



Rock Springs

Around the Valley

MOUNTAIN VIEW STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



February's Students of the Month at Mountain View High School include (front row) freshman Madasyn Thurston, senior Clara Romig and sophomore Hannah Nielson; (back) junior Eliza Roitz, junior Aiden Harmon, senior Nash Piekkola and sophomore Kit Tait; (not pictured) freshman Easton Okarma and senior Tharon Brown (COURTESY PHOTO)



Mountain View High School's March Students of the Month include (front row) junior Reagan Eardley, sophomore Abbi Goodman and freshman Hazely Sidwell; (back) freshman Brennan Clark, senior Connor Haapala and junior Jaxson Hadley; (not pictured) senior Charleigh Windley and sophomore Jonah Zadra. (COURTESY PHOTO)

NEWS NOTES

Mountain View Library

The Mountain View Library hosts Story Time at 11 a.m. each Wednesday. On Wednesday, April 2 it will be all about bears! We will read “It’s the Bear” and “Where’s my Teddy?” After that, we are going to make a tear bear craft.
Why didn’t the teddy bear have his homework?
He fur-got to do it.

On Wednesday, April 9 — a hip, hop, a hippity hop — we will learn about frogs! We are going to read “I don’t want to be a frog,” and then we will make a plastic terrarium for our new “pet” frogs!
What did the frog say about his favorite book?
Reddit, reddit, reddit.



Well Water Testing Day

The Uinta County Conservation Districts Annual Well Water Testing Day is April 28. In order to participate, you must pre-register by April 16. Contact the Uinta County Conservation District at 307-288-0214 or visit their website at www.uintacountycd.com to pre-register and get more details about test options and how to take and return your water sample.

News Notes info

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venmo

LIS Honor Roll Q3

4.0

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3.5-3.9

Jackson Hill, Peyton Moore, Riggins Osborne, Logan Anderson, Ava Ayres, Colin Habel, Emily Maxfield, Charlie Mair, Layni Ellis, Kambria Hemker, Alexander Santiago, Clarke Bentley, Koen Brinkerhoff, Caitlyn George, Raylee Richardson, Briley Wright, Cecelia Borgman, Mesa Branham, McKenna Hood, Reagan Turner, Hadlee Henderson, Amberlin Roundy, Evan Roundy, Robertlee Smaltz, Cayson Newby, Jetta Peacock, Elexis Gunter, Jeff Spann, Kensley Anderson, Grayson Staley, Brian Bradshaw, Raquel Kemp, Gunner Hale, Wyatt Hale, Talon Odenwalder, Brion Santiago, Destiny Cole, Cinch Nixon, Claire Redmon, Elizabeth Heaton, Boji Rollins, Elexa George, Bayla Brinkerhoff, River Heaton, Kassidy Redden, Dalton Rose, Oaklyn Hull, Lillian Johnson, Teigun Hadden, Alexis Smith, Cayleigh Condos, Kinsley Bright, Brevin Crane, Caiden Newby, Lucas Willie, Kia Boyles, Chance Heintz, Cody Bluemel, Abigail Hooten, Madysen Bradshaw, Kayzen Gilmore, Todd Moray, Morty Revelli, Miles Gilbertson, Kyle Lott, Bryndee Bennion, Aizlee Gilmore, Kanyon Knox, Kaysee Young, Shelbee Hood, Ian Redmon, Seth Crane, Owen Ramirez, Taylee Shelton, Dean Clark, Sophia Littlejohn, Mya Whiting, Lakely Douglass, Blaize Maxfield, Hazley Moore, Addison Aguilar, Elizabeth France, Declan Fausett, Mila Morrison, Cater Tye, Roxy Bluemel, Kaizly Loflin, Joe Lott, Whitley McBroon, Bristol Johnson, Hunter Kertz, Lainie Benboe, Stella Schiess, Ainslee Luther, Dax Cooley, Kaslee Hill, Prazlyn Holloway, Brilee Jex, Cayson McCreath, Wyatt Rosendahl, Maddie Hatch, Paisley Madsen, Marly Revelli, Clara Livingston, Annabelle Robertson, Teancum Livingston, Brek Grey, Whitley Bradshaw, Wesson Reichenberg, Jack Redmon, Klohie Reynolds, Beaudee Berg, Know Keyes, Netallia Balser, Tragen Bradshaw, Kade Bryant, Levi Bluemel, Jace Shelton, Mathew Heintz, Madelynn Redden, Kaden Brewer, Madilyn Taylor-Hofeldt, Caidence George, Zander Heaton, Brighton Johnson, Karen Eyre, Raegan Gossett, Aubrey Maxfield, Addison Swensen and Korver Smith.

Story idea?

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Opinions

Drowning in decisions

By Tom Purcell

Here's something that can make us miserable if we let it: too many decisions!



Social scientist Barry Schwartz says Americans are becoming less happy because we're allowing ourselves to be overwhelmed by too many choices. His groundbreaking idea, originally published in his 2004 book *The Paradox of Choice*, has been echoed by recent studies.

Researchers from the University of Pennsylvania recently found that while having some choices is beneficial, excessive options often lead to decision paralysis and reduced satisfaction.

No sooner do we wake in the morning than we have to choose among hundreds of breakfast cereals, drinks and coffees. There are more than 40 kinds of toothpaste to choose from, hundreds of shampoos and, for the self-care-obsessed, hundreds of other ointments, salves and moisturizers.

Throughout the day, we're pestered by telemarketers, pop-up ads and random texts that promise us we'll be fit, smart and stylish if we buy the products they are pushing — and fat, dumb and dorky if we don't.

Schwartz gives an example of a visit to a Gap clothing store to buy a pair of jeans. In the old days, the average fellow had only to choose between Wrangler or Levi's, but not anymore. The Gap now offers slim fit, easy fit, relaxed fit, baggy, stonewashed, acid-washed, distressed, button fly, zipper fly, faded or regular.

Gone are the days of the cardboard-thick Sears Toughskins I was forced to wear as a boy.

But decisions over material things are just the beginning of our confusion. We've allowed ourselves to become as equally overwhelmed by the careers we choose, our jobs, our spouses... or even if we should marry at all.

From the Greatest Generation to now, the percentage of people of marrying age who got married dropped from 81 percent to just 44 percent, reflecting a dramatic decline in marriage rates over the decades.

And many young people who still hope to find a life partner aren't just looking for a spouse or a companion, but a soulmate — that perfect person who is going to fill their hearts with joy every moment of every day.

The peculiar thing about the American mind — and I'm more guilty than anyone — is that we equate freedom with unlimited choice, when it is the opposite that is actually true. It is by limiting our choices that we are set free.

G.K. Chesterton said that marriage brings a man happiness because it gives him clarity and focus. By focusing his energies and affections on one woman, he is able to know the inner beauty and closeness of one woman.

