

# UINTA COUNTY HERALD

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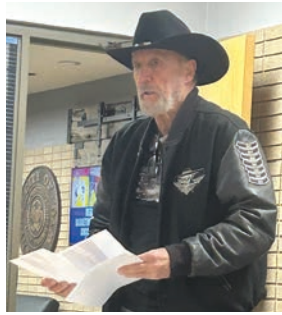


Public works director Gordon Robinson points out the congestion of vehicles parked along Cheyenne Drive, creating a major issue for garbage collection and the use of fire hydrants. Officials discussed the matter during the Tuesday, Jan. 14, Evanston City Council work session. (HERALD PHOTO/Carizma Hart)

## City may ban parking on Cheyenne Dr.

By Kayne Pyatt  
Herald Reporter

**EVANSTON** — During the city council work session held on Tuesday, Jan. 14, Evanston Public Works Director Gordon Robinson used a slide presentation to demonstrate a major issue with people parking along Cheyenne Drive instead of in the parking lot next to their apartments. The cars parked along the street create a problem for garbage collection and for access to fire hydrants in case of an emergency.



Ben Barto with the Professional Biker Rodeo Association came to last week's city council work session to ask about holding a biker rodeo in Evanston over Memorial Day weekend. (HERALD PHOTO/Carizma Hart)

“Because too many cars are parked too close together on the street, and even some cars on the sidewalk, it makes it impossible for the garbage truck to reach the bins,” Robinson said. “We dump the garbage there daily except when we can't get to it, and then it piles up onto the sidewalk.” Robinson showed slides of the cars, some out into the street limiting the street to one-way passage, and the garbage piled high and overflowing. He said they have talked to the manager of the apartments and she, too, is tired of fighting with the tenants about the parking issue, which causes the garbage to become unsightly and harder to be

**PARKING, A8**



Uinta County Undersheriff Trevor Rasmussen and Sheriff Andy Kopp recently met with the Herald to discuss Kopp's Jan. 13 letter to state legislators at the beginning of the general session regarding his concerns about a lack of funding and support to address mentally ill inmates in overcrowded county detention centers. “Jails are now becoming mental health facilities,” Rasmussen said. Kopp added, “Our overall objective is streamlining treatment and establishing a more efficient system. Let's bring everyone to the table and hash it out.” (UINTA COUNTY HERALD/Amanda Manchester)

## Local sheriff wants \$765K from state

*Kopp enrolls 15 sheriffs to help change how mentally ill inmates are housed*

By Amanda Manchester  
Herald Reporter

**EVANSTON** — “I don't answer to the state; I answer to the people of Uinta County. If I see an unpaid bill of \$700,000, I'm going to go after it,” Uinta County Sheriff Andy Kopp recently told the Herald. On Monday, Jan. 13, Kopp sent a letter to several Wyoming legislators on the first day of this year's general session. “I am writing to express my deep concern

regarding the current state of mental health support in Wyoming's county detention centers, particularly for individuals awaiting transport to the Wyoming State Hospital (WSH),” Kopp's letter began. “Counties must be reimbursed for the Department's (Wyoming Department of Health) failure to take custody of individuals as ordered. Currently, this hardship falls on county detention centers, which receive no resources or support from the state despite

bearing the financial and logistical burdens,” the letter continues. The email was sent to 78 legislators representing 16 of Wyoming's 23 counties — Albany, Big Horn, Carbon, Converse, Goshen, Hot Springs, Laramie, Lincoln, Niobrara, Park, Platte, Sublette, Teton, Uinta, Washakie and Weston — whose sheriffs co-signed Kopp's letter. According to Kopp, two Uinta County deputies attending in his stead at a sheriff's meeting in December 2023 were verbally told by Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) Director Stefan Johansson to “stop sending the bills; we aren't paying.” Undersheriff Trevor

Rasmussen said that the state owes Uinta County an outstanding bill of \$765,346.96, a figure accruing since 2022. “Our goal here is to push for legislation to have the WDH pay a daily housing fee for those who have been ordered to the WSH. We also bill them for medications,” Kopp said in a follow-up interview with the Herald. “Our overall objective is streamlining treatment and establishing a more efficient system. Let's bring everyone to the table and hash it out.” “They're not doing anything at the state level,” Rasmussen said. “It all falls on the county. These costs are interfering with the state's ability to pay for mental health care.”

**SHERIFF, A4**

## Kemmerer nuclear power plant wins Wyoming permit



Microsoft billionaire and TerraPower founder Bill Gates speaks during a groundbreaking for the Natrium nuclear power plant outside Kemmerer in June 2023. (KEMMERER GAZETTE/Ryan Jones)

*Bill Gates-owned TerraPower project in south Lincoln County still awaits approval from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.*

By Dustin Bleizeffer  
WyoFile.com

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 submitted 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 onsite during the NRC review.” The state's review included an analysis of environmental and socioeconomic impacts related to the

**TERRAPOWER, A8**

Vol. 89, No. 4  
**Wednesday**  
January 22, 2025  
**\$1.25**

**INSIDE**



We asked Alesia Allen 15 Questions  
**A5**

**YOU SAID IT**

“This is draining on personnel. We don't have the resources or training to get them the depth of help — we are not a psychiatric facility. Jails are now becoming mental health facilities.”

— Uinta County Undersheriff Trevor Rasmussen on jails having to house mentally ill inmates while they wait for openings at the Wyoming State Hospital

**WEATHER**



Sunny skies with a high of 25. Low tonight 6.

Full forecast on A2

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# News

Evanston, Uinta County, southwest Wyoming and Rich County, Utah, news. Send your news tips and information to editor@uintacountyherald.com, send us a tweet at @UintaCoHerald or message us at www.facebook.com/UintaCountyHerald.

## Weather forecast



**Thursday:** High of 28; low of 19.  
Sunrise: 7:42 a.m.; Sunset: 5:29 p.m.  
Generally sunny with 10-20 mph winds.  
Mostly clear overnight.



**Friday:** High of 34; low of 16.  
Sunrise: 7:41 a.m.; Sunset: 5:30 p.m.  
Mostly cloudy skies with 10-20 mph winds.  
Cloudy skies at night.



**Saturday:** High of 19; low of 5.  
Sunrise: 7:40 a.m.; Sunset: 5:31 p.m.  
Mostly cloudy and windy. Snow flurries  
and a few snow showers. Cloudy at night.



**Sunday:** High of 17; low of 1.  
Sunrise: 7:39 a.m.; Sunset: 5:33 p.m.  
Intervals of clouds and sunshine with 10-20  
mph winds. A few clouds at night.

## City designates January as stalking, human trafficking awareness month



Members from the SAFV (Sexual Assault and Family Violence) Task Force, Evanston Police Department, Wyoming Highway Patrol and victim witness advocates, gather as Mayor Kent Williams signs two proclamations. The first proclamation designates January as National Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month in Evanston and the second proclamation designates January as National Stalking Awareness Month in the city of Evanston. (HERALD PHOTO/Kayne Pyatt)

## Missing pilot, plane found after fatal crash and search in Sweetwater County

**ROCK SPRINGS (WNE)** — The search for a missing pilot and aircraft that began on Tuesday culminated Wednesday, Jan. 15, with the discovery of the crash site in a remote area near Little Mountain, southwest of Rock Springs.

The pilot, identified as Kelly Melvin, 50, of Green River, was found dead at the crash site.

The intensive search operations, coordinated by the sheriff's office search and rescue team, involved numerous agencies.

The search began after the sheriff's office received a missing person report on Tuesday afternoon for a Green River man whose Piper Comanche aircraft failed to arrive at its scheduled destination in California.

The crash site was discovered on Saturday at around 2 p.m. following a coordinated ground and aerial search. The sheriff's office secured the scene and notified state and federal aviation officials. The crash is under investigation.

## Wyoming files lawsuit over EPA's waste emissions charge

**CHEYENNE (WNE)** — The state of Wyoming and 22 other states have filed litigation in the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia challenging a rule known as the "Waste Emissions Charge" issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Wyoming and other states argue that EPA exceeded its statutory authority in requiring a substantial fine for industries — particularly the oil and gas industry — when they emit gases, including CO<sub>2</sub>, in the course of their operations.

This legal challenge is the latest in a slew of litigation by many states, including Wyoming, challenging many anti-fossil fuel rules issued by the EPA during the Biden administration.

"In particular, this rule negatively impacts small independent producers in Wyoming," Gov. Mark Gordon said in a news release. "I am hopeful that the many regulations damaging our Wyoming core industries will be overturned by the courts, or reversed or substantially modified by the incoming presidential administration."

## Air National Guard on standby to assist California firefighters

**CHEYENNE (WNE)** — The Wyoming Air National Guard has been deployed to help contain the fires in the Los Angeles area.

While resources from the Wyoming State Forestry Division that were meant to be dispatched Tuesday are on hold at the request of California, three Wyoming Air National Guard C-130s from the 153rd Airlift Wing were activated Jan. 10 to support firefighting efforts in California.

The fires began on Jan. 7, destroying thousands of homes and killing at least 27 people, with more than 30 missing. The blaze has burned dozens of square miles, forced thousands from their homes and stretched firefighting resources thin.

