

the kemmerer gazette

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Volume 100, No. 3

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Proudly serving Kemmerer, Diamondville, Oakley, Cokeville, LaBarge, Opal, Twin Creek and Frontier for 125 years



Kemmerer student Laynee Walker shares with Gov. Mark Gordon the challenges of creating a recycled quilt without a pattern during Gordon's visit to local schools last week. (GAZETTE PHOTO/Sheri Paulson)

Gov. Gordon visits Kemmerer schools for the RIDE Initiative

By Rana Jones
Gazette Reporter

KEMMERER — Gov. Mark Gordon visited Kemmerer schools on Monday, Jan. 13, to witness the implementation of the RIDE (Reimagining and Innovating the Delivery of Education) initiative, a program designed to reimagine how education is delivered in Wyoming. The visit highlighted the district's unique commitment to the initiative, as Kemmerer is the only district in the state where every teacher is actively participating.

RIDE, which was announced two years ago, emphasizes student-centered

learning and encourages innovation in educational practices. The initiative's flexible framework allows each district to adapt it to its specific needs, fostering localized solutions to modern challenges in education. In Kemmerer, the "all in" approach reflects a unified effort by educators and administrators to transform traditional teaching methods and better serve their students.

During his visit, Governor Gordon engaged with students and educators to learn more about the program's impact. The RIDE initiative aims to address the lack of significant innovation in education, which has remained largely unchanged for over two centuries.

By contrast, other industries have undergone radical transformations, driven by rapid technological advancements. RIDE seeks to close this gap by fostering creativity, critical thinking, and adaptability in students' skills essential for thriving in a fast-evolving world.

The governor's visit included various student-led activities and presentations, showcasing how the program is being integrated into classrooms. For instance, student Laynee Walker shared the challenges of creating a recycled quilt without a pattern, illustrating the program's focus on hands-on, problem-solving

GORDON, A5

Local nuclear power plant wins Wyoming permit

Bill Gates-owned TerraPower's project near Kemmerer still awaits approval from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

By Dustin Bleizeffer
WyoFile.com



TerraPower President and CEO Chris Levesque speaks to reporters June 10, 2024 at the location of the future Natrium nuclear power plant outside Kemmerer, Wyoming. (WYOFILE/Dustin Bleizeffer)

The Wyoming Industrial Siting Council has granted a construction permit to TerraPower for its Natrium nuclear power plant near Kemmerer — a milestone achievement both in Wyoming and nationwide for commercial-scale "advanced nuclear" energy, the company says.

"This is the first state permit ever awarded to a commercial-scale advanced nuclear project and is a testament to the groundbreaking work of our TerraPower team," TerraPower President and CEO Chris Levesque said in a prepared statement last week.

The permit allows for construction of all non-nuclear portions of the Kemmerer Power Station Unit 1 plant. TerraPower has a permit application pending before the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for all of the nuclear-related facilities. "That application was sub-

mitted in March 2024 and is on track for approval in December 2026," according to a TerraPower press statement. "The unique Natrium design enables the company to start non-nuclear construction on-site during the NRC review."

The state's review included an analysis of environmental and socioeconomic impacts related to the facility, as well as potential avoidance measures such as noise limits and nighttime-light restrictions to minimize negative impacts on birds and skirting cultural resources when possible, according to the state and TerraPower's 1,459-page permit application. The Industrial Siting Council — a gubernatorial-appointed panel connected

TERRAPOWER, A14

New commissioner sets sights on growth, infrastructure

By Rana Jones
Gazette Reporter

KEMMERER — Lincoln County welcomed its newest commissioner, Mel Shumway, during a formal oath of office ceremony held at the Kemmerer courthouse on Monday, Jan. 6. Shumway's swearing-in marked the beginning of his tenure following a successful election campaign in which he defeated former commissioner Jerry Hansen.

The ceremony was officiated by Judge Joseph Bluemel and attended by members of Shumway's family, including his mother, Judy, and wife, Christie. His daughter, Mia, and son, Tom, were unable to attend. Shumway brings a diverse professional background and a strong focus on natural resources to his new role. As the owner of a vegetation manage-

ment business called Valley Vegetation Solutions, he has significant expertise in addressing issues such as invasive species. This knowledge positions him to contribute meaningfully to Lincoln County's land management and conservation efforts.

"I have always been a huge advocate for natural resources and fighting invasive species," he said.

He said cheatgrass and different weeds pose a problem, and he is an advocate for combating them. He is also an avid fisherman and focused on the area's water resources.

Additionally, he has highlighted the importance of tackling the county's pressing housing challenges, acknowledging the need for affordable housing amidst rising home prices.

He plans to work closely with the planning and zoning board to address these



Mel Shumway is joined by his mother, Judy Shumway, and his wife, Christie Shumway, during a swearing-in ceremony at the Lincoln County Courthouse on Jan. 6. Mel Shumway was elected last fall to the Lincoln County Commission. (GAZETTE PHOTO/Rana Jones)

issues.

"At our last meeting, we were talking about the possibility of around 1,500 workers showing up in

about six months and where they are going to stay. The RV parks are already at capacity," he said, adding that he has already spoken with

Kemmerer Mayor Robert Bowen about the issue.

"It's a challenge," he said.

Being from Afton, he is familiar with the north part of Lincoln County. He said the region in the north faces different problems, where they need to slow down development and the south part of the county needs to speed up development.

Shumway also brought up the sixth-penny tax proposal and how the southern part of the county was really hoping to get that passed; however, it was not favored in the northern part of the county.

"It's an ever-evolving issue. The spirit of cooperation is a truism," he said. "You must focus on the big picture and not get caught up on the petty issues. We have to look at both sides and move things forward for the betterment of Lincoln County."

The commissioner is also keenly aware of the strain that rapid development and population growth have placed on Kemmerer's infrastructure. He emphasized the need to prioritize infrastructure and road improvements.

Acknowledging that Kemmerer is busy, he said he is eager to get started as commissioner, his first elected position. As he prepares to head to Cheyenne for the legislative session, he said, "I am humbled and excited to serve Lincoln County."

Shumway said he enjoyed meeting people in various departments in the county.

"I have been impressed with the various departments with dedicated people," he said. "Things are coming fast and furious. Thank goodness we have leadership to stay out ahead of some issues."

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Inside:

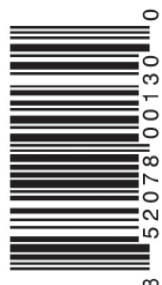
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- Sports.....A7
- Super FanA8
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Today: Sunshine and clouds mixed with 10-20 mph winds.

Tonight: Partly cloudy skies.

High: 19 **Low:** 7
Chance of Precip: 2%



For a full weather outlook, see page A2.

WHERE CANCER & CARE COME TOGETHER

Radiation Oncologist Dr. Joshua Binks & Hematologist/Oncologist Dr. Banu Symington



307-212-7760: Radiation Oncology
307-382-2234: Hematology/Oncology
1180 College Drive • Rock Springs
sweetwatermemorial.com

Community

Book Nook

Lincoln County Library Foundation announces \$9,665 grant from the Wyoming Community Foundation

By Missy Harris
Lincoln County Library Director

The Lincoln County Library Foundation is delighted to announce the receipt of a generous \$9,665 grant from the McMurry Library Endowment Fund at the Wyoming Community Foundation. This funding will support the exciting new initiative, Empowering Youth Through STEM: Expanding MakerSpace with Glowforge Pro Laser Machine.

The addition of a Glowforge Pro laser machine to the library's MakerSpace will enhance the library's ability to provide innovative STEM education opportunities for local youth. This cutting-edge technology will foster creativity, critical thinking, and hands-on learning, enabling participants to explore design, engineering, and problem-solving in new and engaging ways.

We are incredibly grateful to the Wyoming Community Foundation and the McMurry Library Endowment Fund



for this investment in our community's future. This grant will allow us to inspire young minds, bridge access to STEM resources, and empower the next generation of innovators in Lincoln County.

The grant also aligns with the library's broader mission to create a welcoming, inclusive space where all

community members can explore their interests, develop new skills, and access technology that might not otherwise be available. By introducing tools like the Glowforge Pro, the library aims to expand its programming to include workshops, collaborative projects, and demonstrations that bring STEM learning to life for learners of all ages.

The Lincoln County Library System invites the community to stay tuned for updates on the MakerSpace expansion and upcoming programs. For more information about the library's offerings, please visit linclib.org or your local library.

For 35 years the Wyoming Community Foundation (WYCF) has connected people who care with causes that matter to build a better Wyoming. WYCF has granted more than \$100 million to charitable causes while also providing a variety of supports to our nonprofit agency fund holders.

Weather outlook

Wednesday: A few passing clouds, otherwise generally sunny with 10-15 mph winds. Generally fair overnight.
High: 23 Low: 4 Chance of Precip: 10%

Thursday: A few clouds early, otherwise mostly sunny with 10-15 mph winds. Partly cloudy at night.
High: 21 Low: 8 Chance of Precip: 5%

Friday: Partly cloudy skies with 10-20 mph winds. Partly cloudy overnight.
High: 23 Low: 13 Chance of Precip: 10%

Saturday: Partly cloudy with 10-15 mph winds. Partly cloudy overnight.
High: 26 Low: 8 Chance of Precip: 20%

SENIOR CENTER MENU

Thursday: Pizza with meat and vegetables, bean salad, cinnamon apples, creamy rice pudding, and one percent milk.
Friday: Meatloaf, vegetable salad, salad dressing, whipped potatoes, brown gravy, carrot coins, roll, butter, apricot crisp, and one percent milk.
Monday: Chef salad, salad dressing, crackers, chocolate chip cookie, strawberries & bananas, and one percent milk.
Tuesday: Open-faced hot turkey sandwich, whipped potatoes, turkey gravy, mixed relish tray, ranch dressing, pickled beets, apricot crisp, and one percent milk.

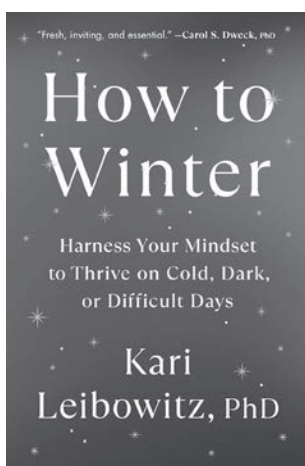
'How to Winter' can help during cold spells

By Rachel Rudd
Star Valley Branch Library

This year, I have been feeling some dread at the thought of winter setting in. Everything seems much more difficult, with the snowblowing, shoveling, icy roads, and need for multiple layers to leave the house. I haven't always felt that way, though, and I wanted to focus more on all the things I love about the coldest time of the year.

I chose to read "How to Winter: Harness Your Mindset to Thrive on Cold, Dark, or Difficult Days" by Kari Leibowitz, PhD, for some inspiration on turning the winter doldrums into winter fun.

One of the themes that came up over and over in "How to Winter" was having a good mindset about the season. If we expect winter to be awful, it will be, but if we have a positive mindset, we leave room to notice things that could be enjoyed about the



season. A strategy for cultivating a positive mindset is not to complain.

When we say things like "Winter is so dreary!" we believe our own words. Instead, we can say something positive like "The air is so fresh and brisk!" I know which I would rather believe! Romanticizing the winter experience can change our whole outlook.

In places that are above the Arctic Circle, people do not dread, and even look for-

ward to winter because they make the time special. They have festivals and traditions throughout winter, both in- and outside. They also make their homes and restaurants extra cozy (also known as hygge in Danish), by using candles, soft lighting, and warm temperatures.

When winter seems to go on and on, it's essential that we are able to get outside. The best way to do this comfortably is to dress for the temperature. It is amazing how much difference this makes in my enjoyment of the season. Then,

we are able to go about our day-to-day business and also try some fun outdoor pursuits.

One of the first activities suggested in "How to Winter" is something we are lucky to have in our area: bathing in hot springs. The author also talks about cold water swimming, but maybe I'll save that for next year.

This book has motivated me to enjoy this winter to the fullest. If you need some winter inspiration, check this book out at the Alpine, Cokeville, and Star Valley branch libraries.

WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

WYDOT has launched an online, self-guided, public meeting to share information and gather input from the public regarding the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Online Meeting Link: www.wydotlrtp.com/meeting1

The LRTP will serve as a framework for guiding decisions about Wyoming's transportation network and creates a vision for the next 25 years. WYDOT will develop the plan with stakeholders and the public. The LRTP analyzes Wyoming's transportation needs, identifies opportunities for improvement, and plans for varying revenues and programming to advance WYDOT's mission and goals.

Participate in this study using the online tool through Jan. 22, 2025. For questions please contact the project team at connect@wydotlrtp.com.

Visit our project website at: www.wydotlrtp.com

You're not Alone in the Static
Tune In to Someone Who'll Listen

When You're Heard, You're Seen

Don't be afraid to ask for help. Call or TEXT the Lifeline at 988.

Kemmerer, Diamondville and Opal Area Churches

Notice:

South Lincoln Hospital District Board Regular Monthly Meeting Monday, Jan. 27, 2025 at 6pm in the Hospital Board Room.