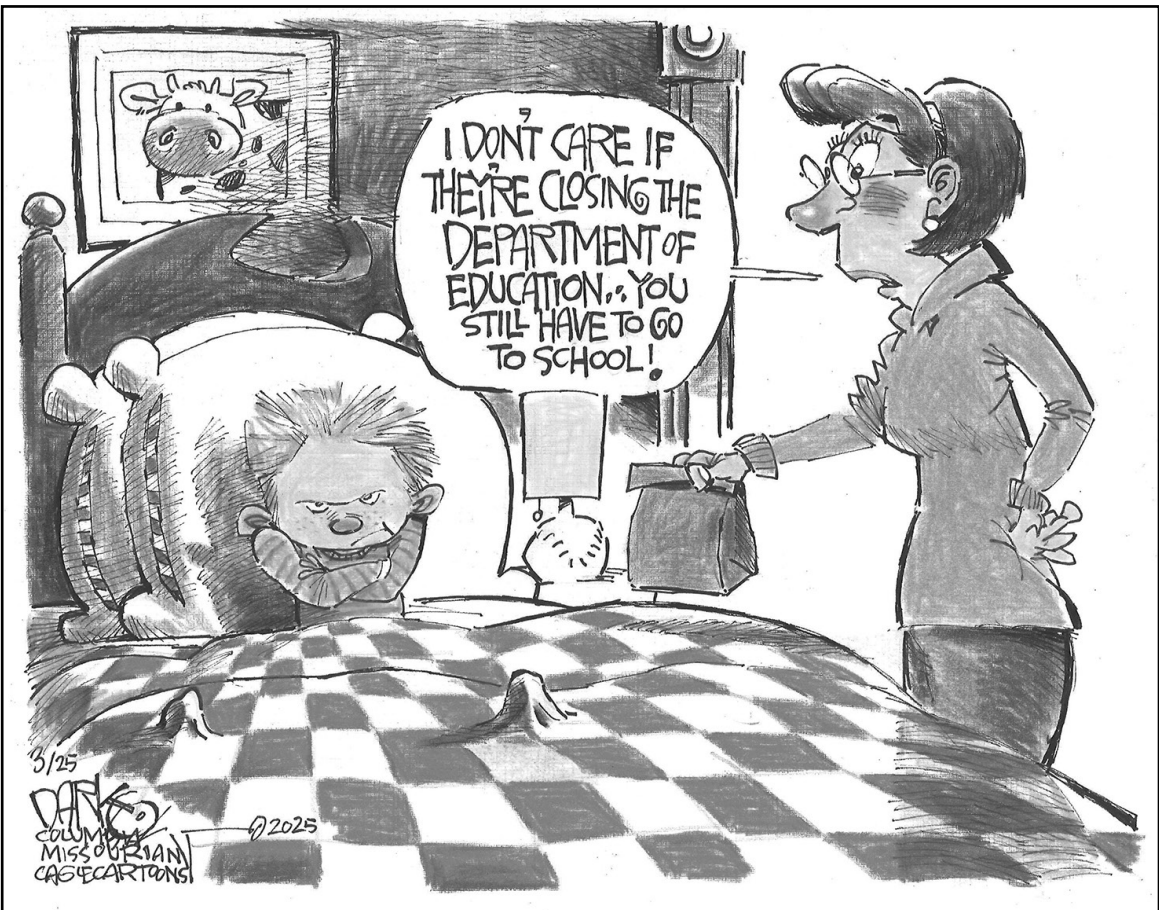
Could you imagine being an artist, he said, who was trying to paint a canvas as large as the moon? Where do you start painting? No, it is the frame that liberates the artist. By being boxed into a small rectangular area, he is given a point of reference and perspective. It is the frame that sets the artist free.

Chesterton argues that true freedom comes not from limitless choices but from making a committed choice and sticking to it. Marriage, in his view, is an example of how committing to one person for life creates genuine freedom within boundaries.

That makes perfect sense to me. I'm going to mull this important concept over as soon as I'm done choosing among 47 streaming services, 63 flavors of coffee and 27 types of hamburger patties — some of which have no meat!

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

What do you think?
Send us a letter to the editor and let us know!
bglathar@bridgervalleypioneer.com



The tragedy of late-stage TDS

My Michael Reagan

They're for cutting waste and fraud in government — until you cut waste and fraud.

They're for stopping the war in Ukraine — until you try to stop the war.

They're for a strong border — until you close the border they left open.

Who are they?

The professional Trump Haters, of course.

The people who blindly hate Donald Trump for a living — Democrats and what's left of the liberal media — have truly lost it.

It used to be a joke that "If Trump cured cancer, Democrats would defend cancer." But that joke has basically come true.

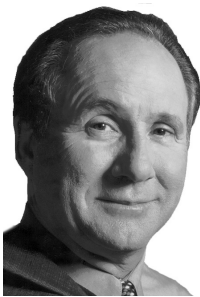
Whether it's allowing biological men in women's locker rooms, supporting sex-change surgery for 12-year-olds or outlawing plastic straws, Democrats have staked out a bunch of politically suicidal positions on so-called "80-20" issues that 80 percent of Americans oppose.

Democrats are not just doubling down on the dumb progressive stuff that cost them the White House and the Senate. They're also taking turns saying really stupid things about Elon Musk and Tesla.

Democrats used to be in love with Musk when he was one of them. But then he, his brain and his billions defected to the Trump camp.

Worse than that, he volunteered to help Trump carry out his mission to cut waste, fraud and abuse from the bloated federal government.

When Bill Clinton and Barack



Obama touted their plans to do that, as we've seen in old video clips on X, it was treated as a worthy and important political goal.

But when Trump and Musk are doing the same thing today, admittedly with great glee and at greater speed, it's being portrayed by Democrats and the Trump Haters in liberal media as a crime against innocent bureaucrats.

It's the haters who won't stand up and condemn the terror tactics that have left Teslas burning in dealers' lots or shame the creeps who are keying Teslas or "doxing" Tesla owners online.

I didn't vote for Obama or Joe Biden, but I didn't hate them. I hated their policies.

With Trump haters, it's the reverse. They hate him so vehemently and irrationally that they automatically hate his policies too, even if they are similar to what theirs used to be.

Modern Democrats, not the old Jim Crow kind, used to be known for things like free speech, law and order, strong borders, world peace and minding our own business overseas.

But all that flipped years ago when Trump came along. Democrats and the liberal media became deranged. Now they're in the late stages of Trump Derangement Syndrome.

They're starting to say really stupid stuff that only makes them look more politically out of touch with voters, if that's still possible.

For example, failed VP candidate Tim Walz told Gavin Newsom that he gets a little "boost" every time he sees Tesla's stock go down.

The Minnesota governor, like other Trump Haters who cheer Tesla's falling stock price, either doesn't know or care that when that happens people's pension plans get hurt. So do the 401(k)s of ordinary folks.

On CNN, investor Kevin O'Leary called Walz "beyond stupid" for his joke. He said Minnesota currently holds 1.6 million shares of Tesla worth \$350 million in its retirement fund.

"What's the matter with that guy?" O'Leary asked. "He doesn't check the well-being of his own constituents. What a bozo."

But let's be fair with Walz. He may or may not be a bozo. Voters decided that for themselves last fall.

But Walz, Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly and a chorus of other elected Democrats have been using a lot of vulgar language lately in their scripted anti-Trump tirades.

It may look like just the latest foolish tactic designed by their party to show the public just how deeply upset Democrats are at what terrible things Trump, Musk and the DOGE gang are doing to the USA.

But as any good shrink could tell you, shouting and spewing dirty words is just another sad symptom of late-stage TDS.

Michael Reagan, the son of President Ronald Reagan, is an author, speaker and president of the Reagan Legacy Foundation. Send comments to reagan@caglecartoons.com and follow @reaganworld on Twitter.

A grassroots speedbump slows the Wyoming Freedom Caucus

If the far-right group has the wide support it says it does, then why aren't its supporters winning local GOP elections, columnist Rod Miller asks.