The C-130s are equipped with the U.S. Forest Service's Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems, or MAFFS, and associated personnel were activated by U.S. Northern Command, according to a Wyoming Air National Guard news release.

MAFFS are the U.S. Forest Service's portable fire-retardant delivery systems, which can be inserted into military C-130 aircraft without major structural modifications to convert them into air tankers when needed, according to the release.

They can discharge their entire load of up to 3,000 gallons of retardant in less than five seconds, covering an area a quarter of a mile long by 100 feet wide, or they can make variable drops.

Since their arrival on Jan. 11, 16,000 gallons of retardant has been dropped on the fires, the largest of which, the Eaton and Palisades fires, are not yet contained.

"It has been difficult to watch the absolute devastation of the wildfires in California," said Col. Brian Diehl, the Wyoming Air National Guard's 153rd Airlift Wing commander. "We're honored to be able to participate in our nation's efforts to combat these fires and return normalcy to the people and communities of Southern California, and as soon as possible."

## Former Glendo clerk pleads not guilty

**WHEATLAND (WNE)** — Former Glendo town clerk Tristany Hoffman entered a not guilty plea at an arraignment held in Eighth Judicial District Court last Thursday.

Hoffman is being charged with three separate alleged counts of felony theft between the months of May and July 2024.

It is alleged she took unauthorized control of a property interest of the Town of Glendo with a value of \$1,000 or more.

Each charge carries a potential penalty of 10 years in prison or \$10,000 or both.

## Wyoming Insight report: sales and use tax collections continue to decrease

**CHEYENNE (WNE)** — Total sales and use tax collections in Wyoming year-over-year decreased once again, and mining collections continued to fall, according to the latest issue of Wyoming Insight, which serves as an energy index and business indicators report for the state.

Total sales and use tax collections in December summed to \$73.9 million, \$8.6 million (-10.4%) less than December last year.

"Sales and use tax collections have declined year-over-year in seven of the last 10 months," said Dylan Bainer, principal economist for Wyoming's Economic Analysis Division, in a news release.

Collections from the mining sector continue to see large declines, down 22.3% year-over-year. This is the fifth consecutive month that collections from the mining sector have declined by more than 20% year-over-year.

Meanwhile, natural gas prices have risen and oil prices are slightly above \$70/bbl.

The December natural gas price at the Opal Hub averaged \$2.76 per million British thermal units (MMBtu), \$0.54 more than November. The Henry Hub natural gas price averaged \$3.02/MMBtu in December, \$0.92 more than November.

The West Texas Intermediate (WTI) monthly average price for crude oil was \$70.12 per bbl. in December, 2.5% less than a year ago.

Average active oil rigs were 12 in December, and the conventional gas rig count was four.

Total employment increased year-over-year.

Employment in Wyoming totaled 297,500 jobs in November 2024, 3,200 (+1.1%) more than November last year.

"This is the highest total employment since 2015," said Bainer.

Private education and health added the most jobs, up 1,100 jobs year-over-year.

The December 2024 issue of the Wyoming Insight is available at the state of Wyoming's Economic Analysis Division website, ai.wyo.gov/divisions/economic-analysis.

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**Senior Citizens Menu**

*Wednesday, January 22*

Oven Fried Chicken, Baked Potato, Winter Squash, WW Roll, Mandarin Oranges

*Thursday, January 23*

Bratwurst & Sauerkraut, WW Bun, Harvard Beets, Fruited & Jello

*Friday, January 24*

Best Salmon, Tartar Sauce, Creamed Peas, Tossed Salad, WW Roll, Peach Crisp

*Monday, January 27*

Hot Turkey Sandwich, Mashed Potatoes, Brussel Sprouts, WW Bread, Cinnamon Pears

*Tuesday, January 28*

Porcupine Meatballs, Baked Potato, Steamed Carrots, WW Roll, Mixed Fruit

ALL MEALS SERVED WITH FRUIT, VEGETABLES AND BREAD  
\*\*MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE\*\*

We welcome letters and guest column submission about issues affecting our readers in Evanston, Uinta County, southwest Wyoming and Rich County, Utah. Send your letters to editor@uintacountyherald.com.

# Viewpoints

## Unknown civil rights hero paved the way for MLK

By Tom Purcell

I can't believe Denzel Washington hasn't played one particular early civil rights hero in a movie yet.

I also can't believe how few people know about this unknown hero's incredible accomplishments — achievements that paved the way for Martin Luther King Jr. and others to dismantle Jim Crow, the South's legalized system of racial injustice.

So respected was this great American that MLK Jr. delivered the invocation at his funeral, and Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall served as a pallbearer.

His name is John Wesley Dobbs.

Though his amazing life is documented in two low-selling history books and the New Georgia Encyclopedia, Dobbs has received no attention from the national media and remains largely unknown to the general public.

Born into poverty in 1882 in rural Kennesaw, Georgia, Dobbs' parents were former slaves — his mother's biological father was a slaveowner.

Smart and driven, Dobbs educated himself by reading constantly. Though he attended college briefly, he had to drop out to care for his ill mother, and never earned a college degree.

In his early 20s he passed the federal civil service exam and became a railway clerk for the U.S. Post Office.

For 32 years, he sorted mail overnight on trains from Atlanta, armed with a pistol. Rising to the position of supervisor — a remarkable feat for a black man in the Jim Crow era — he earned enough to support his family of six daughters as he gained respect in Atlanta's African American community.

A gifted orator who memorized hundreds of poems and Shakespearean lines, Dobbs believed the best way to end Jim Crow was through the ballot box.

He tirelessly worked to register thousands of black voters in Atlanta and used his growing influence with the white Democratic power structure to get the city to hire its first black policemen.

It was in 1948 — at age 66 — that Dobbs risked his life to bring national media attention to the injustice 10 million blacks were suffering

daily under Jim Crow.

Up North, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette named Ray Sprigle decided to go undercover as a light-skinned black man in the Jim Crow South for a month.

Teamed up with Sprigle by the NAACP, Dobbs guided and protected Sprigle during their 3,000-mile car journey. He introduced Sprigle to sharecroppers, lynching victims' families and local leaders. They visited segregated schools and stayed in the homes of black farmers and doctors.

Sprigle, deeply moved and angered by what he saw and experienced, said he was ashamed to be an American.

As Bill Steigerwald details in "30 Days a Black Man," his powerful 2017 book about Sprigle's mission, Sprigle's powerful newspaper series shocked white readers in the North.

Time magazine praised Sprigle's series. So did national black leaders and Eleanor Roosevelt. It was syndicated to about a dozen major newspapers from New York to Seattle — but nowhere in the South.

To protect Dobbs, Sprigle never mentioned him by name. The general public never found out about what Dobbs did until Steigerwald wrote about his story for the Post-Gazette in 1998.

Dobbs died in 1961 — the same week that Atlanta's public schools were integrated. By that time all six of his daughters had graduated from Spelman College and gone on to become college professors, educators and community leaders. One of them, Mattiwilda, became a famous opera singer in Europe.

But Dobbs' legacy extended even further: In 1974 his grandson, Maynard Jackson Jr., became the first black mayor of Atlanta.

It's a shame few people are aware of the incredible accomplishments of this civil rights pioneer.

Like I said, I can't believe Denzel Washington hasn't played John Wesley Dobbs in a movie yet.

See Tom Purcell's syndicated column, humor books and funny videos featuring his dog, Thurber, at TomPurcell.com. Email him at Tom@TomPurcell.com.



## Schuler provides legislative update

By Sen. Wendy Schuler R-Evanston (SD-15)

The 68th Wyoming Legislature opened its first official day last week, beginning with the swearing in of all new members and then the State of the State address by Gov. Mark Gordon, followed by Supreme Court Justice Kate Fox. Then the flurry of bills began.

As of this writing, there are over 700 bills that have been drafted. Interim bills are moved forward first, and then individual bills will be introduced next but with the sheer number of bills, it is very likely that not all of our individual bills will be heard.

I am excited and honored to be chosen as the Senate Education Chair for the next two years. There were a number of bills worked by this committee in the interim and it is up to our committee to work them and make sure they are what's best for our Wyoming students, staffs and school districts. There are a number of new committee members so we hope to get them up to speed as quickly as possible.

I am bringing a bill to ban cellphones (during instruction time only) at our public schools. Eighteen states have passed legislation on this type of ban, and I believe this bill can be transformative for the success of our students.

There are some districts in Wyoming that are al-

ready trying to move this direction. The data shows that the states who have banned cellphones are seeing improvements in student achievement, improved mental health, and overall better social skills.

Each district will have local control to decide how to enforce this ban. There are exceptions for students on an IEP which requires one and also for those students who have health-related issues who need the phone or smartwatch.

If you have the time to read the book, "The Anxious Generation" by Jonathan Haidt, you will be amazed at the way our children have become rewired due to the overuse of cellphones, and it is causing an epidemic of mental illness. The least we can do is to ensure our kids have uninterrupted instructional time at school.

It will help them to be successful and it will help our teachers so they don't have to spend so much time being the "cellphone police".