La Barge Area Churches

<p>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints 171 LaBarge Street 386-2201 Sunday School..... 11:20 a.m. Priesthood and R. S. 10:30 a.m. Sacrament Meeting 12:20 p.m. Youth Classes (Primary and Nursery) 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays: Young Men 7 p.m. Young Women 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend each week</p>	<p>Fellowship Baptist Church Located on Main Street 120 West 3rd Ave (along HWY 189) 386-9252 Pastor Paul Nittler Adult & Children's Sunday School..... 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship..... 11:00 a.m. coffee and nursery provided Youth Meeting groups for ages K thru 12 1st and last Wednesday of each month (dinner provided)..... 6:30 p.m</p>
<p>The Potter's House On Calpet Road 386-2420 Co-Pastors Tony and Gwenette Portera Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Sunday Evening Home Fellowship..... 6 p.m.</p>	<p>LaBarge Catholic Church 373 N. Wildcat (SOS Building) (307) 877-4573 Rev. Dave Erickson 2nd and 4th Sundays Mass 11:30 a.m.</p>

Cokeville Area Churches

<p>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints 725 East Main Street 279-3266 1st Ward 279-3268 Meeting time..... 9:00 a.m. 2nd Ward 279-3267 Meeting time..... 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>Grace Community Church Pastor Steve Johnson 307-248-3717 Where God is love! Sunday worship..... 11 a.m. Tuesday nights 6:30 p.m.</p>
<p>St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Community Church 220 Pine Street, Cokeville 307-279-3366 Sunday Worship Services..... 10:00 a.m. Adult & Children's Sunday School Refreshments & Fellowship every Sunday "We enter to worship and exit to serve."</p>	<p>Cokeville Community Church Bible Study & Fellowship Sunday Worship Service..... 2:30 p.m. Tuesday Night Bible Study . 6:30 p.m. Call 307-279-3366 for more information Come and join us in studying God's Word.</p>

<p>Berta Penney Memorial United Methodist Church Sage and Garnet Streets 307-800-2087 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Starting on November 3, 2024.</p>	<p>St. James Episcopal Church Cedar and Pearl, Kemmerer 307-723-3292 Sunday Worship..... 10:00 a.m. Sunday School/Youth Group 9:00 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Sundays Facebook: St.JamesKemmerer</p>
<p>Valley Evangelical Free Church Sage and Sapphire Streets 877-9305 Sunday Worship..... 10:30 a.m. Children's Church and Nursery provided</p>	<p>St. Patrick's Catholic Church 65 McGovern, Diamondville 877-4573 Father Dave Erickson Weekday Mass Monday, Wednesday - Friday 7:00 AM Saturday Vigil Mass 5:30 PM Sunday Mass 9:00 AM Confessions -- by appointment</p>
<p>Living Water Community Church 619 Pearl Street 307-248-0852 Pastor Alan Bella Sunday 10:30 a.m. Wednesday..... 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Elk Mountain Ward Dell Rio Drive, Kemmerer Sacrament 9:30-10:30am Primary 10:30-11:30am Sunday School (1st and 3rd Sundays) 10:30-11:30am YW/YM/EQ/RS (2nd and 4th Sundays)..... 10:30-11:30am</p>
<p>St. Paul's Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Sage and Opal Streets 727-7095 Rev. Jonathan Lange Sunday School..... 8:00 a.m. Divine Services..... 9:00 a.m. Matins Services..... Wed.-9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Grace Baptist Church Independent Fundamental Baptist 905 Pine Avenue 871-3214 Pastor Richard Hartman Sunday School 9:45 Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Prayer & Bible study Wednesday evenings 7 p.m.</p>
<p>Opal Baptist Church 140 Chrisman, Opal 307-389-9436 Pastor Robert Chapin Sunday Worship..... 4 p.m.</p>	<p>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Fossil Butte Ward Antelope and Third West, Diamondville Sacrament 11:00am-12:00pm Primary 12:00-1:00pm Sunday School (1st and 3rd Sundays) 12:00-1:00pm YW/YM/EQ/RS (2nd and 4th Sundays) 12:00-1:00pm</p>

Please call us with any changes (877-3347) or e-mail to advertising@kemmerergazette.com

Records

Kemmerer Police Report

Editor's note: Information contained in this report is compiled from a daily activities log and arrest record maintained by the Kemmerer Police Department from Thursday, Jan. 2, to Wednesday, Jan. 8.

Thursday, Jan. 2
 3:47 a.m. business premise check on Dell Rio Dr.
 5:14 a.m. business premise check on Third West St.
 5:45 a.m. business premise check on Susie Ct.
 5:49 a.m. business security check on Elkol Ct
 6:47 a.m. business premise check on US HWY 189
 9:00 a.m. business premise check Best Western
 9:06 a.m. business premise check Rec Center
 9:11 a.m. business premise check SLMC
 9:16 a.m. business premise check Fast Stop
 9:18 a.m. business premise check Maverik
 9:21 a.m. business premise check Antler Motel
 9:25 a.m. business premise check Ridley's
 9:26 a.m. business premise check Event Center
 12:49 p.m. house watch on Beech Ave.
 1:51 p.m. public service, assist public on US HWY 189
 2:05 p.m. traffic accident, hit and run, private property damage on Coulson Ave.
 6:38 p.m. traffic stop for registration violation, verbal warning on Coral St.
 7:27 p.m. business premise check on Coral St.
 11:05 p.m. business premise check on Elk St.
 11:12 p.m. business premise check on Sapphire
 11:20 p.m. business premise check on Main St.

Friday, Jan. 3
 7:41 a.m. school zone patrol on Lincoln Heights Dr.
 7:31 a.m. business premise check Best Western
 7:35 a.m. business premise check Rec Center
 7:38 a.m. business premise check SLMC
 7:40 a.m. business premise check Maverik
 7:59 a.m. business security check on Sapphire St.
 10:34 a.m. miscellaneous incidents, information on US HWY 189
 12:54 p.m. house watch on Beech Ave.
 12:59 p.m. house watch on Trona St.
 1:00 p.m. house watch on Trona St.
 1:38 p.m. business security check on Klondyke St.
 2:56 p.m. school zone patrol on Lincoln Heights Dr.
 4:45 p.m. business premise check on Pine Ave.
 5:12 p.m. traffic stop for failure to display current registration, verbal warning on Coral St.
 5:17 p.m. business premise check on Pine Ave.
 5:24 p.m. public peace, citizen dispute on Moose St.
 5:35 p.m. traffic stop for expired registration, verbal warning on Moose St.
 5:40 p.m. business premise check on Main St.
 6:07 p.m. parking problem, ordinance violation, prolonged parking, verbal warning on Coulson Cir.
 6:22 p.m. parking problem, ordinance violation, prolonged parking, verbal warning on Opal St.
 6:40 p.m. parking problem, ordinance violation, prolonged parking, verbal warning on Elk St.
 6:46 p.m. traffic stop for no headlights, verbal warning on Pine St.
 6:51 p.m. parking problem, ordinance violation,

prolonged parking, verbal warning on Pine Ave.
 7:34 p.m. traffic stop for no tail-lights, verbal warning on US HWY 189
 8:35 p.m. traffic stop for no headlights, verbal warning on Pine St.
 8:43 p.m. traffic stop for white light near the rear, verbal warning on Coral St.
 8:39 p.m. traffic stop for expired registration, verbal warning on Beech Ave.
 8:52 p.m. traffic stop for expired registration, verbal warning on Dell Rio Dr.
 9:12 p.m. business premise check on Coral t.
 11:06 p.m. house watch on Beech Ave.

Saturday, Jan. 4
 12:56 a.m. business premise check on Pine Ave.
 2:06 a.m. business premise check on US HWY 189
 2:19 a.m. business premise check on Elkol Co. Rd.
 7:42 a.m. school zone patrol on Lincoln Heights Dr.
 8:05 a.m. house watch on Beech Ave.
 9:21 a.m. business premise check Best Western
 9:32 a.m. 911 misdial, accidental dial on Third West St.
 9:35 a.m. business premise check Rec Center
 9:35 a.m. business premise check SLMC
 9:41 a.m. business premise check Maverik
 9:41 a.m. business premise check Fast Stop
 9:50 a.m. business premise check Opera House
 12:21 p.m. animal problem, dog at large on Post Pl.
 1:24 p.m. public service, VIN inspection on Central Ave.
 2:45 p.m. welfare check on Pearl St.
 3:05 p.m. school zone patrol on Lincoln Heights Dr.
 4:51 p.m. parking problem, ordinance violation, prolonged parking, verbal warning on Walnut St.
 4:58 p.m. parking problem, ordinance violation, prolonged parking, verbal warning on Walnut St.
 5:44 p.m. department activity, citizen assist on Emerald St.
 5:50 p.m. traffic stop for expired registration, verbal warning on Pearl St.
 5:56 p.m. parking problem, ordinance violation, prolonged parking, verbal warning on Cedar Ave.
 6:23 p.m. traffic stop for expired registration, written warning on Main St.
 7:29 p.m. parking problem, ordinance violation, prolonged parking, verbal warning on Emerald St.
 7:34 p.m. 911 misdial, playing on the phone on Berry Dr.
 7:52 p.m. traffic stop for expired registration, written warning on Moose St.
 7:54 p.m. business premise check on Coral St.
 7:59 p.m. public service, citizen assist on Cedar Ave.
 9:54 business premise check on Pine St.
 10:37 p.m. alarm call on Klondyke St.
 10:57 p.m. business premise check on Beech Ave.
 11:24 p.m. business premise check on Antelope St.
 11:51 p.m. business premise check on Beech Ave.

Sunday, Jan. 5
 1:06 a.m. business premise check on Onyx St.
 1:32 a.m. business premise check on



ise check on US HWY 189
 7:32 a.m. school zone patrol on Lincoln Heights Dr.
 8:54 a.m. public service, VIN inspection on Uinta Dr.
 3:24 p.m. traffic stop for registration, verbal warning on Lincoln Heights Dr.
 2:57 p.m. medical assist, patient transferred on Sage Ave.
 2:57 p.m. School zone patrol on Lincoln Heights Dr.
 4:11 p.m. public service, civil standby on US HWY 189
 4:20 p.m. public service, courtesy ride on Justice Center Dr.
 5:13 p.m. traffic stop for failure to display current registration, verbal warning on Pine St.
 6:09 p.m. traffic stop for headlight out, verbal warning on US HWY 189
 6:11 p.m. medical assist on Agate St.
 6:50 p.m. traffic stop for failure to display current registration, written warning on Pine Ave.
 7:15 p.m. traffic stop for expired registration, written warning on Beech Ave.
 8:16 p.m. business premise check on Coral St.
 9:00 p.m. business premise check on Susie Ct.
 9:04 p.m. business security check, unsecure business on Sublet Dr.
 9:26 p.m. business premise check on Sublet Dr.
 9:27 p.m. business premise check on Sublet Dr.
 10:10 p.m. business premise check on US HWY 189
 10:13 p.m. traffic stop for headlight out, written warning on Coral St.
 10:22 p.m. business premise check on Onyx St.

10:29 p.m. business security check on Antelope St.
 11:09 p.m. house watch on Beech Ave.
 11:38 p.m. business premise check on Lincoln Heights Dr.
Monday, Jan. 6
 2:38 a.m. business security check on US HWY 189
 5:41 a.m. business security check on Lincoln Heights Dr.
 6:04 a.m. traffic stop for speeding, verbal warning on Pine Ave.
 6:34 a.m. business premise check on US HWY 189
 6:53 a.m. parking problem, ordinance violation, prolonged parking, verbal warning on Walnut St.
 7:04 a.m. school zone patrol on Lincoln Heights Dr.
 7:27 a.m. business premise check on Main St.
 9:48 a.m. business premise check on Sublet Dr.
 11:40 a.m. public service, assist public on Pine Ave.

12:44 p.m. death unattended on Pine Ave.
 1:42 p.m. sexual assault, statutory rape on Antelope Ct.
 4:50 p.m. traffic stop for registration violation, verbal warning on US HWY 30
 5:47 p.m. traffic stop for equipment violation, verbal warning on Pine Ave.
 6:06 p.m. traffic stop for registration violation, citation issued on Pine Ave.
 6:31 p.m. parking problem, ordinance violation, prolonged parking, verbal warning on Walnut St.
 6:44 p.m. traffic stop for equipment/no drivers license, citation issued on Coral St.
 7:43 p.m. traffic stop for registration violation, citation issued on Pine St.
 8:03 traffic stop for registration violation, verbal warning on Pine St.
 8:14 p.m. traffic stop for

POLICE, A6

CLUBS & LODGES

Healing Through the Savior 12 step Recovery, Spouse and Family support meetings Meetings
 If you or a loved one is suffering from addiction, or are suffering because of a loved one's addictions, there is hope, help, and healing. Recovery Meeting: Sundays 6:30 PM. Spouse and Family Support: Sundays 6:30 PM. Location: Kemmerer Stake Center, 1584 3rd West Ave, Diamondville, Wyoming. Anonymous Phone Support Recovery Meeting 1-669-900-6833 Meeting ID: 97288584831 ## Sundays: 5:00 PM. Anyone 18 years of age and older is welcome.