By Rod Miller
WyoFile.com

Republicans all around the Big Empty met recently to elect officers for their county organizations. Except in Park County, where the Park County Republican Men's Full Gospel Gun & Glee Club couldn't get their act together enough to conduct an election, but more on that later.

Elsewhere in the Cowboy State, the Wyoming Freedom Caucus encountered significant push-back from the grassroots folks that they thought were firmly in their

camp. The Freedom Caucus, which self-identified as a political juggernaut fueled by grassroots support, seems to have high-centered on a speedbump composed of those same grassroots.

Let's take a quick peek at the Freedom Caucus phenomenon. Beginning 10 or so years ago, and emulating the D.C. House Freedom Caucus, newcomers began emigrating to Wyoming to change the political culture of our state, sorta like crisis actors busing in for a big demonstration. In their carpetbags, they brought a brittle brand of populism, along with a

political playbook written inside the Beltway.

Styling themselves as "true conservatives," and donning ill-fitting cowboy hats that look like they were bought under the stands at Frontier Days, they wormed their way into local GOP politics. They sold enough snake oil, and created enough division to win control of the Wyoming House last year.

It must be mentioned that, to call oneself an official Freedom Caucus member, and to learn the secret handshake and get the decoder ring, one must be an elected member of the House. But the Freedom Caucus has camp followers in every corner of the state, and there are Freedom Caucus "sleeping cells" of like-minded acolytes just waiting for a text from D.C. to activate themselves.

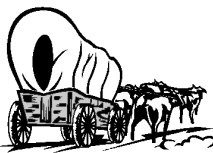
It was one of these sleeping cell slates of Freedom Caucus candidates who lost the election for county party leadership in Laramie County. And they had their asses handed to them by a slate of "traditional" Republican candidates that included former legislator Lorraine Quarberg and Bob Budd, scion of an old-school Wyoming Republican family.

Immediately after this embarrassing Freedom Caucus loss,



See **MILLER**, page A4

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News

THEFT

continued from page A1

him about five years prior.

The deputy, who testified that he could smell fresh paint on the skid steer, asked about the fresh black paint on the cab, and Titmus said it was in the same condition as when he received it from his uncle.

"I then observed a can of black ColorPlace spray paint sitting on the floor of the skid steer," the deputy said. "I asked Mathew about the paint can. Mathew advised that he had just painted the bed of his truck."

Telling Titmus that he wanted to rule out the possibility of the skid steer being stolen, the two searched for a serial number.

"Upon inspection it was found that the serial number plate had been taken off," the affidavit states. "It appeared as if it had recently been removed as the impression of the plate was still very visible and outlined in dirt."

The deputy noted that most of the inside of the cab was still the original orange color with some black paint overspray and spots of fresh black paint, "however not completely, and the original orange color could still be seen underneath."

Some of the rims on the skid steer had been painted black, the ones on the right left in original orange. Part of the rear engine cover door was painted black, some still orange.

"It was blatantly obvious that the skid steer had been haphazardly spray painted black in an effort to conceal its origin," the deputy said.

The deputy sent photos to the Evanston resident who reported a stolen skid steer, who said it "without a doubt" belonged to him. The victim also accurately described an after market "Tara Systems" hydraulic scale, which was specific to his skid steer.

With probable cause to have it seized, the deputy had the skid steer towed to the Mountain View substation cold storage shed.

The value of the skid steer was determined to be \$14,000, and the victim said it had been damaged since it was stolen. Some damage was caused to the ignition because it had been hot wired, there was a hydraulic fluid leak and possible damage to the pump system.

Titmus is scheduled to be sentenced on June 12.

NUTRITION

continued from page A1

distribute that "basket of goods" to Wyoming schools.

It made more sense for the recalibration group to consider childhood nutrition to avoid redundancies, said Joint Education Committee Co-chair Sen. Wendy Schuler, R-Evanston, who also sits on the Recalibration Committee.

Time is of the essence, said Gordon, who has put a major emphasis on fighting food insecurity with her Wyoming Hunger Initiative. More than 35,000 children statewide are on free or reduced lunches, she said, and there's another 5,000 without access to the National School Lunch Program because their schools don't offer it.

"Please don't let it go away," she told the Education Committee at the meeting. "Summer is coming."

Support and skepticism

The Biden administration launched the USDA Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer program, commonly known as SUN Bucks, in 2024.

The program, which aims at supplementing food needs during the months when kids don't have access to school lunches, furnishes income-qualified families with a debit card loaded with \$120 per student — or \$40 per month. It can purchase fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy products, breads, cereals, snack foods and non-alcoholic drinks.

Though federal money pays for the program, participating states are tasked with costs and duties associated with administering it.

Summer electronic benefit transfers reduce child hunger and improve diet quality, according to evaluations of a multi-year demonstration project cited by the USDA. The project decreased the number of kids with very low food security by about one-third and supported healthier diets, USDA said.

Nationally, 37 states have signed on to SUN Bucks, including Montana, Utah, Colorado and Nebraska. Wyoming leaders, however, have been skeptical.

The first time Wyoming declined, Degenfelder blasted it as a welfare program mis-marketed as assistance for kids.

"I will not let the Biden administration weaponize summer school lunch programs to justify a new welfare program," Degen-



Fremont County School District #1 teacher Julie Calhoun and paraprofessional Stephanie Harris hand out bagged free lunches in front of Gannett Peak Elementary School in Lander on March 2020. The district prepared 600 meals a day for kids under the age of 18 during the COVID-19 closure. (WYOFILE/Katie Klingsporn)

felder told WyoFile. "Thanks, but no thanks. We will continue to combat childhood hunger the Wyoming way."

The second time, in February, lawmakers defeated House Bill 341, "Summer nutrition assistance for children," which would have opted Wyoming into the program. Concerns included welfare fraud as well as the types of foods eligible families can buy; they include sugary sodas and highly processed snacks.

The bill would bring \$3.8 million of federal benefit directly to local communities, Department of Family Services Director Korin Schmidt testified. It died in a 25-34 vote.

Renewed effort

In the wake of House Bill 341's defeat, advocates and lawmakers hoped to bring the issue back to the table.

About 42% of Wyoming's students are enrolled in free or reduced meals, a fact that Gordon said demonstrates a significant need. Hunger also has major implications for education.

"Like every mother and grandmother in Wyoming, I know what a hungry child is like," Gordon told the Joint Education Committee. "They can't think, and they certainly can't learn."

So what programs currently

exist for hungry kids? Along with participating in the National School Lunch Program, Wyoming also participates in the federally assisted Summer Food Service program.

The summer program feeds kids by opening sites — hosted by sponsors like schools or camps — where children can get a meal. Meal sites are located in areas where the local school or census block has greater than 50% eligibility for free and reduced lunches. Wyoming had 92 sites in 2024, in cities like Cheyenne and Laramie to burgers like Hanna, Cowley and Ethete.

SUN Bucks advocates, however, say not all kids can access them — especially in rural areas.

Filling out the state's food assistance landscape are community food pantries, charities and backpack programs, which send students home with food to help feed them on weekends. The Food Bank of Wyoming alone supplies items to more than 160 partners across the state, for example.

But the network has shown precarity; mobile food pantries have recently shuttered or are scheduled to end in Rawlins, Guernsey, Marbleton, Moorcroft and Lusk, Gordon said. Pantries also have closed in Natrona and Converse counties in recent years.

