

# the kemmerer gazette

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Volume 100, No. 13

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

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

## Two deaths in Afton deemed murder/suicide

**AFTON (WNE)** — Local law enforcement has determined the deaths of two Afton residents were the result of a murder/suicide.

On Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at roughly 11:30 a.m., law enforcement personnel from the Afton Police Department and the Lincoln County Sheriff's Office responded to a single family home in the 100 block of Adams Street in reference to a missing person/welfare check, according to a statement released March 24.

Two bodies were discovered upon entry into the residence. They have been identified as Donald Lariviere, 67, and Jamie Lariviere, 46, who were husband and wife.

"In written documentation found at the scene, Mr. Lariviere admitted to taking the life of Mrs. Lariviere some days before taking his own life," Afton Police Chief Jason Romberg said in the statement. "This was also confirmed by an autopsy conducted last week."

Romberg confirmed that the two were the only residents of the home, and no one else was occupying the building.

"We have briefed the families of both the deceased, and they are fully aware of our findings," said Romberg. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of Mr. Lariviere and Mrs. Lariviere as they process this tragedy."



The Bureau of Land Management recently issued a decision finding no significant impact approving a subsurface right-of-way for the Southwest Wyoming Carbon Dioxide Sequestration Project. It will store carbon dioxide beneath Lincoln, Sweetwater and Uinta counties. (COURTESY PHOTO)

## BLM approves SW Wyoming carbon sequestration project

**KEMMERER** — The Bureau of Land Management issued a decision record and finding of no significant impact approving a subsurface right-of-way for the Southwest Wyoming Carbon Dioxide Sequestration Project. The decision authorizes Moxa Carbon Storage LLC to explore about 605,100 acres of federal subsurface pore space as a potential site for permanent storage of carbon dioxide beneath Lincoln, Sweetwater, and Uinta counties.

The approval does not authorize any surface-disturbing activities or surface occupancy on BLM-administered public lands. The next step is for Moxa to apply for Class VI underground injection control well permits through the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, which regulates the construction and operation of carbon dioxide injection wells.

Carbon sequestration is the process of injecting carbon dioxide deep underground, preventing it from entering the atmosphere, and aligns with President Trump's executive order to Unleash American Energy.

The decision and supporting documents are available at the BLM National NEPA Register. For more information, please contact BLM Planning and Environmental Specialist Maura Bradshaw, at 307-352-0378.



The Kemmerer Senior Center board met on Monday, March 17, and addressed a variety of issues at the center. (GAZETTE PHOTO/Don Cogger)

## Senior center board talks grants, finances, leadership changes

**By Rana Jones**  
Gazette Reporter

**KEMMERER** — The Kemmerer Senior Center board convened on Monday, March 17, for a meeting that covered a range of topics, including financial reports, grant funding, upcoming events, and a leadership change with the resignation of board member Jay Buck.

A significant portion of the meeting

focused on the center's financial situation. Kemmerer Senior Center Executive Director Christy Killian presented the financial report, noting that Quality Realty had conducted a market analysis of the senior center building, suggesting a list price of \$545,000.

Killian also addressed the allocation of grant funding, clarifying what is covered, including meals. She explained that there had been both overspending and underspending in various areas. A

closer look at the budget revealed that approximately \$18,818 was allocated to personnel costs, while \$10,882 was spent on consumable supplies for the fiscal year.

"We have to stay within those budgets," Killian emphasized, adding that when she initially took on the director role, she approached spending conservatively. She said she has since learned

**SENIOR CENTER, A6**

## Grizzlies killed record high number of cattle in Wyoming, 2024 data shows

**By Mike Koshmrl**  
Wyofile.com

Every year is a conflict-prone year for the scores of cattle and grizzly bears that mix annually on Union Pass, but Coke Landers was especially glad to put 2024 behind him.

The run-ins started shortly after the historic Green River Drift delivered many thousands of cattle to the national forest to fatten up over the summer. By the time ranchers herded the domestic bovinds off the vast 267-square-mile Upper Green River grazing allotment on the Bridger-Teton National Forest in the fall, some 94 head of cattle were confirmed to have been killed by large carnivores, he said.

"Ninety-one of them were bears and three were wolves," said Landers, who took the reins of the Upper Green River Cattlemen's Association from former president Albert Sommers a few years ago.

"That was the highest



Wyoming Game and Fish Department Large Carnivore Biologist Zach Turnbull determines the cause of death on a calf in 2014 as range rider/cowboy Todd Stearns looks on. (WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT/Mark Gocke)

ever," Landers said. "It was a record."

That's especially notable considering that the Upper Green has been the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem's epicenter of grizzly-cattle

conflict over the last couple of decades. It's also been the site of a not-yet completely resolved legal battle about that conflict, stemming from a federal assessment that OK'd killing up to 72 En-

dangered Species Act-protected grizzlies due to cattle grazing on public land.

Across grizzly range in the Equality State, it was

**CATTLE, A12**

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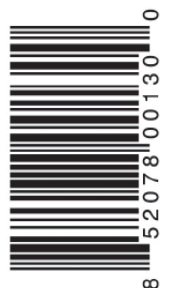


**Today:** Mostly cloudy and windy with 20-30 mph winds and gusts exceeding 40 mph.

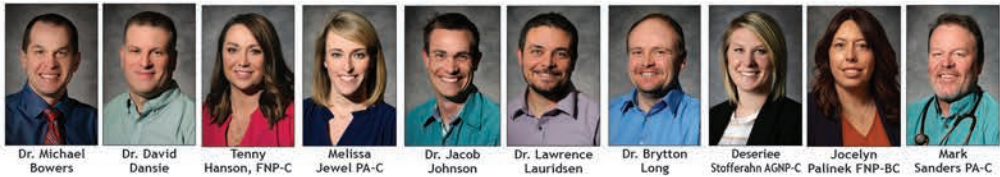
**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy.

**High:** 32 **Low:** 18  
**Chance of Precip:** 25%

For a full weather outlook, see page A2.



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# Community



# Book Nook



## Step into health: Celebrate National Walking Day and its benefits

By **Tammy Plowman**  
Cokeville Branch Library

National Walking Day is on the first Wednesday in April every year and takes place on April 2 this year. National Walking Day is exactly as it sounds — a day to celebrate the easiest way to be the healthiest version of you.

Walking for 30 to 60 minutes per day may sound like it isn’t much, but studies have shown that it can drastically improve your health and even help prevent ailments such as type 2 diabetes, cancer and heart disease.

Walking is often underestimated as a form of exercise, but its benefits are profound and well-documented. Regular walking can enhance cardiovascular health by reducing the risk of heart disease, lowering blood pressure, and improving circulation.

According to the AHA, walking just 30 minutes a day can significantly impact heart health, potentially reducing the risk of heart attack and stroke.

In addition to cardiovascular benefits, walking aids in weight management, helps regulate blood sugar levels and can improve overall mental well-being. Walking has been shown



to reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety, boost mood, and increase cognitive function.

This gentle exercise also supports joint health, reducing stiffness and improving flexibility, making it an ideal activity for people of all ages and fitness levels.

National Walking Day is an excellent opportunity to get moving and make walking a regular part of your life. Here are a few ways to participate:

- **Take the Challenge:** Commit to walking for at least 30 minutes on

April 2nd. Whether it’s a brisk walk around your neighborhood, a stroll through a local park, or have a walking meeting at work. The goal is to incorporate walking into your day.

- **Share Your Journey:** Use social media to share your walking experience. Post photos, track your steps, or share how walking has benefited you. Engaging with others online can inspire and motivate more people to join the movement.
- **Make Walking a Habit:** Use National Walking Day as a starting point to build a walking habit. Find ways to integrate walking into your daily routine, such as walking to work, taking the stairs, or parking further away from your destination.

April 2 offers a fantastic opportunity to embrace the benefits of walking and to inspire others to do the same. By participating in National Walking Day, you not only take a step toward better personal health but also contribute to a broader movement promoting well-being and heart health.

So, lace up your walking shoes, step outside, and join millions of others in celebrating this simple yet powerful form of exercise. Your heart, mind and body will thank you.

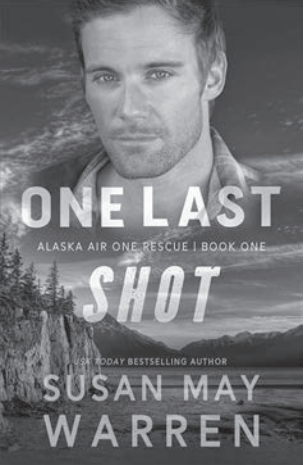
## Book review: ‘One Last Shot’

By **Michelle Carollo**  
Lincoln County Library

“One Last Shot” is the first book in the four-part “Alaska Air One Rescue” series by Susan May Warren. Each book in the series follows one member of the Air One Rescue Team. This series is Christian fiction.

Country music star Oaken Fox joins Mike Grizz’s new adventure show to help boost his fan base after an incident with a fan. However, not long after the adventure show begins, an accident happens that forces Oaken to save Mike and get help from the Air One Rescue team.

Air One Rescue is in need of help. They run on donations to keep things operating, but due to a busy winter,



the funds are starting to run out. A plan is soon hatched that would help both Air One Rescue and Oaken out.

The producer of Mike Grizz’s show will run a limited-run series with Oaken and Air One. Oaken will

train with the Air One Rescue team and go out on a few rescue missions. But first they have to convince EMT Boo Kingston to train him and, because she is the newest member of the team, she is elected to train Oaken.

This isn’t Boo’s first rodeo when it comes to being on a television show. She was on the show Survivor Quest and even though she had made it to the semifinals, it ended badly and she still hasn’t gotten over it.

She thought that she could get away from it all by moving to Alaska and working for Air Force One as a medic. Even though she does her job to the best of her ability, she doesn’t want or ask for recognition. She doesn’t let anyone get too close.

Between various rescue missions Oaken learns to be part of the rescue team, and Boo and Oaken learn to trust and move past their mistakes. Their teammates give them amazing advice that steer them in the right direction. When a group of women go missing from a resort during a blizzard, the Air One Rescue must use everything that they have, including man-power, to find them.

I enjoyed this action-filled book and cannot wait to read the other books in the series. If you enjoy this author, you might also like books by Denise Hunter.

You can find all four books in the “Air One Rescue” series at the Lincoln County Library.

## Local deer herds showing improvement

**AFTON (WNE)** — Deer have come through two consecutive winters with very few deaths, Gary Fralick, Wyoming Game and Fish Biologist, said last week during the Wyoming Game and Fish open house in Thyne Mar. 19.

He continued, “We’re looking at the deer coming off the big winter ranges in La Barge, Cokeville and Evanston and they are in really good shape.”

Noting the improved health, he added,

“I’m looking at good antler production this year.”