Kemmerer Rotary Club
 Club Officers: President-Amy Schaffarzick, President-Elect-Jaycee Romrell, Secretary-Traci Countryman, Treasurer-Anne Bluemel. Meets at Noon every Wednesday at the Hospital.

Fossil Basin Promotion Board for Tourism
 will hold public meetings on the second Thursday of January, April, July and October, in 2025. The meetings are held at Diamondville Town Hall at 6pm. For more information or to request the zoom link, please email info@fossilbasin.org.

United Mine Workers of America Local #1307
 Meets the 3rd Friday of every month at the Search & Rescue building in Diamondville at 4:30 p.m.

American Legion Post 55/Kemmerer, Wyoming
 Meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Wyoming Fossils, 921 Pine Avenue. For more information contact Robert Bowen at 254-223-3204.

Alcoholics Anonymous
 AA meets every Thursday at 6 p.m. at St. James Episcopal Church on the corner of Pearl & Cedar.

Fossil Basin Chamber Of Commerce
 For information on meetings and joining the Chamber, please email fossilbasinchamberofcommerce@outlook.com. For more information contact Nichole Anderson (307) 429-0440 or Jessica Lozier at (307) 679-0626.

Kemmerer Masonic Lodge #33 AF & AM
 Meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month except July and August. Coffee social at 7 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM. Located at 607 Pine Ave, across from Ridelys, all members and sojourners are invited to attend. For more information -Charlie Custer 307-723-2626 or Seth Snyder Senior Warden 307-460-1463.

Kemmerer Food Bank
 Open the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of every month from 1-3 p.m. Located on the corner of Pearl & Cedar in the basement of the Episcopal Church. For more information call 307-723-7960.

Kemmerer Eagles-F.O.E and Auxillary
 Men's meeting the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, Women's meetings the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at the Aerie Hall on Klondyke St. Call 307-877-4712 for more information. Joint meetings the 2nd Monday of each month.

South Lincoln Fire Protection District Board
 Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Fire Station at 1255 Coral Avenue.

Kemmerer Gun Club
 President - Kyle Thompson 435-213-6084
 Vice President - AJ Guinta 307-727-6029
 Officer at Large - Garey Lacey 307-350-2922

ExxonMobil LaBarge Carbon Capture Project
 Per Condition #15 of the Industrial Siting Division permit (Docket No. DEQ/ISC 19-06), Exxon Mobil Corporation (ExxonMobil) is providing notice that construction on the LaBarge Carbon Capture Project is nearing completion.

ExxonMobil
 P.O. Box 1300
 33 Miles NE of Kemmerer
 Kemmerer, WY 83101
 (307) 276-6969

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Opinion

Just call Mom and I'll be there

Last fall, my elderly client's niece came for a visit from Kentucky and brought with her what we thought was a cold. After she left, my client, all my coworkers and I came down with it, two testing positive for COVID. I didn't get tested, but instead, merrily gave the disease to Gar.

I was off work for a week, then recovered enough to return at maybe 70 percent, about normal. Ha.

Gar tested negative for COVID, but he couldn't seem to shake the illness, with week after week of coughing spasms, fatigue, shortness of breath and feeling unwell. Even though he had many doctor visits, chest X-rays and was put on two antibiotics and oxygen, his physician couldn't pinpoint anything.

I got home from work one Wednesday evening, looked at Gar still struggling to breathe, and announced, "Tomorrow morning, we're putting you in an ambulance so you'll have portable oxygen, and we're hauling you to a pulmonologist."

In the hospital, the pulmonologist ran several dozen tests for every lung disease known to man, including another negative chest X-ray, two CT scans, breathing treatments, and a multi-cord heart monitor system. Gar had oxygen screenings, an IV with multiple drips, saline, steroids and several more antibiotics.

He was hooked up to so many appliances that it took some time to undo him in order to shuffle to the bathroom. That night, we decided instead of calling a nurse, it would be quicker if I just assisted him and he could use the urinal at bedside.

I was sleeping on a cot the width of a butter knife at the end of Gar's bed and had gotten up with him at midnight as the IV did its job. The second time, at 3 a.m., I must have been really sleeping soundly, because I awoke with a start. It was Gar needing my help. Groggily, I stumbled to his side and hoarsely asked how many times he'd had to call me?

He said, "Well, I said 'Trena' about 15 times, then I said, 'Mom' and you jumped right up."

The next day, it was decided Gar would have an injectable and an inhalation steroid while getting a bronchoscopy with a wash. This is a process where they go down and

have a look-see before launching saline into your lungs.

Then they take out some of the fluid and send it to the lab, testing each molecule to see what's what. The saline coming out is like something from a spook movie. When we were told what was going to transpire, the doctor said, "We put water in, then take it out" like it's so effortless, they do it every morning while sipping a vanilla latte. Yeah ... no.

They only take some of the fluid out, you have to do the rest. A little detail they never mentioned, and with good reason. When you wake up from the procedure, you're automatically into a fit of coughing, choking, gagging and somewhat throwing up, because when there's anything foreign, like water, introduced into your lungs, your body says, "What in the hell are you doing?"

I texted our kids often, keeping them updated, and when I told them what had transpired and that Gar felt he'd been waterboarded, our Esjæe texted his dad, "We got mom's update. I think I found what's wrong. The doctor's putting water in your lungs. That's why you can't breathe."

My kids do not think I'm funny, but they certainly think they are.

Our doctor son asked how his dad's appetite was. I said, "Not that great, possibly because there's no Little Debbie doughnuts in sight."

Eventually, Gar started to feel slightly better and began eating. He was obviously sad to be released from the hospital and go home to my cooking because, at one point, he actually said, and I quote, "It's nice to get a good meal for a change."

I studied him a second and said, "I'm going to go out on a limb and assume you're referring to when you weren't eating, but now that you are, the food tastes good, because otherwise, I'd be plotting how many times I could put those hated avocados in your mashed potatoes."

He laughed. I didn't.

That afternoon, the nurse came in and asked if Gar was wearing his oxygen all the time. I said, "Yes." Then she asked if he was able to keep it on at night? Without mirth, I deadpanned, "Sure, I just put a pillow over his face and it stays pretty well."



By Trena Eiden

Schmid: I support the Freedom Caucus' Five and Dime plan

By Rep. Mike Schmid
Wyoming House District 20

I made my first attempt at running for public office back in 2022. I wasn't successful in that race, but I certainly learned a lot.

The greatest lesson was the mistake of not believing in knocking on doors and talking with my neighbors one-on-one. I thought that would be the last thing folks would want was a candidate knocking on their door at supper time after a long day's work.

When I decided to run again for the same seat in 2024, I made up my mind that, after researching campaign strategies and attending campaign training classes, I would mount a very aggressive door-to-door campaign. I knocked on nearly 1,000 doors.

What I found is people were very friendly and extremely frustrated with their government, both state and federal.

They wanted a more conservative, simple, and common-sense form of state government.

I learned that, first and foremost, people are concerned about the out-of-control property tax increases year after year. Seniors are being forced to go back to work to keep their homes.

Young families can't afford to get started or even dream of living the "American Dream" of owning their own home.

People are tired of the fighting within our legislature on this issue. They want results, a solution, so they can budget their households from year to year. Don't they deserve that?

I learned that the folks are concerned about our traditional industries like oil, gas, mining and agriculture. They are looking for a state legislature that will fight and protect these industries and their jobs; to stop investing their hard-earned tax dollars into "green energy" and ESG firms such as Blackrock, VanGuard and State Street. These are the very firms that are supporting the "Green New Deal" policies that are delivering a slow death to our traditional industries.

I learned that the folks are tired of illegal immigrants crossing our southern border, being issued drivers licenses in some states, finding their way into Wyoming and using those drivers' licenses as ID and competing with them for jobs and taking advantage of our social programs and taxing our schools.

I learned they want to be able to trust our elections. With reports of illegals casting votes in previous elec-

tions and learning that there are no requirements to prove citizenship or residence, the people want to be assured that only Wyoming residents who are U.S. citizens can vote in our elections.

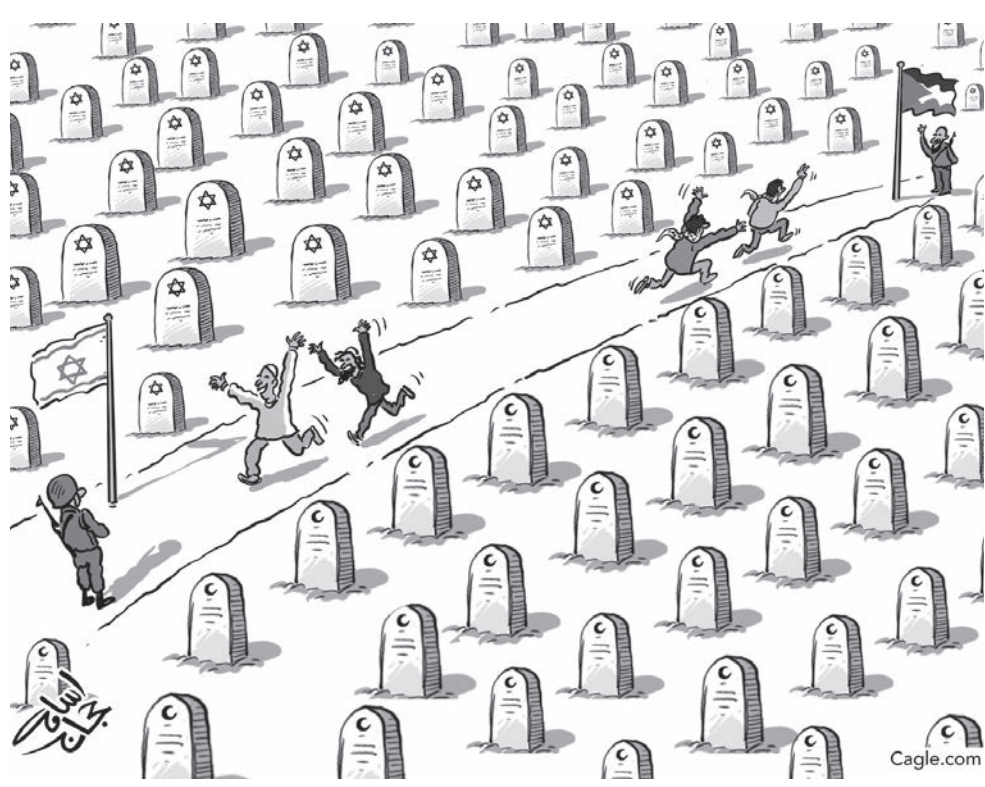
I learned our neighbors are concerned about the direction of the University of Wyoming. They want our university to reflect the values of our state. They have no desire to see their tax dollars being used to fund and push harmful "DEI" practices and policies.

The people spoke loudly this past election cycle. They want a legislature and policies that work for them. They want representation! They deserve representation and common-sense solutions from their government.

For these reasons, I support what is being called the "Five and Dime Plan." This plan addresses each of the concerns I learned were priorities for the people of House District 20.

The "Five and Dime Plan" aligns with the very simple Republican Party belief of "low taxes, limited government and personal responsibility" and, if you think about it, that belief is what brought us the success and lives we live today.

Now it is up to us not to let the success we created destroy us with all these lax, loose and expensive policies. The "Five and Dime Plan" will accomplish that.



The battle over fake grass is very real

By Peter Funt

There's nothing artificial about the controversy that's growing among homeowners, educators, doctors and sports administrators over fake grass.

The artificial turf market is projected to nearly double in the U.S. by next year. Sports facilities are installing 1,500 new turf fields each year, with over 20,000 such fields around the country, according to the EPA.

Where I live in central California, local high schools and colleges have essentially given up on grass. Million-dollar artificial football, baseball and soccer fields have been installed at eight schools just the last two years.

Homeowners — including the woman who lives across the street from me — installed artificial lawns as water bills soared. In my neighborhood, watering an average lawn in the summer costs over \$1,000 per month.

Some chemicals in the rubber base of

synthetic turf, such as bisphenol A, commonly known as BPA, can leach out during extreme heat. These chemicals have been linked to various chronic diseases including cancers, diabetes and neurological impairments.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed a bill allowing cities and counties to ban artificial turf. Some California cities have already begun moving to prohibit fake lawns, including Millbrae in San Mateo County and San Marino in Los Angeles County.

The east coast has led the way on anti-artificial turf legislation. New York state has placed a moratorium on new turf while Boston and several other communities in Massachusetts and Connecticut have enacted bans or severe restrictions.

Many of the efforts have been driven by revelations surrounding the risk factors of chemicals associated with plastics like those used in fake grass.



Maintaining artificial turf sometimes costs more than the upkeep of natural grass.

According to a *Los Angeles Times* report, "Naturally occurring organisms in soil break down much of what ends up on a grass field, including all kinds of human and animal bodily fluids.