I am also bringing another bill to ensure that our college women athletes will only have to compete with other biological women. It is a stand-alone bill that will hopefully encourage the NCAA and the NJCAA to deal with this issue rather than have colleges like UW and others in the Mountain West who chose to forfeit their volleyball games

because of the safety and fairness issues brought forth by competing against a trans athlete from San Jose State.

I have two bills that are advocating for the safety of our children in Wyoming. One deals with allowing a relative who has been parenting a child for more than two years while the parent has been termed unfit by the courts and had their rights terminated ... for those relatives to be able to begin a process to become their guardian.

The other bill would allow child victims of sexual abuse or incest to have the option to testify on closed circuit if the court finds that testifying with the offender in the room would cause undue harm and emotional distress.

Another bill I am working on would allow CAA, or certified anesthesiologist assistants, to be certified in Wyoming. Other states have passed legislation for this option, which requires that the AA's work under a registered anesthesiologist. There are 17 schools that provide this training and with the shortage of anesthesiologists this bill could help mitigate that.

I have one more bill that I am hoping to get moving forward but, with the back log of bills and the shortage of lawyers in the LSO, I am not sure it will happen this year.

I hope that you will all follow along with the bills on the wyleg.gov website

**SCHULER, AS**



## Freedom Caucus blocks bills that save money, improve services

By Lindsay Simineo WYBHA Executive Director

The Wyoming Behavioral Health Alliance is deeply frustrated by last week's actions by the Freedom Caucus-led House Judiciary Committee, which rejected two of its bills aimed at improving mental health services, saving taxpayer dollars, and streamlining government functions.

HB0048 — Department of family services-confidentiality amendments — sought to modernize confidentiality laws, allowing state agencies to communicate more effectively, erasing duplicative services for families, saving Wyoming thousands of dollars, and providing better care.

HB0049 — Treatment court-amend-

ments — would have allowed judges to oversee the mental health treatment of certain offenders by diverting them from overcrowded jails and decreasing repeated offenses. This would have also saved Wyoming several thousand dollars in unneeded inpatient stays.

Both bills were designed to improve mental health services, while saving taxpayer dollars and streamlining government.

These committee bills received months of thorough research, and there was clear evidence of their benefits. However, Rep.



Marlene Brady (R- Green River), Rep. Laurie Bratten (R-Sheridan), Rep. Tom Kelly (R-Sheridan), Rep. Jayme Lien (R-Casper), and Rep. Joe Webb (R-Lyman) — all staunch members of the Freedom Caucus — voted them down.

The baseless reasoning of "insufficient research" and "high costs" is insulting to Wyoming families who needed these services and robs the Wyoming taxpayers of the cost savings they could have received in a better streamlined government.

Their votes against these two common-

sense solutions are not about protecting Wyoming — they are about prioritizing a national agenda. This committee had the opportunity to help Wyoming save money and better serve its people, but it has instead left taxpayers to pick up the tab.

As long as the Wyoming Freedom Caucus continues to prioritize caucus affiliation over the best interests of Wyoming, it will continue to force the state into incurring expenses that many have worked towards avoiding.

WYBHA's mission is to promote statewide mental health policy through expertise, education, advocacy, and voter education. For more information visit <https://www.wybha.org/>.

### UINTA COUNTY HERALD

We enjoy hearing from our readers and advertisers. We hope this guide makes it easier for you to contact us. Business hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Phone: (307) 789-6560 Fax: (307) 789-2700 Copyright © 2019, Wyoming Newspapers, Inc. Editorial Staff E-mail: editor@uintacountyherald.com Advertising Staff E-mail: kellis@uintacountyherald.com 849 Front Street, Suite 101, Evanston, WY 82930 P.O. Box 210, Evanston, WY 82931-0210 The Uinta County Herald (USPS 646-880) is published weekly on Wednesdays. Periodicals postage paid at Evanston, Wyoming. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Uinta County Herald, P.O. Box 210, Evanston, WY 82931-0210.



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### LETTERS POLICY

The Viewpoints 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 *Uinta County Herald* 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 500 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 8 a.m. Friday.

# Records

Send us your obituaries, births announcements, wedding and engagement announcements from families and other community announcements for our records section. Send information and photos to [editor@uintacountyherald.com](mailto:editor@uintacountyherald.com). Thank-you letters will be published at a nominal charge.

## obituaries

### Lisa Kae Keyes

March 5, 1961 – Jan. 15, 2025

Lisa Kae Keyes, 63, of Evanston, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 15, in Salt Lake City. She was born March 5, 1961, in Montpelier, Idaho.

She married Eddie Keyes on June 29, 1979, and together they raised three children, Tristan, Bo, and Chance.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25, at the Elm Street Ward Chapel, 251 Elm St. in Evanston. Viewing will be prior to service, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.



### Carl Martin Johnson

May 20, 1954 – Jan. 10, 2025

Carl Martin Johnson, of Bear River, died Friday, Jan. 10, in Salt Lake City, from complications of a brain aneurysm.

Carl was born May 20, 1954, in Payson, Utah, to Willis Heber and Norma Matilda Hanks Johnson of Spanish Fork, Utah, the youngest of six children.

Carl was compassionate and tender, with a side of mischievous playfulness. He was very proud of his Icelandic ancestry and enjoyed telling about his family history. He had a remarkable ability to connect with people, creating lifelong friendships wherever he went.

He always had a deep testimony of and profound love for his Savior, Jesus Christ. A grand welcome was surely had on the other side. We'll miss you!

He is preceded in death by his mother; father; brother, Merrill; and wife, Donna.

He is survived by sisters: Rhea Jean (Darnell) Hancock of Spanish Fork, Utah; Aleen Lamb of Lexington, Oklahoma; Janiel Orton of Salem, Utah; and Verna Dallin of Springville Utah; children: Jamie D. Johnson of Evanston; Trevor Sean (Angela) Johnson of Greeley, Colorado; Timothy Logan Johnson of Roy, Utah; Brianna (Henry) Schnitker of Union Star, Missouri; Heidi Marie (Denec) Rex of Woodruff, Utah; Ashley Marie (Danny) Hall of Cedar City, Utah; Lynde May Childs of Evanston; and BeauDee Lynn Johnson of Evanston; 27 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Jan. 18. He is buried in the Spanish Fork Cemetery.

Special thanks to Crandall Funeral Home for their caring support.



A courtyard at the Wyoming State Hospital is pictured last winter. (UINTA COUNTY HERALD/Bryon Glathar)

## SHERIFF from A1

ing with our county budgets.”

Uinta County Treasurer Terry Brimhall did not respond to requests for comment by press time.

Kopp and Rasmussen contend that the lack of state funding and support isn't merely a fiscal concern, but it creates ethical and employee morale issues as well.

“This is draining on personnel,” Rasmussen said. “We don't have the resources or training to get them the depth of help — we are not a psychiatric facility. Jails are now becoming mental health facilities.”

Two inmates at the Uinta County Jail recently nearly starved themselves to death this past November and December, Rasmussen said, due to hunger strikes related to refusal of psychiatric medication.

“Mental illness drove their medical illness,” he said.

Jail deputies are not allowed to force inmates to take prescribed, on-hand medications and the inmates wouldn't eat because they thought their food was tampered with.

“One of them was 2-3 hours from death,” Rasmussen said.

Kopp said deputies escorted one of the inmates to the emergency room at Evanston Regional Hospital (ERH), where they were immediately Life-Flighted to Salt Lake City for intervention.

“We had to get them out of our facility because they were dying,” Kopp said.

“This is a custody issue,” Rasmussen added. “They're deteriorating in our facility because they're not getting the professional help they need.

Sen. Wendy Schuler (SD-15) of Evanston told the *Herald* last week, “[I] was not aware of the delay in getting

folks into the WSH who need services. I plan to meet with the [WDH] sometime this week to see what types of solutions we can come up with... I have some ideas I would like to float... We will see what we can do to help our county sheriff's office.”

State officials say they're not allowed to reimburse jails for holding inmates who are waiting for evaluation or treatment at the State Hospital.

“This is about Title 7, which involves individuals who are accused of or charged with crimes,” WHD Public Information Officer Kim Deti said. Title 7, Deti said, outlines that the WSH is responsible for evaluating competency of those facing criminal charges on behalf of the judicial system.

“It's important to know under Title 7, the WDH has no authority, ability, program or funding to pay for housing individuals who are waiting for admission to the WSH. Under Title 7, we simply can't pay the detention centers,” she told the *Herald*.

Deti further explained that the limited number of beds available at the WSH, 104, directly affects the timeliness for all adult psychiatric services while acknowledging that the demand of such services has increased significantly in recent years due to a rise in judicial orders explicitly requiring mental health intervention.

“Approximately 25% of the beds are dedicated to criminal justice services,” she said. “Our capacity at any point in time is also affected by staffing availability and sometimes by the nature and needs of the patients themselves.”

“Unfortunately, there is no quick fix ... but it's more than a reimbursement issue and that's why we are looking at improvement to the system overall,” Deti said.

“We are committed to partnering with law enforcement and the judicial

branch to try relieving some of the pressure. In fact, we have been working with stakeholders on steps to improve the situation and are grateful for those partnerships,” Deti said.

She cited new pilot programs in Campbell County focusing on jail diversion treatment as well as a new jail-based telepsych program, currently test-launched in a few counties.