"There are significant and con-

sequential gaps, especially when it comes to our kids," Gordon said.

Shame sandwich

When SUN Bucks started, Degenfelder said, she viewed it as a welfare program and opposed how the funding comes only on the debit-like cards rather than in the form of direct meals to students. SUN Bucks also required the state to pay half of the administrative costs.

"And so I stand by that decision to not look to implement that program," Degenfelder said. "But we also have an issue here."

She has heard too many concerning stories like this one: A child goes through the line for a hot lunch only to realize at checkout that his or her debt is too high. The child has to turn back that meal, which is thrown away, "and all of this unfolding in front of their peers," she said.

Gordon has similar tales. School districts have racked up debt to pay for some students that aren't getting enough food through existing programs, she said, and those debts are growing unsustainable.

"Some districts can only offer children an alternate meal, which is a sandwich and milk or sometimes the juice from fruit cocktail," Gordon said. "For those children, that's either the best or the only meal of their day, and they pay for it, because other kids call that 'the sandwich of shame.'"

Degenfelder's office has created a stakeholder cabinet to examine ways to improve or increase Wyoming's summer feeding sites. And there is more work to be done, she said.

"I think that this committee could be a great opportunity for us to come together to discuss these federal programs, state funding," and other aspects of the issue, Degenfelder said at the meeting. Ultimately, it was determined that the Recalibration Committee would take it up.

Lawmakers like Rep. Martha Lawley, R-Worland and Rep. McKay Erickson, R-Afton, were in support of keeping the discussion alive.

"It's an important topic," Lawley said. "I was sad to see the summer program not pass, to be honest with you, and I feel like we can't continue to ignore the issue, that these children should not suffer."

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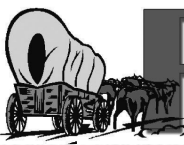
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faith

Rid yourself of guilt once and for all

Do you spend a lot of time feeling guilty? I did, as a result of being abused as a child. I grew up believing something was wrong with me and that everything was my fault. And when you develop that kind of thinking during your childhood, it can torment you for a long time.

Guilt traps us and keeps us in the same place; much like a treadmill that keeps us going but accomplishes nothing. Guilt is a trap that presses us down into our problems rather than lifting us out of them. And as long as we feel guilty about what we do wrong, we remain in that guilt and will not grow spiritually.

All of us make mistakes, and God knows that! No one can be perfect while in a fleshly body, but we can and must continue to grow spiritually regardless of where we are in our relationship with Christ. But in order to grow spiritually, we must first learn who we are in Christ.

By God’s grace and mercy, when we are born again, God not only forgives us, he gives us his righteousness because the Holy Spirit comes to live inside us. We each have right standing with God legally because of the blood of Christ, and even though we sometimes still do things wrong, the ability to do what’s right is also in us.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV) tells us, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

God doesn’t expect you to become something that he hasn’t already equipped you with. At the moment you are born again, God comes to live inside of your heart. The “seeds” of his character are downloaded into your spirit, and just like any seeds that are planted with the intent to reap a harvest later on, there must be a cultivation period that happens over a long period of time.

You have everything you need to be who God wants you to be, and since God lives inside of you, this means the fruit of his Spirit is also inside you. And after you are born again, you will grow in Christ as you pursue him daily.

2 Timothy 2:22 (NIV) tells us, “Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”



BY JOYCE MEYER

The operative word here is “pursue.” Pursue means to crave and go after something with all your mind and strength. Your relationship with God should not only be a Sunday morning thing. He is everything! In Him we live and move and have our being and without him we are nothing.

We rely on God’s grace to help us do what’s right every day. And if we try to do what God asks us to do without relying on him to help us, we won’t succeed because we need him to do everything we need to do.

Philippians 2:12-13 (NIV) says, “Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed — not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence — continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.”

We don’t work for our salvation to earn it, but we do work out our salvation. There’s a difference! For example, working out for fitness takes time, discipline and commitment. I have worked out three times a week for the last 10 years. When I started, I didn’t have visible muscles. But now I do, because I’m committed to maintaining my fitness. In much the same way, spiritual growth is a workout, with the results developing over a time because of commitment and discipline. And we lean on God to help us every step of the way.

So, keep moving forward, and don’t be hard on yourself! You are holy, righteous, anointed, and completely forgiven. You’re not where you need to be, but thank God you’re not where you used to be. You’re okay, and you’re on your way.

For more on this topic, order Joyce’s three-part teaching resource Say Goodbye to Guilt. You can also contact us to receive our free magazine, Enjoying Everyday Life, by calling (800) 727-9673 or visiting 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.

WEATHER

Wednesday: Cloudy skies. High near 40F. Winds W at 10 to 20 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly cloudy skies early, then partly cloudy after midnight. Low 22F. Winds WSW at 10 to 15 mph.

Thursday: Partly to mostly cloudy. High 43F. Winds W at 10 to 20 mph.

Thursday Night: Considerable cloudiness. Low 22F. Winds WSW at 10 to 15 mph.

Friday: Partly cloudy skies in the morning will give way to cloudy skies during the afternoon. High 44F. Winds WNW at 10 to 20 mph.

Friday Night: A few clouds from time to time. Low 24F. Winds W at 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday: Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 43F. Winds NNW at 15 to 25 mph.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy skies. Low 23F. ESE winds shifting to SSW at 10 to 20 mph.

Sunday: Partly cloudy skies. High 47F. Winds W at 10 to 20 mph.

Sunday Night: A few clouds from time to time. Low 29F. Winds WSW at 10 to 15 mph.

Monday: Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 56F. Winds W at 10 to 20 mph.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy. Low 32F. Winds WSW at 10 to 20 mph.

Tuesday: Partly cloudy. High 53F. Winds W at 15 to 25 mph.

Tuesday Night: A few clouds from time to time. Low 31F. Winds WSW at 10 to 20 mph.



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Making a difference, on the field and off

Allred spearheads Hits Against Hunger program in Green River

By Don Cogger
Pioneer Sports Editor

With her fourth and final high school softball season just getting underway, Mountain View High School senior Kodi Jean Allred — who plays catcher and shortstop for the Green River Lady Wolves — is looking to add to her impressive list of accomplishments and accolades with one final trip to the 4A State Softball Tournament in May.

While the Lady Wolves have struggled out of the gate (2-5, 0-2 in the 4A South), having dropped a pair of doubleheaders over the weekend to a couple of loaded teams out of Cheyenne — No. 1-ranked East and No. 5-ranked Central — there’s plenty of season left to get things headed in the right direction.

That said, Allred’s most important endeavor involving her team this season might just be something that’s happening off the field — a passion project she’s spearheading called Hits Against Hunger, a food drive benefiting the Green River Food Bank.

“I wanted to start this program, because I know families can fall on hard times and sometimes need a little help, especially lately since food has gotten so expensive,” Allred said. “I believe in a strong and giving community, because when people do fall on those hard times, community donations can be a place to turn. And most of all, because it hurts my heart to know there are children with hungry tummies.”

Allred’s goal is to donate at least 100 food items by the end of the season. At each Lady Wolves home game, a bin adorned with a Hits Against Hunger sign will be set up for donations, and Allred said it’s not just limited to food items.