Acknowledging the discussion with hunters during the Star Valley stopover, Fralick explained, “We’re proposing a little longer deer season by about five days. Rather than close on the 25th, we’re proposing closing on Sept. 30 for the areas in northwest and western Wyoming.”

He called the deer herd “really resilient.”

“The does are coming off the winter range in great shape and they are bringing their fawns with them,” said Fralick. “We have seen that doe-fawn ratio increase from in the low 30s last year to 83 this year.”


Fralick said he saw signs of improvement this year when seeing deer doing well at 9,000 feet during this December flyovers. No changes are expected with the elk seasons.

### Weather outlook




**Wednesday:** Considerable clouds early. Some decrease in clouds later in the day. Partly cloudy overnight.

**High:** 35 **Low:** 18 **Chance of Precip:** 10%




**Thursday:** Partly cloudy with 10-20 mph winds will lead to mostly cloudy skies overnight.

**High:** 38 **Low:** 21 **Chance of Precip:** 20%



**Friday:** Intervals of clouds and sunshine with 10-15 mph winds. A few clouds from time to time overnight.

**High:** 42 **Low:** 22 **Chance of Precip:** 25%



**Saturday:** Sunshine and clouds mixed with 10-15 mph winds. Partly cloudy skies at night.

**High:** 43 **Low:** 20 **Chance of Precip:** 25%

## U.S. Senate passes resolution honoring Simpson’s legacy

**CHEYENNE (WNE)** — The U.S. Senate on Thursday passed a resolution introduced by U.S. Sens. John Barrasso and Cynthia Lummis, both R-Wyo., to honor the life and legacy of Al Simpson, former U.S. senator for the state of Wyoming.

In 1965, Simpson began a distinguished career of elected public service representing the people of Wyoming by serving in the Wyoming House of Representatives (1965–78) and the U.S. Senate (1979–97). In the U.S. Senate, he held the important leadership roles of Senate majority whip, Senate minority whip and chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

Simpson passed away on March 14. Barrasso and Lummis paid tribute to Simpson on the Senate floor on the day of his passing.

The U.S. Senate passed the resolution unanimously Thursday and stands adjourned as a mark of respect to the memory of Simpson.

“Senator Simpson was known by many for his courage, quick wit, and legendary storytelling. During his time in the U.S. Senate, Senator Simpson was focused on securing United States borders and addressing illegal immigration, championing the brave veterans who answered the call and made sacrifices for their country, entitlement reform, and addressing the soaring national debt,” the resolution states. “Senator Simpson served with integrity, humor, and leadership, and he never wavered in his commitment to his family, the United States, or the State of Wyoming.”

### Kemmerer, Diamondville and Opal Area Churches

**Berta Penney Memorial United Methodist Church**  
Sage and Garnet Streets  
307-800-2087  
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.  
Starting on November 3, 2024.

**Valley Evangelical Free Church**  
Sage and Sapphire Streets  
877-9305  
Sunday Worship..... 10:30 a.m.  
Children’s Church and Nursery provided

**Living Water Community Church**  
619 Pearl Street  
307-248-0852  
Pastor Alan Bella  
Sunday..... 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday..... 6:30 p.m.

**St. Paul’s Lutheran Church**  
Missouri Synod  
Sage and Opal Streets  
727-7095  
Rev. Jonathan Lange  
Sunday Divine Services..... 11:30 a.m.  
Sunday Bible Study.....1:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Matins Service: 9:00 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study ..... 9:30 a.m.

**Grace Baptist Church**  
Independent Fundamental Baptist  
905 Pine Avenue  
871-3214  
Pastor Richard Hartman  
Sunday School ..... 9:45  
Sunday Worship..... 11 a.m.  
Prayer & Bible study  
Wednesday evenings ..... 7 p.m.

**Opal Baptist Church**  
140 Chrisman, Opal  
307-389-9436  
Pastor Robert Chapin  
Sunday Worship..... 4 p.m.

**St. James Episcopal Church**  
Cedar and Pearl, Kemmerer  
307-723-3292  
Sunday Worship..... 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday School/Youth Group ..... 9:00 a.m.  
on the 1st and 3rd Sundays  
Facebook: St.JamesKemmerer

**St. Patrick’s Catholic Church**  
65 McGovern, Diamondville  
877-4573  
Father Dave Erickson  
Weekday Mass  
Monday, Wednesday - Friday  
..... 7:00 AM  
Saturday Vigil Mass ..... 5:30 PM  
Sunday Mass ..... 9:00 AM  
Confessions -- by appointment

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**  
Elk Mountain Ward  
Dell Rio Drive, Kemmerer  
Sacrament ..... 9:30-10:30am  
Primary ..... 10:00-11:30am  
Sunday School (1st and 3rd Sundays) ..... 10:30-11:30am  
YW/YM/EQ/RS (2nd and 4th Sundays)..... 10:30-11:30am

Oyster Ridge Ward  
Antelope and Third West, Diamondville  
Sacrament ..... 9:00am-10:00am  
Primary ..... 10:00-11:00am  
Sunday School (1st and 3rd Sundays) ..... 10:00-11:00am  
YW/YM/EQ/RS (2nd and 4th Sundays)..... 10:00-11:00am

Fossil Butte Ward  
Antelope and Third West, Diamondville  
Sacrament ..... 10:30am -11:30am  
Primary ..... 11:30am - 12:30pm  
Sunday School (1st and 3rd Sundays) ..... 11:30am - 12:30pm  
YW/YM/EQ/RS (2nd and 4th Sundays) ..... 11:30am - 12:30 pm

### La Barge Area Churches

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**  
171 LaBarge Street  
386-2201  
Sunday School..... 11:20 a.m.  
Priesthood and R. S. .... 10:30 a.m.  
Sacrament Meeting ..... 12:20 p.m.  
Youth Classes (Primary and Nursery) ..... 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesdays:  
Young Men ..... 7 p.m.  
Young Women ..... 7 p.m.  
Everyone is invited to attend each week

**Fellowship Baptist Church**  
Located on Main Street  
120 West 3rd Ave (along HWY 189)  
386-9252  
Pastor Paul Nittler  
Adult & Children’s ..... Sunday School..... 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Worship..... 11:00 a.m.  
coffee and nursery provided  
Youth Meeting groups for ages K thru 12  
1st and last Wednesday of each month (dinner provided)..... 6:30 p.m

**LaBarge Catholic Church**  
373 N. Wildcat (SOS Building)  
(307) 877-4573  
Rev. Dave Erickson  
2nd and 4th Sundays  
Mass ..... 11:30 a.m.

**The Potter’s House**  
On Calpet Road  
386-2420  
Co-Pastors  
Tony and Gwenette Portera  
Sunday Worship ..... 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening  
Home Fellowship..... 6 p.m.



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

### Cokeville Area Churches

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**  
725 East Main Street  
279-3266  
1st Ward ..... 279-3268  
Meeting time..... 9:00 a.m.  
2nd Ward ..... 279-3267  
Meeting time..... 11:30 a.m.

**Grace Community Church**  
Pastor Steve Johnson  
307-248-3717  
Where God is love!  
Sunday worship..... 11 a.m.  
Tuesday nights ..... 6:30 p.m.

**New Beginnings Fellowship**  
Sunday Services ..... 6 p.m.  
For more info, call 390-8453

**St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Community Church**  
220 Pine Street, Cokeville  
307-279-3366  
Sunday Worship Services..... 10:00 a.m.  
Adult & Children’s Sunday School  
Refreshments & Fellowshiping every Sunday  
“We enter to worship and exit to serve.”

**Cokeville Community Church Bible Study & Fellowship**  
Sunday Worship Service..... 2:30 p.m.  
Tuesday Night Bible Study : 6:30 p.m.  
Call 307-279-3366 for more information  
Come and join us in studying God’s Word.

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# Records/News

## Kemmerer Police Report

*Editor’s note: Information contained in this report is compiled from a daily activities log and arrest record maintained by the Kemmerer Police Department from Monday, March 10, to Sunday, March 16.*

**Monday, March 10**  
1:42 a.m. business premise check on US HWY 189  
5:30 a.m. house watch on Beech Ave.  
7:32 a.m. school zone patrol on Lincoln Heights Dr.  
8:04 a.m. house watch on Spruce Pl.  
8:13 a.m. business premise check on Coral St.  
8:22 a.m. business premise check on HSY 189  
8:34 a.m. business premise check on Beech Ave.  
9:09 a.m. business premise check on Moose St.  
3:02 p.m. school zone patrol on Lincoln Heights Dr.

**Tuesday, March 11**  
1:00 a.m. parking problem, prolonged parking, cited on Cedar Ave.  
1:19 a.m. parking problem, prolonged parking, cited on Cedar Ave.  
1:37 a.m. parking problem, prolonged parking, cited on Agate St.  
1:51 a.m. parking problem, prolonged parking, cited on Sage Ave.  
2:00 p.m. parking problem, prolonged parking, cited on Sage Ave.  
2:12 a.m. traffic stop for equipment, citation issued on Sage Ave.

2:29 a.m. parking problem, prolonged parking, cited on Sapphire St.  
5:33 a.m. house watch on Beech Ave.  
7:35 a.m. school zone patrol on Lincoln Heights Dr.  
8:02 a.m. house watch on Spruce Pl.  
8:04 a.m. business premise check on Coral St.  
10:44 a.m. assist agency on Coulson Ave.  
3:07 p.m. school zone patrol on Lincoln Heights Dr.  
4:55 p.m. juvenile problem on Canyon Rd.  
4:58 p.m. assist Diamondville Police on Canyon Rd.  
7:36 p.m. business premise check on US Hwy 189  
8:04 p.m. traffic stop for speeding, verbal warning on US HWY 30  
8:50 p.m. suspicious activity, disturbance on Coral St.  
10:46 p.m. business premise check on US HWY 189

**Wednesday, March 12**  
6:21 a.m. traffic stop for speeding, citation issued on US HWY 189  
7:23 a.m. business premise check on Coral St.  
7:31 a.m. school zone patrol on Lincoln Heights Dr.  
7:29 a.m. warrant, local misdemeanor, arrested female on a county warrant on Justice Center Dr.  
1:08 p.m. assist other agency on Pine St.  
1:50 p.m. traffic stop for lane usage, verbal warning

on Susie Ct.  
1:56 p.m. traffic stop for speeding, verbal warning on Fossil Butte Dr.  
2:02 p.m. traffic stop for speeding, citation issued on Fossil Butte Dr.  
6:28 p.m. business security check on US HWY 189  
7:27 p.m. business premise check on US HWY 189  
9:31 p.m. traffic stop, DUI, alcohol, open container by vehicle driver, citation issued, adult male arrested for DUI alcohol on US HWY 189  
9:46 p.m. special patrol on US HWY 189

**Thursday, March 13**  
5:42 a.m. business premise check on Coral St.  
6:38 a.m. traffic stop for speeding, citation issued on US HWY 189  
7:34 a.m. school zone patrol on Lincoln Heights Dr.  
10:12 a.m. funeral escort-Kemmerer Cemetery from Pine St.  
11:33 a.m. business premise check on Coral St.  
11:34 a.m. funeral escort-Diamondville Cemetery from Third West St.  
11:57 a.m. assist other agency on Justice Center Dr.  
12:51 p.m. traffic problem, traffic hazard on Third West St.  
1:39 p.m. traffic stop



for speeding, verbal warning on Fossil Butte Dr.  
11:45 p.m. business premise check on Third West St.  
11:54 p.m. business premise check on Sage Ave.