“We have hopes of expanding these types of efforts in more locations over time,” she said.

On Wednesday, Jan. 15, two days after Kopp emailed his letter of grievance, five freshmen legislators on the House Judiciary Committee — including newly-elected, former longtime law enforcement officer Rep. Joe Webb (HD-19) of Lyman — killed House Bill 49 (HB-49).

The proposal, which was supported by the Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police (WASCOP), was an amendment to the court supervised treatment program which would have allowed diversion of certain offenders, namely illicit substance users, from overcrowded incarceration units to mental health treatment facilities.

Wyoming Behavioral Health Alliance Executive Director Lindsay Simineo — who said her mission is to promote statewide mental health policy through expertise, education, advocacy and voter education — released a formal statement following the failure of the bill, stating that, in addition to potentially decreasing repeat offenses and streamlining government, “this would have also saved Wyoming several thousand dollars in unneeded inpatient stays.”

Kopp declined to comment on the now-stricken HB 49, but did tell the *Herald* that his office “received information [that other] legislation is in the works; however, no other information is available at this time.”

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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.wyoleg.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.



**Wyoming Department of Insurance**  
<http://doi.wyo.gov> • 1 (800) 438-5768

Send us information about your community news item or happening in Evanston, Uinta County, southwest Wyoming and Rich County, Utah. Send your community information to editor@uintacountyherald.com.

## Disability:IN Uinta County presents at chamber luncheon

By Amanda Manchester  
Herald Reporter

EVANSTON — Disability:IN Uinta County (DIU) presented at the Evanston Chamber of Commerce Lunch & Learn on Jan. 9 at the Legal Tender in Evanston.

“We are committed to fostering disability inclusion and equality by empowering youth, educating businesses, and transforming our community,” Program Coordinator Shanna Alldredge read from a prepared statement to attendees. “Our vision is to strive to enhance employment opportunities for youth with disabilities through innovative programs, personalized support and collaborative partnership, creating a more inclusive and diverse workforce for a stronger, more equitable future.”

“There is a high rate of disabilities in Uinta County,” said Executive Director Bethany Shidler said before recalling an estimate from a recent study she’d read that approximately 83% of businesses that employ people with disabilities ... they see growth and satisfaction by bringing community and business together,” she said.

Shidler and Alldredge each explained their personal family dynamics and how those experiences shaped their connection to their program’s mission.

“They taught me a lot,” Shidler, a mom of three said of her two oldest children, whom she adopted as teenagers. “Mostly the importance of having a mentor, someone who is a positive influence.”

“We want to empower kids to be their best selves because they are the future,” Shidler continued. “That’s why I love Disability:IN Uinta County.”

In addition to promoting disability inclusion and opportunity in the community, DIU offers a variety of services to minors.

“Any kid who is considered high risk — and that can include any family that is divorced,” Alldredge said.

DIU offers two programs: Employment Diversity and Youth Empowerment, the latter of which is kicking off an exciting new pilot program, Women in Business Mentorship, which was funded through grants from the Wyoming Women’s Foundation.

“The purpose of this program is to empower young women through exposure of diverse career paths and developing essential skills for future success through monthly one-on-one mentoring and quarterly group events,” Alldredge said. “We’re really looking forward to this new mentoring program ... and hoping that

our participants return to mentor others in the future.” DIU also offers the Employment Diversity program. “The kids sign up for career development class, and we place them with work opportunities,” said Shidler, who is a certified job coach. The program offers roundtables, a career readiness workshop including résumé building and mock interviews, inclusion training, business education center and student employer program, culminating in an annual banquet during the second half of the year.

The banquet celebrates the business and employee of the year, as well as the presentation of the Spirit of Wanda Rogers award for ongoing program support. There is also specialized

**LUNCHEON, A6**



Disability IN:Uinta County Executive Director Bethany Shidler, left, and Program Coordinator Shanna Alldredge presented their program offerings at the January Chamber of Commerce Lunch & Learn at the Legal Tender. They used the occasion to introduce an exciting new pilot program, Women in Business Mentorship, which was funded through grants from the Wyoming Women’s Foundation. “The purpose of this program is to empower young women through exposure of diverse career paths and developing essential skills for future success through monthly one-on-one mentoring and quarterly group events,” Alldredge said. (HERALD PHOTO/Amanda Manchester)

# 15 Questions

**Alesia Allen**  
Kitchen Manager at Uinta Senior Center

**Do you have any hobbies?**  
Tole painting and fishing.

**What do you like most about living in Evanston?**  
Friendly people who are willing to help.

**What’s the best thing about winter?**  
The animals and the birds.

**Do you have a dream you’ve yet to fulfill?**  
Going to Alaska.

**What’s something interesting about you that most people don’t know?**  
I am a hard worker and I love my seniors.

**If you could meet a famous person, living or dead, who would it be?**  
Dean Martin.

**What are the three best reasons for living in Wyoming?**  
The people I work with, camping and fishing.

**What is your favorite genre of music?**  
Classical.

**Do you have any pets?**  
Two cats and two dogs.

**Who is your hero or role model?**  
My mother. She has been my friend and my teacher.

**If you had a super power, what would it be?**  
To be Wonder Woman!

**What is your favorite movie or TV show?**  
“Gunsmoke,” “Oake Island” and “Blind Frog Ranch.”

**What would you like to see happen in your life this year?**  
Get healthy.

**What is your proudest accomplishment?**  
Becoming kitchen manager.

**If you won the lottery, what is the first thing you would do with the money?**  
Give some to my family and take a vacation.

### SCHULER

from A3  
and please keep your emails, texts and phone calls coming. I will reiterate that an original letter or text works better.

Sometime when you jump on a “one click” politics or something like that, they sometimes end up in our junk folder. I don’t check that folder often, so just text or email and I will try to get back to you as soon as possible.

Just remember that I represent all of you. It will always be “PEOPLE before politics or party.” I do keep track of the emails and when I get 90 against and 5 for on a bill, I will vote for your voice (even if it sometimes is not really the way I think it should go).

I have thought about doing a Senate Facebook page, but when you see how negative and vile some of the folks who comment on those are, I have decided that I would rather visit with you face-to-face, via email, text or cellphone or at your local meetings and businesses. Please let me know if you have questions, and thanks again for your support.

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**UINTA COUNTY HERALD**

# Faith

The church communities in Evanston, Uinta County, southwest Wyoming and Rich County, Utah, are vital parts of our readers' daily lives. Help us share with them your important church news in these pages. Email church news and information to [editor@uintacountyherald.com](mailto:editor@uintacountyherald.com).



Finding a quiet place to read can help minimize distraction while reading the Bible. (COURTESY PHOTO)

## Developing relationship

By Jill Bass  
Cross Talk

What are some of the things required in developing a healthy relationship? Enhancing communication, making time for each other, respecting each other's boundaries, being supportive and empathic, letting each other grow individually, and learning compromise are crucial and help develop a relationship.

If these activities are required for human relationships, doesn't it make sense that our relationship with God is no different? So why do so many show up on Sunday and expect that to be the end of their relationship with their heavenly father?

How does one go about developing a relationship with a spirit you can't see? The same way you do with another human! God communicates to us through his word. The word is obtained by reading the Bible.

Spending time each day in the word, praying, and meditating on the word are God's way of communicating with us. We must make time each day if we are to develop relationship and learn God's word. God is a respecter of all boundaries and will not force himself on us, so it is up to us to intentionally spend time with him each day.

God is always supportive and empathic. He wants the best for us, cares deeply for us, and doesn't find fault when our behavior isn't up to par.

We were given free will, and God allows us to develop our personalities, gifts and ability to serve society. When asked what the greatest commandment is Jesus answered, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

Reading the Bible is the best way to communicate with God and should be done daily. Reading the Bible helps one to grow spiritually, learn about God's character, and reveal God's revelation to us.

Reading the Bible can provide comfort and inspiration. When seeking guidance, the Bible is a wonderful source for sound advice. The Bible can help one develop courage. Whether we need financial, parenting, marriage, or career advice, the Bible can help.

It is not a sin not to read the word daily but, if we want to understand God, we must read the Bible on a regular basis.

Below are tips to reading the Bible and the way to make reading the word a natural part of your day.

Picking a time each day and dedicating a certain time each day helps make reading a daily habit. Starting small by reading a chapter or a small passage helps avoid being overwhelmed. There are so many plans to help get into the word.

Currently, members of Calvary Chapel Evanston are reading "The One Year Chronological Bible" on the YouVersion app. Keeping your plan simple and structured helps break the word down into bite size pieces.

Reflecting on the application of the word, writing down key findings help develop insight.

Finding a quiet place to read helps minimize distractions. Joining a study group helps develop accountability and gain different perspectives.

Reading various sections of the Bible aids in maturing and becoming well-rounded in the word. Understanding historical context allows one to grasp the full meaning of the Bible.

We live in a fallen world. Reading the Bible allows us to apply a gospel solution to our personal condition. Speaking the word into others' lives helps us share the word and speak God's word into their lives.

The Bible explains how we can be generous and kind and offers instruction to help others. Understanding that salvation that comes from the belief in Jesus and the work of the cross can only be understood when we read the word.