“People can donate non-perishable food items or hygiene products,” she explained. “It would be wonderful for any donation to be accepted, so if someone wants to donate money or a Walmart gift card, they are more



MV senior and Green River Lady Wolves catcher Kodi Jean Allred confers with pitcher Haidyn Terry during Game 1 of Saturday’s doubleheader against Cheyenne Central. Allred is spearheading a program called Hits Against Hunger, a food drive benefiting the Green River Food Bank. (PIONEER PHOTO/Don Cogger)

than welcome to do so. For money or gift card donations, contact coaches or the Green River Wolves Softball Facebook page.”

The idea for Hits against Hunger is something Allred had been thinking about for a while, according to Green River head coach Mark Hyde.

“Kodi approached the coaching staff last year with this idea, and we all thought it was a great idea,” he said. “She is a great young lady. We did something different this year, and had players who wanted to be captains give speeches to the team. In her speech, she says she seeks first to serve, rather than be served. This is evident in her wanting to do the Hits Against Hunger food drive.”

A two-sport athlete during her high school career (she also played basketball for the Mountain View Lady Buffalos), Allred is a 3-time All-State and All-Conference selection for the Lady Wolves, and signed earlier this year to play D1 softball for the University of Montana Lady Grizzlies.

“When I start college this fall, I plan to ask my coaches and team if Hits Against Hunger is something Lady Griz Softball can do for Mis-

soula,” Allred said.

Hyde said Allred’s desire to find a way to help her new community next season doesn’t surprise him a bit, nor does he doubt her work ethic will be second to none on the UM roster.

“Kodi is one of the hardest working players I’ve coached,” he said. “She came to me at the beginning of this year and said, ‘I need to increase my speed — can we do more running power drills in practice?’ I’ve never had anyone ask me to run more in practice. That is the type of player she is. And on top of that, she cares about her team — from new freshmen to seniors she has been around forever, she treats them all with love and respect.”

Allred’s dad Scott said his daughter has always been the type of kid that put the needs of others before her own, calling her, “a ray of sunshine wherever she goes, for everyone she meets.”

“She has always been the first in to do the hardest work, and the last to leave and clean up,” he said. “We couldn’t possibly be more proud of her. Her heart is so big, It’s not at all surprising to us that she would want to spearhead a program that helps people she’s never met.”

Scott and his wife Kodi (known as Mom-



MV senior and Green River Lady Wolves baserunner Kodi Jean Allred prepares to make a move toward home plate as head coach Mark Hyde looks on during Saturday’s game against Cheyenne Central. Allred is spearheading a program called Hits Against Hunger, a food drive benefiting the Green River Food Bank. (PIONEER PHOTO/Don Cogger)



MV senior and Green River Lady Wolves hitter Kodi Jean Allred drives a base hit during the first game of Saturday’s doubleheader against Cheyenne Central. Allred is spearheading a program called Hits Against Hunger, a food drive benefiting the Green River Food Bank. (PIONEER PHOTO/Don Cogger)



Pokes defensive coordinator Aaron Bohl has a bevy of newcomers he’s tasked with getting on the same page with his returners as spring ball gets underway this week. (UW MEDIA-ATHLETICS)

Pokes’ Aaron Bohl’s spring refurbish

Wyoming defensive coordinator getting new faces, returners on same page

LARAMIE — Aaron Bohl feels like he is herding cats right now.

Wyoming’s second-year defensive coordinator is charged with getting a list of newcomers — two linebackers, four defensive linemen and five defensive backs have been added to the roster via the transfer portal — on the same page with the returning Pokes during spring practice.

Bohl and head coach Jay Sawvel are determined to get the defense to play at a high standard that slipped during last season’s 3-9 finish.

“My hair is going to be looking like my dad’s probably by the end of the spring,” Bohl, the son of former UW head coach Craig Bohl, quipped after Thursday’s practice in War Memorial Stadium. “It is stressful. It’s good though.”

UW only returns three starters from the defense that started the 15-14 victory at Washington State to close the 2024 campaign.

Defensive end Tyce Westland, nose tackles Ben Florentine and Dante Drake, defensive tackle Jayden Williams and cornerback Keany Parks were part of the unit that allowed only 44 points over the final 10 quarters last season.

“Looking back at last year, obviously there were a lot of struggles. I thought we kind of turned a corner over the last two and a half weeks and really got down to the nitty gritty of just attacking,” Bohl said. “That’s really what defense comes down to. All the fancy terms, the fancy blitzes and everything

See **BOHL**, page A8

Sports



Flanked by parents Scott and Kodi, MV senior and Green River Lady Wolves softball player Kodi Jean Allred signs her letter of intent to play softball for the University of Montana Lady Grizzlies earlier this year. (PIONEER PHOTO/Don Cogger)

ALLRED,
continued from page A7

Mountain View teammates) will have three kids playing D1 ball once Kodi Jean arrives in Missoula in the fall (oldest son Gus just made his debut for Northern Colorado last month, while middle son Hank will suit up for Alcorn State in the fall). All three of the Allred kids have been taught the importance of giving back, and have embraced that in their lives, both on and off the field. As for the success they’ve achieved, the elder Allred said that’s all on them. “All of the achievements and success our children have accomplished is the result of the hard work they have done themselves, with their own grit and determination,” Scott Allred said. “It’s all them. We are always so thankful that our kids turned out to be better human beings than we ever could have dreamed of being ourselves. I’ll take that as a win.”



MV senior and Green River Lady Wolves shortstop Kodi Jean Allred fires a throw to first during Saturday’s game against Cheyenne Central. Allred is spearheading a program called Hits Against Hunger, a food drive benefiting the Green River Food Bank. (PIONEER PHOTO/Don Cogger)

BOHL

continued from page A7

... it’s about tackling, getting off blocks, using your hands. “We’ve made a big emphasis on, I know this is going to sound cliché, but being a better football team. What I mean by that is the basics of football — by hitting people, by using your hands, by getting off blocks. Guys know the expectations; guys know the standards.” Injuries throughout the defensive line and at the safety spots exposed UW’s lack of depth early last season when the team was facing a daunting non-conference schedule that included eventual College Football Playoff participant Arizona State and 11-win BYU. Sawvel and the staff aggressively addressed the issues by signing defensive ends Esaia Bogar (Riverside City College), Dawan Martin (Youngstown State) and Brayden Wilson (Weber State), defensive tackle Aneesh Vyas (Bucknell) and safeties Desman Hearn (Southern Illinois), Justin Taylor (Wisconsin), Jaden DaCosta (Portland State) and Brooklyn Cheek (Cal). Two sizable linebacker transfers, 6-foot-3, 245-pound Brayden Johnson (Oklahoma Baptist) and 6-4, 241-pound Ethan Stuhlsatz (Lindenwood), were also brought in along with cornerback BJ Inmon (Snow College). Bohl said the position battles across the board remind him of 2022 when a young group that included Easton Gibbs, Shae Suiaunua, Wyatt Ekeler, Isaac White, DeVonne Harris and Jordan Bertagnole stepped into the spotlight. “That year we ended up having a pretty good team, but it was a bunch of new guys that didn’t know anything about anything,” Bohl said. “It’s fun seeing guys that are so green growing and just learning. They hang on to every word that you say and just keep learning and keep improving.” Bohl expects UW’s retooled defense to “be swimming” through the first six spring practices before getting up to speed and growing as a cohesive unit during the final three weeks of the spring. UW will put the pads on for the first time this spring for a 10:30 a.m. practice Saturday in the Indoor Practice Facility. The session will be open to the public.

Story idea?

News tip?

Call the
Bridger Valley Pioneer
news desk at:

(307) 789-6560

SUPER FAN!