**Friday, March 14**  
12:02 a.m. business security check on JC Penney Dr.  
12:07 a.m. business security check on Pine Ave.  
12:11 a.m. business security check on Fossil Butte Dr.  
12:21 a.m. business security check on Sublet Dr.  
12:31 a.m. business security check on Dell Rio Dr.  
5:31 a.m. traffics stop for equipment violation, verbal warning on Pine Ave.  
6:20 a.m. traffic stop for equipment violation, citation issued on Antelope St.  
6:40 a.m. traffic stop for equipment violation, verbal warning on Pine Ave.  
6:57 a.m. traffic stop for equipment failure on Fossil Butte Dr.  
7:37 a.m. school zone patrol on Third West St.  
8:02 a.m. traffic stop, obstruction, verbal warning on Third West St.  
8:50 a.m. traffic stop, obstruction, verbal warning on US HWY 30  
10:58 a.m. public service, citizen assist on Pine

Ave.  
1:12 p.m. medical assist patient refused on Elk St.  
8:53 p.m. business premise check on Third West St.  
9:13 p.m. traffic stop for speeding, verbal warning on Pine Ave.  
11:10 p.m. business premise check on US HWY 189  
11:22 p.m. business premise check on US HWY 189

**Saturday, March 15**  
12:36 a.m. business security check on Pine Ave.  
12:51 a.m. business premise check on Onyx St.  
1:02 a.m. business security check on Airport Co. Rd.  
5:35 house watch on Beech Ave.  
9:53 a.m. death-unattended, welfare check, residence, natural death call on Beech Ave.  
9:21 a.m. public service, assist public, civil problem on Pine Ave.  
3:54 p.m. public service, VIN inspection on Canyon Rd  
4:37 p.m. animal problem, lost, located animal on Post Pl.  
5:15 p.m. traffic stop for turn signal, verbal warning on Garnet St.  
7:56 p.m. traffic stop for

failure to maintain lane, verbal warning on US HWY 30  
10:16 p.m. business premise check on US HWY 30  
10:27 p.m. business premise check on US HWY 189  
10:31 p.m. assault on Sage Ave  
11:20 p.m. medical assist, patient transferred on Coral St.  
11:34 p.m. MUI/MIP- arrested, several minors were arrested for MUI

**Sunday, March 16**  
3:20 a.m. traffic stop for high beams on US HWY 30  
3:38 a.m. traffic stop for equipment, verbal warning on US HWY 189  
10:40 a.m. business premise check on Coral St.  
10:56 a.m. business premise check on Beech Ave.  
11:01 a.m. business premise check on US HWY 189  
4:22 p.m. assist agency, assist Lincoln County Sheriff on Justice Center Dr.  
4:27 p.m. Domestic problem – physical, assault - simple assault, MUI/MIP arrested, DUI-alcohol, open container by vehicle driver, several individuals were arrested for MUI and domestic assault on Beech Ave.

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Kemmerer Rotary Club

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

Fossil Basin Promotion Board for Tourism

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

United Mine Workers of America Local #1307

Meets the 3rd Friday of every month at the Search & Rescue building in Diamondville at 4:30 p.m.

American Legion Post 55/Kemmerer, Wyoming

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

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

Please submit club changes to creed@kemmerergazette.com

Fossil Basin Chamber Of Commerce

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

Kemmerer Masonic Lodge #33 AF & AM

Meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month except July and August. Coffee social at 7 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM. Located at 607 Pine Ave, across from Ridleys, all members and sojourners are invited to attend. For more information -Charlie Custer 307-723-2626 or Seth Snyder Senior War-den 307-460-1463.

Kemmerer Food Bank

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

Kemmerer Eagles-F.O.E and Auxillary

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

South Lincoln Fire Protection District Board

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Fire Station at 1255 Coral Avenue.

Kemmerer Gun Club

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

Lincoln County School District #1 Board of Trustees Tuesday, April 8, 2025 Tentative Agenda Regular Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Agenda Review

4. Student and Staff Recognition

5. Consent Items

A. Financial

1. Payment of Bills

2. Monthly Financial Report

6. Public Input

7. Action Items

A. Staff Contracts

8. Discussion Items

A. Legislative Update

B. 2025-26 CES Student and Staff Handbooks, 2nd Reading

C. Region V BOCES

9. Summary

10. Adjournment



# Opinion

## Colon cancer screening is important

By Andrew Ellsworth, MD

Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in men and women. The lifetime risk of developing colon cancer is 1 in 24 for men and 1 in 26 for women. Early detection and treatment are instrumental at improving survival rates, and regular screening decreases the risk of colon cancer in the first place.

Colonoscopy remains the gold standard for colon cancer screening. While detecting cancer early on is important for survival from any cancer, detecting and removing precancerous polyps during a colonoscopy before they develop into cancer is the main reason regular screenings with colonoscopy have been found to reduce colon cancer rates.

During a colonoscopy, with a patient asleep or sedated under anesthesia, a long flexible scope with a light and a camera is used to look throughout the large intestine, the colon, for any polyps or abnormalities. Those polyps can be removed with a forceps or a loop at the time they are detected. Afterwards, patients are monitored, wake up, have something to eat, and are ready to proceed about their day.

Thankfully, a large majority of patients do not have any complications from colonoscopy. The complication rate depends on age and risk

factors and the reason for the procedure. The overall rate is approximately 0.5%. The most serious complication risk, a perforation or tear in the colon, is about 1 in 1,000.

Of course, oftentimes the worst part of undergoing a colonoscopy is the preparation beforehand; getting cleaned out. This is important so the physician performing the procedure has a good, thorough look everywhere in the colon. While cumbersome, with new strategies for doing the prep, many people find this process less awful than they used to.

Stool tests have been an easier, cheap, non-invasive method for colon cancer screening for many years. Often these tests look for blood in your stool. The latest, more expensive option, Cologuard, checks for blood and DNA abnormalities, and is the most successful of the stool tests at detecting colon cancer, at 94%. However, it is only about 43% effective at detecting advanced adenomas, those precancerous polyps that are already getting larger and closer to becoming cancer. This limits the test's potential at preventing cancer.

The Cologuard test should not be used for people with risk factors such as a history of colon polyps or a family history of colon cancer. A positive test result should be followed up by a colonoscopy.

The FDA recently ap-

proved a new blood test for colon cancer screening. However, it only detected 83% of colon cancers, and only 13% of precancerous advanced adenomas. With this poor detection rate, out of 100 people with cancer, the blood test would falsely tell 17 people that they did not have cancer, and it would miss most precancerous polyps.

Ever since the Affordable Care Act in 2010, insurance companies have been required to cover colon cancer screening tests. This is because early detection not only saves lives but also saves money.

Each method has its own pros and cons, so please talk with your doctor regarding which screening method makes the most sense for you. In the end, "the best colon cancer screening method is the one that gets done."

Andrew Ellsworth, MD, is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine at Avera Medical Group in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org), Facebook, Instagram, Youtube and Threads. *Prairie Doc Programming includes On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show (most Thursdays at 7pm streaming on Facebook), 2 podcasts, and a Radio program, providing health information based on science, built on trust.*

## Running one's mouth

By Alexandra Paskhaver

When our team couldn't make it through 500 pushups, my cross country coach would laugh. And he meant every word of it.

I used to run cross country in high school, not because I particularly enjoyed running, cross country, or high school, but because the coach had forearms the size of baked hams and you just don't say no to those kinds of people.

For those who haven't ever run a 5K, the principle is simple. You line up. The starting flag comes down.

Then you race cheerfully up mountains, fight your way through dark forests, and cruise to the finish over burning coals.

At least, that's what it always felt like to me.

You know how the TV shows Olympic athletes smoking through mile after mile, barely breaking a sweat, while hordes of cameramen fly after them on cars and bicycles?

Let's just say that no cameraman ever struggled to keep up with me.

But running isn't the only part of cross country. Coach always approached the sport with a holistic mindset.

As in, you will holistically do 300 sit-ups, or you will holistically be expelled. It really didn't help that he was the assistant principal.

My school's cross country season was a lot longer than other schools'. For us junior varsity kids, it lasted from July to November.

I assume varsity just ran year-round, but I didn't know for sure. I was never fast enough to reach that hallowed tier.

But whenever we had to run 10 miles, varsity had to run 12, so I never made an

effort to run that much faster, if you get my drift.

For all the struggle that cross country was, it had its great moments, too.

Once the police called the school right before a blizzard to make sure Coach didn't send any of us kids out on the roads.

"But they have an important meet next week!" Coach protested. "If we practice when the other schools cancel, we'll get ahead. Besides, it's not that cold out."

The boys in blue told him the county jail wasn't that cold, either, and that's where anyone suspected of child endangerment could spend the night.

We ended up having practice inside that day, which was honestly worse than going out in a snowstorm.

You don't know what boredom is until you have to run between the history wing and the cafeteria for two hours. During that run, I memorized all our presidents out of sheer ennui.

Now, like the early presidents, my cross country years are in the past.

Gone are the days where I swam through mud, swung from tree to tree, and tripped over my shoelaces as I crossed the finish line.

But the lessons I learned and the memories I made are still there. Sometimes, especially when the weather is nice, I think about running 5Ks again.

Then I remember how much it sucked, and I go back to my potato chips.

Alexandra Paskhaver is a software engineer and writer. Both jobs require knowing where to stick semicolons, but she's never quite; figured; it; out. For more information, check out her website at <https://apaskhaver.github.io>.



## Building know-how can strengthen Wyoming communities

Tools and codes can't fix problems without skilled and dedicated teams.

By Josh Dorrell  
Via WyoFile.com

You can order a dentist's toolkit online and find step-by-step guides to tooth repair. But who would feel comfortable filling a cavity, or having a friend perform dental work, after purchasing a drill and downloading operating instructions?

None of us would.

That's because good dentists' most valuable asset isn't the tools or instructions, but their know-how. Their expertise comes from the practice and experience of performing procedures and the implicit knowledge acquired only through repetition, including learning from mistakes and adapting along the way.