## Manage stress so it doesn't manage you

Today it seems as if everyone is under stress. It's become a normal part of our everyday lives. As long as we keep that stress at a reasonable limit, there's no problem. But when we allow it to exceed that limit, trouble begins.

For example, a chair is built to sit on. It's designed and constructed to bear a certain amount of weight. If used properly, it should last a very long time. But if it's overloaded beyond its capacity, it begins to wear out prematurely and eventually break down completely under the strain.

In the same way, you and I were designed and created to bear a certain amount of physical, mental and emotional strain day after day. However, problems arise when we allow ourselves to be weighed down by more stress than we're capable of supporting.

A word we don't hear much about today is prudence. The Merriam-Webster definition says prudence means: "skill and good judgment in the use of resources." In the Bible, being prudent means to be a good steward or managers of the gifts God has given us to use.

Those gifts include time, energy, strength, and health — even material possessions. They include our bodies, as well as our minds and spirits.

Proverbs 14:8 (NIV) says, "The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception." We all need to "give thought to [our] ways" and know our limits — we need to know how much we can handle. We need to be

able to recognize when we're reaching "full capacity" or "overload."

Instead of pushing ourselves into overload to please others or satisfy our own desires of reaching personal goals, we need to listen to and obey what God's telling us to do. We must follow his wisdom if we really want to enjoy the peaceful, joyful life He has planned for us.

Stress can be caused by just about anything. Stressors can be big or little things. In addition, what causes you stress may not bother someone else. And what bothers you today may not bother you tomorrow.

For example, let's say you're at the grocery store and the high prices create a stressor for you. Then the process of paying for your groceries (especially if money is tight) stresses you out. On top of that, the checker in your lane runs out of change and has to shut down temporarily.

So you switch to a new lane and learn that five of your items don't have a price on them. The checker has to call for a price check on each one while you wait, and the line behind you grows. These small, seemingly innocent circumstances pile up until you feel like you're going to explode from the pressure.

Nobody can remove all the big and little things that cause stress in our lives. That's why we must be prudent in identifying the stressors that affect us most and learn how to respond to them correctly. We must recognize our limits and learn to say no to ourselves and others.

Stressors, not managed properly, can mount up one by one, bringing us to our breaking point, but with God's help, we can learn how to manage or reduce their effects on us. We can't control all of our circumstances, but we can adjust our attitude and not let them pressure us.

It seems the very atmosphere of the world today is charged with stress and pressure. But the good news is, we don't have to operate

in the world's system — reacting like people in the world who have no hope or peace in their lives. The world responds to difficulties by becoming upset and stressed, but our attitude and approach should be entirely different.

You know, you can completely turn a situation around just by choosing the right attitude and approach when you're in a challenging situation. Instead of stressing out and tensing up, take a moment to pray for God to help you, just like the Bible says in Philippians 4:6 (NIV): "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Take a deep breath, calm down, and focus on getting his perspective on the situation.

In the midst of your daily life, you'll have many opportunities to be stressed. But you can refuse to allow your circumstances to dictate how you're going to feel if you will remember to ask God to help you. The truth is you may not be able to control the situation, but you can control how you respond to it.

When you know you're going to face a stressful situation, take an offensive approach and decide beforehand what your attitude will be. Then the door will be opened for God to supernaturally help you to calm down and cheer up!

For more on this topic, order Joyce's four-part teaching resource *Calm, Cool and Collected*. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, *Enjoying Everyday Life*, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc. She has authored more than 150 books, including *BATTLEFIELD OF THE MIND* and *OVERCOMING EVERY PROBLEM* (FaithWords). She hosts the *Enjoying Everyday Life* program, which is broadcast to millions in over 110 languages. For more information, visit [www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org).



ENJOYING EVERYDAY LIFE  
BY JOYCE MEYER

# Church Directory



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10th & Center Streets, Evanston  
[www.evanstonpresbyterian.com](http://www.evanstonpresbyterian.com)  
[unionprevanston@gmail.com](mailto:unionprevanston@gmail.com)  
Worship at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday  
Children, Youth & Adult Bible Study - Call for more information 789-2358  
Pastor Kirk Probasco

**Our Saviour Lutheran Church**  
49 Straight & Narrow  
Sunday Bible Study..... 8:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship ..... 9:00 a.m.  
Matins ..... Tuesday, 8:00 a.m.  
**Open Bible Study:**  
6:30 p.m. Tuesdays  
Contact information: Pastor Jonathan Lange at (307) 789-0042

**St. Mary Magdalen**  
Evanston  
**Weekend Mass Schedule**  
Saturday..... 4:15pm (English)  
Sunday Mass ..... 9:00am (English)  
5:00pm (Spanish)  
**Holy Days of Obligation**  
9:00am & 7:00pm  
**Sacrament of Penance**  
Saturday - 3:00-4:00pm  
email: [officesstm@dcwy.org](mailto:officesstm@dcwy.org)  
307-789-2189

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's Work. Our hands.  
**Sunday Worship:**  
9:00am  
Everyone welcome  
50 Yellowcreek Rd.  
Evanston

**UINTA BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
2411 Wasatch Road  
307.789.7529  
[ubbcwoyo.org](http://ubbcwoyo.org)  
Sunday School: ..... 10AM  
Morning Worship Service:.. 11AM  
Evening Family Service:..... 6PM  
Wednesday Bible Study:..... 7PM

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
10th & Sage Streets  
Welcomes You  
**Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.**

**Evanston Alliance Church**  
235 Overthrust Road  
789-4418  
[www.livingthelifetogether.com](http://www.livingthelifetogether.com)  
Sunday School: ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: ..... 10:30 a.m.  
Youth groups available  
Small Group Ministries  
Pastor: Brett McMorris

**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**  
**Evanston Wyo Stake**  
**Wards Meeting @ 721 W. Cheyenne Dr. - 789-2648**  
Riverview Ward Service begins 9:00 AM  
YSA Branch Service begins 10:30 AM  
Independence Ward Service begins 12:00 PM  
**Wards Meeting @ 251 Elm St - 789-3746**  
Almy Ward Service begins 9:00 AM  
Red Mountain Ward Service begins 10:30 AM  
**Ward Meeting @ 14864 Hwy 150 S - 789-3257**  
Hilliard Ward Service begins 10:00 AM

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10:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE  
**WEDNESDAY @ 900 Main Street**  
2:30PM NEW BELIEVER'S STUDY  
6:00PM THIRD WEDNESDAY SERVICE  
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211 OVERTHRUST RD.  
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(307) 677-4739

**Evanston Wyo South Stake**  
**Wards Meeting @ 201 Sage St - 789-7015**  
(SACRAMENT FIRST)  
Uinta View Ward & Spanish-Bear River Group Service Begins 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM  
4th Ward Service Begins 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM  
1st Ward Service Begins 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM  
**Wards Meeting @ 632 Twin Ridge Ave - 789-0263**  
7th Ward Service Begins 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM  
Yellow Creek Ward Service Begins 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM  
8th Ward Service Begins 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

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10:30 a.m..... Worship Service  
**Wednesday**  
7 p.m. .... Midweek Service  
Pastor Tim Floyd

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## LUNCHEON / from A5

training annually. This year's program includes internet and social media safety.

"All of the supports they get while in school go away and it's difficult to navigate," Shidler said.

"That's why we partner with DVR; they're a resource," added Alldredge.

Youth Empowerment offers campus tours, job coaching, employment workshops, summer employment and post high school transitional assistance.

"Mountain View does the summer work program and they actually pay them," Shidler said.

DIU's continuing goals include: meeting with local businesses for Roundtable discussions twice annually; expanding their influence through social media, networking and community involvement; and increasing the employability of youth with disabilities through monthly trainings, job coaching and employment workshops.

Shidler voiced hopes, as a big picture goal, of someday having their trainings neatly compiled and offered via their website.

"It's a big process and it's going to take some time," she said.

DIU has also partnered with the Wyoming Department of Vocational Rehab (DVR).

"Our services are contracted through outside resources to assist people with disabilities with work placement," Shidler said. "We're the liaison, the connector piece with local business and DVR."

There will be a Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month proclamation signing at noon on March 5, at Evanston City Hall with Mayor Kent Williams.

You can further support Disability:IN Uinta County's programming by attending and/or participating in future events, such as the 2nd Annual Wanda Rogers 5K walk and run on Saturday, June 28, beginning with registration at 7:30 a.m., at the Bear Paw Trailhead.

Match monetary donations during WyoGives, an online nonprofit giving day organized by the Wyoming Non-Profit Foundation on July 16, 2025.

Smith's card members can support DIU through Inspiring Donations with a .5% donation of each store visit's total by selecting the organization's number: IX447 on their account.

DIU can be found at 236 9th St. in Evanston. They can be reached by phone at 307-783-6302 or by email at [director@di-ucw.org](mailto:director@di-ucw.org).

The next Chamber Lunch & Learn will feature Smart Dwellings at noon on Thursday, Feb. 13, at the Legal Tender. Lunch costs \$12 for chamber members or \$15 for non-members. No charge if not eating.