MV

GO BUFFS!

What are your parents' names? Mark and Merinda Harmon

What do you like most about school? Playing Brawl Stars during class

What is one thing you would change about the world? Give everyone a pair of J's

Who inspires you the most? Saddam Hussein's ability to hide

What is your favorite food? The Spicy Chicken Doritos Locos Taco Gordita Crunch

Where would you most like to go on vacation? The Bahamas

If you could change your name, what would you call yourself? Epicdudebro99

Have you ever had a wardrobe malfunction in public? Yes

What would you buy if you won \$1,000? Save it for the next time I crash my car

If you were paid to do homework, would you do more homework? Yes

If the sky could rain ice cream, what flavor would you like it to rain? Butter Pecan

"I wish all of my friends, family and Instagram story likers a platonic kiss on the forehead."

Aiden Harmon

Aiden is a competitive athlete who always goes out and is a resident of always respectful, funny and is a little bit of a rebel.

Q&A with
Aiden Harmon
Grade 11

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Line classified ads appear in one issue of the Bridger Valley Pioneer newspaper and one week on our website, www.bridgervalleypioneer.com



Deadline for ad submission is **12:00 Noon on Thursday**, subject to change for holidays



Cost is **\$11.50** for up to 25 words, additional words are 50¢ each

Classifieds

Ads must be paid for at the time of placement. Please read your display or classified ad on the first day of publication. If there are mistakes, notify us immediately. We will make changes for errors and adjust your charges but only if we receive notice on the first day of publication. We limit our liability to you in this way and we do not accept liability of any other damages which may result from an error or omission in an ad. All ad copy must be approved by the newspaper, which reserves the right to request changes, reject or properly classify an ad. The advertiser, not the newspaper, is responsible for truthful content of an ad. Advertising is also subject to credit approval. This newspaper is not responsible or liable whatsoever for any claim made by an ad in this newspaper or for any of the services, products or opportunities offered by the content of any advertisers. We do not endorse, encourage or promote the purchase or sale of any products, services, companies or individuals that choose to advertise in this newspaper. We reserve the right to refuse any or all advertising we deem inappropriate or unacceptable by our company standards. In addition, this newspaper reserves the right to edit or locate any classified advertisement under whatever heading we decide will best conform with our classification regulations.

103	Announcements	173	Professional Service	221	Help Wanted	221	Help Wanted
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PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED ad in Wednesday's Pioneer and on our website! The deadline is 12:00 P.M. on THURSDAY. Ads cost \$12.50 for up to 25 words; additional words are 60¢ each. You must pay for your ad before it runs; we cannot bill you. PLEASE READ YOUR CLASSIFIED AD OR DISPLAY AD ON THE FIRST DAY OF PUBLICATION. If there are mistakes, notify us immediately. We will make changes for errors and/or adjust your bill, but only if we receive notice on the first day the ad is published. We limit our liability to you in this way and do not accept liability for any other damages that may result from an error or omission in an ad. The newspaper must approve all ad copy and reserve the right to request changes, reject, or properly classify an ad. The advertiser and not the newspaper are responsible for the truthful content of the ad. Advertising is also subject to credit approval. TFN

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

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FORT BRIDGER CEMETARY DISTRICT is looking for an additional caretaker who is a self-starter and is able to work without direct supervision. Must live in School District #4 (Mountain View School District Boundaries). Must be willing to learn how to operate a backhoe and or track-hoe for opening and closing graves and snow removal. Lawn mower & weed eater operation & maintenance, knowledge of maintenance on water pumps and sprinkler systems is a plus, other duties as needed. Part time position will have to work some weekends. Applications taken until April 30, 2025. Call for application or send resume to: Fort Bridger Cemetery District PO Box 276, Fort Bridger, WY 82933. 307-782-3174 April 2-16

WASHAKIE COUNTY IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for a Building Maintenance Manager to oversee maintenance, repairs of county buildings and grounds, supervises custodial staff and contractors, manages budgets and schedules, snow removal and lawn care. For a full job description and application visit www.washakiecounty.net Salary: \$50,000-\$60,000/year DOE.

359 Miscellaneous for Sale

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Legals

MEETING NOTICE

Uinta County School District #6 has scheduled their yearly Consolidated Grant Meeting for Tuesday, April 8th @ 4:00 at the District Office. They will be discussing how federal grants are spent and taking suggestions for future expenditures. **PUBLISHED: April 2, 2025** **25050**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Uinta County Commission is soliciting qualifications and experience information to be used in selecting a principal consultant to provide aviation engineering/consulting services for the Fort Bridger Airport. Services to be provided are included in the Request for Qualifications and Experience solicitation document. Interested firms should contact the following to obtain a copy:

- Mr. Jeff Breininger,
Uinta County Maintenance 225 9th Street
Evanston, WY. 82930
Phone (307) 783-0507 Cell (307) 799-5513
Jebreinger@uintacountywy.gov
- Submittals are due on **May 30th 2025, by 4:00 pm.**

PUBLISHED: April 2, 9, 16, 2025 **25052**

UINTA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6 PUBLICATION OF WARRANTS

Pursuant to Chapter 3, Section 21-3-110(A) of Wyoming Education Code, following are warrants over \$500.00 approved by Uinta County School District #6, Lyman, Wyoming, MARCH 2025, 1301, VALLEY COUNSELING & COACHING, 1211.25; 1298, "HORSLEY, STACI", 1300; 1295, AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, 1341.55; 1297, FIRST BANKCARD, 4479.95; 1299, "PINE COVE CONSULTING, LLC", 6866.24; 1300, SCHOOL DIST#6 GENERAL FUND, 48063.99; 9788, MOUNTAIN WEST BUSINESS SOLUTIONS, 515.42; 9758, BRIDGER VALLEY PIONEER, 554; 9793, "PINE COVE CONSULTING, LLC", 575; 9803, SCHOOL BOARD SUPPORT SERVICES, 595; 9807, SWANSONG BAND INSTRUMENT REPAIR, 600; 9821, WYOMING WILD MEATS, 604.36; 9799, READING TRUCK, 699; 9771, FLOYD'S TRUCK CENTER WY, 732.31; 9814, VALLEY ATHLETICS, 784.88; 9820, WYOMING WASTE SERVICE, 1018.89; 9754, BENEDICT TRADING COMPANY, 1036.41; 9755, BENEDICT'S ACE HARDWARE, 1333.24; 9786, MARLIN LEASING GROUP, 1413.88; 9784, LEWIS BUS GROUP, 1467.14; 8569, VISION SERVICE PLAN, 1541.7; 9802, RELADYNE LLC, 1546.12; 9785, LONG BUILDING TECHNOLOGIES, 1610; 9808, TOWN OF LYMAN, 2091.6; 9812, UNION TELEPHONE COMPANY, 2131.74; 9769, FIRST BANK OF MT. VIEW, 2405.46; 9794, PREMIER TRUCK GROUP, 3575.63; 9801, RED CASTLE PHYSICAL THERAPY LLC, 4100; 9796, RAMKOTA BEST WESTERN OF CASPER, 4728; 9772, FRANKLIN COVEY PRODUCTS, 5500; 9809, TRANSFINDER, 5650; 9813, VALCOM COMPUTER CENTER, 6329.11; 9752, AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, 7149.25; 9817, WEX BANK FLEET, 8462.62; 9810, TYLER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., 8770; 9778, HILLTOP NATIONAL BANK, 10450.91; 9787, MENLO, INC., 10706.45; 8568, DELTA DENTAL PLAN OF WYOMING, 13480.43; 9765, DOMINION ENERGY, 18827.09; 9770, FIRST BANKCARD, 19112.46; 9757, BRIDGER VALLEY ELECTRIC, 22599.53; 8570, WSBAT, 144899.54; 683, SCHOOL DIST#6 GENERAL FUND, 15116.41; 674, MEADOW GOLD DAIRIES SLC, 2151.43; 675, NICHOLAS & COMPANY, 18709.48; 676, SCHOOL DIST#6 GENERAL FUND, 28578.47; 1472, FIRST BANKCARD, 1331.14; 1467, FIRST BANKCARD, 3728.08; 1465, AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, 9923.66; I, JASON LAMBERTI, TREASURER, UINTA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT #6, LYMAN, WYOMING, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THE HEREBY TO BE CORRECT. /S/ JASON LAMBERTI, UCSD #6. **PUBLISHED: April 2, 2025** **25051**