We often rely on programs, laws and budgets, treating them as make-or-break solutions to our challenges. Are these important? Certainly, but like the dentist's drill and cavity-filling guide, they matter less than developing the understanding and experience to solve our problems.

At the Wyoming Business Council, we

maintain numerous policies, services and investments to support resilient communities. These function as tools and codes. However, the communities that truly thrive are those willing to build teams and work through problems, developing the know-how that creates self-reliance and resilience, regardless of external conditions or available resources.

By working through the economic growth flywheel to build know-how, we can empower strong communities that control their own destinies and develop lasting economic resilience. This principle became clearer to me after listening to Laramie County Community College President Joe Schaffer describe the importance of entrepreneurship to our state.

The parallel between entrepreneurship and resilient communities is striking. The best entrepreneurs try, succeed or fail, listen and learn — then repeat this process continuously. That's how they develop know-how. Ask anyone who understands entrepreneurship, and they'll confirm that mentorship outweighs money in importance. Mentorship transmits know-how, while funding often masks real problems or allows entrepreneurs to bypass the critical learning and decision-making that ensures



long-term success.

Entrepreneurs don't wait around for someone else to solve their problems. They use the resources and knowledge they have to build teams to do the work that needs to be done. They commit their life's work to solving a problem until it is solved and take responsibility for making that happen. Embracing an entrepreneurial mindset and digging deep into local problems, developing teams and working on issues will help us build resilient communities and even help our state and local leaders put forth the best policies and funding mechanisms.

What does this look like? Like all meaningful action, it's not necessarily easy but there are some basic steps you can put into practice:

Select a specific growth challenge in your community. If you need some starting points, Wyoming's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy outlines some of the major problems facing Wyoming's communities today and strategies to address them.

Who feels this problem? Find the people affected by the problem and look for those who have the authority to implement changes and who might know how to get things

done. Be willing to make the circle bigger.

Commit to addressing this challenge thoroughly for at least a year, or until it is solved. Evaluate your entry points, assess the scope, maintain focus (which requires letting go of competing priorities) and remain open to learning from mistakes throughout the process.

Imagine what Wyoming could achieve if we solved our fundamental challenges: creating jobs that keep our youth here, developing competitive infrastructure, connecting rural communities to jobs and economic opportunities, and making housing and childcare accessible. This vision is achievable with the correct tools and helpful codes wielded by people who have the courage, expertise and discipline to tackle the steps above and say, "Yes," to doing the hard work.

As CEO of the Wyoming Business Council, Josh Dorrell provides leadership and strategic direction for the diverse team of passionate professionals working across the state to build self-reliant communities and create opportunities for future generations of Wyomingites. He can be reached at [josh.dorrell@wyo.gov](mailto:josh.dorrell@wyo.gov) or 307.777.2862.

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

### LETTERS POLICY

The Opinions page is a public forum and is intended to provide a venue for community insight, thought and expression. Letters to the editor are welcomed and strongly encouraged. The Kemmerer Gazette reserves the right to edit all letters for length, content and clarity. A letter — whether submitted on paper or electronically — must include the name and address of the author, as well as a valid contact phone number for verification. Letters will be printed with the name and city of residence of the author. Letters addressing a business dispute, attacking a private individual or containing libelous or obscene statements will not be published. Further, we reserve the right to refuse to print any letter we feel inappropriate for publication. Letters should be 400 words or less from local residents about local topics. Writers are limited to two letters per month; letters related to political campaigns will not be published the week prior to an election. The opinions published on this page do not necessarily reflect the views of this newspaper, its publisher or advertisers. Deadline for submission of letters to the editor is noon Friday for Tuesday's edition.

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# Cokeville

## PTO hosts ‘Breakfast with a Buddy’



The PTO held its annual “Breakfast with a Buddy” on Wednesday, March 26, where students could invite family members and friends to join them for doughnuts, muffins and juice at the elementary school. This year was another great success as students shared this fun time with someone special. Thanks to the PTO for sponsoring this fun event each year. (GAZETTE PHOTO/Jan Moody)

### COKEVILLE PERSONALS

By Jan Moody  
Cokeville Correspondent

There will be a donkey basketball event at Cokeville High School on Wednesday, April 2, at 7 p.m. Proceeds will go to help a student earning his way for an upcoming Spanish Club trip. It will be a great night of entertainment.

The Cokeville First and Second ward Relief Societies will host a birthday celebration on Thursday, April 3, at 6 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. There will be a light

supper followed by a gift exchange of “My Favorite Things.”

Cokeville High School will hold Junior Prom on Friday, April 11. Prior to Prom that night, will be the Freshman Dinner. Students have been out selling tickets but, if you haven’t been contacted, reach out to Lynne Pope at Cokeville High School for assistance.

The Cokeville Branch Library held its Book Club on Monday, March 24. March’s pick was “Calico Joe” by John Grisham. There was a good discussion with those in attendance. April’s pick,

“Book of Lost Names” by Kristin Harmel looks to be a good historical fiction. Pick up your copy today at the library.

A viewing was held for Mary Lue Birch at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on Wednesday, March 26. Friends and family gathered to reminisce and share fond memories. Thursday, March 27, a viewing and services were held for Mary Lue. Many old friends and acquaintances came together with family to celebrate Mary Lue’s life.



Pee wee wrestlers shake hands following a match last week at Cokeville High School. (GAZETTE PHOTO/Jan Moody)

## CHS hosts pee wee wrestling tourney

By Jan Moody  
Cokeville Correspondent

**COKEVILLE** — The Cokeville High School Panther wrestlers held their annual Pee Wee Wrestling Tournament on Thursday, March 27, at Cokeville High School. Approximately 150

wrestlers and their families came together for the final tournament of the season.

As always, there were many tears and cheers. Congratulations to all the competitors for coming out and doing their best. Thanks to everyone who supported this year’s event.



About 150 wrestlers competed in last week’s pee wee wrestling tournament in Cokeville. (GAZETTE PHOTO/Jan Moody)



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# News

## Hageman moves town hall events online due to safety concerns

By Noah Zahn  
Wyoming Tribune Eagle  
Via Wyoming News Exchange

CHEYENNE — Wyoming’s sole member of the U.S. House of Representatives announced Tuesday that her upcoming town halls will be online only due to safety concerns following a raucous event in Laramie last week that made national news.

“As the saying goes, ‘This is why we can’t have nice things,’” Harriet Hageman said in a news release late Tuesday morning.

At the town hall last Wednesday night in Laramie, more than 500 attendees packed into the auditorium of the historic Laramie Plains Civic Center. Hageman was met with boos and critical chants throughout the event.

Some constituents stood and clapped for Hageman, but they were outnumbered and drowned out by those who opposed the congresswoman’s policy positions and actions in the nation’s capital. Hageman called the disgruntled constituents at the event “hysterical.”

Her town halls in Cheyenne and Torrington, scheduled for this Friday and Saturday, respectively, have been moved to an online format after Hageman expressed fear for the safety of herself and others.

Virtual attendees can still submit questions prior to the event via online forms for Laramie County ([tinyurl.com/hageman-laramie](https://tinyurl.com/hageman-laramie)) and Goshen County ([tinyurl.com/hageman-goshen](https://tinyurl.com/hageman-goshen)).

According to her news release, more than 20 officers from multiple agencies were assigned to monitor a town hall in Wheatland on Thursday, the day after the Laramie event.

She added that staff in her Wyoming and Washington, D.C., offices have received “numerous, credible threatening phone calls and emails, currently being investigated by

multiple law enforcement agencies.” Despite the law enforcement presence, Hageman said an attendee followed her leaving the venue in Wheatland and initiated a physical confrontation with staff.

Platte County Sheriff David Russell told the WTE that there were around 15 officers from his staff working the event.

He added that the physical confrontation an attendee had with Hageman’s staff was a local woman in her 60s or 70s who was getting too close to Hageman as she was leaving and had to be held back as the congresswoman exited. She was not charged with a crime for her actions.

Hageman blamed the national Democratic Party for the disruptions and protests at her events.

“I draw the line when organized protestors intentionally create confrontation and chaos, escalating tensions to a point where violence seems inevitable,” Hageman wrote.

Laramie County Democratic Party Chairman Matthew Snyder said he was frustrated by Hageman’s use of the switch to virtual meetings as a way to make political statements while continuing to avoid answering questions from her constituents.

“I think it’s indicative of the fact that there are real questions that need to be answered,” he said. “If you look at her responses, she appears to be minimizing the concerns of many.”

Snyder said he was frustrated but unsurprised by Hageman’s decision, saying it is a sad reflection on the current state of the political atmosphere in the United States.

“Not everybody who’s angry about the state of our country is an extremist. And I think what’s happening is ... you’re casting a wide net here and saying, ‘Oh, well, they’re busing in people from out-of-state or this or that.’ It’s a distraction. That’s not the issue,” he



U.S. Rep. Harriet Hageman, R-Wyo., speaks at the Evanston Roundhouse on Friday, March 14. After several tumultuous town halls, Hageman announced last week that future town hall events will be held virtually. (UINTA COUNTY HERALD/Amanda Manchester)

said. “The issue is people are trying to figure out how to pay for health care. People are trying to figure out how to pay for school and pay for groceries, gas, eggs, for God’s sake. But the hysteria is more important?”

Hageman called on Senate Minority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer and House Minority Leader Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, both D-N.Y., to denounce organized disruptors and crime.

Snyder saw this, and critiques of the national Democratic Party, as a way for Hageman to “score political points” and avoid talking about practical issues that impact most Americans.

“I’m just a husband and a dad trying to figure it out for my family. And that’s, I would say, the majority of people. Party notwithstanding,” he said.

At the beginning of the month, House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., encouraged Republican lawmakers to stop hosting town halls,

echoing President Trump’s claims that the demonstrations are fueled by professional protesters.

Jeffries responded, “We don’t need paid protesters. The American people are with us,” according to the Associated Press.

Spokespeople for Wyoming’s two U.S. senators, John Barrasso and Cynthia Lummis, told the WTE on Tuesday that holding virtual events can often be more effective for reaching a wider audience and meeting more people in the state.

“Senator Barrasso regularly hosts tele-town halls with Senator Lummis, as they are the most effective way to reach as many towns and people as possible around Wyoming,” Barrasso’s communications director, Laura Mengelkamp, told the WTE in an emailed statement. “He travels back home to Wyoming nearly every weekend, and will continue to attend as many public events as possible throughout the state.”

Hageman’s announcement that

her events will go virtual instead of being held in person did not cite convenience or reaching a wider audience as a reason for the change. Rather, she said the change was “because of Democrat threats of violence.”

Laramie County Commissioner Troy Thompson has been in Hageman’s shoes before, serving as an elected official under fire from constituents, though perhaps never as rip-roaring as what Hageman experienced in Laramie. He said that he prefers face-to-face conversations and meetings, but said he understands why Hageman made this decision.