We want to share your group's or organization's upcoming events with our readers. Send your news and event information to [editor@uintacountyherald.com](mailto:editor@uintacountyherald.com).

# This Week in Uinta County



## Jan. 26

**Ice Skate Party**  
3-5 p.m.  
Bear Ice Ponds

### Wednesday, Jan. 22 Chamber Mixer

Wild Cannabis will host this month's Evanston Chamber of Commerce mixer from 5-7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 267 Bear River Dr. Join us for refreshments, drawings and goodie bags. Free admission.

### Wednesday, Jan. 22 Jumpstart Evanston

Nonprofit economic development organization, Jumpstart Evanston, is hosting its annual Business Bootcamp and Start-up Competition. The first class is "How to Build a Business Plan" from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednes-

day, Jan. 22, at the Roundhouse in Evanston. The course offers seven weeks of expert training and an opportunity to compete for up to \$20,000 in funding. Register online at: <https://jumpstartevanston.org/register/>.

### Thursday, Jan. 23 Veterans Board Meeting

The Uinta County Veterans Board will meet from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 23, at the Uinta County Courthouse.

### Saturday, Jan. 25 Learn to Ski Party

Learn to Ski Party at 10

a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25, at Purple Sage Golf Course. Free ski rentals and equipment available.

### Sunday, Jan. 26 Ice Skate Party

The Evanston Parks and Rec Center is hosting its annual ice-skating party from 3-5 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 26, at the Bear Ponds. Join Evanston Police Department for an afternoon of winter fun with hot chocolate and doughnuts. Free event and free skate rentals at the rec center while supplies last.

### Tuesday, Jan. 28 City Council Meeting

The Evanston City Council

will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 28, at Evanston City Hall.

### Wednesday, Jan. 29 Jumpstart Evanston

Nonprofit economic development organization, Jumpstart Evanston, is hosting its annual Business Bootcamp and Start-up Competition. The second class is Business Accounting from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 29, at the Roundhouse in Evanston. The course offers seven weeks of expert training and an opportunity to compete for up to \$20,000 in funding. Register online at: <https://jumpstartevanston.org/register/>.

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# News

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## TERRAPOWER

from A1

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 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.



PacifiCorp/Rocky Mountain Power's Naughton natural gas and coal-fired power plant, pictured Jan. 19, 2022 on the outskirts of Kemmerer, will see its remaining generation units converted to natural gas in 2026. TerraPower plans to commence operations for its "demonstration" Natrium nuclear reactor power plant next to Naughton in 2030. (WYOFIELD/Dustin Bleizeffer)

### 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 was con-

verted 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, according 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.

## PARKING / from A1

collected.

Mayor Kent Williams asked Evanston City Attorney Mark Harris what they should do about the issue.

"If you pass a resolution stating no parking on the street and put up signs, then EPD can enforce it," Harris said. "The police

can have the cars towed away if you pass a resolution on it."

Robinson said that people across the street from Uinta Meadows Elementary had put up "no parking" signs but they weren't from the city, so the police cannot enforce them. He said the city should put up a designated city sign in red letters on white that says, "No Parking Any Time."

The council will consider a resolution concerning the issue at the next regular meeting.

Ben Barto with the Horns for Heroes Foundation and the Professional Biker Rodeo Association was next on the agenda to discuss the possibility of a professional biker rodeo to take place in Evanston on Memorial Day weekend.

The rodeo features men and women on motorcycles in events including a slow ride, keg push, barrel race, tire pull, four-wheeler steer roping and cowgirl and biker tag team. Horseback riders often join in with the bikers to compete together.

The Horns for Heroes Foundation was started by Barto in 2016 and became a nonprofit in 2018. His business Bone Daddy Knives funds the foundation by donating 5% of the sales of Barto's knives to the foundation, which donates to

different charities.

Barto was asking permission to hold the biker rodeo in Evanston. There was a long discussion among council members and Barto as to whether he wanted to shut off Main Street for vendors or hold the entire event at the fairgrounds. It was suggested that if they kept the event and vendors in one location, it would be easier to contain for safety reasons — Barto said they usually get from 5,000 to 7,000 attendees at their events.

The council members agreed it would be a good event to bring to Evanston, though Memorial Day can bring cold weather. Mayor Williams suggested that Barto needed to first go to the county complex and see if the fairgrounds arena is available on Memorial Day and get permission from the county to use it.

He explained to Barto that the fairgrounds are under county control but, if Barto decides they want to use Main Street as part of the event, then he will have to come back to the city to request closure of the street.

Barto thanked the council and said he would go to the county complex the following day to reserve the fairgrounds if available.

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## Red Devils tame Tigers, Wolves at home



Red Devil senior Clayton Cook puts up a shot over a Green River defender during Friday's 63-45 win over the Wolves. (HERALD PHOTO/Don Cogger)

*Mendez leading scorer in back-to-back games; SV next*

**By Don Cogger**  
Herald Sports Editor

The Evanston High School boys' hoops team opened 4A West Conference play Thursday in fine fashion, edging out I-80 rival Rock Springs 61-59. The Red Devils then fol-

lowed that Friday with a 63-45 thumping of Green River to complete the first leg of the I-80 rivalry series.

The Red Devils (7-4, 2-0 in 4A West) continue conference play this week, with games at Star Valley Thursday, and Saturday at Jackson.



Red Devil senior Jordan Mendez scores two of his 19 points Friday in Evanston's 63-45 win over Green River. The Red Devils opened the home portion of the 2024-25 season on Thursday, beating their other I-89 rival Rock Springs, 61-49. (HERALD PHOTO/Don Cogger)

### Red Devils 61, Rock Springs 59

Behind a 52.2% shooting percentage from the floor — including five 3-pointers — the Red Devils earned their first 4A West — and home court — win in a nailbiter, 61-59.

Evanston got off to a sluggish start, allowing the Tigers to build a 22-15 lead after a quarter of play. The Red Devils outscored Rock Springs 13-12 in the second, though the home team trailed 34-28 at the break.

The two teams played close to even in the third, though the Red Devils dialed in for the final frame, holding the Tiges to seven points, while scoring 16 points of their own to earn the two-point win 61-59.

Three Red Devils finished the game in double figures, led by senior Jordan Mendez, who had the hot hand from behind the arc, drilling three 3-pointers and finishing with 22 points; he also tied for the team lead in assists with five, and led the team in steals, with four. Clayton Cook netted 15 points to go along with seven



Red Devil senior Brenner Lym plays defense against Green River during Friday's 63-45 win against the Wolves. Evanston travels to Star Valley Thursday for a conference game against the Braves. (HERALD PHOTO/Don Cogger)

rebounds, while Ryker Lind finished with 11 points, as well as five assists.

Brenner Lym finished the night with eight points, followed by Brooks Searle with

five points; Jay Hill closed out

**DEVILS B3**



Red Devil senior Ryker Pace plays tough defense against a Green River player during Evanston's 63-45 win Friday. (HERALD PHOTO/Don Cogger)

## Lady Devils sweep Rock Springs, Green River at home

*Evanston opens 4A West Conference play 2-0; SV next*

**By Don Cogger**  
Herald Sports Editor

The Evanston High School girls' basketball team played on their home court for the first time this season Thursday and Friday, and the Lady Devils made it a home stand to remember, knocking off I-80 rivals Rock Springs and Green River to open 4A West Conference play.

Evanston got things started Thursday against the Lady Tigers, and after a close first half, blew the game open in the third quarter to roll to a 41-25 win.

The Lady Devils followed that with a back-and-forth battle against No. 5-ranked Green River Friday, finally

pulling away in the fourth quarter to upset the Lady Wolves 41-37.

"Quote," said EHS head coach Roy Barker. "Quote." The Lady Devils continue conference play on the road this week, with games at Star Valley Thursday and Jackson Saturday.

### Lady Devils 41, Rock Springs 25

Thursday was the first home game of the 2024-25 season for the Lady Devils, and with a near-capacity crowd on hand to watch head coach Roy Barker's squad live — many for the first time this season — the atmosphere

**LADY B3**



Lady Devil captain Braelynn Morrison — injured in the Rock Springs game the night before — leads the cheers on the bench during Evanston's 41-37 upset Friday over No. 5-ranked Green River. The Lady Devils travel to Star Valley Thursday. (HERALD PHOTO/Don Cogger)

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# Meet The Devils

### Kiernynn Simmons — Girls Basketball



Q: How long have you been playing basketball, and how did you get into it?

A: I have been playing basketball since I was in fourth grade. I played in junior jazz at the Rec Center. I started playing because I wanted to try different sports to see what I liked.



Q: Are you involved in any other sports/activities?

A: I participate in Outdoor Track, Unified Special Olympics, and 4-H.

Q: What are you enjoying most about this year's team?

A: I really enjoy our team dynamic, both on and off the court. I think we all genuinely like to play with each other and support one another through our triumphs and mistakes. I like the fact that we can joke around on the bus, but then play competitively when entering the gym. We have also learned to leave things on the court and look forward to our next game.

Q: What are your hobbies outside of sports?

A: I enjoy showing livestock during the summer. I also like to read and travel during my free time.

Q: Do you have a favorite movie or TV show?