INVITATION TO BID

Town of Lyman
100 East Sage
P.O. Box 300
Lyman, WY 82937

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of the Lyman Town Hall Reroof Project will be received by the Town of Lyman, Wyoming at the office of Town Hall until 4:00 p.m. local time April 17th, 2025 and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following locations:

Forsgren Associates, Inc. 849 Front Street, Suite 201 Evanston, WY 82930 Phone: (307) 789-6735	Town of Lyman 100 East Sage Lyman, WY 82937 Phone: (307) 787-6595
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The Project consists of the following work: Strip the existing roof, install new underlayment and then shingles. Install all proper flashing, gutters, downspouts and proper connection between areas.

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of FORSGREN ASSOCIATES, INC. at the location noted above, upon payment of \$ 50.00 for each hard set, non-refundable, Electronic downloadable copies are also available at no charge provided the contractor calls and registers on the plan holders list.

Each BIDDER will be required to submit, with his proposal, a certified check, or Bid Bond made payable without condition to the Town of Lyman in the amount of not less than five percent (5%) of the BIDDER's maximum Bid Price as guarantee that such BIDDER will enter into a contract within fifteen (15) days after the date of the OWNER's Notice of Award.

A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on the 8th day of April 2025 at 100 East Sage, Town of Lyman, WY Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend and participate.

Preference will be given to resident Wyoming Contractors in the amount of five percent (5%) of the low bid in accordance with Wyoming Statute 16-6-101, et. seq.

Town of Lyman reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part of any bid, to waive any formality in any bid, as its best interest may appear.

Contractors are encouraged to visit the site prior to submitting bids.

Jared Crane, Director of Public Works
PUBLISHED: March 26, April 2, 2025 **25049**

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT WITHIN AND FOR UINTA COUNTY, WYOMING

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF)
MARILYN ANITA SPILDE-LEE, ALSO)
KNOWN AS MARILYN SPILDE-LEE,)
DECEASED)
Case 2025-CV-0000022

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR DECREE OF DISTRIBUTION

TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN SAID ESTATE:

You are hereby notified that on the 11th day of March, 2025, Marin E. Ricketts and Justin Lee made application for a Decree of Distribution as provided for under Wyoming Statute §2-1-205 to distribute the ownership interest of Marilyn Anita Spilde-Lee, also known as Marilyn Spilde-Lee, deceased, in the real property and improvements situate at 305 1st Street, Urie, Uinta County, Wyoming, consisting of a vacant building lot with minimal, if any improvements thereon, and more particularly described as:

A TRACT OF LAND IN THE NW1/4SW1/4 OF SECTION 36, T16N, R115W OF THE 6TH P.M., UINTA COUNTY, WYOMING SAID TRACT BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 36, RUNNING THENCE N 0° 14' 11" E, 1,446.85 FEET ALONG THE WEST LINE THEREOF; THENCE S 89° 45' 49" E, 1,145.94 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, RUNNING THENCE N 0° 12' 49" E, 102.22 FEET TO A POINT ON THE BOUNDARY OF THE MOUNTAIN VIEW ESTATES SUBDIVISION NO. 4, SAID POINT BEING AN EXISTING MONUMENT INSCRIBED "LS 431"; THENCE THE FOLLOWING TWO (2) COURSES ALONG SAID BOUNDARY: THENCE N 0° 10' 38" E, 27.78 FEET TO AN EXISTING MONUMENT INSCRIBED "LS 579"; THENCE S 89° 55' 19" E, 186.96 FEET TO THE EAST LINE OF SAID NW1/4SW1/4; THENCE S 0° 13' 51" W, 130.00 FEET ALONG SAID EAST LINE; THENCE N 89° 55' 19" W, 186.90 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; SUBJECT TO EASEMENTS, DELCARATIONS OF COVENANTS AND RESTRICTION AND RIGHTS OF WAY OF RECORD;

TOGETHER WITH ALL IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, AND EASEMENTS, APPURTENANCES AND INCIDENTS BELONGING OR APPERTAINING THERETO, OR USED IN CONNECTION THEREWITH; SUBJECT, HOWEVER, TO ALL MINING, MINERAL AND OTHER EXCEPTIONS, RESERVATIONS, CONDEMENTS, EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY OF RECORD.

Any objection to said distribution must be on or before the last date of publication. If no objections are received, this Court shall consider this application and enter a Decree after the last date of publication as set forth below.

DATED this 12th day of March, 2025.

Steve Palmer, WSB 5-2972
Palmer Law Office, P.C.
P.O. Box 589
Lander, WY 82520
(307) 350-0736

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News

Simpson’s integrity, humor and humility honored at celebration of life

By Noah Zahn
Wyoming Tribune Eagle
Via Wyoming News Exchange

CHEYENNE — Honoring the life of his younger brother, 94-year-old Pete Simpson stood from his wheelchair to deliver a speech as the hundreds in attendance stood and applauded in support.

“(Al Simpson) always said, ‘I hate when people stand up. So many escape,’” Pete Simpson said as the crowd chuckled, a nod to his brother’s famous use of humor to connect with an audience.