“It doesn’t do anybody good to stand up there and get yelled at and not be able to have a conversation. So I understand why she’s doing it. I don’t blame her for doing it,” he said. “I think it’s shameful that we can’t have civil discourse, especially in the state of Wyoming. ... The people that end up losing are the people of Wyoming because the people that want to have civil discourse with our elected officials now don’t have that ability.”

Before the announcement that the town halls will move online, the event in Cheyenne had been relocated to a larger venue from the Surbugg/ Prentice Auditorium at Laramie County Community College to the Blue FCU Recreation & Athletics Complex at LCCC to accommodate for the anticipated number of constituents showing up, something that happened prior to the event in Laramie, as well.

Hageman said the move to virtual town halls will remain in effect until it seems safe to resume in-person events.

According to the news release from Hageman’s office, she has held 75 in-person town halls across the state since running for Congress in 2022, with at least three occurring in each of Wyoming’s 23 counties.

## HOROSCOPES

### ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, a burst of energy propels you to move forward. It feels like everything is clicking, and you are full of ideas and brimming with contagious enthusiasm.

### TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21

You are in the mood to get down to business this week, Taurus. It's a great time to focus on your career or finances. Pay attention to all of the little details as you go along.

### GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21

Curiosity takes control this week, Gemini. Opportunities for learning are all around you. You just need to look for them. It may be a new class or a trip that you take with friends.

### CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22

Cancer, this week you may have a lot of emotional processing going on, particularly regarding relationships or past experiences. Embrace these deeper feelings.

### LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23

Your social energy could be off the charts this week, Leo. Others will be drawn to your magnetism and self-confidence. It is a great time to network or collaborate.

### VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22

Efficiency and productivity are the name of the game right now, Virgo. When it comes to organizing and planning, you will be all about getting things done in a timely manner.

### LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, this week is a time for self-expression. You may find yourself pulled toward hobbies or artistic endeavors that enable you to showcase your talents.

### SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22

This is a time to dive deep into your home and family life, Scorpio. You want to create a sense of stability at home and address anything that might compromise that. Trust your gut with how to move forward.

### SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21

Communication is the key this week, Sagittarius. Initiating important conversations and speaking directly with others is a great way to clear the air and get to the root of these issues.

### CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, you are focused on your financial well-being this week, but other issues may fall by the wayside. You might have to bring in someone else to keep the balance.

### AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18

Personal goals and ambitions are front and center this week, Aquarius. This could put you in the spotlight and showcase what you want to accomplish to those around you.

### PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, this week invites you to slow down and recharge your batteries as much as possible. You might feel pulled to spend time alone or simply get away for a few days.

### FAMOUS BIRTHDAYS

#### MARCH 30

Céline Dion, Singer (57)

#### MARCH 31

Christopher Walken, Actor (82)

#### APRIL 1

Randy Orton, Wrestler (45)

#### APRIL 2

Zach Bryan, Singer (29)

#### APRIL 3

Paris Jackson, Model (27)

#### APRIL 4

Robert Downey, Jr., Actor (60)

#### APRIL 5

Lily James, Actress (36)

## SENIOR CENTER

from A1

that the center has more financial flexibility in certain areas.

Reiterating the budget discussion, the board acknowledged that mill levy funds do not function as a savings account and must be utilized appropriately. Killian admitted to her cautious approach, stating, “I’m now letting go a little bit, but I’m still a little scared.”

Despite concerns, she assured the board that things are looking up.

“The senior center is looking healthier than it was,” she said. “We are definitely headed in the right direction.”

Killian noted the difficulty in obtaining mill levy funding and anticipated receiving some funds by April. She reminded the board that maintaining a balance on grants does not guarantee funding payments.

“I’m trying to do what is best for the senior center,” she said, emphasizing her commitment to using grant money wisely.

The board also discussed upcoming events, including a pool tournament and efforts to clean and organize the craft room.

Killian mentioned that a surplus of donated craft supplies had accumulated over the years, and community members would have the opportunity to browse and retrieve items in April, helping to free up space in the craft room.

The board reviewed the financial account balance, which stood at \$64,815, though some bills were still pending.

Toward the conclusion of the meeting, concerns were raised about how the community could trust the board members following alleged past financial mismanagement under the previous board and director.

In response, it was stated that the director sets the tone for the center, and the previous leadership had led to misguidance. It was also noted that the current director is doing an excellent job fostering trust and transparency.

Before the meeting adjourned, board member Jay Buck announced his resignation, citing upcoming travel over the next few months. The board expressed gratitude for his service, acknowledging his many volunteer hours and dedication to the center.

Board members Jean Wakefield and Mike Kohout were absent from the meeting.

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# Outdoors

## As corner crossing opens 3M acres to public, advocates urge caution

Disappointed ranchers ponder potential ‘conditions’ on newfound access to public lands.

By Angus M. Thuermer Jr.  
WyoFile.com

As access advocates celebrated a court decision guaranteeing access to 3 million acres of public land in Wyoming and five other states, they asked for caution, common sense and respect when corner crossing.

Hunters, hikers and others who corner cross need to understand the entirety of the recent decision by the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, parties in the dispute said this week. A voice for ranchers said cattlemen were disappointed in the ruling. Jim Magagna raised the prospect of Wyoming still imposing “conditions” on corner crossing to ensure all uses of public land are “compatible.”

Corner crossing is the act of stepping from one piece of public land to another in the checkerboard landscape of public/private ownership. Corner crossers do not set foot on the kitty-corner pieces of private land but necessarily pass through the airspace above it.

The March 18 appeals court decision affects access to 3 million acres in 10th Circuit states — Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Kansas and Oklahoma, according to onX, the digital mapping company that’s been a key player in the five-year legal drama.

Western ranching custom and culture treated corner crossing as a trespass; a prosecutor in Carbon County brought the practice’s legality to a head in 2022 by citing four hunters for corner crossing to hunt public land on Elk Mountain. The 10th circuit said it is illegal to block access in such cases, meaning the public can reach its checkerboard land without fear of being convicted of trespassing.

“I didn’t go cheer,” said Magagna, executive vice president of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. “There’s real concern,” he said, citing potential for trespassing and conflicts between hikers or hunters and herds of stock.

Buzz Hettick, co-chair of Wyoming Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, saw less worry. “There’s more work in the future to educate landowners and [the public] on how we go about this in the right way,” he said. His group spearheaded the hunters’ defense in criminal and civil court cases.

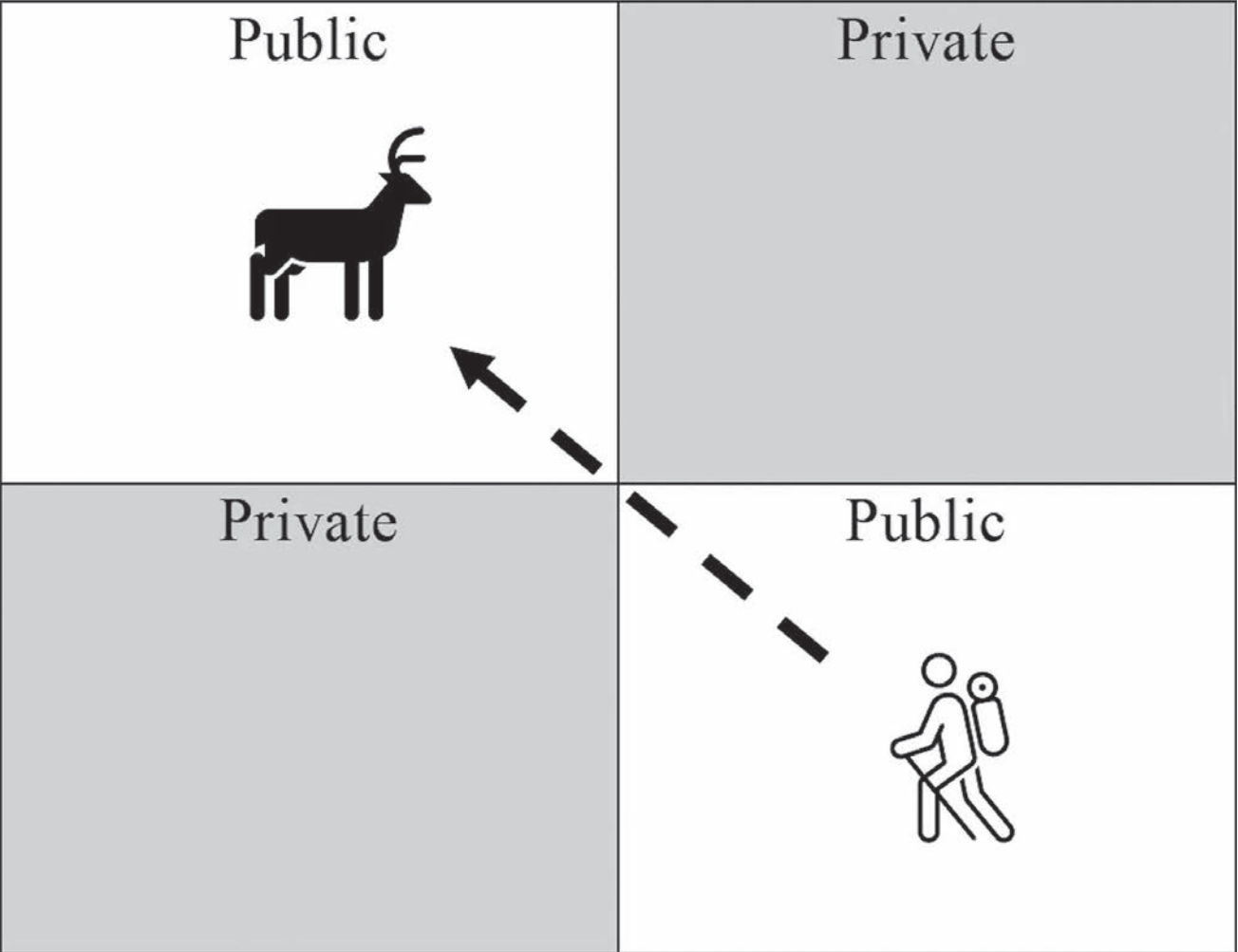
### 16 feet

The digital mapping company onX uses GPS satellites combined with public land records to show cellphone app users their location in the field. With the app, public land users can locate property boundaries with a measured degree of accuracy.

In the Carbon County case, four Missouri hunters used the app to approach a surveyed monument at a common checkerboard corner. Once they sighted it, they were able to pass over the corner without touching private land.

All of those details, and more, are important, onX said on its website. The 10th Circuit ruling relied on an 1885 law that guaranteed access where “access to public lands is otherwise restricted,” the company states.