A: It's hard for me to pick a favorite show or movie, but I do like to watch "Harry Potter," "Criminal Minds" and "Outer Banks."

Q: The Lady Devils are a young team, but there's a lot of talent on the roster. What are your expectations for the season?

A: My goals for the season for myself and my team is to keep a positive mindset, no matter how the games end up turning out. I think it is important for us to stay strong. I also expect the team to push ourselves. Many of us have put in lots of effort over the summer, and I think we still are trying to improve our skills as the season continues.

Q: In your opinion, what makes a good teammate?

A: In my opinion a good teammate consists of qualities like encouraging each other, being honest, giving grace to one another, and overall working hard.

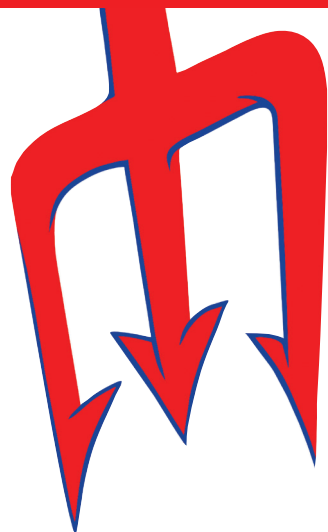
Q: What's it like playing for coach Barker and coach Lonsway?

A: I really enjoy playing for both coaches. They both expect a lot out of us, and their expectations are always growing. Both coaches are always willing to have a one on one conversation with us to help us improve and to address our concerns. I think both their coaching styles play well off of one another.

Q: The Lady Devils are coming off a big weekend, with wins over Rock Springs and No. 5-ranked Green River. Is the team starting to figure things out?

A: Yes. I think our team has started to grow and figure out how to play together, however I think we always have room to improve.

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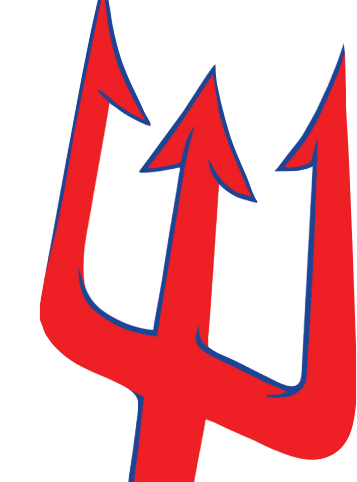
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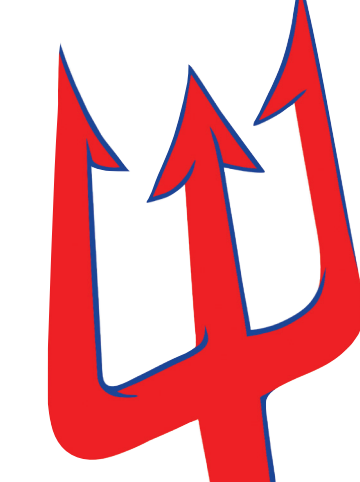
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# Sports



Lady Devil Violet Cook dishes off to a teammate under the basket during Friday's 41-37 upset win over Green River. (HERALD PHOTO/Don Cogger)



Lady Devil Kiernynn Simmons works her toward the basket during Evanston's 41-37 win against Green River. (HERALD PHOTO/Don Cogger)

## LADY from B1

was electric. Both teams started slow, and after a quarter of play, the Lady Devils held a slim 7-5 lead. The Lady Tigers continued to keep it close in the second, and Evanston took a 16-13 lead into the break. The third quarter was all Lady Devils, however,

as Barker's squad came out firing, dropping 19 points on the Lady Tigers, while holding Rock Springs to just two. Evanston's shooting cooled off in the fourth, but by then the damage was done, and the Lady Devils cruised to their first 4A West Conference win, 41-25.

The Lady Devils shot a respectable 35% from the floor, compared to 25% from their I-80 rivals. Evanston

## DEVILS from B1

the scoring with three [points, to go along with five assists and three steals. The Red Devils turned the ball over just nine times in the contest, and won the battle of the boards, 21-19.

### Red Devils 63, Green River 45

Playing once again to a packed house, the Red Devils welcomed in Green River Friday night for another 4A West Conference showdown. The teams played each other nearly even for the first eight minutes, with the Wolves holding a slight edge at 14-13 heading into the second quarter. The Red Devils created a

bit of separation as the game neared its halfway point, with the home team taking a 29-24 lead into the break.

The third quarter was all Red Devils, as Evanston dropped 19 points on the Wolves, extending their lead to 48-33 heading into the final frame. Green River kept it close in the fourth but was unable to cut into the lead, and the Red Devils coasted to a 63-45 win.

The Red Devils shot a respectable 53.1% from the floor, compared to 36.8% from their I-80 rivals. Evanston hit on just 3-of-16 from behind the arc for a 18.8% clip, though they sank 72.7% of their free throws on the night (8/11).

The Red Devils won the

battle of the boards 25-20, and scored 22 transition points, to just three for Green River. Once again, Evanston did a nice job taking care of the ball, turning it over just seven times, to 18 for the Wolves.

Jordan Mendez once again led the charge for the Red Devils, netting 19 points, to go along with four steals and four assists. Clayton Cook followed with 18 points, eight rebounds and four assists, while Ryker Lind flirted with a double-double, finishing with 10 points, and grabbing nine boards.

Brooks Searle and Ryker Pace finished with six points apiece, while Jay Hill and Brenner Lym closed out the scoring with two points each.

### Lady Devils 41, Green River 37

The Lady Devils continued conference play Friday, welcoming in Green River, currently ranked No. 5 in 4A in the latest WyoPreps poll.

Green River may have been without Isabel Vasco's 15.2 points per game, but the rest of the Lady Wolves have actually played a game or two here and there themselves, so the home team was in for a battle.

After the first quarter

hit on 5-of-11 from behind the arc for a 45.5% clip, and sank half of their free throws on the night (4/8).

The Lady Devils easily won the battle of the boards 35-19, though with 26 turnovers, taking care of the ball continues to be a concern.

Madison Brown Paced the Lady Devils with 10 points — including three 3-pointers — followed by Cassie Barker with eight points, to go along with six rebounds and two steals. Emma Lonsway finished with seven points, Kiernynn Simmons chipped in six points and annalee West added five points. Emme Fessler and Violet Cook closed out the scoring with three points and two points, respectively; Cook dished off a team-high four assists, and led the team in steals with four.



Lady Devil Cassie Barker scores two of her six points during Evanston's 41-37 win over Green River Friday. The Lady Devils beat Rock Springs the night before, giving Evanston the sweep of the I-80 rivals. (HERALD PHOTO/Don Cogger)



Lady Devils head coach Roy Barker directs traffic during Evanston's 41-37 upset win over Green River Friday at Red Devils Gymnasium. The Lady Devils beat Rock Springs the night before, 41-25. (HERALD PHOTO/Don Cogger)

ended in an 8-8 draw, the Lady Devils created a bit of separation in the second, taking a 20-17 lead into the break. Green River grabbed the upper hand at the start of the second half, outscoring the Lady Devils 12-8 to take a 29-28 lead into the final frame.

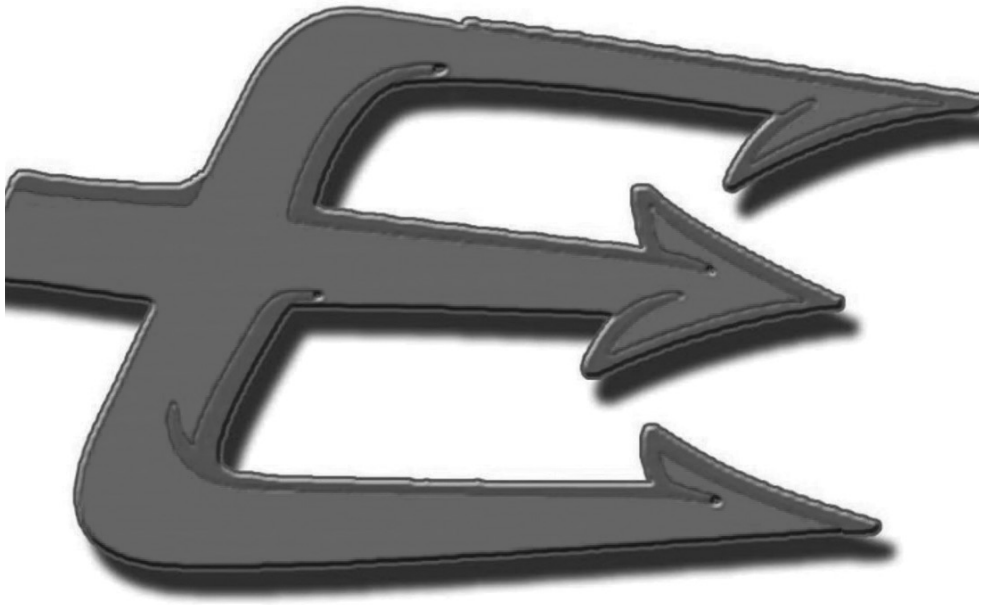
Evanston picked up the pace over the final eight minutes, holding the Lady

Wolves to eight points, while hitting a couple of big threes en route to a 13-point quarter and the upset win, 41-37.

