and repair costs jumped 8.2% in March 2024 compared to a year ago. The severity of crashes can also play into the rates. For example, fenders in new vehicles now have sensors and cameras, which are expensive to replace. So a simple fender bender can end up being a high cost repair.

Although insurance companies can be large corporations and it's hard for consumers to sympathize with their business decisions when it's affecting your bank account, JD Power reported insurers lost an average of 12 cents per dollar in premiums collected in 2022. That means for every \$1.00 consumers paid in premiums, insurance companies paid \$1.12 in claims to consumers. Insurance departments are responsible for reviewing an insurance company's financials regularly to help ensure solvency and maintain consumer protection in their state.

#### What can you do to lower your premiums?

**Shop around:** Insurance is complicated and not something we all want to

think about or deal with so many consumers avoid shopping. It's important for consumers to shop coverage in this difficult market by contacting multiple carriers for quotes. Talk to a licensed insurance agent about the coverage and discounts an insurance company may offer. Each insurer company rates and underwrites risks differently, meaning some insurers may be more competitive than others for the type of coverage you are looking for.

#### Get the coverage you need:

Although, price is an important thing to consider when shopping for coverage, it's imperative that consumers insure their risks appropriately. This is another good reason to speak with a licensed agent regarding your coverage. Risks or coverage can change often, whether it's your son or daughter obtaining their driver's license or your spouse buying a new piece of artwork. Take the time to have a detailed conversation with a licensed insurance agent to ensure you are covered for all the curve balls life might throw. Outside of not having coverage, one of the most dangerous mistakes a consumer can make is not having enough coverage with a claim occurs.

Although the issue of rising insurance costs is not one that will be solved overnight, insurance regulators are hopeful that with minimal regulation, consumer education and an improving market rates will slowly stop rising.

This public service announcement is presented and paid for by the insurance companies licensed to do business in Wyoming in cooperation with the Wyoming Insurance Department. For more information on the state's insurance companies, including financial information, visit the Insurance Department website's "Company Financial Information" section.



**Wyoming Department of Insurance**  
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## 103 Announcements

**PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED** ad in Friday's Pioneer and on our website! Deadline is 12:30 P.M. on TUESDAY. Ads cost \$11.23 for up to 25 words, additional words are 50¢ each. You must pay for your ad before it runs; we cannot bill you. PLEASE READ YOUR CLASSIFIED AD OR DISPLAY AD ON THE FIRST DAY OF PUBLICATION. If there are mistakes notify us immediately. We will make changes for errors and/or adjust your bill, but only if we receive notice on the first day the ad is published. We limit our liability to you in this way and we do not accept liability for any other damages, which may result from an error or omission in an ad. The newspaper must approve all ad copy, which reserve the right to request changes, reject, or properly classify an ad. The advertiser and not the newspaper are responsible for the truthful content of the ad. Advertising is also subject to credit approval. TFN

**DRUG/DRINKING PROBLEM?** If you think you may have a problem with drugs or alcohol give yourself a break. There is a way out with the help of other recovering addicts and alcoholics. It costs nothing to belong to Alcoholics Anonymous. Bridger Valley meetings for Alcoholics Anonymous "Fun Group" are held Monday at 7pm, Wednesday 7pm, Friday 7pm, Saturday 7pm and Sunday 7pm. All Alcoholics Anonymous meetings are held at 504 E Clark St in Lyman. For more information go to [www.wyomingna.org](http://www.wyomingna.org) TFN

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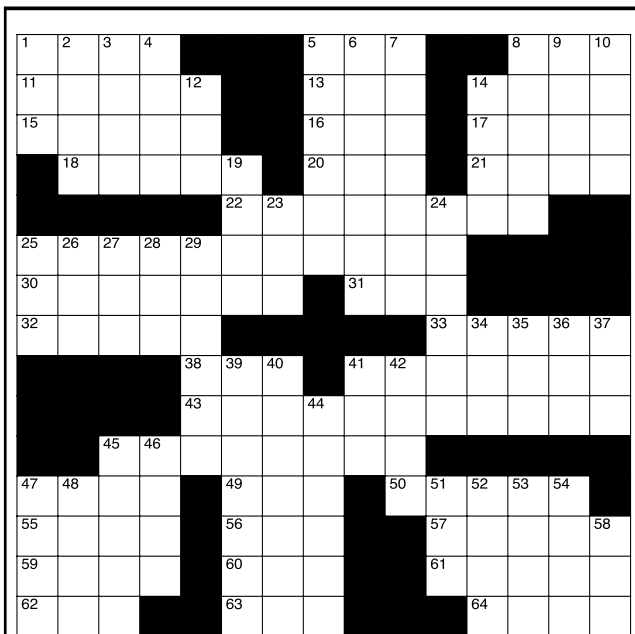
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### CLUES ACROSS