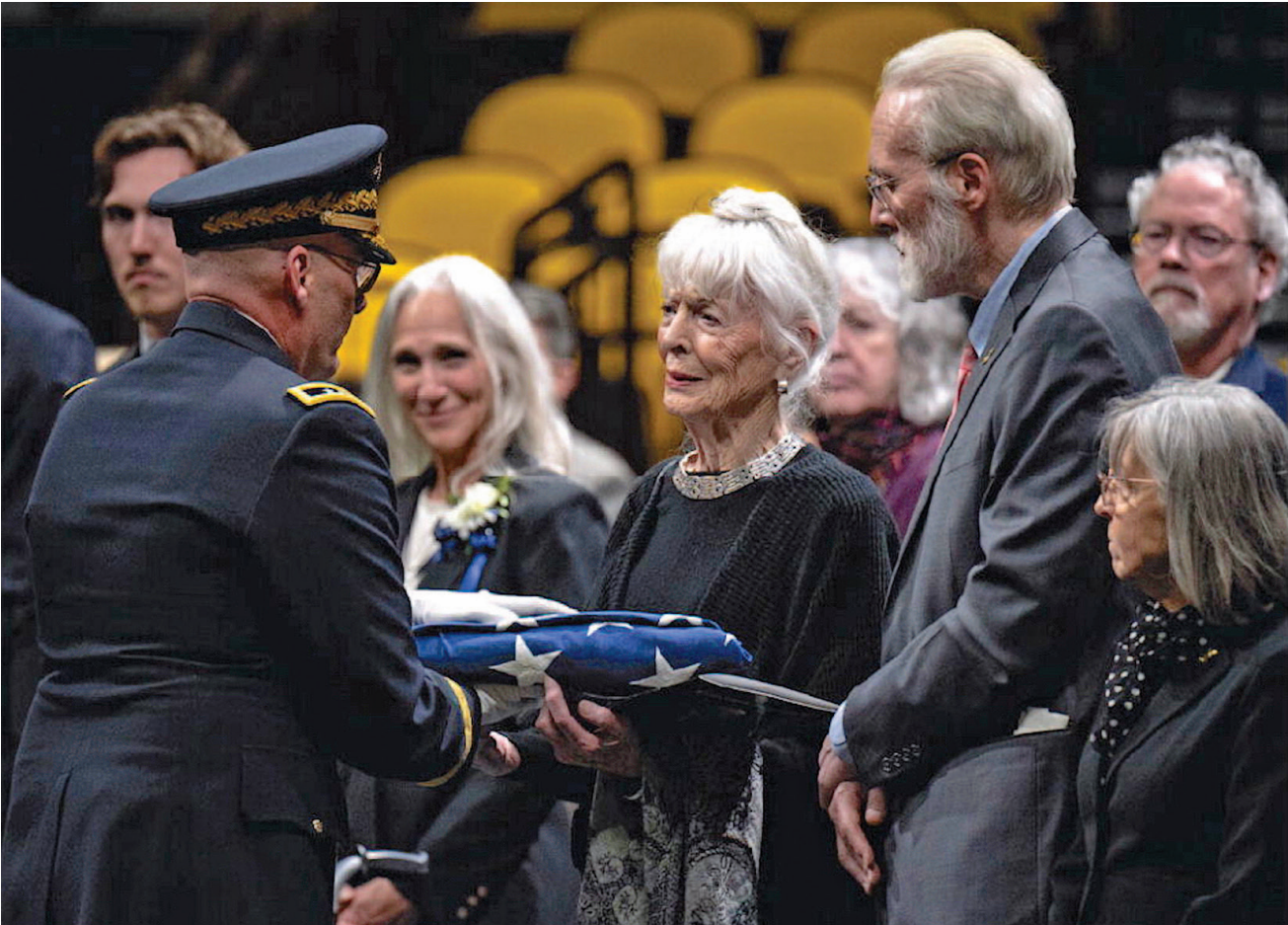
Alan Simpson, 93, died March 14 in Cody.

Pete Simpson likened his brother, Alan, to Abraham Lincoln in his stature, demeanor, common sense and good wit. He quoted poet Edwin Markham from “Lincoln, Man of the People,” a poem about the passing of President Lincoln.

“‘When he went like a lordly cedar on the hill, he went down with a great shout and left a lonesome place against the sky,’” Pete Simpson said as he began to choke up. “Goodbye, big Al.”

Fourteen speakers composed of lawmakers, friends and family eulogized the former United States senator at his celebration of life on Saturday at the University of Wyoming Arena-Auditorium. Throughout the speeches, there were many crossovers of famous Simpson sayings or jokes, what Simpson referred to as “lyrical profanities,” that he was known for.

Things like “Remember when I weighed 250 pounds? Yes, I had hair and thought beer was food,” or “The thing you have to know about the seniority system in the United States Senate is that it’s just like a cesspool, and the biggest turds rise to the top”



Ann Simpson is presented with the flag from her husband’s casket during former U.S. Sen. Alan Simpson’s celebration of life at the University of Wyoming Arena-Auditorium on Saturday in Laramie. (WYOMING TRIBUNE EAGLE/Milo Gradstein)

to which the crowd laughed along in jest with current Senate Majority Whip John Barrasso, the No. 2 Republican leader in the Senate, who was a speaker at the event, after the latter quote was shared by former Rep. Liz Cheney.

Even though there were several commonalities in the speeches, each speaker offered unique, individual memories of their time with Simpson.

“When people met Al, and I include myself in this, you felt like he had a special relationship with you, that you were his best friend,” Gov. Mark Gordon said. “He made you feel that way.”

Three through lines connected all 14 eulogies: that Simpson was a man of integrity, humor and humility.

Several people recited one of his famous quotes, “If you have integrity, nothing else matters. If you don’t have integrity, nothing else matters.”

When Colin Simpson, one of Alan Simpson’s three children, came to the podium to give the final speech of the event, he cartoonishly pulled up his pants in the manner his father had done many times.

“Dad was never going to be done with life or politics,” he said. “He frequently joked that the only way he would get politics out of his system was with embalming fluid.”

In his speech, Colin Simpson first addressed his mother, Ann. He thanked her for being a loving mother and the rock of his family. Al Simpson always said that he had “over married” when he wed Ann,

who was from Greybull, more than 70 years ago.

“Her wonderful qualities and strong character guided her and Dad’s lives together in the most positive way,” he said. “Mom, your character, beauty, grace, intelligence and practical nature make you equal to Dad in every way.”

He also spoke about his father’s loyalty and dedication to communication.

“The most decent and honorable person I ever met was my father, one of man’s noblemen,” he continued. “His epitaph perhaps is just a single letter, the letter ‘L’ for loyalty. It coursed through his blood, loyalty to his country, loyalty to his family, loyalty to his friends, loyalty to the institutions of government and this university, and always, always a friend to his friends.”

The event was opened by Ben Blalock, former UW Foundation president/CEO and emcee of the event. He began by describing his friendship with Simpson and even recreated Simpson’s demeanor.

“Now envision his towering, 6-foot-7 presence, his slow walk as he approaches the podium, see his silly smile and gleaming mischief in his eyes,” Blalock said as he recreated Simpson’s cackle and began to imitate his voice. “Yes, yes, here we are, yes, yes ... people say Simpson, Simpson, you need new jokes. No, no. I don’t need new jokes. I just need new audiences.”

The audience laughed throughout Blalock’s imita-

tion of Simpson.

Blalock also read a letter that former President Joe Biden sent to the Simpson family after Alan’s passing. He said Biden wanted to attend the celebration of life on Saturday but ultimately could not make it due to scheduling conflicts.

In his letter, he offered his condolences to the Simpson family and shared his impressions of Simpson after working for nearly 20 years together in the U.S. Senate.

“I soon came to understand that everything Al did, he did with humor and conviction,” Biden wrote. “Throughout his career, he always believed in forging real relationships, working across the aisle and proving that anything is possible when we work together. From his early days as a Boy Scout to his decades in public service, Al embodied the essence of America.

“... Despite our differences, Al will remain one of the most genuine men I’ve ever served with, one who always believed in the common good and what was best for the nation.”

In 2022, Biden presented Simpson with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor a citizen can receive.

Other speakers at the event included current UW President Edward Seidel, Barrasso, Erskine Bowles, former Wyoming Gov. Mike Sullivan, former UW President Philip Dubois, former Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead, Sen. Cynthia Lummis, AOL founder Steve Case, Simpson’s former key advisor, Mike Tongour, Cheney and Rep. Harriet Hageman.

The service concluded with the ceremonial folding of the American flag, which was presented to Ann by Gordon, and a performance of “Taps” by the Wyoming Army National Guard.

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