When the field is a plastic carpet, those systems can't work, necessitating regular cleaning with a cleansing agent and a substantial amount of water. The infill component that cushions the turf must be combed, cleaned and replaced regularly as well. As the field ages, this work only increases."

The NFL's handling of artificial turf highlights the divided opinion on the issue. Of the league's 30 stadiums, 15 have artificial surfaces, 13 have natural grass and two have a hybrid mix.

As *The Wall Street Journal* noted in 2023, "NFL players have long said they prefer nat-

ural grass for both comfort and safety." Pro players are focused primarily on leg injuries that critics say happen more frequently on synthetic surfaces; the high school debate centers more on health concerns involving leached chemicals.

Underscoring the vexing nature of the controversy: Artificial turf retains heat so readily that on-field temperatures are sometimes 10 or more degrees higher than the surrounding area.

And what's the best way to lower the temperature? By watering the surface, utilizing the very resource that proponents of artificial turf are seeking to preserve.

We ought to rethink our rush to cover too much of the landscape in plastic. Our fields of dreams shouldn't be economically-rooted fields of schemes.

Peter Funt's latest book is "Playing POTUS: The Power of America's Acting Presidents," about comedians who impersonated presidents.

LETTERS POLICY

The Opinions page is a public forum and is intended to provide a venue for community insight, thought and expression. Letters to the editor are welcomed and strongly encouraged. The *Kemmerer Gazette* reserves the right to edit all letters for length, content and clarity. A letter — whether submitted on paper or electronically — must include the name and address of the author, as well as a valid contact phone number for verification. Letters will be printed with the name and city of residence of the author.

Letters addressing a business dispute, attacking a private individual or containing libelous or obscene statements will not be published. Further, we reserve the right to refuse to print any letter we feel inappropriate for publication.

Letters should be 400 words or less from local residents about local topics. Writers are limited to two letters per month; letters related to political campaigns will not be published the week prior to an election.

The opinions published on this page do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper, its publisher or advertisers. Deadline for submission of letters to the editor is noon Friday for Tuesday's edition.

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News



Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon speaks with Kemmerer students Amy Schramm and Jake Jackman on Monday, Jan. 13, at Kemmerer Junior-Senior High School. (GAZETTE PHOTO/Sheri Paulson)

GORDON / from A1
tasks. Such projects highlight how RIDE encourages students to approach challenges with innovation and resilience.

Student Chloe Schenavar interviewed the governor, who explained to her that the RIDE initiative started as an idea centered around the question: "What do we want our consumers of education to get?"

He said the goals of RIDE are to make sure education is relevant for students going into the world and giving teachers the ability to teach and engage with their classes.

Gordon explained the importance of getting students in internships.

"We want students to get real world experience while they are in high school and be equipped to go out into the world and make a difference," he said.

In regard to the effects of the program so far, Gordon explained that every district is different, and that Lincoln County School District is the first district to go all in. "What I have seen today is remarkable. Just in how students have been engaged and how teachers have had a chance to learn and improve on what they are delivering," he said.

Gordon explained that each district is different but said, "Learning can happen in almost any place." Gordon said they will continue to

look at assessments to determine if there is improvement. "One of the things in Wyoming is we are looking to build school choice," he said, and added they hope to continue to give traditional schools the opportunity to act like a charter.

Gordon said RIDE is important to him because though he served on a school board and had kids that were successful, a big frustration was the standards and assessments that were developed somewhere else and did not involve the community, parents, students, or industries.

Another highlight of the visit was a discussion following the "Put Me In, Coach" presentation by Phil Thatcher. Students and the



Kemmerer student Chloe Schenavar interviews Gov. Mark Gordon on Monday, Jan. 13. (GAZETTE PHOTO/Sheri Paulson)

governor explored the importance of leadership and motivation, with one student emphasizing the role of humor in effective coaching.

Assistant principal and teacher Bart Jernigan, when talking about the RIDE initiative and the best way to approach it, said, "The easiest route doesn't always lead to the most beautiful view."

Teachers and administrators in Kemmerer have embraced the challenges of implementing RIDE, recognizing its potential to inspire

a new generation of learners. The district's commitment underscores a broader vision for education in Wyoming — one that prioritizes innovation, adaptability, and a focus on student-centered learning.

Gov. Gordon's visit not only celebrated Kemmerer's progress but also served as a model for other districts to explore the potential of the RIDE initiative. By reimagining education delivery, Wyoming is taking steps to ensure its students are well-equipped for the demands of the future.

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Outdoors

POLICE

from A3

equipment violation, verbal warning on US HWY 30

8:20 p.m. traffic stop for equipment violation, citation issued on Pine Ave.

8:55 p.m. business premise check on Susie Ct.

9:05 p.m. traffic stop for equipment, verbal warning on Pine Ave.

9:20 p.m. traffic stop for equipment, verbal warning on Pine Ave.

9:45 p.m. business premise check on US HWY 189

9:50 p.m. public service, citizen assist on Nations Dr.

10:27 p.m. traffic stop for registration, verbal warning on Topaz St.

10:41 p.m. business security check on JC Penny Dr.

10:39 p.m. business premise check on Antelope St.

10:41 p.m. business security check on Dell Rio Dr.

11:18 p.m. business premise check on WY State HWY 233

11:26 p.m. business security check on Moose St.

11:56 p.m. traffic stop for speeding, verbal warning on Central Ave.

Tuesday, Jan. 7

6:21 a.m. business premise check on Third West St.

7:34 a.m. business premise check on US HWY 189

8:21 a.m. business premise check on US HWY 1589

3:06 p.m. public service, assist public on Pine St.

3:27 p.m. 911 misdial, accidental dial on US HWY 189

5:36 p.m. traffic stop for registration violation, citation issued on Main St.

5:59 p.m. medical assist, patient transferred, assist Diamondville police Dept.

6:57 p.m. business premise check on Coral St.

8:02 p.m. traffic stop for

equipment violation, citation issued on Paine St.

9:14 p.m. miscellaneous incident, citizen contact. On Pine St.

9:28 p.m. Investigative citizen contact, adult on Pine Ave.

11:23 p.m. business security check on Lignite Ave.

11:56 p.m. traffic stop on Onyx.

Wednesday, Jan. 8

1:26 a.m. assist Lincoln County Sheriff on River Circ.

3:33 a.m. traffic stop on Coral St.

4:04 a.m. traffic stop on Coral St.

4:14 a.m. traffic on Central Ave.

7:00 a.m. business premise check on US HWY 189

12:52 p.m. business premise check on Susie Ct.

1:05 p.m. business security check on WY State HWY 233

Elk tests positive for chronic wasting disease on Pinedale-area feedground

By Billy Arnold
Jackson Hole News&Guide
Via Wyoming News Exchange



Elk hunker down after being fed in March 2024 on the National Elk Refuge, which is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Chronic wasting disease has been detected for the first time on a separate feedground near Pinedale. (JACKSON HOLE DAILY/Kathryn Ziesig)

JACKSON — For the first time, an elk has tested positive for chronic wasting disease on a western Wyoming wapiti feedground, areas that wildlife biologists have long seen as a risk for disease transmission.

The elk that tested positive was an adult cow found dead on the Scab Creek Feedground near Pinedale at the end of December, according to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, which reported the detection Wednesday. Game and Fish personnel investigated the carcass and removed it at the end of December, officials said.

Scab Creek is part of Hunt Area 98, which is home to the 2,000-animal Pinedale Elk Herd and stretches west from the Fontenelle Reservoir to the foothills of the Wind River Range. Chronic wasting disease has been detected in the hunt area before but never on a feedground — near Pinedale or anywhere else in the state.

The finding is significant because feedgrounds are at the core of the debate about how to manage chronic wast-

ing disease, a 100% fatal neurological condition that has been spreading through western Wyoming's ungulates — deer, elk and moose — since the late 1980s. The disease can be spread in many ways, including through direct animal-to-animal contact and environmental contamination.

Feedgrounds increase the risk of both by causing elk, which are herd animals and naturally group together, to gather in unnaturally tight quarters. When wapiti are close together, it's easier for them to come into contact with one another's saliva and bodily fluids, which can carry the disease-causing agents known as prions.

When elk return to the same area winter after winter, like a feedground, those prions can infiltrate the soil and plants and survive for up to 16 years, creating a vector for spreading chronic wasting disease that can last decades.

The detection comes as the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, which operates upwards of 20 feedgrounds in western Wyoming, and the National Elk Refuge are both reevaluating the future of feeding.

After developing a state-wide plan for managing elk feedgrounds, the state is now moving toward reevaluating how it manages feedgrounds

FEEDGROUND, A12

HOROSCOPES

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, you feel loved and appreciated this week and you would like to share those feelings with others by being supportive of their needs. Focus your attention on a close friend.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, even if you do not have anything in common with someone, you can find a way to be friends. Open a dialogue to get the ball rolling.

GEMINI - May 22/June 21

Gemini, accept that you cannot change some things and look for a silver lining. Soon enough you'll come out on the other side.

CANCER - June 22/July 22

Cancer, you are getting hungrier and hungrier, which makes you determined to get ahead. Just be sure this determination is balanced by a little reservation as well.

LEO - July 23/Aug 23

Could it be that you are in the market for some romance, Leo? If so, make a plan for rekindling the flame with a current partner or finding someone new who also is looking for love.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Challenges may arise in your relationship this week, Virgo. A serious approach to the partnership is required by both sides. Work toward resolving the situation as a couple.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, although your creative juices are flowing, some type of roadblock pops up and restricts your path. Explore ways to work around this obstacle.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, take a deep look at yourself this week, examining all facets of your personality. Instead of being judgemental of others, you may need to make some changes yourself.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, emotions are running high for you and you may not be able to focus on what needs your attention most. If you can't get a hold of things, try delegating some of your tasks.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Be careful when listening to what another has to say, Capricorn. Read their body language instead of just their words. The two may not match up with one another.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Opportunities you may never have expected are presenting themselves, Aquarius. Find time to process these unexpected developments and mull the best approach.

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, resist hurried efforts to get to a destination without enjoying the journey. There is a lot to see along the way, so it's best if you savor all of it while you can.

FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY 19

Shawn Johnson East, Gymnast (33)

JANUARY 20

Skeet Ulrich, Actor (55)

JANUARY 21

Billy Ocean, Singer (75)

JANUARY 22

Caitlin Clark, Athlete (23)

JANUARY 23

Mariska Hargitay, Actress (61)

JANUARY 24

Daveed Diggs, Rapper (43)

JANUARY 25

Alicia Keys, Singer (44)

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INSURANCE

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud to highlight the significant achievements of the State Insurance Department in 2024. This year has been marked by wildfires in Wyoming and across the country; legislative changes regarding Prior Authorization and continued excellence in consumer assistance. The office has worked tirelessly to ensure that the Wyoming citizens have fair, transparent and accessible insurance information.

The Wyoming Department of Insurance (DOI) regulates insurance companies, multiple employer welfare arrangements, risk retentions and purchasing groups, motor clubs, service contract providers, preneed funeral homes, agents, brokers adjusters, consultants, pharmacy benefit managers and third party administrator. We also approve policy filings, investigate consumer complaints, monitor financial conditions and solvency of insurance companies and collect premium and surplus lines taxes. The DOI does not regulate insurance rates for most types of insurance.

The statutes that govern insurance in the state of Wyoming can be found in Title 26-Insurance Code. The statutes can be accessed by visiting <https://www.wyoeg.gov/StateStatutes/StatutesConstitutionandclickingonthelinkforWyomingStatutesAnnotated>. The rules for the agency can be found at the Secretary of State's website [https://rules.wyo.gov/DepartmentofInsurance\(044\)](https://rules.wyo.gov/DepartmentofInsurance(044)).

2024 Highlights:

During the 2024 legislative session, the DOI monitored four bills regarding insurance. They were HB0014 Prior Authorization Regulations; HB0015-

Health Insurance-reimbursement of overpayments; SF0005-Organ transplant recipient protections; SF0100-Payment of Insurance Claims. You can view the bills and the changes that were made by visiting the legislative Service Office website and select 2024 bills.

In preparation for the 2025 legislative session, the agency proposed two bills to the Joint Corporations, Elections & Political Subdivisions Committee. The first bill was a simple "clean up" bill with minor corrections and updates to Title 26. The second bill, was an NAIC Accreditation bill with updates to Chapter 44, the Holding Company System per the 2021 model law updates. Both bills passed the Joint Corporations Committee this summer and will be committee bills this upcoming session. The 2025 legislative session begins January 14, 2025 and we expect to follow several bills during the general session.

The DOI also did extensive outreach during 2024. Public service announcements were published each month in statewide papers and on the DOI LinkedIn page. Some of the topics in 2024 were Marketplace and Medicare open enrollment, Health Insurance 101, Mental Health Awareness Month and Wildfires. The agency also did several presentations, provided various articles and information for state agencies and interested parties, and interviews with the New York Times and Cowboy State Daily.

In 2024, the agency collected over \$25,632,397 in premium tax. The fiscal section also reviewed approximately twenty-one new company expansion applications for insurers to become licensed to write business in Wyoming.