- Breezed through
- Supervises interstate commerce
- Unruly group
- Backs away from
- Expression of understanding
- Have concern for
- Monetary units
- Congressman (abbr.)
- Iranian city
- Eating houses
- 2,000 lbs.
- Grandmother
- They include North, South and Central
- In an early way
- Foes
- Shuttered British entertainment magazine
- One who unloads cages
- Another term for sesame
- Formally forbid
- Make clear
- Inaccessible
- Get through
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- Decameter
- Type of sword
- Actor Idris
- Affirmative (slang)
- Afflicted
- One point north of northeast
- Born of
- Arabic name
- Traditional Hong Kong street food: \_\_ pai dong
- Termination point
- Email function

### CLUES DOWN

- Sign language
- In style
- Helsinki neighborhood
- Unable to hear
- More rapid
- An idea accepted as a demonstrable truth
- In a cagey way
- Kate and Rooney are two
- Algerian port
- Community in Ladakh
- Midway between south and southeast
- Town in Galilee
- Satisfy
- Italian impressionist painter
- Brass instrument
- Chest muscle (slang)
- Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
- Records electric currents generated by the brain
- Woman (French)
- Aircraft designed to carry lots of passengers
- Baseball stat
- Pointed end of a pen
- Popular sports league
- Body part
- Unlikely to provoke dissent
- Yellowish cotton cloth
- Domesticated house pet
- Untruths
- Set out to attract
- Spiritual leader
- Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- Repair
- Genus of flowering plants
- Swiss river
- Prejudice
- River in central Europe
- Harness
- Father

## Legals

STATE OF WYOMING IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
COUNTY OF UINTA THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
Terrin Pippin, Petitioner Civil Action Case #24-DR-51  
vs. Justin Hernandez, Respondent

### NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE TO Justin Hernandez, address unknown: You are notified that a Petition to Establish Custody, Visitation and Support, Civil Action No. 24-DR-51 has been filed in the Wyoming District Court for Third Judicial District, whose address is 225 9th St, Evanston, WY 82930 seeking an Order in her/his favor. Unless you file a Response or otherwise respond to the Petition referenced above within 30 days following the last date of publication of this notice, a default judgment will be taken against you and the Petition will be granted.  
Dated this 20 day of April, 2024.  
By Clerk of Court: Shanda Fife, Deputy Clerk  
**PUBLISHED: June 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024**

24109

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Todd and Sheila Whittaker have applied for a Subdivision Permit for a 38-acre parcel in the W 1/2 of Section 14, T15N, R116W, 6th PM., Uinta County Wyoming. This application would allow for the creation of a new 4-lot ARD Zoned subdivision entitled the Whittaker Estates Subdivision.  
A public hearing on this matter will be held before the Uinta County Planning and Zoning Commission on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of the Uinta County Complex, Evanston, Wyoming.  
**PUBLISHED: June 14, 21, 2024**

24111

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that WHY Federal Credit Union has applied for a Subdivision Permit for lot 1 Block 4 of the Rees Subdivision located in the NW 1/4 of Section 1, T15N, R115W, 6th PM., Uinta County Wyoming. This application would allow for the re-subdivision of this lot into a new 2-lot Commercial Subdivision  
A public hearing on this matter will be held before the Uinta County Planning and Zoning Commission on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of the Uinta County Complex, Evanston, Wyoming.  
**PUBLISHED: June 14, 21, 2024**

24112

STATE OF WYOMING )  
 )ss. IN THE DISTRICT COURT  
 ) 3rd JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
COUNTY OF UINTA ) Civil Action Case No. 2024-CV-48  
IN THE MATTER OF THE )  
CHANGE OF NAME OF )  
Owan Eugene Christensen )  
Petitioner )

### NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

You are hereby notified that a Petition For Change of Name, Civil Action No. 2024-CV-48, has been filed on behalf of Owan Eugene Christensen in the Wyoming District Court for the 3rd Judicial District, whose address is 225 9th St., Evanston, WY 82930, the object and prayer of which is to change the name of the above-named person from Owan Eugene Christensen to Owan C. Skinner.  
Any objection must be filed with the District Court within 30 days following the last date of publication of this notice, or an Order Granting Name Change may be granted without further notice.  
DATED this 13 day of June, 2024.