“This ruling indicates that if there’s another public route into a parcel of public land, the corner may not offer



The appeals court used this graphic to depict corner crossing. (U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals)

a short cut or alternative access point,” onX cautions. The company states that it is not giving legal advice and says the particular alternative-access issue “is not clarified” by the appeals court.

Most GPS systems are accurate to only about 16 feet, but corner crossing is “a game of inches,” the company says. “You need to have absolute certainty about the location of the legal corner.

“Don’t cross unless you can find a physical survey marker, usually called a ‘pin’ or ‘monument,’” onX states. Corner monuments need to be “survey-grade.” Although almost all of the Western land boundaries in question have been surveyed, not all of the corner monuments are easy to see or locate, and some may have been removed by one force or another.

Magagna, Hettick and onX agree that fences may not be exactly on property boundaries, so hikers and hunters must be aware of that. It is a hunter’s responsibility, Hettick said, to know where she or he is.

Finally, it’s possible a local sheriff could cite a corner crosser for trespassing. Although the federal court case would likely nullify that citation, “unfortunately, that would only happen when the case got to court,” onX said.

### Fence lines

“We may have to live with this,” Magagna said of the six-state decision. However, he noted, Elk Mountain Ranch

owner Fred Eshelman, the Carbon County landowner who sued Missouri hunters Brad Cape, John Slowensky and Phillip Yeomans and Zach Smith in civil court, could ask the entire 10th Circuit Court to review the case. He could also ask the Supreme Court of the United States to take up an appeal.

“I think there’s real concern ... issues,” Magagna said. “All these fence lines and corners are not correct.”

What can a hiker or hunter do, he asked, on public land where there’s a herd of cattle or sheep?

Ranchers wonder, “Are there conditions I can place on [public access] to make it compatible with other uses?” he said. The court decision “opens some opportunity to us to do something different in Wyoming.”

What that “something different” might be and whether it blocks access in a way the 10th Circuit said would be illegal is uncertain. But the court appeared to conclude that any blockage, threats, intimidation, fences and Wyoming trespass laws cannot be used against corner crossers.

Right now, the Wyoming Legislature has proposed taking up the issue as a study topic before the next legislative session begins at the start of 2026. The Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources Committee has proposed corner crossing as its fourth-priority topic.

Discussion would begin with the 2025 House Bill 99, “Access to public lands-corner crossing,” according to the

CAUTION, A8

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# Outdoors

**CAUTION** / from A7  
proposed study topic. That measure would have made corner crossing legal under Wyoming law, but it never saw debate during the session and died.

**Badass chapter**

Conservationists hailed the 10th Circuit decision. Green Latinos, Western Watersheds Project, Earthjustice and Sierra Club Outdoors for All Campaign all issued statements applauding the decision.

“This case was about a multi-millionaire trying to prevent access to public lands so he could have it for himself,” Earthjustice said. The ruling “facilitates wildlife management, supports ecological research, and deepens people’s connection with the landscape,” Western Watersheds said.

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers “and our badass Wyoming Chapter” led the charge for the favorable corner-crossing decision, said Patrick Berry, president & CEO of the nationwide Backcountry Hunters and Anglers group. “BHA chapters helped raise over \$200,000 for the legal defense of the

hunters,” he said in a statement.

“The fundraising was a big deal,” Wyoming chapter co-chair Hettick said. MeatEater television and podcast host Steven Rinella offered his platforms for fundraising, Hettick said. Others helped, including access advocate Jeff Muratore, who wrangled attorneys for the hunters’ defense, Hettick said.

“Of all the conservation organizations out there, it was BHA and MeatEater that stepped up to the plate,” Hettick said. “It was one core group of guys willing to put themselves out there for access.”

“It was something that needed clarity,” he said. “I think it’s a good thing that [the 10th Circuit] did take their time and get it right.”

Although disagreeable, the decision that corner crossers “stay in the air” and not touch any property is far better than a ruling that would have said someone can actually set foot on private land, Magagna said. “It was rather narrow,” he said of the decision.

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



The first corner the hunters crossed was marked by T-posts chained together, signs and a survey monument. (COURTESY PHOTO/Wyoming Backcountry Hunters and Anglers)



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UW distance runner Mason Norman (front) broke the school record in the 1500 meters Saturday at the Jack Christiansen Invitational, posting a time of 3:42.76. (UW MEDIA-ATHLETICS)

# Norman breaks 1,500-meter school record in weather-shortened Jack Christiansen Invitational

**FORT COLLINS, Colo. (March 29, 2025)** – The University of Wyoming track and field program saw five first-place finishes, 25 podium finishes, 18 personal bests and six Top-10 school marks in the first outdoor meet of the season at the Jack Christiansen Invitational, Friday and Saturday. The meet was called off after a lengthy lighting delay.

Senior distance runner Mason Norman, in his first 1,500 meters, went on to break the school record with a first-place time of 3:42.76.

Two other Cowboys, juniors Ryker Holtzen and Jacob White, entered the record book with personal-best finishes of 3:45.04 (No. 5) and 3:45.32 (No. 7), respectively.

Overall, in the men’s 1,500 meters, the Cowboys finished 1-4 with six in the Top-10

and four personal bests.

The women’s 1,500 meters also had a Top-10 program finish. Senior distance runner Kylie Simshauser ran to fourth with an altitude-adjusted time of 4:26.79, good for No. 9 in the record book. Senior Abigail Whitman also posted a personal best with her seventh-place finish of 4:38.83.

Cowgirls finished second and third in the 5,000 meters with seniors Leah Christians finishing second with a time of 14:32.92 and Nina Zraik coming in third with a personal-best time of 17:08.88, both altitude converted.

Sophomore Jake Bach took third in the 5,000 meters with a time of 14:32.92 while sophomore Nolan Hoffman finished with a personal best, crossing the line at 15:35.05

for ninth.

In the women’s 800 meters, junior Libby Berryhill-Worshek had the top Cowgirl finish with an altitude-converted time of 2:12.67. The Cowboys closed the distance events with junior Tristan Kneueppel winning with a time of 1:53.69 and junior Oscar Goll taking third with a personal-best time of 1:59.54.

Freshman Megan Witkiewicz excelled in her first 100-meter dash, crossing the line third with a time of 12.24. Two other Cowgirls, senior Joan Easter and junior Faith Jehu both set personal bests with times of 12.41 and 12.82, respectively.

In the men’s 100 meters, junior Carter McComb took second on a personal-best time of 10.63 while freshman Bridger Norton finished 11th with a time of 11.09.

The women’s 100-meter hurdles saw three Cowgirls finish in the Top-10. Freshman Carly Norman took fifth with a time of 15.07, freshman Avery Navest ran to seventh in 15.36 and freshman Rylie Alberts came in ninth with a time of 15.47.

Jaheim Ferguson was the only Cowboy in the 110-meter hurdles and took third with a time of 14.42.

The men’s 400 meters added two Top-10 school times with sophomore Cody Hape finishing second with a time of 47.39 (No. 7) and freshman Bradley Ekstrom entering the record book with a third-place time of 47.70 (No. 9).

For the women, sophomore Isabelle Har-

**NORMAN, A10**



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 Keaney 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

**BOHL, A10**

# Weber State transfer Brayden Wilson has eyes on prize

The former All-Big Sky defensive end feeling at home with Wyoming Cowboys

**LARAMIE** – There was a perfect Poke in the portal.

Wyoming’s staff just didn’t know about Brayden Wilson and or his brown and gold intentions when the name popped up.

Then one of Wilson’s former coaches contacted Jay Sawvel and Co. to let them know the Weber State transfer had his heart set on playing at UW.

“His coach reached out to us and said, ‘Hey, this is a kid that would really



Weber State transfer Brayden Wilson brings bad intentions, All-Big Sky pedigree to Pokes in 2025. (UW MEDIA-ATHLETICS)

target after his decision to transfer.

“I’m not going to lie; it was really scary,” Wilson said of the process. “I have all these accolades; I should get picked up somewhere, but my goal was to go into the FBS level and what if it’s hard to find me? Because I don’t know how to put myself out there, I’m not social media savvy; I’m a little bit of an old school guy.”

Wilson leaned on his wife, Sierra, and his parents for advice on choosing a school for his senior season. He had “quite a few people reaching out” from other programs but knew where he was headed when the Cowboys called.

“There’s something about this place,” Wilson said. “(Weber State) came here on our way to Northern Colorado to do like a stretch and flex. I remember looking around the stadium thinking I could play here. The hard-nosed football and what they’re going for, that’s what I like.”

Tyce Westland, who emerged as a starter by the end of the 2024 season, is poised for a big senior season at one defensive end spot. A list of developing young players, including sophomores Tell Wade, Kevin Sjogren and Jordan Turnbull and redshirt freshman Eltoum Murgus, have an opportunity to establish themselves as rotational pieces this spring.

UW signed two transfers — Esaia Bo-

**WILSON, A10**



# Sports



## BOHL/ from A9

fancy terms, the fancy blitzes and everything ... 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.

## WILSON

/ from A9

gar (Riverside Community College) and Dawan Martin (Youngstown State) — in addition to Wilson.

The Pokes opened spring practice with a lengthy session on Tuesday in War Memorial Stadium.

"What we brought them in for is what we saw on day one as far as the effort, the motor," Hendricks said of the experienced newcomers. "They were running to the ball, and you don't have to really coach out a lot of their bad habits as far as their work ethic."

"What we're going to have to clean up is some of the techniques and fundamentals that maybe they've learned at other schools, but we have to put a little spin on what we like to do up front."

Wilson likes to sack quarterbacks. But he is also passionate about stopping the run and won Hendricks over during his visit when he circled the Air Force game over facing his home state Utah Utes on the schedule.

Most defensive linemen dread playing the Falcons and being subjected to cut blocks while executing disciplined assignment football.

"I can't wait to play Air Force," Wilson said. "Air Force is the No. 1 team I want to play because of the triple option, the 'we want to run

down your face' attitude. I just want to punch them back in the mouth. That's literally all I want to do."

Wilson is 21 pounds heavier than any other defensive end on UW's roster. Hendricks envisions him attacking offensive tackles from the outside or bulldozing guards from the inside.

"When he came on his recruiting visit with his parents one of the things he asked was: Is there ever a time when I could play 4i?" Hendricks said of the technique when defensive ends line up on the inside shoulder of the tackle. "Usually, you kind of have to talk kids into that because they call themselves edge rushers. He really was excited about the 4i position we do when we get into our three-down (linemen) stuff."

"I think he's going to be very versatile, and we can create matchups on the inside, put him up against a guard and have him do things that a lot of ends usually don't like to do. They don't like to get inside that tackle box, they like to stay outside, but he's a brawler and I think he's going to thrive with that stuff."