The agency was also busy with licensing applications and form reviews. Our three licensing personnel issued 42,852 licenses, renewed 66,252 licenses and manually processed 5,186 applications. The Rate and Form filing section reviewed 1,726 Life & Health filings and 2,108 Property & Casualty filings. Staffing remained consistent with five personnel.

The legal section was busy with public records request and docket filings. In 2024, the legal section finalized one regulation, Chapter 72-Prior Authorization. They processed seventy-six (76) public records requests and opened seventy-five (75) docket files. They also collected \$40,631.00 in fines. The agency also has a very responsive complaint section. This section handles a variety of complaints to include improper denial

of claims; delays in claim handling; cancellation or termination of an insurance policy or misrepresentation of policy. In 2024, the section handled 1,880 consumer complaints or inquiries in addition to many phone calls and emails.

The Department also added one new position. Thanks to an appropriation from the legislature the Department was able to hire a Health Program Manager to handle complaints and inquiries regarding Pharmacy Benefit Managers. This individual will develop a PBM regulation program, respond to PBM complaints, and follow legislation regarding PBMs.

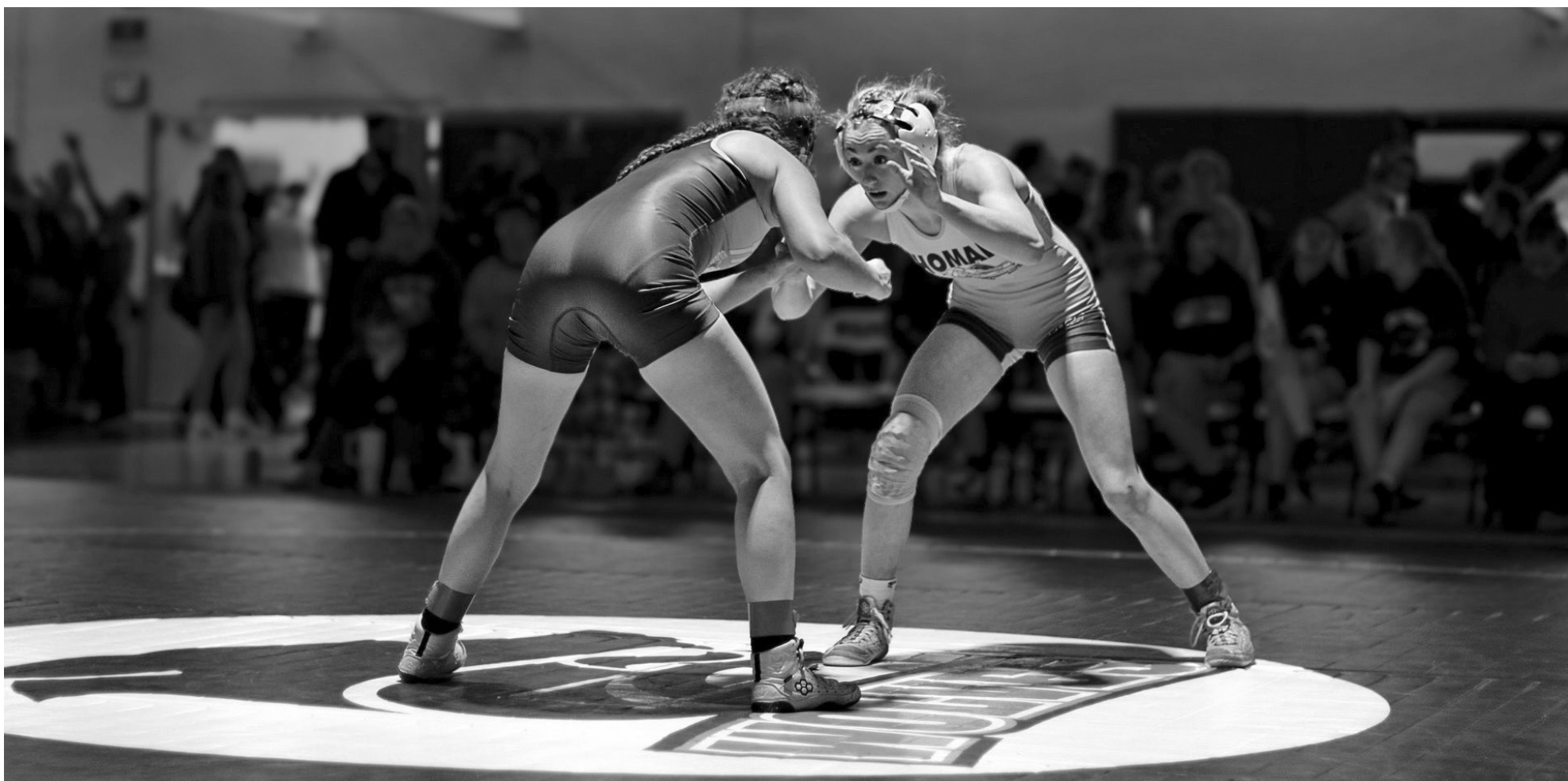
As we head into 2025, our goals remain clear: to enforce insurance laws and regulations, assist consumers with complaints and encourage a healthy insurance marketplace.

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.

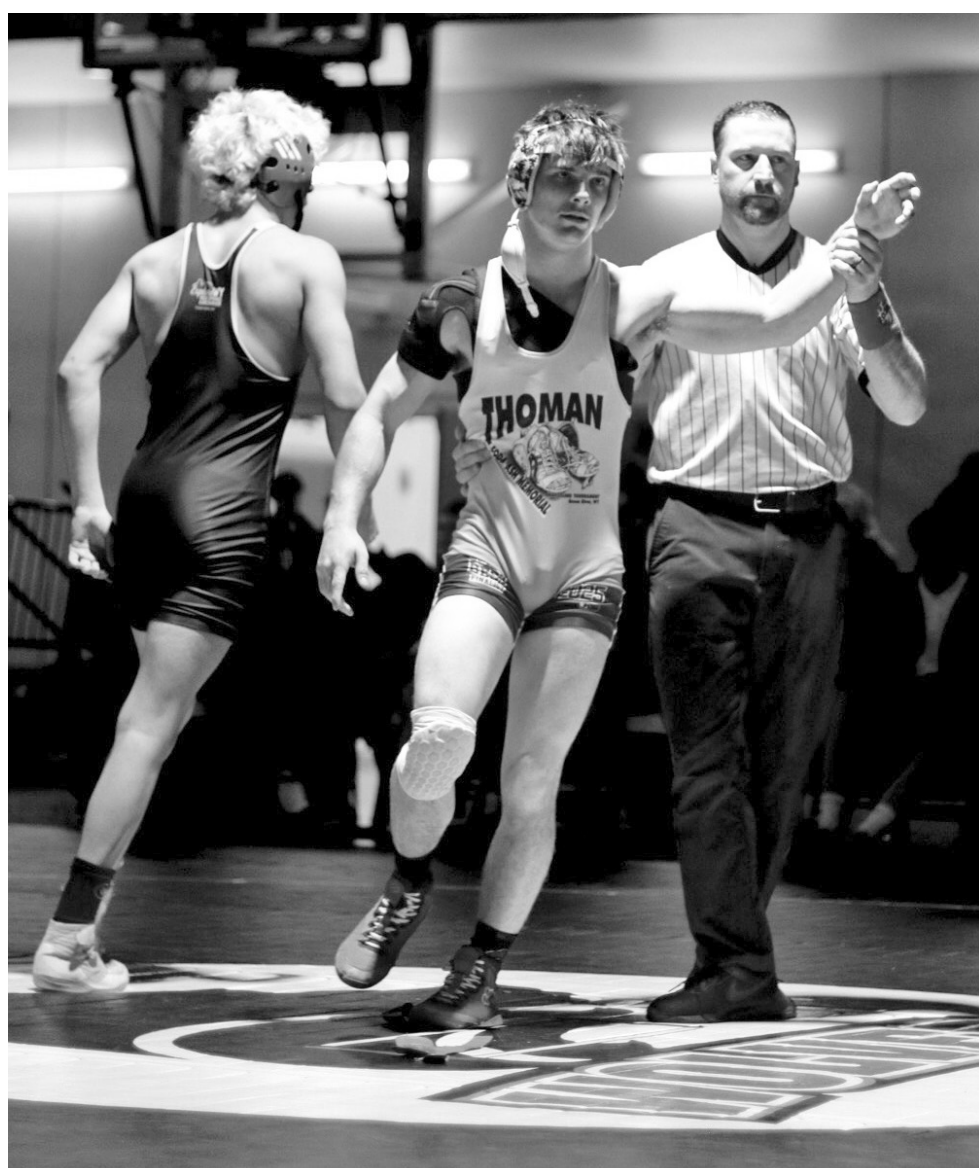


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gazette Sports & Outdoors



Lady Ranger Laynee Walker won the 120-pound title at the Thoman Soda Ash Memorial Duals in Green River over the weekend, going 4-0 for the tournament. (COURTESY PHOTO/Laynee Walker)



Ranger wrestler Roany Proffit wins the Best of the Best title at 138 pounds over the weekend at the Thoman Duals in Green River, pinning Evanston's Kolby Hamilton in the title match. (COURTESY PHOTO/Laynee Walker)

Rangers, Lady Rangers 4th at Thoman Duals in Green River

Proffit win Best of the Best; Walker first in girls' division

By Don Cogger
Gazette Sports Editor

The Kemmerer High School wrestling teams were in Green River over the weekend for the Thoman Soda Ash Memorial Duals, with both the Rangers and Lady Rangers finishing fourth overall.

The Lady Rangers finished the tournament with one individual champion in Laynee Walker at 120 pounds, while the Rangers had two wrestlers advance to the Best of the Best round of matches — Roany Proffit at 138 pounds and Graison Kelley at 165 pounds.

Proffit pinned Evanston's Kolby Hamilton to claim the crown, while Kelley lost to Pinedale's Landon Fornstrom to finish runner-up.

Rangers

The Rangers opened the tournament Friday with a 39-30 win over Campbell County, but fell to host Green River 2 in the next dual, 44-27.

Kemmerer closed out Friday with a tough loss to Pinedale, 45-34.

The Rangers opened Saturday with a 46-35 win over Rock Springs, but fell to Green River 53-24 in the semifinals.

Ranger 138-pounder Roany Proffit went undefeated for the tournament, and won the Best of the Best title for his weight class, pinning Evanston's Kolby Hamilton at the 3:26 mark for the overall championship.

Graison Kelley went 4-1, and earned a spot in the Best of the Best round, losing to Pinedale's Landon Fornstrom.

Abel Jimenez at 113 pounds (4-1), Michael Symons at 144 pounds (4-1), Noah Parks at 150 pounds (4-1) and Bridger Anderson (2-1) lost just one match each for the tournament.

Other Rangers with notable performances included Owen Barton at 190 pounds (3-2).

Lady Rangers

The Lady Rangers wrestling program

WRESTLERS, A8

Rangers floored at home by Punchers, 64-50

Three Rangers score in double figures in tough loss

By Don Cogger
Gazette Sports Editor

The Kemmerer High School boys' basketball team played a pair of hard-fought games against some tough competition last week, and though the Rangers came up short in both contests, head coach Matt Stewart said he liked the grit he saw from his team.

The Rangers opened conference play against 2A Southwest rival Big Piney, and played the Punchers tough for three quarters before fading down the stretch in a 64-50 loss. Kemmerer then headed across state lines to Utah Saturday to take on Manila in a non-conference matchup, giving the Mustangs all they could handle before losing in a nailbiter, 55-52.

"Overall, I feel like we played well for three quarters in both the Big Piney game and Manila game," Stewart said. "Unfortunately, against Big Piney, we dug ourselves a big hole early. We won the second, third and fourth quarters. Against Manila, it was quite the opposite — we controlled the game until the last four minutes."

The Rangers continue conference play on the road this weekend, with games scheduled at Wind River and Wyoming Indian.

"We have two very important Conference games at Wind River on Friday and Wyoming Indian on Saturday," Stewart said. "It will be crucial for us to win both games to keep pace for the conference title. We have a lot to work on to prepare for our games this weekend, but the boys are improving and learning every day."

Big Piney 64, Rangers 50

The Rangers welcomed Big Piney to Rangers Gymnasium Thursday for the start of conference play, and the Punchers wasted no time making themselves at home, dropping 31 points on the home team in the first quarter, while allowing just eight.

Once the shock wore off, the Rangers were able to play the visitors straight up for the second quarter, though they trailed 43-20 at the break.

The Rangers came out strong to start the second half, outscoring Big Piney 17-12 in the third to cut the lead to 55-37 heading into the final frame. Kemmerer once again outscored the Punchers 13-9 over the final eight minutes, but were unable to erase the first quarter deficit, sending Big Piney home with a 64-50 win.

"We didn't handle the press well in either game," Stewart said. "That is something we will work on this week. Against Big Piney, we shot poorly from the field and the free throw line. If we make a few more shots from three and two — and make half more of the free throws we shot — we win that game."

Three Rangers finished in double figures, led by Bryson McGill with 14 points; he also grabbed seven rebounds and two assists. Gabw Wiswell followed with 12 points, while Cage Bowen added 11.