BY CLERK OF COURT  
Shanda Fife  
Clerk of District Court/Deputy

**PUBLISHED: June 21, 28, July 3, 12, 2024** 24115

## TOWN OF LYMAN MEETING MINUTES June 3, 2024

**Held at Lyman Town Hall, Council Chambers**  
The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hooton, present was Councilmember's, Eric Quinney, Bronson Berg, Jimmy Bramlett and Gregg Moretti.  
Clerk Lisa Bradshaw  
Police Chief Thomas Shroyer  
Public Works Director Jared Crane  
Councilman Quinney made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Councilman Berg, motion carried unanimously.  
Councilman Moretti made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2024, Business Meeting and Work Session and May 21, 2024 Public Meeting, second by Councilman Bramlett, motion carried unanimously.  
Mayor Hooton opened the public hearing for Ordinance No. 2024-02.  
Joe Webb - 220 W. Willow asked the following questions, what the amount would be that would be transferred from this budget to next budget? Mayor Hooton replied that the official amount is unknown until this budget is closed out but he estimates at least \$250,000.00. What is the increase from FY 2023/24 budget to FY 2024/25? Mayor Hooton replied approximately \$245,000.00 in the general fund. Mr. Webb asked how much the water rates will go up? Mayor Hooton explained that the base rate for water and sewer will increase \$10.00, water \$8.00 and sewer \$2.00. No comments against. The public hearing was closed.  
Ordinance No. 2024-02 AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "ANNUAL APPROPRIATION BILL FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025". Councilman Bramlett made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2024-02 on the third and final reading, second by Councilman Quinney motion carried unanimously.  
Councilman Moretti made a motion to approve Kirsten Knezovich Alcohol Beverage Permit for June 21, 2024 at Heritage Barn, second by Councilman Berg, motion carried unanimously.  
Councilman Quinney made a motion to approve the purchase order #2024-14 for Axon Enterprise Inc. in the amount of \$16,924.00, second by Councilman Moretti, motion carried unanimously.  
Councilman Berg made a motion to pay the following bills: AlSCO - janitorial supplies \$401.41, Bridger Valley Motors - brake check \$69.95, Business Solution Group - utility bills \$677.90, Carrier - HVAC work \$2,171.20, Chelsie Fredrickson - contract labor \$500.00, E. Dean Stout - judge contract \$1,200.00, Empower Trust - 457 retirement \$2,900.00, Wyoming Worker's Compensation - workers comp reporting \$1,027.88, Energy Laboratories - samples \$391.00, Otis Elevator - contract \$734.19, Peterson Legal Services - attorney contract \$3,000.00, Postmaster - mailing bills \$300.79, dominion Energy - utilities \$1,908.46, Statefire - monitoring fire alarm system \$144.00, Wyoming State Lands and Investments - DWSRF#246 loan pay off \$236,089.92, Wells Fargo Financial - copier lease \$139.00, Wyoming retirement - employees benefits \$10,404.86, second by Councilman Bramlett, motion carried unanimously.  
Councilman Quinney made a motion to adjourn, second by Councilman Moretti, motion carried unanimously.  
Lisa Bradshaw, Clerk  
Shane Hooton, Mayor  
**PUBLISHED: June 21, 2024** 24116

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E R V C V H V S E I H S  
B O M C T F D E C V

## Outdoors

# Wildlife officials warn residents of rabbit-killing disease

By SARAH ELMQUIST SQUIRES  
Lander Journal  
Via Wyoming News Exchange

**LANDER** — Wildlife officials are warning of a disease that is killing rabbits in Wyoming, and are seeking the public's help in identifying dead rabbits to monitor the spread of the disease.

Called Rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus 2 (RHDV2), the disease targets all of Wyoming's lagomorphs, including game and nongame species such as cottontail rabbits, jack rabbits and pygmy rabbits, explained Jessica Jennings-Gaines, Game and Fish wildlife disease specialist.

"Any rabbit could become



METRO PHOTO

infected with the disease, it could be a cottontail living in your yard or the one you see while hiking," she ex-

plained. "Please report any dead rabbits you find."

The virus is highly contagious and deadly, and is

spread through direct contact with rabbits or rabbit carcasses or contaminated environments.

People cannot contract the disease, but they can spread it by carrying the virus on their clothing or shoes.

The virus causes internal bleeding, and some of the first signs can be sudden death or bleeding from the nose or mouth.

Wildlife officials advise those with domestic rabbits be careful not to let wild rabbits have any contact, or gain entry to the facility or home. Protective clothing and hand washing are advised for visitors into a facility containing rabbits, and if you bring in outside rabbits to your facility.

Those who find a dead rabbit are asked to make a report with their local

wildlife biologist or game warden. Note the location of the carcass and call the Game and Fish Wildlife Health Lab at 307-745-5865.