When Sawvel made the decision to fortify the roster with 40 new additions over the winter, the second-year head coach said he would be targeting players who eat, breathe and live football.

Wilson was cited as the poster boy for loving the game after he ran across Laramie in below-zero temperatures for a 6 a.m. winter workout when his car door was frozen shut.

"I remember looking at my phone and looking at the 'feels like' and it showed negative-16 (degrees)," Wilson recalled. "Football is also my job. As crazy as it sounds, it's how I'm trying to provide for my family at this point. I'm a married man so I can't let my family down. You've got to do your job. At that point, to do my job, I had to run here."

Wilson said he has enjoyed being mentored by Hendricks because he can feel the genuine love his position coach has for UW and the program.

In this new age of player movement in college athletics, it appears the Pokes have found a perfect fit from the portal.

"I'm trying to prove to them that they can count on me," Wilson said. "I want to show everyone who I am — a physical guy who wants to go and play football. I don't care about any of the extra stuff, I just want to play."

"I like hitting, I like running, that's who I am. I'm trying to step up to show them they can trust me in that position, and I don't care who is in my way, I'm going to fight to take it."

## NORMAN

/ from A9

vey and freshman Madeline Thorne finished 1-2 in the 400 meters with times of 57.29 and 57.54, respectively.

The only Wyoming relay event to end with a finish was the men's 4x100-meter relay. Sophomore Christian Edwards, Norton, freshman Logan Brown and McComb took third with their time of 41.14.

### FIELD EVENTS

On Friday, the men's and women's hammer throw took place. While the men didn't

record a mark, the women took fourth and fifth. Junior Kaitlyn Gallo finished in fourth with a throw of 173' 0 1/4" (52.74 meters) while senior Isabelle Reimann came in fifth with her mark of 171' 9 1/4" (52.36 meters).

In the men's shot put, junior Cam Burkett took first with his throw of 60' 9" (18.52 meters). Freshman Charles LaFore finished in third with his best throw landing at 56' 8 1/4" (17.28 meters). Other finishers were junior Gage Griffith with a fifth-place throw of 50' 9 1/4" (15.48 meters) and freshman

Quinn Lindsay finishing 10th with a mark of 45' 11 1/2" (14.01 meters).

Two Cowgirls competed in the women's shot put. Sophomore Kais Kimuli took third with her throw of 45' 10 3/4" (13.99 meters) while senior Allyson Fertig — yes, that Allyson Fertig — came in sixth in her first collegiate track and field meet with a mark of 42' 4 1/2" (12.92 meters). Fertig joins the team following a MW Player of the Year season for Cowgirl Basketball. She previously won two Wyoming 3A high school shot put titles in 2019 and 2021.

The last throws event for Wyoming was an outdoor season exclusive. The men's discus throw added another podium finish with Lindsay taking second with a throw of 161' 5" (49.20 meters). Lafore took fourth with a mark of 157' 10" (48.11 meters) while Griffith finished seventh with a throw of 147' 11 3/4" (45.11 meters).

In the women's high jump, freshman Koi Adderley jumped to fourth with a clearance of 5' 5 1/4" (1.66 meters). Navest took eighth with a height of 5' 1 1/4" (1.56 meters).

Cowboys all finished in the Top-5 of the long jump. Senior Kareem Mersal took second with a distance of 23' 1 1/2" (7.05 meters), the best wind legal jump. Junior Remar Pitter came in third with his jump of 23' 0 1/4" (7.02 meters) while sophomore Edwards finished fifth with a leap of 22' 8 1/4" (6.92 meters).

In the women's long jump, freshman Taliah Morris posted a huge personal best of 20' 5 1/2" (6.24 meters), good for No. 4 in program history. Freshman Melody Zumbunnen also finished

with a personal best of 17' 1 1/2" (5.22 meters).

The men's triple jump welcomed back senior Jefferson Danso as he took third with a jump of 47' 2" (14.38 meters).

In the last event that could be scored before a weather delay, junior Elayna Chafee finished second in the triple jump with her leap of 38' 9 1/2" (11.83 meters).

### UP NEXT

Wyoming will split competitors at the Stanford Invite in Palo Alto, Calif., on April 4, and the Jerry Quiller Classic in Boulder, Colo., on April 4-5.

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NOTICE OF MEETING

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

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Applications may be picked up at the Diamondville Town Hall located at 20 US HWY 30/189, Diamondville, WY.

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Looking for a little extra cash??

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

If you're interested, contact managing editor Bryon Glathar at 307-789-6560 or [editor@kemmerergazette.com](mailto:editor@kemmerergazette.com).



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Public Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSES

Notice is hereby given that the following have filed applications for renewal of retail liquor licenses in the office of the Town Clerk, LaBarge, Wyoming for the following described places, and protests if any there be against the renewal of these licenses, will be heard at the hour of 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at the LaBarge Town Hall.

Renewal- Retail Liquor License #1 Judy L. Denison to-wit: Eagle Bar, LLC, Located on Lot 19 of Block 2, in the Town of LaBarge, Lincoln County, Wyoming.

Renewal- Retail Liquor License #2, Fast Stop 2233. to-wit Fast Stop Located on Sec T26N, in the Town of LaBarge, Lincoln County, Wyoming. PUBLISHED: April 1, 8, 2025 23400

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT WILL BE HOLDING A BUDGET HEARING FOR THE AMENDED FINAL APPROVED BUDGET FOR YEAR 2024 - 2025 ON TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M. AT THE COKEVILLE TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM, COKEVILLE, WYOMING. ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AND REVIEW THE PROPOSED AMENDED BUDGET.

BUDGET SUMMARY

LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT AMENDED FINAL BUDGET SUMMARY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2025 (July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025)

Prepared in compliance with the uniform Municipal Fiscal Procedures Act (W.S. 16-4-101 through 16-4-124) as it applies to non-municipalities.

	Proposed Budget	Final Approved Budget
1. Total Cash Requirements	\$442,600.00	\$442,600.00
2. Total Cash & Estimated Revenues	\$442,600.00	\$442,600.00
3. Additional Financial Support Required	-0-	-0-
Tax Levy		
Total Proposed Revenues	\$442,600.00	\$442,600.00
Dated: March 25, 2025		
Signature: Brenda Lazcanotegui		
Title: LCD District Clerk		
PUBLISHED: April 1, 2025		23404

DEADLINE:

Thursday at 3 p.m. for the following week's edition

Exceptions apply for holidays.

CHAPTER 6, SECTION 2 CONSTRUCTION/MODIFICATION PERMIT - Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality

PUBLIC NOTICE:

In accordance with Chapter 6, Section 2(m) of the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations, notice is hereby given that the State of Wyoming, Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, proposes to approve a request by Kemmerer Operations, LLC to modify the coal stockpiles and throughput at the Kemmerer Mine. The Kemmerer Mine is located in section 29, T21N, R116W, approximately five (5) miles southwest of Kemmerer, in Lincoln County, Wyoming.

For the duration of the public comment period, the permit application, the agency's analysis, and the public notice are available for public inspection online at <https://openair.wyo.gov>, utilizing facility ID F026358 and permit number P0039809 under permits. This material may also be viewed online, at the above URL, utilizing a public computer at the Lincoln County Library, Kemmerer, Wyoming. Additionally, for the duration of the public comment period a copy of this public notice is available for public inspection at the Lincoln County Clerk's Office, Kemmerer, Wyoming. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, special assistance or alternate formats will be made available upon request for individuals with disabilities.

Written comments may be directed to Nancy Vehr, Administrator, Division of Air Quality, Department of Environmental Quality, 200 West 17<sup>th</sup> St., Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002 or by fax (307) 635-1784. Please reference A0017699 in your comment. Comments may also be submitted electronically through the Division's website (<http://aq.wyomingdeq.commentinput.com>). Comments submitted by email will not be included in the administrative record. All comments received by 5:00 p.m., Thursday, May 1, 2025 will be considered in the final determination on this application. A public hearing will be conducted only if in the opinion of the administrator sufficient interest is generated or if an aggrieved party so requests. Para español, visite [deq.wyoming.gov](http://deq.wyoming.gov). PUBLISHED: April 1, 2025 23402

Public Notices

email notices to [spaulson@kemmerergazette.com](mailto:spaulson@kemmerergazette.com)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that in March, 2025, BSB of Cokeville LLC d/b/a The Gold Buckle Grill, filed an application for a retail liquor license in the office of the Clerk of the Town of Cokeville for the following described building at 10812 US Hwy 30 in Cokeville, Wyoming. Protests, if there be any again such a license, will be heard at a public hearing before the Town of Cokeville Town council at 7:00 p.m. on the 8th of April, 2025. PUBLISHED: March 25, April 1, 2025 23399

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that in March, 2025, Pilot Travel Center #760, filed an application for a retail liquor license in the office of the Clerk of the Town of Cokeville for the following described building at 10501 US Hwy 30 in Cokeville, Wyoming. Protests, if there be any again such a license, will be heard at a public hearing before the Town of Cokeville Town council at 7:00 p.m. on the 8th of April, 2025. PUBLISHED: March 25, April 1, 2025 23398

CHAPTER 6, SECTION 2 CONSTRUCTION/MODIFICATION PERMIT - Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality

PUBLIC NOTICE:

In accordance with Chapter 6, Section 2(m) of the Wyoming Air Quality Standards and Regulations, notice is hereby given that the State of Wyoming, Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality, proposes to approve a request by Mountain Construction Company to modify Air Quality Permit CT-1919 to include the ability to perform bentonite drying in addition to the portable hot mix asphalt operation. The portable plant will be operated at various locations throughout Wyoming, initially located at 789 highway 14AE, in Lincoln County, Wyoming. Maximum production for the portable hot mix asphalt plant (HMA) is reported at 200,000 tons per year (tpy) and will use a maximum of forty percent (40%) Recycled Asphalt Pavement (RAP). The plant will also be used to dry bentonite with a maximum throughput of 140,000 tpy.

For the duration of the public comment period, the permit application, the agency's analysis, and the public notice are available for public inspection online at <https://openair.wyo.gov>, utilizing facility ID F010391 and permit number P0039781 under permits. This material may also be viewed online, at the above URL, utilizing a public computer at the Big Horn County Library, Basin, Wyoming. Additionally, for the duration of the public comment period a copy of this public notice is available for public inspection at the Big Horn County Clerk's Office, Basin, Wyoming. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, special assistance or alternate formats will be made available upon request for individuals with disabilities.