Milan 55, Rangers 52

Against the Mustangs in non-conference action Saturday, the Rangers led 25-23 at the break, and then used a 19-point third

RANGERS, A8

Lady Rangers fall to Big Piney at home, at Manila

Skidmore reaches 1,000-point milestone at Manila

By Don Cogger
Gazette Sports Editor

It was a rough week for the Kemmerer High School girls' basketball team, who lost their conference opener in a hard-fought contest at home Thursday against Big Piney, then traveled to Utah Saturday for a non-conference matchup against Manila.

The Lady Rangers lost what became a defensive battle against the Lady Punchers Thursday to open 2A Southwest Conference action, 29-26.

Hoping to regroup with a trip across state lines, Kemmerer found their Utah hosts to be anything but hospitable, losing 55-28. The lone bright spot of the Manila game was Lady Ranger Jane Skidmore reaching the career milestone of 1,000 points, hitting the mark on a free throw just before halftime.

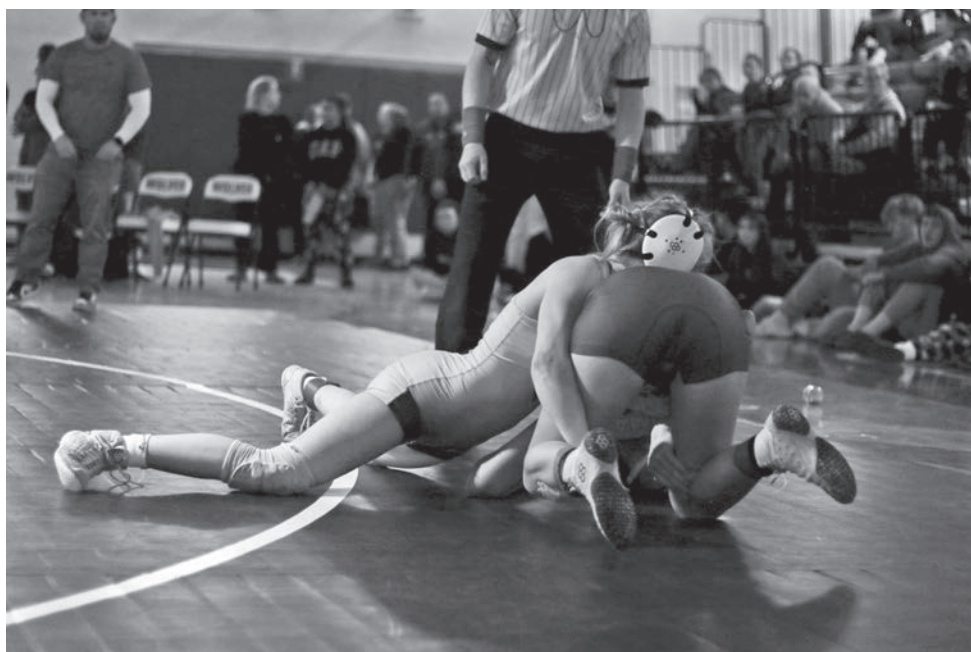
The Lady Rangers are back on the road this weekend, with games scheduled at wind River at Wyoming Indian.

LADY RANGERS, A8



Lady Ranger Janae Skidmore is all smiles with head coach Phil Thatcher after scoring her 1,000th career point in a game against Manila Saturday. (COURTESY PHOTO)

Sports



Lady Ranger Laynee Walker gets the upper hand on Granstville's Bailey Rainer in the 120-pound title match at the Thoman Duals in Green River. Walker won a 4-1 decision. (COURTESY PHOTO/Laynee Walker)

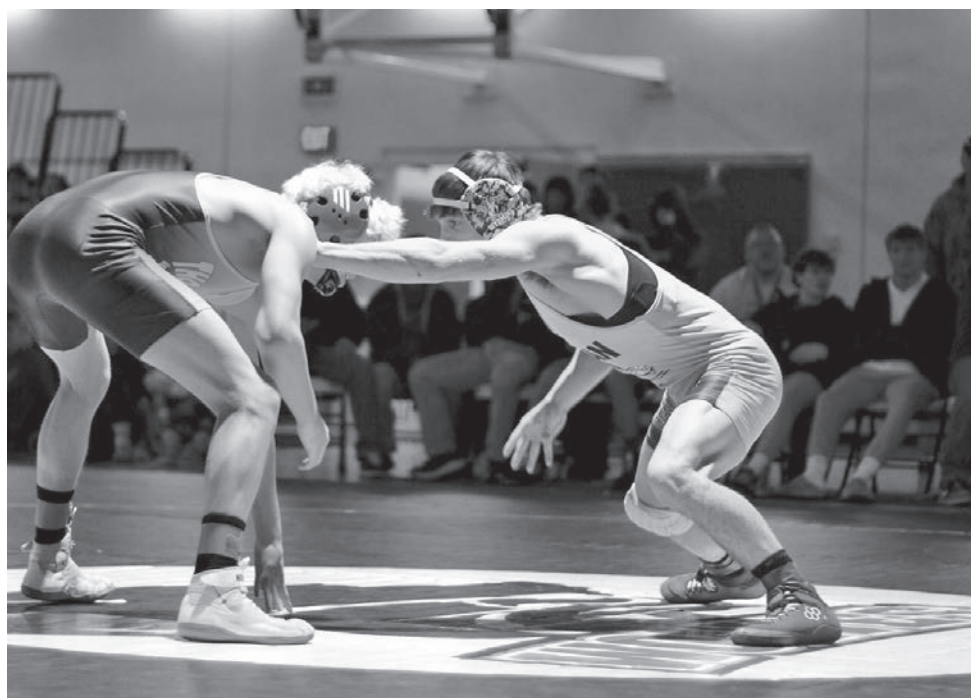
WRESTLERS from A7

had a solid weekend in Green River, placing fourth overall as a team, with one wrestler winning a championship, and two others finishing runners-up.

Grantsville won the team title with 286 points, followed by Lyman in second with

106 points and Campbell County with 105 points. Kemmerer and Rawlins rounded out the Top 5 in the 13-team field with 101.5 points and 86.5 points, respectively.

Lady Ranger Laynee Walker won the title at 120 pounds, posting a 4-0 record, with three wins by pin. Walker won a 4-1 decision over Grantsville's Bailey Rainer in the finals to claim the championship.



Ranger wrestler Roany Proffit locks up with Evanston's Kolby Hamilton in the Best of the Best 138-pound match at the Thoman Soda Ash Memorial Duals in Green River over the weekend. Proffit pinned Hamilton for the title. (COURTESY PHOTO/Laynee Walker)

Kaylie Julander pinned her first two opponents to advance to the championship match at 155 pounds, but lost a close 4-3 decision to Rock Springs' Sarah Eddy to finish runner-up.

At 170 pounds, Lady Ranger Ella Kelley also pinned her first two opponents to ad-

vance to the title match, but couldn't find an answer for Grantsville's Caroline Mecham, settling for second place.

Other podium finishes included Riley Meyer, who finished fourth at 105; Kylee Batista, who finished fifth at 140; and Addison Anderson, who finished sixth at 130.



Lady Ranger Nataly Ruvalcaba scored nine points during Kemmerer's 55-28 loss to Manila Saturday. (GAZETTE FILE PHOTO/Don Cogger)

LADY RANGERS from A7

Big Piney 29, Lady Rangers 26

The Lady Rangers (3-8, 0-1) opened conference play on their home court last Thursday, welcoming in Big Piney (4-7, 1-0).

The Lady Rangers got off to a solid start, building a 10-4 lead after one quarter, and taking a 16-13 lead into the break.

The Lady Punchers came out of the locker room with all the momentum, however, going on a 10-5 run to start the second half. With a 23-21 lead heading into the final frame, Big Piney outscored the Lady Rangers 6-5 in the final eight minutes to eke out the 29-26 win.

Kemmerer shot a dismal 19.6% from the floor, compared to 33.3% for the Lady Punchers. The Lady Rangers did a nice job limiting turn-

overs, but couldn't get shots to fall; Big Piney also won the rebound battle, 31-22.

Janae Skidmore paced the Lady Rangers with 14 points, to go along with four rebounds and four steals. Ella Thatcher followed with eight points — including the team's only 3-pointer — and six rebounds; she also dished off three assists, and led the team in steals, with four. Cambree Tolhurst and Nataly Ruvalcaba closed out the scoring with two points apiece.

Manila 55, Lady Rangers 28

Official stats weren't available by Monday's press deadline, but unofficial stats had Janae Skidmore with 14 points — including her 1,000 point — and Nataly Ruvalcaba with nine points in the 55-28 loss.

RANGERS from A7

quarter to roll into the final frame with a seemingly insurmountable 44-32 lead.

Milan had other plans. The Mustangs' shooting got hot about the time Kemmerer took their foot off the gas, allowing the host team to battle back into the game, outscoring the Rangers 23-8 over the final eight minutes to eke out a 55-52 win.

Gabe Wiswell had the hot hand for the Rangers with 16 points, followed by Cage Bowen with 11 points; Bowen finished just shy of a double-double, pulling down eight rebounds. Bryson McGill also flirted with a double-double, netting nine points and grabbing 11 boards, while Sam Thatcher finished with six points and five assists. Bennett Pollard chipped in five points, while Kane Jimenez and Abram Hartmann closed out the scoring with three points and two points, respectively.

"When we executed our offense and were patient, we looked really good," Stewart said. "Playing inside out and moving the ball around really opened things up for us."

GOOD LUCK ATHLETES!

Athlete of the Week Laynee Walker

Outstanding Performance:
Laynee placed 1st at the Rockwell Rumble on January 10th and 11th. With her performance, she contributed 31.5 points towards the team's 12th place finish of 47 teams.

Booster Club meets monthly on the 2nd Monday, KHS Library @ 7:00. Find us at @WeAreKRBoosters on Facebook
The businesses featured on this page are "Kemmerer Ranger Super Fans" They proudly support our local athletes and students. Please show your appreciation by patronizing their businesses.

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SUPER FANS!

GO RANGERS!

Western Wyoming REAL ESTATE Connection

A mortgage financing company with a heart

By **Kayne Pyatt**
Uinta County Herald

EVANSTON — Tara Rees has made a 30-year career out of helping people achieve their dream of owning their own home. Rees is a loan officer with Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation and, in June of 2024, she opened an office in Evanston located at 22 Reay St., in an industrial park off of Highway 150.

Prior to setting up her office in Evanston, Tara commuted to help clients in Evanston from an office in South Ogden. Rees helps clients, who are referred to her by real estate agents and by former clients, go through every step of the loan process — from application to closing and beyond. She works to find great rates and loan options for clients.

“Every loan has a name; every name has a family; every family has a story, and every story matters,” Rees said. “A lot of the application process is online and I can facilitate that. I think it is important to have face-to-face interaction to build trust with my clients.”

Rees’ background includes attending Stevens-Henager College in Utah; working as a loan officer in a bank; and then working for Fairway and getting her state license and branch manager status. She said she has worked in every part of the



Fairway Independent Mortgage loan officer Tara Rees works in her new office at 22 Reay St., in Evanston. (HERALD PHOTO/Kayne Pyatt)

FINANCING, see next page



Lise Freeman (801) 300-3228 email: lfreemanrealestate@gmail.com

Notable Transactions:

Deru’s Glass (real estate & business) Evanston, WY

CenturyLink building - Evanston, WY

Rocky Mountain Power - Rock Springs, 14,000 sq ft

Cummins Diesel building - Rock Springs, WY

Rocky Mountain Power Corp Headquarters - Rock Springs, 100,000 sq ft

Dominion Energy - Rock Springs - 36,000 sq ft

Dominion Energy - Evanston - 33,500 sq ft

Just listed:

Peterbilt property,
 92 Airport Road, Evanston



Lise Freeman
 Broker/Owner

(801) 300-3228

email: lfreemanrealestate@gmail.com

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REAL ESTATE *Connection*

FINANCING/

from previous page

process of loan applications and she thinks that gives her special insight into the process that benefits her clients.

“I love the Fairway Corporation because they are more than a mortgage company; they truly care about people,” Rees said. “In 2024, Fairway won an award for best in customer service. We also have a lot of specialty programs; one is called Fairway Cares that focuses on helping others.”

Fairway Cares is a charitable arm of the company — fully funded by Fairway and its employees through their monthly donations. Care packages and financial grants are made available to those that Fairway Teammates have a relationship with; for those facing critical illness, loss of a loved one or sustained physical trauma. The goal of the company is to offer love, courage, strength and hope through carefully prepared care packages to help those facing difficult situations.

In December of 2024 alone, the Fairway Cares team gave 144 care packages, seven financial grants and provided 149 volunteer hours. For the entire year of 2024, the Fairway team approved 180 financial grants and provided 1,963 care packages and gave a total of 1,180 volunteer hours. To date, the lifetime impact of the Fairway team has been through 2,021 approved financial grants and 13,175 care packages provided.