Reports may also be made online at <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/6e6f97fb4fed-4200a67f68f3cfe1cf0a>.

Although RHDV2 cannot be spread to humans, rabbits may spread diseases that can be spread, such as plague, so experts advise people not to handle or move dead wild rabbit carcasses or their feces.

A high concentration of RHDV2 was found in rabbits in Riverton in 2020-2021, with some cases detected more recently near Lander in 2023.

# Feds signal deference to Wyoming, dilution of protections, on migration routes

By MIKE KOSHMRL  
WyoFile.com

**CASPER** — In an apparent response to pressure from Wyoming officials, federal land managers are stepping back from outright preservation of ungulate migration corridors and toward the state's policy, which is more permissive of development.

The Bureau of Land Management last year proposed protecting the state's first officially designated, and perhaps best known, migration corridor as an 'area of critical environmental concern' — a plan that would allow no surface disturbance along the route mule deer travel from the Red Desert to the Hoback River basin and well beyond.

Gov. Mark Gordon and his staff weren't fond of that approach, which the BLM outlined in the preferred alternative of its controversial draft Rock Springs Resource Management Plan. Wyoming should "have the lead" on migration corridors," Randall Luthi, then Gordon's chief energy advisor and now his policy director, told WyoFile last winter.

"Lead means [we] go through the des-

ignation process," Luthi said. "BLM and other federal agencies should fall in line with that."

At a meeting recently in Rock Springs, BLM-Wyoming Director Andrew Archuleta hinted Wyoming would get its wish.

"Within the draft Rock Springs RMP, there was a nomination to designate this corridor as an [area of critical environmental concern], but that creates some difficulties for us," Archuleta told members of the Wyoming Legislature's Select Federal Natural Resource Management Committee.

The migration path primarily crosses two field offices: Pinedale and Rock Springs. There's no area of critical environmental concern in the Pinedale field office (where the resource management plan is not up for review). Adding one — such a designation could have prevented gas drilling, or road building — in the Rock Springs office would create inconsistencies in management, he suggested.

Archuleta spoke during a discussion about Wyoming's in-the-works Sublette Pronghorn Migration Corridor, a section of which punches through the Gros Ventre Range to Jackson Hole and is known as the

"Path of the Pronghorn." BLM's draft Rock Springs RMP doesn't address the proposed pronghorn path, which — like the deer migration — also winds through two field offices. The agency's draft planning document does, however, currently propose an ACEC on 224,000 acres of the 150-mile-long Red Desert to Hoback mule deer migration corridor.

Brad Purdy, BLM's deputy state director for communications, told WyoFile he doesn't think that it's fair to characterize the removal of a proposed ACEC designation as a change of course.

"A draft RMP is just that: A draft RMP," Purdy said. "I've said it a million times, and everybody's tired of hearing it..." The BLM plans to release a final environmental impact statement and draft decision on the Rock Springs RMP "later this summer," he said.

The BLM's draft environmental impact statement contained an option — Alternative D — which called for copying the state's migration policy, which is being used for the first time since a 2019 overhaul. The Wyoming governor calls the shots under that executive order.

Where it applies, Wyoming's policy does not necessarily preclude development but can be used to inform and influence where and how infrastructure is sited. It's only completely prohibitive of development in the tightest portions of migration corridors, called bottlenecks. To date no developments have been proposed in official bottlenecks. As of late last year, all of the roughly 60 developments proposed in designated migration corridors — some of which are in stopovers and high-use areas — have been vetted and allowed to proceed.

While it remains to be seen if BLM emulates Wyoming's migration policy, at least one lawmaker is encouraging the state and federal agency to work together to figure it out.

An upcoming step in the labyrinthine process of designating the Sublette Pronghorn Migration corridor is the creation of a stakeholder group. At the Select Federal Natural Resource Management Committee meeting, Rep. Scott Heiner (R-Green River) called for including the BLM in the effort.

*WyoFile is an independent nonprofit news organization focused on Wyoming people, places and policy.*

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**4th Annual**

# BRIDGER VALLEY SWOT OHV POKER RUN

**Saturday, August 17th**

## REGISTRATION - Starts 8:00 am at Mountain View Town Park

• **\$35 per person** (includes 1 poker card, 1 raffle ticket, and a meal and drink ticket)

• **\$10 for kids 18 and under** (includes a meal and drink ticket)

**Vehicles must be licensed and have Utah OHV and Wyoming ORV stickers.**

• **Raffles** • **Prizes**



**AMERICAN LEGION**  
FORT BRIDGER POST 36