Written comments may be directed to Nancy Vehr, Administrator, Division of Air Quality, Department of Environmental Quality, 200 West 17<sup>th</sup> St., Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002 or by fax (307) 635-1784. Please reference A0017661 in your comment. Comments may also be submitted electronically through the Division's website (<http://aq.wyomingdeq.commentinput.com>). Comments submitted by email will not be included in the administrative record. All comments received by 5:00 p.m., Thursday, May 1, 2025 will be considered in the final determination on this application. A public hearing will be conducted only if in the opinion of the administrator sufficient interest is generated or if an aggrieved party so requests. Para español, visite [deq.wyoming.gov](http://deq.wyoming.gov). PUBLISHED: April 1, 2025 23401

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Wyoming Public Service Commission (Commission) approved the Application of Questar Gas Company, d/b/a Enbridge Gas Wyoming (Enbridge or the Company) to amortize the Conservation Enabling Tariff Balancing Account resulting in a rate increase to \$0.28151 per dekatherm (Dth), for all General Service Small (GSS) class customers, and a rate increase to \$0.05480 per Dth, for all General Service Large (GSL) class customers, effective for usage on and after November 1, 2024. The Company submitted additional applications, requesting rate changes to take effect concurrently with this filing, resulting in an overall rate decrease of \$0.24408 per Dth for GSS class customers.

The proposed changes are based on the amortizations of under collected balances of \$676,747.14 for GSS and \$52,694.56 for GSL as of August 2024, and on a 12-month test year ending October 31, 2025. The Company's proposal results in an annual increase of approximately \$20.44 or 2.43% before taxes, for a residential customer using 80 Dth. However, when combined with other proposed rate changes taking effect on November 1, 2024, the net result is a decrease of \$19.53 or 2.32% before taxes, for a residential customer using 80 Dth annually. Actual bills will vary with usage.

Enbridge's Application is available at the Commission or online at: <https://dms.wyo.gov/external/publicusers.aspx> (Enter Record No. 17692).

Anyone desiring to file a statement, intervention petition, protest, or request for hearing must file with the Commission in writing, on or before April 21, 2025. A proposed intervention or request for hearing shall set forth the grounds, the position, and interest of the petitioner in this proceeding. Docket No. 30010-229-GT-24 in your communications.

If you wish to participate in this matter and you require reasonable accommodation for a disability, contact the Commission at (307) 777-7427, or 2515 Warren Avenue, Suite 300, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002. Communications impaired persons may contact the Commission by accessing Wyoming Relay at 711. Dated: March 25, 2025. PUBLISHED: APRIL 1, 8, 2025 23403

PUBLIC NOTICE

Kemmerer Operations, LLC of Kemmerer, Wyoming, Permit No. 379-TIO, has applied for Phase I Bond Release from the Land Quality Division of the Department of Environmental Quality for the State of Wyoming. This permit was originally approved on August 7, 1975. The current permit is 379-TIO and was approved February 28, 2022. The coal mining permit area is located in all or portions of: Township 21 North, Range 116 West, Township 21 North, Range 117 West, Township 20 North, Range 117 West, Township 19 North, Range 117 West, and Township 20 North, Range 117 West, 6th P.M. Lincoln County, Wyoming. The Kemmerer Mine is located approximately six miles to the southwest of the town of Kemmerer. This area can be found on the Kemmerer III and IV, Elkol, and Warfield Creek USGS quadrangle maps. The parcels to be released from bond are located in Section 18 & Section 19, 21N 116W, Lincoln County Wyoming. This bond release request includes ±107 Acres. This request is for Phase I Bond Release under Category Five lands. The total amount represented by this bond release request is \$227,011.00. This reclamation was performed from 2022 until 2024. The topsoil applied to the area meets permitted depth requirements.

Information regarding the mining operation, reclamation procedures and area proposed for release may be viewed in the Office of the Land Quality Division of the Department of Environmental Quality in Cheyenne and Lander, Wyoming, and the mine office of Kemmerer Operations, LLC in Kemmerer, Wyoming. Written objections to the proposed bond release request must be received by the Administrator of the Land Quality Division, Department of Environmental Quality, 200 W. 17th Street, Suite 10, Cheyenne, WY 82002, before the close of business on the 15th of May 2025. Objections may also be submitted by the same deadline via the Land Quality Division's electronic comment portal at <http://lq.wyomingdeq.commentinput.com/>. If written objections are filed, and a public hearing is requested, the Environmental Quality Council (Council) shall hold a public hearing within sixty (60) days after the final date for filing objections unless a different period is stipulated to by all parties. The Council shall publish notice of the time, date and location of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the locality of the proposed operation once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks immediately prior to the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted as a contested case in accordance with the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act (W.S. §16-3-101 through §16-3-115), with a right of judicial review as provided in that act. Without prejudice to the objector or applicant's right to a hearing before the Council, the Administrator may hold an informal conference to resolve written objections after notification to all parties. The Administrator shall make a record of the conference unless waived by all parties, which shall be accessible to all parties. The Administrator shall furnish all parties of the conference with a written finding of the Division based on the conference, and the reasons for the finding.

Para español, vi site [deq.wyoming.gov](http://deq.wyoming.gov). Americans with Disabilities Act: special assistance or alternative formats will be made available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Please provide at least fourteen (14) days before the close of the public comment period for such requests. PUBLISHED: March 25, April 1, 8, 15, 2025 23397



News

Longtime Green River Regional Fisheries Supervisor Robb Keith announces retirement



Robb Keith reels in a fish. Keith, the longtime Green River Regional Fisheries supervisor for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, retired last week. (COURTESY PHOTO)

**GREEN RIVER** — After 30 years of dedicated service to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Green River Regional Fisheries Supervisor Robb Keith announced his retirement, effective March 25.

Keith began his career in Wyoming as a fisheries technician in Laramie. In 1996, he accepted a permanent position as a regional fisheries biologist in Green River.

His leadership and expertise led to his promotion in 2003 to Green River Regional Fisheries Supervisor, where he made a lasting impact on fisheries management in southwest Wyoming.

During this time, Keith mentored numerous biologists who have gone on to have successful careers with Game and Fish, as well as other places.

“Robb is a passionate and dedicated fisheries professional,” said Alan Osterland, Game and Fish chief of fisheries. “His leadership in aquatic invasive species prevention, native fisheries conservation and sport fisheries management has been instrumental in advancing

the department’s mission.”

Keith is highly respected within the fisheries community. His collaborative approach has contributed to the success of many large native fish conservation projects. His outreach efforts to engage the public and gain support for fisheries regulations have been exemplary. Among his many accomplishments, Keith has worked tirelessly to manage Flaming Gorge Reservoir — one of his greatest passions.

Throughout his career, Keith has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to fisheries management. His awards include the Trout Unlimited Conservator of the Year, the Colorado-Wyoming Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Max Rollefson Award of Merit, the Green River Region Peer Recognition Award and two Game and Fish Team of the Year Awards for Flaming Gorge Kokanee Spawning and Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response Plans.

Upon retirement, Keith plans to do what he loves most— hunting and fishing in the great outdoors.

**CATTLE**  
from A1

a tough year for not only bruins killing cattle but for conflict generally. Grizzlies, in turn, were killed at record rates.

The phenomenon was partially explained by the dry year, which 2024 certainly was: More than 800,000 acres in Wyoming burned. The result is desiccated vegetation and sparse berry crops that send the adaptable omnivores looking for alternative food sources. Oftentimes, they end up finding trouble instead.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department officials ran through the numbers and nature of the conflicts during their commission meeting last week in Cody.

“They’re occurring on private lands, the majori-

ty of these conflicts,” said Brian Debolt, the large carnivore conflict coordinator for Game and Fish.

Grizzly bears have stopped expanding their range in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, federal biologists say. Nevertheless, much of where they occur today is outside of what Wyoming officials believe to be “suitable habitat.”

“The amount of private land occupied by grizzly bears in the Yellowstone ecosystem — outside of suitable habitat — is bigger than the area of New Jersey,” Debolt said. “Frankly, I get frustrated.”

A graph Debolt presented showed that upwards of 60% of all verified grizzly conflicts in 2024 occurred on private property.

Another graph broke down the cause of the conflict. Cattle dominated with

188 of 242 — a whopping 78% — of all confirmed Wyoming grizzly bear conflicts attributed to domestic bovids in 2024. In order, the next largest conflict sources were pet food, livestock feed and birdseed (13 conflicts) and property damage (11 conflicts).

Grizzlies also killed a record number of Wyoming cattle, Game and Fish Large Carnivore Supervisor Dan Thompson told WyoFile.

“It’s definitely our highest level of conflict,” Thompson said. “There’s this notion that nobody’s doing anything about it. That’s not true. Those producers are doing as much as they can to reduce that conflict potential — as are we.”

About half of Wyoming’s grizzly depredations in 2024 occurred in the Upper Green. Four grizzlies there were captured and killed in

response, Thompson said.

There’s been mixed results from efforts to stem the grizzly bear-cattle bloodshed on the massive Bridger-Teton National Forest allotment. Nearly a decade ago, range riders attempted an experimental herding technique to keep cattle bunched up and less vulnerable.

“The herding actually made the kills worse,” Landers said.

More recently, the Upper Green River Cattlemen’s Association tested out motion-triggered LED lights known as “flasher tags” that were fastened to calves’ ears.

“I put 250 in, and I didn’t have any calves killed with a flasher tag that year,” Landers said. “But when I pulled the flasher tags in the fall, of the 250, there were only 10 of them that were still working.”

Wyoming secured, but then lost, a federal grant that was going to allow Upper Green cattlemen to scale up the effort with more durable flasher tags, according to Thompson. He didn’t specify exactly what happened to the grant,

which went away during a period of extreme turmoil for the federal workforce and grants provided by the federal government under the Trump administration.

“There’s a lot of unknowns right now, let’s put it that way,” Thompson said. “But we still figured out a way to do a pilot component to look at some of these things. We’re still moving forward.”

A new prototype of the tags, Landers said, went out on 14 calves during the 2024 grazing season.

“One of my calves with a flasher tag got killed,” Landers said, “but all of those flasher tags were working when they came home.”

In 2025, they’re going to try another design again, just not in big numbers, he said.

A few months out from the Bridger-Teton grazing season, Landers is encouraged by the relatively big snow year in the region. Snowpack readings in the Upper Green River drainage were sitting at 110% of the long-term median as of Tuesday, but a SNOTEL site up in the allotment was at 127%.

“We should have plenty

of moisture and hopefully not as dry of a summer,” Landers said. “A better berry crop does make a difference.”

If an easy conflict year doesn’t come to fruition, the status quo will have to do. Although there’s plenty of carnage, the system is one that the Upper Green River Cattlemen’s Association president says is working.

“The way our cattle association has been living with the bears and the wolves — and with our state’s compensation program — is a pretty good success story,” Landers said. “Honestly, we’re living together. We’re not always getting along, but we’re living together and we’re getting it done.”

Grizzlies in Wyoming and throughout the Lower 48 continue to be managed as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act. A Biden-era proposal to extend that classification, which precludes grizzly bear hunting, is open to public comments through May 16.

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