Green River held the edge in shooting percentage, 34.3% to 26.9%, though the Lady Devils did a better job at limiting their turnovers, with just 15, compared to 27 for the Lady Wolves.

Emme Fessler led the charge with 13 points, in-

cluding a pair of 3-pointers — one at the end of the game that sealed the win. Kiernynn Simmons finished with 11 points, and just missed a double-double, grabbing nine boards. Violet Cook added seven points — to go along with a team-high three assists and five steals — while Cassie Barker chipped in six points. Emma Lonsway rounded out the scoring with four points.



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# 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

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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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**REAL ESTATE** *Connection*

**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](http://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**



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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:  
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## 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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**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS**- Living Proof Group of Evanston. Monday & Friday - 7:00 PM 10<sup>th</sup> & Center, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday 7:00 PM 10<sup>th</sup> & Sage. All meetings are Open. Phone 307-789-3208 for questions or information. TFN

**REFUSE TO USE GROUP OF NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS** in Evanston. All meetings start at 7:00 PM: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 50 Yellow Creek Rd., Saturday and Sunday at 736 Center St. All meetings are open. Please join us, we do recover!! www.rtuofna.org Jan 3-TFN

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### 185 Services & Repairs

**STROKE AND CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE** are leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association. Screenings can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for just \$149. Call 1-844-735-3471. wc

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## SUDOKU

	9	4	8					
3	5	7		6				
2			4			7		1
	3		1	8		4	2	
		9						
	6		3	2			7	
5		3	9				8	4
				2	3		6	5
								9

Level: Beginner

### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

#### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

1	9	4	8	3	7	5	2	6
3	5	7	2	6	1	4	9	8
2	8	6	4	5	9	7	3	1
7	3	5	1	9	8	6	4	2
4	2	9	6	7	5	8	1	3
8	6	1	3	4	2	9	5	7
5	7	3	9	1	6	2	8	4
9	4	8	7	2	3	1	6	5
6	1	2	5	8	4	3	7	9

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banning families with children and/or handicapped persons, or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertisement for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all real estate advertised in this newspaper is available on an Equal Opportunity Basis.

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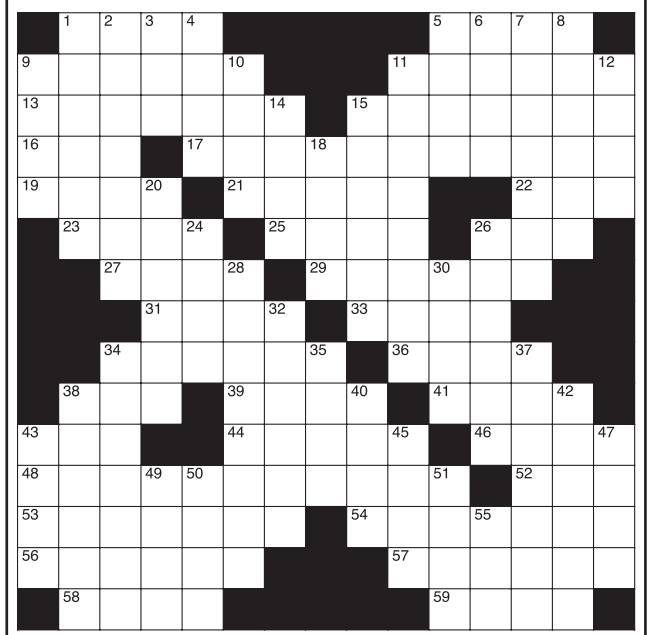
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### CLUES ACROSS

- "Loser" rocker
- Partner to relaxation
- Mixing
- Winged nut
- Expression of blame
- Vast ocean
- Comedienne Gasteyer
- Multiply
- Meat from a pig (French)
- Related
- Rocker Stewart
- Surprise completely
- Loon
- Canister
- Large, deep-bodied fish
- Takes forcefully
- Oil cartel
- Palmer and Hepburn are two
- More than one
- Places down purposefully
- Pitching statistic
- Type of sword
- Witnesses
- Body part
- Mixes slowly
- Satisfy
- Strong belief
- One's physique (slang)
- More frightening
- Soup cracker
- Teaches
- One who carries something
- Actor Sean
- Changes

### CLUES DOWN

- \_\_\_ Aires, city
- Coarse grass
- Type of genre
- Door handle
- Competition
- Muslim ruler title
- Hunting expeditions
- Large mollusk
- Build securely
- Former U.S. presidential candidate
- 2-point plays in football
- Breezed through
- Type setting
- Felt for
- Codified rules
- Small dome
- Chevroletian
- Male reproductive gland
- Controversial beliefs
- Z Z Z
- One who confines another
- Bishop
- Garlands
- Bird that flies by the coast
- Optical device
- Greek goddess of discord
- Some are "Rolling"
- Formerly (archaic)
- Thrust a knife into
- German river
- Atomic #26
- Make a grotesque face
- Primordial matter of the universe
- Chinese philosophical principle

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# News

Evanston, Uinta County, southwest Wyoming and Rich County, Utah, news. Send your news tips and information to editor@uintacountyherald.com, send us a tweet at @UintaCoHerald or message us at www.facebook.com/UintaCountyHerald.

## Building community and healthy bodies and minds through exercise

By Kayne Pyatt  
Herald Reporter

EVANSTON — “CrossFit training helps a person to become a stronger version of themselves,” Farjana Abdul told the *Herald* in a recent interview. Abdul is the owner and operator

of Intentional Fitness, a gym where Abdul says she wanted to create a safe place for people in a fitness community.

CrossFit training is a strength and conditioning workout that is made up of functional movement performed at a high inten-

sity level. Movements are actions one performs in daily life like squatting, pulling, pushing and more. It is safe for all ages when working with a CrossFit coach. It is functional and applies to everyday life. The goals of CrossFit are sustainable and achievable.

“CrossFit isn’t just fitness. It is a movement,” Abdul said. “It is an opportunity to connect your mind and body to work together as a team. It helps you develop in more ways beyond just physical strength. It’s one hour where you can take back time for yourself, with the right coaches by your side. You can heal, get stronger and become a better version of yourself. You can persevere. But the most beautiful part is you don’t have to do it alone. You get to be a part of a community, right here in Evanston with Intentional Fitness.”

Abdul was born in Bangladesh in South Asia. When she was a young child, her family moved to New York City. She attended school there and went on to study early childhood education at Brooklyn College in New York.

In 2015, she took a break from college studies and moved to Los Angeles. After moving away from her parents, Abdul said she began to suffer trauma from childhood abuse she had endured from her father. She found



Farjana Abdul stands at the gym she owns and operates called Intentional Fitness. It’s located at 251 Bear River Dr., Suite B, in Evanston. (HERALD PHOTO/Kayne Pyatt)

and her husband, Theodore Gross, moved to Evanston in 2020 because they wanted to live in a small town. They officially opened Intentional Fitness in January of 2022.

Along with Abdul, there are four other certified coaches and an administrator as part of the team at Intentional Fitness. Coaches include: Gross, Shad Anderson, Tyrie Day and Tanya Bower. All of the coaches are certified in CrossFit. Abdul and Anderson have globally-recognized certifications in precision nutrition level 1 and are both certified in CrossFit Kids.

Abdul said CrossFit is the only sport that brings all the different mediums together: gymnastics, powerlifting, strength training, endurance training, and community building. They also provide community activities such as hiking or a day of exercising on the beach beside a lake.

Intentional Fitness offers a class for people over 55 years called the Legends class, where the training is modified for the individual. They meet three times per week for one hour each day. The gym offers five regular adult classes daily and a partners’ workout on Saturdays at 8 a.m.

“I believe this community deserves a space for world class coaching. What you get at Intentional Fitness is a coach who monitors you, a sense of community and friendship, increased mental health and a nutrition coach. The training only takes an hour out of your day and it makes you strong enough to do all your other activities,” Abdul said.

“I love showing people what they can do and what they can eat for a healthy life, both mentally and physically,” she continued. “It’s all about balance and strengthening to become a stronger version of yourself.”



Local seniors work out during the Legends class for those 55 and older at Intentional Fitness in Evanston. (COURTESY PHOTO)

CrossFit training, started therapy and her life began to take a new direction, she said.

“Through CrossFit training, I began to heal mentally and to find my strength,” Abdul said. “More than half the fitness journey is mental health. Everything you want is on the other side of fear. I decided I wanted to become

a CrossFit coach in order to help others. People told me I couldn’t do it as it was a male-dominated field but I did it.”

Abdul became a USA Weightlifting level 2 coach; a CrossFit level 2 coach; a trauma-informed coach and is certified to work with children and people over 55 years of age. She

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Daddy/Daughter Dance

EVANSTON HIGH SCHOOL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

\$25 PER COUPLE, \$5 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL CHILD

\$5 DISCOUNTED TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE IF PURCHASED IN ADVANCE FROM A CLASSICS DANCE TEAM MEMBER.

COME DRESSED AS YOUR FAVORITE PRINCESS AND DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES WITH OUR FAVORITE PRINCESSES WILL BE AVAILABLE.

CALL COACH SPIVEY WITH ANY QUESTIONS, 801-592-4810