The American Warrior Initiative is a nonprofit underwritten by Fairway that focuses on helping servicemen and -women. They offer



Tara Rees, loan officer for Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, said she loves helping people secure a loan for a home. (HERALD PHOTO/Kayne Pyatt)

a “boot camp” for real estate agents and mortgage professionals to receive continuing education credits while they are trained and equipped to handle home purchases for active duty and former military clients.

The real estate agents

and mortgage professionals can also volunteer to organize fundraising events and 100% of the donations go directly to veterans. The initiative provides grants for veterans to buy homes, start a business or provides service dogs. To date, they

have given 388 service dogs to service men and women.

“I am hoping we can do one of the fundraising events in Evanston this year,” Rees said. “I truly believe in giving back to the community you live in. It builds trust with the people you serve

and they can see what the company truly stands for.”

Fairway Independent Mortgage was founded in 1996 by CEO Steve Jacobson. His philosophy is summed up in his statements on the company’s website.

“At Fairway, we foster an

environment that promotes community and culture from every level by encouraging employees to volunteer and help their local communities,” Jacobson said. “Loans are what we do, not who we are. Our mission is to help and serve people.”



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- Jumbo financing
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Loan Officer, NMLS 675842
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tara.rees@fairwaymc.com
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*A down payment is required if the borrower does not have full VA entitlement or when the loan amount exceeds the VA county limits. VA loans subject to individual VA Entitlement amounts and eligibility, qualifying factors such as income and credit guidelines, and property limits. **USDA Guaranteed Rural Housing loans subject to USDA-specific requirements and applicable state income and property limits. Copyright©2024 Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation. NMLS#2289, 4750 S. Biltmore Lane, Madison, WI 53718, 1-866-912-4800. Fairway is not affiliated with any government agencies. All rights reserved. This is not an offer to enter into an agreement. Not all customers will qualify. Information, rates and programs are subject to change without notice. All products are subject to credit and property approval. Other restrictions and limitations may apply. Equal Housing Opportunity. Licensed Nevada Mortgage Lender.



Snow Thrower Safety Tips: Keep Best Practices in Mind This Winter

Clearing snow and ice from driveways, sidewalks and parking lots is no small job. You rely on your outdoor power equipment to do the heavy lifting, and it's important to keep safety in mind. The Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI) reminds home and business owners to use snow throwers, often referred to as snow blowers, safely and offers tips to help.

"Weather today is unpredictable. You need to have your snow thrower serviced and ready to power up," says OPEI President and CEO Kris Kiser. "Review your owner's manual so you can use your equipment safely." Kiser says preparation is key and that home and business owners should consider the following:

Review the owner's manual. Check the owner's manual for safe handling procedures. If the manual cannot be found, look it up online, and store a copy on your computer so it's available to reference in the future. Review how to operate controls. Be able to shut off equipment quickly.

Check equipment. The

snow thrower should be powered off when being checked over. Adjust any cables and check the auger.

Charge batteries. Locate the batteries for your snow thrower and charge them fully before it snows.

Purchase fuel. Be sure to use the correct fuel recommended by the equipment's manufacturer. For most gasoline-powered snow throwers, that is E10 or less. Often fuel stations are closed after a storm so buy gasoline in advance of storms. Fuel that is more than 30 days old can phase separate and cause operating problems. For more information on fueling properly see www.opei.org/programs/ethanolwarning

Store and use fuel properly. Place gasoline in a proper fuel container and label it with the date purchased and the ethanol content. Store fuel safely and out of the reach of children. Fill the fuel tank outside before starting the engine and while the engine is cold. Never add fuel to a running or hot engine.

Clear the area. Snow

TIPS, see next page



Courtesy photo



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REAL ESTATE *Connection*

TIPS/ from previous page

can sometimes hide objects. Doormats, hoses, balls, toys, boards, wires, and other debris should be removed from areas you intend to clear. When run over by a snow thrower, these objects may harm the machine or people.

Dress for winter weather. Locate safety gear now, and place it in an accessible closet or location. Wear safety glasses, gloves and footwear that can handle cold and slippery surfaces when operating the snow thrower.

KEY SAFETY TIP: Never put your hands inside the auger or chute. Use a clean out tool to unclog snow or debris from the snow thrower. Your hands should never go inside the auger or chute.

Turn OFF the snow thrower if you need to clear a clog. If you need to remove debris or unclog snow, always turn off the snow thrower. Wait for all moving parts to come to a complete stop before clearing any clogs or debris.

Operate in visible conditions. Never operate the snow thrower without good visibility or light.

Aim with care. Never throw snow toward people or cars. Keep children or pets inside and away from your snow thrower when it is operating.

Use extreme caution on slopes and hills. Use caution when changing

directions on slopes. Do not attempt to clear steep slopes.

Know where the cord is. If using an electric powered snow thrower, be aware of where the power cord is at all times. Avoid tripping.

About OPEI

OPEI is an international trade association representing manufacturers and suppliers of power equipment, small engines, battery power systems, portable generators, utility and personal transport vehicles, and golf cars. OPEI is the advocacy voice of the industry, and a recognized Standards Development Organization for the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and active internationally through the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) in the development of safety and performance standards. OPEI owns Equip Exposition, the international landscape, outdoor living and equipment exposition, and administers the TurfMutt Foundation, which directs the environmental education program, TurfMutt. OPEI-Canada represents members on a host of issues, including recycling, emissions and other regulatory developments across the Canadian provinces.



Metro photo

Beware of land fraud! Land sale scam! If you own property, you need to read this!

How to protect your property rights when selling or buying vacant land or a home.

- Always obtain a title insurance policy from a title insurance company based in Wyoming.
- Be diligent when communicating by email. An email address can be modified to appear different than it is. A phone call to the title company, real estate office or another trusted person could save a lot of problems in your transaction.
- If your mailing address changes, notify the County Assessor's Office.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it might be!

There are a lot of bad guys out there trying to steal your money or your property.

Additional information can be obtained at:
<https://www.homeclosing101.org/>



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website: www.hometowntitleltd.com

How to determine if the time is right to downsize

The phrase "bigger is better" has endured for quite some time. Though it may be impossible to pinpoint precisely who coined the phrase, its lesson that larger things tend to be more valuable than smaller alternatives is applicable in numerous situations. But no adage is applicable to every situation, and in some instances people may find that bigger is not better.

Downsizing is an approach many individuals consider after turning 50. Parents who are empty nesters and others nearing retirement may wonder if the time is right to downsize from their current homes. Though that's a strategy millions of people have adopted over time, the decision is not always so simple. Individuals over 50 who are trying to determine if downsizing is right for them can consider a host of factors before making a decision.

• **Monthly housing expenses:** Before downsizing their homes, individuals should determine just how much they're currently spending on housing. Individuals who have fixed rate mortgages likely know the amount of their monthly mortgage payment, but what about maintenance? Home maintenance expenses fluctuate, but a careful examination of the previous 12 months' expenditures can give homeowners an idea of just how much they're spending to maintain their properties. The number may be eye-opening, as Thumbtack's "Home Care Price Index" released in the third quarter of 2024 revealed that the average annual cost to maintain a single family home reached an all-time high of \$10,433. If such expenses are preventing homeowners from building their retirement nest eggs, then it might be

time to seek alternative housing.

• **Real estate prices:** Real estate prices have skyrocketed in recent years, which can be both good and bad for current homeowners considering downsizing. Many people who downsize look to move from a single-family home into a condominium, where maintenance tasks are typically handled by a homeowners' association (HOA). Such communities typically charge HOA fees, which can be minimal or considerable. In addition, the price of condominiums has risen in recent years, with the lender New American Funding reporting in early 2024 that the median sale price of a condo reached \$341,000. So homeowners who want to downsize their homes may end up taking most of the profit from selling their current properties and reinvesting it in a costly condo. Some may deem that worthwhile, while others may find the cost savings of downsizing in the current market are negligible.

• **Emotional attachment:** Downsizing may be considered with cost savings in mind, but it's important to consider your emotional attachment to your current home. Many homeowners over 50 raised their families in their current homes, and letting go of a property where so many memories were made can be difficult. Homeowners who are not prepared to move on from properties that are meaningful to them and their families can consider additional ways to downsize their financial obligations.

Downsizing is something many homeowners over 50 consider. Any decision regarding downsizing is best made after considering a range of variables.

Did you know?

Home renovations are wildly popular, and that popularity can be traced to a number of factors. Some homeowners renovate their homes with their own comfort in mind, while others do so to improve the resale value of the property. For those in the latter group, a recognition of renovations that yield the highest return on investment may help them decide which projects to pursue. According to the housing market research and analytics firm Zonda Media, a garage door replacement offered the highest return on investment in the American real estate market in 2024, earning a whopping 194 percent return on homeowners' initial investment. An entry door replacement with steel door offered the second best ROI at 188 percent of homeowners' initial investment, while replacing siding with stone veneer was third on the list with an average ROI of 153 percent.



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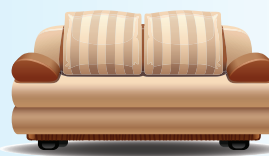
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103 announcements

NOTICE OF MEETING

The South Lincoln Special Cemetery District will hold its regular monthly meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Kemmerer Office.

AN AD CAN HELP YOU EARN SOME EXTRA CASH. Call our office at 877-3347; fax your ad to 307-877-3736, or e-mail Sheri at spaulson@kemmerergazette.com. Oct. 17th

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS MEETS EVERY WEEK: Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 7-8 p.m. at 501 Sapphire Street. Call or text 307-220-2958 for information. 3/24th

104 public notices

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Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Wyoming Public Service Commission (Commission) approved the Application of Questar Gas Company, d/b/a Enbridge Gas Wyoming (Enbridge or the Company) to pass on a wholesale commodity cost decrease of \$0.49186 per dekatherm (Dth), effective for usage on and after November 1, 2024.

The Company's proposal results in a decrease of \$39.33 or 4.68% before taxes in the annual costs for a residential customer using 80 Dth per year. When combined with the proposed Conservation Enabling Tariff, and Energy Efficiency Services changes, the net impact is a decrease \$0.24408 per Dth.

Commission Rule Chapter 3, Section 26 allows a utility to pass on to its customers known or projected commodity cost increases or decreases on a dollar for dollar basis, subject to public notice, opportunity for hearing and refund.

Enbridge's Application is available at the Commission or online at: <https://dms.wyo.gov/external/publicusers.aspx> (Enter Record No. 17690).

Anyone desiring to file a statement, intervention petition, protest, or request for hearing must file with the Commission in writing, on or before February 17, 2025. A proposed intervention or request for hearing shall set forth the grounds, the position and interest of the petitioner in this proceeding.

If you wish to participate in this matter and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, contact the Commission at (307) 777-7427, or 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002. Communications impaired persons may contact the Commission by accessing Wyoming Relay at 711. Please mention Docket No. 30010-227-GP-24 in your communications.

Dated: January 16, 2025.
PUBLISHED: Jan. 22, 29, 2025 01224

email notices to spaulson@kemmerergazette.com

STATE OF WYOMING) IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
) ss. THE 3RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
COUNTY OF LINCOLN) LINCOLN COUNTY WYOMING
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF,
BOBBY ALLEN JACOBSON

AMENDED NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

To all person interested in the Estate of Bobby Allen Jacobson, deceased, take notice that the undersigned Personal Representative did, on the 11th day of January, 2025, file in the office of the Clerk of the District Court, 3rd Judicial District, in said County and State, his Final Account and Petition for Distribution of the Estate, a copy of which is hereby delivered to you, and upon examination of the Account and Petition you may file objections thereto in writing with the Clerk at any time on or before the 31st day of January, 2025, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

Dated the 11th day of January, 2025.
/s/ Thayne L. Peterson, Attorney
Peterson Legal Services
PO Box 1123
Lyman, WY 82937
(307) 786-2529
BAR# 6-3369
PUBLISHED: Jan. 21, 28, 2025 23366

KEMMERER CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES
Wednesday, December 18, 2024

The Kemmerer City Council met in special session this 18th day of December, 2024 at 5:00 pm at the Kemmerer City Hall Conference Room, at 220 State Highway 233, Kemmerer, Wyoming, 83101. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Present on roll call were Mayor Bill Thek, Councilmember Marlin Batista, Councilmember Robert Bowen, Councilmember Jim Burnett, Councilmember Dale Hicks, Councilmember Bill Price and Councilmember Mark Quin.

Motion was made by Councilmember Hicks to authorize the mayor to sign the Business Associated Agreement with WEBT to comply with HIPAA regulations and other privacy related regulations; seconded by Councilman Quinn and unanimously approved by council.

Motion was made by Councilmember Hicks to approve the payments of bills a presented; seconded by Councilmember Quinn. Those bills were:

17830 7 Properties, LLC.....	\$110.00	17831 Ace Hardware.....	\$172.42
17832 All West Comm.....	489.94	17833 Bridger Valley Propane	925.52
17834 Centurylink.....	991.06	17835 Centurylink Communications ..	21.44
17836 Douglas, Dale.....	64.00	17837 Enbridge Gas Utah.....	4,196.00
17838 Erickson, Brent.....	48.00	17839 Gunter's Service.....	3,752.69
17840 IDAWY Solid Waste Dist 7,328.00		17841 Intermountain Sweeper Co.....	2,559.88
17842 Jimeriez, Kane.....	96.00	17843 JUB Engineering, Inc.....	2,451.50
17844 Kemmerer Gazette.....	1,581.14	17845 Kramer, Jessie.....	64.00
17846 Lincoln County Sheriff	2,480.00	17847 McGrill, Bryson.....	24.00
17848 Mountain West Business.....	50.19	17849 One-Call of Wyoming.....	34.50
17850 Petty Cash-Admin.....	60.90	17851 Safety Supply & Sign Co.....	1,347.20
17852 So Lincoln HRC.....	15.00	17853 Stout, E. Dean.....	4,545.00
17854 UMB Card Center.....	12,019.49	17855 Verizon Wireless.....	759.27
17856 Wells Fargo Financial.....	124.76	17857 Wex Bank.....	1,912.97
17858 Wiswell, Gabriel.....	96.00	17859 Xerox Financial Services.....	257.00

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Hicks; motion seconded by Councilman Quinn and unanimously approved by council. Meeting adjourned about 5:13 pm.

CITY OF KEMMERER, WYOMING
BY: ROBERT BOWEN,
MAYOR

ATTEST: NATASIA DIERS
CITY CLERK-TREASURER
PUBLISHED: Jan. 21, 2025 23368

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The Kemmerer City Council met in regular session this 9th day of December, 2024, at 7 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, Kemmerer, Wyoming. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Present on roll call were Mayor William Thek, Councilmember Marlin Batista, Councilmember Robert Bowen, Councilmember Jim Burnett, Councilmember Dale Hicks Councilmember Bill Price, and Councilmember Mark Quinn.

Motion was made by Councilmember Hicks to approve the agenda as amended with New Business (f); Authorize the mayor to sign a non-disclosure statement on behalf of the City of Kemmerer to the Industrial Siting Committee in regards to the application for the Kemmerer Power Station Unit 1 Project; seconded by Councilmember Bowen and unanimously approved by council.

VISITORS' COMMENTS:
Kathryn Robinson-Zimmerman and Madonna Long made comments to the council.

PRESENTATIONS:
Sheryl Gunter and Kathryn Robinson-Zimmerman presented the Fossil Basin Promotion Board Fiscal Year End 2024 Management Reports to the council.

CONSENT AGENDA:
Motion was made by Councilmember Hicks to approve the items on the consent agenda as presented; seconded by Councilmember Batista and unanimously approved by council. Those items were:
(a) Approval of Meeting Minutes of November 25, 2024;
(b) Approval of the payment of the bills; payroll, and ACH payments as presented;

17798 UMW \$198.60	17799 Bridger Valley Propane.....\$584.64
17800 Burnett's Auto Parts, Inc. 46.14	17801 Dex Imaging, LLC.....494.15
17802 DJF's Glass..... 200.00	17803 First Bank of Wyoming.....5,358.41
17804 Fossil Bas. Promo Bd.....35,967.16	17805 Freedom Mng Serv., Inc.....732.56
17806 GoTo Technologies..... 278.68	17807 Gunter's Law/Garden.....539.00
17808 Hatch, Lance..... 112.00	17809 Intermtn Fire Prot.....3,093.00
17810 Jones Simkins, LLC. 16,635.00	17811 JUB Engineers.....9,762.38
17812 K-D Joint Powers Board.....6,943.42	17813 Krell, Tammy.....600.00
17814 Netwise..... 278.00	17815 Norco, Inc.....14.70
17816 Outlaw Supply, Inc..... 2,926.14	17817 Peavler, Barbara.....368.45
17818 Personnel Screening Srvs.....245.68	17819 Pewag Traction Chain, Inc.....71.32
17820 Rocky Mtn Power.....10,556.07	17821 Stout, E. Dean.....1,250.00
17822 Viviano's Concrete..... 5,800.00	17823 Wells Fargo Financial.....96.00
17824 Wolfies, LLC..... 363.01	17825 WYDOT-Kemmerer.....227.80
17826 Wyo Dept of Env Qual..... 400.00	17827 WEBT.....43,041.49
11/30/24 Secure Inst Pmts-ACH 22.45	12/4/24 Fed. Tax Dep.-ACH.....13,348.88
12/4/24 Net Pylrl Dep.-ACH.....47,977.03	12/4/24 Orchard Trust-ACH.....675.00
12/4/24 Expert Pay-ACH..... 488.54	12/4/24 AFLAC-ACH.....12.24

(c) Pass, Approve and Adopt Resolution No. 2024-846, Approving Uinta Bank of Wyoming as a Depository for City of Kemmerer for Calendar Year 2025;

(d) Pass, Approve and Adopt Resolution No. 2024-847, Approving 1st Bank of Wyoming as a Depository for City of Kemmerer for Calendar Year 2025.

OLD BUSINESS:
(a) Motion was made by Councilmember Quinn to Pass, Approve and Adopt on Third Reading Ordinance No. 2024889, Amending Chapter 5 of Kemmerer City Code regarding Animals and Fowls as amended; seconded by Councilmember Hicks and unanimously approved by council.

NEW BUSINESS:
(a) Motion was made by Councilmember Hicks to appoint John Sawaya to the Zoning Board for a term to expire on 12/31/2026; seconded by Councilmember Batista and unanimously approved by council.

(b) Motion was made by Councilmember Hicks to support the Diamondville WFI Addition for Heritage Motors Business Final Plat Review; seconded by Councilmember Quinn and unanimously approved by council.

(c) Motion was made by Councilmember Hicks Pass on First Reading Ordinance No. 2024-890, Amending 23-24, M-3-Multi Family Housing; seconded by Councilmember Quinn and unanimously approved by council.

(d) Motion was made by Councilmember Hicks to authorize staff to draft and have the mayor sign a letter of support for Impact Funding from the Kemmerer Unit 1 Natrium Project; seconded by Councilmember Bowen and unanimously approved by council.

(e) Motion was made by Councilmember Price to authorize the mayor to sign the lease with Parry Davison for suite 104 at Old Town Hall on a month-to-month basis based on the tenant being a current lessee, she has been a good tenant, and the lease is for a short period of time; seconded by Councilmember Hicks and unanimously approved by council.

(f) Motion was made by Councilmember Hicks to authorize the mayor to sign a non-disclosure statement on behalf of the City of Kemmerer to the Industrial Siting Committee in regards to the application for the Kemmerer Power Station Unit 1 Project if deemed necessary; seconded by Councilmember Quinn and unanimously approved by council.

COMMENTS:
City Administrator, Brian Muir, made comments. Councilmember Batista, Councilmember Quinn, Councilmember Hicks, Councilmember Price, and Councilmember Bowen made comments. Mayor Thek made comments.

There being no further business before the Council, Councilmember Burnett made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Councilmember Quinn and unanimously approved by council; 8:13 p.m.

CITY OF KEMMERER, WYOMING
BY: ROBERT BOWEN,
MAYOR

ATTEST: NATASIA DIERS
CITY CLERK-TREASURER
PUBLISHED: Jan. 21, 2025 23367

REPORT for Us!

Looking for a little extra cash??

The Kemmerer Gazette is looking for stringers to help cover a wide range of items in the Lincoln County. From government meetings, to school boards, to general human interest stories — if you have a passion for writing and want to help contribute to the local newspaper, we want to hear from you!

If you're interested, contact managing editor Bryon Glathar at 307-789-6560 or editor@kemmerergazette.com.

the kemmerer gazette

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www.kemmerergazette.com

Public Notices

NOTICE AND ORDER SETTING PUBLIC HEARING

1. Pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act and the Wyoming Public Service Commission's (Commission) Rules, notice is hereby given that a public hearing is scheduled regarding Rocky Mountain Power's (RMP or the Company) request for approval of a five-year commercial and industrial Demand Response Pilot Program and Recovery Mechanism. **The public hearing is set to commence on Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., in the Commission's hearing room located at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, in Cheyenne, Wyoming.**

2. RMP is a division of PacifiCorp, an Oregon corporation, engaged in the business of supplying electric utility service to customers throughout its six-state service territory, including Wyoming. RMP is a public utility, subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. Wyo. STAT. §§ 37-1-101(a)(vi)(C) and 37-2-112.

3. On July 8, 2024, RMP filed its Application requesting Commission approval of a five-year commercial and industrial Demand Response Pilot Program and Recovery Mechanism.

4. Wyoming Industrial Energy Consumers (WIEC) petitioned to intervene in this matter, which the Commission granted by Order issued on August 26, 2024. Office of Consumer Advocate is also a party under the provisions of Wyoming Statute §37-2-402(a).

5. A complete description of RMP's Application and its supporting testimony and exhibits may be viewed at the Commission's office during business hours or online at: <https://dms.wyo.gov/external/publicusers.aspx> (enter Record No. 17625).

6. All interested persons are encouraged to attend the public hearing which will be conducted in accordance with the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act, Wyoming Public Service Commission Rules. All interested persons may appear and be heard, in person, by video or telephone conference, or through counsel appearing in person or by video or telephone conference.

Attend Zoom Meeting and actively participate at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9933449233>
Or by Dialing: 1-669-900-9128 or 1-253-215-8782 **Meeting ID:** 993 344 9233

7. If you wish to attend the hearing and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, please contact the Commission at (307) 777-7427 (Voice or TTY) in Cheyenne during regular business hours or write them at 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002, to make arrangements. Communications impaired persons may also contact the Commission by accessing Wyoming Relay (TTY) by dialing 711. Please, mention Docket No. 20000-670-ET-24 in all correspondence with the Commission.

Dated: January 9, 2025.
PUBLISHED: Jan. 14, 21, 2025 23365

News

TERRAPOWER from A1

to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality — now has 45 days to draw up its approval order and issue the permit.

“The regulatory process to bring new nuclear plants to fruition is robust, and our team has been working relentlessly to successfully maneuver through a complicated, multi-jurisdictional environment to bring the first Natrium plant to market,” Levesque said.

TerraPower began construction on a stand-alone but related facility — a liquid sodium testing center — in June, marking the occasion with a groundbreaking ceremony that included some 300 guests and company founder, Microsoft billionaire Bill Gates. The phased nature of construction for the larger project will cycle in workers with

different construction and engineering skills, peaking at about 1,600 workers in 2028, according to TerraPower.

The plant is slated to begin generating electricity in 2030.

Natrium project

TerraPower selected the Kemmerer location in the fall of 2021 after analyzing a handful of other potential locations in Wyoming to co-locate the facility next to a coal-fired power plant slated for retirement. The idea, according to the company, was to utilize existing infrastructure associated with coal plants, including tapping the local workforce. The company chose a site near the Naughton natural gas and coal-fired power plant just outside the towns of Kemmerer and Diamondville in Lincoln County.

One of three coal-burning units at the Naughton plant



Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon, TerraPower founder Bill Gates and TerraPower President and CEO Chris Levesque prepare to move some dirt during the company's groundbreaking ceremony last summer in Kemmerer. (KEMMERER GAZETTE/Ryan Jones)

was converted to natural gas a few years ago. The remaining two coal units will be converted to natural gas in 2026, according to majority owner PacifiCorp. TerraPower has partnered with the U.S. Department of Energy, which is expected to contribute about \$2 billion of the \$4 billion effort, to develop the project, accord-

ing to the company.

PacifiCorp, which operates as Rocky Mountain Power in Wyoming, has tentatively agreed to consider taking over Natrium operations and plug the power plant into its six-state electrical service territory.

Natrium is an “advanced” nuclear reactor design that will use liquid sodium for cooling. The plant will generate a consistent 345 megawatts of power — enough energy to power about 250,000 homes — with a capability of ramping up

to 500 megawatts for short periods of time, according to TerraPower. The reactor will use high-assay, low-enriched uranium (HALEU) fuel.

The company originally proposed an in-service date of 2028, but had to push the start date back to 2030 due to global events. In 2022, following the invasion of Ukraine, TerraPower cut ties with the Russian state-owned Tenex — the only facility in the world at the time with the capacity to supply commercial volumes of HALEU.

TerraPower has worked to secure initial HALEU supplies with companies in U.S.-ally nations, while the Department of Energy is working to support a domestic production and supply chain for HALEU.

If successful, the company plans to deploy dozens of Natrium plants across the globe, including several more in Wyoming, TerraPower officials say.

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

FEEDGROUND from A6

in the Jackson and Pinedale area.

The Scab Creek Feedground will be included in that review. But any changes to feeding are not expected for months, if not years.

While environmental and some hunting advocacy groups have called for closing feedgrounds as a way to prevent the spread of chronic wasting disease and elk population declines in the long term, Wyoming's outfitting and ranching lobby has promised to fight feedground closures, concerned about elk dying in the near term and elk leaving feedgrounds to dine on ranchers' hay. Closing any state-run feedground will require approval from Gov. Mark Gordon.

Scientists estimate that when chronic wasting disease prevalence reaches between 7% and 13%, elk populations will decline. Prevalence in western Wyoming elk is thought to be less than 1%.



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